

The State Journal

A Weekly Mirror of North Carolina Life

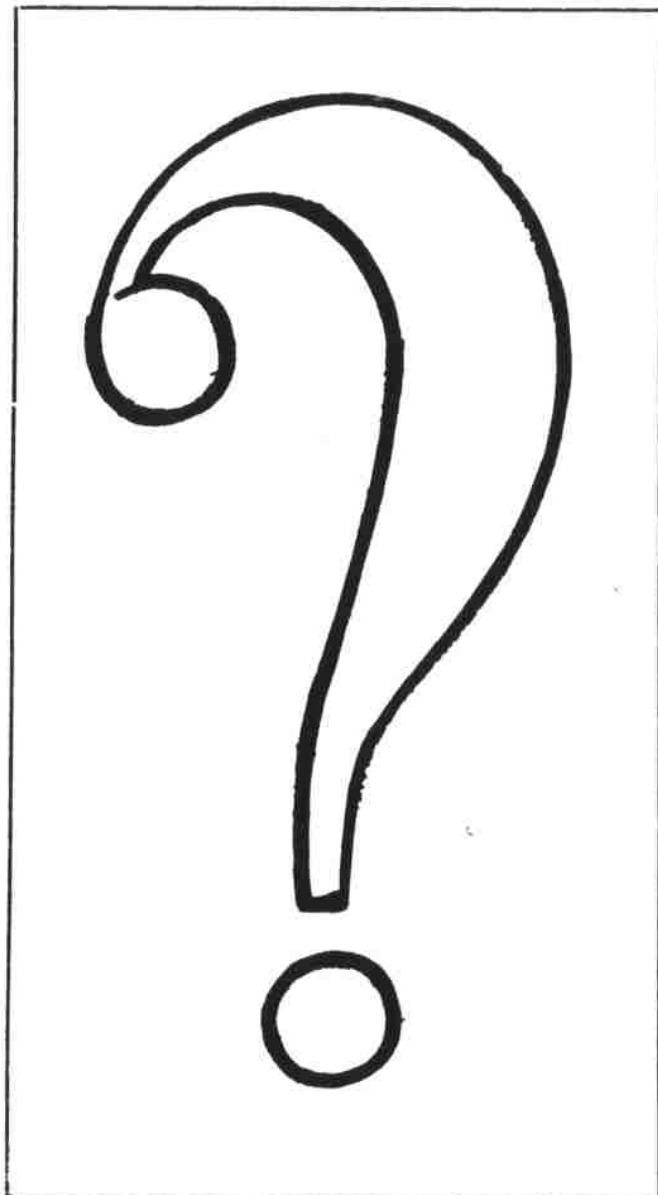
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The Signs of the Times

This is a time of interrogation. Everywhere men are asking "Why?" Modern life is fairly bristling with question marks. We are asking why, in one American city, fifty thousand women are working for less than living wages? When a man can do the labor of one hundred men, why do women and little children have to work through the long day, or in the dead hours of the night---for bread? Why is so much of the burden of taxation passed on to the consumer of the bare necessities of life? Why should one man make a thousand million dollars, while millions of men have not enough to buy to-morrow's bread? Why is our government, instituted for the benefit of all, the ally of a few? Why has this shield for the weak become the weapon of the strong? Why should men prepare for war instead of peace? Is the cause in the system or in the men? If in the system, why not change it? If it is in the men,



we paint the flowers to our taste and make the beasts of the field grow as we will, why should we not by education and environment make better men? We have learned to fly like birds and swim like fish, why should we not learn to live like brothers?

These and a thousand other questions are being asked, but asked in a new spirit--a spirit of scientific candor, of honest endeavor. So long as we only asked why men died with yellow fever, Havana was a pest house and the Panama Canal was an impossibility. But when we asked why men had yellow fever, the cause was discovered inside the mosquito and destroyed. And now Havana is a health resort and two oceans join in celebrating the discovery.

We are not only asking why a fever of unrest makes an unhappy people, but are asking why the fever exists. We are applying scientific inquiry to the lives and government of men, which means that nothing is too old or too well established to be questioned. Every path of progress is paved with interrogation points.