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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 to work as late as five o'clock twice this summer, and once he had to work a couple of hours Saturday afternoon. "Th' workin' conditions at th' brick yard jest got so intolerable that us boys jest decided to organize. We expect to demand a thirty-hour week and a fifty per cent raise to begin with. Later on we may decide to limit production. Of course these reforms 'll have to 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 to see him. He wuz very polite to 'em, but told 'em he wuz at present undecided as to jest what car 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' to 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 to control everthin' but elderberries did th' plain people look about for a formidable weapon to combat 'em. Whatever may be th' cause o' all th' unrest, all th' organizin' an' walkin' out an' back an' out agin, a serious condition confronts us. As Tell Binkley says, "Of course workin' men kin afford to strike an' lay idle fer weeks, but what about clerks an' bookkeepers an' editors an' things?" Some apprehension wuz expressed as to what effect a lot o' brick makers all bulked up an' motorin' about town would have on th' great 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' haint done to fatten 'em up an' pay 'em so they kin at least break even. What school teacher wants to teach children to 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 to a pair o' shoes? Patient, lovin', faithful, hungry, intelligent penniless teachers watchin' o'er an' moldin' th' lives of our young on wages so meager that they can't afford to keep a fern!" declared Prof. Alex Tansey. "It's my understandin'," said Uncle Niles Turner, "that th' school boards, unlike big dealers an' manufacturers, haint got no consumers to tack wage increases on but tax payers, an' th' purty hard to handle. But it's my opinion that our teachers are too tired an' hungry to 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 invited 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 is 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 milder 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
quarter
SHE 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
cones
WHICH 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 fiery 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
PRESCRIPTIONS illegibly and his
bills 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.

Voice Of The People

A LETTER FROM MR. ARMOUR.
Chicago, Ill., Aug. 23, 1919.
Editor P. A. Parry, Times:
Dear Sir—Whose concern is it that
Congress is considering legislation that
will restrict the meat packers from com-
peting in the general food field and put
them under complete domination of some
government official?
Of course, our concern is apparent; it
hardly need be said that we will pro-
test emphatically against such legisla-
tion. We believe that others, too, will
protest, because, under the Moses
amendment to the Kenyon Bill the Act
becomes applicable to all interstate busi-
ness, which means that the beneficial
effects of this proposed legislation will
not be confined to the packing industry.
If need be, we will make this fight alone,
but we are writing to record this
thought:
"This proposed legislation affects
every kind of business because it sets a
precedent in favor of enterprise in all
fields. It puts business under the heel
of bureaucracy and the logical result
would be a return to the medieval prac-
tice of craft and guild domination, which
kept initiative in a straight-jacket."
When it comes to pass that a business
can exist only by leave of some official
holding temporary office and not neces-
sarily conversant with the business in-
volved, then industrial and commercial
progress in this country will cease.
If the wholesale grocer can, by law,
eliminate competition at the hands of
the meat packers, as if the intent of
pending legislation, then there is no logi-
cal reason why the tailor could not in a
similar way stop the sale of clothes
at department stores; or why automobile
distributors could not prevent whole-
sale grocers from handling accessories;
or why cigar stores could not stop the
sale of tobacco by druggists; or, in your
own case, why the fiction magazines
should not make it illegal for newspa-
pers to print serials.
It will be a terrible blow to American
business when Congress begins deciding
for the firm or individual what legiti-
mate activity he may or may not engage
in. Of similar significance is the proposal

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 mechanical equipment.
We do not aver that such foolish laws
will ever be enacted, but they 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.

Soldier Boy News

Sergeant Major Sh'wood Moe, son
of Mr. and Mrs. Inwald Moe, of
Gary, is expected home this week from
an eighteen months service overseas.
Sergeant Moe was formerly an Em-
erson 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. 17 organized by Major
Umpleby and trained with that com-
pany at Camp Shelby before going over-
seas. His parents are now resid-
ing 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 McKinzie, former resi-
dents of Gary. He is one of the
three brothers who served in the war,
one of whom, James, was the first Gary
boy killed in action. Godfrey re-
ceived a terrible facial wound and he
has since last December been in a base
hospital in New York undergoing
treatments. He has now received his
honorable discharge and will probably
make his home in Gary. He is at
the present time, visiting with his
brother Colin, who is living at his
summer cottage at Miller Beach.

KIDDIE KAPERS By BILL BAILEY

