

ASHEVILLE GAZETTE-NEWS

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Saturday, March 20, 1915.

CANNERY SLAVERY.

A few years ago some "wickedly radical muckrakers" began to look into the conditions of labor in the New York canneries where women and children are employed long hours in the summer.

In the height of the season women worked from 9 to 100 hours a week, children from 50 to 70. The factory laws did not apply, because the sheds where peas were shelled, beans snipped and other vegetables prepared were separated—sometimes by as much as 17 inches—from the buildings housing the machinery.

Following the muckrakers, the State Factory Commission, which had already investigated rather aimlessly, submitted a long-delayed report, and as a result of this a law was passed which tends to protect the consumer from taking part in industrial murder when he opens a can of peas.

Senator George F. Thompson has now fathered a measure to undo this law. He claims that in the height of the canning season women and minors must be allowed to work nights and Sundays, or the vegetables will spoil.

Every housewife knows that there is a grain of truth in this. There is always but a brief season when materials are at their best.

But most women, one ventures to think, would rather have a cent or two added to the cost of a can of tomatoes than to see so reactionary a step taken for the sake of human life and happiness.

The bills proposed by Senator Thompson will remove all restrictions. Women and children may work days, nights, and Sundays from early peas to late tomatoes, a hundred hours a week—earning less per hour, of course, than they would in a working day of proper length.

Is a woman's health of less value than a bushel of tomatoes? Do you weigh children's lives by cans of corn?

A NEW RUSSIAN TREATY. It is gratifying to learn that the American ambassador at Petrograd is busy with the preliminary negotiations for a new Russian treaty. Since the last treaty was abrogated by the United States during President Taft's administration, because of unfair treatment by Russia of Jewish American citizens, the two countries have had no written basis of intercourse, though our relations have remained friendly.

is destined to vast expansion. The Russian government has explicitly urged American business men to enter this new field and prepare for the future harvest.

WERE LUCKY.

According to the Berliner Tageblatt, the German supply of eggs is so short that no one is expected to eat more than one egg in five days.

The same paper urges that horses killed or wounded on the battlefield shall be dressed quickly for use as meat, and shipped back to Germany.

Austria, with every able-bodied man in the army, is training little children to raise crops lest the nation starve, and has excused from school all between 12 and 14 years old to do their fathers' work in the fields.

Horse flesh in Vienna costs from 10 to 15 cents a pound.

Kerosene in Austria is 80 cents a gallon and soft coal \$10 a ton.

Children in Germany have been urged to content themselves with one slice of bread for their supper, instead of two.

There have been bread riots in Turkey, and the inhabitants of the Holy Land are starving.

There are still millions of people in Uncle Sam's bread line in Belgium.

In Poland, there is not even a bread line.

Are you not glad you are an American?

Defends Mountain Preachers.

(The following communication from Rev. A. E. Brown was prepared before Archdeacon W. B. Allen entered his denial of statements he was reported to have made in Syracuse, N. Y. After Archdeacon Allen's denial was published Rev. Mr. Brown asked that his communication be printed with an addition prepared after the denial was made.)

Editor Gazette-News: There appeared in your issue of March the 16th a clipping from the Post-Standard, Syracuse, N. Y., in which Archdeacon W. B. Allen is reported to have made some statements which should not go unnoticed, especially since they reflect upon the humble but consecrated men who have carried the gospel into the caves and valleys of this great mountain section.

In the clipping referred to Mr. Allen is quoted as saying, "Many of the preachers of the North Carolina mountains formerly were convicts or moonshiners who escaping from prison adopted the clerical role to cover up their tracks from the federal authorities."

I have lived in the mountains of North Carolina since boyhood. It is not egotism for me to say that I know more preachers in the North Carolina mountains than any other living man, and I know of no single preacher who would come under the class referred to by Mr. Allen. I have said time and again from the platform, in the north and in the south, that for piety, consecration and unselfishness I would put the mountain ministry against the ministry of any section of the world. If Mr. Allen wishes to challenge that statement, I am ready to make good.

I have led my denomination in the North Carolina mountains in raising about \$350,000 for the building and equipping of Christian schools for this section, and in my efforts I have had no warmer supporters than these mountain preachers. These same preachers, few of whom have had advantages of the schools such as they are helping to build, have impoverished themselves to erect schools in order that their children and their neighbors' children may have advantages of which they themselves were deprived. It is true that for the most part these mountain preachers are not the products of the schools, but many of them are mighty in the Scriptures, and for unselfish devotion to their calling they are not surpassed by any preachers in the world. This is attested by the fact that there are about 50,000 members of Baptist churches in the mountain counties of North Carolina, and that no section of our country is better evangelized than the mountain section of North Carolina.

It is unpleasant for me to challenge statements of a minister of the gospel, especially of another denomination, but I would not be true to the splendid body of mountain preachers if I did not challenge Mr. Allen to make good his statement.

A. E. BROWN, Asheville, N. C., March 18, 1915.

Since handing you the above article, I have read Rev. Allen's denial which appeared in your issue of the 17th, but this denial is too general and ambiguous. He says, "I must positively deny the truthfulness and correctness of certain statements in said article, etc." Now, will Brother Allen tell us which of the statements in that article he denies as "truthfulness and correctness?" Will he tell us whether he is denying making the statements in the article, the most offensive of which is the statement that "many of the mountain preachers were formerly convicts or moonshiners, who having escaped from prison adopted the clerical role to cover up their tracks from the federal authorities?" Or does he acknowledge having made these statements, but now acknowledges that having made them they are untrue? I call on Rev. Mr. Allen to be specific in his denials. Yes, as a mountain preacher I demand that he do this, for his denial in your paper of Thursday is ambiguous and may mean anything or nothing. The fact is, Mr.

Editor, there have been enough slanderous statements made about the mountain people, and I think the time has come to stop it.

A. E. BROWN.

Concerning Mr. Allen's Denial.

Editor Gazette-News: I note in your issue of Thursday what purports to be a denial by Archdeacon W. B. Allen, of certain statements attributed to him in article quoted in your paper from the Syracuse, N. Y., Post-Standard of March 8, relative to the character of the people of western North Carolina.

In that article Archdeacon Allen in his effort to "give an insight into the home missionary work which is needed in his locality," which, by the way, the article explains, includes Asheville, is quoted as saying among other things:

"The natives of the mountains are tired of the sensational preaching which they have had for many years, and are turning toward the persons who can supply them of more definite religious food. . . . Many of the preachers formerly were convicts or moonshiners, who, escaping from prison, adopted the clerical role to cover up their tracks from the federal authorities."

"How far behind the age are most of these people, most of whom can neither read nor write, was illustrated by Archdeacon Allen, who told of one man who did not know the Civil war had ended."

Now, let us look at the archdeacon's denial: "I must positively deny the truthfulness and correctness of certain statements in the said article (referring to article quoted in The Gazette-News) supposed to have been made by me at a missionary meeting held in Syracuse, N. Y., on Saturday, March 6, and published in your paper of March 16."

Now, will the archdeacon kindly inform some of these "natives" just which "certain statements" he intends to deny? Was it the statement that the people were improving and demanding better preaching, or that the preachers are ex-convicts and ex-moonshiners? Was it the statement that most of the western North Carolinians could neither read nor write, or that one man was found who did not know the Civil war was over?

It is evident to me that Archdeacon Allen thought he might enter a general denial which would, to those reading it here, satisfy all, and at the same time leave things all right in case it might be read up in Syracuse, N. Y. That was pretty clever, but it does not exactly satisfy all the mountaineers. It is rather unfortunate that this quotation in your paper should have fallen into the hands of some of that minority who have managed to learn to read.

Now, it is evident that Mr. Allen, in an effort to get those good people to "shell down," must have given some statements from which the reporter made this interesting story, while his words may not have been given verbatim. I respectfully suggest that a plea of "confession and avoidance" would serve his purpose in this case better than his general denial.

Very respectfully, GUY WEAVER, Asheville, N. C., March 19, 1915.

A DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY

March 20.

One Hundred Years Ago Today.

1815—Having been informed at day-break of the departure of the royal family, Napoleon once more entered Paris and resumed control of the French government.

Seventy-five Years Ago Today.

1840—William Stone, a soldier of the revolution and one of the first pioneer preachers in western New York, died at Sodus, N. Y. Born at Guilford, Ct., February 21, 1764.

Fifty Years Ago Today.

1865—General Stoneman commenced his march from East Tennessee toward Lynchburg, Va.

Twenty-five Years Ago Today.

1890—General Jones M. Withers, distinguished Confederate veteran, died in Mobile. Born in Madison County, Ala., Jan. 12, 1814.

OUR DAILY BIRTH-DAY PARTY

March 20.

Dr. Charles W. Elliot, president emeritus of Harvard University, born in Boston, 81 years ago today.

Amelia Bingham, popular actress, born at Hicksville, O., 46 years ago today.

J. Franklin Fort, former governor of New Jersey and now head of a special diplomatic commission sent to Haiti, born at Pemberton, N. J., 63 years ago today.

Benjamin F. Shively, United States senator from Indiana, born in St. Joseph County, Ind., 53 years ago today.

Right Rev. David H. Greer, Episcopal bishop of New York, born in Wheeling, W. Va., 71 years ago today.

John J. Bach, representative in Congress of the Seventh Wisconsin district, born at Norwalk, Wis., 54 years ago today.

Martin B. Madden, representative in Congress of the First Illinois district, born at Darlington, England, 60 years ago today.

Joseph Boehling, pitcher for the Washington American league baseball team, born in Richmond, Va., 23 years ago today.

TRADE MARK SHIRTS Manhattan SHIRTS KNOWN AS THE BEST - THE BEST KNOWN. The shirt that exactly suits the fastidious man, the man who exercises a nice judgment in his dress. Styled right, cut right, tailored right, finished right—they fit right and assure absolute satisfaction to the wearer. Spring Syles Now Ready. 1st Floor. M. V. Moore & Co. Everything for Boy's Wear—3rd Floor.

Bed Time Tales By Clara Ingram Judson.

Pete Makes an Acquaintance. Pete was gaily singing his regular morning song, when he heard a strange sound, the like of which he had never heard before. "Now what in the world can that be?" he asked, but nobody noticed or answered so he went on singing.

He ate and drank and then made ready to sing. Now all this time, the clanky person, clanked and sputtered and made an awful racket and of course Pete thought and puzzled as to who in the world he might be. But he couldn't guess, nor could he see anyone.

When he at last was all ready, he gave one final look around and began his song. He poured forth such a loud and lovely song that the room rang with the sound; and right at that very minute the clanky person set up such a racket that the room sounded like grand opera fastened to a boiler shop!

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS. Witt Sluder to L. A. Sluder, property on Turkey creek road; consideration \$200. J. A. Pollard to W. L. Lyle, property in Black Mountain; consideration, \$300.

STOP THAT FROWN. Eye strain, nerve strain and headaches relieved by glasses correctly made by us. CHARLES H. HONESS, Optometrist and Optician, 54 Patton Ave. Opp. P. O. OUR CE-RITE TORIC LENSES ARE THE BEST.

HORSES, MARES AND MULES. We will have Sixty-Five Head of Horses, Mares and Mules at Asheville, N. C., No. 84 Lexington Avenue. Monday, March 22, 1915. Rector, Brannon & Kirby Of Knoxville, Tenn.

Battery Park Bank ASHEVILLE, N. C. Capital \$100,000 Surplus and Profits \$160,000. OFFICERS: James F. Sawyer, Chairman of the Board. T. C. Coxé, President. Erwin Sluder, Vice-President. J. E. Rankin, Cashier. O. Rankin, Asst. Cashier. No Loans Are Made by This Bank to Any of Its Officers or Directors.

LEADING HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES. The Langren EUROPEAN FIREPROOF ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Grove Park Inn has secured from New York an expert Hair Dresser, Marcel Waver and Manicurist, who is also prepared to give all the latest scientific treatments of the scalp and hair. To the ladies of Asheville desiring such services at the Inn, appointment can be made by telephoning 3000.

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