

# YORKVILLE ENQUIRER.

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## IEWS AND INTERVIEWS

Brief Local Paragraphs of More or Less Interest.

### PICKED UP BY ENQUIRER REPORTERS

Stories Concerning Folks and Things, Some of Which You Know and Some You Don't Know—Condensed for Quick Reading.

"Caught six big rats in a trap this afternoon," remarked W. Mason McConnell of the McConnell Dry Goods Company. "The block of store buildings on Main street is literally infested with rats who do a great amount of damage. Looking up on some of the top shelves in my store the other day I found a great heap of salts evidently carried there by rats from the Mackorell Drug Company next door. They go from one store to another helping themselves to whatever articles of merchandise that chance to suit their fancy."

#### Gasoline Too High.

"Yes, the price of gasoline is too high—away too high," said the other day a dealer in gasoline who was discussing the matter. "The retail price is 32 cents in Yorkville. The retailers make no more profit at that price than they did when it was 25 cents and the wholesalers don't either. If this strike continues it will probably go higher. But really it is too high and although I make my living selling gasoline I would like to see the motorists and others who use gasoline go on a protest strike. If such a movement were inaugurated over the country the price would come down."

#### Would Attract Big Crowd.

"Now if the management of Shelby, Gastonia, King's Mountain or some of the other semi-professional baseball teams now operating in North Carolina, were real smart, they would make arrangements for a game in Yorkville next Wednesday, the day of the Filbert picnic," said one this morning. "There is no doubt but what there is going to be a vast crowd of people at Filbert. Most of them haven't seen a game of baseball in so long that they would be keen to pay the price of admission. It would prove a profitable feature all around."

#### Local Coal Shortage.

There is no coal in the hands of the dealers in Yorkville and there are few citizens of the town who have as much as a ton on hand with little or no prospect of getting any in the near future. "Conditions are really serious here," said Harry E. Nell, president of The Yorkville Cotton Oil Company in discussing the situation the other day. "We have no coal on our yards nor have we any idea when we will have any. If one could buy at the mines now there is no telling when it might be delivered. The mines have little for sale. In past years my office has been visited each spring and summer by numerous representatives of coal concerns. I don't think one has been around in the past three months." W. W. Ferguson of Ferguson & Youngblood and J. F. Carroll who also handle coal said the other day that they did not have any on hand and did not know that they would be able to supply the trade this fall.

#### The Country Store.

"Now if those women who propose to establish a curb market or country store in Yorkville want to stay in business," said a Yorkville grocer yesterday, "they must remember that they must classify the produce that they have for sale. For instance, there are tomatoes and other tomatoes—big tomatoes, little tomatoes and knobby tomatoes. A person does not mind paying a good price for good tomatoes, but he doesn't want to pay a big price for all sorts of tomatoes. The same rule applies to other produce. The ladies should keep this matter in mind. If they will offer good produce they need not worry about getting a good price. They can get as good price here for produce as they can in Rock Hill, Gastonia or Charlotte. And I for one wish the country store might well."

"We are going to use the porch of the Old Rose Hotel building as a place for the market for the present at least," said Wednesday Mrs. W. D. Glenn of Yorkville, who is one of the local ladies who are interested in the success of the country store. "Mr. F. E. Moore of the Logan Lumber Yard has tendered us the use of some lumber for tables upon which produce offered for sale will be put. I have done considerable campaigning among ladies of the town relative to the market and I am hopeful that there will be large numbers of them to visit the market Saturday."

#### Learn a Little.

1. In how many states is coal mined? Bituminous coal is mined in twenty-eight states; anthracite in only one, Pennsylvania.
2. Who founded the state of Georgia? James Edward Oglethorpe, an English soldier, reformer and colonist, as a refuge for Englishmen who had been sentenced to the debtors' prison.
3. What is acoustics? The science of sound; the study of the cause and the phenomena of the vibrations which affect the ear; in other words the study of the manner in which sound is produced and its transmission through the air.
4. What country has put a ban on

the circulation of matter printed in Hebrew characters? Hungary.

5. Give five synonyms for salve. Help, remedy, corrective, antidote, healing ointment.

6. What nonsensical song spread over the whole country in 1870? "Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me." It was a walk around with minstrel companies, but became so popular it was taken up by all singers.

7. How many pounds does a barrel of flour weigh? 196 pounds.

8. Why do silver spoons turn black when we use them to eat eggs? Because eggs have in them compounds of sulphur which attack the silver on the spoon and combine with it to form a black coating called silver sulphide.

9. Who was granted the first patent for the air brake? For the invention of the ice making machine? George Westinghouse in 1869. John Carrie, of New Orleans, in 1851.

10. What nation owns the rock of Gibraltar? Where is it located? Great Britain. In the province of Andalusia, Spain, at the entrance to the Mediterranean.

#### Communication from B. Weevil.

Views & Interviews, Sir:—Although I am the greatest of the cotton pests I am a sport along with it and I am sounding a warning to the farmers of this section. If they go to sleep now because they might believe I am sleeping, they are going to find along about the middle of the month of August that I am much livelier than the state or county political campaigns. Their best chance to beat me is by continuous plowing and picking up cotton squares that have fallen to the ground. There's really little use to poison me. They could poison me with that gas that the boys used in France and had used against them by the Germans; but really that wouldn't be worth while because the cotton couldn't stand it either. The molasses mixture over which Dave Coker and Clemson College jugologists are rowing would get me if you could drench me with it; but I desire to call your attention to the fact that farmers in Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia tried it and quit.

"The best way to beat me is by picking up squares as I have said and by looking for me in the white flowers. I know it will require a lot of work on the part of the farmers to do this; but it is their only chance.

"If they will follow this plan consistently they will check me considerably; if they don't I am going to get practically the whole crop whereas otherwise they'll get part of it. Remember they can't completely exterminate me. I refuse to be exterminated. Like taxes, each year I am with you from now on. The only way to beat me in future is to reduce acreage and by cultivating food crops. Farmers might not handle so much money; but if they will live at home and raise cotton simply as a surplus they will have more profit and much better peace of mind. I'm a blessing in disguise and it may be that some of these days a monument in my honor will be built right here in York county as was done in Alabama some years ago.

"In conclusion I would again remind the farmers of this section:

You needn't cuss and  
Tear your hair  
Froth at the mouth  
And rend the air.

Nor get moonshined up  
And say you don't care.  
Your only chance to get me  
Is in the square.

Yours truly,  
B. WEEVIL."

#### CAKE FOR LADDIE BOY.

But President's Dog Would Have Much Preferred a Bone.

Much preferring a bone—if the truth were known—Laddie Boy, the president's dog, received a birthday cake this week from his old man at Toledo, along with a letter telling of the continued good luck of the family.

Packed in a box shaped like a regulation dog house, the cake, made of dog biscuit material suitable for a high brow dog's digestion, was delivered to the White House by express messengers. It was not delayed by the rail strike and got there in time for Laddie Boy's birthday, which was Wednesday. It was not to be opened until then, and meanwhile invitations were to go out to some of Laddie Boy's friends of equal social rank to hop over and have a bite.

There were snap shots too, of Laddie Boy's mother, his sister Lili, who is getting along toward her high school days, his brother Bob, who has a job in New York, and little Dick, the baby, born after Tintern Tip Top, Laddie Boy's old man, sent him here as a pal and friend of the president. But the picture Laddie Boy seemed to like best was his daddy, an upstanding gent, built on the Laddie Boy lines, and Bob whom for a night he sometimes whines.

—The Standard Oil company of California on Tuesday announced a reduction in price of all grades of crude oil, at the wells, of 25 cents a barrel. The company also announced a temporary discontinuance of its practice of contracting for the purchase of crude oil. The reduction was the second within ten days, the former one also being of 25 cents. Excess of production over consumption was the reason for both reductions.

## READY FOR 'EM

Filbert Folk Are All Set for the Big Political Pow-wow.

### GATHERING TO BE NEXT WEDNESDAY

Congressman Stevenson Has Picked the Shadiest Place to Eat Fried Chicken—Unusually Large Stand Being Built for Speakers—Political Interest Is Unusually Keen This Year and Folks Anxious to Hear Something Besides Boll Weevil Talk for a Day.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)  
Filbert, July 28.—"We're ready for 'em and the more folks that come the better we'll be pleased," was the reply of a prominent Filbert citizen this morning when he was asked if all was set for the big Filbert picnic which is to be held Wednesday, August 2, in Pursley's grove, instead of at Yorkville, the regular meeting place fixed by the state Democratic executive committee for that day.

And all is set for the picnic so far as the grounds are concerned. The little grove of tall pines by the side of Lee Pursley's house, where the speaking is to be held, is as clear of underbrush as a hound's tooth and there's not the slightest danger of snakes, although if anybody should happen to be bitten there would doubtless be plenty of 'shine around with which to dose the fortunate or unfortunate one, as the victim might think. W. L. Pursley, J. A. Carroll, J. Q. Hall, W. E. Land, W. N. Biggers, and E. L. Wood, who are a sort of committee looking after arrangements, propose to build a platform 16x24 feet in the middle of the grove between now and Monday night and they calculate that will furnish plenty of floor space for speakers, newspaper reporters and other folks who want to be close up. An effort will be made to have the Tirzah band present to furnish the "um-ta-ta" stuff between speeches.

The word has been passed to the housewives to come with well filled baskets. The chicken crop has been unusually good this year and there are plenty of hams hanging in York county smokehouses, as well as an abundance of other picnic fare.

#### Sure of a Good Dinner.

There is no necessity to speculate over the proposition of whether or not there will be plenty to eat for everybody. There always has been and always will be. Congressman William F. Stevenson of the Fifth South Carolina, who has been down in the "deestric" for a few days shaking hands with the folks, on his way to Clover Wednesday afternoon stopped at Filbert to speak to the folks and inquire about the picnic. Although on the other side of the political fence "Seaboard Bill," as the Filbert folks call the congressman, is about as popular with them as is Cole Bease. "As notice the grove has been cleared out somewhat since the last picnic," Congressman Stevenson told some of the boys hanging around the store, "and I just came up to look for the shadiest spot to eat dinner on picnic day." He was assured that he could have the shadiest spot around and that there would be plenty of dinner for him.

#### Certain of Big Crowd.

Filbert folks believe that the picnic next Wednesday is going to draw the largest crowd that Filbert has entertained at a picnic in years. Numbers of people in North and South Carolina counties for a hundred miles around, have written to friends and acquaintances here that they are surely coming to Filbert this year. Sam Smith, who is mayor of Filbert, is determined that good order is maintained and Mayor Smith is going to have enough constables to do it. Most of the police officers in the county from the high sheriff down, will be at Filbert anyhow on their own account and there is no question about maintaining order. The biggest trouble will be relative to automobile traffic, since hundreds of automobiles will be packed about all over the village.

#### Keen For It.

"We are especially keen for the picnic Wednesday and we want the day to hurry around," explained a Filbert citizen this morning. "There has been so much talk about the boll weevil and all that sort of thing that we are just naturally sick of it and want a change of conversation for a spell. "It's been a good while now since Coley has been up this way and there's a lot of us who will be powerful glad to see him after such a long spell. And then there are lots of folks who want to hear Bill Stevenson ball out the Republican party again and tell us what the Democrats are doing.

"Then there are some of us who want to see that fellow Duncan. We notice that the daily press of the state is giving a powerful lot of space about what he has to say in this campaign, especially if he says anything against Coley. He must have grown considerably in influence and power since it used to be little was heard about him. Of course the big majority of us are not going to pay any attention to what he says and are going on and vote for Coley anyway; but we want to hear him.

Respectful Hearing for All.  
"One thing is certain," this Filbert politician went on to say, "there's going to be a respectful hearing given to every candidate regardless of his political views. There have been times

when folks acted a little rough at Filbert; but that was when there was a heap more liquor than there is now. "Of course there will be a little liquor at the picnic I reckon," said the speaker, digressing to the subject of booze. "In fact I have a quart of real moonshine—what I am talking about is real moonshine, stowed away in a hollow stump not far away with directions on the bottle—not to be opened until picnic day."

#### Unusually Large Enrollment.

Enrollment of voters at Filbert for the primary election proves conclusively that there is more political interest at Filbert this year than usual. When the enrollment books closed last Tuesday there was a total of 213 names thereon. The largest enrollment heretofore was about 125. Of the number enrolled this year 86 are women and as a Filbert man put it the other day: "Every darn one of them is going to vote this time for to see how it is done."

#### Started 22 Years Ago.

The first political picnic at Filbert was held in 1900. Thompson McAbee well remembers. He and his wife and their eldest boy now grown to manhood were there. The boy was in swaddling clothes then. After the dinner hour a drunk man came around Mr. McAbee with the statement that he was hungry and hadn't had any dinner. A basket filled with clothing for the baby was lying nearby and the drunk, thinking there was something to eat in the basket, began pulling out the baby things. Finally the drunk realized he was in a baby basket and not in a dinner basket. McAbee recalls that was nearly twenty-two years ago.

Another Filbert man recalls that twenty years ago or thereabouts the late Senator Ben Tillman spoke at Filbert. The boys were as strong or stronger for Tillman in that day than they are for Bease now. While Tillman was speaking one of his friends, very much under the influence of liquor stood on the ground in front of the speaker's stand and yelled at one-minute intervals:

"Hurrah for ole Ben Tillman; hurrah for ole Ben Tillman!"

While Tillman possessed a good voice, his lung power was nothing compared to that of his ardent admirer whose lungs were re-inforced by liberal doses of corn liquor.

Tillman took in the situation in a moment and realized that he must deal harshly with his over-enthusiastic supporter or surrender the platform to him. Just as another yell of "Hurrah for ole Ben Tillman," came from the booze-hound, Tillman leaned over in his direction and with his hands to his mouth yelled at the top of his voice:

"Shet up you d-d yap."

The emphatic Tillmanian sobbed in a moment while the crowd yelled. He ducked under the stand and took to the bushes while Tillman resumed his speech as though nothing had happened.

#### An All Day Affair.

The picnic next Wednesday will very likely be an all day affair. Some of the county candidates will want to have an inning after the state candidates conclude. There will be an intermission of an hour and a half for dinner and the meeting will have to be conducted strictly in accordance with time rules in order to accommodate all.

But Filbert folks are all set and "ready for 'em."

### RUBY AS A TALISMAN.

Peculiar Superstitions Connected With Precious Stone in India.

The ruby is most highly prized among precious stones because of its supposed talismanic power. The Hindus placed it before all other gems. One of its names in Sanskrit was interpreted as "king of precious stones."

It was the belief of the Hindus that an extinguishable flame burned in the ruby and that the wearing of the stone would preserve one from all bodily and mental evil. Even in England in the fourteenth century it was believed by many that the ruby had power to preserve the wearer from perils such as injury by tempests and that this good effect was more surely secured if the stone was worn in a ring or bracelet on the left hand.

A peculiar superstition connected with the ruby in Burma, where the finest specimens are found, is that a ruby inserted in the flesh will render the owner invulnerable in war.

In the early centuries it was believed that some special sign should be engraved on a given stone. From an old list of these symbolic signs it appears that the "beautiful and terrible figure of a dragon" engraved on a ruby would give that stone the power to augment the goods of this world and the blessings of joy and health.

Hindu writings, both ancient and modern, give expression to the belief that treasures offered to the images or shrines of the gods will bring good fortune to the donor. In one of these ancient books is the saying: "He who worships Krishna with rubies will be reborn as a powerful emperor; if with a small ruby, he will be born a king."

A Delaware man has invented a trouser creaser of such efficiency that the customer can have the operation performed without taking the trouble to divest himself of his trousers. A modification of the device creases the arms of a coat, making it possible for a man to have his entire suit pressed on him.

## CLOVER NEWS BUDGET

Carload of Sheep Consigned to Bethel Men Arrived Last Wednesday.

### ENROLLMENT LARGER THAN EXPECTED

Congressman Stevenson a Visitor—Former Senator Beamguard Throws His Hat Into the Ring—"Fats" Rolled Over the "Leans"—Other News Notes of the Metropolis of Northern York County.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)  
Clover, July 27.—Looking famished and hungry, gaunt and emaciated, the first carload of sheep ever shipped to Bethel arrived here Wednesday. They were consigned to Messrs. John M. Ford and A. C. Barnett of Bethel township and soon after their arrival, P. D. Hopper's automobile truck was commissioned to carry the flock—147 in all—down into the pasture land in Bethel township where they will be fattened prior to being sold for mutton. The sheep were shipped from Conway, Horry county, S. C., their former owner desiring to sell them because of the passing of the free range law in that county. The flock was six days in transit from Conway and judging from their appearance when they reached Clover, little or no trouble had been gone to by the railroad people in furnishing them with food and drink. Two died in transit. The sheep were shipped in an ordinary box car, provided temporarily with an upper floor, half of them traveling in the top floor and the others on the bottom floor. The car of sheep attracted much attention from Clover people and there were large numbers of people who came around the car to watch them being unloaded. It is the intention of the owners to sell most of the sheep for mutton, although it is likely that a few will be kept for breeding purposes. Mutton is said to be in much demand in Gastonia and Charlotte especially, and the owners of the flock expect to sell a good many of them at those two markets.

#### Stevenson a Visitor.

Congressman W. F. Stevenson was a visitor in Clover on Wednesday, having come up for a few hours to mix with the folks. It was his first visit to Clover in quite a long time and he found much pleasure in meeting his many friends and acquaintances here. Mr. Stevenson was one of the interested spectators in attendance upon the baseball game between the "Fats" and "Leans" in Clover, Wednesday afternoon.

#### Enrollment Ran High.

Clover's enrollment for the primary election in August reached a total of 538 when the books closed on July 25. This exceeded the expectations of local people, since nobody seemed to have any idea that it would go beyond 500 and some doubt had been expressed that it would reach that figure. The book shows that a total of 135 women of Clover and vicinity signed the club rolls.

#### Beamguard for House.

A political announcement of considerable interest, which came this week is that of former State Senator James E. Beamguard as a candidate for the house of representatives. It had been talked for some time had friends of ex-Senator Beamguard had been urging him to enter the race for the house, but not until Wednesday did he finally make up his mind to throw his hat into the ring. Senator Beamguard is one of the best known public men in York county. He represented York county in the senate for eight years, declining three years ago to seek reelection. Prior to being elected to the senate he served in the house of representatives from York county. He is well known not only throughout the county, but the state, and his friends are confident that he will prove a formidable candidate for the house now that he has expressed his willingness to come back. For some time past Senator Beamguard has been devoting his time wholly to his farming interests.

#### "Fats" and "Leans" Play Ball.

The "Fats" rolled all over the "Leans" by a score of 24 to 11, in a benefit baseball game for the Clover School Improvement association here Wednesday afternoon at Hawthorn Park. There was a big crowd of Clover baseball fans and fanettes out for the game, which furnished much amusement for them. Big Dee Ford, Clover High school lad of about 17 years, who weighs considerably over 200, pitched the game for the "Fats," and the "Leans" couldn't do a thing with his rilly-polly delivery. It's true Lester Parrish, catcher for the "Leans," did get a home run off his delivery, but it was a sort of fluke home run. Parrish knocked the ball to the left field, where it went under a plank. Big Thad Clinton, star fielder for the "Fats," who weighs a little under 300, made a dive for the ball; but because of the excess baggage he carries couldn't get his hands on it until the lean Parrish had made the circuit. Thad's alibi was that he didn't know the ball was going to run under a plank.

Big "Jake" Jackson, chief of police of Clover, who is also qualified in the 300 pound heavyweights, shook a wicked hoof as he chased flies in center field. The big chief hit the ball hard when he came to bat and he sailed down the first base line just like he would chase a bootlegger with a gallon

of monkey rum, stopping on the sack when he made it successfully to blow and puff like a C. & N.-W freight engine does sometimes when pulling a heavy load up the grade south of Clover.

Jim Page, playing second base for the "Fats" looked for all the world like "Mugsy" McGraw of the New York Giants, as he cavorted around the key-stone sack with the grace of a cow or something. He hit the old apple for a safe single a couple of times and played a good conservative game, characteristic of a good banker.

Dr. Harry Niell, Marshall Barnett, Jim Barrett, Bill Allison and Ralph Webber were among the stars for the "Leans," but unfortunately few of the lanky ones could hit the pill. No attempt was made to record all the hits and errors; since such would have been well nigh impossible. Dennis Parrish and Lacey Parrish umpired the entertainment. The line-ups were as follows: Fats—George Hagins, c; Dee Ford, p; Dr. M. B. Niell, 1b; James A. Page, 2b; D. Westmoreland, ss; Gray McElwee, 3b; Thad Clinton, lf; Jake Jackson, cf; G. Nolan, rf. Leans—Lester Parrish, c; Marshall Barnett, p; Jim Barrett, 1b; Frank McElwee, 2b; Dr. Harry Niell, 3b; Bill Allison, ss; Ralph Webber, lf; Carl Knox, cf; Boyce Paulkner, rf.

#### Battleground a Wilderness.

Unless lovers of Revolutionary history or others interested take the lead in clearing the grounds, it is soon going to be impossible to visit historic King's Mountain Battleground, in the opinion of Dr. C. L. Wooten of Clover who with a party recently visited the battleground, which is about fifteen miles west of Clover. Dr. Wooten said that his party had a hard task of it in reaching the several monuments because of the great quantity of weeds, briars and brambles which infest the place. "It is a veritable wilderness," he said. "The undergrowth is thick and the roads leading up to the battleground are in horrible condition. The iron fence around the great monument is rusting badly and the whole place is in a bad state, and not the least bit attractive so far as appearance is concerned."

#### Bids Being Received.

M. L. Smith, general manager of the Hawthorn Spinning Mill and the Hampshire Mill to be erected, said Wednesday that bids were being received from contractors for the building of the Hampshire Mill and that construction work would likely be under way within a short time.

### INTERVIEWING JOHN D.

Newspaper Reporters Say Task Is Impossible One Now.

Is John D. Rockefeller, passing the Indian summer of his life on his vast estate in the Poconto hills, at last letting down the barriers he has always raised against photographers and reporters?

This is a question which has been interesting the newspaper profession ever since the world's richest man, on a recent Sunday at Tarrytown, N. Y., permitted camera men to snap him to their heart's content after they had consented to follow him into church for service.

Mr. Rockefeller, who bears the reputation of being one of the most camera-shy men in America, may be becoming more lenient in his attitude toward photographers, but as yet he has given no indication of taking reporters into his confidence.

An effort to interview Mr. Rockefeller on the recent occasion of his 84th birthday anniversary—made as usual through a third party representing the household—brought the response "Impossible." As no reports have as yet succeeded in storming the well-guarded gates of the Rockefeller home, the modern Croesus goes un-interviewed.

Even to his fellow townsmen the little man, slight of frame, who appears in midsummer in leather waistcoat, overcoat and muffler, is very much of an enigma.

Tarrytown points out to each visitor the home of John D. Rockefeller, urges the visitor to go up and see where Rockefeller lives, talks constantly about Rockefeller—but rarely sees him himself.

Very seldom do Tarrytowners get inside of the gates which guard the big home back in the hills. Once in awhile they see John D. come down town and sit in his machine while a chauffeur goes into a bank or store—but Tarrytown almost never talks to its richest citizen. He comes and goes—there is excitement while he is down town, and discussion afterwards. And that is all of Tarrytown's claim on its most famous citizen.

Ever since the oil king celebrated his 84th birthday, Tarrytown has been seething over the question of who is its oldest citizen. There is no question as to the most famous.

An ancient who sits in front of the big hardware store, just around the corner from the station, concedes first place to John D. The ancient admits he is only 83.

But an Italian has asserted his grandfather is 88—and there is a farmer who lays claim to 90. Still, even in the face of odds, Tarrytown stands loyally behind its prominent citizen, and announces to the world that it's oldest citizen today is none other than the man who made oil famous.

But the town maintains that Mr. Rockefeller is still a youngster in spirits.

## HARDING SOUNDS WARNING

Workers Advised to Return to Their Jobs.

### GRIEVANCES TO BE CONSIDERED

President Denies That Government is Trying to Put American Labor Under the Gun; But Says That the Military Will be Used to Prevent Violence.

Washington, July 26.—Responsibility for further interference with transportation and with production of vitally needed coal was placed upon striking railroad employes and miners today by President Harding in again suggesting that they return to work under conditions already suggested by him while the reasonableness of their demands were being threshed out by the agencies set up for that purpose.

Replying to a telegram sent him by J. Cleave Dean, chairman of the Railway Employers' Publicity association, Chattanooga, Tenn., charging that the administration was "attempting to put American labor under the gun," by its policy toward the industrial disturbance, Mr. Harding said:

"President Harding Makes Reply. "Since you speak as chairman of the railway employes publicity association, and since it is exceedingly important that the American people know precisely the questions at issue in the present railway and coal strikes, I am more than glad to answer your telegram, though I can only treat your politically partisan references with that contempt which is felt by every good American citizen in the hour of deep public concern.

"Happily for the American public everything done and everything said by government authority relating to the two strikes is a matter of record, and cannot in any way be distorted.

"There is no dispute about the loyal American citizenship of the men on strike, nor will anyone question that many of them gave everything that men can give for the service of this country in the world war. Nor is it disputed that the men on strike are exercising their constitutional and lawful rights, under existing statutes, in declining to work under the terms decided by the railroad labor board or tendered to the workmen by the mine operators of the country. No one has attempted or proposed to draft free men into either the railway or mining service, or suggested coercion under military force.

"The military forces of free America are never used for such a purpose. Their service is only that of preventing lawlessness and violence. That same unchallenged freedom which permits you and your associates to decline to work is no less the heritage of the free American who chooses to accept employment under the terms proposed. The difference between the two positions is that the striking railroad workers exercise their rights of freedom in seeking to hinder the necessary transportation of the country, notwithstanding the provision made by law for the consideration of any just grievance; and the striking miners seek to prevent the production of coal necessary to common welfare, notwithstanding the offer of an agency to make an impartial settlement; while the men who choose to work in response to the call of the country are exercising their like rights, and at the same time are making their contribution to our common American welfare.

Duty of Government. "The decisions of the railroad labor board are in compliance with a mandate of the law making body of the United States. Without discussing the decisions at issue, it is fair to assume that a government agency is ever ready to correct an error which is made, else government itself would become unjust. Moreover, it is indisputable that there can be no government unless its mandates are accepted by the citizenship of the republic.

"This observation relates more particularly to the railroad situation. When the mining situation became menacing I invited representatives of the mine workers and the operators to a conference. They came together, they were advised as to the call of common welfare, yet in eight days of opportunity no progress was made. In the absence of any tribunal authorized to settle disputes between mine workers and their employers the federal government then voluntarily proposed the creation of a national commission before which the disputes might be settled justly, in the light of full information and in accordance with the best expressions of our modern civilization.

"Instead of contemplating the result to force, it anticipated the very opposite—industrial peace with justice to every man concerned. Instead of aiming at 'involuntary servitude,' to which you inexcusably refer, the government asked the mine workers to resume their activities, in response to a manifest public need, at precisely the same wages and under precisely the same working conditions as those under which they had been working contentedly for the last two years.

"Those who spoke for the mine workers refused such a proposal. There is no dispute of the right to refuse, since they declined to respond, and since it is believed there are enough

(Continued on Page Three).