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### IN WAR TORN EUROPE

#### Things That Have Impressed Noted Managing Editor

### TAKES IN MUCH OF THE FIELD

How the Various Peoples Feel and What They are Doing—Great Britain and France Will Get Much That They Want—Americans Watching Proceedings With Interest.

In last Sunday's issue of the New York World there is a page of notes and impressions by Charles M. Linn, managing editor of the New York World, who has been in France and the American-occupied portion of Germany since the beginning of the peace conference. Most of these things deal with things the reader wants to know and are therefore interesting. Extracts follow:

Paris is rapidly progressing toward its pre-war life and conditions and in the process the city is fast losing interest in the peace conference. In the early days the gatherings at the Quai d'Orsay were the outstanding features of the daily life of the French capital. The French political and professional interest is as keen as ever for this element which it wants and is fighting hard every minute to get it, but the great mass of people are happy in absorption in their individual affairs. There is a well-defined conviction that France and Great Britain will get results from the conference that will be satisfactory to them.

The estimate of \$5,000,000 as the total expense of the United States delegation, perhaps, not seem so very excessive when consideration is given to the facts that the nation's organization for the great work is very nearly as large as that of the British, and the British delegation numbers 1,000. A substantial percentage of the American personnel is composed of experts, who are supposed to be learned in the many phases of the manifold propositions with which the delegation concerns itself. The Hotel Crillon, the delegation's home, is entirely under the conduct of the American government. There are about 200 army and navy officers constantly on duty at the hotel. The American commissioners go about Paris much more freely than do the delegates from the other countries. Outside the room in which the conferences are held, the delegations have no common meeting ground, and while many unofficial meetings take place between a few of the "big men" of the delegation, in the quiet of their own apartments, there is practically no fraternization among the various delegations.

The desire of the French for the re-incorporation in French Lorraine of the Valley of the Sarre is natural. The Sarre valley was included by the treaty of Paris in 1814 in French Lorraine, but after the 1871 French Prussia was handed over to Prussia by the peace treaty of Paris in 1871. In 1913, the year before the war began, France consumed 65,000,000 tons of coal, of which 25,000,000 tons were imported. Unless the French coal supply is increased France will remain to a great extent at the mercy of German coal producers. The Sarre coal fields have an area of 380,000 acres.

Official France is most insistent upon the granting of at least enough of its claims to insure it against the Germany of the future. It sees a Germany a generation hence, after the present chaos shall have disappeared, of more than 100,000,000. This is easily possible by the gravitation into a common union of the Germans of the present—German Austria, Czechoslovakia, Bohemia, the German Tyrol and western Hungary—and if the birth rate percentages of the two races shall continue for the next twenty years about as they have run for the last twenty years there will be growing cause for French apprehension unless the menace is put under thorough control.

The expense of mere living in Paris to day is far in excess of that of any other city in the world. It is the old law of supply and demand. Many hotels have long been in the government service. Many others have been taken over bodily by the peace commissioners of the various powers. The result is that with the coming of peace to Paris increasing daily the rentals of apartments are already in the clouds and no limit in sight. A little Harlem flat of four or five rooms would command \$2,000 in Paris. There is an abundance of food. Paris, in fact, has gone through the war in this respect very much better than London. There are very few scarcities except sugar and butter. Fruits are very expensive, apples and pears \$1 each, for illustration. But in all of the first class restaurants nearly all of their famous pre-war menu items are still available. The volume of foreign money, as represented by officers and soldiers on leave, or passing through, has naturally had its effect and the price of many commodities has soared. There are certainly heavenly days for the hotel man and restaurateur of the French capital.

This is no time for "seeing France." Travelling is attended by every inconvenience imaginable. One who essays a journey across France may count himself fortunate, if, in spots, he is able to find a place to sleep on the floor. And when daylight comes he is quite likely to find a high companion. Train services from Metz to Paris is an example. Extended motoring calls for supplies of gasoline almost out of the question except for official purposes. Passport regulations are still in full effect and will be for a long time. Steamship sailings from the other side are about as reliable as April weather. And he is a sensible man who, if obliged to go to Europe at present, "travels light." France does not want sightseeing crowds just yet. She is not ready to see them. Only for government purposes or with real

business reasons should men and women go to France for many months to come.

The battlefields are already being "mopped up"—their surfaces are being cleaned and everything—actually everything—in the way of metal, wood, rubber, leather, etc., is being retrieved. Americans are helping in this important work, the 52d Regiment "Pioneers," Col. R. L. Foster of New York City commanding, being among them. Huge piles of all kinds of material gathered from the waste and wreck of the war line the roads that skirt or run through the battlefields. For a century to come the cultivation and upturning of the soil will yield a steady harvest in the "relief" line, but long before the organized armies of tourists are turned loose everything in the way of visible relics will have disappeared. This is not to say, however, that the day of souvenirs is drawing to a close. There will be thriving trade for a long time—the demand will be supplied!

While Wilson, Lloyd George and Clemenceau are the present outstanding figures at the conference, there are others that have either made an impression or are to be reckoned with. Venizelos of Greece is distinctly of a mentality not to be confined within the boundaries of his country. Sazonoff, from Russia, is probably the wisest man from eastern Europe; Sonnino of Italy, a determined man from whom little has been heard thus far, will undoubtedly make as strong a fight for Italy's claim as any man could make. Jonsescu of Roumania, is another interesting figure. On his recent arrival in Paris he submitted for consideration a proposition calling for the amalgamation into one nation of all the Balkan states, his argument being that if such a nation could be established and supported it would form a solid bloc to offset in southeastern Europe possible encroachments a generation hence by the Teutonic bloc of central Europe. Hughes of Australia is an outspoken man who has not hesitated to give his opinions. There is little of the diplomat about Hughes. He seems to be strongly in favor of "open covenants openly arrived at."

The daily cost to the United States of its army of occupation in the Rhine provinces is approximately \$1,000,000 a day for pay and subsistence. The item of pay said to be about \$725,000 a day on the average, and the cost of subsistence around \$300,000. These figures are based on a force of 450,000 officers and men. They do not take in the cost of subsisting animals, maintaining motor cars, motor trucks, and other necessary equipment. The total cost is around \$1,500,000 a day, on an average. The figures are being kept in France, to the last detail, and when a responsible government shall have arisen in Germany and the army withdrawn, the United States bill for it will be included in the final reckoning.

Coblentz, a city of about 50,000, is nearly as lively and as busy as it was in pre-war days. If one is in a hurry it is necessary, often, to leave the sidewalks and take to the streets because the evening crowds are often of a New York density. It was rather surprising to find cafes open until midnight and to hear the productions of Sousa and Cohan on the Rhine's banks. There are very few food restrictions and prices are reasonable. There is no butter, but there is sugar in plenty. Linen has long since disappeared from the hotels, enormous counterpane serving the chambers as sheets for the beds and counterpane also serve as towels for the bath rooms.

Germany has been conquered but not the German. He is in no way penitent. His chin is still up. As a rule the average German is not looking ahead. He is doing what he can with each day as it comes in his customary methodical way, and thinking as little as possible about what next week or next month may bring. And he is taking his regular pleasures as he goes along.

American officers will tell you, and not in a boastful way, that there is not bronze enough in France to produce a wide war decorations for the doughboys who really merit them. That is why you hear from the Atlantic to the Rhine—the story of our doughboys and their platoon leaders, the first and second lieutenants. There were many mistakes made "higher up," naturally, in the confusion of our "unripe effort," but the army proper, the fighting men, was "all there" as the boys say. A major general said to me: "Mistakes were made, I made mistakes. This was because of the war we had to rush things. But with the way in which we were coming along, I really believe we could have gone right across Europe in 1915."

It is candidly acknowledged that "Great Britain," meaning in this instance England, led all other nations by a wide margin in the air during the war. In machines and men England was first. Through a policy all her own England kept the deeds of her airmen to herself and only a very few of her great aerial fighting men have become known to the world, even by name.

The ordinary German helmet has quite lost its value as a souvenir. There is, however, the Luger pistol, the "sawtooth" bayonet, the trophy of the triumphal march helmet reserved for the other nations by a wide margin, and others. The Luger pistol is probably the best small arm for war use yet devised. It is carried in a holster which is mounted on a board which is strapped to the leg. It is about ten inches long, of a wonderful balance and with unusual range. The sawtooth bayonet is a myth—many of our officers and men have them.

One of the German war novelties in the conflict's closing days was a phosphorescent night rifle, for night firing. By means of this clever device the German infantryman could regulate the elevation or depression of his weapon. And the phosphorescence in the sight was so arranged that it was only visible to the riflemen.

All the cities of France are rich in war trophies. At present the entire Palace de la Concorde, in Paris, is completely surrounded by captured German cannon, except at its entrances. A double row of German guns, running as high as the 155m, extends around the famous square, and the Champs Elysees is decorated with cannon close together, on either side nearly to the Rond Point. Again at the Arc de Triomphe one comes upon a striking exhibition. The circle has a double row of captured German guns, on their wheel mountings, extending all the way around.

It is interesting in these days of airships with a wing spread of 100 feet or more, to gaze upon, the great Guyemore's little machine in the courtyard of the Invalides. It is actually less than thirty feet from tip to tip. It is a machine that must have been practically invisible at a distance of a few thousand feet. Yet with this instrument Guyemore brought down more than twenty German planes. The machine will ever remain one of the most treasured relics of the Invalides.

### UNREST OF THE NEGROES.

#### Investigation of Recent Widespread Immigration Movement.

Investigations of negro migration to the north during the war, according to a report just issued by the United States department of labor, indicate that the total migration may have been as great as 350,000, extending over a period of about 18 months during 1916 and 1917. That figure was fixed as the maximum limit, and 150,000 as the minimum limit, and the estimate of James D. Dillard, who had charge of the inquiry, is 200,000.

The movement had been under way for a long time before any effort was made to determine the number of negroes moving north. Moreover, no survey left separately and unobserved that complete statistics would have been impracticable. The investigator in Georgia estimates that between 35,000 and 45,000 negroes left that state in 1916-17, and the number to leave Alabama during the same time is estimated at 75,000. State officials, however, made higher estimates, placing the number to leave Georgia at 50,000, Alabama 90,000 and Mississippi 100,000.

#### Lack of Labor is a Cause.

Lack of labor in the north due to the cessation of immigration, was the principal cause, the investigators agree. Among the causes operative in the south to induce migration were general dissatisfaction with conditions, change of crop system, low wages, poor housing, poor schools, unsatisfactory crop settlements, rough treatment, cruelty of the law officers, unwillingness to travel, labor agents, and from negroes in the north, and the influence of the negro press.

The movement of large numbers at the same time was due largely to labor agents, but after these initial group movements negroes kept going north in small numbers, attracted by the letters from their friends who had already gone. Better wages were important. "Every negro who made good in the north, started a new group on the way," one of the investigators reported.

#### Community Congress Plan.

About half the migrants, according to one investigator, went from the towns. Another investigator found that the countries in the Black Belt of Alabama which in which there was most poverty among the negroes, and that the shortage of labor was most acute among the landowners who made no attempt to keep their negro tenants by providing for their subsistence.

One of the promising movements to improve relations between white people and negroes in the south and thus remove causes of the migration appears to be the "community congress" plan, put under way in Bolivar county, Mississippi. The feature of this plan is a committee organization including prominent white business men and agriculturists, and prominent negroes, from the main body to consider special subjects—for example, there is a committee on labor supply. This type of organization is interesting in emphasizing the common interest of the races in community development, and in providing contact between racial leaders in ways designed to promote "harmony, prosperity, and good will."

#### Bureaux on Negro Affairs.

Bureaux on negro affairs as adjuncts to chambers of commerce are also highly recommended, as means of bringing together desirable negro tenants and white landlords and planters. Frequent and confidential conferences upon community problems, and active co-operation between the local leaders of the races are urged as important measures toward betterment.

Better housing is recommended, both for north and south. The necessity of higher wages, better homes and better surroundings in the south has come to be generally recognized. "Fair treatment, opportunity to labor and enjoy the legitimate fruits of labor, assurance of even-handed justice in the courts, good educational facilities, tolerance and sympathy," are urged by the southern university committee on race relations as a means of keeping negro labor in the south.

#### Mama's Boy.

"You seem to find a lot of difficulty in getting your whiskers to grow, Algy!"

Algy—"Yes, it's a hally nuisance. Can't understand why, either; my whiskers are just plenty of 'em."

Fifi—"Well, dear, perhaps you take after your mother!"—The Passing Show.

### FUTURE OF COTTON

#### Senator McLaurin Writes About the Situation

### WHY THE PRODUCER SHOULD HOLD

It is inevitable that Prices Shall Rise as Soon as European Conditions are Readjusted, and Somebody, Either the Producer or the Middleman, Stands to Make Money Out of the Present Crop.

The following letter from Hon. John L. McLaurin to Mr. J. S. Wannamaker, president of the South Carolina Cotton association, will be read with peculiar interest at this time:

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 7th, requesting me to prepare for publication an article on the cotton situation. You are doing a splendid work and I consider it an honor and a privilege to contribute to its success.

Cotton could take care of itself if given a fair chance, but it has been unable to withstand the juggling of New York gamblers, and the carefully concocted propaganda of pessimism with which they have flooded the south. They have forced contracts on the exchange five cents a pound under spots in order to discourage weak holders.

When congress specifically forbade the dishonest fulfillment of these contracts by the delivery of unmerchantable cotton they seem about to nullify the enactment of congress by the ruling of a bureau chief in Washington. I quote from the New York Commercial of the 8th, as follows:

"The fortunate position of the market proves the salvation of the shorts, as it was considered doubtful if they would have been allowed to cover except at sensational losses."

In other words, the manipulators are protected through the bureau in their paper profits at the expense of the holders of actual cotton. Mr. Wannamaker, if you can get Senator Smith in behind this proposition, the price of cotton will advance immediately, we won't have to wait for acreage reduction.

If the shorts are permitted to escape, the buying power will be gone from the market, and nothing but the absolute certainty of a holding movement coupled with acreage reduction can help weak holders. Unfortunately, the banking machinery is not adapted to holding the surplus of this crop and finance the new crop.

These things the gamblers and the manipulators are not adapted to do as well as we do and are to buy the low grades and hold for a long profit so as to make just such another situation as in 1914.

What about Cotton Seed.

Does the government mean that we are to hold the bag on every proposition? Our share of the bonus to the western farmers will be about one hundred and thirty million dollars.

What is going to become of our cotton seed? We compiled patriotically with the request of the food administrators to rush our seed to the market and now there is no market. In the beginning Washington fixed a wagon and a car price. The mills refused to take wagon seed at \$69 per ton and car seed at \$82 per ton.

What happened? It was not long before the mills set up a howl and the price was cut \$1 per ton. This failed to satisfy the mills, although they had been allowed a spread sufficient to cover the car price and the freight. They soon refused to handle car seed, claiming they had plenty of seed from their own ginners. They saved \$3 per ton by forcing farmers to haul by the wagon some times twenty miles to the mill. They saved an average of \$2 per ton in freight and \$1 in labor getting the price for \$5 less than the price they have. It is now so arranged that if there is a loss it will fall upon the farmer. The government has already agreed to take the linters at seed prices on all except the seed in the hands of the farmers. The stabilized price for meal and oil are to be held until it can be disposed of and when this is done, the restrictions will be removed leaving the seed in the hands of the farmer to bear the entire loss.

It looks to me as if the farmers of the south have had few friends in Washington with the ability and willingness to secure a square deal from the various price-fixing agencies.

The dollar-a-day patriots in Washington have certainly given it to us where the chicken got the axe.

The next sixty days is a critical time, if a man can carry his cotton it will increase in value. If he is squeezed out, then the middle man reaps the profits.

An Error of Prosperity.

It is impossible for the price of products to be permanently lowered for years to come. It is vain to attempt the restoration of pre-war prices. Aside from the scarcity of products and the demands of labor, the financial situation has forced and will continue to maintain inflated prices.

By reason of the position of America the surplus of the world is here. It will remain here for many years. The nations must come to us for raw material and their gold will flow in until they have products to sell in excess of what they buy. Prices cannot fall until Europe has a surplus manufactured with cheap labor to undersell us in our own market. I defy any man to demonstrate how this can happen in the near future.

In addition to this in the first two years of the war we bought back in high priced products four billion dollars of American securities held abroad. The gold that in 1913 went abroad to pay dividends on these securities must therefore remain here. Furthermore, Europe now owes us eight and one-half billion dollars and the interest on this vast sum must come here. We are flooded with gold and so how can prices go down with such a vast expansion of credit as must come from the control of the gold supply of the world. This expansion of credit will begin when the treaty of peace is signed, the embargo lifted and trade resumed. There is a great opportunity in manufacturing, an opportunity so great that the mind can hardly visualize the possibilities. Forty per cent of the spindles of the world have been idle while men devoted

themselves to war. Those in operation have been consuming quantities of cotton for war purposes which is valuable now. The shortage of cotton and clothes in Europe is so great that we overlook the shortage at home. The manufacturers of goods for civilian use in the United States in 1917 and 1918 is only 40 per cent of what it was in 1914. Our mills went on war goods to the extent of their capacity, the dry goods stores are understocked, the mills are running half time and everybody is waiting for something to happen. It is going to happen and this domestic shortage must be made up, hence in calculating domestic consumption, you must allow for forty per cent under consumption. If the acreage is cut as I confidently expect it to be, the price of cotton will advance to a point where consumption will be regulated to meet the size of the crop. The mills here by waiting to replace their stock, will find European manufacturers running the prices up to clothe a people who have been denied raiment for five years.

Yours very truly,  
John L. McLaurin.

### ANTI-FLIRTING LAW.

#### About Representative Hart's Bill to Make Boys Behave.

Ye olds of Anderson and those of other towns, if ye have been guilty of attempting to flirt with any of those beautiful young ladies of A. C., and if ye have had a look at the "flirting" you couldn't help it, cut it out! If you have been guilty—and some of you have—you know it, why it has all been on your part. No A. C. girl would flirt. Neither would a Winthrop girl or a Chlorea dream or a Converse miss or one of those A. R. P. ladies down at Due West. Nor would any of the girls who attend the other colleges be guilty even to the millionth of a degree. But you Anderson boys—well, boys will be boys! You know you have driven your cars up Greenville street, driving faster slow like your eyes to the right on an autumn's evening when the afrosaid eyes should have been straight ahead of you, less you should run the machine into a street car, or into some other car whose driver might not have his mind on his own business, either. You know you have, now, haven't you?

Better watch your step now, for be it hereby known to you that Representative John Hart who lives in the town of Yorkville, in the county of York, has introduced a bill. John Hart knows boys, because John Hart was once a boy himself, and is still somewhat of a boy, although, along with that, he is a mighty fine man and a mighty smart lawyer and an able legislator. Winthrop College is located in the county from which Representative Hart legislates, and Winthrop College has had a lot of trouble in the past from young men "flirting" with the young ladies of the town. Knowing that if the young men over in York would try to "flirt" with the girls at Winthrop that the young men in Anderson would try the same at A. C., and that young men in any town where there is a girls' college would try the same stunt more or less, the honorable John Hart decided to put a stop to it.

He introduced a bill in the house re-stricting that a penalty in the shape of a fine ranging from \$10 to \$100 be imposed upon any person convicted of "flirting" with the college girls. The only objection to the bill is that the penalty is not severe enough, because the writer knows at least one young man who would contribute a fine to the state any day in the week and Sunday too, for the privilege of flirting with certain college girls—that is if they would flirt!

But you Anderson boys are warned again—b-e-w-a-r-e!

For the senate has passed this bill for the protection of schools and colleges and it is now ready for ratification as law. The following is the bill:

"Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of South Carolina: Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person willfully or unnecessarily to interfere with or to disturb in any way or in any place the students or teachers of any school or college in this state attended by women or girls or to loiter about such school or college premises or to act in an obnoxious manner thereon, or for any person to enter upon any such school or college premises, except on business, without the permission of the principal or president in charge.

"Section 2. Any person violating any of the provisions of Section 1 of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than ten days nor more than thirty days."—Anderson Tribune.

Germany to Leave Labor Regulation to Workers.—By a law to be passed immediately the powers and duties of the workers' councils which the government promised to create as a means of putting a stop to the strikes would be defined. The representatives of the workers' associations of the workmen. Each industry which shall be consulted as to working conditions in "cases while the employment of the workers of production and distribution of goods and services is being carried on in all branches of industry and trade. The members will be elected by the workers and employees, co-operating with the employers.

District workmen's council chambers will be created for certain sections of the country and a central workmen's council for the empire. The members will be elected by the workers and employees, co-operating with the employers. The members will be elected by the workers and employees, co-operating with the employers.

Disposition of American Merchant Ships.—The Havas agency's report on Saturday's meeting of the supreme war council says:

"The greater part of the session was devoted to the discussion of the situation created by the interruption of the shipping trade. It was decided to notify Germany that she must accept the conditions of article 8 of the supplementary armistice signed at Freatex on January 18 which stipulated that in order to insure the provisioning of Germany and the remainder of Europe, Germany must place her merchant fleet under the control of the Allied associated powers for the period of the armistice, the effect upon the final disposition of the ships."

### THE GREAT SEATTLE STRIKE

#### Statement of the Affair by Chairman of the Committee

### SAYS WORKMEN WON THE FIGHT

Issue Was the Right of Labor to Receive Such Share of Its Proceeds as Would Enable It to be Comfortable—There Was No Bolshevism, No Disregard of Law, and No Un-Americanism.

The recent big strike at Seattle, Washington, was represented in the dispatches as having been a challenge to the civil government. It is a fact that United States troops were put at the disposal of the local authorities and from published representations it appeared that a bloody revolution was imminent in the city of Washington. The strike was finally settled by compromise that was so much to the advantage of the strikers that they claim to have won. But now the strikers are asking for a fair hearing of the truth, and to that end the following statement is being published in some of the leading newspapers of the country over the name of Ben F. Nauman, chairman of the executive committee of the general strike committee of Seattle:

"The Macy award being unsatisfactory to shipyard workers, they protested by referendum vote, but the war was still on, and having a clean record of putting all loans and donations way 'over the top,' their patriotism was beyond question.

"After the war was over, they exhausted every means to try and open negotiations for another 'adjustment,' as the high cost of living had put them in such a position that they could not eat, live, or clothe themselves properly. This agreement with the Emergency Fleet corporation was signed by the international body without hearing from the rank and file affected.

"When nothing more could be done to redeem the situation, the workers in the shipyards played their card of economic strength and quit the yards to a man, 25,000 strong. They immediately asked that a game of starvation on the part of the employers and others was to be played, so the general strike movement was started. To offset this movement of the employers, a referendum vote was taken of all bodies affiliated with the Central Labor Council. The sympathetic strike vote was very favorable, and a general sympathetic strike was planned and called for Feb. 6 at 10 a. m. The strikers went out, even the non-union shops, many of the bosses joining in the demonstration as a protest to help bring relief to these shipyard workers. The city was prostrate, as has been said, not a wheel turned except such exemptions as affected the general welfare of the entire city of 4,000 people; hospitals, undertakers, sanitation, water, light, gas, cold storage of food, running into millions of dollars, and many other exemptions that were vital to the general welfare of the public. I may mention that the United States government was exempted of everything concerning the government.

"From Thursday at 10 a. m., Feb. 6, the time the strike was called, until it was called off Tuesday, Feb. 11, not so much as a fist fight was booked at police stations which could be traced to the strike. Everybody stayed at home and rested up—took a vacation, so to speak.

"The organized workers on strike numbered approximately 65,000, while almost that many others who do not belong to any union, but who earn their living by working, walked out and stood out with the others. Even the orientals, such as Japanese and others, Japanese restaurants, and others took a vote and walked out and stayed out, returning at the appointed time set by the strike committee. All restaurants, eating houses, etc., were closed, and the cooks, waiters, and others fed this city from union halls, cafeteria style, 35 cents for a good meal, and they did it on a co-operative basis, assisted by the farmers' grange. Nobody received pay for any labor they performed, many thanks to the ordinary crafts of this city for their splendid, cheerful, and efficient handling of this situation.

"I wish also to call your attention to a splendid voluntary labor police force which had no authority except that of moral suasion, whose sole duty was to ask everybody to observe all laws to the letter. This body was composed of returned and discharged soldiers and sailors in uniform and of officers and returned officers of same, and all union men, some 250 all told. This force labored almost day and night keeping their eyes on things in order to prevent anything that other interests wished to start. A number of individuals were preaching and advocating measures that organized labor would not stand for, due to the fact that certain elements wished to inject matters not germane to the real issue and use it as propaganda and use the downfall of the employers' association was sown many times in this matter.

"Another matter of serious concern is the price of fertilizers. The prices of fertilizers are the highest we have ever known, and while the cotton grower cannot afford, if possible, to allow his acreage yields to decline, fertilizers must be used, as to quantity and kind, to meet the needs of the soil and the crop, and with every indication that fertilizers which were grown during the year sold for a profit. The reverse is now going to be true.

"It will be easily agreed that an reduction in cotton (and tobacco) should go into food and feed crops and pasture in an effort to make all nation by such stuff as that.

"There was occasion for the city government to be in readiness to cope with any emergency that might arise out of the crisis through which this city has just passed, but there was no occasion for adding false rumors and making political capital out of this demonstration, which was the greatest of its kind the world has ever seen.

"Seattle has a full head of steam and everything is running fine along the Puget Sound. I might mention that Tacoma, a neighbor city of 175,000 people, joined with Seattle and went on strike, as also did many other small towns in this vicinity.

"There will be a history of the general strike published in full, and the whole country will then know the facts, and Seattle in time will bear the credit for giving the world a solution of the problem of emancipation for all those who toil.

"The star of Laborism is now over Seattle."

### SOUTH'S COTTON PROBLEM.

#### Proper Solution of It Calls for Good Teamwork Everywhere.

B. W. Kilgore, of the North Carolina Experiment Station.

The south, and North Carolina particularly, wrought wonderfully well during the war period. Large crops, except cotton, have been made, particularly food crops. The cotton crops of the country for the four years of the war—1915 to 1918—were 11,700,000 bales, 11,300,000, 11,450,000, and 11,192,000, or an average of 11,411,000 bales against the four pre-war crops of 1911 to 1914 of 16,135,000 bales, 14,156,000, 13,703,000 and 15,993,000 bales which is an average of 3,511,000 bales more annually prior to that, than during the war period.

The acreage of last year was but 342,000 less than 1914 when the bumper crop of 16,135,000 bales was produced. The low production for the past four years has been due mainly to bad seasonal conditions in Texas and Oklahoma. Good winter rains already have been had in these states, and with the same acreage as in 1918—near 36,000,000—and good seasons, a crop well up as large as our largest and an likely would be made, which is far beyond what there are any reasons to think the world will consume.

Our bumper cotton crop of 16,000,000 bales in 1914, brought \$800,000,000, and our 11,500,000 bales of 1917, brought the south \$1,600,000,000, or twice as much as the bumper crop. We know what this means—"big crop, low price." Cotton at present prices is at, if not below, the cost of production, and not an inconsiderable number of North Carolina farmers have cotton of two years on hand, which means ability on the part of some to hold, but there are many farmers not so fortunate.

It would seem that the world needs and will consume at cost of production, plus a fair profit, the small crop of 1918, especially as this is one of four small crops in succession, the average for the four years being 11,110,000 bales, or 14,000,000 less for the four year war period than for the four year pre-war period.

What can be done to make this effective?

1. A well defined co-operative program on the part of the banker, the merchant and the farmer for holding and selling should bring results, and the united effort in spirit and action of all agencies is necessary to meet this critical situation.

2. Along with the movement to enable the farmer, the merchant and the banker, or whoever has cotton, to hold it till the right time, sell, must go a programme to house the staple, protecting it from the damage of exposure or greater loss may come from this cause than from the low prices.

3. What is more important when measured in terms of its effect upon the future of our farming industry, is a plan for preventing the production of a cotton crop this year greater than the world will require. A reduction in acreage from one-fifth to one-third has been suggested as the method of doing this. This would mean for North Carolina in round numbers, a million acres instead of a million and a half of cotton. This would leave a million acres heretofore devoted to cotton available for food, feed and soil-improving crops, especially stressing the latter, alone, or in combination with feed crops, as any plan for future action which does not have for one of its chief objects the increase of acreage yields the maintenance or increase of our cotton production will be in line with the kind of progress which the world will require in the last few years.

Cotton should likely, in most cases, be put on the better land, including some at least of the land planted to soil improving crops during the past year. It should be fertilized with the best of the land thus used and the crop, and increasing the acreage production and reducing the cost so as to meet the almost certain lower price for cotton next fall. Cotton should not be grown in away and no land which will produce less than two-thirds of a bale an acre and better—three-fourths of a bale.

Another matter of serious concern is the price of fertilizers. The prices of fertilizers are the highest we have ever known, and while the cotton grower cannot afford, if possible, to allow his acreage yields to decline, fertilizers must be used, as to quantity and kind, to meet the needs of the soil and the crop, and with every indication that fertilizers which were grown during the year sold for a profit. The reverse is now going to be true.

It will be easily agreed that an reduction in cotton (and tobacco) should go into food and feed crops and pasture in an effort to make all nation by such stuff as that.

American Ships Again Sail the Seven Seas.—For the first time since the days of the famous "Clipper" ships, says a Washington dispatch, American merchant craft are now plying the seven seas, carrying products of the United States to the farthest corners of the earth and bringing home both essentials and luxuries.

The shipping board announced today that the American merchant marine fleet, built up under the spur of war's needs, is now represented nearly 40 per cent of the entire seagoing tonnage of the world and comprised 46,231 gross tons, as compared with 47 per cent of the great war.

Trade routes not traversed by American craft for more than 50 years commerce consists of 351 freighters, 16 oil tankers, 230 sailing vessels, and 75 miscellaneous ships, aggregating 4,232,000 gross tons. Of this total, 406,528 gross tons are employed in transatlantic trade, 316,225 tons in South America, 261,252 tons in Caribbean and Mexican trade, and 36,014 tons in Alaska and Canadian trade. When the army and navy return to the shipping board the 353 ships with which they are operating the commercial fleet now represented by 47,000 gross tons will be increased by 1,373,250 gross tons, making the total 3,854,750 gross tons, with 100,000 tons of tonnage with tons building or under contract.

"The food and feed for the state on the farms of the state, so as to save transportation charges, and interesting profits, to make easy the holding of cotton, tobacco, peanuts and other money crops, and to encourage and support our growing livestock industry—beef cattle, hogs, poultry, sheep and dairy cows for the family cow, and dairies and creameries and for our new cheese industry—these, together with our farm and townpeople and our animals, make a practically sure market at remunerative prices, at all the food and feed crops and roughage that can be grown.

6. Finally, we must have in mind as a whole people a readjustment of our wage and living scale. We should not want to go back to the old conditions as regards these. Cotton, peanuts, tobacco and other money and general crops in the whole south have been produced with low-priced labor—with much child labor, unpaid and underpaid. These crops have been sold to the world on a basis of this kind of labor and we have bought products from other parts of the country on a basis of a higher labor and a higher living scale than our own standard of production.

Better prices for labor as a whole, better prices for the products of labor and a corresponding raise in the conditions of living for all classes and conditions should be the basis of the readjustment.