

Poole's Medley

BY D. SCOTT POOLE

It used to be said on supposedly good authority, that the United States suffered a business depression once each twenty years. I do not know why, but I remember well that prices of produce were satisfactory, and people amassed wealth for a time, then suddenly every thing went down to ruinously low prices.

There is much less money in circulation now than at any time since 1933. Men rarely give up a

job, although they get but little for it.

Nobody but a Union man ever struck, so far as I know. The average American dislikes the Union, for Union men strike when they are to "strike," and there is enmity between labor Unions and other men of this country. The reported mistreatment of Labor Union organizers at Marion, North Carolina, shows this. Union laborers will hardly get good treatment any

where they may go in the South. I am sorry this is true.

We have had too much rain in this section recently, and cotton has rotted in the boll. This reminds us of 1924.

Hoke County usually produces from ten to sixteen thousand bales of cotton a year, and two thousand bales seems mighty little.

Eagle Springs has never been anything but a flag station, but more turkeys are shipped from that station than any other point in North Carolina.

Time was when people could not get real coffee because they did not have the money to buy it, or there was none near them, so they made coffee of rye or wheat parched and ground. It was not good.

I have read the book of Psalms during August because the Sunday School lessons awakened new interest. Praise appeared frequently, which I noticed as never before. I had read the book several times.

Use of tobacco forms a habit hard to break, nor does the use of that weed benefit a person. Corn tobacco and several other things are native to America.

All the countries of Europe are nearly bankrupt because of the ruinous wars since turn of the century, but England has lost more than any other country. She has lost all her foreign possessions, which paid tribute for centuries.

If the people of North Carolina ever had a thought of freedom they should assert their freedom just once again, and not be longer slaves to King Alcohol.

Paul Green, who has written

and given entertainments folks enjoyed for several years at Mantoo, and other places, has just about cooked his goose, since he has entered objections against routing Communism at the State University a Chapel Hill. That organization has denounced the Christian Religion as Enemy No. 1. If anything the devil has started should be uprooted Communism should be totally uprooted.

About 1870 the young women of our community learned that work in cotton mills paid well, and they figured they could live well and wear good clothes.

They planned that they and an older maiden lady who had agreed to go live with three young women, and keep house for them, and they would share and share alike in what they made. They had helped with the farm work, particularly in planting, and there were a surplus of women in our community they decided.

They shared the furnishings of their homes with the folks left after they had moved away, went to a town twenty-five miles away, rented a cottage and went to living on their own hook, so to speak. After some weeks, some of our neighbors visited that town and learned how they were getting along.

They went down the latter part of the first week in September, 1870, and Monday after their arrival, they went to work in a cotton mill. They were paid 50 cents a day, the three girls receiving \$3.00 each, all of them receiving \$9. They could live well on that but money would not be plentiful enough to meet all their demands. However their wages were raised to \$5.00 each November 1st.

These were churchgoing people, and met the mill owners there. Some one remarked that the mill workers looked as well as the mill owners.

Though they were working in

Good Pastures For Permanent Farming

Improving pastures is one of the best ways to build a permanent agriculture, says John Parker, member of the Hoke County Agricultural Conservation Committee. To balance farm production to market needs, more land in pastures and better care of these pastures is needed.

Mr. Parker emphasized that pastures should mean more than a piece of "waste land" surrounded by a few posts and couple of strands of barbed wire. Grass and legumes are crops from which a good income can be obtained if they are given the attention usually given to the "so called" cash crops.

Pasture improvement and grass and legume seeding practices are in the Agricultural Conservation Program because of their importance in conserving soil and water, the Committeeman explains. Grass and legumes send out a network of roots that hold the soil in place. Old roots die and new ones take their place. Dead roots are acted upon by bacteria, and other agents of decomposition, which release the plant food. And this decayed and decaying material acts as a sponge to absorb and hold rain water.

Mr. Parker points out that the establishment and improvement of pastures is being especially emphasized as a means of making the best use of the land taken out of tilled crops. Not only will the additional pasture help balance production but it will be building up reserves for future production. Properly handled, pastures build up the land instead of wearing it out. In most instances this will mean the use of lime, phosphate and often potash and boron. It will mean the use of improved strains of seed and proper grazing management.

As Mr. Parker explains it, "Soil that is protected and improved by grass and legumes will continue to produce the food and fiber needed by consumers. That is why the Government provides assistance to farmers in establishing and improving pastures."

a mill they were self supporting and others, who were independent, admired the spirit which aids self respect and independence, without haughtiness.



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WHY THE MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILROAD STRIKE?

Over twenty years ago, the Congress of the United States passed the Railway Labor Act. It was hailed by union leaders as a model for the settlement of labor disputes.

THE LEADERS of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, Order of Railway Conductors, and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen on the Missouri Pacific Railroad have refused to avail themselves of the peaceful means provided by this Act for settling their disputes. They insist that they be the sole arbiters of their own disputes over the meaning of contracts.

There is no Need for Strikes

With all of the available methods for the interpretation of contracts, there is no need for a strike or even a threat of a strike, but the leaders of these railroad unions have ignored the ordinary procedures established by law and insist upon imposing their own interpretations of their contracts by means of a strike.

The wheels have stopped rolling on the Missouri Pacific. They may stop rolling on other railroads at any time. Recently the Wabash Railroad was forced to discontinue operation for several days under similar circumstances.

What are These Strikes About?

These strikes and strike threats are not about wage rates or hours. They result from disputes over the meaning of existing contracts. They cover claims for a full day's pay for less than a day's work, or for payments for services performed by others who were fully paid for the work done.

President Truman's Board Condemns Strike

There is an established legal method for handling disputes involving existing written contracts—just as there is such a method of settling any contract dispute which you may have in your daily life.

The President of the United States appointed a Fact Finding Board to investigate and adjust the Missouri Pacific dispute. This Board reported, in part, as follows:

"... it is with a deep sense of regret that we are obliged to report the failure of our mission. It seems inconceivable to us that a coercive strike should occur on one of the nation's major transportation systems, with all of the losses and hardships that would follow, in view of the fact that the Railway Labor Act provides an orderly, efficient and complete remedy for the fair and just settlement of the matters in dispute. Grievances of the character here under discussion are so numerous and of such frequent occurrence on all railroads that the general adoption of the policy pursued by the organizations in this case would soon result in the complete nullification of the Railway Labor Act...."

Obviously the railroads cannot be run

efficiently or economically if the leaders of the unions ignore agreements or laws.

Provisions of the Law which are Disregarded

There are five ways under the Railway Labor Act to settle disputes over the meaning of contracts:

- 1—Decision by National Railroad Adjustment Board.
- 2—Decision by System Adjustment Board for the specific railroad.
- 3—Decision by arbitration.
- 4—Decision by neutral referee.
- 5—Decision by courts.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad has been and is entirely willing to have these disputes settled in accordance with the requirements of the Railway Labor Act. Regardless of this fact, the union leaders have shut down that railroad.

Innocent Bystanders Suffer Losses and Hardships

There are about 5,000 engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen on the Missouri Pacific. They are known as "operating" employees, and are the most highly paid of all employees on the nation's railroads, but their strike action has resulted in the loss of work to 22,500 other employees of the Missouri Pacific. In addition, they have imposed great inconvenience and hardship upon the public and the communities served by that railroad.

The Railway Labor Act was designed to protect the public against just such interruptions of commerce.

If these men will not comply with the provisions of the law for the settlement of such disputes, then all thinking Americans must face the question, "What is the next step?"



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