

PEOPLE'S FORUM

Communications from Gazette Readers on Live Topics of the Day.

POLITICAL POUPOURRI.

—By Juno.

They tell us now that we ought to defeat Webb because he would not vote for an appropriation to continue running No. 97 mail train, which never was and never could be worth two cents to either the rich or the poor even on the main line of the Southern Railway.

One would infer from that "butt-in" letter of Jimbo's that the issue of the ninth district would be for whiskey or no whiskey. Don't get too personal, Jimbo, or we might tell you who are, which would tickle the people blame-nigh to death.

Of course everybody knows that the mills over in Jimbo's section have been on full dinner—all time since he whooped em in. If Jimbo is going to stay in the Republican party he will have to whoop for the same gang of negroes as in days of yore.

Our reference to the unpleasant episode in the Democratic ranks in Gaston county is a matter entirely of our own and when the November election comes along there will be enough ginger left in the grand old party to wallop the Devil outen Jimbo and his gang. No, Jimbo, you held onto the negro vote just as long as you could and, no longer than last week, when you heard a rumbling sound like so many negroes going back into politics you reached them the glad hand. The Democratic party in North Carolina has got to raise and train another generation of heroes to protect our homes—like Aycock, Simmons, Mason, Armstrong, McLean, Shuford and others who gave the best of their lives to drive these hordes from the fair plains of North Carolina.

Jimbo, don't tell us how many days or years your mill has been dead under Republican prosperity but pray tell us how much you have actually run.

Some times a good man changes his way of voting, some times a drunk man jeters up and a man with an unbalanced top story goes off and recuperate, but a blamed natural born fool keeps on being crazy.

It's a fact Jimbo, you fellows did whoop free silver and sent "Mary Ann" to Washington to stamp it 16 to 1 and now the same "Mary Ann" is "coming back" to North Carolina to tell the Radicals how and what to do.

Now, that "Mary Ann" is "coming back" to take full charge of things in and around the radical kitchen, we see no earthly reason why some good radical can't tell us why practically all the mills are on short time or shut down entirely.

Its as old as the hills but as true as Republican rascality, that the hit dog does the most howling.

JUNO.

SOCIALISM.

To the Editor of The Gazette:

Having received three or four parcels of partisan political literature, I have decided to write for publication a reply thereto.

I will begin by asking the question, What should be the object of government? I suppose you will say that it should be to protect the weak against the strong, or to mete out justice to those governed.

The next question is the kind of justice it should mete. Should it be partial or absolute? I will admit, candidly, to mete the absolute would be hard; but will say the government failing to mete the absolute, so far as is possible, is not an ideal government, and has need of improvement.

Now the question is, Is our government meteing justice in the absolute, so far as is possible?

I suppose you will say that it is not, and that you are working to have it improved; but will leave that undecided just now.

Now, in what ways should it mete justice? I will say here that it should mete justice before the law, or that every man should have an equal chance under the law. Now everybody knows that this is not meted. It is next to the impossible for a laboring man to get anything like a fair chance before the law, as the man having means can usually buy his way through, while the man having none cannot.

Now, there are other ways it should mete out justice besides justice before the law. In fact, I think justice in the courts is only the beginning that should be meted. I contend that the weak intellectually and the weak financially should be as much protected by the government as the weak physically. I almost contend that they should be protected as much from a business or

Industrial point of view, as a criminal.

Now, I want to ask if our laboring people, of which I am one, are being protected when it comes to the question of business and industry. And I want to say right here that I believe when any man engages in any business whatever, and makes more out of that business than he earns, by actual labor, is practicing injustice; and that a government failing to prohibit such practice is not meteing justice to its subjects in the absolute, nor so far as is possible.

I believe that all wealth is created by labor, and that a man getting wealth he does not earn is getting it unjustly.

When it comes to protection along this line, our government is protecting the strong against the weak, the lion against the lamb.

In proof of this, however, we only have to look around on every side. We find the people who do the hard and necessary work, as a rule, living in crowded tenement houses, unfit for human beings and often unfit for lower animals, while those engaged in business and the management of industry live in palaces and build "sky-scrapers."

Further proof is found in our census reports, showing that 90 per cent of all of our wealth is in the hands of 10 per cent of the people, leaving, therefore, 10 per cent of all our wealth for 90 per cent of the people; and that about as unequally distributed as the whole.

I will give an illustration: Suppose you had ten sons and a thousand acres of fertile, farming land; and suppose you were to will all your land to the eldest son. Then suppose you were to make the second son superintendent of the farm, and cause him to look after its business interests; and, further, make the third boss farmer, and have him to oversee the work; and, finally, compel the other seven to do the balance of the work necessary.

Then, suppose when gathering time came, you were to give the owner of the farm nine-tenths of all produced, the superintendent nine-tenths of the remainder, the boss farmer three times that of a common worker, and the seven common workers the remainder.

Now, according to the above, what kind of justice would you be meteing to your sons? And yet, without contradiction, you would be meteing about the same kind our government is allowing to be mete to its subjects.

I suppose you think I am coming to awful conclusions, and I will admit that I am, but I am simply stating facts that no man can refute.

But, I suppose one will say that the Republican party is responsible for all of this. I will admit frankly that it, with the business and industrial system largely developed under its rule, is, but I would like to know what better the Democratic party has to offer.

I suppose you will say it offers tariff reform. There are two sides to the tariff question. If I have not been misinformed, we have had tariff reform, with business stagnation, poverty, soup-houses, and starvation, under Cleveland. We have had protection, so called, with about the same results, though possibly not quite so bad, under Roosevelt and Taft.

England is a free-trade country with practically the same conditions that we have here.

Perhaps you will say that the Democrats will secure for us foreign markets; but foreign markets will do no good so far as securing justice is concerned. In fact, it is injustice within itself to secure foreign markets at the expense of other nations or people, who need them as bad or worse than we do.

Of course we have heard much about "trust busting;" but if all our trusts were "busted" and our business and industrial interests placed in the hands of more people to grab for "profits," the injustice of the situation would not be touched.

It is not tariff reform; it is not foreign markets; neither is it "trust busting" that we want. It is business and industrial reform; or, to be more plain, a complete overthrow of our present business and industrial system, and the substitution in its place of a system that will mete justice.

Now, the question is, What kind of system can be introduced in order to mete justice, from a business and industrial view point? In answer, I will say that a co-operative system, which means a public ownership, and democratic control of all the means of production and distribution.

This, according to my understanding, will mean a public ownership of all lands, with all appurtenances thereto, such as minerals, timber, water power, etc.; and all manufacturing and industrial establishments, with all farming, mining manufacturing, and practically the whole in-

dustrial system under direct control of the representatives of the people, with these representatives subject to recall, by the people, at any time they may deem necessary.

As to distribution, it will mean a public ownership of railroads, steamships, and business houses, such as wholesale and retail, with their control in the hands of the people's representatives.

This will also mean that all men working for these representatives, including the representatives themselves, whether farming, manufacturing, or what, will receive wages according to the work they do; and the fellow failing to work will fall to get pay.

It will further mean that all proceeds will belong to the people as a whole, until sold by their representatives, with prices regulated according to what is on hand.

It will be seen that all profit, rent and interest, will be abolished by this system, thereby abolishing all the injustice as above described.

It will further be seen that if over production takes place under this system, prices can be cut, the people quit work and have a picnic instead of a panic, as at present.

This system is advocated by the Socialist party of America, and by all Socialists of the world.

I contend that it is the only hope of our nation. Without it our wealth will be concentrated into fewer and fewer hands; our working people be reduced to slavery and starvation, until times become unbearable (and they are about there now), then shall come the final clash and we shall go like Rome went.

But I believe this system is as sure to be adopted as day is to follow darkness. The party is making rapid progress all over the United States, and throughout the world.

I have not written this letter as an insult to Democrats and Republicans but have written it for their consideration.

D.
401 Mill Street, Gastonia, N. C.,
August 9, 1910.

The King.

Charity and Children.

An article in The Saturday Evening Post of two weeks ago opens with the startling statement that the greatest blessing that has come to the South in many years is the boll-weevil, and the writer, Mr. Harris Dickson, proceeds to prove his point. His argument lies along the line of crop rotation; before the days of the weevil the Southern States, notably, Louisiana and Texas, raised cotton and cotton alone. If the cotton crop failed the country went broke; cotton was King and the King ruled with an iron rod.

Then came the boll-weevil and assassinated the King on his throne; the result was industrial anarchy for awhile, but before long the people found, as they have always found, that the world was not bound up in the King. Experiment proved that even though the monarch was gone Prince Corn made a good regent. Gradually readjustment came about and today the farmers are ruled by one crop—a state of freedom that there was no reasonable hope of their attaining had not this fetich been violently removed. Therefore, as a liberator, argues Mr. Dickson, the boll-weevil was a great blessing.

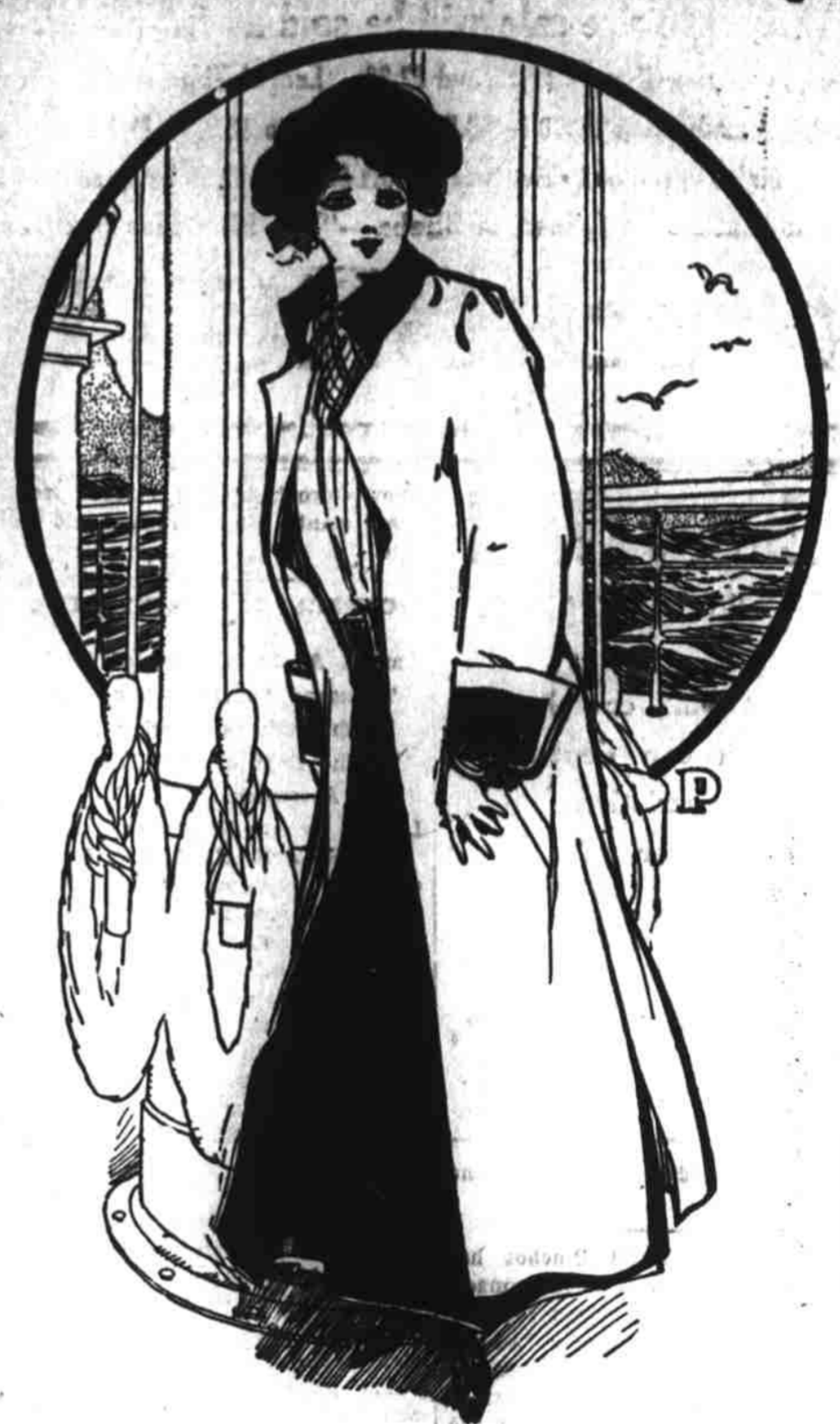
However that may be in the case of the Gulf States, and we think it is true even there, there is no doubt that the boll-weevil has been a blessing to North Carolina. Though we flatter ourselves that we have never bowed down to it in the absolute idolatry of our neighbors to the south yet cotton is undoubtedly King up here to this day. But nowadays, thanks to the boll-weevil, his rule is gentle; fifteen-cent cotton is not a ruler but a profitable servant; the only people who feel the weight of his hand are the bears of the New York exchange, and in the South, at least, there is little sympathy felt for them.

The occasion of this somewhat tedious dissertation is the rapid approach of the association season. The dethronement of the King and the consequent industrial liberation of the farmers has already been felt by the banks and merchants and business interests generally. Shall it be felt also by the churches? If not the unexpected and unrecognized deliverer will have been sent in vain; if the South in her prosperity forgets the duty she remembered in her adversity, in spite of millions in her banks, in spite of automobiles and fine houses, her last state will be worse than her first.

Lincoln Officers Capture a Still.

Lincoln County News, 9th. Sheriff Baxter captured a blockade still near Three County Corners last Friday a week ago. He found the still in full blast and though the "moonshiners" escaped, he got the entire outfit. Our officers are keeping their eyes on every part of the county and are sure to find it if there is anything doing.

The Stowaway



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Gastonia, N. C.

Personals and Locals.

—Miss Carrie Ruddock went to Charlotte Wednesday.

—Mr. W. H. Adams returned Wednesday from a pleasant visit to Wrightsville Beach.

—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Summitt are visiting the latter's father at Cherryville.

—Misses Eva and Pauline McFadden returned Tuesday from Rock Hill and Fort Lawn, S. C., where they visited relatives and friends.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Best left Wednesday for Cornelius on a visit to Mrs. Best's mother. Mr. Best returned yesterday.

—Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Froneberger returned Wednesday from a week's visit to relatives at Waco, Cleveland county.

—Miss Annie Glenn, of Gastonia, N. C., is visiting Miss Mary Scott on Yorkville, R. F. D. No. 3.—Yorkville Enquirer, 9th.

—Mr. S. W. McLean made a business trip to Lowell and Gastonia last Thursday and Friday.—Lincoln County News, 9th.

—Miss Allie Reid left Wednesday morning for Lincolnton to spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Shuford.

—Mr. J. A. Warren, of Concord, spent Tuesday and Wednesday here with his cousin, Mr. W. Y. Warren, and family.

—Mr. W. H. Dellinger, proprietor of the Lumina moving picture theatre, Wednesday installed a Peerless self-playing electrical piano.

—Mr. A. A. Morris, of Greenwood, S. C., arrived in Gastonia Wednesday to visit his brother, Mr. S. S. Morris and to attend the reunion at Dallas.

—Mrs. Emily Mauney, who has been spending a week in Gastonia at the home of her brother, Mr. P. R. Currence, returned Wednesday to her home in Charlotte.

—Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Currence spent Wednesday very pleasantly as the guests of Mr. Robert Riddle at his home near Bethel church in York county.

—Mrs. I. R. McFadden and Miss Ella May McFadden left Wednesday on a two-weeks visit to friends and relatives at Rock Hill and Fort Lawn, S. C.

—Mrs. J. M. Hampton was called Monday to Spartanburg, S. C., by a telegram announcing the serious illness of her daughter, Mrs. H. W. Link. Later information is to the effect that Mrs. Link's condition was improved.

—Mrs. J. W. Culp and child returned a few days ago from Edgemont where they spent a week or two. They left Wednesday for Lancaster, S. C., where they will spend several weeks with Mr. A. F. Culp. Mr. Culp accompanied them and will return to Gastonia Monday.

—A card from Mr. E. P. Lineberger states that their mountain camping party which left here last week is at Linville, Watauga county, and is enjoying a nice cool time. It is composed of W. L. Lineberger and family, R. Lee Falls, C. M. and J. M. Faires, R. S. and P. M. Dixon. He says they have been taken by some people in that section to be the salvation army but nevertheless they are having a good time.

—Frequently The Gazette receives communications and news items through the mail which are unaccompanied by the name of the writer. Again we wish to call the attention of all our readers to the fact that we do not publish unsigned articles, even if they are mere brief items of news. The name is not desired for publication but as a guarantee of good faith and that the editor may know the source of all information divulged through the columns of this paper.

A Socialist Ticket.

Handbills were distributed in Gastonia Wednesday announcing that all the Socialists in Gaston county are called to meet in convention in the court house at Dallas Saturday, August 20th, for the purpose of nominating a senatorial and legislative ticket and to transact any other business that may come before the convention. The call is made by the Gastonia Local of the Socialist Party of America. So far as The Gazette knows this will be the first Socialist ticket ever put out in Gaston county.

The Leg-Pullers Named McNinch.

Madison County Record. Mr. McNinch was nominated by the Republicans because he had money, and the heifers expect to get some good size chunks of it from now until the election. If long legs will help him to run fast he ought to make pretty good speed as there is no doubt that they will be well pulled.