

SMALL DOCKET IN CO. COURT

Only fourteen defendants appeared before his Honor, Judge Gooch, during the past week in the Rowan Court. This was the lightest week's work for the court since Judge Gooch has been on the bench. The cases on Prosecutor J. Allen Dunn's docket were as follows:

Eugene Williams, drunk, costs.
 Charlie Riggan, larceny and receiving, judgment cont. 1-15-32.
 Winford Helms, beating board bill, not guilty; larceny, 60 days on roads.
 W. E. Smiley, abandonment, and non-support not guilty.
 W. D. Ingraham, violation pool hall ordinance, cont. 12-22-31.
 Mrs. Othel Shoaf, reckless driving, cont. 12-22-31.
 Howard Cauble, larceny and receiving, 90 days in workhouse inoperative on payment of \$75.00 fine.
 John Stallings, larceny, 7 months in workhouse, to be released after serving 4 months, and judgment further cont. 10 months.
 Willie Hudson, drunk, costs.
 goods, 5 months on roads Dan Marlin, receiving stolen goods, 60 days in workhouse.

LABOR NEWS

By
F. T. CORNELIUS, Secretary
Salisbury-Spencer Central Labor Union

AFTER TWO YEARS

By October, 1931, two years after the stock market collapse, depression forces have reduced business activity to 44 per cent below normal. Certain adjustments have been made, but several fundamental changes have yet to be accomplished. We have made little progress in adjusting the distribution of income. The effort to avoid wage cuts is a step in the right direction and has helped to maintain workers incomes, but while workers have lost nearly one third of their entire 1929 income this year and total wage payments are back to 1922 levels we still had 149 millionaires in 1930 which is twice as many as at the peak of post war prosperity and they receive \$350,000,000 in income. Although many firms have reduced dividends in 1931 total dividend payments were not far from the 1929 level. This year through October 1,927 firms have reduced or omitted dividends, while in manufacturing industries alone, 2,600 firms have reduced wages, over 3,000 corporations paid dividends in the first 11 months of 1931 and 675 paid extra or increased dividends.

Likewise in the hours of work fundamental readjustments have as yet made small progress. There is at present only enough work on our farms, factories, railroads and elsewhere to give 35 hours a week for all if everyone wants work is to have a job. Industry cannot keep its wage earner forces employed or maintain their buying power unless the shorter work week is adopted and the workers allowed a larger share of the profits they produce.

THOMPSON HEADS MACHINIST HELPERS

Local No. 857 International Association of Machinist Helpers at its last regular meeting elected officers for the ensuing year, the meeting was well attended and much interest shown by its members in the selection of leaders for the coming year. The result of the ballots placed the following in office: president R. L. Thompson; vice president, L. A. Alsbrooks; recording secretary, R. N. Clark; financial secretary, L. A. Charles; treasurer, J. H. Fisher; chairman of the shop committee, G. L. Seamon, and for the one member to be placed on the board of trustees, R. S. Wood, was chosen.

After all business was disposed of the special committee appointed to work out the Christmas treat program made its report in the form of a large bag which were presented to all present as well as sending bags to all those prevented attending on account of working night shifts. These bags were found to contain the finest kinds of fruits, candies and nuts and all other ingredients generally recognized as being a part of Christmas.

MASS MEETING

A mass meeting was called by secretary of the Federated Shop Crafts to meet at the Strand theatre, Monday evening, December 21st. at 7:30 for the purpose of hearing report from our representative of the Chicago conferences between railway managements and labor executives. This call included all members of the crafts connected with railway shopmen and regardless of whether they were now employed or on furlough. At the time set for the meeting there was a continuous down pour of rain but a fair crowd was present. The deliberations of this meeting were kept behind a cloak of secrecy and no statement whatever was put out but it is generally conceded that the meeting was highly important to the members of the shop crafts.

RELIEF WORK

Among the crafts now employed in addition to making the sacrifice of

Favor Leasing Of Muscle Shoals To Private Company

Washington — President Hoover's Muscle Shoals commission recently recommended lease of the power project to private interest for 50 years. President Hoover, in making the report public, said he would transmit it to congress.

The report said operation of the properties would be "economically feasible and desirable," and suggested that congress enact legislation "empowering the president or any such agency as he may elect to negotiate and to supervise operations thereunder for and on behalf of the United States."

"If enabling legislation is enacted by congress," the report added, "such a contract will be readily negotiable at a fair and reasonable rental, and the benefits to agriculture to be derived therefrom would be immeasurable."

Eight tentative bids, the report said, have been received, but none was deemed satisfactory.

The Muscle Shoals plant should be used primarily for large scale production of commercial fertilizer or fertilizer ingredients of greater concentration than those now generally sold to the farmers, the report said. Collateral uses suggested are "cooperative scientific research and experimentation for the betterment of agriculture," and manufacture of chemicals other than fertilizer.

The benefits cited in the report "can best be obtained by private operation," the commission believes.

The terms of the proposed lease specified:

- 1.—That "all power for the manufacture of fertilizer and chemicals should be guaranteed and allocated for such purposes."
- 2.—Expenditure for research of not more than 25 per cent of power rental and proceeds from sale or lease of surplus property.
- 3.—Creation from the rest of the proceeds of "a revolving fund for the operation and financing of the purchase and storage of fertilizer and fertilizer material."
- 4.—Use of any surplus funds for amortization of the cost of the Cove Creek dam, whose construction is recommended.
- 5.—Recognition of right of recapture of the dams involved at termination of the lease, "by the states of Tennessee and Alabama preferably."

INDIANS ARE FOUND WHO NEVER SMILE

Hidden away in the hinterland of British Guinea is the most primitive race in the world—living in exactly the same way as their ancestors did a thousand years ago. They are the Arawaks, the Macusi, and the Carib aboriginal Indians, who were cut off from the world when an oceanic cataclysm widened the gap between the mainland and the West Indian islands.

Only a thousand of them now remain, but they have the same customs, habits, and superstitions of their forefathers back almost to the beginning of time. They drink a beverage made from the cassava root, which is 10 times stronger than proof spirit. One pint of it will keep a man drunk for a fortnight, because the drinking of water renews the alcoholic action.

Here are some queer superstitions and customs that I discovered among the aboriginals:

If the moon shines on a sleeping person he will shortly die.

To avoid death he must catch a macaw (a large parrot), skin it, and burn the feathers on a stone altar before his god.

When the wife gives birth to a child, the husband must lie in his hammock till the rising of the full moon. This will ward off evil spirits from the child.

If the first child is a boy it is a good omen, and there follows a cassava orgy.

If it is a girl the god is displeased, and must be propitiated with offerings of cassava, fish, and the heart of a puma.

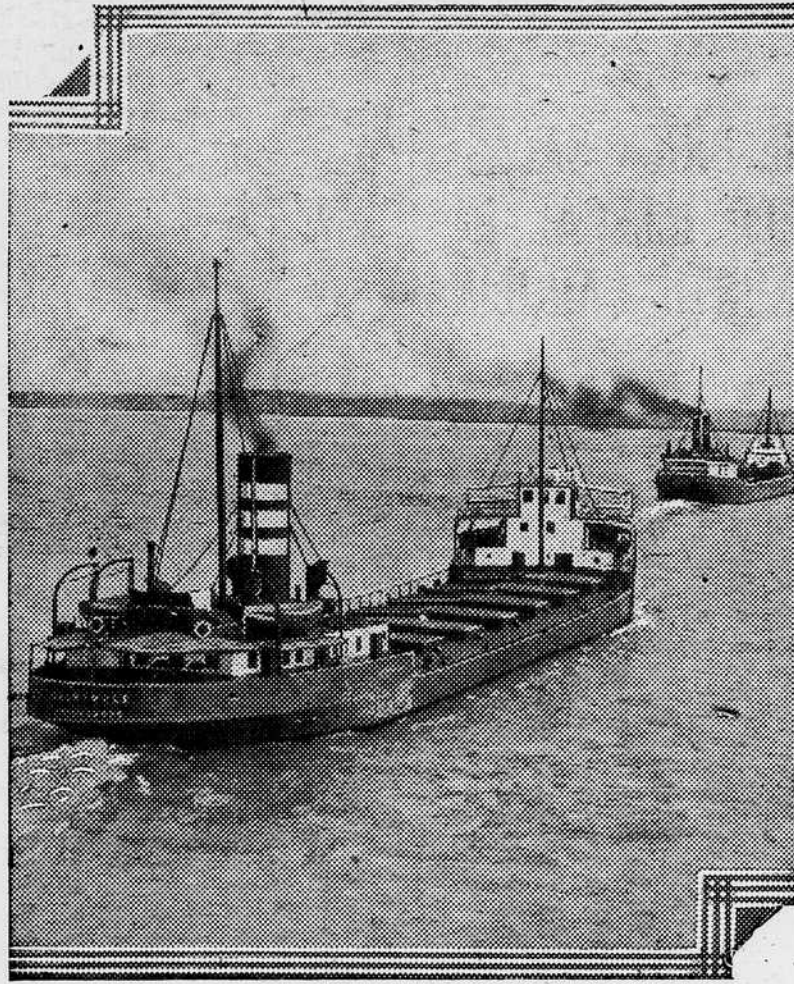
The puma must be killed single-handed.

Marriage is by selection. Where there are dual suitors, physical combat decides the issue. There is no divorce. The tribal marriage is lifelong.

As soon as a child can walk he is taught to use the bow and arrow. A child five years old can kill a parrot at 30 yards. At 10 he will hit a running deer at 50 yards. I have seen an Arawak brave pin a camoodle snake to a tree, 40 yards away, the

losing one day per week, strong effort is being made to provide those less fortunate with funds to insure not only the necessities of life but make it possible for them to secure some of the things that will keep their children from being disappointed on Christmas morning. This action is certainly to be commended and is typical of real unionism.

+ Do You Know? +



WHAT these strange looking boats are the type that ply the Great Lakes in the grain trade? They are known as "whale backs" because of their length and the way in which they lie low in the water. Practically all the grain carried from the head of the lakes to the big eastern elevators is transported in this type of vessel.

Photograph, Canadian National Railway

arrow passing right through the head.

The aboriginals will not go near running water at night. Evil spirits frequent the rivers and waterfalls, and are unleashed when the sun goes down. The most evil spirit of all is called "Yumbo." If a baby dies Yumbo took him. If wild animals attack the fishermen, Yumbo has got inside them. If there is no rain, Yumbo is responsible.

The Kaiteur waterfalls lie within easy distance of the reservation. It is one of the wonders of the world. It has a sheer drop of 817 feet, and the spray rises out of the Potaro pool to a height of 300 feet. From a distance of a mile the fall looks like a huge lace curtain drooping over the face of the rock. The Kaiteur fall is sacred to the aboriginal. It is the god of gods, and is referred to only in an indirect way, such as "that one," or "the tumbling river."

In the rainy season, when the Potaro river is swollen with mountain torrents, the aboriginals move like stricken people. They say that some day "that one" will burst the banks and swallow them up.

They cannot understand firearms, and look on them as the nearest approach to an aboriginal joke it is possible to achieve.

I never saw one smile. I never saw one cry, not even the babies. Their features are flat and without expression. They are barren of emotion, and apparently are impervious to pain. They know consciousness and unconsciousness, but appear to feel no physical sense of sickness. If they are sick

Says Farm Machinery Priced At Low Level

The farmer's dollar is buying more in the way of materials and labor when he purchases a new farm machine than anything else he uses at his period, suggests David S. Weaver, agricultural engineer at State College.

Mr. Weaver has made a comparison of prices of machinery with other articles used on the farm and finds them priced at a lower level. Such equipment as corn planters, cultivators, harrows, sulky plows, rakes and wagons are selling at a much lower price level than washing machines, ranges, milk cans, lawn mowers and the like.

"It would be desirable if prices for farm machinery and other commodities could be maintained at a price level fixed according to the price paid for farm products but this is impossible," says Mr. Weaver. "True it is that farm products prices have some effect on the wages paid to manufacture farm machinery but such effects are always slow. Wholesale prices are slow in affecting retail prices and retail prices are slow in affecting wages." Mr. Weaver finds that less than five cents of every dollar received for farm products was spent for new farm equipment during the years between 1924 and 1930. Included in this five cents were almost every kind of power farming and field equipment.

they carry on until they are well or fall unconscious. Death means nothing to them. There is no hereafter.

Say, "I Saw It in The Watchman." Thank You!



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COMPULSORY BIRTH CONTROL IS URGED

Birmingham, Eng.—Two of Britain's foremost clerics—Dr. Barnes, bishop of Birmingham, and Dean Inge—have added their support to Mr. Justice McCardie's plea for the rational control of births and for the sterilization of the unfit.

"I am forced to conclude that this country is over-populated and that its girtrhate must be diminished," said Dr. Barnes, at the opening of the Birmingham Diocesan conference.

"We need a stringently enforced limitation among bad stocks such as those which carry the taint of feeble-mindedness.

"The country cannot indefinitely carry the burden of these tainted stocks, with their disastrous fecundity.

"And we as clergy are not doing our duty if we fail to insist that 10 per cent of the community carries feeble-mindedness, open or hidden, and with it, owing to selective mating, a group of dangerously anti-social qualities.

"I heartily support the judge's (Mr. Justice McCardie) plea that mental defectives should be sterilized.

"From the Christian standpoint, it is surely right to prevent the birth of children who will, or may, be cursed by feeble-mindedness."

Dean Inge put forward his case during a broadcast contribution to the B. B. C. series on "What I would Do With the World."

Under his rule, he said, "a nation which took no steps to check the multiplication of its worst stocks would be considered an offender against the progress of humanity, and pressure might be brought to bear upon that nation.

"I should encourage eugenic propaganda and research into the laws of heredity."

QUITE DIFFERENT

Smile: "Daddy is so pleased to hear you are a poet."

Don: "Fine! He likes poetry then?"

Smile: "Not at all. But the last boy friend of mine he tried to throw out was an amateur boxer."

At the same time 12 1-2 cents of the farm dollar was spent for labor; eight cents for taxes; 7 1-2 cents for interest on indebtedness; 15 to 20 cents for automobiles; 20 cents for food; 15 cents for clothes and 10 cents for fertilizers.



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