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AUGUST 11, 1919.

## BOYCOTTS AS AN H. C. L. REMEDY.

We cannot quite agree with the attorney general of Ohio on his solution of the high cost of living problem, looking as it does, too much like public officials wanting to shirk their duty, while asking the people to take up their responsibilities and execute them in some other way. Discussing the cost of commodities, he seems to think favorably of the boycott as a remedy.

"If the prices are a result of combinations we can break them up if evidence can be gathered; but if due to normal causes, then a club in the hands of the public would accomplish more than all the officials could accomplish.

If the entire country should refrain for a time from eating meat, I believe that prices would tumble without further regulation."

He recommends the application of the same principle to other commodities, particularly in the form of the "meatless," "wheatless" and other "less" days familiar in the war.

No doubt it would work that way, and the public may be expected to boycott various lines of food-stuff if it becomes necessary, but that remedy is surely uncalled for except as a last resort.

The "less" days of war-time were meant not as a club for profiteers but as a patriotic device for food-saving. Authorities agree that, generally speaking, there is enough food now. It is simply a question of getting it distributed at fair prices. The way to do it is not for consumers to go without the things they need, but for the purchasing public through its influence and officials through their public authority to make producers, manufacturers, middlemen and dealers go without their unjust profits.

## TAKE A VACATION.

There has probably never been a time when for the average family vacations seemed so impossible. When the every-day expenses are so heavy, the natural tendency is to give up anything which can possibly be construed as an unnecessary expenditure of money with the words, "I can't afford it."

Actually, for most people, the thing they cannot afford to do this year is to give up their vacations. There is no person of mature years but has suffered a tremendous strain upon body and mind in the past four years, and in this country especially during the last two years.

For such strain as this, Nature exacts a heavy toll. Fatigue may not show itself in a conscious feeling of weariness. It may take the form of over-excitement, of extreme activity, or of irritability. The expression is heard on every hand that things are near the breaking-point. And so they are, largely from fatigue.

The wise man will say, "I am tired. If I had selected any piece of machinery to the strain of over-use, without proper repairs, to which I have subjected myself, it would have to go to the shop for an overhauling or it would break down completely." Thereupon he will take a vacation himself, realizing that the woods or the streams or the seashore or a motor tour will do his body what the shop does for his machinery, and that after such session he will resume his work with increased efficiency.

Take a vacation! It will not prove half so costly as nature's bill if you do not.

## CONGRESS STILL ON THE JOB.

Yes, Teresa, congress is still on the job, even to the lower house of congress, has given up its wanted five weeks of vacation—to deal with the problem now coming to a focus: the high cost of living.

It is a sort of "rubber stamp" process that has kept congress in session; "rubber stamp" because the house seems to lack the gumption to be anything else. Anti-administrationists screamed, yes awfully, last fall, because, as they said, the executive was habitually usurping the functions of the legislative department of the government, by insisting upon things it should do and whipping it into line. Evidently without such insistence and leadership, even with an anti-administration majority, the house lacks the gumption to move. Accordingly the president has at last taken a hand, and the high cost of living problem is up for solution.

At present this matter is receiving more consideration by the public, by the press and by most public authorities, than the peace treaty. And certainly it is essential that the food-cost problem, so long neglected, should be dealt with intelligently and earnestly without any more delay.

Congress thus far may fairly be said to have idled. Starting in last spring with an ambitious and praiseworthy outline of recommendations from the president, it has done little more than pass the necessary appropriation measures held over from the last session. Scarcely one of the comprehensive plans contemplated for taking care of the returning soldiers, promoting agriculture, easing the industrial and financial situation and getting the nation generally back from a war to a peace basis, has

been put through. The food problem particularly has been ignored.

The house has not had the excuse of the senate—and until recently it has been an "excuse" only—that its time was demanded by the peace treaty. That matter is technically none of the business of the house. Its function is to attend to the more strictly domestic problems of the nation. Certainly it can find plenty to do along that line in the way of reconstructive measures, and particularly in the way of straightening out the tangled question of distributing a bountiful food supply promptly, efficiently and at reasonable prices.

Did you ever stop to think of it, when men talk about "rubber stamp" congresses, that they could scarcely serve the purpose if the application were not well made?

## H. C. L. AND CHILDREN.

A statement issued by the Children's bureau of the department of labor declares that 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 American children are not getting enough to eat because their parents are not able on their present incomes to buy proper food in sufficient quantities.

In school such children are likely to be pronounced "lazy" or "delicate" or "ailing" or "indifferent," when the trouble is simply under-nourishment. Feed them, and they would be well behaved and would make as good progress as the others.

The number in this class is estimated at 15 to 25 percent of the nation's school children.

Here is an angle of the cost of living to which little attention has been given. While thinking of the hardships of the parents, people have given small heed to the growing boys and girls on whom the cost of food bears most heavily.

Their elders can generally get along somehow. The youngsters, without proper food, cannot grow physically or mentally. They suffer particularly because, as food prices rise, the things they need tend to cost most, and parents tend, naturally enough, to buy the cheaper, less nourishing, less easily digested foods. The children miss good bread, butter, milk, eggs and meat. Too often they eat, as regular fare, coarse bread without butter, and tough, salty meat and fish, with scarcely any milk and eggs at all.

The first essential of a healthy, vigorous nation is well-fed children. Any revision or regulation of the food industry is bound to take that into account.

## REFORMATORY HONOR.

Kansas has recently been the scene of an interesting demonstration of successful "square dealing" with reformatory inmates, and their "square" response.

The labor shortage in the Kansas harvest fields became so acute that the state board of administration of charitable, penal and other institutions determined to allow boys and young men from the state reformatory to go out as harvest hands. These youths, all under 25 years old, were given the privilege of retaining all their earnings in the fields and of taking other jobs as fast as one was finished. The only request made of them was that they work honestly and faithfully and return to the reformatory when the harvest season was ended, or when the pressure for extra men was relieved.

Three hundred of them went out to harvesting jobs. It was announced not long ago that every one of them had returned quietly and voluntarily to the reformatory.

In Kansas, malefactors under 25 years old are not sent to the reformatory where they are taught farming or various trades and fitted to hold honorable positions among their fellow men. When their term of sentence is over they are placed in jobs for which they are qualified.

It is an enlightened system, one great proof of whose value is the way in which these boys returned to the institution after their period of freedom. Trust, respect and honest labor cure many human ills.

A British aviation expert prophesies "flivver airplanes" within a few years which the poor workingman can buy for \$500. Very likely he will fly to work in that flivver, and park it on the factory roof.

There must be something wrong with grown-ups. Do you hear any of the kids around the neighborhood complaining about the heat?

Bring Hoover back home and put him on the food job.

## Other Editors Than Ours

## MEAT PRICES.

(New York World.)

Writing to Clarence Ousley, acting secretary of agriculture; Louis E. Swift, head of the Chicago packing house, says:

"Prices of good and choice beef cattle on foot at Chicago have declined about \$4 per hundredweight, or nearly 25 percent, since March 1, while lower grade beef cattle have declined as much as 15 percent."

During the same period wholesale dressed beef prices show on the average approximately a corresponding percentage of decrease, which varies, however, in different cities from about 15 percent to 30 percent.

He avers further that the profits from by-products are not concealed, and that except for three weeks from January to July Swift & Co. have lost money on their dressed beef business ranging from \$1.50 to \$7 per head of cattle purchased.

The mystery in the increased cost of all animal products therefore becomes deeper. If hides, tallow and fertilizer earn a bare sufficiency to save the packers from bankruptcy, who is getting the enormous sums paid by the public in increased prices for table and footgear? Is a retail conspiracy to vast and efficient really possible?

## CRIME TO BE PUNISHED.

(Gary Post.)

Murder and crime are to be punished just the same in Chicago whether there are race riots or not. That seems to be the understanding of Judge Crowe. Those who shot and killed people, those who threatened, those who attacked, those who conspired, all are liable to indictment and to punishment according to the magnitude of their crimes. People who have no more sense than to think they can go man-hunting will be taught a lesson that will last them the balance of their lives.

Atty. Gen. Brundage predicts the sternest justice ever seen in Illinois. Some men and even women are likely to be hanged. More than 20 people, several murderers, have already been indicted. Man-hunting is to be made a dangerous pastime. People are to be taught by a stern example to attend to their own business and that hunting men of another color is to be a poor trade. It is a pity that it requires a few high executions by the state to teach people what ought to be obvious to everybody.

## More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

## WORK.

No sounding sense or radiant beauty

Or inspiration could I see

In Mr. Wordsworth's ode to duty.

For duty sounds like work to me.

And work is just continual hustle.

A dreary exercise, designed

To wear away a fellow's muscle.

And mind.

I know some men who swear they love it,

Whose rapturous phrases fairly glow

When they declare the doing of it

Is all the joy they ever know.

No batting eyelash I've detected

When idleness they have decried,

But, notwithstanding, I've suspected

They lied.

To work, when other men are taking

Their idle ease seems rather queer,

It looks to me a lot like making

A dreadful mess of one's career.

I notice Wordsworth didn't do it.

Though loafing, he maintained, was wrong,

The fellow's life had nothing to it

But song!

I work myself because I've got to,

To pay the rent and butcher bill,

My doctor will not tell me not to

Though very often I feel ill.

I work to stock the household larder,

I'd be a lazy, idling oaf,

I know, excepting it is harder

To loaf!

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## The Tower of Babel

By Bill Armstrong

We notice where a man with lumber

bago in Mishawaka was suspected of being a bootlegger.

The above paragraph is inserted for the general edification of the trade and for the enlightenment particularly of Mr. L. Greenan.

## OH, DEATH WHERE IS THY STING?

We had been riding Ed Bonds of the Central Union in our customary genial way about the telephone service, and Ed brings an add into us to run in the paper—and we forgo to run it! Ed then promptly calls us up and complains of the service he is getting. Can you beat it?

We notice that \$500 furs have now been marked down to \$425 and you can get a fairly nice fur outfit for around \$1,000, OH, MINN!

A cloud of dust passing through a Pennsylvania town was discovered to be Frank J. Herles on tour, when the wind changed suddenly.

A motorcyclist isn't such an important individual but he can interfere with another's happiness once in awhile. We noticed Tom Brandon walking along Main st. today

Bill Nichols passed through Utah the other morning. Constables and deputy sheriffs have been trying to get a line on him as a result. Nichols has been racing with the Rocky

The man that gets busy these days of aeroplanes and invents a collar that you can lay your head down in at about the same angle as the back of a steamer chair, is going to make a fortune.

Harrington is going to Washington to round up a bunch of army corn-willy to bring back here to sell.

All right Harr, go ahead, but as one friend to another we advise you not to eat any of it yourself.

Nels Jones, within the next few days, is going to lay aside his tape measure for awhile and go up in the north woods with a bunch of his cousins. We expect to read of plans for augmenting the Canadian international police force pretty soon now.

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