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MARION, N. C., DEC. 4, 1919.

Can the Miners Win?

The coal miners have peremptorily refused the offer of 14 per cent in wages made by the fuel administration headed by Dr. Garfield. The fuel administration, it seems, did everything in its power to do justice to all. The public had to be considered as well as the coal diggers and the operators. The miners were asking for a sixty per cent increase in wages and a thirty hour week. To have granted the demands of the miners would have meant a great increase in the price of fuel, and a corresponding increase in the cost of all manufactured articles where coal is a factor. It would also have very probably meant a decrease in the coal output by reason of the 30-hour week, as under the present regulations the miners work eight hours per day and six days in the week, that is when they work a full week.

But now the question arises, can the miners force their demands upon the country? Winter is here with a great demand for coal, both for domestic and business purposes. The government says the mines must remain open and offers to protect those who wish to work. If not enough men return to the mines to dig the coal necessary to warm the homes and to keep the industries of the country going, then homes will be without fuel and business will stop with the result that men and women by the millions will be out of employment at a time when the weekly wage is most needed.

Heretofore labor organizations have been sympathetic one with another, and in one way or another have sought to help each other in their demands for higher wages and better working conditions. But if the organized miners remain out of the mines, when the government says they have been offered a fair wage, closing the industries of the country, thereby causing great suffering, hardships and misery incident to a paralysis of business, will the other organizations support the miners in the face of the fact that an increase of wages has been offered when they (the other organizations) are compelled to suffer the pangs of hunger and misery that are sure to follow if the mines should close?

In the railroad settlement the employes accepted the increase offered by the government. In this they displayed wisdom. We believe they will feel that the miners should have done likewise, for the railroad employes realized that without the sympathy and support of the people of the country any fight they should start would be a losing one. We believe other labor organizations will decide against the miners and demand that they (the miners) return to work.

Spend your money with your home merchants. They help pay the taxes, keep up the schools, build roads, and make this a community worth while. You will find the advertising of the best ones in this paper.

The Revaluation Act.

While the work of the revaluation of the property of the State is yet incomplete, already sufficient information has been secured to demonstrate the wisdom of the new law. Fact of the matter is, it is hard to understand why a great and intelligent people tolerated the old system as long as they did.

The property is now being placed upon its tax books at its actual value. Before now no one knew the real valuation of the property of the State. When the work is completed North Carolina will know her valuation. Every citizen will know that he is paying only his pro rata rate of taxes. The old system of permitting one man to give in his property at ten per cent of its value and another man at one-half its value has been abolished. Every tax-payer stands on a par with every other tax-payer when it comes to the valuation of his property and the pro rata part of taxes he must pay. The small property owner will not have his property assessed at a higher value than the large property holder. Each stands on the same basis.

The object of the revaluation act is not one primarily of raising more taxes. It is one to determine the real value of the property of the state and to equalize the tax burden. Under the new law not more than ten per cent increase in the amount of taxes collected can be raised. This does not mean, of course, that no one individual will pay more taxes. The man who has been a tax dodger and has failed to pay his part of the taxes will of course pay more, but the man who has been paying more than his part will pay less.

The new law is one that should have been enacted long ago. It is the greatest progressive step that North Carolina has taken since the little band of Mecklenburg farmers declared their independence of England. It is a law that concerns every property owner in the State. It is one that should meet the approval and co-operation of every citizen.

Will There Be a Panic Soon.

Vice-President Marshall in a speech in Raleigh a few days ago predicted a business panic in this country soon. Whether the Vice President is a good prophet is yet to be seen. But if we will study the condition of affairs in this country as they actually exist we are compelled to admit that Mr. Marshall's reasoning seems to be sound.

Panics are brought about by a cessation of business, the cause of which may be one or several. The danger which appears to be imminent at this time lies in the strike of the coal miners. Fuel is indispensable to keep the wheels of industry moving. The railroads and the manufacturing plants must all stop if the mines close. If the transportation and manufacturing industries of the country are compelled to remain idle from any cause then there is bound to be a panic. For millions of working people will be thrown out of employment, which means that the money paid to these working people will remain locked up in the banks.

People cannot spend unless they have money. If the people have no money to spend then they do not buy. The merchant, the farmer, the manufacturer, in fact all lines of business must suffer. The merchant cannot sell unless he has buyers. The manufacturer in turn can not dispose of his goods unless the merchant can buy, and so on in an endless cycle. So we see how absolutely dependent is one industry on another. If one stops

SPECIAL SALE

On Ladies Suits and Coats!

Beginning Thursday, Dec. 4th,
and continuing until Saturday, Dec. 13th
we will sell all Suits and Coats at a Special discount
of 10 per cent.

This is the best opportunity you will have to save some extra money to spend for Christmas. We want to say that we are not offering a lot of left-over garments in this sale. All our entire stock of "brand" new Suits and Coats just arrived are included at this special price.

Special to the Housewife!

We want to help you solve the "High Cost of Living" problem, and hereafter we plan to have on sale each week a number of articles in the Grocery line at special prices for cash. For this week we have

Hirsch's Apple Butter (delightful)	30c pt. Jars	-	-	26c
" Peach "	" 30c pt. Jars	-	-	26c
Council brand Vienna Sausage,	15c can at	-	-	12c
" " Corned Beef Hash,	15c can at	-	-	12c
" " Hamburger Steak,	15c can at	-	-	12c

Watch for our Specials next week.

Gaston & Tate, Inc.

"The Square Deal Store."

all stop. When business stops there is a panic.

We dislike the idea of taking a pessimistic view of the affair, but unless some solution of the industrial strife in this country can be found we can see nothing but suffering and misery ahead. We have been going at a pretty rapid gait for some time, and it may take something closely akin to famine to bring us to our senses.

J. T. Turman Resigns

County Farm Demonstrator J. L. Thurman presented his resignation to the board of county commissioners at their meeting here last Monday. Mr. Thurman has held the position as farm demonstrator for about three years, rendering universal satisfaction. He is well equipped for the work and has been of much service to the farmers of McDowell, who will no doubt learn with much regret of his resignation.

Mr. Thurman has taken much interest in aiding in the work of better farming in McDowell county. He has been a faithful worker and was constantly in the field of service. He has tried to serve all the people as nearly as possible, going to the extreme parts and to the small farmer as well as to the better sections and big farmers. McDowell county is poorer today by reason of the resignation of Mr. Thurman. It is hoped, however, that the county commissioners will secure the best man that can be found in the State to carry on the work as soon as possible.

Mr. Thurman will be engaged in the development of a large fruit proposition near Old Fort. He says that the finest quality of fruit can be grown in the mountains of McDowell county. His many friends wish him great success in his new venture.

Bargains that will save you many dollars will escape you if you fail to read carefully and regularly the advertising of local merchants in this paper.

Men and Boys' Clothing

High and Scarce You Hear on Every Hand

Our Stocks in Good Shape
Prices Very Attractive

If you are thinking of buying
A Suit or Overcoat

It will pay you to investigate.
See our stock before buying.
Our clothing and furnishing
department is a busy place
these days. There is a reason.

Men's and Boys' SHOES

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