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PLAYING FOR MATCHES

There seems to be no limit to the "little game of bluff" being played by H. C. L., labor and the poor salaried man. But the last has dropped out of the game long ago. He hasn't even enough of the "fifty-cent dollars now current to stay in the game. He is like the third man in draw poker with the other two "kicking" each other and he compelled to "see" both raises to "stay". The man who has been that third party can tell you how nice that is.

Draw poker is by no means unknown to the average college, but cash sometimes is. So in order to satisfy that craving of the usual American to risk all (when there is no all, even) an one turn of the cards a game has been invented where instead of cash, matches represent the stakes. In such a game there is some mighty reckless raising and some equally reckless "calling", because there is a contempt for the stakes. It is so with money at the present time.

Labor is being paid unprecedented wages. The producers, farmers and manufacturers are receiving unusually large returns. Capital is making big money but it is not being allowed to get uncomfortably fat because of taxes. The low salaried man is the one who is suffering, because his salary has not been commensurately increased when compared to the advance in living expenses.

One of the big reasons why wages do not keep pace with living expenses is because the country is on a spending jag. People have had more money than they knew what to do with and have spent it for all sorts of things, for which they had little use and which they could have done without. It has made money cheap and it has worked untold hardships on the salaried man. We will have trouble until the people who have had too much money come to have a proper respect for a dollar and quit spending their money foolishly.

And the salaried man, who is the chief sufferer is the last man to make an "articulate" kick. Because he is unorganized. Labor has been making big money, but labor wants more money or a reduction in prices. There seems to be no limit to the upward trend of prices and labor has a legitimate kick unless wages and prices come somewhere near balancing.

One solution that we would suggest is that people quit buying recklessly, save more and stop treating the dollar like a poor relation—to be gotten rid of. Remember it is not matches you are playing with.

The question has reached a crisis now; something must be done, and it is foolish to keep on raising wages and expect prices to remain the same. It's a no-limit game that will bring untold disaster in the end.

THE NEGRO IN CHICAGO

A good many people have been curious to know what line the Chicago Tribune would take in dealing with the race riots in Chicago; the Tribune having long been one of the most bitter critics of the South. Its present attitude being set forth in the following leading editorial article in its issue of last Sunday:

White and Black in Chicago.

It is possible for negroes and whites to live in peace in Chicago. They have done so for years, in nor-

mal conditions and in lorman times. They have managed to live without much prejudice. There has been good feeling. The negro has had political equality. There has been an attempt to give him a fair representation in public affairs and not to resent his presence there.

We admit frankly that if political equality had meant the election of negro mayors, judges and a majority of negroes in the city council the whites would not have tolerated it. We do not believe that the whites of Chicago would be any different from the whites in the south in this respect.

We have been able to extend the essentials of citizenship to negroes freely because the whites are dominant in numbers. All the essentials are in the possession of the negro. He is not Jim Crowed by law. A line is drawn by usage. The law in fact forbids what actually is done. It is been an illegal, nonlegal, or extra-legal adjustment founded upon common sense which has worked in the past and will work in the future.

Legally a negro has a right to service anywhere the public generally is served. He does not get it. Wisely he does not ask for it. There has been an illegal, nonlegal or extra-legal adjustment founded upon common sense which has worked in the past and will work in the future.

The fact is that so long as this city is dominated by whites whether because of their numbers without force or by force if they were in the minority there will be some limitations placed upon the black people. They will be limitations which will not work an injustice to the black people who have a right to their own development.

There is no objection to economic equality. There is a decided objection to the exploitation of black labor. During the war many negroes were brought from the South. Thousands of them went into the stockyards. The war shut off the supply of common labor. The South supplied the want.

Thus the population of the blacks doubled during the war times. Concerns which brought the negro here to exploit him damaged the community by throwing the race question upon it. Concerns which needed the negro and put him upon an equal basis with the whites, without importing cheap labor to take the place of whites, were legitimately supplying their need for labor.

The race issue in California grew out of the fact that the Japanese white labor. That will produce race troubles as quickly as anything.

Concerns may have been derelict in not considering the house problem. The imported negroes could not live in the streets or vacant lots. They had to get under a roof and in getting under roof they suddenly established new contact with white neighborhoods.

In this change there was bound to be trouble unless precautions were taken. In the present case there is no evidence of precaution and some of provocation. It is possible for that question to adjust itself. Such realty movements cannot take place without friction, but the friction need not lead to riots. The city is steadily shifting in residential character. Some of the people affected by the shifts do not like it, but in normal times the readjustment is not disturbing to the community. A spread of factories may change the character of a section. A spread of negroes may do the same thing.

A writer once summed up the negro question by saying "the North has the principles and the South has the negroes." We are coming to have the negroes and we want to keep the principles so far as they are applicable.

Industrial radicalism, expressed in the I. W. W. propaganda among the negroes will not help us to keep them. A rebellion by the negroes against facts which exist and will persist will not help us to keep them, but we are confident that the situation in Chicago is susceptible of being handled in the fashion it has always been handled.

SMALL CROP CERTAIN

Columbia, August 5.—Answering an inquiry from Percell's Magazine of New York as to the cotton situation, J. Skottowe Wanamaker, President of the American Cotton Association, has sent out the following telegram:

"The consumer fails to realize the seriousness of the situation he is facing. In only two years of the last

REPORT ON ABBEVILLE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE

Mr. Wister Haddon, Superintendent. Visited July 5, 1919, by Assistant Secretary Boyles. Inmates, 10 negroes and three whites, a total population of 13, which is about the average.

In common with practically all almshouses in the State we found things in this institution rather run down because of the great scarcity of labor. The crops have demanded the entire attention of the hands able to work on the place for some weeks, but even under these difficulties the superintendent had the buildings in about as fair condition as their state of repair allows. The floors have sunk and the ceilings have buckled, and both under the floors and over the ceiling the vermin of the place gathers. The superintendent does everything in his power to keep bugs off the beds of the inmates, but as fast as he gets rid of them they return from the walls. The only solution seems to be to relay the floors, putting down concrete as a base with the planking laid over it and to tear down the ceilings, properly disinfect the rafters and put the planks up again. The superintendent informs us that the plans are in making to install a shower bath in the building, and to put up additional screening, but the floors and ceilings need first attention. It is a pity that the building was not built on the ground plan of the houses in Greenville, and at some future date it would be worth while for Abbeville to consider seriously the possibility of tearing down the present plant and using the material in it to build two buildings on the plan of the ones at the Greenville almshouse.

Since our 1918 inspection the quarters occupied by the white inmates have been screened, which has raised the score of the institution for this year, and we understand that the quarters of the negroes will be screened very soon. These are commendable improvements.

We should like to see the citizens of Abbeville become more interested in the almshouse. The county has a good farm, and the superintendent of the institution is a good man, alive to his duties and responsibilities, but the inmates lead a very dull life, and need cheer of every kind. In addition an awakened interest in the place would encourage the authorities to make the improvements in the buildings which are so terribly needed.

(Signed) State Board of Charities and Corrections.
G. Croft Williams, Sec.

fifty has there been improvement in August conditions. That was in 1908 when the September report showed betterment for August of only 1.4 per cent, and in 1914 when August rose 1.6 only.

"The department of agriculture states in its condition report that there is a large abandonment of acreage. However, they fail to make allowance for this, both department and private estimators basing their production estimate upon an acreage of 33,960,000. From this should be deducted an acreage abandonment of 9.25 per cent.

"Even with ideal seasons, an extremely small crop, certainly not larger than around 10,000,000 bales is an inevitable certainty. With adverse seasons or insect damage we are facing a crop calamity. The plant, with a diseased root system, sappy, poorly fruited, is unable to stand reverses. It is two or four weeks late and subject to calamity from insect damage. We are therefore facing the possibility of the smallest crop grown in the past fifty years. None of the 9.25 per cent. acreage abandonment shown in our report can be reclaimed. The season is too late.

"Cotton carried over on August 1 includes, bollies, rotten and unspinnable cotton. The total world's production in 1915 was 17,609,000. The figures for b 'waso Uinw In 1916 it was 18,095,000; in 1917 it was 17,410,000. The figures for 1918 have not yet been compiled."

Washington Visitors.

Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Harvin and little Frances are here from Washington for their summer vacation and are spending the time with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Snodley. Friends are glad to see them and to know that success and happiness attended them in their new home.

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