



Everything



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ON SALE AT THE NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

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MUST DEFEND HIS OWN BILL

The Asheville Times says in an editorial comment on the recent decision on the child labor bill:

Judge James E. Boyd decides that the Keating-Owen child labor law is unconstitutional. On the other hand, Professor Roscoe Pound, dean of the law school of Harvard University, Thomas I. Parkinson of Columbia University, and United States District Attorney W. C. Hammer say the opposite. Attorney Hammer has pretty good company and the decision in the United States Supreme Court is awaited with interest.

Pretty good company, to be sure. Professor Parkinson seemed to boast of the fact in his speech that he helped frame the Keating-Owen bill; that they looked long for words that would get away with it in putting it under cover of regulating commerce when it wasn't regulating commerce. It was more on account of Parkinson's admission that the law wasn't to regulate commerce but to stop child labor than anything else that gave Judge Boyd the unquestioned right to make his decision as he did. It wasn't contended by the Government that it was attempting to regulate commerce, but it was contended that because there was a growing national sentiment against child labor, the agitators had induced Congress to play with a false face and use the interstate commerce law for a purpose for which it was never intended.

So far as Mr. Pound is concerned, he is a dreamer and a scholastic theorist, a man who is wanting to right the wrongs of his fellow men. Reared in the grasshopper days of Nebraska, when the east fed the west and furnished it its old clothes; brought up on the plains, as he admitted, living the rough sides of life as a boy, he is opposed to child labor, and came down here as an assistant of the government to have a federal judge say that it would be unconstitutional to prohibit legitimate and lawful commerce if it happened that a thirteen-year-old boy was employed about the mill where the lawful commerce was made. It doesn't necessarily follow, under the Keating-Owen bill, that the child should take any part in producing the articles of commerce offered, but if a single child, the child of the proprietor of the mill, is employed in the office, far removed from the looms and machinery, that product is prohibited the use of interstate railroads for shipments. That is not constitutional as the Constitution reads. Any boy even under thirteen knows that. But the chances are that the Supreme Court will say it is. It has said stranger things. When it found itself up against the anti-trust law it went so far as to say that, while certain things were not in the Constitution, the "rule of reason" should be applied—but the reason was left for the man or men interpreting the law. What might be a rule of reason for one man might be something else for another, as there is no rule of reason.

For instance, one judge might decide that a game of whist was gambling and another might say it was a pastime which did no harm. The "rule of reason" proposition was a way out, but it didn't establish anything.

So far as District Attorney Hammer was concerned, he had to be with the government, but in his heart he is satisfied that such a law is not within the so-called "rule of reason," and therefore he wasn't in such wonderful company after all, if even-handed justice is what we want. There is but little doubt that the Supreme Court will reverse Judge Boyd, but there is no doubt in the world that the government used the interstate commerce law for a purpose other than its original intent.

In False Light.

The story floating that W. J. Bryan was going to make a world tour advocating fighting to a finish causes some of the foreign papers to deny it, saying that Bryan had recently written an Italian friend that he was in favor of peace at any price. Of course Bryan never said this. He one time insisted that he was in favor of peace at any price save honor, and just now the honor of the United States is up and peace could not come except with honor. The fact is simply this: Bryan is down and out temporarily because of his failure to impress his peace propaganda on the people, and in order to discredit him those who do not like him are doubtless digging up some of his letters written long before this country declared war. Mr. Bryan in his Commoner each issue rings true. He declares that every man under the flag is in this war and must fight to a finish.

The war tax still looms bigger and bigger—but wait until we really get to fighting and spending money. In England they took eighty per cent. of what people had.

Naturally the Independent Workers of the World thought that under the Constitution they could do most any old thing; but the Constitution gets out of the way when men are guilty of treason.

UNCLE SAM IS AFTER THEM

The government has finally gotten busy and proposes now to stop the mouth works of the anarchists posing as industrial workers and socialists. The socialist party is all right when it keeps within its bounds, but now and then a loud-mouthed anarchist, with just about enough brains to keep him in out of the wet, imagines that he is a socialist, and he proceeds to sow seeds of sedition and treason. These are the ones the government proposes to suppress.

In Chicago officials have already raided headquarters and the government will now proceed in a business-like way to put all the clamoring ones out of business, and when the chore is completed the atmosphere will be better. By removing the publications which have been disseminating treasonable views; by putting in jail for long terms the soap-box orators; by purifying the atmosphere, conditions will be materially better. The work at Chicago yesterday was along the right lines.

In New York also the movement is on, and Judge McIntyre yesterday said in addressing the grand jury:

I deem it my duty to direct your attention to flagrant transgressions of our laws daily in the county of New York. In the afternoons and early evenings mobs congregate to be addressed by speakers, nearly all of whom are foreigners. The institutions of our country are denounced, the laws of the republic are vilified, successful business men who have acquired property rights through honest endeavor are abused and corporations carrying on legitimate enterprises are characterized as malefactors.

Treason is openly avowed. Seditious utterances may be heard at many of these gatherings. The President and the Congress of the United States and the flag are contemptuously alluded to. This all have personally heard on several occasions. At some of the meetings held at Madison Square East criminal anarchists have spoken.

The war is denounced by many of the speakers, rebellion is advised against the "conscription act," men are told not to be soldiers, not to leave our shores to fight abroad.

A person may criticize a law, but he is not permitted to advise others to break it.

I recommend that you take this matter up, and, inasmuch as we are in a state of war, that you advise with the police department in order to determine if in the future permits to speak in public highways should be granted where treasonable observations are likely to be made and crime apt to be committed, where conduct is seditious and a violation of law is suggested. A crime has been committed bringing the perpetrators within the meaning of section 2092 of the penal law, and they should be indicted.

I suggest that you indict in every instance under this section.

The Friends of Irish Freedom, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Socialists who have been rampant—in short, all the scum and ruffian which have attempted to defy law and order and decency—will now be brought into camp and made to hold its yawn. This will help wonderfully, and it is good news to know that Attorney General Gregory is acting.

The good roads business is not as lively as it once was, but after the war and the bonds all paid, say a hundred years from now, we will be building roadways over all the world.

The Traitors.

If treason means giving aid and comfort to the enemy, then all those who participated in the peace meeting at Chicago and denounced the government are guilty of treason and should be promptly tried and shot. Ex-Senator Works and Congressman Mason, if the report of their conduct is true, should be strung and quartered, and even the benefit of the clergy denied. Highly treasonable were their utterances. If it is unlawful for Tom Watson's magazine to go through the mails, then unlawful it is to have such meetings as were held in Chicago. And the sooner the authorities swoop down on such nests of treason and shoot, as the law prescribes, those who hold them, the better for the internal conditions of this country.

Bryan has explained the situation. Now is no time for pacifists to hold pow-wows; now is no time for theorists to hand down learned opinions. The country is in a war and the man who gives aid or comfort, by word or deed, to the enemy is guilty of treason, and his case should be disposed of in less than five minutes. To shoot down a dozen or so of the pro-German peace propagandists would be the thing, and the hope is that Washington will promptly take action on the Chicago meeting.

The court house will not be completed for two years, and therefore the Jefferson Standard cannot build its office building until that time. Those who are wondering why it doesn't commence are reminded that the court house as it now stands will be used until the new one is completed.

WOMEN VOTE IN MEXICO

One of the states of Mexico has granted woman the right to vote, the only string to it being that the woman must be able to read and write before enjoying the elective franchise. To have happened in Mexico this is really surprising. But over all the world woman is being recognized. Even in the trenches in Russia she has shown that she can do and does a soldier's duty. England came in and gave woman what rights she wanted, and the United States is rapidly bestowing the privilege of voting. The old-time fellows with moss on their backs still oppose and strut around failing to agree that woman is morally their superior and intellectually their equal; but the old-time fellows with moss on their backs and cobwebs in their whiskers are growing weaker, while the suffrage question grows stronger every day. Not long and over all the world woman will be recognized and given her "rights." In fact, the world needs her in its councils where she has come, and it will need her in its legislative halls. Woman has proven, even in the United States since this war is on, that she has more of the initiative than man, and she has done more than men to aid in the war's prosecution. Go look in on any Red Cross organization and see who is at work. Go anywhere and see who has done the initial work. True, man has come along and stood for an assessment in his taxes, but money is impotent unless behind it is energy and brains. The women of the world constitute the great moral force, and a world without a moral force cannot endure.

The rifle club is still receiving guns and pretty soon it will be out shooting squirrels before breakfast. The rifle club will serve a double purpose—it will teach some of the members how to shoot, and it will reduce the high cost of meats if the squirrel season remains open long enough.

The Idlers.

There are various classes of drones. There are the vagrants who decorate park benches and steal rides on freight trains. Any such who have lingering aspirations for work have abundant opportunity. The rest are hopeless.

Another class of idlers, of little more use to the country, are the sons of wealth that abound in fashionable clubs. The state of Maryland has now a compulsory work law and is getting after such fellows. Many of them to comply with the law have taken soft jobs like bond salesmen, but it is not reported that the bond market has been much stirred by their advent.

This class of men looms up large in the society papers, but its numerical size may not correspond with the prominence it gets. The great majority of rich men like to keep in the money making game. If they have a million, they want two million, and they keep plugging. If they are engaged in a productive business, they give useful service to the country.

There are always some rich men's sons and holders of inherited property who never yet did a stroke of bread winning work. They contracted easy going ways during luxurious college courses. After graduation their fathers found them more bother in their offices than they were worth. They drift around from summer resorts to winter resorts, cultivating harmless fads, and return nothing to the world for bounties received. In England and France and Italy it is different. The wealthy young men of those countries, as a rule, are patriotic and are now at the front fighting in the cause of liberty.

The so-called equinoxial storm is due pretty soon, but scientific men say that there is no such a thing. Strange that we always talked about it and saw it and lost our umbrella in it, and then to find out there was no such a storm.

The Mystery.

We see pictures released from day to day of the Americans in Europe—soldiers marching down the streets of London, soldiers in Paris—and we read telegrams from "Somewhere in France" telling about the arrival of American troops. We read of where ten thousand sailors and soldiers have embarked somewhere, and the wonder is how many of the American soldiers are now on foreign soil. No telling. The War Department considers that its own business, and the newspapers have not attempted to disclose any secrets. There is one thing certain, however—hundreds of thousands will be going in a very short time, and one of these days we are going to get a front-page spread telling how the American troops in action caused the Germans to fly like locusts. Look out for such a news item—it is certain to come. And after being in action you will hear some more talks about peace. The Kaiser has made his soldiers think that Uncle Sam was bluffing; that he wasn't going to send men; but when the Germans really see the American soldier lined-up for action they are going to have "stage fright" and conclude that the inevitable is come.

The New York Herald is publishing secret deals between czar and kaiser, and if it hadn't cost more money than we ever saw we certainly would have printed it today. But when they come at us with a proposition to take all in sight—well, people do not understand that news comes high.

FALL STYLES ARE STUNNERS

Now in the show windows the Fall Styles are being exhibited—just a few changes in order to make the person with the price feel that he must come across for the new design; just enough change to make it necessary for milady, if she proposes to be diked in the latest, to discard her gown of a fall ago and get something up to 'right now. These fickle changes of fashion are only designed to make commerce; to give employment to those who work; to give sales to those who engage in merchandising. For ourself, for instance, we are wearing a pair of trouserloons cut from the fashion sheet of several sweet summers ago; the legs are not regulation; the bosom isn't as flowing as Fashion today decrees it should be; the whole plan is not in accord with the latest edicts of the fashion makers; but, withal, in accord with the eternal fitness of things, therefore we wear 'em and are happy in their possession.

Were it possible for Woman to understand the power she has and refuse for just one season to allow Fashion to dictate its terms to her, she could revolutionize the commercial world. But, like a horse hitched to a heavy load, she seems to fail to realize her power, so she walks up and lays down her last dollar for something just up to the minute, and what difference does it make if the larder is empty or the bank account overdrawn? None, my worthies, for to be in style is the one wild dream of womanhood. And now and then some dude sort of a man dreams the same thing so far as he is concerned. But, generally speaking, Fashion never fooled the majority of the men folk.

Of course the Pope may try again to write terms of peace, but the next time he should get it in his head that the allies are proceeding just as though Germany wasn't on the map, the which it won't be after a while.

What Of Alexander?

Under this caption the Raleigh Times makes the following suggestions and reflections:

"We had hoped that the state farmers' convention would have shown plainly and concretely that it had no truck or patience with the great He-Farmer of Mecklenburg, who for so long a time has held a brief for the 'poor' farmer of North Carolina. But perhaps the state farmers' convention was wise in ignoring H. O. Alexander, his 'rich man's war' and everything else connected therewith. The state at large knows that the farmers of the state do not feel in regard to the war as Alexander said he felt before the word came to him that the present was no meet time for the expression of his confused feelings. Still it would give all classes in North Carolina no small amount of comfort to have any sort of farmers' organization take a full, free swing at the president of the State Farmers' Union.

"What's to be done with Alexander, anyhow? Is he to remain on the state board of agriculture? Will the Farmers' Union elect him to the position which he has shown himself so singularly unworthy to fill? Were this the first time the Mecklenburger has gone chasing off after false gods there might be some grounds for a full forgiveness. It is well enough to forgive him, as it stands; we all suffer at times from a rush of blood to the brain. But it should be put beyond his power to put the Farmers' Union in bad for the duration of the war, and he has lost all semblance to claim for consideration at the hands of the state government, which should set about making a private citizen out of him as quickly as possible.

"Governor Bickett, there's no end of canning done in North Carolina this summer, but there's one job yet unfinished. Can Member Alexander of the state board of Agriculture for us! He's got it coming to him."

The Scandal Again.

This state has had a great time with its text books. Just now Raleigh is in a state of wild excitement. It is alleged that the text books, or some of them, were bought in an unlawful manner; that after delivery they didn't come up to the plans and specifications, and double-headed editorials adorn the papers of the capital and marked articles are being sent over the state with a hurry-up blue mark around each one.

It appears that the text book business in North Carolina has always been a scandal, and this because it is suggested that graft has always reared its blackened head. Just what is on in the present case we do not know, except it is freely charged that the contract has not been met; that the books contain things they should not contain; that stock workmanship are inferior; and—well, a whole lot of things are changed. But it will all blow over, this scandal will, as other scandals have blown over, and the text book will be accepted, or some other one will be, and until the state gets out of the grafter's domain and has a business system of procuring its text books and adopts something as a standard and keeps it we will hear each time a change is suggested vague stories of graft and junk. Let us hope that the day will come when business methods are introduced.

CONSTITUTION IS ON TRIAL

We are just now, many of the people, considering the constitution and wondering what can be done under it. Tom Watson's magazine has been denied the use of the mails, and Tom's followers naturally talk about "free speech" and a "free press." Men have never been able to differentiate between freedom and license, and no matter what a man wants to talk about he must remember that there is somewhere a tribunal or a judge who shall say whether or not it is freedom of speech or sedition or treason.

And so with child labor, and so with laws taking away a man's income. Thomas Jefferson, the greatest of all democratic statesmen, insisted that an income tax was indefensible, but the democrats of today are willing to take all a man's income and justify the proceeding.

Funny old world. In the early days the peoples of the United States, both north and south, saw Freedom in their dreams, and they finally got together and wrote to King George a screed insisting that no longer would his tyranny be stood for; that they proposed to pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to get out of the bondage which he had imposed. And what had he done? Simply levied a tax on the people who rebelled and who insisted that taxation without representation wouldn't do. And they fought, bled and died. They built Bunker Hill monuments and the armies of the revolution became immortal.

Simply an idea that "freedom" was necessary; and if one will look back to those days and study the existing conditions, every man had fifty times the freedom under the king living in England that he has under the free government in which he lives and which it took blood to establish and maintain.

Taxation without representation, that was the proposition; but nowadays we have all kinds of taxation—taxation to beat the band—and we have representation; even Bob La Follette is in the Congress howling to crucify men to the last limit, and F. Am Johnson wants eighty per cent of all the rich men have.

We have laws that tell us that we can't cross a state line with a lady love if she happens to be our affinity; we have laws that say we can't allow a boy to sweep the office of a cotton mill floor; we have laws that say a great, big combination of brains and capital cannot put into existence the grandest commercial concern the world ever saw; we have laws that say a man can't shoot a quail except in a certain season; we have ten million laws which hold us in greater and more abject slavery than all the laws and rules ever dreamed of by the king who caused us to fight, and yet we sweat and worry and submit to them, feeling that we live in a land of liberty.

Liberty, it is true, in that a man has a right to vote on election day and not get the man he votes for. Liberty, it is true, to refuse to work and loaf if we want to loaf—but police restrictions; laws to govern what we eat and drink and wear, and laws restraining us from talking out in meeting, and laws compelling us to do many things we do not want to do.

In the old days, the days before the immortal Mecklenburg Declaration was signed at Charlotte, North Carolina, C. S. A., men wore coon skin hats, made their likker and drank it without being shot to pieces by deputy marshals; labor was employed by all who wanted labor, and a man had a right to make his own bargain. In those days there was absolute and unrestricted freedom. Nothing in God's world as an embargo, but the fact that a king sent his soldiers over here to collect a little money, not one-tenth as much as each individual pays today, and Colonel Pat Henry, of Virginia, who dramatically exclaimed, "Give me likker or give me death," and whose exclamatory sentence was translated into reading "liberty" instead of "likker," set a world on fire, and we fought for what we have finally secured in the way of restriction and limitation.

And yet under the proud folds of Old Glory we rejoice, all of us, in being American citizens. We rejoice that we live in the "land of the free and the home of the brave" even if we can't print what we want to print and if we can't make a little corn likker and sell it to our neighbor.

The Barbarity Of It.

German airmen drop poisoned candy into towns, knowing children will eat it. This looks like Germany was preparing for a long siege and doesn't want the children of today to grow into soldiers tomorrow. But such barbarity, such savagery should never be forgiven. Utter annihilation of the country that would do such a thing is the only brave way out of it. To make peace with Germany would be condoning crimes that are unspeakable.

Naturally, in war times we do not talk about that other railroad needed in Greensboro, but it is needed now more than at any other time.

The hope to adjourn Congress by the last of the month doesn't look as bright as it did. It is a cinch that the congressmen are earning the salaries paid them just now.