

For People Who Think Everything For People Who Think

BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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ON SALE AT THE NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

ESTABLISHED MAY, 1902.

ADAMSON BILL IS NOT GOING TO WAR

Will Be Argued Early In January.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has allowed the Adamson bill to be placed ahead of most all other questions and it will be argued on January 8th. The law goes into effect January 1st, but the railways have agreed to keep a strict account of all time earned by employees and if the bill is pronounced constitutional to pay them promptly when the decision is reached. This is said to be satisfactory to the government and to those who demanded the surrender.

But if it happens the law is said to be unconstitutional—what then? The strike order has never been rescinded. It stands and by a single flash every railway in America can be tied up. The hope is that the law will be found to contain a flaw. Then the Congress can proceed, fairly and honestly to investigate. Pending investigation and arbitration Congress can pass a law making it proper for the Government to run railways if a strike is put into effect, and this would then forever settle the great problem. There will doubtless be an arbitration law passed this winter. Wilson favors such a law. The railways want it, and of course if the employees do not want it they stand in their own light. The threatened strike last fall has doubtless forever put an end to railway disturbances. Laws will be passed anticipating all that may come—and Uncle Sam will stand ready to run trains and draft into military service the very men who propose to walk out. This could not happen in a privately managed concern—but as a matter of fact the Government is already controlling the railways and has virtually controlled them ever since the formation of the inter-state commerce commission. All of us want to see both employe and employer have a square deal. And most of the men employed by the railways want no more. An impartial and honest committee on arbitration could determine these questions better than the interested ones on both sides.

Editor Britton is now receiving congratulations because of the success of his editorial gambit which he pulled in Chapel Hill. Good enough—he deserves them.

Always Something.

A Chicago man, panting as did Frostratus, for fame, no matter how it comes, has started an efficiency contest. He wants to ascertain if middle aged men are not as active in their several lines as the younger men. He has started them keeping books; wrapping packages, doing all sorts of varied duties, and he is certain that the man up to sixty-five has about as much efficiency as the man under thirty.

Possibly so. But he hasn't the endurance. The gray beard is always told to stand aside when a younger man is willing to do the chore. The old man may be able to keep books; he no doubt has more common sense developed; he may be efficient in many ways—but for endurance Youth beats Age every turn out of the box. No use to talk about that. And Youth looks forward—Age looks down the hill. Behind him are the dreams of youth if his whiskers are white—before him are the dreams and hopes and ambitions if his moustache is just sprouting. The young man has the old man skinned just thirty city blocks when it comes to seeking and securing a situation.

They have completed the list of casualties wherein foot ball was responsible and it reaches almost a hundred. Plenty left for next year's death crop.

No Surprise.

It was no particular surprise to learn that the jury in the Epstein case at Goldsboro found the young man not guilty. He loved a girl—he was forbidden going on the premises, it was stated. The girl was a witness for him, although her lover shot her brother. He went courting toting a pistol. That was bad business—and of course the claim of self-defense was probably justified. The brother saw him on the premises and naturally believed he had a right to get him off. If he made a motion that looked to Epstein like an attempt at violence, he had a gun and was looking for just such a thing and shot. It happened in the night. There were doubtless two sides to the question and perhaps the jury was up in the air and couldn't conscientiously convict him. It generally takes a competent witness to convince a juror of another person's guilt—especially when self-defense is claimed and there are circumstances to make it look plausible. As we have said, we were not at all surprised that the defendant was found not guilty. He should be pinched for carrying a gun on a courting expedition.

The United States Will Find a Way to Avoid It.

SOME news received and printed showed that another American boat had been submarined without warning, and perhaps this news will cause those who speculate on the probability of our going to war with Germany to take on new colors. The chances are that President Wilson will wait a long time before he goes to war with Germany. These stories about sinking ships without warning so far, when fully investigated, do not sustain themselves, and perhaps in this last case reported the full facts will put a different phase on the situation. Germany may want to get us into war with her, we do not know, but it is reasonably certain that Wilson's policy is to keep out of war. And he isn't jumping at conclusions or declaring war or asking Congress to declare war on the first reports. By the time Mr. Lansing gets through with the investigation which must be full and complete the thrill is over, and those of a sanguinary nature are cooled off, and then we wait for another submarine encounter and then we investigate again.

Off hand we do not recall how many American vessels have been sunk without warning, according to reports, but full and fair investigation has proven in each case that there was warning—save perhaps the Lusitania disaster.

Those wanting this country to go to war perhaps voted for Teddy and Hughes. Those desiring peace voted for Wilson and Wilson knows it. Of course he is not going to allow the honor of this nation to be sullied, but he isn't going to make a fool of himself.

A new medicine ad, reads: "How to peel off a weatherbeaten face." The man who peels off his face is in hard luck, no matter how he does it.

To Be Sure.

Times are pretty good, they say, and of course when money is plentiful and labor scarce the laboring man, if organized properly, often figures on a strike. Just now some thirty thousand clothing workers in New York propose to go on a strike. They want two dollars a week more wages and a reduction of hours. The request may be granted and Old Man Ultimate Consumer will pay more for his pants. More money and fewer hours. That is the proposition. No matter what the price to the fellow not organized and who cannot organize because of his employment—but just demand more money and fewer hours and force the manufacturer to raise the price of his goods and let the other fellow pay the bill. Section hands working for a dollar and a half a day—of course all this is delightful news to them—men working on half time because of illness—men with big families—certainly. Go to it. More money and less hours. That is the stuff.

The high cost of food stuffs still remains a mystery, although there will be people who think a great conspiracy is on.

Their Angry Passions.

It had come to be the universal belief of those who attend court and hear the lawyers abuse each other that such bluster was what we term grand stand play—stage work to have an effect on the jury. We have heard lawyers paw the air and denounce the opposing counsel; even shake their fists at each other and the uninitiated would think that in just about a pair of minutes there would be a court house floor desprinkled with gore. And then we have seen those lawyers when court adjourned laughing about the way it happened, and we never suspected that their angry passions were really on tap. But it seems that now and then the real thing is introduced. The Raleigh News and Observer notes that a pair of lawyers trying a case this week in Raleigh almost came to blows. The thing got really exciting and one lawyer started to another and the other exclaimed that he would cut the throat of the other if certain things were repeated. A con-table being close at hand parted the belligerents, and the Squire laid down the law—and then apologies were made and they lived happily ever after. But it was almost the real thing.

That Press.

Because we still occupy the sidewalk around our print shop, and because pedestrians are forced to walk in the street, which is excellently paved, many are wondering if such a pile of junk can be placed in the building. Why certainly. When that press is assembled, and the work is rapidly progressing, it will occupy but a small part of the floor space of the building occupied by The Record. In fact it is a small press when its capacity is considered. It is compact—and gets close together. It will be in operation at least by the first of the year. At any rate that is the promise and the hope.

TALKING SUFFRAGE FORTY CENTS A DAY



IN A RECENT speech before the Equal Suffrage League of Greenville, North Carolina, Judge Clark said:

"It may be asked what can be done in view of the Constitution of North Carolina to procure justice for women. There are four measures which I will submit for the consideration of this audience as feasible and which should be adopted by the legislature this winter.

"1. In Illinois in the last election 820,000 women went to the polls and voted for President and a woman was one of those chosen as elector. Yet in that state their Constitution, like ours, prescribes that only male persons 21 years old can vote. What the Illinois legislature did we can do. Presidential suffrage is not a matter in the state Constitution but the Federal Constitution prescribes that the electors for President shall be chosen 'in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct.' In all the states for 50 years the legislatures elected the electors themselves, and this was done by South Carolina after the war and by Colorado as late as 1876. When the women of Illinois perceived that the influence of the liquor trusts and brewers was such that a Constitutional Amendment to strike out the word 'male' in state elections could not be adopted at the polls they procured the passage of an act by a majority vote, indeed in one house by a majority of one, which directed that the selection of the 20 Presidential electors for that state should be made by the vote of men and women 21 years of age. Upon the validity of this action the presidential election might have turned. But not a lawyer from ocean to ocean has ventured to question the power of the legislature of Illinois to do this.

"This winter the legislature of North Carolina should pass an act conferring Presidential suffrage upon the women of this state. This will require only a majority vote in each house and will not need to be ratified at the ballot box. As the democratic party has pledged itself for Equal Suffrage by state action no member of the legislature who stands by the platform of his party can vote against it. The same is true of the republican members of the legislature for that party too is pledged to Equal Suffrage by state action. These pledges were put in the respective party platforms as a bid for the electoral votes in the states where women voted and to repudiate that pledge would prove insincerity and an attempt to obtain the Presidency under false pretenses.

"2. Since the adoption of the recent amendments our Constitution cutting out local legislation it will be necessary to pass a general act providing for the incorporation of towns and cities. That general act should contain a provision conferring municipal suffrage in all the towns and cities of the state upon women equally with men, or at least a provision that it shall be inserted in the charter of any town where on a vote by men and women such provision shall be adopted."

Going After It.

It is stated that the coming legislature will be asked to appropriate \$20,000 to the State Board of Agriculture to assist in eradicating the cattle tick. This is good news. There are perhaps twenty thousand cattle in North Carolina and to get a tick at a dollar each is what we would call glorious work. By all means let us eradicate the cattle tick. We have played havoc with the hooking worm; we have smothered pellagra at one fell swoop; we have gotten over our infantile paralysis scare and the cabbage snake is about extinct. But the cattle tick looms before us like a full moon as the fog is lifting—and if all it takes is twenty thousand dollars to eradicate it by all means let us go to it, and at once.

In passing it may be remarked that the towns over the state are talking for a quiet Christmas—that is a day free of noise—but if you will listen you will hear the fire works and all other kinds of noises. The South lets loose on Christmas day—and neither law nor decency can restrain it.

He Pulled Out.

Our hat is off to Mr. Herbert Asquith who resigned as British Premier after about eight years of uninterrupted trimming. It was the only way out of a bad mix-up, and the resignation showed that the old man still carries a level head and knows what to do in a case of drowning.

That Is The Cost of Living Well In Chicago, Ill.



ND so in Chicago they have proved to the satisfaction of all concerned in the experiment that a man can live, get fat and be happy on forty cents a day expended for food. It may be even so. But to save us from a visit to Raleigh we can't figure it out. With eggs at five cents each; with beef steak thirty cents a pound; with butter worth forty and fifty cents—with life size chickens selling at the prices quoted on ostriches five years ago—with a slab of bacon as big as a watch chain selling for ten or fifteen cents—coffee up in the sky and sugar seven or eight cents a pound—well, it may be that a man can live without these things.

In his delightful romance of his Achievement of the Pole Dr. Frederick A. Cook tells about living on walrus meat raw with a little moss on the side. For many dreary months he claims he lived on this particular food with a little raw muck or thrown in, and that would have cost over twenty cents a day.

But the question comes: Is all that a man is living for an existence? Is he presumed to simply fill his hungry bowels with enough food to prolong a wretched life that he may toil tomorrow? Is he, because of the high price of living, to deprive himself of his pastry, his beer, his coffee, his sugar, his steak—all those things that men for centuries have enjoyed? Has it gotten to be that boards and investigating committees are ascertaining the minimum amount of food required to sustain life and then make a man believe that he should have no more? If all there is of this world's existence is found in the bare effort to keep alive—to keep the blood flowing in order that the slave who works today may toil again tomorrow and that is the lone journey to the grave, is life worth while? If we are to cut out everything except the bare necessities—just enough fat and food to keep the fires burning in order that we may work another day—what is the use of prolonging such an existence?

Every man who knows the price of food stuffs knows that no living human being can satisfy himself day in and day out on forty cents a day. It cannot be done. A man can gradually starve himself to death on forty cents a day—gradually drift away and finally die from sheer starvation and not know it. If all this world is coming to us to chase dollars to give them up for things to eat—and not get enough of them—it is time we halted right here and took an inventory and anxiously inquired: "What are we here for?" as Mr. Flinnagan, of Texas, once dramatically exclaimed.

Must Do It.

We must ask our readers to bear with us for the next two, or three weeks, for we are surely upside down. Installing a big rotary press in a building where your room is limited is not child's play. It is a man's job—and to print a newspaper while the millriment is on, while everything is upside down—well, Colonel Job had many troubles, but he was never in the newspaper business. Had he been when Bildad the Shunite went to see him he would have said: "My dear friend, Job, all these troubles you enumerate of death, of fire, of destruction of your herd and your boys and your anguish—they are easy. I see how we could get away with all that, but this newspaper you are running—that is your fish—so I will bid you good-bye." And while Job had plenty of faith he would have turned his head to the wall and given up the ghost.

We hope by, and maybe a little before, the first of the year to be in some sort of shape—so if the paper these days is not quite all you expect, bear with us and hope for better things when the glad New Year brings its hope and happiness to us.

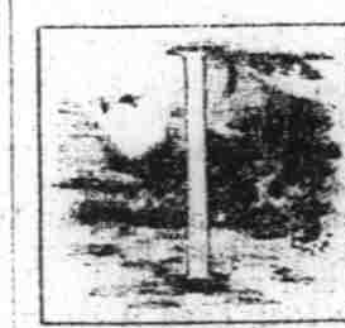
Glad of It.

Somewhat we are glad that Engineer Tankersley, who ran his train into another train at Salisbury some time ago, and who was sentenced to the roads for criminal carelessness, is told to go free by the Supreme Court. The opinion is that the engineer did all he could do, and was not to blame. This is as it should be. Those who know Tankersley to be a faithful, sober, careful locomotive engineer, for many years in the service, know that he would not for the world have done what he did. It wasn't criminal carelessness.

And that is the trouble. If a railroad does something or a man working for a railroad the public clamors for blood. We dare say that in this state there have been a hundred deaths caused by what are called automobile accidents—and passed up as a matter of course. There were nearer criminal negligence accidents than the one in which Tankersley played a part. We are glad the Supreme Court handed down the decision it did hand down. And we congratulate Engineer Tankersley.

CAMPAIGN COST

Both National Parties Millions of Dollars



IN THE last campaign each national party spent money running into the millions. Representative Owen, of Oklahoma, wants to pass a bill limiting the expenditure of any presidential election to four hundred thousand dollars. He thinks that over that amount is too much. Why?

The candidate is not called upon to spend his own money. In the case of the Wilson campaign half of the fund was raised by dollar subscriptions throughout the whole United States. If a state manager wants to spend a half million dollars legitimately why not let him proceed. The only objection ever urged before to the use of money in a campaign was corruption. But this is a big Nation. It takes millions of lithographs; it takes all kinds of advertising; it takes special trains; it takes speakers—why limit the amount patriots want to spend—just so it is spent in the open and spent legitimately?

Take the rich woman's special that went to the coast—and it is said that joy ride cost over two hundred thousand dollars—half the amount Mr. Owen would allow expended. True it cost Hughes his election—but it cost the ladies two hundred thousand dollars. We do not know but we will wager that the lithographs of Wilson bearing the legend: "He kept us out of war," that were distributed by the millions cost a cool hundred thousand dollars—but suppose they did? Every person who wanted one got a very good picture of the President. It gave work to the printers; to those who distributed them and certainly did no harm. We are in favor of letting them spend all the money they want to spend—just so they give us an account of the expenditures and we feel sure that no corruption fund has been employed.

But in these days of reformers the man who wants to reform something must have a hobby. And there are lots of hobbies in the world.

Passion And Whiskey.

The announcement that Monroe Johnson who shot and killed Carl Preddy out the cotton mill way is to be electrocuted January 26th, has local interest only. Preddy had assigned a sweet heart of Johnson's to another room for work and Johnson thought it was his duty to kill somebody. The evidence was, however, that a little of John Barleycorn, always stirring up strife and looking for and finding trouble was at the bottom of it. Our people had almost forgotten that Johnson was in jail awaiting the execution until the announcement came that he was to go into eternity on January 26. Not a very happy Christmas time for such a man. Not a very happy picture has he to look upon.

And philosophers and grim stoics who look into things and analyze them tell us that Society does not hang men to punish them. They claim that these occasional hangings are the red lights—the danger signals that must be flashed across the track so that others will take heed. A life of imprisonment would perhaps be worse punishment to the man condemned to die, but Society figured it out when it made capital punishment a part of its programming that to hang a man up on the scaffold would be such a dread warning to all other men that crime would decrease and many a man who otherwise might feel like killing some one would think about what happened to Smith or Jones or Johnson, and go on low speed. However it is, we are unalterably opposed to capital punishment. We think that a man like Johnson who killed his man could serve the state during his natural life. He might himself get something out of living although in prison for life. Society should only ask that murderers be restrained. It should not demand their blood. And the day is coming when it will not demand the life of the man who violated its rules and usages.

The Mistakes They Make.

Well intentioned, no doubt, but the suffragists who lowered the yellow banner in front of President Wilson when he was reading his message, made a mistake. Then was no place for such an exhibition. It distracted. It did no good and it made many a man who was half way on the fence disgusted.

There is a time for all things, it hath been remarked, and when the President of the United States appears before Congress to read a message of importance it is no time to lower a yellow banner in his face and ask him what he is going to do about the suffrage question. And the hope is that the President will tell them so when they call on him again. He can, with dignity tell them that such an exhibition of ill manners shows that those responsible for it are not capable of self government.