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GO TO WORK.

The Press and Banner has had something to say with regard to the duty of people in dealing with the debtor classes of our people, and especially with regard to the negroes. We are unwilling that people here should suffer, and there are many people, both white and colored, who are going to suffer unless the people are mindful of them and helpful towards them. We have said this before and we now repeat it.

But this does not mean that people who are able to do something to help are going to help people who do not help themselves. There has been a disposition on the part of some people to sit down through the winter months and live on what has been made and gathered in the fall, or to look to the landlord, or the merchant, or the bank for the capital stock for this idleness. That day has passed. No man will be helped through this winter who does not go to work. And a man who does not go to work is going hungry. The country has been stripped of the crops which have been grown and they have either been sold, or they are in the warehouses pledged for the payment of debts which they will not pay in full. The landlord cannot pay to keep people up in idleness, the merchants cannot and neither can the banks. None of them should do so.

We suggested this to some industrious negroes a few days ago and it did not seem to appeal to them. Neither does the warning that the days of high wages and indifferent service are over appeal to them. But they must come to their senses. People cannot pay the wages which have been paid in the past; people will not be satisfied with the service which has been rendered in the past, and the man who works for his bread must find it out. The sooner he finds it out the better.

They say that this is deflation, and that it is so gradual that there is no evidence of a panic. If that be true, let us pray that next time they will send us a panic, and that the panic will come "so gradual" that there will be no evidence of deflation.

The truth is that the country is in worse fix than we have ever known it. There is no more security now than in times of other depressions. The security for debts will bring no more in dollars and cents on the market. But the amount of debts is several times larger than ever before when we had hard times. For that reason there are more people in want than at any other time in our recollection, and their distress is more aggravated. At other times of depression the stocks of the merchants, while they remained on the shelves, were worth on the market what they had cost. But now a stock of goods which cost fifty thousand dollars in September is not worth thirty thousand dollars. Hence the merchants who have at other times been able to help cannot now do so. The banks have borrowed so largely to help the farmers and they are collecting so little that no money can be loaned. In times of other depressions we have heard the bankers in Abbeville ask men to borrow money and buy cotton to keep it from being sacrificed. But that cannot be done today. The country is tied hand and foot, and the amount of help which can be offered is not much. And as indicated in the beginning there is no way to get out of the fix in which we find ourselves except to work out. Every man must go to work. Every man must do his own work. He must earn his own bread. Nobody can sit down and expect to be fed.

We advise the white people and the colored people to seek employment and to accept the wages offered, at least until times are somewhat improved. Nothing will be gained by idleness.

FIRE LOSSES REACH \$2,000,000 PER DAY

The loss from fire on buildings insured and uninsured, with the maintenance of the Fire Department and Water Supply Service, costs the United States more than \$2,000,000 a day. Last year 15,219 persons were burned to death and 17,641 were seriously injured. Eighty-two per cent of the dead and injured were mothers and children under school age, and 92 per cent of the fires were caused by carelessness or neglect.

These figures were given by T. Alfred Fleming, Supervisor Conservation Department National Board of Fire Marshals' Convention which ended its convention at the Hotel Astor in New York last Saturday. Delegates from twenty-eight States and from Canada attended the sessions and discussed ways and means of reducing the fire hazard.

"Only as we are able to secure correct statistics on the causes of fires," said Mr. Fleming, "are we able to adequately cope with conditions that exist and bring to the attention of the people the need of their co-operation. This is accomplished by a most accurate system of accounting established by the Actuarial Bureau, from which any fire marshal may now secure complete tabulations of all classes in their respective states."

"The United States has over 25,000,000 people today housed in temporary quarters and without adequate home provisions. If 5,000,000 homes were built in the United States next week, it would not care for adequately those who are at present in temporary quarters. At the same time, the United States is burning 889 homes for every working day, causing a loss in dwellings alone of \$283,000. Sixty-five per cent of the number of fires in the United States take place in dwellings, and most of these originate from trivial and preventable cause."

Schools Inadequately Protected

"By a careful survey of the condition of school buildings through the country, it is found that the lessons learned in the Collinwood School fire has already been forgotten. Boards of Education are elected to take care of, and are made responsible for, the education system of the country and the welfare of the pupils. Over 90 per cent of the school houses in the United States are nothing but veritable firetraps. No member of the Board of Education has done his duty until he has given every possible protection to the children entrusted to his care."

"In the last five years \$29,271,000 in value in dwelling houses has been consumed from one cause—sparks lighting on shingle roofs. The average business men with \$20,000 will not be satisfied until he has it safely within the vaults of the strongest bank, while the same man will house his wife and family in a wooden timber box of a home with a shingle roof, awaiting the vagrant spark from a passing engine or burning chimney."

"The hazard of electricity has been very much underestimated. In 1919 \$15,444,653 in value was destroyed from electric causes. Forty-six per cent of this amount is attributed to the electric iron."

"At the present time there is a movement on foot to interest and co-operate the forces available throughout the entire United States for the education of the children in the schools, women in the homes and men in the factories; so that all may be able together to eliminate much of the careless waste."

"During the present period of price fluctuations and changing values the economic loss to the country as a result of fire reaches a stupendous total. Production is hampered, contracts are cancelled, selling forces are laid off, thousands of laborers are thrown out of employment and are required to change their residences in many places in order to secure employment in the business of their choice while to a great degree the commerce of the country on which it depends for future development is treated to a constant upheaval."

ROBERT L. CHEATHAM ILL

The friends of Robert L. Cheatham, the right hand man in the Link Emporium, on Press and Banner Block, is confined to his room with an attack of "flu." His friends hope that he may soon be out.

MONDELL URGES RIGID ECONOMY IN APPROPRIATIONS

Thinks Democrats too Lavish in Estimates—Republican Leader Speaks Cutting Appropriation Bill and Half Dollars

Washington, Dec. 16.—Declaration in the house today by Representative Mondell of Wyoming, the Republican leader, that congress should cut departmental appropriation estimates, especially those from the war and navy departments, by nearly a billion and a half dollars, started a round of political debate that occupied most of the session.

Representative Mondell's criticisms of army and navy estimates, made in the course of a prepared speech on government finances, brought defense from Representative Hardy and Connolly, Democrats, of Texas, for Secretary Baker of the war department and Daniels' of the navy department. This led to charges by Representative Mondell, Representative Blanton, Democrat, Texas, and others that the war department head "was spending money not authorized by congress" and that the navy department chief had presented estimates "so extravagant that they cannot be described."

Rigid economy in appropriations to lighten the tax burden was urged by the Republican leader, who said that the total submitted estimates of \$4,653,800,000 should be scaled down by \$1,400,000,000. Army and navy estimates were criticised as five and a half times the highest peace time appropriation of 1916. The estimates Mr. Mondell said, also might be further swollen indefinitely by deficiencies resulting, he said, from what he described as the war department's policy of recruiting the army up to full strength contrary to the understanding that it should not be increased above the total of 176,000 men contemplated by the appropriations made at the last session.

Representative Connolly, replying to Mr. Mondell, cited the Republican leader's vote for the army reorganization bill under which the secretary recruited the army to a strength exceeding the possible under the appropriated funds. Representative Hardy accused the majority leader of voting for the measure, requiring funds and then making it impossible for the war secretary to obey the law by refusing to give him the necessary funds.

When they concluded Representative Mondell renewed his attack, declaring Secretary Baker's attitude was "so utterly at variance and so contemptuous of congress" that all rules had been disregarded.

"From no won," Mr. Mondell said "so long as we deal with officials of this administration it will be necessary to add to all bills passed a warning not to act contrary to the views of congress."

FURNITURE PEOPLE SEE BETTER TURN ON JAN. 1.

High Point, N. C., Dec. 16.—Expressions of optimism concerning the outlook for industrial conditions characterized the special meeting of the Southern Furniture Manufacturers' Association here today, which was marked by discussion of business conditions generally.

C. F. Tomlinson of High Point president of the organization, presided and members of the association from the Carolinas and Virginia were present.

While a number of factories in this section have been closed because of industrial conditions, the furniture men gathered here expressed the belief that there would be a change for the better early in the new year.

TRAVELING SALESMAN OF SPARTANBURG SHOT AND KILLED BY HIS SON

Spartanburg, Dec. 16.—J. Munro Inman, well known traveling salesman of this city, was shot and killed this morning at his home by his son, Manning Inman, aged 21, following a family difficulty in which several members of the family were engaged. Attorneys for the young man state that the father had attacked the son with a knife and that the latter shot in self-defense. The young man went to a nearby residence and telephoned to the sheriff's office and surrendered.

Legal Blanks for Sale Here.—The Press and Banner Company.

LITTLE GIRL IMPROVES.

Little Miss Mary Bishop, 10 years old, of Calhoun Falls, S. C., is recuperating at the County Hospital and will spend her Christmas there. Miss Mary struck her leg against a desk in school at Calhoun Falls sometime ago. Inflammation resulted, and an operation was decided on. When the bone was exposed it was found diseased to such an extent that it was necessary to take out four inches of it. This was done by Dr. Rakestraw. The leg is so set that the bone will replace itself, but this will take time. Miss Mary occupies herself at reading childish stories, and the children about town may make her Christmas happy by sending her books to read, suitable for a girl of her age.

POLICE HAD TO KEEP ORDER AMONG JOBLESS

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 16.—A contracting firm advertised for twenty-five men today and such a large crowd responded that a detail of police had to be summoned to maintain order. Applicants for work were asked to call at 7:30 a. m., but they began to gather at 4 o'clock. Those chosen were sent to Lake Hurst, N. J., where a hangar for the navy is being constructed.

SPARTANBURG MERCHANT KILLED IN HIS STORE

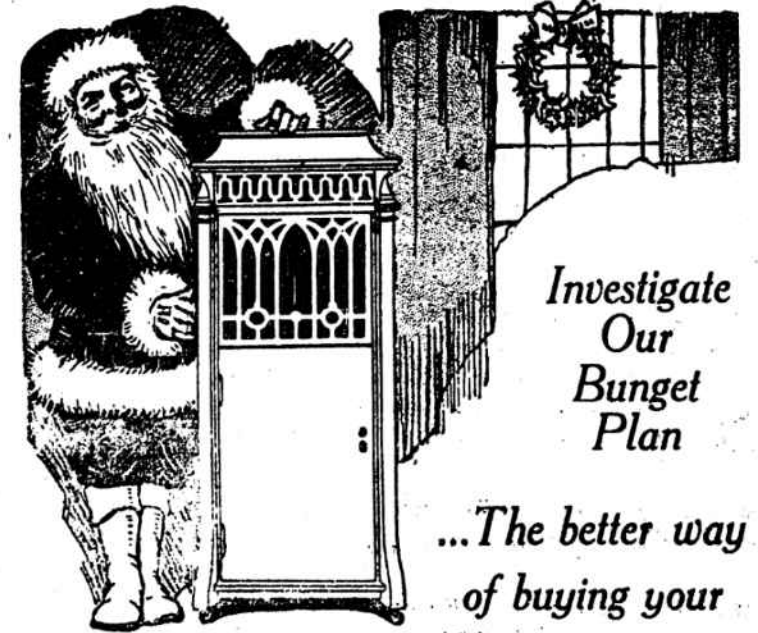
Spartanburg, Dec. 16.—W. D. Mitchell, white, aged 68, was found dead this morning in a small store near this city of which he was manager with a gunshot wound in his breast. A pocketbook which he was known to carry was missing but it could not be determined whether the store had been robbed.

NO CHRISTMAS CHEER

West Orange, N. J., Dec. 16.—Christmas this year is to be a joyless Christmas for three West Orange boys of ten to 12 years who today were sentenced by City Recorder John R. Lander to receive no holiday presents

take no part in any Christmas festivities and go to bed at 6:30 o'clock every evening for a month, including Christmas eve. The youngsters who appeared in court accompanied by their parents, were convicted of breaking into a school and stealing pencils and money from the teacher's desk, and on another occasion tying up the automobile of a local minister so he could not go home after a church service.

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