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WORLD NEEDS TALKED OVER BY FARMERS

Agriculturists of County Have Wide Variety of Opinions on Economic and Political Conditions.

EXTRAVAGANCE NOTED

To obtain the opinion of farmers on a probable curtailment of crop production in 1920 and their views on agricultural conditions, the Palladium recently addressed a questionnaire to many agriculturists of this and adjacent counties.

Their replies, all of them worthy of intensive study, show a divergence of opinion on causes of the present situation, but all of them agree in the main that there is a wide margin between what the farmer received for his products and the price which the ultimate consumer pays for them.

Many farmers say if they curtailed working hours to a basis comparable with that used in cities, the production of crops would be cut to such a minimum that severe suffering would result.

Others point out that the manufacturer and merchant can add to the price of his products to meet increasing costs, but the farmer is forced to take the price which the middleman offers him for his product.

Some urge extreme economy by all classes, curtailment of federal expenses and cessation of extravagance.

The series of letters, which begins with today's issue, is loaded with material for thought.

SCOTT LICHETT—It is my opinion there will be a general curtailment of farm products this year, due to many reasons.

One reason is the labor question. It is getting difficult to hire a man to work on a farm because that man thinks he can get much better wages in town than he can on the farm. The factory owner can easily advance the wages and add it on to the product he sells, but the farmer can add nothing on the selling price; but just takes what the other fellow wants to give him for his wheat, corn and hogs.

Today a man working in a shop on the railroad without one dollar invested can make more money than lots of men on farms that have from three to five thousand dollars invested.

Another reason, we have too many middlemen, too many men that are not producers, get a big profit off of what someone else produced, making too much difference between the producer and the consumer. I am not planning to produce any more this year than in previous years, because I do not believe it will justify me to try to do so.

M. C. LINDSEY—I feel that the farmer has been made the goat, as usual. The cry has been, produce more, not taking into consideration the cost of production, or the price which we received for our produce, which was for less than the cost of production on some things, especially hogs and cattle and horses. In summing up the general issue, I think want of labor and cost of implements, will curtail the production in farming in 1920.

C. B. KEENE—In regard to the farmer, there is nothing for him these days. It is nearly all a game of chance. They fed their \$2 corn to their hogs last summer. Some one set the price of hogs so low in the fall that the farmers in Indiana alone lost thousands of dollars. Do you think they will stay in the hog business?

Our help has been drawn to the cities by real short hours and the good pay. At these short hours, will production even increase so we can buy a tool or a machine at a reasonable price? On the other hand, we are entitled to a six or eight hour day, or are we compelled to go the limit, 16 hours? If we take an eight hour day, as our city folks do, it will cut production about half. What will that mean to the consumer?

The farmer will raise what there is profit in for him to raise. If there is no money in one class of farming, he will cater to something more profitable. We have been raising the stuff, but we do not set the price. The other fellow does that. Give us a good profit and a square deal, and we will produce the goods.

GEORGE A. KELSEY—Considering the labor problem, the constant increase in price of farming implements, machinery and everything necessary to carry on the farm, while that which is produced is declining in market value, the present inefficient system of transportation and marketing of farm products and the unsettled condition of finance do not look encouraging for increased production of either grain or live stock at present. For relief cooperation and economy in all classes of business enterprise.

A. W. KERBER—The farmers are planning about normal production. It will be curtailed by labor being short. Increased cost of production coupled with expecting lower prices tend to discourage production. Conditions are the best they ever were at present, because there is more money among the people. However, there is unrest because the wise know it cannot last. The farmer knows because his productions are governed by supply and demand, they will be the first to drop. The people have money, the government is badly in debt. It is our government, therefore, our debt. We are really not far off than before the war, just filling ourselves. My remedy would be better economy among all classes, also better management of the government in regard to expenditure and care of public property.

LOUIS P. KLEIBER—I am planning to produce less in 1920 to some extent, in order to curtail expenses and not to get caught in the swing. The reason conditions are as they are, is first, because we cannot make an even exchange of our products for the manu-

Social Favorite



Lady Mary Cambridge

STIRRING ADDRESS BY ORBISON OPENS FATHER-SON WEEK

"Our ideal must be 100 per cent. Americanism, and Bolshevism and anarchism must go," said Judge Charles Orbison, of Indianapolis, in his address at the father and son mass meeting in the Grace M. E. church, Sunday afternoon. "The recently deported shipload of aliens, are but the forerunners of thousands that must go, and the law will only be safe when the fathers and sons of the country stand in a solid body behind it."

Fathers frequently forgot their obligations to their sons, and consider the latter only as chattels and slaves, while in reality the sons are not possessions of fathers, but of God, he declared.

"It is a crime," continued the judge, "to start boys to work at an early age, to have them assume the burden of family cares so that the selfish interests of the father can be gratified. Many promising careers, many bright young lives, many a youth has been spoiled merely because the father used the boy as a chattel and slave, and not as a holy duty imparted by God."

Confide in Boys.

"We need to be interested in the life of the boy, to make our lives part of the boy's life and act as counselor and companion instead of care of the household. Often the boy's heart hinders to confide in the father his troubles and cares, but is averted off by the stern, forbidding nature of the father. Often the boy would love to roam, hunt and be a part of the daily life of his dad."

"We also have to be humane to the boy, for often he will swerve from the straight and narrow path and unless the father stoops and helps the boy to his feet, he will continue on his path of degradation. It is a father's job to be a saviour at all times, to save even to the uttermost."

"Boy," continued Orbison, "do not often stop to think of the long periods of worry and care caused their parents of insistent demands. The boys never consider that often these demands take from the life of the parents. I do not think much of the boy that does not know how to work, who thinks that to wear expensive clothes and spend money given him by self-sacrificing parents is the real life. He will often realize when it is too late that was his actions that hastened the end of his father and mother."

Glee Club Gives Selections.

The Earlham Glee club, under the direction of R. C. Sloane, gave several vocal selections preceding the address. Cyril Pitts, a local boy, sang a solo. Carl Wolfe presided. The Rev. E. Howard Brown, of the East Main Street Friends' church, gave the invocation and the Rev. Isley made the closing prayer.

Father and son week comprises four principal events, the mass meeting Sunday, recreation day, Wednesday, father and son banquet, on Friday, and go-to-church Sunday, on Feb. 22.

Special gymnastic exercises by the Y classes will feature Wednesday's program. Special "stunt" swimming and inter-class games will be held. These will be under the direction of F. W. Harding, physical director, and Russell Crabbe, assistant director.

More than 300 reservations for the father and son banquet Friday night have been made with C. M. Beatty, boy's secretary. Accommodations for only 400 are available.

Special church and Sunday school services will be held in all Protestant churches of the city and county next Sunday, and pastors are looking for record attendances of fathers and sons. Services will be held by the young people's societies Sunday night.

ALLEYS TAKEN OUT OF SLICK'S HANDS

City Attorney Byram Robbins was instructed to notify F. E. Slick, trash contractor, and his bondsmen, that the city was going to begin the work of cleaning up the alleys of Richmond and that the bill would be charged against him and his sureties, at the board of works meeting, Monday.

The city is getting tired of the parleying of Slick and we propose to take the matter in our own hands," said a member of the board. "Slick has failed to clear the alleys of trash after repeated notifications, and steps of this sort were necessary."

Fire Trucks Held Up.

Members of the board said that the alleys were in the most deplorable condition that they were ever in and that it was practically impossible for fire trucks to get through many of the sidestreets and alleys. It was necessary for a fire truck to make three attempts to get through one alley Sunday in order to answer a call, it was stated.

Al Schneider, street commissioner, was ordered to get teams with which to clear the alleys and begin work as soon as possible.

Penny Through Columbus Held Up; Engines Frozen

(By Associated Press) COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 16.—Traffic over the Pennsylvania railroad lines through Columbus, had been restored to normal early this forenoon after a tie-up of several hours, said by railroad officials to have been due to 65 engines freezing up owing to cold weather. Officials denied the trouble had been caused by a strike of shopmen in the roundhouse last night as was first reported.

Extra crews, they stated, had been put to work early to thaw out the frozen engines and service was being rapidly restored.

Passenger trains from Columbus, O., passing through Richmond were still running from one half to one hour late Monday. Cold weather was given by railroad officials as the reason for delay. Sunday some of the trains were several hours behind schedule.

SHIPPING BOARD STEAMER WALLOWS HELPLESS AT SEA

(By Associated Press) BOSTON, Feb. 16.—The shipping board steamer Red Mountain, disabled and adrift in heavy gales, about 1,000 miles east of New York, expected assistance today from the steamship Elmsior, also a shipping board vessel, according to radio messages intercepted here. Captain Gott of the crippled steamer said the tubes in all three boilers had blown out and the vessel would have to be towed to Halifax for repairs. She was bound from Galveston to Havre.

State Secretary?



Newton D. Baker.

BIDS RECEIVED FOR SHIPS; OPPOSITION TO SALE DEVELOPS

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Despite protests voiced in the senate and elsewhere and court proceedings designed to stay the action, the shipping board today received bids for the 30 former German liners.

When the ships first were offered by groups in the services in which the board had planned originally to operate them, no bids were received, but spirited bidding developed later for individual vessels or selected groups to run in specified services.

While the bidding was in progress, these developments came:

Associate Justice Bailey of the district supreme court took under advisement the application of William Randolph Hearst, of New York, for an injunction to stop the sale of the vessels. He will give a decision Friday.

White house officials announced that President Wilson would inform the senate that there was "no basis" for reports that there was an agreement between the shipping board and British interests for the sale of the vessels. Information as to this report is asked in a resolution by Senator George D. Brewster, of Connecticut.

The senate again debated the sale, with Senators Ashurst and McKellar, Democrat, Tennessee, seeking to put the bill on record as opposing the sale.

Newton D. Baker, secretary of war since the resignation early in the war of Secretary Garrison, may be offered the portfolio of secretary of state, left vacant by the resignation of Robert Lansing. Baker is known to be a favorite with President Wilson and the chief executive may, for this reason, ask Baker to take charge of the state department and adjust matters pending there to the president's satisfaction.

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Call for assistance were made to nearby towns, but none of the appeals were answered. Neighbors and members of the congregation formed a bucket brigade, but this proved ineffective against the flames, which were fanned by high winds.

The fire was first noticed by persons living near the church, who saw smoke pouring from the windows. Efforts were made to remove some of the furniture and books from the structure, but the dense smoke that filled the entire building made this impossible. Only a few chairs from the rear of the building were saved.

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