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TELLING US THE WORST.

darkness false promises of lower prices for the necessities of life and the frank statement of clothing manufacturers that no reduction in clothing costs is to be expected for a year, the latter is to be preferred.

Almost daily there is a prediction that the price of bacon or that article of food is to be lowered. We are promised that meats are to go down; that sugar is to be cheaper in price, but nobody notices these things when they go shopping. Then we read that butter is to be reduced. It goes down a cent. Not much of a fall is it? No one likely to lighten the heart of the housewife trying to make both ends meet in these days of soaring quotations.

Dispatches from Chicago assert that wholesalers are now selling provisions much cheaper than they did a few weeks ago, and it is added that "prices for the retail trade ought to show similar declines soon." The trouble about that is that we have been hearing similar general reports for several years, but the hoped for condition never comes.

Clothing men are frank. They tell us that the high prices they are compelled to pay preclude any lowering of their quotations to the public. All of us would welcome similar frankness on the part of the wholesale food merchants. It is to be suspected, there is no real, helpful lessening of food costs in sight. It would be a courtesy to let the public know it and not feed people on false hopes, which, so long deferred, "maketh the heart sick."

HITCHCOCK AS PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER.

Senator Hitchcock is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. Evidently the hard knocks he has received and his policies have received in the senate have not impaired his self confidence. From the Republican viewpoint the Democrats could hardly choose a more acceptable candidate.

A WISE DECISION.

The railroad wage controversy which, after so elated announcement, seemed to be being hastened to a settlement by the approaching return of the roads to private ownership, has again been slowed down. There is every reason to believe that in accepting the president's proposals for adjustment, the leaders will be approved by the membership. At any rate the danger of a labor crisis on the eve of the release from governmental control has been averted. The one problem at a time will be easier to deal with than if the ability that can be brought to bear upon the solution, without being complicated by the other.

Unpleasant as a general interruption of the transportation through a labor controversy ought to be, past adjustments have given no assured method of amicable settlement that promised a permanent basis of solution. The very settlements in turn started a new series of controversies that so clearly led to a repetition of the goodness. This was frankly recognized all around. The new proposals if properly understood, aim at a scientific basis of adjustment on ascertained facts and relationships, thus setting up machinery that should be of permanent value.

In these nation-wide utilities, upon which the very life of the nation depends, their uninterrupted operation is of first consequence. At the same time the operation should not ask more from those concerned in the operation, on either side, than they should reasonably be expected to give. This applies that some method of equitable adjustment must be supplied which will protect alike the interests of all concerned, the public, the companies and the employes. That is the purpose of the proposed method which appears to have been approved by the men's leaders as a fair experiment. Some such plan for national adjustment must be found. It is impossible that the vital interests of this whole people should be left continually to the hazard of opportunism.

ADMITS NO DEFENSE.

Than the New York World there has been no stronger supporter of President Wilson. In season and out, through thick and thin, it has fought his battles, defended his policies, excused his mistakes, avers the Lafayette Journal.

Until it became definitely known that Mr. Wilson had suffered a stroke of paralysis which affected his entire left side and because of the possibility of similar attacks later, it is probable that the World would never have considered any other man for democratic party leadership during the approaching campaign.

In view of these facts, the World's charge that Mr. Wilson's action in dismissing Secretary Lansing "is so deplorable that it admits of no defense," is of more than passing interest.

Concluding a rather lengthy editorial discussion of the matter the World says:

"With unqualified sympathy for Mr. Wilson in his affliction and with regret that Mr. Lansing should have been subjected to undeserved condemnation, the journal of the newspaper press without regard to party, for an explanation of circumstances altogether bewildering must be accepted as voicing more emphatically than ever the sentiments of the whole body of the people. There may be reasons why Secretary Lansing was no longer serviceable in the state department. It may be that the president has only now gained information or reached a conclusion as to them. But as matters stand, his case falls, amounting to a reprimand for duty done under trying conditions, in so deplorable a way as to admit of no defense."

OUR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Fear the assimilation of the millions of returned soldiers into the ranks of industry was so taken in these columns yesterday, without the trouble that had been anticipated is borne out in addition by the Christian Science Monitor, which says:

"The difficulty that some people anticipated in the assimilation of 4,000,000 returned soldiers by American industry never came; at least there has been at no time any serious lack of work for those who were willing to do whatever had to be done. Perhaps, however, less has been done in the placing of former officers than in the placing of former privates. It has been rather generally supposed that those who were officers could, both in the army and afterwards, out of it, largely shift for themselves. Some particularly competent former officers have found congenial work as secretaries of chambers of commerce, and others as intermediaries between employers and employes in large industrial establishments. However, some have even been seen serving ice cream and grape juice at soda fountains, not an unremunerative activity, probably, at the present price of ice cream checks.

"EUROPE can never pay its debt of gratitude to the United States," says Lloyd George. Collection on that debt will not be pushed. The payment of the dollars owed will be enough.

IF THE HUN war criminals succeed in evading the allies, it is certain that they will not go touring in enemy countries, which will be some gain. They cannot go far from home.

THE EX-CROWN PRINCE is reported to have offered himself as a vicarious sacrifice, for 900 war criminals demanded by the allies. His royal humptiness still seeks the limelight.

WHILE THE MEANS taken in Kentucky to prevent a lynching was drastic, it should have a wholesome effect in suppressing like outbursts elsewhere.

THE GERMANS are making clear just what reservations they desire in the peace treaty.

W. C. T. U. CONFERENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Anderson, National Recording Secretary W. C. T. U.

Mrs. Celia J. Vayhinger, President Indiana W. C. T. U.

What next?

This question so far as the Woman's Christian Temperance Union is concerned, is answered in the series of regional conferences which have marked the month of February and the end of January. The last of the series will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., February 25-26, with Mrs. Elizabeth P. Anderson, recording secretary of the National W. C. T. U., acting as presiding officer and Mrs. Celia J. Vayhinger, president of the Indiana W. C. T. U., assisting and serving as hostess president.

Mrs. Mary Harris Armor of Crawfordsville, Ga., known everywhere as a most forceful and interesting speaker, will give the address of the opening evening of the conference and will contribute, as well, to one of the afternoon programs. Miss Grace Abbott of Hull House, Chicago, will give an account of the International Conference on Labor, in which she took part, held last autumn in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, president Iowa W. C. T. U., will speak on the first evening meeting.

The directors of the several departments of welfare work which go to constitute the work of the W. C. T. U. for the next five years will present their programs and will lead discussions of their subjects. Mrs. Mary Clark Barnes will tell of the prospect work in Americanization; Mrs. Elizabeth A. Perkins will present the subject of child welfare and will tell of the work that has already been started in Iowa State University; Mrs. Gertrude S. Martin, director of the department of social morality, will discuss the plan of work for social health and Mrs. L. D. Stockham, director of the department of temperance literature, will have charge of the investigation on the educational program, presenting conferences, addresses.

Mrs. E. L. Collins, president Michigan W. C. T. U., Mrs. Ella Kent, of Indianapolis and Miss Helen Shedd, president Illinois W. C. T. U., will contribute to the program.

The object of these conferences is to spread information regarding the greatly extended program of work for the future and to set up new enthusiasm for the work under this new plan of activity. W. C. T. U. women from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota will be represented at this conference.

The Passing Show

DO you know why pretty girls

MARRY [illegible]

THAT any man who is good

TO a woman

WILL look down upon a girl

NO [illegible]

OUR [illegible]

THAT [illegible]

THAT [illegible]

WELL, [illegible]

BECOMING [illegible]

"EAT [illegible]" says Mr. Edison.

WE [illegible]

AS we [illegible]

VARIOUS [illegible]

NEARLY every [illegible]

USES [illegible]

RAGGEDY-LOOKING. [illegible]

THE [illegible]

SEE [illegible]

ALREADY [illegible]

ARE [illegible]

WE [illegible]

CANDIDATE [illegible]

BY [illegible]

TO [illegible]

WHEN [illegible]

A BEAR [illegible]

MAN [illegible]

ALL [illegible]

AS [illegible]

IN [illegible]

NAVY SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE SICKLY

[illegible]

DON'T SUFFER

[illegible] MELLEN

The [illegible] Materole

[illegible]

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HANK and PETE

HANK HAS A GOOD MEMORY — SOME TIMES

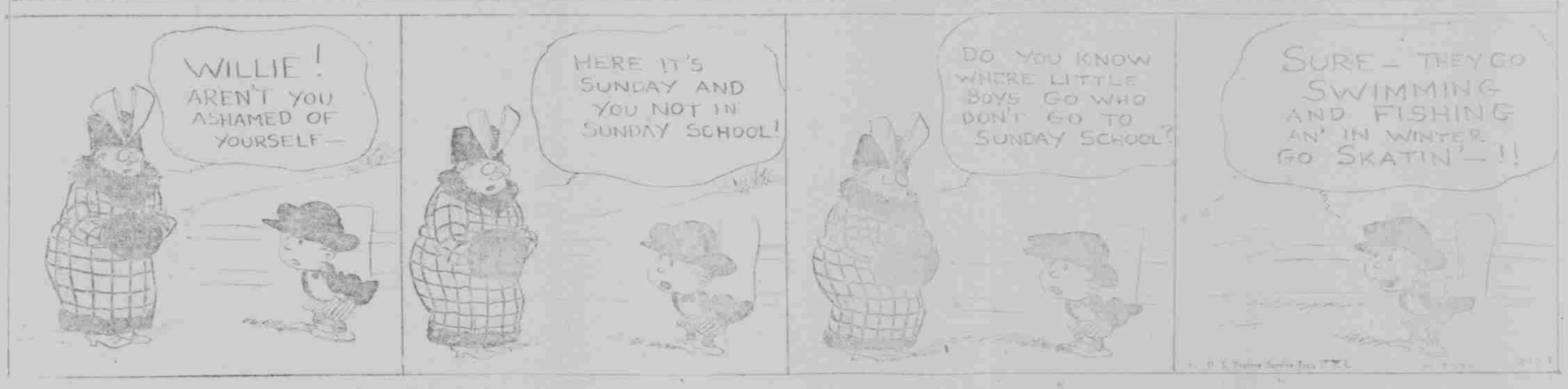
By KEN KLING

ASSORTED NUTS

Bringing Up Bill

HE KNOWS

A Task



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