

# The Cleveland Star

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18, 1929

## TWINKLES

Less than a week now until the fair opens!

Headline readers on occasions fail to get the real news. There was that recent headline in the Charlotte Observer: "Shelby Schools To Close To Pick Cotton." The item itself said that the rural schools of Cleveland county would close two weeks for cotton picking, and insofar as The Star has been informed the Shelby schools will not close until next Spring for cotton picking or anything else.

## MEN ALSO CHANGE ALONG WITH THE TIMES

AN ENT Senator Simmons spirited fight against the Republican tariff measure The New York Times said: "to Senator Simmons the present opportunity offers even more than the fun of breaking lance with Mr. Smoot. After his refusal to support his party's presidential nominee last year, the tariff debate restores him to his place as a Democratic leader. And with very great relish he is preaching the tariff plank of the Houston platform—the Smith plank."

The Charlotte Observer, which felt about the same way as did Senator Simmons last fall, headlined the Times comment as follows: "Oh Well, Times Change." So they do, we add, and so do men even such faultless near immortals as Senator Simmons.

## WHAT WILL HOOVER'S RATING IN HISTORY BE?

WILL HISTORIES of the future classify President Herbert Hoover as the figure about which the religious issue was injected into American politics. Heywood Broun, former columnist for the New York World, now writing in The Nation, thinks so.

Broun in his observations and deductions reviews the campaign of 1928, labelling the Republican victory in the South as a result of the religious issue. Then he observes that the South "won on the religious issue" must be held, and can be held only by the same issue. For proof he cites Texas where a campaign is getting underway for the next governor. The lieutenant-governor would normally be the logical candidate, but in the preliminary campaign, he points out, the religious issue is already being worked up against the lieutenant-governor by the Texas Hoovercrats. "Against this candidate," Broun writes, "it can't be said that he would on his own initiative invite the Pope to come and live in Texas. His disability is more subtle. His wife is a Catholic." And because this candidate's wife is a Catholic Mr. Broun has the hunch that he will never be governor. He quotes Dr. Norris, the Baptist minister who manages to keep in the public prints, as saying "No Catholic woman shall ever be the first lady of the State and sit in the Governor's mansion at Austin."

Mr. Hoover, Broun argues, by permitting the religious issue to be used in electing him and breaking the solid South did not anticipate that he had opened up the way for religious prejudice to hereafter sway American elections. Mr. Hoover, he says, likely had no personal part in starting the religious issue. That part is accredited to Mabel Willebrandt, but "Mr. Hoover remained upon the mountain tops and never ventured to gaze into the valleys where the votes were being gathered. . . . No doubt he felt that future campaigns could be put upon a higher level. But as in many another conquest, the victor found himself tightly clutching a bear's tail. . . . The fires of religious prejudice are mounting higher. The glare reddens the political skies by night and day.

"No, Herbert Clark Hoover did not touch the match to this tinderly stuff, but he did stand like a bump upon a burning deck and made no move to stamp out the spark. Maybe he isn't the father of the religious issue in American politics. But he is the godfather. He stood for it!"

And although some may disagree with Mr. Broun on the above statement, as they differ with him on many others, he is to an extent right. Mr. Hoover may be pigeon-holed in history as the godfather of religious prejudices in American politics. Anyway, it will be many years before political campaigns in the South will be free of the religious issue which was injected to make his victory a certainty.

## PROVINCIAL LIKE, WE GET PUZZLED AT TIMES

THE STAR has never endorsed the suppression of news, or the actual facts concerning any disturbance and that policy is not and has not been changed one whit by the labor disturbances at Gastonia and in this area. Let the world know the exact facts about what is going on and, also, about conditions in the textile industry, but in reminding of our policy we express some wonder as to the reason for the "playing up" of Southern labor disturbances by the metropolitan papers of the East? Are the labor disturbances and the rioting at Gastonia the only labor disturbances and rioting going on in America?

One would judge, by reading the metropolitan papers, that a couple of mob scenes, a couple of slayings, and a couple of striking labor units in the South are the only labor disturbances of consequence in the country. Of course,

these incidents near us are not to be minimized. More value is attached down here to a couple of human lives than is placed upon the value of two lives in the metropolitan centers. Yet the metropolitan papers rate dispatches of labor disturbances from Gastonia as page one news, with special writers sent down to cover the trials and disturbances, while labor troubles, Communistic affairs, and jailing of "red" workers in their own cities hardly rate larger headlines than many minor news items. One of the New York dailies recently devoted several columns to depicting Gastonia conditions and disturbances together with editorial comment, some of it of a critical nature, about our court methods and the jailing of labor agitators in the South, a portion of a country supposed to be the home of free speech. In the same paper, under a small heading, was a news item about four girl Communists being jailed in New York in connection with the distribution of Communistic literature. They were not jailed for distributing the literature, but for telling the New York judge that if he freed them they would go out to distribute more Red propaganda. Imagine the critical comment of the metropolitan press had a North Carolina judge jailed four girls just because they made the statement that they would distribute literature in "a free country" if freed?

Instance after instance might be related to show the difference in news value of labor disturbances in the East and the South. Perhaps we're too dumb about adjudging news values, but it puzzles us why half of a metropolitan staff, writers and editors, work strenuously over a labor disturbance in the South, and meantime pass up as only minor matters labor disturbances in their own midst. Perhaps it is because we are usually so well behaved, except when we are out "lynching innocent negroes," that it becomes news when we do a few things, on a minor scale, similar to the East.

## Divorce By Mutual Consent Proposed

Urged At Sexual League Meeting Along With Freedom For Women To Work.

London.—Divorce by mutual consent, freedom for married women to hold jobs, and legal dissolution of marriage to incurably insane persons were urged at the world league for sexual reform.

Dr. W. F. Geikie Cobb, who recently conducted the wedding ceremony for a divorce member of parliament despite disapproval by the bishop, was the advocate of divorce by mutual consent. He accused churches of too great a control of the marriage status.

Mrs. Dora Russell, wife of Bertrand Russell and herself the author, of articles on feminine reform, said, "Married women should be compelled, if not by law then by social persuasion, to continue work after marriage unless they are engaged in caring for children." She said the present law honors jealousy where it should discourage it.

Dr. Abraham Stone of New York favored pre-marital consultations as a means of preventing later unhappiness.

Dr. Bernard Hollander, a specialist on mental and nervous diseases, appealed for amendment of the English law by which he said a sane man or woman at present is tied for life to a partner who may be incurably insane. He advanced legal dissolution of such marriage not only to benefit the individual but to prevent deterioration of the race.

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