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SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1921.

THE SIMPLICITY OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Harding remarked during his campaign that "government is a very simple thing after all", which it seems entirely to be so far as he is concerned and his party. It is the simple proposition of much promise and little performance. That, at least, is all the evidence of government that the present ised that looked like it might be a bait for the votes, but after the votes were procured, the party memory has suffer-

It was one of the promises of Mr. Harding that taxes must be reduced. the bung out for the revenue collectors! time-honored republican custom of es. prominent merchants of Charlotte, but pecially protecting those who protect the zeal he has always taken in the the party, they would be able to soak their barrels of profit and keep all their resources for their own use. They grab selection to this high and honored post. bed viciously at this bait and went down the stream with it.

Well, so far taxes haven't been rethey have been increased if present appropriation bills are carried through. than three times as much on the navy as was spent in 1916 when nearly all of Europe was at war. And the extremely ludicrous feature of this particular appropriation is that it is being ordered by an administration which thought "government is a simple thing" the making of permanent peace was merely a matter of saying the word. It must have been discovered, on the other hand, that it is such a hard job to bring about an effective peace status that the administration is forced

Well, there were other things, too, that made government very simple. It bring the soldiers home from the Rhine. They had no business over there, the come home, but the boys are still over a word and in part, it follows: there, still walking along the Rhine, terms of the peace treaty.

be multiplied, instances indicating that no merchant had ever gone through begovernment is not as simple as the Am. fore. It was demoralizing. The temp-

county fairs and home-coming events lived was unusued, and languished Observer school house; Beach Cliff day, that it will present. nouses.

THE SITUATION AMONG THE MILLS AND THEIR PEOPLE. III.

Appearing in The News this afternoon is a communication from a mill worker, Mr. C. P. Lockey, a weaver in one of the North Charlotte mills, a native North Carolinian and an experienced man at his job, which gives an intimate glimpse of the state of mind prevailing among the average mill workers in this community, and, for that matter, throughout the South very

Mr. Lockey's communication may be regarded as containing typical evidences of this state of mind. Speaking for himself and others who think the same thoughts with him, he indicates a critical attitude toward the cotton of America in their relation to the manufacturers, and directly charges that they are not as approachable as they might be, not as much concerned about the wellbeing of their employes unfair and uncalled for. The fact is as circumstances would demand and that they are disposed to return to conditions that the mill people, after having been

Mr. Lockey is very much in earnest in his contentions, but with his sentiments we can not bring ourselves into agreement. It would be suicidal to the cotton mill amployers to attempt to enforce conditions prevailing in 1914. It all news dispatches credited to it or is a new world that has been made since then. Every condition has undergone not otherwise credited in this paper an upheaval. Social, industrial, economic conditions are all changed and modern methods can not, therefore, be gauged by the methods obtaining so far back as 1914. The employers of labor generally seem to recognize this fact. He is an exceptional employer who will undertake to argue in favor of a lowwage cra. The vast majority of them are decidedly in favor of higher wages, of an era of high prices all-round.

We can neither conceive that the mill owners are as indifferent to the 2 problem. welfare of their workers as Mr. Lockey thinks, even though he is one of these workers himself and has been for many years. There are evidences which indicate definitely that the manufacturers have realized the tremendous importance of creating a higher tone of citizenship among their employes and helping to make them satisfied and contented in their labors. Some of them, perhaps, are more so than others, but the majority of all of them have completely changed from the attitude of the average industrial employer of the years ago. Public sentiment has forced the change as well as an application of common sense to the industrial problems of the age-

Nevertheless, it is obvious that the feeling prevails among the workmen that the manufacturers are complacent and unconcerned about their wellbeing and this being the case, the big task ahead of the manufacturers is to eliminate this feeling and to change this attitude.

Until that has been accomplished, there is no such thing as permanent amity in the relations between the mill owners and the mill workers. They might get together today on a pay basis which would be eminently satisfactory to both, ut temerrow's changing fortunes might bring about a renewal of the same cillerences of opinion and the same clash of interests.

No employe can possibly live a satisfied life and do an efficient job so long s he, harbors the idea that the man he is working for is a heartless baron of wealth, merciless in his methods, and slave-driving in his industrial policies. Neither w'il it be possible for any employer to be satisfied with his labor if he is of a notion that such labor is more concerned about the size of its pay envelope than about the efficiency of the job at hand.

Mutual confidence and respect is primal in the relationships which must obtain between him who hires and him who is hired, otherwise it makes no difterence how capable a workman or how generous the employer, maximum efficiency will never be consummated.

Here, therefore, would seem to be the pivotal chasm that must be spanned for our families as we should. There administration has brought to light so immediate, if this community and if the whole South is to surge forward toward industrial supremacy, toward that attainment which will bring better times paign and almost anything was prom. for the workmen as well as the employer; the chasm, too, that must be spanned before there is social restfulness among our citizenship. The leadership meat and coal and pay house rent. hat will develop such a spirit of amity and such an attitude of confidence that which may make itself immortal.

THE MERCHANTS

The merchants of North Carolina con-State organization and his popularity among the merchants generally in North Carolina paved the way for his

The annual convention of the mer-

presented and in the number of delegates on hand. The citizenship of the State may well rejoice with them that they had such an important and forward-looking meeting, for the merchants of North Carolina are among the State's most progressive citizens and the people have every right to be men who believe in merchandising ethics and whose business conduct entitles them to popular applause. Some of them, of course, may not have lived up to the standards fixed by the majority, but when we come to look at and assize any big body of men, of any class and in any undertaking, we can always afford to judge the whole by

some of its parts. One of the most pertinent and sensible tributes to the merchants that has fallen under our observation appeared into this extravagant appropriation for editorially in The Greensboro News upon the occasion of the late convention and an officer of the National association was so impressed with it that was a simple matter, we were told, to he proposes to have it put in pamphlet form and sent generally over the country. The editorial in question prespell-binders said, and they ought to be sents an incisive analysis of the merchant, his standing in the community, the community's claims upon him his Let the Allies do their response to the needs that are constantown guarding! America's boys must ly arising,-his community value, in

"The merchants are the picked men still helping the Allies enforce the of large capacity for work, of large courage, of peculiar business equipment, Government was simple, also, in the in their various communities. In ordiformulation of a peace program. An nary times, one year with another, the association of nations was all necessary percentage of failures in mercantile life to meet the emergency and that would is so great as to be appalling, to the be easy, as simple as failing off a log. faint-hearted. The survival of the fit-But the months are trooping by and ob. test in a constant process there. Unjectionist Senators are daring the Pres. til a year ago there had been a brief ident to make a move in this direc- period in which anybody could sell tion while the President himself lingers goods, profitably; a rising market on and languishes in the valley of indecis. Which one could not lose, a public clamorous for goods and indifferent as to

which have come to hand show versa- "They are the survivors of trying 1922 be taken for the time being as 8,tility of gifts awaiting those who pro- conditions. To this one the long train- 500,000 bales, we arrive at a total pose to have exhibits at these town- ing of caution whispered that fair weath world's supply of American cotton fer ships fairs and remind us, in the mean- er might not endure forever. That one the new cotton year of a little over time, that these events have developed awakened in the nick of time and trim- 19,000,000 bales. What this supply extensively and are now rated as feat med his sails. If the prudent among should mean in terms of price it is turesome attractions of the fall months them seized the opportunity to fortify very difficult to say, since all depends ATTESTED BY LONG RECORDS OF in parts of the county where they are themselves to the utmost during the upon the course of consumption, now held. The county organization having days of easy profits, so that they have running at a rate under rather than these fairs in hand is composed of Mr. been enabled to keep things on an even over 10,000,000 bales per annum." Ray Lee, president: M. M. Knox, vice- keel for the past year, it was the first president: Mrs. Lindsay Parks secretary time such an opportunity ever present. and Miss Pearl Caldwell treasurer, ed, and in all probability the last time, Fairs this fall are to be held at the in the lives of the merchants of to-

school house: Huntersville community "The merchant is on the commercial house: Back Creek school house: Dixie, firing line. He looks out for his own Park Road and Sharon community interests, or they are not looked after. He is expected to answer every civic

call, ordinarily with a check. The works on formal psychology may be seal ed to him, and Freud only a name, but My, but how that caught the fellows cluded during the week their annual he must have a practical working knowwho had been making their barrels of convention and Charlotte has been es ledge of the quirks of human nature. profits and who were forced to take pecially honored by the organization for In the midst of a community of carethe election of one of its foremost citi- less tongues ever ready to accuse the zens, Mr. B. F. Roark to its presidency. merchant of fraud and trickery, he must They forsaw a time when, under the Mr. Roark is not merely one of the maintain a reputation for honesty and square dealing as his best asset. And, blow fair or foul, he must wear a stout heart and keep a cheerful countenance. Such are the tests and conditions that are met by the born merchant. He is not to be commiserated; for having been born a merchant, he would be a misfit in other employment. epochal in the character of program Your true merchant finds merchandising a fascinating game; but success at its implies the possession of a combination of qualities worthy of the high-

COTTON PRODUCTION OUTLOOK

A very able authority on all matters proud of them. They are a bunch of pertaining to cotton, Mr. Arthur R. Marsh of The Economic World, has taken the government's estimate of cot ton conditions in June, together with acreage statistics and, figuring a reduction of 30 per cent this season in cotton planted, he has arrived at the conclusion that the probable production this season will be approximately 8,000,

That will be a decrease of 25 per cent from an average production and a decrease of 50 per cent from the high water mark so far reached in cotton production in the South. Mr. Marsh says, concerning this report and these calculations that the government estimate of cotton condition is 66 per cent of a normal, that the acreage last year was 37,000,000 and on this basis, with the estimated 30 per cent reduction in ocreage, he makes his interesting calculation. "Naturally", he concludes, however, the element of uncertainty in this calculation is very large indeed, owing to the lack of definitive information with respect to the extent to which the farmers will actually reduce their cotton acreage this year, but in default of any other working hypothesis, the trade will probably proceed for the present upon the assumption that the commedcial crop of American cotton in 1921-1922 will be not far from 8,500, 000 bales, and that the total supply of American cotton for 1921-1922 will be this crop plus the carry-over, visible and invisible, from the crop of 1920-1921 (and previous crops). As regards this carryover, opinions are decidedly divergent, How indefinitely might such instances price. It was such an experience as the Bureau of Markets in the Departbut the fact may be mentioned that ment of Agriculture has issued an estierican people had been led-to believe! tation to unwise expenditure sought over, visible and invisible, of American out the merchant as it did everyone cotton in all countries on July 31, 10,else. Salesmanship became a superflu- 548,000 bales. If this estimate be assum ity. The sales force lost its skill; the ed to be provisionally correct, and if the Premier lists of the Mecklenburg merchant's own art by which he had prospective production of American cot-

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COMMUNICATIONS

WHAT MILL WORKERS ASK.

Editor of The News: There has been appearing in the papers considerable criticism of the international officers of the Textile Workers strike of the cotton mill employes here and elsewhere which seems to me to be reduced time after time in their wages, appealed to these officers of the union earnestly to come down here and do something to relieve the situation which was fast becoming critical. The mill workers found themselves unable to make a living on the basis of pay they were receiving and the situation was getting so desperate that they called aloud to the officials of the union and they came at our request and insist-

The reason we had to call upon this outside aid was that we were being continually reduced in our wages to such a point that living was becoming We have been getting starvation wages, wages as low as prevailed before the war and we were unable to take this reduced wage and buy those things which are necessary for everyday existence. Mill men themselves admit that the cotton mill wage of 1913 was too low and yet today's wages are not far removed from the scale prevailing then, and it ought to be common knowledge that it is not pos sible to live as cheaply today as it was

It was this condition in which the mill workers found themselves and feel that while reductions in wages are ton manufacturers to try to drive their The average cotton mill laborer is not as he is pictured by some, The slick boob has the dough. of a low degree, a bunch of illiterates opportunities so that their lot in life We want to give them a de-

cent chance. Under conditions which have existed in the past, and which were relieved only for a short while during the prosperous times of a year ago, we have not been able to earn enough to care are men working in the mills of Charlotte who have been forced to take their wives away from young children to work at the looms and spindles in order to help make enough to buy bread and

were excessive and that the government would take all they made over a certain percentage. men became very kind and considerate toward their labor and cotton mill the cotton manufacturers have in times past lined themselves up against any legislation that was designed to make the Working conditions more lucrative such as shortening hours of tedious and burdensome toil in great shops, or the child labor legislation, the weekly pay taxation measures for the benefit of the widows and orphans' pension funds. free school books for the working peoples' children? Have they not spent thousands of dollars in paid lobbyists to defeat such measures as would be bene ficial to labor and then when protests otherwise undesirables,

The feeling, therefore, that has been put into the hearts of the working people in the mills is that the manufacturers are not interested in their well being and are not, sympathetic with their efforts to get something out of life in addition to long hours of work laborer of this community and of the South is not a foreigner, without ambition, without interest in his community, without a sense of obligation to He wants not only to enjoy life, but he wants to give his children an opportunity to get enough education to make them skilled and useful citizens and not have to grind away in competition with illiterate foreign la-

for the public to know the facts and to mill operatives find themselves at this They are not demanding more demand a decent wage and the opportunity to live a decent, constructive life for themselves and for their children. They feel that the manufacturers ought not merely to deal more generously with them in the matter of wages, but that they should take an interest in their social and physical and educaional wellbeing and show themselves to be interested in the better develop-

ment of their workmen. I am a North Carolinian by birth. born in New Hanover county and I have lived 40 years in this Southland and for 16 years have been a weaver n the mills. I want to say that the working people of the South, those who take the raw material and convert it into the finished products for the marsatisfied with conditions under which their object in promoting a union organization was merely for the righteous purpose of bettering their condi-That was all. The employers of labor band themselves together, concede to themselves the right to organize and to bargain collectively and yet when the workers follow their example, they refuse to deal with them at all and it is only after a severe struggle against them that we are able to set

up our organizations. The purpose we have in mind, though these organizations, is to promote our wellbeing and gain for ourselves all the privileges of citizenship and we contend that we are certainly entitled to these rights as human beings. C. P. LOCKEY, JR., Belmont Avenue.

F. D. A.

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away. Well read men are fewer. When you hit the storms of life you'll bellow with surprise to find the spoils of daily strife are not won by the wise. Business heroes flitting by with slices of the business pie slices on the sly with twinkles in their eyes. While wise men read Napoleon's deeds, the sly guy leaves his bed and rakes among the business weeds to find some meat and bread. Action is his middle name. Cleverness will win the game. Education's not his aim. Gold is in his head. Day by day the slick gink looks for business enterprises and does not care a rap for books some famous man devises. He is not sure from which they sought escape. We he can spell cat-but he can sell a shoe or hat and get more money in his necessary, it is indefensible for the cot- vat. The slick man always rises. You can get him much dismayed on points labor back to a condition of servitude. the wise men know-but stick him in Cotton mill people want a decent living a business trade and you have rights and they want to provide their children to crow. He never heard of Socrates, with some opportunities to better them but still he sneaks around with ease and gets the biggest hunk of cheese.

Time may never change the riddle. without ambition and with no interest The wise men always will go on to in public affairs. On the other hand, play the second fiddle and slide back it is the desire of the better element down the hill. With wiles and guiles of cotton mill prople to live as comfor- and cunning smiles the slick men daily tably as their wages will permit and make their piles and live their lives then to give their children educational. in splendid styles. The wise man pays will not be as hard as that of their | Copyright 1921, by News Publishing Co.

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