

The Chapel Hill Weekly
 LOUIS GRAVES Editor
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Wanted: Some Information

Mr. Winston, head of the State Federation of Labor, was booked to make a talk here a few weeks ago about wages in the textile industry. As soon as we read the announcement we wrote to Mr. Winston to express satisfaction at his forthcoming visit and to say that we hoped to have a few minutes conversation with him and get some much-desired information about the pay of the mill-workers. For some reason he failed to come, and our letter is still unanswered.

At the time of the strike in Henderson we hoped the newspapers would publish some reliable data about the workers' wages. But the statements relating to this important subject were vague and meagre. In the despatches were a few sentences about what the men said they got, and these were followed by quotations from the employers to the effect that the men's figures were misleading—and there the matter dropped. Of course the figures cited from the reports of the State Department of Labor and Printing were entirely useless. That department makes a pretense of collecting wage statistics, but it obtains no information of any real value.

North Carolina proclaims itself, and is down in official government statistics, as one of the great textile manufacturing states of the Union. Tens of thousands of its citizens work in the textile mills. Surely the wages of this considerable part of the population is a matter of prime economic and social importance. Yet in all the reams of stuff that have been published in the last few years about the commerce, industry, and agriculture of North Carolina—the number of bales of cotton raised, the number of cigarettes put on the market, the denim and toweling and hosiery manufactured, and all the rest of it—one looks in vain for authentic data about the wages of the mill people.

Now and then there comes out of the North some declaration to the effect that manufacturing is more profitable in the South than in New England because of the "labor differential." Whereupon the defenders of our commonwealth arise in their wrath to reply that envious Northern financiers are slandering our employers and seeking to stir up discontent among the workers. Neither the declaration from the North nor the denial from the South is accompanied by any figures, and the public is left as much in the dark as ever.

There has been much talk of late about a "survey of women in industry." It seems to us there are good reasons for it, and we have heard no valid argument against it. Such a survey, if undertaken, would embrace a study of women's wages, and it might well be expanded to embrace a study of men's wages too.

The character of the political control in North Carolina today indicates that the survey may be postponed for some time. But, while it waits, why shouldn't its advocates go about an inquiry into wages? Of the thousands of mill workers in this state, every one knows what he or she receives at the end of the week.

Even though fear of their employers' ill-will may deter many of them from aiding the inquiry, there must be many others who are ready to tell just what they do, how many hours they work, and how much money they get.

We don't mean that an inquiry of this sort would be as complete as one that had state authority and a state appropriation behind it. But, if conducted zealously and with a sincere determination to get at the truth, it would be highly informative. It would tend toward at least a partial clearing-up of the doubt and confusion that now stand in the way of the formation of an enlightened public opinion on the subject of wages.

We venture to suggest to Miss Nell Battle Lewis, Miss Gertrude Weil, and Mrs. Mary Cowper, and the other women leaders who want light shed on the textile industry, that they go about gathering some wage facts—even if from only a few dozen or a few score workers. If the head of the State Federation of Labor is on his job he ought to be able to give them some valuable assistance. We believe the newspapers, even those classed as confirmed standpatters, would publish the result of the investigation. It would be legitimate and effective propaganda.

E. W. Howe publishes out in Kansas a monthly paper which he describes as "devoted to information and indignation." Two useful articles, these. There has been a good deal of indignation about textile wages. We would like to have some information. Maybe the employers ought to hand it out, but they don't. Maybe the newspapers ought to collect it, but they don't. Maybe the state ought to demand it, but it doesn't. We would like to see the propagandists get after it as best they can.

Hasn't Mr. Bost Got His Governors Mixed?

In his report of the Virginia-North Carolina joint road-opening celebration at South Hill last Saturday, Tom Bost says that ex-Governor Lee Trinkle of Virginia "twice referred to 'Governor McLean of South Carolina.'" And in the next sentence of the despatch occurs this line: "Both executives had talked about what the governor of South Carolina is reputed to have said to the governor of North Carolina."

Mr. Bost catches Mr. Trinkle up for the error of getting the Carolinas confused, but doesn't he then make the same error himself? We have always understood that the complaint immortal in song and story—"It's a long time between drinks"—was addressed by the governor of North Carolina to the governor of South Carolina.

It will be noticed that the eminent theologian who reported Saturday's celebration was not stating a historical fact; he was only saying what Governor McLean and Governor Byrd "talked about." But he finds no fault with it, and therefore we are forced to conclude that he got them wrong—that it was his mistake and not theirs. Surely Governor McLean would not be so treacherous to his own state as to attribute the famous remark to the governor of the other Carolina.

Let it be admitted that it was evidence of no great genius to advance such an obvious suggestion as that it was a long time between drinks. Countless thousands of men have been seized with the same conviction, especially on speechmaking occasions. But history is history—or, tradition is tradition—and when a chronicler of Mr. Bost's reputation and circulation contorts the record we do not intend to let the crime pass without protest.

Random Shots
By Halifax Jones

A. C. Roselle and Josephine Haldeman-Julius of Girard, Kansas, were married last week. They are somewhat young for marriage, but no younger than many other persons who have entered into the same contract. They will not set up housekeeping for themselves at once but will continue their schooling a while longer. The girl's father has announced that he will finance them until they reach the self-supporting stage, and says that, if they decide later that they don't like each other, they may be divorced. These are the facts that form the basis of the great to-do in the newspapers about the "companionate marriage." Why so much excitement? This is not the first time a young married couple have been supported by a parent; and doesn't everybody know that if a marriage turns out to be unsatisfactory it may be dissolved by divorce? There is nothing new about that. The only difference I can see between this and hundreds of other marriages is that E. Haldeman-Julius is a greater advertiser than fathers of other girls who get married in their 'teens to young men not yet able to support them.

At The Bull's Head

Anent books for children we desire to make two points in order. These are: (a) we have a few, mostly for the younger set; we will gladly order any book that anybody wants. Let us add a third point: (c) we will gladly increase our stock of children's books as soon as there is sufficient demand to indicate what kind of children's literature is wanted in these parts, both as to price and quality of book, and as to the age level on which this demand operates. We suggest (d) that interested parents inform us (e) by mail or (f) vocally what kind of juvenile literature they would like to inspect at our emporium.

We recorded in this veracious column a week or so ago the miraculous fact that one publisher (The John Day Company) announces that it will not print jackets for its books that linguistically resemble the advertising of Barnum and Bailey. We now rise to announce miracle No. 2.—an author who thinks his volume has sold enough, and who has withdrawn his book. This is no other than the redoubtable T. E. Lawrence, who has deliberately suppressed *Revolt in the Desert* in Great Britain. At this rate we shall shortly get our ascension robe and practice the hundredth psalm.

For we have another wonder to record: a second copy of *The Life and Letters of Walter H. Page* has been sold—to a Tar Heel at that.

Speaking of Southerners' interest in Southern heroes, we have some interesting facts to record. So far as reading his poetry is concerned, our patrons exhibit an enthusiasm for Sidney Lanier that is exactly equivalent to zero. Last week one young gentleman astonished us by dipping into a book on Robert E. Lee—the only instance of that sort we can remember. Mr. Mims' *The Advancing South* has not been touched since it came into the shop. There is no demand for the admirable works of Mr. Sass or of Mrs. Peterkin. The only copy of *Old Days in Chapel Hill* we have sold this fall went to a rank New Yorker. Mr. Archibald Henderson's *European Dramatists* gathers dust. Mr. Nock's admirable *Jefferson* has been read only by us. Hatcher Hughes' *Hell-bent for Heaven* has got there. Mr. Stark Young's charming picture of plantation life, *Heaven Trees*, is unopened. The only specific Southerner who does sell is Paul Green, although there is a sporadic interest in Cabell. We do not know whether these statistics mean anything, but we recommend them to the meditation of Messrs. Odum, Bob House, and Frank Graham for interpretation and comment.

And our own interest is only this: it irks us to be selling second-rate New York stuff when such volumes as the above are so much better.

Looking back, we see that we have omitted Dr. Rose Heyward. In 54 weeks we have sold one copy of *Angel* and three of *Porgy*.

The Book-keeper.

Colonel Lindbergh denies that he'll go into politics. His realm is in the air, not in the hot air.—*Beloit Daily News*.

Going to Hear Bowers

Chapel Hill People to Attend Address by New York World Editor

Many people will go down from Chapel Hill to Raleigh today to hear Claude G. Bowers of the New York World speak on "Myths and Omissions of History" in the auditorium of the Hugh Morson high school. Mr. Bowers won renown as the author of *Party Battles of the Jackson Period* and *Jefferson and Hamilton*.

His talk in Raleigh is part of the program of the annual meeting of the State Literary and Historical Association. The proceedings began last night with the presidential address by Josephus Daniels. Mr. Daniels was followed by Gerrit A. Beneker who spoke on "Art in Everyday Life." The evening program wound up with a reception in the Virginia Dare ballroom of the Sir Walter hotel.

This morning, in the Manteo room of the Sir Walter, there will be a conference on county history, led by A. R. Newsome, and a business session of the association.

Welfare Meeting in Raleigh

Ernest R. Groves and Mrs. R. H. Wettach spoke Tuesday in Raleigh at the sixth district meeting of the public welfare department. Mr. Groves's topic was "The Family" and Mrs. Wettach's was "The Contribution of Psychology to Social Work."

Conference of Librarians

Miss Anne Pierce, president of the North Carolina Library Association, and Mrs. Griggs, secretary of the North Carolina Library Commission, met in Chapel Hill Friday afternoon and discussed with Librarian L. R. Wilson the affairs of the North Carolina Library Association.

The Tripps' Twins

Dr. B. B. Lloyd welcomed into the world a few days ago the twins of Mr. and Mrs. Evander Tripp of the Mann chapel neighborhood—a boy and a girl.

ROOM FOR RENT

Room for rent, to gentleman; steam heat and connecting bath; in private home. Apply P. O. Box 70.

BAZAAR TOMORROW

Annual bazaar of the ladies of the Methodist Young Women's Auxiliary; People's Bank building; Saturday, Dec. 3, opening 9 A. M. Hand-made articles of various kinds, reasonably priced.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as the Executor of the last will and testament of J. P. Dark, deceased, late of Orange County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the testator to present them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of Nov., 1928, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This November 29, 1927.

J. A. GILES, Executor,
J. P. DARK, Deceased.

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Suggestions for Week End

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 Fig Preserves, 5 oz. jar, 15c; 13 oz. jar....29c
 Hershey's Cocoa, 1-2 lb. pkg.17c
 Rex High Test Lge. can10c
 Scott Tissue 3 Rolls25c
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