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THE WAGE QUESTION.

We can't say that we have any sympathy for the railroad strikers in their present demands and we don't believe public sentiment will support their contention. While it is true, as they contend, that the cost of living has increased, they lose sight of the fact that they are the highest paid laboring people in the country today, and that they are not the only people who are feeling the pinch of the high cost of living.

This strike business has gone beyond the bounds of reason and the time has come to call a halt somewhere. The public is tired of these irrational methods that are being employed and by which the whole country is made to suffer in order for certain classes to exact what they want or demoralize and wreck other industries.

Somebody in Lynchburg, Va., has written a letter to the New York Times containing something to be noticed and considered while these employees are calling for far-reaching changes. Read the letter which runs as follows:

To the Editor of The New York Times:

"In the strike now inaugurated in the railroad shops, whereby the whole country will suffer grievously, would it not be well to let the people know exactly what these shop workmen are striking for?"

"Their statement is we demand a wage increase from 68 cents an hour to 85 cents, and that the increase be effective from January 1, 1919."

"Now, will you print this in plain terms so as to meet the mind of every citizen of the country who sees it, as follows: 'We demand a wage increase from \$140.50 per month to \$175.20 per month and a cash present to each man of \$245.' This is exactly what they demand. Shop workmen, some unmarried, state they cannot live on \$140 per month. Think how many millions of clergymen, doctors, lawyers, teachers, college professors, traveling salesmen, clerks, bookkeepers, surveyors, store clerks, office men of all sorts, farmers and farmers, help all manage to live and support families on less than this. The writer does it and it is a hard job; but why, if I can do it, or my minister and doctor do it, cannot a railroad shop worker do it? Must we take still more from our meagerness to add to his increase?"

"How long is the country going to stand this thing?"

"A REAL AMERICAN."

"Lynchburg, Va., August 2, 1919."

The Spartanburg Herald makes the following comment on this letter:

The men who work on railroads declare that they must have \$175 a month, or \$2,100 a year, because they cannot live on less at present prices. Do they mean that they feel that they must have things, simply must have things that millions of others right now get along without and never dream of throwing monkey wrenches into the business that employs them. An income of \$2,100 a year exceeds by considerable what a vast majority of the rank and file ever knew or ever will know. Yet out of their lesser income they must somehow live and pay tribute to a special class of 2,000,000 men who merely choose to announce that they cannot live on \$140 a month, but must have \$175, plus back pay in a lump sum of \$245.

What proportion of the families in Spartanburg city and county at this moment have an income of \$175 per month to live on? What can an average family of five members live on and maintain the decencies and enjoy the fairly necessary things of present-day life? No accurate answer is possible, but one thing is certain—plenty of such families not a thousand miles

from here are living on much less than \$175 per month, although yielding just as much service to their country as any railway employee is giving.

Of course, they would all like to have \$175 a month to spend, assuming that the supply of actual goods to meet such a demand was being produced, for it is goods and not coin or paper money we all want. If by

merely declaring that they cannot endure to live on less than \$175, they could extract that amount from others, probably good many would be none too good to do it. But they cannot, and so that point is of no force. Meanwhile, should they be the victims of a class who can exact what they want or wreck all other industries?

ANITA STEWART AN

UNWILLING OUTLAW

Anita Stewart, who scored such successes recently at the Opera House in "Virtuous Wives" and "A Midnight Romance," returns again on Friday of this week for one day in her latest First National production entitled "Mary Regan." This is an adaptation of LeRoy Scott's book of the same title and was produced under the direction of Lois Weber. It affords her the role of a young woman whose father was a notorious crook. She is ever fearful lest this trait of her parent's shall show in herself and so she refuses the love of Robert Clifford, a man high in the city's municipal circles.

As a result of this refusal she becomes entrapped in a clever blackmailing scheme, hatched by her father's former associates, in which she finds herself as an unwilling cat's paw. When she comes fully to a realization of the plot she communicates all the information she possesses to Clifford and through his efforts the schemers are foiled. And after this Mary accepts Clifford, who is finally able to convince her that marriage to him will do him no harm.

"Mary Regan" has been produced as lavishly as were the other two pictures in which Miss Stewart appeared recently. The star appears to her usual splendid advantage in the title role while surrounding her is a cast of particular skill including such well-known players as Frank Mayo, Carl Miller, J. Barney Sherry, Brinsley Shaw, George Hernandez, L. W. Steers and Hedda Nova.

As far as stories dealing with outlaws of society go "Mary Regan" may easily be classed among the best of this type.

Mr. Roy Suber, of Whitmire, spent Sunday in town.

WOULD KNOW COST
OF MAKING CLOTH

Byrnes Introduces Resolution for Investigation of Cotton Mills Profits, Asks Immediate Report on Available Data.

Washington, Aug. 8.—Representative Byrnes of South Carolina today introduced a resolution directing the federal trade commission to ascertain and report to congress the cost of manufacturing the various grades of cotton into yarns and cotton cloths for the year 1919, the manufacturers' selling price and the retailers' cost price and selling price. He also asks that they immediately report what information they now have as to the manufacturer's cost price during 1918.

Mr. Byrnes states that the commission, at the request of the various departments, conducted inquiries last year as to the cost of manufacturing cotton cloths and he is confident that these figures will show that, at the price cotton cloths are selling today, the manufacturers could pay fifty cents a pound for the raw material and still make a large profit. He believes that their figures are available and will convince the public that if undue profits are being made out of cotton cloths at this time that the profits are going to the manufacturer and not to the farmers.

He will press for immediate action upon his resolution.

APPLICATION FOR CHARTER

Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned, have applied to the Secretary of the State for a charter for the Commercial Club of Clinton, S. C.

B. H. BOYD,
JAS. R. COPELAND,
W. W. HARRIS,
Corporators.

J. B. FRONTIS

JEWELER

CLINTON, S. C.

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B. L. KING

PHONE 45

Opening!

We extend a cordial invitation to everyone and wish you to be our guests at a Formal Opening of our New Home, Automobile Row, West Main Street on Thursday evening August 14th, from 7:30 to 9:30.

We Shall Expect You.

Ellis-Hatton Motor Co.

Clinton,

South Carolina