

Local Real Estate Conditions Are A Disgrace To The City

Some Dealers, Unhindered By Law, Have Lowered The Game To The Level Of A Common Gamble, And Real Property Is No Longer Bought As Legitimate Investment.

Taking advantage of a condition brought on by the recent world war, when building activities were held in abeyance and the energies of the nation were directed toward the defeat of the enemy, causing a natural, though temporary, shortage in housing facilities, some of the real estate dealers of Raleigh, putting their greed for gain above patriotism, honesty or fairness toward their fellowman, caring not who suffers or is trampled upon in their mad race for commissions, have lowered the business to the level of a common gamble. Property is shifted back and forth with shuttlecock regularity, and no man can tell today who will be the owner tomorrow. It's simply a game of "who's got the button," and prices have been boosted and inflated beyond all reason. The honest investor who would be satisfied with a fair rental from his property is pestered and nagged by this clan until he, too, contracts the fever, and the game goes on.

The seller knows, the dealer knows, and the buyer knows that there is no real foundation for present valuations. Under the process prices have steadily climbed, a little at a time, until they have finally reached the present unreasonably high level. A piece is bought today for \$5,000 and sold tomorrow for \$5,100, and perhaps the next day for \$5,200. One dealer made the boast that he had sold the same piece of real estate three times in two weeks. Nobody seems to care what he pays, knowing somebody else will come along and take it off his hands at a little higher price, the energetic "dealer" acting as go-between for his commission. And, as a rule, it's all on paper except the little extra tacked on each time a change is made.

It can be only a matter of time—a short time, we trust—before the whole inflated business will suffer a puncture, and then woe be unto him who is caught with the goods. But in the meantime, how goes it with the renter, the man who, unfortunately, is unable to own his home? He is being knocked about from pillar to post and ground to bits through the machinations of these selfish sharks who run the game, and who care not who suffers so long as they are able to extract their chip.

The laws making gambling a crime, but is gambling, under the law, confined to poker, craps and pool? It would seem so.

Other cities are taking steps to curb the practice. Why is Raleigh always behind on most every proposition that would benefit the laboring man? A great many cities bought quantities of the groceries recently sold by the government and resold to their citizens at about half the local retailers' price, Durham being among them, yet the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce said we were not short on anything in that line, and our City Commissioners refused to act in the face of the decision of this august body. Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem, and other places are now organizing corporations instigated by their Chambers of Commerce with the purpose of building sufficient houses to relieve the situation in those places, but the capital of the State, which should naturally take the initiative in all matters for the public good, lags in the rear.

The following, taken from the Greensboro News, shows the spirit being manifested by the public-spirited citizens of that town:

Greensboro Housing Committee Meets.

"At 5 o'clock this afternoon a meeting of the housing committee of the chamber of commerce will be held in the assembly rooms of the chamber, according to announcement made by Chairman C. C. Hudson. Every member of the committee is expected to attend the session, which will be productive of extremely important decisions, according to present plans.

"The meeting had been planned for Monday afternoon, but postponement was necessitated because of the fact that the committee yesterday journeyed to Winston-Salem to inspect home-building operations projected by the Hanes and Reynolds corporation, large tobacco interests of that city.

"Those making the visit of inspection in Winston-Salem were Chairman Hudson, W. A. Hewitt, W. D. Meyer, Lawrence J. Duffy, Claude Kiser and C. B. Hole, all of whom were visibly impressed by the

evident satisfaction attending the building of houses for the Reynolds and Hanes workers. Contracts for those houses have been awarded to a large corporation in Huntington, W. Va., the residences being "made to order." Section by section the houses are shipped to Winston-Salem, construction being a comparatively simple matter following the assembling of the various parts.

"Under that plan a large number of four-room and five-room houses are being provided, the cost per house being well under the \$3,000 mark, according to information obtained by the Greensboro men in Winston-Salem yesterday. In fact, it was stated that the Hanes interests are having 100 houses built at a cost of \$2,600 each, while 100 homes are being constructed for the Reynolds company at a cost ranging from \$2,200 to \$2,500. The houses are equipped with bath rooms and other modern conveniences. Members of the committee regard them as model homes for families of moderate means, it was indicated yesterday.

"Whether a largely similar contract will be awarded by the new housing corporation being established in Greensboro cannot be definitely foretold, but such a plan undoubtedly will receive careful consideration here.

"It is indicated that a decision as to the methods to be pursued in (Continued on page 8.)

NEW YORK PUBLISHERS LOCK OUT PRESSMEN

Employers Refuse to Deal With Locals "Outlawed" by International Unions; Printers Not Included.

New York, Oct. 1.—The pressrooms of 250 printing plants, other than newspapers, including those of magazines, trade papers, and periodicals, in New York City, will close this morning for an indefinite time, as a result of the failure of the employers and the pressmen and feeders to agree as to the demands of the local unions for a 44-hour week and a wage increase of \$14. It is estimated that 10,000 employees will be made idle. The two local unions are not recognized by the International Union, and the employers refused to make a new contract with them for that reason, and posted notices in their plants yesterday that those without international cards would not be employed today.

While the list of publications affected could not be obtained last night, it was said by representatives of both employing printers and the unions that practically all the periodicals printed in New York would suspend indefinitely.

The Literary Digest is one large publication that will not be affected, it was said. The Publishers' Printing Company, which prints it, had a strike some weeks ago, and, through the help of the international union officials, has a force supplied by the new locals established by the international union. It is the plan of the international union to recruit men as rapidly as possible to operate the plants that will be closed today.

Major George L. Berry, president of the international union, who is in the city, declined to meet the heads of the "outlawed" unions, Bernard Nolan and James J. Bagley, in an effort to bring about an adjustment of the internal differences. He said he would not permit the return of Nolan and Bagley to the international union, but suggested that any members of the unions whose charters had been revoked might apply for membership in the new locals sanctioned by the international. Major Berry has stood with the employing printers in the fight, holding that the 44-hour week should go into effect on May 1, 1921, the time agreed upon by a committee of the international union and the employers and affirmed by a referendum vote of the international.

NURSES FOR REGULAR ARMY.

Washington, D. C.—Army nurses who served in the reserve corps during the war are to be given an opportunity of joining the regular army nurse corps. There are now about 4,300 nurses on active duty, nearly 500 of them being still abroad. The strength of the corps has been reduced 80 per cent since the armistice was signed.

CHARLOTTE OFFICIALS THREATEN TO RESIGN

1,614 Voters Rebel Against Tyranny, Lawlessness and Armed Intimidation.

(Charlotte Labor Herald.)
The recall petitions which were put into circulation during the inactive period of the prejudiced city commissioners just prior to the arrival of Mr. Bridwell, representing the United States Department of Justice, have been turned in, and are being checked by the city clerk. Much care was exercised to keep any save duly qualified electors for successors from signing these petitions, and there is small chance of the total being appreciably reduced by culling of city officials.

Rumor is current that the commission will resign if even one is defeated for re-election. They could save themselves the mental anxiety of the interim by making up their minds now that there is to be no re-election! Sixteen hundred voters are behind a Real Law and Order League and have made it plain that Mexican-Villa Style of Government will not pass unchallenged in enlightened Charlotte. Sic! Sic! Sic Semper Tyrannis!

The Truth About Starting the Recall Petitions.

In the Charlotte Observer of Saturday, September 20, and The News almost every day, we notice local news items containing the statement: "Copies of these petitions were started just after the riot in this city in connection with the street car strike." If The Observer and News do not believe their names, they surely know that many of our leading citizens, and some of our more quiet and orderly voters, among whom were several former soldiers just returned from the bloody fields of France, had already signed the petition before the so-called riot was staged by the city authorities and the Southern Public Utilities Company's imported strike-breakers, in order to try to turn public sentiment against organized labor here in Charlotte.

The writer and several other gentlemen signed the petition on the evening of August 20, and the city commissioners and reporters of both daily papers were purposely informed prior to the joint meeting of the commissioners and citizens committee that these petitions were in circulation.

The so-called riot did not take place until after midnight on August 25th, eleven days after the recall petitions had been started; so you can easily see that this statement is only intended to mislead the public and save the faces of our incompetent officers who were used as a cat's paw by the S. P. U. Company. Get down to bed-rock and state the news as it really is, or don't try to fool us old birds with your chaff, for we know that these petitions were being circulated for a week before any of our neighbors were murdered at the car barns in Dilworth.

Don't think that this is the product of a hot temper, wrought up by the outrage committed against our people by these men with their official titles at stake, for it is the result of months of patient labor on the part of labor leaders and citizens, after the administration had shown its inability to manage the affairs of our city and had done absolute nothing to bring about an adjustment until our United States Department of Labor conciliator had been secured. This last step had not been necessary if said city commission had been competent in the premises confronting.

FAILURE TO WITHDRAW "SODA TAX" CONFUSING

Washington, D. C.—Much confusion has arisen throughout the country because of the failure of the Senate to concur in the passage of the act repealing the tax on sodas, ice cream and soft drinks. Reports are constantly coming into the Bureau of Internal Revenue that patrons are refusing to pay the tax. The tax became effective May 1, since which time it has netted several millions of dollars in revenue. The House repealed the tax June 28, but so far the Senate has taken no action and the tax remains in effect.

Son—"Father, I passed Cicero today."

Father—"Did he speak?"—Boys' Life, for August.

PITTSBURG STRIKERS CLAIM MORE GAINS

Claim 33,000 More Men Out Now Than Reported Last Week.

Pittsburgh, Sept. 30.—At the national headquarters of the strikers today figures were given out for the first time in nearly a week. It was said that approximately 315,000 steel workers are now idle. This is an increase of about 33,000 over the number of men reported by the strike leaders as idle last week. The walk-out of steel workers at Bethlehem and at the Jones & Laughlin plant in Pittsburgh, it was said, was responsible for the increase.

One of the developments of the day which did not satisfy the strike leaders was the decision of the Allegheny County Court in upholding the action of the mayor of Duquesne in preventing mass meetings in that city. Secretary W. Z. Foster of the National Committee, and an organizer were arrested two weeks before the strike started, while attempting to speak from an automobile in a vacant lot. No permit to hold the meeting had been asked for, and it was admitted by the city authorities that none would have been issued. Mr. Foster and ten organizers were each fined \$100, and the County Court today upheld the action of the city authorities. The court held that the right of free speech, sacred though it may be, must yield to the greater one of the safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth, their homes and their property.

Reports were received at headquarters that eviction notices had been served on strikers living in company houses at Sharpville and at Brackinridge. They must move in thirty days or return to work, it was stated.

CHARLOTTE OFFICIALS TO INVESTIGATE RIOTS

Solicitor Wilson Has Instructed the Newly Appointed Coroner to Proceed With Inquiry.

H. C. Irwin, the newly elected coroner of Mecklenburg County, will hold an inquest in connection with the death of the five men resulting from the shooting at the street car barns in Charlotte on the night of August 25 as soon as his bond has been arranged, acting under instructions from Solicitor George W. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson has instructed Coroner Irwin to hold the inquest in public and to allow attorneys of the interested parties to develop such evidence as is proper. In connection with the issuance of instructions to Coroner Irwin to hold the inquest, Solicitor Wilson denied charges that he had been negligent in that he failed to force an investigation soon after the shooting. He asserted that legal strictures made it impossible to get an investigation sooner. Mr. Wilson has been severely criticized in certain quarters for alleged delay on his part in taking steps towards securing the investigation, some going so far as to allege that he was trying to cover up something.

The inquest is scheduled to take place during this week or early next week. Meanwhile, John Wilson, white, is scheduled to face trial in criminal court Wednesday or Thursday of this week on three charges, two of inciting to riot and one of inciting rebellion. The shooting at the car barns occurred just after Wilson had arrived at the scene, headed by a small band of men. It was during an argument between he and Police Chief Walter B. Orr that the first shot was fired, closely followed by several volleys. Wilson was bound over to criminal court by the city recorder about three weeks ago under bond of \$2,500. A young white man, John Templeton, is also scheduled to face trial in criminal court this week as a result of alleged violations on his part during the strike of the street car men here last month, the charges against him being secret assault and shooting into a street car. The trial of both Wilson and Templeton are expected to develop a maximum of public interest.

Open the playgrounds. Close the jails.

President Wilson Puts The Brand Where It Belongs

Judge Gary refused to talk things over with the workers in the steel mills. He didn't have a word to say—he wouldn't come out in the open to discuss the question raised by the men who do the hard work of making steel.

Concerning the attitude of employers who refuse to meet their employees face to face, President Wilson said, at San Diego: "In every such instance I am convinced that they are wrong and dare not talk things over."

Democracy In Industry, An All-Important Consideration

A Brilliant Analysis of the Methods and Ideals of American Trade Unionism Which Sheds Light on the Question of Where It Is Going in These Moving Times, and Why

By John P. Frey, Editor International Molders' Journal.

While in Europe last year as a member of the American Labor Mission, many opportunities presented themselves for exchange of viewpoints and opinions.

One day last October a party of five met in a private dining room to eat a simple lunch, and spend a few hours in discussing the serious industrial problems which would call for solution as soon as peace would be declared.

In the party was a professor of economics from the University of Dijon, a professor of international law from the Sorbonne, a French military representative on the Allied Military Council of Versailles, and one of the leading French journalists. They all wanted to know something definite about the American trade-union movement, and one in particular wanted to know why it was not different from what it was.

The professor of international law had studied the industrial movement in Europe. He was acquainted with the European workers' point of view. From his expressions of opinion it was also evident that he believed that socialism as advocated in continental Europe contained the worker's only hope for improved conditions. He frankly expressed the conviction that the American trade-union movement was immeasurably behind the European movement in its program, though he was forced to admit that, so far as actual accomplishments were concerned, the American trade-unionist had accomplished more than the workers of any other country. "But," he said to me, "you have no definite aim, you cannot even tell me what conditions would exist in industry if American trade-unionism had accomplished its entire purpose." This was accompanied by a challenge to prove that he was not right.

Ignoring the Millennium.
We frankly admitted that we did not know the exact conditions which would surround the workers if every wage earner in America was a trade-unionist and all that trade-unionism seeks to establish had been secured. And we added that, furthermore, we were not particularly impressed with the desire to know what he ultimately end would be, what concerned us was the methods of today with which we could take up the problems of today and adjust them.

"You will admit," said the professor of international law, "that, as a trade-union official, you are only a blind leader of the blind." And he added: "I you do not know definitely where you are headed for, how can you ever expect to lead the members of your union to a definite goal? Your trade-union movement is lacking in vision and in constructive ability."

The professor's point of view relative to our movement was much the same as that held by many students of industrial problems in Europe, and the trend of the discussion gave an opportunity of presenting a viewpoint which the European mind was not wholly familiar with.

The journalist was quite anxious to help the discussion along, but evidently feared that the professor's arguments were so overwhelming that an adequate reply would be impossible.

We informed the little gathering that the American trade-union movement was more familiar with the European point of view concerning industrial problems than Europeans were with our viewpoints and methods. And then to illustrate the American attitude we rolled back the pages of history for a few generations and called attention to what was going through men's minds in America at the time when Lafayette, Rochambeau and other gallant Frenchmen were on American soil to help us win our liberties.

The revolutionary Americans who framed the Constitution of the United States did not know what actual conditions would be provided for under this Constitution in the years which were to follow. There were none of them who professed to look into the distant future and grasp the exact conditions which would affect the American people as a result of the Constitution's operation.

No Early American Prophets.
What changes would take place under the American method of self-government, none could tell. None of them could foresee the railroad replacing the stagecoach; they could

not visualize the problems presented by the use of electricity or the growth of a steel industry; and they were not impressed with a conviction that it was necessary for them to visualize what conditions would exist when all that had been embodied in their Constitution was carried into effect. The great problem with which they were concerned was the most effective method by which men could take up and adjust their problems as citizens. They were convinced that free men could not retain the powers of self-government except through the acceptance and full application of the methods of democracy. It was not to establish a Utopia, but to establish a democracy that had led them through the trying years of a revolutionary war.

Since then the great problems which have arisen within the nation have been settled through the methods of democracy.

The problems which are facing us today as Americans are being solved through the same methods, and the American people are so devoted to these democratic institutions, so jealous of the benefits which they convey, that they had already placed 2,000,000 Americans on French soil and were prepared to place millions more, so that the free institutions which they believed in could not be jeopardized by the success of the autocratic, militaristic Central Powers.

A Trade Union Analogy.

It was so with the American trade-union movement. In the methods of democracy in industry which it advocates it finds the power to take up and adjust the problems which present themselves, and it is this power, it is the application of this method, which is the all-important thing.

What changes may take place in industry no one can foresee. Just as the wireless telephone has taken the place of the slow-going stagecoach as a means of communication between individuals, so other changes as revolutionary in their character are probable in the future.

We cannot look into the future and know with assurance what the grave problems of ten years, fifty years, or a hundred years from now may be in our industries, but what we do know is the problem of today. And what we are convinced of is that the method which had been developed by the American trade-union movement is the most effective in the solving and adjusting of these problems which has been applied by the worker in America or in any other country.

The professor of international law admitted that he had never looked upon the industrial problem from that point of view.

The journalist injected the thought that perhaps after all in this world as it is, the method which men are able to develop for the solution of their problems was the most important consideration.

Free From Dogmas.

As American trade-unionists we have been fortunately free from the rigid rules and formulas of the doctrinaire when dealing with our industrial problems. We have discovered from experience that the methods which the American trade-union movement has developed bring more substantial results than the methods adopted by any other groups of workers throughout the world.

Ideals in industry, ideals and a vision of the future, are a necessity, but most essential of all is the adoption of sane, practical methods for the solution of the problems of today, for, unless we have the capacity and the method for solving the problems of today, there is little reason for believing that we would possess superior wisdom in the future and solve the greater problems which may arise.

LABOR PAPER BECOMES INQUISITIVE

Asks Pertinent Questions of Authorities Aneat the Charlotte Murders.

Now that the coroner has been quietly laid to rest, why don't the county commission get busy and appoint his successor, so we can have an inquest over the graves of our dead citizens? Why this delay? What can we gain by delaying? Why even the blood of our murdered boys cries forth for us to avenge their untimely death by bringing these murderers to justice!—Charlotte Labor Herald.