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TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1921

Gastonia, The South's City of Spindles

BOYS AND GIRLS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.

The office boy is going back to school. Fourteen, fifteen and sixteen-year-old girl stenographers are reentering high school. Falling wages in the industrial and commercial world are sending boys and girls thousands on thousands of them into the classrooms they left when war elevated salaries lined them away.

Increase in school membership in the United States during 1920-21 is approximately 1,500,000 over 1919-20, according to a survey just completed by the Better Schools Service, a bureau of the American Federation of Teachers.

In the large cities the survey shows the increase has averaged 10 per cent although the figure for the whole nation is nearer 7.5 per cent owing to the decline in efficiency of the rural school.

The reason for this increase, the report shows, New York and Chicago having been forced to set up extra quarters called "steamer rooms" for the newly arrived foreign children.

Estimates show that the 20,000,000 figure for the present school membership of the nation must be increased by 1,500,000 at least," said Wm. T. McCoy, chairman of the Better Schools Service. He continued:

"Immigrants send their children to school as quick as they land. They show more avidity for education than did their predecessors in the years before the war. But the greatest risk is among the boys and girls who quit school to take advantage of high wages in industry. Now the war inflation is gone, these young people are swarming back into high school to fit themselves for work other than manual labor.

"A greater proportion of children from the homes of skilled and manual laborers are seeking higher education than ever before, due to the fact that both parents and children often worked at high wages during the war period with the idea of spending accumulated money in further schooling for the children. This is shown in the fact that the heaviest proportional gain has been in high schools where this age is represented."

THE AUTO BEATS THE TRAIN.

Automobile accidents in the United States claimed 4,574 more victims in 1919 than were killed in accidents on American railways, according to comparative figures compiled by the Southern Railway System from official reports recently issued by the Census Bureau and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Deaths from auto accidents showed a total of 7,369, an increase of 411 over 1918, according to the Census Bureau's registration of deaths comprising about 80 per cent of the country's total population. Sixty-six of the large cities had 3,808 deaths from auto accidents.

In railway accidents the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission shows that 3,195 persons were killed in 1919, a figure being lower than 1,700 persons previous year since 1876 when the number of persons using the railways and employed on them was much smaller than in 1919. In the total for 1919 are included 2,573 trespassers and 1,882 other persons, not either passengers or employees of whom a large per centage were the victims of collisions between automobiles and railway trains.

These figures show that while the consistent effort of the railways to eliminate accidents has been productive of splendid results in decreased casualties, the number of deaths from automobile accidents is growing year by year.

The figures for 1919 are the latest available as those for 1920 had not yet been completed.

COTTON ACREAGE OUGHT TO BE REDUCED ONE-HALF.

The Manufacturers Record, speaking of the absolute necessity of a reduction in cotton acreage, remarks that in times past some farmers expecting that other people would decrease, increase their acreage. In that way, there was an increase.

Continuing its discussion of the necessity of reducing acreage this year, The Record says:

The necessity for a curtailment of cotton production to the limit is every day becoming more and more apparent. Far-sighted English cotton manufacturers realize that a decrease is certain, and they look forward to very much higher prices in the future as the inevitable outcome. The South is justified from every business standpoint in cutting down its acreage of cotton by at least 50 per cent, and increasing to as large an extent as possible its acreage in wheat, corn and feed-stuffs.

In times past when the South threatened to reduce its cotton acreage, it turned out that some farmers, expecting that other people would decrease, increased theirs. In that way there was an increase last year, which was most unwise. A very large proportion of the farmers of the South are not in a position to put in another cotton crop without aid from the bankers.

The safety of the banking interests and of general business interests through the South demands that the bankers shall rigidly curtail credit for cotton acreage.

It is possible that the game which has often been played in the past will again be played this year, and that, as the planting season comes on the price of cotton will be advanced for the purpose of stimulating growers to put in a large acreage again. It matters not to what price the speculators may put cotton this spring, the South would not be justified in a large acreage, nor would bankers be justified in advancing money to any cotton grower who does not reduce his acreage.

Viewing the whole world situation, we believe that it is preeminently important for the South to save itself by so largely reducing its acreage that the crop carried over and the small crop to be raised would sell at a price which would once more bring prosperity to the cotton interests of the South. The South is morally responsible to its own people to reduce its acreage and to make its crop so small that every bale of the coming crop and every bale that is now in existence will command a decent living price to the growers. It would be infinitely better for the South to leave one-half of its cotton acreage unutilized, entirely to put it all in cotton this coming season. Increased acreage in grain and other crops is most desirable, but if this cannot be done with the labor available, then a reduction of 50 per cent in the cotton, leaving the balance unutilized, would reduce the cost of raising the crop, and the small crop would sell for more than a large crop, the net difference being of immense value to the growers. There is no greater folly than to talk about the South being morally responsible to raise cotton. There is no moral responsibility resting upon any single man in the South or upon the section as a whole to raise a bale of cotton. Men raise the things or produce the things which they can sell to advantage. That is their bounden duty to their own families, and those who talk about any moral responsibility of the South to raise cotton know as little about morals in a case of this kind as the Germans do about honor.

COMES TO DEFENSE OF ORGANIZED LABOR.

To the Editor of The Gazette:

In the editorial columns of The Gazette of Thursday, March 3rd, appeared an article dealing with the disturbance among the textile workers at Concord, N. C., and the threatening strike growing out of the drastic reduction in wages at that place. One paragraph which especially attracted my attention was the one in which you attempted to lead the public to believe that the poor workers of this country are paying their money into the union that a few officials may enjoy "illness and plenty." This statement is incorrect and misleading. In view of the fact that these are hundreds of working people taking your paper, it is only just that you present both sides.

What has organized labor accomplished for the good of this country?

What fought for the passage of the child labor law in this state, and in every state in the union? Who spent money in keeping men in the legislative halls for the purpose of fighting the efforts of capitalists to block the passage of the Child Labor Law? Whose of fault is responsible for its passage, the most valuable and protective law for the poorer children ever enacted? Or organized labor?

Today when capital is spending millions of dollars in an attempt to import cheap foreign labor into this country, who comes to the rescue of the masses of the country? The laborer? Who today in the halls of Congress are spending their energies and talent fighting immigration, that the workers of America may not be reduced to starvation by the alien labor and radical element which has wrought suffering and ruin upon all Europe? Whose money is being spent to save America from the same fate while those who have amassed fortunes from the fat of the land are turning traitors to our country? There is only one answer: Organized labor. Yet all it receives in return is abuse.

Organized labor is standing squarely behind the South-Tennessee educational bill and in fact, is supporting and fighting for everything which looks to the betterment and uplift of the masses of America. The social principles for which organized labor is fighting, and has been fighting for, are highly endorsed by our leading social and church organizations, and I have read that one large important body endorses collective bargaining. It cannot be denied that efficiency and production has increased more rapidly within the last ten years through organized labor than for the past fifty years under the old system of master and slave. Government statistics show that where shops are operated under union conditions, men are better paid, more efficient, live much longer than under old sweat shop conditions, and education among these men and their children, greatly increased.

Therefore, if the life of the working man and woman has been prolonged, his or her efficiency and pay increased, child labor better educated and protected by laws passed through the efforts and labors of these officials who are said to live in "illness and plenty," the social standard of workers raised to a higher level, sanitary conditions in work shops better, and numerous other things organized labor has accomplished through the fearless leadership and guidance of "radical" officials, I absolutely fail to see where the thousands of dollars paid in by these workers have been wasted.

Last but not least, when Bolshevism started in to overthrow America, and hung its red flag of revolution upon our glorious white house and rode this country, organized labor stepped to the front. The by-laws of every craft carried this rider: "We hereby denounce the International Workers of the World," and by cooperation of the American laborers, this band of out-throats, the great evil menace this country has ever known was packed up and shipped back across the sea to hang their blood-soaked flag above the desert sands of Siberia and leave America to continue in her place in the world as first in Peace and Prosperity. But the newspapers did not give even a paragraph to this, the most im-

portant of all wars, and the world today does not know how the far-reaching plans of the Bolshevik were thwarted but they are gone and gone forever, and organized labor did it.

W. H. STROUD, Box No. 282, Gastonia, N. C.

THE GEORGIA PEACH CROP.

First Press Agent Story Of The Year In Regard To Fruit.

Cold weather that sent the mercury below the freezing mark Thursday throughout the central Georgia peach belt did no damage to the crop according to advice received in Macon from Fort Valley and other points.

It will prove a blessing in disguise, an orchardist said. Water gathered in some of the cups, but high winds that preceded the sharp drop in temperature dried them. In some cases fruit prematurely advanced as a result of the warm weather several weeks ago no doubt was wiped, but the loss will be infinitesimal compared with the benefit to the crop as a whole.

There is plenty of fruit on the trees and the loss of part will cause no great loss if the remainder is sufficiently retained by this cold spell to protect it during the freeze that usually comes late in March or early in April. It is this freeze that peach growers most dread.

"I have made a careful inspection of some of my trees and am confident this cold snap will greatly benefit rather than result in damage to the crop. I am sure other orchardists will find the same condition."

QUILLEN'S SAYINGS

Flashes of Wit and Humor From the Pen of Great Paraphraser.

By ROBERT QUILLEN.

Doctor writing prescriptions: "What is trouble is the Latin for bootleg!"

God loves the world. Nothing but divine love could explain such infinite justice.

There are two classes of Russians—those who are unhappy and those who are dead.

Full many a maid is born to blush unseen behind a coat of custom-made complexion.

When Barbank runs out of anything else to do, he might try his hand on a seatless Congress.

If Watson can make Liberty Bonds worth par, perhaps he can do something for the goods on the shelves.

A widower is a pitiful object. He is



free to do as he pleases and he has for gotten how.

The new-model cars have all modern conveniences except a holster for the pistol and a tank for the hootch.

Lentine frequently is spelled without the final e, but there is universal agreement that he begins with L.

Republic: A Government run on the theory that inland lawyers can tell any man how to handle a battleship.

Of course the husband of the lady politician will make it his business to court influential ladies who call.

Lord George says the indemnity will be fixed by Germany's amity. Not to mention the Allies' guiltability.

The man who stops smoking for the sake of his health usually gives up if he notes an improvement at the end of five hours.

When money talks now it makes five



percent use of the vowels I, O, U.

Russia's men of letters who come to lecture us find almost everything vulgar except the stuff taken in at the box office.

In the rural districts there is a firm conviction that Broadway got its name from the broad way that leads to destruction.

The effort to make Sunday quiet has the endorsement of the first justice, for whose rubber sleep is disturbed by the church bell.

And perhaps women jurors will invent an unwritten law to excuse the yamps for slaying fat old married men who try to start something.

Atlanta will always maintain that Condit's overcoat wasn't stolen, but that he threw it away under the spell of her balmy climate.

It is hard to feel sympathy for Bonnie when you remember that the tears he sheds because of his dismal future fall into a mug of foaming beer.

Car fresh Florida ORANGES for sale at North Marietta Street and Southern Railway.

Stop and get a Bu. for \$2; Peck 60c; Dozen 30c. Good Fruit direct from Grower.

Spring Tailoring Opening

An expert from one of the largest tailoring houses in the United States will be with us Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, March 9, 10, 11 and 12, with a large line of samples of the latest and best fabrics for the Spring and Summer Season.

We extend a cordial invitation to the men of Gastonia and surrounding territory to come and inspect his line and let him take your measure for that Spring Suit. The prices are right—just as rock-bottom as it is possible for clothes to be sold at.

Saunders Tailoring Co., West Main Avenue.

Prices Within Reason



to the letter. We prove that our Laundry service is not only the best you can secure, but our prices for our service are also extremely low. If you have never before tried our laundry, send your next week's laundry here and be convinced. We know that we are assured of your continued patronage if you will give us a trial.

Snowflake Laundry Phone 13

Advertisement for 'RING IN OPTIMISM!' featuring an illustration of a man in a top hat and the text 'YOUR PURCHASE KEEPS AMERICA EMPLOYED Buy what you need NOW!'.

Exactly What It Says It Means.

This is the time to buy. The bottom has been reached. Prices are lower today than they will be in a few weeks from now. Your purchase today is not only a saving for you but you will be doing your bit to help bring back normal times. Let everybody do their bit and our Southland will soon be humming with prosperity.

And if this sounds too good to be true — then take enough time off today to see and you will open your wallet and lay in a supply of wearing apparel and reasonable merchandise.

For Wednesday we offer the following at real rock bottom prices:

- 36-In. English Long Cloth, per yard 19c
32-In. Cotton Crepe in pink, blue, white and yellow, per yard 19c
32-In. White Mercerized Pongee, yard 25c
44-In. White Organdie, per yard 39c
44-In. White Voiles, per yard 25c
36-In. Blue and Flesh Nainsook, yard 25c
36-In. Batiste in white, blue and pink, yard 29c
36-In. Dotted Swiss in colors, per yard 48c

It pays to see our merchandise and get our prices before you buy.

Hope Mercantile Co.

FIRST PICTURE OF HARDING IN A "TOPPER":



Mrs. Warren G. Harding, Chauncey Depew, of New York, and Senator Harding, Pres-Elect. Mr. Harding was photographed for the first time in a silk hat, believed generally to be his first "tite" while making a speech at the dedication of a tablet at St. Augustine, Fla.

Large advertisement for the King '8' car, titled 'What Do You Know About The King "8"'. It includes a list of features and the text 'KING MOTOR CAR COMPANY, DETROIT' and 'BATES-COLEMAN MOTOR CO., Distributors, Columbia, S. C. GASTONIA BUICK CO., Gastonia, N. C.'