

The Charlotte News

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1921.

INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT

The whole world seems suddenly to have awakened to the burning necessity for action looking toward a limitation of armament: sudden because, while there has at other times been passing interest developed in this subject, never before has there been such a popular uprising demanding that this thing be done.

One and the chief of them perhaps, is that the whole world has got enough of war and the world is believing that armaments have a lot to do with the genesis of war. The public is beginning to believe that, after all, there is not much of a victory to be won in war, that it is about as burdensome upon the one as the other, that war is defeat for all who have to go into it.

Another reason for this sudden popular interest in this cause is a realization of the expensiveness of armament. That fact is bearing down upon us in these times with a new revelation. The public has discovered that just now when the world is shot to pieces, when disease and pestilence are stalking through the earth, when bolshevism is rampant, when orderly government is threatened when there is want and penury and even starvation—the world discovers that in the midst of all of these horrifying harvests of war, we are paying NINETY PER CENT OF ALL OUR TAXES GOING READY TO FIGHT SOMEBODY AGAIN.

Another and, we are hoping, a very vital reason for this sudden interest in the limitation of armament is that the people are disgusted with the spirit which is behind the maintenance of great armies and powerful navies. The average man would not live in a community where everybody walked about with a knife in the belt and a rifle on the shoulder, and a big cannon poked its nose out of every front yard. He would get out of that sort of a community in haste because that spirit would be repugnant to him.

Whatever the causes to be assigned, the tremendous fact is that the world is freshly interested in this subject as is witnessed by the great gathering soon to be held in Washington when envoys of all the large powers will seek to find a common meeting-ground on which they can agree to "learn war no more."

North Carolina is up among the first States in the whole country in the per cent production of corn—we speak, of course, of corn in the raw. In the production of the other sort, it is in a class by itself.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXAGGERATION

Whatever the motive prompting Secretary of Labor Davis to give the public more re-assuring facts and opinions in regard to the unemployment situation, he has a great deal to say that ought to be stimulating. It may be, of course, the Administration would like to minimize the industrial situation in America at this time. It would not look well for unemployment figures to reach hitherto unapproached proportions while a party is in power that was ranting to get control of the reins of government and that told the people that if once it could apply its intelligence and leadership to the business equation of the country, all would speedily be well.

Let the purpose of this explanation by the labor department head be what it may, some comforting logic is produced by his figures and he might have made the situation look even a little more nice if he said that there are normally between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 workers in this country who do not work. If we take this estimate of natural idleness, idleness that prevails when there is an abundance of work to be done and an abundance of pay to be given for it, and subtract it from the records outlined, we will discover that, relatively, there is no tremendous amount of idleness in America at this time. We doubt, after all, if throughout the whole country there are more than 2,000,000 men who are thrown out of employment. The balance of those not working now don't want to work and wouldn't under any industrial conditions unless forced to by the officers of the law.

One accustomed to observing social and industrial condition in this community knows well enough that idle men can be seen in droves whether times are good or bad, whether work is plentiful or scarce, whether wages are high or low. They hang around the street corners or loaf in the pool rooms and are professional drones and slugs. Counting such as these the nation over, the present period of depression has not thrown nearly so many out of work as we may be inclined to believe in some abjectly pessimistic moment.

JUVENILE CRIME

In the past six years juvenile crime has doubled. There seems to be no end of organization whose business it is to reach down into the gutter and pick the delinquent boys and girls from their emplacements of filth and slime. Children's homes are multiplying, juvenile courts have become a fixed order and institutions are springing up almost every day to remind us of the evil in child-life, the presence of baneful influences to which they are ordinarily subjected and their growing unrestraint.

Students of history tell us that this is no more than we might expect as a part of the backwash of war; that it has always happened that a great war was followed by frequent murders and a veritable cavalcade of every sort of crime and that little children have been caught up in this tidal wave of vitiated morals. Students of observation tell us an altogether different story. They might simply look around them and tell of a vastly more vital reason for the prevalence of crime and for the delinquency of young boys and girls. If they will observe the number of children who are playing in the streets some Sunday morning when they are going to church, they might find ample reason for the decadent moral state of things in this country. There were half a million less children in the Sunday schools last year than the preceding year. Does that indicate anything? Dr. John Bucher Stratton told here the other day in the course of one of his addresses, at the First Baptist church that churches are dying in New York at the rate of ten a year. Does that spell anything? One does not need to be puritanical in view to understand that in such retreatings as these the cause for present-day evil is found. Couple these facts with what common observation tells you that children are being fed on so largely in the moving picture shows and you will have the situation entirely summed up. There's nothing strange or baffling about it. It's as logical as the full moon.

STATESVILLE VISITORS

It's a privilege for the citizens of Charlotte to have as their special guests of the day a large delegation of Statesville people who have come down to attend the Exposition. It is Statesville's day at the exhibit hall and the visitors have apparently taken possession of the show which it was desired that they do. Statesville has come to be one of the most rapidly developing of the cities of the State of its size. It has been diversifying its industry and looking well to the development of its civic affairs until it compares most richly with any other community of its class in the whole State. It is the metropolis of one of the finer counties of North Carolina, a good, productive agricultural county and this combination of good farming land as a back-country and a diversified urban development makes for a growing city, no matter where it may be located. Charlotte has appreciated the coming of the citizens from its neighboring community today and there is gratitude that they have so earnestly lent themselves to make the Exposition a success.

Mr. John Bassett Moore, a notable lawyer of the United States, has been elected one of the Judges of the World Court, an organization created under the auspices of the League of Nations, which is dead, of course, to pass upon the judicial merits of issues of war which are justiciable. And the strange fact is that this great attorney has consented to attach himself to this body of death.

It has got so in this community that the day is mighty dull which some important contract of one sort or another is not awarded.

HELPING SERVICE MEN

It is greatly to be desired that government agencies are finally on the right track in sending out of what is known as "the clean-up" squad which is a party of government officials looking up former service men, getting in personal touch with them so that their wants and needs may be directly sent back to Washington and that whatever is coming to these men in the way of compensations of all sorts will not longer be delayed.

This work is being carried on as a provision of the Sweet bill which created the Veterans Bureau which is a consolidation of many former agencies working in the interest of wounded soldiers. It merges the war risk bureau, the rehabilitation division of the Vocational training of world war veterans and that part of the public health service which had to do with treatment of sick and disabled soldiers.

It is believed that this bureau is going greatly to expedite matters between the government and the service men and the country knows that it is about time the government is getting down to real business on this enterprise. There has been so much red tape and twisting around to be done that the real service which the government meant to perform for the soldiers has been incompetently and inefficiently done. There are tens of thousands of soldiers who are entitled to claims and who have not been able to get them. There are multitudes of others who are entitled to various benefits of one sort or another who have been neglected. The new bureau is taken away from the treasury head and is directly under the President.

The bill, known as the Sweet Bill, calls for the employment of a director at a salary of \$10,000 per year and Colonel Forbes has been chosen for this post. It creates fourteen regional offices and 140 sub-offices. It will cost the government near \$400,000,000 to maintain this department, but at any cost it ought to be efficiently maintained and the former service men put in position to get what they are entitled to. It is at least encouraging to hope that these men will in the future be able to get a hearing without unrolling ten trillion yards of useless red tape.

THE SIZE OF THE HOUSE

Even though North Carolina will get another congressman under the terms of the reapportionment measure and that member may be General Julian S. Carr whom the State would delight to honor, public sentiment appears to be somewhat decisively against increasing the size of the House of Representatives up to 460 members. The truth of the matter is that the lower chamber is already too large now. One of the perplexities of the present Administration has been to find committee jobs for the surplus of republicans who are now members of that body.

Of course that could be obviated and will be obviated at the next election when the democrats will be bidding back into power, but even so, the House is entirely too large for comfort and competency.

It is unwieldy and cumbersome and presents too great an opportunity for dilatory tactics and partisan combinations that work to the detriment of necessary legislation. What the country would rather like to see is a whole Congress that has a little more quality and not quite so much quantity.

SURPLUS COTTON

It is a mistake for the cotton bears to figure that, even though the present crop will pan out to be no more than 1,000,000 bales, a surplus is being carried over which will so supplement this short crop as to make a full production available this year. That is not the case.

While a huge surplus is being carried over from other years, notably last year, it is composed largely of the lower grades of the staple, grades that are largely unspinnable in this country. Probably over half of whatever that surplus is, and the theory is that it is somewhere around 7,000,000 bales also, is not spinnable. If that calculation is anything like correct, it is obvious that there is a veritable famine of the finer grades of cotton in sight, that the situation as to these special grades amounts almost to a famine.

We are still living, we are dwelling in a great and glorious time, in an age on ages telling when a quarter's worth a dime.

BANK ROBBERS ARE ROUTED AT RONDA

Winston-Salem, Sept. 15.—When a gang of robbers stood outside the Deposit and Savings Bank at Ronda early Wednesday morning, waiting for the dynamite explosions that were expected to blow open the doors of the two safes, Enoch C. Sparks, a rural mail carrier, who lived next door to the bank building, jumped from his bed on being awakened by the noise, grabbed his shot gun, and running out-doors started a barrage that sent the thieves hot-footing it to the woods.

Officers, assisted by citizens, following the tracks of a large automobile, came to Winston-Salem and late yesterday arrested Grady Cheek and Grady Smith, charging them with taking part in the attempted robbery. Cheek, according to the police, admitted that he was in Ronda Tuesday night and said Smith was with him. Both, however, deny having anything to do with entering the bank.

The bank's safes and the building were damaged by the explosion, but not a penny was stolen. Cheek was at one time a member of the Winston-Salem police force, while Smith once served in the city health department.

OSTEOPATHY Is the science of healing by adjustment. DR. H. F. RAY 313 Realty Bldg. DR. FRANK LANE MILLER 610 Realty Bldg. DR. ARTHUR B. DYE 224 Piedmont Bldg. Osteopaths, Charlotte, N. C. INFORMATION BY REQUEST

BELK BROS. COMPANY

---For--- Today Friday Saturday

Our Exposition and Fall Opening Days During Which Days We Will Display Fashion's Decrees In Women's Wear For Fall



Frocks Suits Hats

We cordially invite you to attend this display of new Fall Apparel on our second floor during these three days.

Coats Wraps Blouses

We believe you will find it greatly to your advantage to see them and it will be a great pleasure to us to show you.

TWO GROUPS OF FROCKS

Tricotine, Serge and Crepe de Chine Frocks in a wide assortment of styles, straight-line conservative models and the fancifully cut and richly trimmed styles.

We think they are splendid values at these prices \$14.95 to \$29.50

This group of handsome frocks developed in Canton Crepe, Satin Face Crepe, Charmeuse, Poirat Twill and Tricotine. Beautiful Oriental trimmings are used. The new sleeves, uneven skirts and other late style features. Frocks for all occasions, moderately priced

\$24.95 to \$49.50

Suits

Coat Suits of quality and style combined, making every garment specially noteworthy regardless of price. The range of models embrace all needs, from the simple tailored to the elaborately embroidered, fancifully cut and richly fur trimmed styles.

The fabrics are Serge, Tricotines, Veldette, Orlando and Normandie. All attractively priced for these three days \$24.95 Up.

Coats and Wraps

Fabrics chosen not merely for show but for tailoring qualities that insure long and profitable wear. Full lined with quality silk. Where fur trimmings are used they are of carefully selected stock. Some of the new materials are Moussyne, Marvella, Gerona and Velouraine.

Wonderful values at these prices \$39.50 to \$98.50

Coats

Assortments are full, awaiting your early choice. Wide range of styles and materials. In shades of Browns, Blues, Tans, Greens and Black. Full lined, some with fur trimmings. Others of self material \$19.95 to \$39.50

An Unusual Offering of Silks and Wools for These Three Days

New Fall Serges—We buy our Serge for 30 stores, getting the very choicest values possible to buy under the very best advantages. We give you the better kind for your money. The new French Serge, 42 inches wide, all colors. A splendid \$2.00 serge for \$1.48

40-inch Fancy Plaid Skirtings. This is an all-wool material. The very newest thing in colorings, all size plaids—very fine \$2.00 value. Special \$1.48

3.50 value Crepe Satin. This number is 40 inches wide, beautiful quality. All the new colors. A special for this week \$2.85

\$4.00 quality Moon-Glo Satin. You know what this Satin is—40 inches wide. This is actually a \$4.00 value \$2.98

\$2.00 value Wash Satin. This is a 36-inch Satin, better value kind. We think a good \$2.00 one. Colors are Flesh, Pink and White \$1.48

54-inch Plaid Skirtings, \$4.00 values. Beautiful soft finish, all wool skirtings. Small checks or larger plaids. Also the stripes. A good \$4.00 value \$2.98

\$3.50 quality Canton Crepes We have these in the pretty shades of Navy, Blues and Seal Brown, 40 inches wide \$2.85

54-inch Velour Coatings. An extraordinary value in coatings—all the new Fall shades and colors \$2.50

Crepe de Chine, 32-inch Shirtings. Beautiful new patterns in Crepe Shirtings. Really a \$2.50 value. For the balance of this week \$1.98

\$2.00 value Charmeuse—in pretty shades of navy, blues, browns and blacks \$1.48

36-in. Satin Messalines—This is an extra good Messaline at \$1.50. We secured this special number for our regular business in silk department, but decided to put in this week. Practically all colors, at \$1.29

40-inch Colored Charmeuse—all street colors. This number is worth easily \$2.50. Special \$1.98

BELK BROS. COMPANY