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EDITOR: James F. Barrett CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Tom P. Jimison FARM EDITOR: Dr. H. Q. Alexander

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ORGANIZATION DOES IT!

Writing in that fine old organ of reaction, The Philadelphia Public Ledger, Raymond G. Carroll draws a rosy picture of the building worker's lot in New York City.

After telling of an iron worker employed on an unfinished hotel in the aristocratic Park Avenue section of New York who dined in the completed part of the same hotel in the evening, Mr. Carroll remarks:

"This is the mechanic of 1924—all doors open to him, swimming in the best that the city has to offer her favored sons. He has a motor car, phonograph and radio set—everything."

"The building construction planned for this year alone in New York," Mr. Carroll adds, "will cost in the neighborhood of \$600,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000. To do this building construction the city has an army of about 100,000 union workers, who are enjoying the highest wages paid anywhere in the world under agreements made with 900 contractor members of the Building Trades Employers' Association."

Mr. Carroll goes on to say that it is "labor's harvest time, for the whole situation has been democratized. . . . The control is in a labor Congress, where all the building trades are represented."

Perhaps because of fear of wounding the delicate susceptibilities of the Ledger's anti-union readers, Mr. Carroll does not point out that organization, and organization alone, has given the building mechanic the wages and working conditions that he now enjoys. But to the reader of his article it is plain that he recognizes that organization has brought the benefits he so glowingly describes.

Nor does Mr. Carroll point out what would be the plight of New York's building workers if they were unorganized—he does not tell of the poverty, distress and endless suspensions of work by poorly paid and discontented workmen which would prevail. Labor doesn't have to be told what happens without organization, however, and because it knows what organization does, it is steadily extending the benefits of union membership to larger and larger numbers of workers of both sexes.

GRICE AND CARSWELL.

Somebody ought to be made to suffer for the punishment that was heaped upon Grice and Carswell, two illiterate, ignorant Gaston county men who were held in jail for a long time, and tried in the courts upon the charge of murder, a crime which "Speeder Hand" now pleads guilty to, and implicates Orr and others with him in the crime.

Old "Speeder Hand," or Crowder, as he is registered in court, was a great hero about here a few years ago. He wrote long letters to the daily papers, cussing the labor unions and the union officials, and his letters were published all about us, and editorials were written about his sweet disposition and his independence.

"Speeder Hand," he called himself, when writing his tirades against the union, and that is what he has proven to be.

So it is with most all of such birds who sell their fellow-workers for a few words of praise from some petty boss. It takes a criminal at heart to commit such acts.

"Speeder Hand" will cool his heels for a few years now in a place that is not often visited by labor organizers, so he ought to be perfectly "happy and contented." He'll have some one to look out for him, feed him, boss him, and he'll not need the services of labor union officials where he is going.

But poor old Carswell and Grice are the goats in this deal. With no friends, no money, they were landed in prison and staid there for a long time, for a crime that "Speeder Hand" and his associates, he says, committed.

WHAT NEXT?

This paper and its editor have been blamed for about everything that has happened in the textile industry during the last few years, from the birth of the boll weevil to the death of the 500 per cent dividends that some of the mills made during the war period. But it was left to Mr. Hartsell, the sorrel-topped high cocklorem of the Hartsell mill of Concord, to spring the newest one.

It is said on what is considered good and reliable authority that Mr. Hartsell, he of the flaming locks, has told his "hands" that the reason he cannot run full time is chargeable to Jim Barrett's activities. He tells them, it is said, that every time the mill sells an order that Jim Barrett follows his salesmen up and in some manner prevails upon the buyer to cancel the order, thereby leaving the Hartsell mill with nothing to do, which, in turn, throws the "hands" out of employment for the time being.

And some of the poor fools believed such rot! That's the tragedy of the thing.

Are you going to attend the commencement exercises of the Birck Masons' School?

OUTLOOK BRIGHTER.

Curtailment among the textile mills is not so acute now as two weeks ago. The cotton market has acted as a stimulant to the industry, and reports to The Herald are to the effect that the situation is improving. It has been a strange proceeding all the way through. The Chadwick-Hoskins chain has acted in a rather peculiar manner. It is said the Hoskins mill runs full time and overtime, while the Louise and the Calvine, of the same chain, are running on short time.

Workers in the mills are planning to take the whole matter of curtailment to the public. Of course there are a few of them afraid to say anything, thinking they'll be fired if they dare open their mouths. But a large number of the workers are determined to either share in the greater profits when business is good, or else be relieved from shouldering the burdens of bad business periods. The publicity following the action of the Mooresville joint council meeting has resulted in much good hereabouts, in that the public was made aware of how the workers were forced to assume the risk of the business.

Many mills have not curtailed at all during the entire spring season, thereby showing that work can be carried on if the owners are willing to share their part of the risk of the industry. It is The Herald's intention to publish a list of the mills that have curtailed and of those that have worked right on through this period just now coming to a close.

Business men as well as the workers welcome the better signs, for business has suffered along with the workers during the time that the pay of the workers has been stopped.

M'ADOO TO ENTER.

It is welcome news to tens of thousands of North Carolinians to learn that William G. McAdoo will be a candidate for nomination for president in the North Carolina primaries. Friends of the former director of railroads will welcome the opportunity of voting for him, and the citizenship generally will feel a greater interest in the government because of the fact that all who cared to exercise that privilege were allowed to vote in the presidential primary.

It would be galling to many people in this state to have the delegation representing North Carolina go to New York and cast this state's votes for Mr. Underwood.

TACTICS JUST LIKE DAUGHTERY.

Whether or not Harry Daugherty had anything to do with having Senator Wheeler indicted, it is so much like him that it will always be in America's mind that the deposed attorney-general actually caused the indictment to be made. That bird proved the kind he is during the shopmen's strike, and it will take a past master in the art of flimflaming people to ever bring this nation to the place where it will have any confidence in Mr. Daugherty.

Senator Wheeler is attacked, to be sure. It is strange that he has escaped this long, being that he was engaged to prosecute the crooks in the government service. It need not surprise the nation one bit if Senator Wheeler should be assassinated.

These "Charges" against Wheeler will not reach very far.

ATTEND THE CONVENTION.

The county convention will be held Saturday, and interested citizens ought to attend. It is equally true that every man and woman ought to be interested citizens, for that is the way government is secured in America—through political parties and party activities.

Comparatively few people attended the precinct meetings last Saturday, and it is safe to predict that the very first people to yell ring rule will be those who stayed away from the precinct meetings.

Have you met Bob Reynolds yet? You ought to know the next lieutenant governor. He's a prince of a fellow, and the chances are you will receive a call from him before the primary on June 7.

THE TRADE UNIONIST.

An old man going a lone highway Came at the evening cold and gray To a chasm vast and deep and wide. The old man crossed in the twilight dim, The sullen stream had no fears for him, But he turned when safe on the other side, And built a bridge to span the tide. "Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near, "You're wasting your time with building here, You never again will pass this way, Your journey will end with the closing day. You have crossed the chasm deep and wide, Why build you this bridge at evening tide?" The builder lifted his old gray head, "Good friend, in the way that I've come," he said, "There followeth after me today, A youth, whose feet must pass this way. This stream that has been as naught to me To the fair-haired youth might a pitfall be. He, too, must cross in the twilight dim, Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS DR. ALEXANDER FOR INFORMATION.

Editor, The Herald: As I was reading The Herald last week, and came to the article by Dr. Alexander, showing the names of the employees the state has in the Department of Agriculture, and the amounts of salaries paid these state employees, many of them to write and thank you and Dr. Alexander for publishing such valuable information—information that we failed to find in the other papers published hereabouts. I am confident that God approves of the work you all are doing.

As I sat and read that paper, and studied the salaries paid these state employees, many of them receiving as much as \$15 a day and doing very little work at that, and then thought of the large number of citizens who make only \$10 to \$12 a week with which to support their families, I tell you it made me hot under the collar. Then when the textile workers try to organize a union these state officials on such good salaries are the very first ones to jump onto the workers and call them bolsheviks simply because they are trying to raise their pay to above a \$10 a week wage.

If the citizens of North Carolina had sense enough to make a jay bird fly head forward they would reduce this expense to the state and apply the savings to payment on the state's debts. These things are going to continue in America,

I fear, until the final adjustment that will be used will be of a nature that will shock America for years to come.

State officials drawing fifteen dollars a day and textile workers receiving \$10 and \$12 a week, is a condition that cannot much longer remain in force and effect. Hell's going to break loose in this country some day.

Fraternally, E. A. BARNHARDT.

NO FREEDOM WITH TRUTH CONCEALED.

Editor, The Herald: Good for your straight-from-the-shoulder reply to that unsigned correspondent in your last issue who wanted you to use more soft soap and less plain truths. He doesn't want to offend those who are grinding the faces of the poor.

For ages the workers have done exactly what your correspondent suggests. They have studiously avoided injuring the feelings of their masters. They have begged, they have fawned at the feet of those who oppress them. In all ages these efforts have been joined with the prayers of women and the moans of babes. And what have the workers received for their servility; for their refusal to face facts; for their efforts to receive a smile or a pat on the back, rather than justice? Your correspondent has the serf idea. He believes that if workers do not offend their masters, they will receive a crumb.

You tell the truth because you know, through experience, that men will never be free if they conceal the truth.

Why should you be blamed for telling the truth? You are not responsible for injustices. Why should you be a party to injustice by shielding those who profit by injustice?

If a man fears to be offended, let him be just among men. If any worker fears to speak the truth lest he offend his master, he rivets his shackles.

JAMES P. EGAN.

Washington, D. C.

FROM PENS OF OTHERS

ANOTHER RADICAL VIEW SHATTERED.

(Charlotte News.)

The extremists seldom have their way. They may temporarily succeed, but the length of their stay and the duration of their power are usually short-lived, even in those rather rare instances wherein they succeed in arising to power.

We have had in this country and have yet to a smaller degree those who have undertaken to revise the working day in our major industries. The capitalistic classes have, naturally, wanted the longest hours possible, figuring on the assumption that the longer a man worked, the more he would produce, and the more each workman could produce, the matter the coffers of the industrial gluttons.

On the other hand, a crowd of radical and extreme laborites have, in a few instances, sought to have the working day ridiculously shortened, contending that a man could work only a fraction of his time and turn out enough to justify the wages he commanded.

And so we have had to contend with, among some of the more important industries, the two schools of thought, both radical and unwarranted, the long working day and the short working day claimants, each tugging against the other to have their way and neither within reason in setting up their arguments.

The latest shattering of the philosophy of one of these, namely, the long hour day proponents, comes in the case of the United States Steel Corporation; the report of the activities of which indicates that it was untenable in the position long held by its heads that twelve hours would constitute a working day in this field.

This is one of the world's greatest industrial enterprises and when it switched over from the twelve to the eight-hour day, the eyes of the county and the eyes of industrial factors abroad looked on to see what was going to happen.

The latest report issued, following a period during which the experiment of an eight-hour day had been made, reveals not only a growth of tremendous proportions in the volume of business, but the declaration also of extra dividends, and the report is being uniformly interpreted as a vindication of the claims of those who protested against the long and arduous and killing hours of work which Judge Gary, head of the system, strongly insisted upon.

Less than a year ago Chairman Gary of the board read a report before the American Iron and Steel Institute opposing the change from the long working-day with the contention that it would be to the interests neither of employer and employee nor of the public. He presented figures to support this view; but figures are frequently interesting in theory, and do not bear practical tests.

Widespread protests followed Judge Gary's contention. Meantime experience of a comparatively small independent iron and steel industry demonstrated that the eight-hour day, accompanied by certain operating economies, was more profitable than was the twelve-hour day. It was also demonstrated that the argument against the eight-hour day on the ground that sufficient men for a three-shift basis could not be obtained was not well founded. It was further claimed that abandonment of the twelve-hour day would increase the cost of production about fifteen per cent. Experience also proved that this was erroneous. The increased cost of steel products has advanced less than ten per cent.

It was contrary to the opinions of enlightened people, according to The Birmingham Age Herald, which reminds us in this connection that public sentiment for the eight-hour day became so strong a few months after Judge Gary's adverse report, that not even the world's greatest iron and steel industry could resist it, and the eight-hour day was adopted opposing the change from the long working-day with the favorable results referred to. The theories of the economic dangers of the change were shown to be untenable. Operation of the shorter work-day has not only been wise and practical as regards the Steel Corporation's interests economically and financially and by removing much of the former friction among its operatives; but it has confronted to an enlightened public sentiment by abolishing a relic of industrial serfdom which had existed too long, and which was injuring the social and economic fabric of the nation's industry.

The position of the moral forces which caused the plan to abolish the twelve-hour day in the Steel Corporation has been not only vindicated, but strengthened by the absence of that economic disturbance which was predicted as a result of the change. In those plants where the new schedule has not yet been completely worked out, the consummation of the program is merely a matter of time.



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POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

For State Senate.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the State Senate from Mecklenburg county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary on June 7th.

HAMILTON C. JONES.

For Sheriff.

I am a candidate for re-election for the office of Sheriff of Mecklenburg county, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary June 7. I will appreciate the support and influence of all citizens.

W. O. GOCHRAN.

For Register of Deeds.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Register of Deeds for Mecklenburg county, subject to the action of the primaries on June 7th, 1924.

J. R. RENELOW.

For Treasurer.

I hereby announce my candidacy for the office of Treasurer of Mecklenburg County, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary on June 7. I will appreciate your vote and influence.

SAMUEL E. CORNWELL.

CANADA: Amendment to "Workmen's Compensation Act."

A bill, which would amend the "Workmen's Compensation Act," of the Province of New Brunswick, by providing that beneficiaries under the Act shall become contributors to the cost of the administration and operation of the act, has been submitted to the legislature.

Unemployment.—During January, 1924, 57,900 unemployed persons, and their 60,000 dependents, were supported by subsidies from the national government. To this number should be added 34,000 unemployed, who receive support through private concerns.

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SERIES 70 MATURES

On January 12, Series 70, with 2,311 shares reaches its last payment. MORTGAGES ON 106 HOMES amounting to \$127,250.00 will make a cheery blaze on many hearthstones.

THE REWARD OF 98 PERSONS

will be the distribution among them of \$108,850,000, representing the amount they have saved with 6 1-4 per cent interest. SHARES WILL BE PAID OFF COMMENCING

JANUARY 16TH

The January series has opened in great style. Shares may be taken in this series any day, and will net 6 1-4 per cent if carried to maturity.

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