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READ IT!

Every man who is involved in a strike, or is about to be involved in one, or who figures in the revolving cycle of recurring wage demands that is driving industry to shut down all over the United States, a shutdown that will be a concomitant of business paralysis, hunger and perhaps revolution, should read President Wilson's reply to the shopmen in which he refuses to grant their demands.

The situation in this country is so grave that the man who won't look it square in the face is blind as a bat.

INDUSTRY AT MERCY OF FEW COUNCILMEN.

It is of course impossible to estimate how many thousands of dollars manufacturers and business men of Hammond and other cities in the Calumet region are losing because of the stoppage of street car service on the Hammond, Whiting and East Chicago street railways.

None of them would be bold enough to even approximate an estimate, but it would aggregate a vast sum. The attitude taken by a few members of the city council is responsible entirely for non-existent service. It should have been possible, it could have been possible, for the questions involved in the street car strike to have been arbitrated without the cars being stopped. If the city council had not been so intent on throwing a wrench in the machinery steps might have been taken to grant temporarily certain concessions that would have permitted the street cars to continue in operation while the matters at issue were being thrashed out and adjudicated.

As this newspaper has pointed out more than once, this was no time to get revenge for any grievances the city had against the street car company. If it was not living up to its franchise there were ways to compel it to do so. It looks like a spirit of spite and revenge on the part of the council while the people are at their mercy. Hammond's industries and stores were prospering as never before when the street car strike broke, and it looks like killing the goose that laid the golden egg.

IT MAKES ABE RUMINATE.

Abe Martin, Indiana's greatest home-made philosopher, is much concerned over the fact that his friend, Harley Lark, came home the other evening and told his mother not to worry any more because he had just organized. Abe, in his homely way, says:

Young Lark has had 't work as late as five o'clock twice this summer, an' once he had 't work a couple of hours Saturday afternoon. "Th' workin' conditions at th' brick yard jest got so intolerable that us boys jest decided t' organize. We expect t' demand a thirty-hour week an' a fifty per cent raise t' begin with. Later on we may decide t' limit production. O' course these reforms 'll have t' be worked out as we go along," said young Lark as he wuz selectin' a dollar watermelon later

in th' evenin'. T'day after it became known that Lark had organized a couple o' auto salesmen an' three phonograph agents called t' see him. He wuz very polite t' 'em, but told 'em he wuz at present undecided as t' jest what an' music box would best suit his demands. "It's jest about reached th' point where a feller can't buy a collar button or take a long breath without runnin' int' an organization," commented 'Squire Marsh Swallow, while Uncle Ez Pash asked, "Where's this organizin' goin' t' end?" Tell Binkley said, "It's been my observation that jest as soon as a feller feels that he's backed up by a powerful organization he assumes th' arrogance so often noticed in the landlord of th' only hotel in town." Many veryin' views on organization wuz expressed. Pinky Kerr held that th' idea o' havin' a strong backin' before you go after a thing is as ole as Madison, Indiana, while Ez Pash declared that not until th' great money interests organized t' control everything but elderberries did th' plain people look about for a formidable weapon t' combat 'em. Whatever may be th' cause o' all th' unrest, all th' organizin' an' walkin' out an' out again, a serious condition confronts us. As Tell Binkley says, "O' course workin' men kin afford t' strike an' lay idle for weeks, but what about clerks an' bookkeepers an' editurs an' things?" Some apprehension wuz expressed as t' what effect a lot o' brick makers all dolled up an' motorin' about town would have on th' breath bulk o' unorganized citizens. "How a school teacher holds up is one o' th' mysteries o' th' day. I saw one t'day an' he didn't look like he'd seen a watermelon in ten years. There's no tellin' what school teachers 'll teach our children if somethin' haftn't done t' fatten 'em up an' pay 'em so they kin at least break even. What school teacher wants t' teach children t' love th' grand old flag o' th' most prosperous an' enlightened nation on earth while she's livin' on lettuce sandwiches that she may eventually work up t' a pair o' shoes? Patient, lovin', faithful, hungry, intelligent penniless teachers watchin' o'er an' moldin' in th' lives of our young on wages so meager that they can't afford t' keep a fern!" declared Prof. Alex Tansley. "It's my understandin'," said Uncle Niles Turner, "that th' school boards, unlike big dealers an' manufacturers, haftn't got no consumers t' tack wage increases on but tax payers, an' ther' purty hard t' handle. But it's my opinion that our teachers are too tired an' hungry t' walk out."

THE H. C. OF L. AND THE COVENANT.

The preposterous theory is advanced that one of the means of reducing the high cost of living would be to ratify, immediately, without deliberation, without consideration of the consequences involved, the dangers incurred or the obligations assumed, the covenant of the league of nations, without qualification, reservation or amendment.

This argument is advanced on behalf of an administration which took the responsibility of delaying the formulation of the peace treaty many months because of its insistence upon involving this country in the "league of hallucinations"; an administration which had complete control of the administrative and legislative branches of the government for six years, and in all that time did nothing, admittedly, to fulfill the pledge upon which President Wilson was first elected—to break the grip of monopoly, paralyze the plutocrats, pulverize the profiteers, smash the special interests and reduce the high cost of living.

The truth is that high living costs are due to the very relationships with Europe which the covenant of the league of nations is intended to strengthen and perpetuate. What is aimed at is a sort of world-wide communism: "an equality of trade conditions," a universal economic jackpot, a general leveling of the standards of life in America and throughout the whole earth, in order that the world's anxious heart may not be broken by our refusal to continue to be an easy thing.

We have been feeding, clothing and financing Europe. We have robbed ourselves to do this. The drain of our foodstuffs, clothing, raw materials, and money is what, most of all, has sent the cost of living skyward in the United States. Our excessive prices here are in sympathy with European high prices, these being due to the fact that since the war Europe has not gone to work. Disordered political and economic conditions have prevented the resumption of industry abroad. There's every evidence that European populations will continue to run amuck so long as the people of this country, in the exercise of altruistic internationalism, are willing to pay the freight. The idea is for us to raise wheat and corn and cotton in America while Europeans raise hell over one thing and another left unsettled by a peace conference the world will yet realize made a horrible mess of the job committed to it.

The ratification of the peace treaty will have no more beneficial effect on living costs than the tide in the Bay of Fundy. Every man of common sense knows this.

The Passing Show

IN HER MILDRED AND MORE

TOLERANT moments a woman's way
of directing her husband's

ATTENTION to his general

USELESSNESS around the house
when she

WANTS something done

IS to remark that nobody with a grain
of sense

WOULD do things

IN the way he does, remarking it at
least

ONCE a day for each thing

ANY time one woman lends another a
quarterSHE remembers that quarter morning
NOON and night until

SHE gets it back

AND when the other woman does pay
it back

THE woman is sure to say as she

TAKES the money

"Oh, that's all right, I'd forgotten all
about it."

THERE is an old one to the effect

THAT one cannot eat his cake and
have it

WHICH naturally makes one wonder

WHAT the weather man

IS going to unload on us next fall and
winter.

IT is going to get so chilly very soon

THAT congress will begin to

TAKE the one-cent tax off ice cream
conesWHICH in most cases the government
NEVER gets.

BEFORE he gets her

HE is always telling her that she is a
vision

AND after he gets her he is always

TELLING her what a sight she is.

WE notice, according to the public
prints

THAT former Senator Jim Ham Lewis

DRESSES himself still in his

VERY reddest and fieriest whiskers and

MAKES a public speech on how this or

THAT should not be permitted

TO go to the dogs if anywhere.

WE are not all good judges of human

nature

AND it takes a sharp man

TO cut an undesirable acquaintance.

MAYBE you've noticed

THAT the more stuck-up a man is

THE less other people stick

UP for him.

WE often used to wonder how

OLD Frank Simonds

WOULD be able to take any satisfac-

tion in life

AFTER the war was over

BUT we see that a little thing like

that did

NOT dishearten him

AND that he has found plenty of oth-

er things

IN the outlook to be dismal and

UNHAPPY about.

WHENEVER you see a man

WEARING more than one black eye

in

THE course of a year the

CHANCES are that he is altogether

too gabby

AN individual.

ONE of our doctor friends says that

when he hung out

HIS shingle he was advised to write

HIS plainly and he would

BE very successful. Guess he was.

THEY certainly never get too old to

love in Mansfield, Ohio.

WE read of a man living there who

had been a cripple for 21 years

AND eloped with another man's wife

LORD only knows what'll happen to

him now.

to take away from the meat packers
their refrigerator cars, not because
of any misuse of them, but simply because
all firms do not operate their own. It
is as though a law were passed which
compelled you, the owner of a modern
press, to make it common property, be-
cause someone desired to compete with
you for business, but was not possessed
of proper equipment.

We do not aver that such foolish laws
will ever be enacted, but there are no
more foolish or unjust than the proposed
law to license packers, limit their ac-
tivities and take away from them that

portion of their equipment which others
would like to use.

We have written you in belief that
you, as a moulder of public opinion,
should be fully alive to the nature of the
legislation being considered by Congress.
We will welcome the aid of men who
believe as we believe—that such legisla-

tion is vicious, improper, and danger-

ous to the future welfare of this nation.

Very truly yours,

J. OGDEN ARMOUR.

Sergeant-Major Sherwood Moe, son

of Mr. and Mrs. Ingwald Moe, or

Gary, is expected home this week from

an eighteen months service overseas.

Sergeant Moe was formerly an Emer-

son high school student and enlisted

in the service in 1917 and was a mem-

ber of the Central Records office at

Bourges, France. He was a member

of Gary's Co. F organized by Major

Umpleby and trained with that com-

pany at Camp Shelby before going over-

seas. His parents are now residing

at their summer cottage at Miller

Beach to where he will spend some

time before entering the contracting

business with his father.

Godfrey McKinzie, wounded in

France during the last part of the

war, over there, has returned to Gary.

Godfrey is a former Emerson high

school student and is the son of Lieut.

and Mrs. Alex McKenzie, former resi-

dents of Gary. He is one of the

three brothers who served in the war,

one of who, James, was the first Gary