

In Double Leads.

The Columbia State is strong always, but here of late it has been running some double-leaded editorials a little stronger than usual. Its topic is the Houston outbreak, and the color line is the theme. The State among other things in an editorial of Monday says:

If negroes are to be used as armed soldiers, and affairs such as that at Brownsville and Houston make the wisdom of it an open question, common sense dictates that they should be concentrated and trained in localities where the likelihood of disorder by them is least.

Granting that the training of negroes in separation from whites in the South is practicable, without the probability of conflict between the races, why should the government in so grave a matter take any risk at all?

The risk is not necessary. In the greater part of the United States the presence of negro soldiers does not endanger the peace of communities.

Why assemble the negroes in the parts of the country where their presence does endanger the public peace?

The State is right in this. The north understands that in the South there is race distinction, and if a regiment of colored soldiers exceeds in any way the speed limit there is going to be something started. It doesn't make any difference what else is at stake. The white man down South isn't going to let a negro dominate him, boot him or intimate him. The white man of the South isn't pledged to protect the whites, but instinctively at the drop of the hat he will be there and he will measure out all kinds of punishment to the black who transgresses the unwritten law. This is just as certain as death.

Therefore the State asks wisely: Why send the negroes to the South when there is ample room elsewhere? The government will, of course, answer that it will send him anywhere it sees fit; but just so sure as Sambo, in uniform or naked, attempts anything that doesn't agree with the white man's code death will overtake him. This being true, and known to be true, the war officials should take that in their estimate. The State is making the matter very plain, and every white man South will agree with it.

Nothing Doing.

The war news shows that the fight is steady, that the allies are gaining ground slowly, and all the evidence that gets in is to the effect that Germany is being reduced in all ways each day. It is only a matter of time, a mathematical problem. It is possible that Germany may continue the war two years or three years, but all the indications are that it can't last that long. Those who think they see a finish by the first of the year are not chasing moonbeams. The end is already in sight. Germany is whipped clear out of her boots, and all that is necessary is for her to say so. Those who recall the fact understand that the South knew it was outnumbered two years before she surrendered, and Germany knows today that with America coming in with her troops and treasure means the finish of the German empire. But with no chance to suggest terms of peace, with the allies refusing to listen to anything but complete annihilation of militarism, Germany simply fights like a rat at bay. She knows, however, that she is whipped. We all know that.

As To Coal Prices.

People are waiting to place their orders for winter coal, because they are of opinion that coal is going down. The operators of the mines insist that the prices fixed by the government have nothing to do with contracts already made, and it should be understood that all mine owners have their output contracted for at least a year in advance. The mine owners also come in with a bill of particulars and insist that at the prices fixed by the government they cannot operate their mines for next year's delivery at prices fixed, and in reply to this it is suggested that the government may take over the mines and operate them itself.

Any way you look at it there is no definite information. Looks like Mr. Hoover or some one in authority should issue an official bulletin and let the consumer know just about where he stands. The trouble with all this reform business is the papers are filled with a lot of punk sent out by the government, and no one really knows what has happened or what will happen. Every department now has hundreds of clerks sending out literature and papers print the stuff and leave the reader absolutely in the dark. What the people want is some definite information. If coal is not going to be cheaper; if cars are going to be hard to get to handle it; if a coal famine in the middle of winter is imminent, looks like the people should understand. And the fact that the government has taken a part it should clearly state its position and tell definitely what it proposes to do. Too much, altogether too much self-exploitation in Washington just now by the different chiefs of the bureaus of literature.

But Little Interest.

While the case before Judge Boyd's court this week was nation wide in its interest, while it was to determine whether or not a law passed by Congress affecting over a million people was constitutional, but few people were enough interested to even drop in to hear the arguments of the several able lawyers who were telling his honor what was what. Only three or four cotton mill men were present, and they incidentally dropped in. Of course it was understood that no matter how this court decided the question it must finally go to the highest court. And yet it looked like young lawyers would have eagerly attended the trial to hear the constitution discussed by men of national reputation, but the scarcity of lawyers at the trial in a town where there are so many fledglings was remarked. Why? Because for the most part Youth already knows it all.

Here is to you—Old September, which comes in tomorrow, and brings us just that much nearer Christmas—and the grave!

The Child Labor Law.

This morning Judge Bynum closed the argument in the child labor case, and Judge Boyd will be called upon to make a decision which will be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States. The question is not a knotty one. The Government has already admitted that its object was to put an end to child labor and it took the Inter-State Commerce law as an easy and certain way to do it. In other words the inter-state commerce law is simply used as a "handy man" to do anything that the reformer wants done. In reviewing the case the Raleigh Times, edited by Mr. Robert Gray, who is an able lawyer sizes it up in this interesting manner. We quote his entire editorial as follows:

"It is to be hoped that the action brought before Judge Boyd to test the constitutionality of the Child Labor Law will proceed in an orderly manner through the courts to as speedy a determination on the merits as possible. It is brought on behalf of two minor boys by a parent who seeks to prevent their discharge by a Charlotte mill which proposes to oust them from their employment by reason of the provisions of the law. We may be safe in assuming that eminent counsel engaged in making this a test case have adopted the form and method calculated to put the entire question most squarely before the courts for decision.

"Had the Child Labor Law been passed ten years ago, not a lawyer in the land would have risked a legal reputation by seriously contending that it was constitutional. We have had a great stretching of the power of Congress over interstate commerce, but nothing akin to this. For under the provisions of the act, while the effect is to take away the sovereignty of the state by establishing a police regulation governing terms and hours of employment of its citizens, the method adopted is that of temporarily penalizing the manufacturer by prohibiting interstate commerce in his product. In other words, it is gravely alleged that the method of producing an article which in itself is innocent and even a staple item of consumption puts upon it a moral taint rendering it an improper subject of commerce between the states. And this bit of statutory metaphysics is further refined by the provision that the embargo continues for thirty days only—the stigma of baby hands having by that time evaporated as it were from the product that comes from the loom or runs out the hopper of machinery. In setting forth this contention Professor Roscoe Pound, dean of the Harvard Law School, is reported to have told the court that the reason was 'the protection of the people of the states which do not employ child labor from unwitting patronage of manufacturers who do use children in their factories, and that the national legislature has the right and the duty to take into consideration the repugnance the majority of people might feel to having brought to their homes goods made by childish hands and to pass a law to forbid the use of channels of interstate commerce to the spread of such articles.'

"As we have stated, the courts have heretofore gone to extreme lengths in endowing Congress with undreamed-of rights under the 'Interstate Commerce Clause.' They have declared immoral women subjects of commerce—(baggage)—although capable of the exercise of free-will, on the ground of the danger of their transportation for immoral purposes. They have held that liquor is an article which state action can stigmatize so as to prevent its shipment in interstate commerce to the community which has convicted it, as they had previously held that lottery tickets were immoral in the conception of the nation, although licensed by the individual state. In the Adamson law they have declared that the power lies in Congress to fix wages of those engaged in interstate commerce. But all these things are matters which merely lead up to the power of abrogation of state laws, of legislating for the state by the nation, which is imposed by the Child Labor statute.

"Child Labor' as a principle is not involved—no matter how its proponents may prate. It is not even involved in the law itself except by adroit indirection, for the taint which the law places on the product is temporary and final and goods produced by children may be shipped at will after thirty days. It is not in any sense a war measure, not only because conceived before the war but because its operation immediately will be in restraint rather than in stimulation of production and distribution. It will result in the overrunning of the country by a swarm of agents whose duties will largely be those of the Secret Service and who will prove a constant temptation to graft and blackmail. If it is declared constitutional we can indeed view a once venerable instrument as a wonder-box out of which anything may come—at none of which we shall have any reasonable license to feel the smallest surprise."

And that, as The Record sees it, is the situation as it has been disclosed in the trial here. But after all the Supreme Court seems to be willing to make the Constitution fit any case that comes along, and perhaps it has an undoubted right to do it. In other words the Constitution can be used to meet any emergency if the highest tribunal so declares. That is why the Constitution, written before any of our modern inventions were in use; written in an age of darkness; written, like the Bible, to meet the requirements of human beings and not of commerce, can be applied to every condition that exists. The Constitution is our chart—but those who read it can see whatever they want to see in its protecting language. Therefore it will not be a surprise if the Keating-Owen bill in the court of last resort is held to be "constitutional."

There are thousands of loyal Germans in this country and unless a man shows that he isn't loyal we should treat him with great respect. It doesn't follow that because a man is of German descent he is not loyal to the flag of his country. We are descendants of races of people who never set foot on the American continent. This should always be borne in mind.

The Suffragettes Hindered.

The foolish women in Washington who thought it Smart Alecky to parade with banners and who are doing time, have done much against the cause of suffrage. They represent a different branch—a branch of women who want Congress to pass a suffrage law—whereas the other branch simply wants Congress to submit to the states the proposition to let women vote. In other words it is the dream of the suffragist to let her own state express the desire to let women vote. This is the suffragist's idea, whereas the suffragette; the militant and foolish spellbinders, want to force something upon the people. That is the way we understand it, and that is why we say the fool women in Washington have retarded the suffrage question at least ten years—given it a black eye, from which it will be hard to recover. The New York Herald, in commenting on the subject, says that "Dr. Anna Howard Shaw's condemnation of the woman suffragists who are picketing the White House when they are not in jail is mild when compared with her condemnation of the members of Congress who refuse to make a national issue of the giving of votes to women. The foremost suffragist 'deplores' the action of a few 'unreasonable' women who 'wave a few banners at the gates at the White House.' She chooses the softest, the most velvety words when she speaks about these women who, whether they belong to the Shaw wing of the party or not, have brought disgrace not only upon American women's cause, but upon American womanhood. But when she speaks of the men in Congress, and inferentially of the man in the White House, she excoriates them in words that bear a bitter sting.

"It is the men of America, and not her women who are on trial,' Dr. Shaw declares in a vehement peroration. The men of America are not on trial; they are on the jury, and a very fair-minded jury they constituted until the 'unreasonable' women began to wave their 'few flags' at the White House. Nowhere in the world are the women so well treated, so well cared for by laws and so loftily placed on pedestals as here in America, and there is hardly the shadow of a doubt that the same American men who are noted for their habit of giving to women everything that women want—whether love, laws or luxuries—would have given suffrage to them many months ago if those misrepresentative women—misrepresentative of suffragists and of womanhood—had not insulted all American men and disgraced all American women. Dr. Shaw did not admit this in her public statement, but she knows it is the truth. Hence her tears."

The Woman's Rifle Club.

The proposition to have a Woman's Rifle Club as an auxiliary to the Men's Rifle Club is a good idea, and the first twenty-five Greensboro women who signify their intention of joining will lead in the state in a matter worth while.

And now the sheep shearing season in September has set in. A day or two ahead of time, but the same old Long Cold Spell due each month.

Something Should Be Done.

There are many streets in Greensboro sadly needing paving, and the finances of the city will not allow the requests of property owners to be granted. The law is that the property owner pays half, and the city the other half, a very good proposition for the city by the way. But the city finds itself unable to do what the property-owners want. The regret is that when the paving bonds were issued there were not enough of them to at least meet the requirements of the principal streets. Almost every day a delegation of indignant citizens call on the Commissioners pleading for pavements. It was shown yesterday that Park Drive, a roadway leading to the so-called "beauty spot" of Greensboro, as Mr. Robert Douglas termed it, becomes impassable in winter weather. This is simply disgraceful, and it costs the whole city money not to have it paved. And there are other streets that need paving, and property owners are ready and willing to do their part—but the city hasn't any money and doesn't know how to get money. Looks like something could be done and the city paved.

Danville Complains.

Danville is now complaining because she was not given credit for all the soldiers she sent to the field before the draft days. Bitterly the Register insists that it is wrong. Greensboro had the same experience. Greensboro had already equipped three different companies—the Grays, the Engineering corps and the Ambulance corps. But when it came to furnishing soldiers under the draft our quota was reckoned just the same as though we hadn't already responded.

In our case the three exemption boards fought it out and agreed that it would be better to proceed and raise the additional men which has been done, but in all candor it was not exactly a square deal. Who is to blame or whether any one is to blame under the law we do not know. The Register thinks that both Crowder and its Governor are to blame.

Judge Boyd sat through the long speech-making period, but he doubtless knew just about as much about the facts in the case before as after. Judges, however, must pay respectful attention to the lawyer employed to talk. That is why we wouldn't want to be a judge.

And now there will be something else. Tomorrow the Keating-Owen bill was to go into effect. Next September there will be some other new-fangled bill ready to go into effect, and slowly but surely we reach the dream dreamed by socialists.

The days of loud talk on food conservation seem to have passed and thousands of car loads of vegetables raised under pressure are decaying.

For The Nonce Sentimental.

The Columbia State, which almost every day breaks into double leads and tells about some things it thinks anent the negro policy in the South, about deserters and slackers, found time as August was passing to play a classic on the soft pedal. Under the heading of the "Aging Year" it prints this, worth time to read tomorrow or next day. It touches the right chord and is worth perusing:

"The year 1917 is passing its prime and now enters the ripe stage, that in turn will yield to wintry age and final death. Always somewhere about the close of August one feels a subtle transition from the expectant forward attitude of blooming, fruiting spring and early summer to the ripened realized harvests of the late summer.

"In alliance with nature we get busy with the lengthening and warming days of spring. Hope is active, sketching visions of new created wealth to rise out of the soil. As for last year, it is dead and gone; here is a new chance and all the agencies of nature getting into action. More and more the daylight lingers at evening. Earlier and earlier it summons to action in the morning. Bud and leaf are new and fresh, every blossom a promise, every seed sown an investment. Thus April-grows into May and May into June. The midsummer arrives, days of maximum length and heat as well rather oppress us. Energy flags, hopeful expectancy grows anxious lest things go not well and untoward circumstances rob labor of its reward.

"Finally September seems suddenly somehow to be upon us. The day has shortened by a full hour. Some morning we step forth to discover that a crisp coolness has slipped upon us from somewhere—faint reminder that for better or for worse another summer has had its day and is receding before the coming autumn. On such a morning long after sunrise the dew lingers wet and sparkling on grass and weed and flower. Out in the country, if not in the city, the damp twilight breeze brings sweet odors of curing fodder and ripening muscadines. Everything is maturing, for nature is finishing her far-spread summer task in field and forest. And no sensitive nature but feels it in a vague mood that often knows no utterance except a sigh, as if the spirit said gently, 'Tis nearly over—the new act of creation by blessing of which we shall live another year; so soon it will be farewell to leaf and blossom."

"So does anticipation in April merge into the realization of September, and rarely has the earlier vision found complete reality. Unsuspected difficulty, adverse behavior of the weather, unforeseen handicap have in various combinations trimmed down the fullness of success planned for. Yet there has been success in some measure for the vast majority and they are glad to behold the solid results ready for crib and bin. It is a curious mood—the gladness of the harvest mingled subtly with the sadness of farewell to something that, as it were, but yesterday we welcomed with joy and now already is passing from us—the growing, blooming, bright summer season."

The new election is called to change the charter. The ordinance appears today, and the hope is that every citizen of Greensboro will get behind this issue and see that it goes through. We need the school board and we need the money. It will not cost each individual property owner much, but it will do a world of good. Get busy and talk for the change.

Less Than Five Thousand.

The school census taker has just completed his task of ascertaining how many children of school age are located in this city, and he finds that we haven't as many as we had last year. The general understanding was that Greensboro had been growing some, but the school figures do not show it. Last year Mr. Charles Lamb took the census in eleven days. He completed his work and found nearer five thousand children than Mr. McLean has found and he has been on the job for five weeks, within a day of three weeks longer than it took a year ago, so it is to be supposed that he got the record on all children. Perhaps there is a reason for this, and what we would like to see just now is a police census of the city. Let us really know whether we are going forward or backward in the matter of population. Once upon a time we claimed forty thousand people, but we didn't have quite that many. A census of our population would be worth while in the face of the school figures, and this is a matter that should vitally interest the Chamber of Commerce, spelled with capital letters.

The paving question still bobs up, and no money is in the treasury. Why not vote a hundred thousand dollars in paving bonds, sell them and make a city out of Greensboro? It will cost something, but it will come back tenfold.

Glad Of It.

Really if all the things we hear concerning the cantonments are true we are really glad that Greensboro didn't get one. The orders being issued to drive out broken winged bats, gamblers, pickpockets and what not suggest that scores of outlaws flock around these places and it has taken squads of secret service men to get information. Greensboro may not do the temporary business done by the towns fighting for and getting camps, but she will come along stronger and cleaner than some of the places which spent big money to get a temporary boom.

Get Busy.

We again call your attention to the fact that tomorrow is Sunday, and in Greensboro you can find God's sanctuary in many places. Able ministers we have in this city, and the man who takes an hour off and goes to hear the Word of God will feel better for having done so. The church isn't such a bad place, after all, even if the man of the world has thought so. The water isn't cold, and the person who gets the church-going habit has something worth while.

May Stretch It.

The decision rendered by Judge James E. Boyd, declaring the Keating-Owen bill unconstitutional, renders the law ineffective for the time being in the western district of North Carolina. The Supreme Court of the United States will be called upon to render its opinion, and the chances are, judging by what that court has done in the past, it will pronounce the law constitutional, because it appears to be the policy of the country to allow Congress to pass most any sort of a law that appeals to a demand made temporarily popular by the propaganda of hysterical people who build alluring theories along socialistic plans.

The Keating-Owen bill is not reasonable. It doesn't only prohibit the product of child labor from entering into interstate commerce, but it prohibits the product of adult labor from entering into interstate commerce. That is to say, if 1,000 men forty years of age were to man as many looms in a cotton mill; if every inch of cloth produced by that mill was made by adult labor, and it happened that the son of the proprietor of that mill was allowed to be employed as long as five minutes in any one day or any one week in that mill as a boot-black, as an office boy, as anything not having to do with making the goods, if that boy was under thirteen years of age, the entire product would be denied shipment.

To make it plainer, the law is not designed to stop child labor in the manufacture of goods, but designed to protect union labor in other sections of the country than the South. Here is where the question comes: Does the constitution protect a man in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Can Congress use the interstate commerce law to stop child labor when the child labor doesn't enter into the product manufactured? But the Supreme Court will perhaps fall back to its famous proposition that when a law is not understood it is up to the ones interpreting it to apply the "rule of reason," which means that any set of men acting as judges can interpret a law to mean anything that within their scope of reason seems plausible. That is why we think the higher court will reverse Boyd. It is certainly clear that the Keating-Owen bill was passed, not to control commerce in any way, but to stop the employment of children in mills and factories. North Carolina already has a law governing this; a law that satisfied its people. Congress had no right to come in and interfere with the police regulations of our state, so it was found necessary to use something that Congress could use, and it took the interstate commerce law, and the bill reads that if the mills employed men forty years of age, and never a child was allowed to work one minute in making the goods that were to be offered for shipment, yet if one lone boy under fourteen years of age rendered service by carrying a bucket of water to the mill or checked a load of cotton that happened to arrive when no one was present, the entire output of that mill would be practically confiscated and the mill put out of business.

That is what the law says. That is what it is admitted that it says, and the government, admitted in its pleas that the law wasn't to control commerce, but to stop child labor. The other side argued that under all decisions of the Supreme Court, Congress had only a right to regulate commerce; that it could not prohibit lawful commerce, and this law did prohibit, so therefore was unconstitutional. Whether constitutional or unconstitutional it certainly has assumed powers that are dangerous and morally wrong. But you can prove anything by the Constitution, so let's wait and see.

The Panama Canal.

The utility of the Panama canal in time of war was strikingly shown recently in the exploit of the United States torpedo boat destroyer Shaw, which made a run of 5,858 miles from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic coast in fourteen days ten hours and twenty minutes, including a record-breaking passage through the canal of five hours and forty-five minutes. It was just nineteen years before that the United States battleship Oregon, under the command of Captain Charles E. Clark, at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, dashed down the west coast of the American continent, through the strait of Magellan and up the east coast, a distance of 13,000 miles, from San Francisco to Key West in sixty-five days.

Not Many Reversals.

It appears that the local exemption boards of this county did their work very well, at least the district board hasn't done much reversing. The local board was, of course, handicapped in some instances where people well known wanted exemption. But it remembered its oath; it knew its duty and proceeded along judicial lines. Therefore the three boards are to be congratulated upon the work they have so far done. But very few cases have been returned, and this speaks well for those who had a task that wasn't at all pleasant.

Gypsies In Ford Cars.

The papers relate that several bands of gypsies are abroad in the land, but they are traveling in Ford cars. This knocks all the romance out of the gypsy band. Certainly for a lazy gypsy to be obliged to get out and crank a car would rob the story of the glory. But maybe they use self-starters.

The Russians seem to be full of black flag. Did you ever take a bedbug and tickle him under the ribs and administer a dose of black flag to him? If so, you know how crazy a bedbug is under such dope, and the Russians seem to be in just about that fix.

The street paving for Greensboro is in demand. Several streets are needing paving; the property owners are asking for it; but the city has no money. Why not get busy and once for all vote enough bonds to at least pave the principal streets? The property owner pays two-thirds and it is a sorry town that can't make arrangements to pay the other third.