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WEALTHIER CLASSES CAN HELP LOWER LIVING COSTS

They Should Wear Their Clothes Longer Time, Old Clothes and Patches, Even, Being a Badge of Courage and Self-Esteem

Washington, May 1.—Bernard M. Baruch, capitalist, millionaire and former chair of the war industries board, says the high cost of living can be brought down if the wealthier classes, not necessarily the poor, wear their shoes and clothes longer and declares that "old patched clothes are evidence of courage and self-esteem."

In addition, Mr. Baruch, in a letter to the senate's special sugar and shoe cost investigating committee, headed by Senator McNary, of Oregon, indirectly advocated peace-time supervision of the shoe manufacturing and other industries by the government. He attached a memorandum to his letter, which discussed methods of the war industries board during the war, and bringing the memorandum up to date, Mr. Baruch added:

"I have no doubt that the cost of manufacturing, handling and sale of shoes could be very substantially reduced if the manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers would pursue substantially the course which was being pursued in 1918, and standardize and limit shape, styles and colors, rather than unnecessarily multiplying them to appeal to the fads and fancies of a consuming public prodigal in their expenditures.

"This might be accomplished by creating a government agency, under whose supervision and regulation not only this industry but all industry could co-operate to standardize production, eliminate waste, stimulate efficiency and reduce costs. Such a course is not paternalistic. It was not safe for the government to permit the individual unit of industry to co-operate, much less combine for purposes of standardization and elimination of waste, without the supervision and regulation of a capable and effective government agency, as without such supervision and regulation the temptation to control the prices and profiteer would prove too strong."

Wear The Old Ones

Mr. Baruch's letter to the senate investigators advocates the wearing of old clothes and shoes, particularly by the wealthier classes, to end profiteering and high prices. It admits there is merit even in the overall movement. "I do not see," says Mr. Baruch, "how normality in production or distribution can come until the world is at peace. And it must be a firmly established peace. Hundreds of thousands of men are still in arms in Europe, facing one another across boundaries that should have been determined long ago. They dare not drop their arms and return to production for fear they will be overrun by their neighbors. There will be no peace until this is ended; no return to normality and production.

"Think of how much beet sugar could have been produced in Germany, Poland and Russia; how many shoes they could have made; how much coal they could have dug; how much clothing they would have; how much hope and optimism they could be giving to the world instead of the fears and pessimism that come with destruction.

"The problem you have in hand is, what can be done to reduce the high cost of shoes and clothing. The only thing legal I know that can be helpful, is to remove any illegal barriers which make for a restricted distribution of foods and clothing, and the prevention of propaganda and advertisements which falsely state the scarcity or impossibility of obtaining these things. The people have become so alarmed by what I think are unreliable statements they have been willing to pay any price. I believe now that the continuity of the thought of scarcity has been broken down.

"Another helpful thing would be to get all our people to conserve and wear for a longer time their shoes and clothing. The overall movement would be valuable. It would teach people not to be afraid of wearing clothes or shoes that are somewhat worn, frayed or patched.

Patches Evidence Of Nerve

"Old patched clothes are evidence of courage and self-esteem. If people would use their shoes and clothing for 10 or 20 per cent. more time, it would practically increase the production by 10 or 20 per cent. Unfortunately, there are people who cannot extend their usage of apparel because their limited means have already forced them to the limit. It is the people of better

means who should make the effort and set an example for economy and self-control.

"It is unfortunate that the spirit of sacrifice and denial so prominent during the war is not more in evidence now. During the war, when we fixed the prices of materials we also limited the use to which they could be put. I do not know whether the people of the country would be ready to support a program of that kind.

"In my opinion, the situation is now correcting itself. It is unfortunate that we had to go through a cruel rise in prices, much of which, it seems to me, has been unnecessary. After all the law of supply and demand works all these problems out. But the difficulty with the law, like the law of the survival of the fittest, is that it works terrific hardships upon the weak, and upon those who cannot protect themselves.

"It is the duty of the state to protect the weak elements in it. If one fixes a price, one has to limit the demand. But it is curious thing that there seems to be food and clothing enough for all. Yet the whole community is bidding against one another for the available supply."

Mr. Baruch says this may be due to several things—a real shortage, a fear of shortage, failure to economize and the human equation and tendency to stampede. He adds:

"As it appears to me now, the only thing that can be done is to move restrictions on distribution and manufacturing, check illegal profiteering wherever it exists, do what we can to stimulate production, try to incite ideas of saving, economy and plain dressing in people until the supply has caught up with the demand, and get the hundreds of thousands of men in Europe back to work."

Included in the memorandum attached to the Baruch letter was a discussion of the conditions imposed upon the shoe trade during the war. Then it was particularly required there should be no lowering of the quality of the shoes, whereas during the war came deterioration in quality.

During the war it was found that about 650 styles of shoes were manufactured, and nearly every manufacturer was planning further innovations. The number of styles was reduced to 150 and it was agreed no new lasts should be made. It is disclosed that just before the armistice a conference with the war industries board had resulted in an agreement of complete co-operation with the government, extending to the making of shoes.

No Word From Mars

On April 21st, Mars made its nearest approach to the earth, having come to within 36,000,000 miles of the earth at that time. It will be remembered that Marconi, the inventor of wireless telegraphy, has claimed for some months that he has received signals from the planet Mars. As that planet was to come closest to the earth on the night of April 21st, it was thought by many learned men that that would be the most opportune time to both signal and receive signals from there, therefore, in a little farm house in an upstairs room in Nebraska, the most powerful wireless apparatus ever set up was carefully listened to all night long by Dr. Fredrick Milliner and Harvey Gerner with the hope that the signals would be received. Their listening was in vain. "If anything on earth can catch such a signal we can," remarked Mr. Milliner, who with Dr. Gerner installed the powerful wireless instrument, "and," he added, "we have heard nothing."

Wood Wins Two To One In Maryland Primary

Baltimore, May 3.—Practically complete returns tonight from today's presidential primary in Maryland gave Major General Wood 14,663 votes to 7,113 for Senator Hiram W. Johnson, a majority for the soldier candidate of 7,550. General Wood carried all the counties but Alleghany and Washington. Johnson's majority in the former county was 1,000.

According to the returns, Wood will have 117 of the 129 votes to the state convention which will elect 16 delegates to the Chicago convention. All of these will be instructed to vote for him as long as they "conscientiously believe he has a chance of being nominated, in accordance with the state primary law.

FARMERS URGED TO PLANT LESS TOBACCO

Tobacco Manufacturers Foresee A Falling Off In Price If Production Increases.

At a meeting held April 23, 1920 at Wilson, N. C. by the Tobacco Association of the United States at which were present representatives from the various markets of eastern North Carolina including dealers, Warehousemen and farmers, the following resolutions were adopted.

First. That under the circumstances of the unprecedented large crop of tobacco being grown in 1919 and sold at the highest average ever known and that every incentive was thus given to increase the tobacco production and as these prices were unduly high considering the size of the crop and the circumstances of the central European countries which take considerable quantity of bright tobacco being debarred by the great depreciations of the rate of exchange, everything costing them five or six times as much as compared with the American dollar and the further condition that there has been a sufficient stock of tobacco accumulated for all practical purposes that everything points to much lower prices even if no more tobacco is produced than in 1919.

Second. Under the prevailing condition of high labor, fertilizer, and everything that contributes to the making of bright tobacco it has been deemed wise and appropriate to put these facts before the producers of bright tobacco with the expressed opinion of the leading tobacco men that the production of any large quantity than was made last year would be fraught with the danger of very much lower prices possibly less than the cost of production.

Third. Therefore the farmers are urged not to plant any crop that will produce more than was made last year taking in consideration that the crop last year was considerably in excess of surplus sufficient for the price of tobacco at the end of the season to be reduced one-half without the last year's rains the surplus would have been 125,000,000 pounds more. The Government estimates 15 per cent increase for 1920 for North Carolina which with an average yield would bring the crop up considerably over 600,000,000 pounds with the possible deplorable results as to the values and therefore there is every apparent reason that the crop should be materially reduced as compared with last year in order that no more pounds of tobacco shall be produced.

Fourth. Be it further resolved that these resolutions be sent to every leading bright tobacco market in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and steps be taken to promulgate and get before the farmers as far as possible the action.

Philadelphia Is Waging A Home-Building Campaign

Philadelphia, April 21.—A campaign for the building of homes is Philadelphia's answer to the question of how to keep rents down to a reasonable basis. The tenant population is in desperate straits, for rents have been going higher and higher and no end seems to be in sight. The scramble for homes in the suburbs is so acute that when one woman moved some of the furniture out of her home, the other day, in order to clean the house, 25 persons tried to rent it from her within a few hours.

To stop the profiteering in rents and homes, several organizations are attempting to unite on a program of house building to continue for at least six months or until the shortage has been relieved. These organizations include associations of tenants, trade unions, representatives of the building trades and mortgaging companies. They have been asked to undertake this work by the department of public welfare.

Meanwhile camping is in great demand. Tent manufacturers say more orders have been placed for tents this month than ever before in Philadelphia history.

Deed For Asheville Drug Store Executed In Paris

Asheville, April 29.—Coming from Paris, France, where it was executed, the deed from Henry Berger to S. Sternberg for the Smith drug store property, at the corner of Pack square and Biltmore avenue, arrived here yesterday and was filed with the county register of deeds. The consideration was \$130,000 and Mr. Sternberg has already taken charge of the property.

Did The Census Man Get You?

The question has been raised as to whether or not a complete census was made of this town some weeks ago when the work was supposed to be done. Cecil Carter and George Sparger were appointed to do this work, and Mr. Carter made the census for half the town. Mr. Sparger refused to accept the appointment and a man was sent here by direction of the Winston-Salem office and he was supposed to complete the work. Now citizens tell us that if they or their families were included in this canvass they are not aware of it. They also tell us that they know of some of their neighbors who have never been canvassed.

It will be recalled that ten years ago the man who was appointed to take the census of this town got credit for doing the work so poorly that the town had the work done over and found that a big error had been made. The census report gave us only 3,800, while we were entitled to have over 4,400. It looks like we may be in a way to again get too low a report. We suggest that all citizens in our town who have not been canvassed by some man taking the census report the fact to this office at once and, if we find that there were many missed in the canvass, we will take the matter up with the proper authorities and it may be that the error can yet be corrected before the report is made.

About The County Home

Mr. S. L. Arrington was a juror at Dobson last week and while there made a visit to the county home and was kind enough to give the editor of The News some of his impressions made by the visit. He says that he made inquiry from the inmates of the home as to the treatment they get and the food they are served. He says he heard no complaint and found that they are satisfied and contented. The home is now kept by Mr. Joe Wright. The smallest number of people along time are now in the home.

While most of the others are mentally incapacitated to care for themselves. Hardly any of the inmates are able to do work that amounts to much.

Some of the old people who have been at the home for years told Mr. Arrington that they had recently made a little inquiry that to them is interesting. They find that the home has not had a keeper in many years who used tobacco. They think that this is a bit strange. They are served with tobacco by the county, but no keeper in their memory has been addicted to the habit himself.

Good Meeting At Lumburg

Rev. B. W. Phillips held a series of meetings at Lumburg in the school house at that place last week. From day to day he tells us the people came in large numbers from the whole neighborhood and showed great interest in the services. Many people took part in the meeting and several were converted and six were baptized on Sunday and were added to the church at Ivy Greene. Mr. Phillips says that the meeting will be a great help in that section and that the best people there were in hearty sympathy with his work at that point.

Eastern Star Officers Installed

At the regular meeting of the Mount Airy chapter No. 18 Order of Eastern Star officers for the year were installed by Mrs. Cape, of Greensboro, district deputy of the 8th district, and Mrs. Pate, of Spencer, deputy of the 9th district. The officers are as follows:

Miss Sara Banner, Worthy Matron, J. D. Thompson, Worthy Patron; Mrs. C. Binder, Associate Matron; Mrs. H. Baldridge, Conductress; Mrs. W. B. Moore, Associate Conductress; C. Binder, secretary; Miss Bess Merritt, treasurer; Miss Belle Graves, organist, Mrs. T. G. Samuels, chaplain; Mrs. Eugene Paddison, marshal. The Star Points, Mesdames W. Fulton, E. A. Hannah and R. D. Clark and Misses Lucy Barker and Woodward.

A social hour followed the business session, during which cream and cake were served.

Convicts Here For Road Work

Thirty five convicts arrived in this city last Tuesday and were carried at once to the camp prepared for them near the home of Milt Venable out in the Little Mountains on the road from White Plains to Union church. During the past few days a force of men has been busy building a house where they will be kept at night. The county has the stock and tools ready and they will at once go to making good roads in that part of the county.

CANNOT BUILD HIGHWAYS UNLESS MATERIAL IS PRODUCED AT HOME

Commissioner Page Says Contractors Won't Bid On Work Because They Cannot Get Stuff To Do It With.

Greensboro News, May 4th.

The limit in the building of hard surface roads has been reached in North Carolina unless the state gets busy and produces the necessary material. This is the opinion of Frank Page, chairman of the state highway commission, who came to Greensboro yesterday for the purpose of opening bids, if any there were at the division highway office, for construction of 254 miles of state highway in Rowan county from the county border to Salisbury. There were no bids, which fact did not seem to surprise the commissioner, who said it helped to prove his opinion sound.

Contractors, said Mr. Page, are declining to bid on building roads for the simple reason that they can't afford to because of the uncertainty in securing materials. Cement is the biggest bugaboo, the contractors claiming that this commodity cannot be secured at any price; neither can orders be placed for it for future delivery, the manufacturers declining to make any promises along that line. To illustrate the situation in this respect, Mr. Page said a well known road builder told him, in discussing the Rowan county project, that he would be glad to enter a bid if shown that he can get cement with which to do the work. Crushed rock, another essential material, happens to be comparatively easily available at Salisbury, but it was pointed out that rock is useless unless there is cement to go with it.

Rock, however, generally speaking, is a hard subject, said Mr. Page, so far as North Carolina as a whole is concerned. It's pretty soft for Tennessee. The rock it uses for building roads and paving city streets. This, Mr. Page said, in spite of the fact that there is enough rock in North Carolina to supply the greater part, if not all, of the country. The state highway commissioner thinks North Carolina rock should at least be used for building North Carolina roads.

The commissioner right now is practicing what he preaches. The highway commission could not get a contractor to build the hard surface road from Durham to Chapel Hill, so decided to have the state do the job. State prison labor was secured, and hard by where the road will pass that labor is now blasting rock, locating the best deposits with the aid of the geological department of the University of North Carolina. A real road building force is being organized. It will construct the Durham-Chapel Hill highway as quickly as possible, and when that task is finished the same organization will tackle another project. Right now, the state highway department has 11 big projects—main highways—in various parts of the state, for the carrying out of which bids were asked—and none received because the contractors said they would not contract when it appeared so evident they would not be able to carry them out. Mr. Page hopes to get quite a bit of road building done with the organization now getting a try-out between the tobacco city and the university town.

Mr. Page said he finds no evidence that road contractors are trying to profiteer, explaining that he believed they were acting as they thought best to protect themselves. He declared that he was confident no contractor, with conditions as they are now, could figure within 20 per cent. of the cost of a big road building job. Added to the other handicaps is the scarcity and high cost of labor.

The commissioner said a slightly better situation prevails in building gravel roads. He said there are in Alabama construction forces which moved there after that state voted fifty million dollars in bonds for road building and which are still there idle because the Alabama program has been held up. These forces, he said, are glad to come to North Carolina if they can get six months' work, as a job lasting that length of time would justify moving teams, machinery, etc. Some of them are coming, Mr. Page said, and the result is that gravel roads are being built much faster than hard surface ones over the state.

What is true of North Carolina is also true of other states, according to the commissioner. He cited the case of Pennsylvania, which state a year ago decided to build a thousand miles of hard surface roads each year until

the state had a thick network of modern highways. The situation at present is that of the thousand of the first year a little over a hundred miles were built, with the prospect that at the end of the second year the actual roads built will likely amount to something like four hundred miles.

One chance is left for getting roads built after advertisements bring no bids. The law provides that in such cases the commission may let contracts privately if such is deemed advisable. This being the case, there is a possibility that the Rowan county project and the eleven big ones for main highways will yet be carried out. It seems, however, in view of all existing circumstances, that no stronger word than "possibility" can be advisedly used in this connection.

When asked what he thought of the proposed bond issue for road building in Guilford county, Mr. Page replied that it was not his business to think along that line, that matter being one for the board of commissioners and the people of the county to decide upon.

Mrs. Fairbrother Expects To Vote In November

Mrs. Al Fairbrother, of Greensboro, a pioneer suffragist as well as a pioneer newspaper woman, who has been attending the annual convention of the North Carolina Federation of Women's clubs in Charlotte this week, thinks that a good deal of unnecessary anxiety is felt by the women, who expect to participate in the election this fall on account of the uncertainty about their being able to vote in the primaries. Mrs. Fairbrother's advice to women voters is to keep out of the primaries this year anyway, even if given the privilege of recording their choice of candidates. She believes that it would be wise to avoid "entangling alliances" until they have time and opportunity to get their heads above the greatest number of loyal American citizens.

Mrs. Fairbrother argues that the strength and power of the woman's vote will be in its uncertainty—in keeping the men guessing and compelling the choice of able and clean men to secure their support.

"I am looking forward confidently to being a full-fledged citizen in time to cast my ballot in November," said Mrs. Fairbrother. "I am certain that the forward looking men in the North Carolina Legislature will realize the expediency of ratification of the suffrage amendment at the coming special session, as recommended by the State Democratic convention held recently at Raleigh, and believe that in the final roundup it will be made unanimous. When in California last summer I was urged to register and vote in that State, I declined, however, insisting that I would cast my first ballot in North Carolina, where I intended to hold my citizenship, and have my permanent residence."—Charlotte Observer.

Courting Trouble

The habit of many owners and operators of filling the gasoline tank while the motor is running is a most dangerous one and there should be most rigid regulations forbidding it. The Kansas State Fire Marshal reports many fires which originated in this manner, saying "We doubt if many people realize just how dangerous the operation is. For the individual who has never had the matter brought to his attention, there may be an excuse but with the garage man who knows the danger of the practice, there is none. A lighted cigar or cigarette is also a mighty dangerous proposition to have near the tank while it is being filled, and yet there are thousands who take the chance daily.

W. J. Christian Dies At Wife's Grave In Durham

Durham, May 3.—William J. Christian, one of Durham's oldest and most influential citizens, died suddenly Sunday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, in Maplewood cemetery, by the side of his wife's grave, which he was visiting, for the first time in several weeks his condition being too feeble for him to go often.

Periodic Bilious Attacks.

Persons subject to bilious attacks at regular intervals know about when to expect an attack. They find that they have no desire for food when an attack is due but usually eat because it is meal time. Skip one meal and take three of Chamberlain's Tablets and you may be able to avoid the attack. Persons subject to periodic bilious attacks should not drink tea or coffee at any time.