

Brick Masons of A. and T. College



A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C., is doing her share in preparing skilled workers for the national defense program. A herringbone panel and a chimney, fireplace and brick mantel are being completed by these students of a brick masonry class. They are, from left to right: Alus Richardson, senior brickmason, from Apex, N. C.; Edgar Murphy, Kingston, N. C.; and William Lee, Springfield, Ill. All three are honor students.

STEWART SAYS

LONGER WORK DAY MIGHT BE COSTLY IN PRODUCTIVITY

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Central Press Columnist

When I was a kid 10 hours was labor's standard working day. It had been 12 but two hours had been lopped off in practically all sorts of mechanical plants. Employerdom didn't like to grant the reduction at the time it was coerced into doing so, but soon afterward it began recognizing that it was a good thing, from the bosses' own standpoint, because it had increased their hirelings' productivity per man more than enough to offset the shrinkage in the day's length.

The next reduction, down to eight hours, was effected within my personal recollection.

I heard the ensuing talk myself. Just as on the preceding occasion, employers had acquiesced in the second cut very reluctantly, but it wasn't long before they began admitting that they'd downright profited by it, their toilers worked so much more energetically.

The generally accepted explanation was that a man on a 60 to 72-hour weekly schedule was everlastingly all fagged out, beyond the physical capacity to put much pep into his job, but he could stand 48 hours pretty well.

If it had been the hired men alone who told this story, I might have discounted it to a certain extent, but to listen to it from high-up industrialists and miscellaneous economists was maddeningly convincing. The theory of the thing was plausible, too.

There's a Limit.

There was more whittling later, down to 40 weekly hours.

No doubt it's a process that can be overdone. A chop down to one daily hour surely wouldn't increase production. No matter how hard and fast a laborer scurried on a six-hour weekly basis, he scarcely could out-produce one working 40, 48 or even 72 hours in the same period.

The fact remains that experts concur in voting for around a maximum of eight daily hours, six times weekly, as a big output's best friend. Now, in the interests of huge war production, the agitation's general, except possibly on the workers' part, for boosting the hourly limit almost indefinitely.

It's also for the abolition of overtime, and double time pay for holidays, and for abolition of the closed shop likewise, for the abolition of everything suspected of interference with our war effort.

Now, there isn't enough dissent to wad a shotgun from the proposition that that effort shouldn't be interfered with by anything under the sun.

Yet these questions arise:

If a reasonable reduction in our daily working hours previously increased production, why wouldn't an increase in their number to their former less productive figure, result in a productive decrease this time? If it would, it's a move in exactly the direction that we don't want to take.

And overtime and holiday double-time?

Both were adopted with a view to preventing employers from overstretching the working day, to labor's financial advantage. It's true, but involving an occasional excess of working time to the point of frazzling it out past the point of 100 per cent efficiency.

And the closed shop?

Unionization may have been abused in spots, but, in the main, it has been a productive factor. It's played its important part in making our industries what they are—and want 'em to be still more of, in the present emergency. Will jerking the closed shop out from under 'em be beneficial in the long run?

Popular Opinion.

The popular argument is that it's perfectly outrageous for civilian labor to insist on limitation of its hours, or overtime, with our selectees devoting their whole lives, and maybe sacrificing 'em, at the rate of \$21 to \$30 monthly.

Far be it from me to unlearnedly intimate a selectee's sacrifices, but he's in a somewhat different classification than an industrial workingman.

The latter has normal expenses to meet out of his pay check. The selectee, unless his draft board makes insufficient allowances for his civilian necessities, is provided for. And one of 'em is that his workingman father's family's wartime expenses are adequately taken care of at home, and that pa isn't so over-tolled that his industrial efficiency deteriorates.

We mustn't let our arsenals run short, due to pinching production workers too hard, in pay or hours or some such thing.

It isn't unpatriotic, even from a military standpoint, to argue labor's cause.

Today's Horoscope.

Mixed influences prevail during the coming year for the persons who have birthdays today. Changes, beneficial and otherwise, are portended. They should guard all documents well and deal tactfully with elders, despite provocation. If they heed these warnings gain will result. They are clever and resourceful folk, very imaginative, but they very often accomplish much less than they plan. They should be popular with friends. Many obstacles will have to be overcome by the child who is born on this date. Relatives will prove trying and retard his or her progress, but perseverance and courage will insure eventual success.

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FATHER, TOO CAN SPOIL HIS CHILD

GARRY CLEVELAND MYERS, PH.D.

The nation over, father is usually more exacting and severe with the child than the mother. As a rule, it is the mother who is the more ready to accept the no-spanking doctrine, or to leave hard discipline problems to the father, or to interfere when she supposes the father is too strict and severe.

Now and then, however, I hear about a father who lets his child do as he pleases, who won't discipline him, and will interfere with the mother when she does. The following letter from a mother of a boy of 12 and a girl 6, describes this type father.

"My husband is a fine man, an excellent husband and in many respects a grand father, but he just can't seem to be able to realize that children must be trained. He will give the children anything in the world they ask for and many times inconveniences both himself and me to give them some little pleasure. But he will not co-operate in disciplining them. When I tease him about always giving the children first consideration he says, 'I want my children to have in life the things that I missed.'

Interferes with Discipline.

"He not only spoils the children himself but he interferes with my disciplining and intercedes for the children.

"Now, perhaps, I had better tell you a little about his home life before he was married. He was the oldest in a family of three boys, and no girls. His mother and father were a devoted couple and the boys worshipped their mother but what she said went. Father was just a figure head.

"The children come to me more quickly with their little worries and problems than they do to their father and I feel very incompetent to handle the problems of an adolescent boy. Do you have a list of pamphlets and books on this subject which would be of special help to a mother? A self-addressed envelope and a three-cent stamp are enclosed."

I sent her a selected list of books on infants of life and sex education at home; also a list of books to parents on guiding the child, including some for parents of teenage children.

It is manifest that this father—is like his father and expects his wife to assume parental responsibilities relative to those his mother assumed. I doubt whether his wife will change him much unless she can work on him through a friend of his in whom he would have great confidence. I can't understand why any intelligent parent will disagree with the other parents before the child about his up-bringing.

New Type Holdout; Wants Less Dough

Then there's the story about the baseball player who held out because he wanted less money.

Wayne Osbourne, who won 12 and lost the same last season for Hollywood in the Pacific Coast league, explained to the club's started business manager that he refused to sign a contract calling for the same money he received in '41. "I didn't live up to expectation," the bespectacled hurler said, "and I think I was overpaid."

When the Stars' business manager recovered from the shock, he explained that he thought Osbourne was worth the salary and finally dissuaded the pitcher from holding out for a cut.

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