

It Seems to Me

by
HEYWOOD BROUN

If the child labor amendment is not ratified now it can hardly be adopted until another two years have gone by. Indeed, present failure is likely to be all but fatal. And the state of New York is a pivotal point.

Almost all of us are familiar with the arguments raised by the advocates of the amendment. The reasons advanced are both practical and humanitarian. And even so, it seems to me, that some of the best points raised in favor of abolition are brought up by the bitter elders who would scrap the movement.

For instance, it is argued by the opposition that the amendment is unnecessary because the problem of child labor has already been solved through the adoption of the NRA codes. This plea of course, overlooks the fact that the NRA machinery may be scrapped in 1935. It also overlooks another important fact: Child labor has not yet been abolished, but we have had a laboratory experiment on a broad scale.

If the traditional arguments of the anti had any validity the evil effects of governmental interference would already be evident. We would see, if not an army of snappers, at least a brigade of federal agents carting papa off to jail because he asked little Johnny to go upstairs and fetch his pipe.

The Noblest Motives

GODLESSNESS would be in the saddle and parental authority pretty well bent and bleeding. But I have yet to hear any opponent of the child labor amendment contend that under the codes the family and the home have been blasted or even slightly scorched. Indeed the curious argument of the objectors runs that since a very considerable reduction in child labor has worked extremely well we should by no means run the risk of abolishing it completely.

As a matter of fact, very few people have the audacity to stand up and be counted as supporting the proposition that children should be submitted to the grinding toll of industry. On the contrary the old men who wish to stick pins into the tires of progress always profess the noblest of motives. They want to free the children of America but it must be done in some other way. Some of the unreconstructed respectable are still talking of leaving the whole business to the states in spite of the palpable fact that this has been a tedious process leaving in its wake many nests of evil standing in the new or mopping.

It is quite true that slowly child labor is being reduced in the United States. There are few frank enough to mourn its passing. But there does exist a large, powerful and articulate group which contends, "It ought to be done slowly." In other words this argument runs, "The abolition of child labor is an excellent thing and therefore we ought to take a long time in completing the task."

Now is there any sense at all in that? Can you imagine a reasonable physician saying, "Sunlight will cure this patient and therefore I will keep him in his bed room for at least another two or three years."

They Lie and Know It

IT seems to me that when a thing is good delay in its accomplishment is in itself a monstrous evil. Somebody may object that there is such a thing as a period of education. But the answer to that is the undeniable fact that child labor has been with us for decades. Its evils have been demonstrated repeatedly. Those who have not as yet been educated into a realization of its monstrous nature are beyond the hope of graduation. A nation can not be held to the snail's pace of its most backward scholars.

But I fear that there is a selfish wisdom in many of the foes of the amendment. To be sure, there is no courage. Not a single man will stand up and tell the truth. No one dares to say "I am against the child labor amendment because it provides me with cheap and unorganized labor. I want to have the privilege of hiring children because I make money in so doing."

To put it very bluntly the friends of the amendment are fighting against men who are not only knaves but arrant hypocrites. There are manufacturers who assert that the school of hard knocks is needed if American stamina and character are to be preserved. That is not the reason for their attitude. They lie and they know that they are lying.

Some newspaper publishers assert that it is a privilege for a lad to sell papers on the street. He may grow up to be President of the United States. There is an even shorter answer to that. I think that it might run, "So what?"

(Copyright, 1935)

Today's Science

BY DAVID DIETZ

THE electrical industry faces 1935 with confidence and the expectation of continued improvement in business during the year. This view is based upon the encouraging signs encountered in 1934.

The three factors which are expected to contribute most to the continued expansion in 1935 are: The increased adoption of electrical appliances in the home, the need for modernizing many industrial plants, and the invention of new and improved devices.

According to Gerard Swope, president of the General Electric Co., the volume of electrical manufacturing business in 1934 was more than 30 per cent greater than in 1933. The consumption of electricity throughout the United States was approximately 7 per cent greater than that in 1933 and came close to the maximum consumption in the years 1929 and 1930.

It is also significant that 1934 was the third consecutive year in which there was unusual demand for motors with special electrical or mechanical characteristics. These motors were required for the modernization of industrial plants.

Electrical experts see the need for continued modernization of industrial plants because of the many recent improvements in electrical equipment made possible by research work and advanced engineering. They estimate that more than half of all American industrial machinery is partly obsolescent because of these advances.

Considerable advancement was made in 1934 in the application of electricity to the problems of transportation.

A new type of streamlined electric locomotive has been designed and tested in connection with the Pennsylvania Railroad electrification project. These locomotives ran at speeds of 100 miles an hour, the highest speed so far obtained by locomotives of this class in the United States.

IMPORTANT investigations were carried on in the realm of lightning. The subject is of more than academic interest to the electrical industry since long transmission lines require adequate protection against the hazards of lightning. A new camera was developed which made it possible to obtain pictures revealing many of the characteristics of lightning.

The discovery was made during the year that in many fields the application of electricity was limited by the materials available for construction purposes rather than by any gaps in theory or difficulties in design. Consequently, the big electrical companies are devoting more and more of their research work to the field of metallurgy.

Important developments in this field include new forms of high-strength ductile iron, oxygen-free copper, and beryllium alloys whose properties can be varied to meet special requirements by means of heat treatment.

Who is backing the American Veterans' Association?

Information regarding this organization can be obtained by writing to the American Veterans' Association, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Name some of the better known birds and animals that store their food for the winter.

Bluejays, crows, chickadees, some woodpeckers, squirrels and chipmunks.

LAUGHING AWAY HARD TIMES

Cultural Side Also Stressed in County Recreation Program

BY ARCH STEINEL
Times Staff Writer

EIGHT jobs that might aid in the cultural uplift of Indianapolis are going begging.

The pay wouldn't start a home loan bank. The hours are not long. But the qualifications are stiff.

First, you and your family must need the job.

Second, you must be able to teach physical education and general calisthenics, in addition to possibly tap and folk dancing, or to be competent in teaching handicraft work or, lastly, to be able to teach some musical instruments, preferably a violin.

If you can qualify then apply to R. L. Ball, director of the Marion County recreational committee, 410 Majestic Building, who seeks to bolster up the cultural side of his recreation division with competent teachers who need work.

"It looks as if we should find persons answering those qualifications but every teacher or recreational worker hired by us, at \$15 a week, must need the job by being on relief or near the relief line before he can be hired. And that's the rub in filling the places," explains Mr. Ball.

The recreation division has 15 teachers from the Federal government's adult education division under its wing. They are paid \$1 hourly by the education division up to \$15 weekly.

The division's own staff, paid for out of its \$15,000 budget, totals 17 recreational workers and teachers with eight places left unfilled.

Ten of the members of the staff are musicians who not only form an orchestra but will double in brass by teaching their instruments to classes now being formed.

It is the hope of Mr. Ball to increase this orchestra to 12 or 13 members and if possible to break the group up into ensembles and string quartets in order to give music appreciation hours in community centers as well as in city schools.

Regular class instruction in cello, French-horn, piano, trombone, bass-viol, and trumpets are to be given to any one who has not studied within the past three months with a regular music teacher.

Professional musicians, men competent to play at almost any



Play hours in city community centers are supervised by the Marion County Recreation Committee, but in the (left) photo Mildred Tolliver, 9, of 605 Lord-st., is doing a little unsupervised play be-

fore the instructor arrives at Fletcher Place Community Center, Virginia-av and Fletcher-pl., by raising a crop of olives on a balustrade. And here (right) is the game of "Gossip," as played

by Miss Tolliver and Margaret Sullivan, 9, of 603 Lord-st. But they both declare they'll never hang over the back fence doing the same thing when they grow up.

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