

# THE CAMDEN CHRONICLE

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## HIGH COST OF LIVING

### Claiming the Attention of Our National Makers.

Washington, Aug. 2.—In the face of growing unrest over the high cost of living, as indicated by the spreading strike of railroad workers, many government agencies are today in efforts to effect a return to normal levels.

Immediate sale of all surplus food-stuffs purchased for the army, instead of only excess goods, was ordered by the war department. Millions of pounds of meat, beans, pumpkin, squash and other commodities will be offered to the public Monday, August 18, through the public market system, at prices materially lower than those now prevailing in the market. Purchasers will have to pay postage charges from the place of storage.

Director General Hines, Commissioner of Labor, and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, L. F. Leffingwell, appointed by the president, are today in the city for a conference assembled by Attorney General Clegg to recommend steps to reduce living costs, were engaged today in an exchange of memoranda bearing on the question. The impression went out that the committee had agreed that steps should be taken by congress which would alleviate the situation at once, but it was said at Mr. Hines' office that nothing final had been decided upon. The committee was instructed particularly to deal with the profiteering and to suggest how law enforcement agencies should proceed to bring justice to the public.

If any recommendation is made to congress, it is believed most likely that it will deal with sale of the wheat crop at market price. Congress continued to discuss the living question and at the White House President Wilson is receiving committees. The senate adopted a resolution asking the banking committee whether reduction of the currency inflation would help the situation. In the house an attempt to pass for two weeks was blocked by Representative Igoe, Democrat, of Missouri, because his resolution to have the federal trade commission investigating the price of shoes was not acted upon. The new demands of railway employees for more wages to meet the high cost of living drew fire from Representative Blanton, Democrat, of Texas, who said the railroad men were acting like "highwaymen" in attempting to obtain "another unfair billion dollar raise."

Introduction in the house of a government ownership railroad bill, with the employees participating in the control and profits of the roads, was made the occasion of a statement by leaders of the four brotherhoods that the high cost of living demand the operation of the country's railroads "for service rather than for profit." The statement declared that wage earners could never hope to gain a permanent place in the economic strife under present conditions because of the constantly growing cycle of prices based on wages, and declared it was not money, but value which really counted. Any basic change, it was argued, must commence with the railroads, the fundamental industry, on which all others are dependent.

Prices for the food were quoted as follows:

Meats—Corn beef, No. 1 can, 30 cents; No. 2 can 28 cents; six-pound can \$2. Roast beef, No. 1 can 29 cents; one pound can 41 cents; two pound can 66 cents; six pound can \$2.20. Corn beef hash, one pound can 22 cents; two pound can 40 cents. Bacon in crates 34 cents per pound; in 12-pound tins 35 cents per pound.

Vegetables—Baked beans, No. 1 can 7 cents; No. 2 can 13 cents. String beans, No. 2 can 11 cents; No. 10 can 48 cents. Corn No. 2 can 12 cents. Peas No. 2 can 11 cents. Tomatoes, No. 2 can, 11 cents; No. 2-1/2 can, 13 cents; No. 3 can, 15 cents; No. 10 can, 45 cents. Pumpkin, No. 2 can, 6 cents; No. 3 can, 9 cents; No. 10 can, 24 cents. Squash, No. 2 can, 6 cents.

The number of cans available for sale in each community range from 22,030-235 of the No. 3 cans of tomatoes to 1,025 cans, No. 10 size of pumpkin. The largest amounts otherwise are 15,000,000 No. 1 cans and 19,000,000 No. 2 cans of corned beef, 12,000,000 each of the one and two pound cans of roast beef, 11,000,000 each of the one and two pound cans of corned beef hash, 13,000,000 cans No. 3 size, baked beans, 18,000,000 No. 2 cans of corn, 10,000,000 pounds of crated bacon, and 6,000,000 of bacon 12-pound tins.

The sale, the war department said, would be the largest direct sale to the American people ever attempted. The prices were stated to be "materially lower" than those prevailing in the commercial market and the food was described as being in excellent condition. "All of the commodities," the statement continued, "were government inspected and prepared in accordance with

## KERSHAW NEWS NOTES

### Interesting Happenings Gathered From The Era of That Place.

Miss Helen Geisenheimer, of Camden, was a guest of Miss Melita Cook last Wednesday evening and night. They made a visit to the Cook plantation near Taxahaw Wednesday evening where Professors Hoyt Cook and A. L. Geisenheimer are camping.

Dr. I. R. Hayes, who went to the bedside of his brother in a hospital in Richmond, Va., returned home last week. His brother, who had been critically ill for quite a long time, succumbed to his ailment several days after Dr. Hayes reached him.

Sheriff and Mrs. Grover C. Welsh and Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Watkins, of Camden, spent Sunday in Kershaw with relatives.

Miss Garris Brewer left last week to spend a while at Montreat, N. C., with her mother Mrs. W. F. Brewer who has a summer home there.

Mrs. H. L. Richey and little daughter, Sarah Lynn, are spending a while in Kershaw with Mrs. Richey's sisters Miss Susie Brewer and Mrs. C. F. Clyburn.

Sergeant Furman Jones, who served with the American Expeditionary Forces overseas and who was detained in a hospital from injuries received while embarking for home, returned home last Saturday, having received his discharge from the army.

P. B. Hilton and family of Whitnair visited the parents of Mr. Hilton, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hilton at Westville last week.

Mrs. Max Mogulescu and children and L. L. Block and two daughters of Camden, and Mr. Rich of Orangeburg were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Bluestein Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Melton of Camden, visited Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Mangum on Jefferson Route 2. Mr. and Mrs. Mangum accompanied them home for a few days visit.

George N. Faile and Miss Dora Morgan both of Kershaw were married Sunday night August 3rd. Notary Public W. F. Estridge performed the ceremony at his home in the presence of a number of relatives and friends.

Sergeant C. D. Ballard of Company A, 5th Infantry, Camp Taylor, Ky., spent last week end with his parents Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Ballard of Route 3. Sergeant Ballard will not receive his discharge until some time next year.

Miss Louise Trantham, who was one of the recent nurse graduates at the Fennell Infirmary in Rock Hill, spent Wednesday night in Kershaw with her cousin, Miss Senia Croxton. Miss Trantham is a daughter of the late Sheriff J. S. Trantham. After spending a short vacation in Camden, her former home, she will go to Orangeburg to enter upon hospital work in that city.

The following "high-up" masons were at Camden Tuesday evening of last week to witness the conferment of the higher degree upon a number of candidates: Dr. L. D. Simpfson, J. C. Massey, L. P. Mackey, Hal Beckham, J. C. Beckham, W. H. Jones, J. E. Jones, M. B. Jones, Paul Jones, B. E. Young, Dr. S. J. Blackmon, T. K. Fletcher, D. P. Dye, J. E. Barfield and T. T. Truesdale.

### Meeting of Trustees.

Several of the school trustees of Kershaw county, after the meeting last Friday organized a Trustees Association and in order to perfect this organization and to enroll every trustee in the county a meeting will be held in the Court House at Camden, Saturday the 16th inst at 11:30 a. m. It is the duty of every trustee in Kershaw County to come to this meeting. Many important questions will come up and especially adult schools and the compulsory attendance law, and it is necessary for every trustee to inform himself about these things. So Trustees don't let anything keep you away. Bring your friends if you can but don't forget to bring yourself.

### Request of W. T. Holley, Sec.

### Kershaw's Assessment.

The Kershaw Association has been assessed \$49,233 as her part to raise in the \$75,000,000 campaign to be put on by the Baptists for November 30 to December 7 of this year. Rev. M. M. Benson of Camden, has been named as organizer, with E. N. McDowell, of Camden, as publicity director.

## FOR "LAY-BY" SCHOOLS

### Interesting Meeting Held Last Saturday and Several Addresses Made.

In response to the call of Miss Nelle Wilkes, organizer of lay-by schools in this county, an enthusiastic meeting of the school trustees and others interested in the enlightening of the illiterate adults in Kershaw county was held at the Court House on last Saturday August 2nd. Practically every section of the county was represented, and those having charge of the work have every reason to feel gratified at the interest manifested in the movement. Miss Wilkes, in a very able talk impressed her hearers with the necessity of using every effort to stamp out illiteracy, and pointed to the fact that South Carolina has only the State of Louisiana to save her from being at the very bottom rung of the ladder in the literacy of her people. She also outlined the work that is hoped to be done toward the education of the unfortunate adults who cannot read or write.

Dr. W. Daniel, Supt. of Education I. J. McKenzie, Mr. L. T. Mills, Representatives M. M. Johnson and J. V. Young were present and each made short talks. The speakers of one accord thought that ignorance was largely responsible for the wave of crime now sweeping the State.

Mr. L. O. Funderburk and Mr. P. L. McNaughton were among the trustees present and made interesting talks. At the suggestion of Mr. Funderburk the trustees of the County formed themselves into an association. Mr. Funderburk was elected president of the association and Mr. W. T. Holley was elected secretary. They will meet at stated intervals; exchange ideas, consult with the County Board of Education and the Legislative Delegation, and they will no doubt be able to vastly improve school conditions throughout the County.

One could not help but be impressed with the fact that the people are awakened to the crying need of better educational facilities and much good is sure to result from the meeting.

### THOMAS WILSON WOUNDED

#### West Waterree Man Was Fired Upon While Driving Along Roadway.

Thomas Wilson, a well known saw mill man of the Pine Grove section of West Waterree, was shot from ambush Friday morning while passing along the road in a wagon. Two loads of buckshot were fired from a shotgun at close range, the loads taking effect in the left side of his face and shoulder. He was brought to the Camden hospital and is not considered dangerously wounded.

Will Finley, a white man, said to be a native of Blythwood, who has been employed by the Hardaway Construction Company, is said to have hid himself in a barn and fired as Wilson passed by. He fled from the scene and has not been captured. The trouble is said to have started from a law suit some months ago in which Finley was a witness against Wilson.

### Death of Mr. Creed.

Mr. James E. Creed, a well known citizen of the Cantey section died quite suddenly late Sunday evening. Mr. Creed retired in apparently good health. His wife noticed that he was breathing heavily and summoned medical assistance, but he died in a very short time. Mr. Creed was 54 years of age and had been thrice married and is survived by his last wife and several children. He has been engaged in the mercantile business for a number of years at Cantey Hill and was the postmaster at that place. The funeral and interment occurred at Flint Hill Baptist church on Tuesday. A more extended notice of Mr. Creed's death will be found in our Cantey correspondence this week.

### Making Map of the County.

Mr. J. H. Beck, a government man, of Washington, D. C., is in the county with headquarters in Camden for the purpose of making a complete map of Kershaw County. It will be a most complete one, showing every farmhouse, school, church and roadway in the county and will require a good deal of time and labor before it is completed.

### To Open News Stand.

Mr. S. W. Hogue is preparing to have built on East DeKalb street near his residence a small store room for the purpose of opening a news stand and cigar store. He proposes to carry in stock all of the latest periodicals, cigars and cigarettes and bottled soft drinks. It will be located on the main highway in front of one of the largest service stations and will no doubt prove convenient for auto travelers as well as other people.

Miss Laura Houston has returned from a two weeks stay in Asheville, N. C.

## CANTEY NEWS NOTES

### Community Regrets The Passing Away of Well Known Citizen.

Cantey, S. C., Aug. 7.—Seldom has such a crowd of people been seen at Flint Hill Baptist Church as was assembled there Tuesday afternoon to pay the last respects to the remains of Mr. J. E. Creed who had died on Sunday night August 3rd. Mr. Creed was apparently in his usual way, but in a few minutes after retiring his wife noticed something unusual and before aid could be summoned he had died. Mr. Creed died upon the 27th anniversary of his first wife's death. He had been married three times and leaves besides his widow eight children and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

Mr. Creed was a man of great energy and was widely known throughout the county for his genial disposition and was ever ready to take part in a good cause. Flint Hill church has suffered a great loss for Mr. Creed served many years as church clerk and was a deacon and superintendent of the Sunday School. Funeral services were conducted by his pastor the Rev. Mr. Byrd, assisted by the Rev. Truluck of Olanta and Rev. Neal of Kershaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Rose and little daughter are visiting their parents Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Rose.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McKenzie of Florence were here to attend the funeral of Mrs. McKenzie's father.

Miss Junita Rose has returned from a visit to Williamsburg.

Mr. Donald Davis of Charleston came up to attend the funeral of Mr. Creed. Mr. and Mrs. Phifer of Hamlet spent a few days in the community last week.

Mrs. Frank Pace and children of Columbia are spending the summer with her parents.

### Sunday Service at Baptist Church.

Sunday morning at the Baptist Church the pastor will preach. "Proof Positive" will be the theme and we will be glad to have every member of the congregation present. Visitors are especially welcome. Dr. J. K. Goode of Columbia will preach at the evening service and every one will do well to hear him. Sunday School at 10 a. m.

### Georgia Negro Lynched.

Cochran, Ga., Aug. 5.—An unidentified negro, who was taken from a Southern passenger train here this morning on complaint of negro passengers of the train, and placed in the city barracks, was lynched by unknown parties during the early morning. His body was found swinging to a small tree 60 yards from the Cochran and Eastman line.

The negro was enroute to Rechele. He told several persons, it is said, that he was from Chicago and had a message from that city. Negroes informed white people that the victim of the lynching had boasted that the negroes of Georgia were going to do what the negroes of Chicago had done.

### Chamber of Commerce Meets.

A called meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the Opera House Wednesday at noon for the purpose of discussing ways and means of either speeding up the work on the new river bridge or improving the service at the ferry. A representative of the bridge company was present at the meeting and gave assurance that the bridge would be completed this fall provided the water did not rise again. In reference to the service at the ferry a motion was carried to request the county commissioners to double the force of hands on the ferry during the day, repair the approaches and make other necessary improvements at the earliest possible moment. Messrs. W. L. DePass, G. H. Baum and R. M. Kennedy, Jr. were appointed a committee to appear before the county board and make this request.

Messrs. W. F. Nettles, F. M. Wooten, and R. B. Pitts were appointed a committee to appear before the State Highway Engineer and request that work on the road leading from Camden to the new bridge be commenced as early as possible in order to have it completed before the bridge is ready.

### Rock Hill Man Appointed.

Rock Hill, S. C., July 31.—S. H. White, of this city, today received an appointment from Governor Cooper as state constable, succeeding Mr. Bateman of Camden, former state constable for this district who was killed recently. While Mr. White will cover the territory over which Mr. Bateman operated, he will also be expected to cover other sections of the state, he says. Mr. White was notified of his appointment by a long distance telephone message from Columbia yesterday. He received the confirmation of his appointment today. Mr. White is director of the Palmetto Detective bureau, of this city.

## SMALLEST COTTON CROP

### Mr. Wannamaker Answers Inquiry of New York Magazine.

Columbia, Aug. 5.—Answering an inquiry from Pearsall's Magazine, of New York, as to the cotton situation, J. Skottowe Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, has sent the following telegram:

"The consumer fails to realize the seriousness of the situation he is facing. In only two years of the last fifty there has been improvement in August condition. That was in 1903, when the September report showed betterment for August of only 1.5 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 amount of acreage'. However, it fails to make allowance for this, both department and private estimators basing their production estimate upon an acreage of 33,000,000. From this should be deducted an acreage abandonment of 9-14 per cent.

"Even with an ideal season, an extremely small crop, certainly not larger than 10,000,000 bales, is an inevitable certainty. With an adverse season or insect damage we are facing a crop calamity. The plant, with diseased root system, sappy, poorly fruited, is unable to stand reverses. It is two to four weeks late and subject to calamity from insect damage. We are therefore facing the possibility of the smallest crop grown in the last fifty years. None of the 9-14 per cent acreage abandonment shown in our report can be reclaimed. The season is too late.

"Cotton carried over on August 1 includes bolls, rotten and unspinnable cotton. The world's production in 1915 was 17,700,000 bales; in 1916 it was 18,095,000; in 1917 it was 17,410,000. The figures for 1918 have not yet been compiled.

"The world's consumption in 1915 was 15,761,000; in 1916 it was 21,011,000; in 1917 it was 21,180,000; in 1918 it was 17,701,000. These figures are official being furnished by the Department of Agriculture. We are facing the absolute certainty of complete exhaustion of the supply of raw short staple cotton.

"One of the best experts in the South estimates the cost of production of the growing crop at 47 1-2 cents per pound, basis middling. The American Cotton Association, with representatives from every cotton growing county in the belt, will establish the minimum price for the growing crop based on supply and demand in comparison with profits being made by the manufacturer. This association is now so thoroughly organized that it means absolute certainty that the price so agreed upon will be maintained. The manufacturers will never have the opportunity to again buy cotton at anything like present prices. Two leading manufacturers in America inform us: 'We have closed out our hedges. Do not expect to hedge under present conditions. Realize that it will be extremely hazardous as purchasers under existing conditions will demand actual cotton. We could pay today for raw cotton basis middling, seventy-five cents per pound and make reasonable profit.'

### Revival Meetings at Mt. Olivet.

The Rev. John K. Goode of Columbia will assist the pastor, Rev. M. M. Benson in a weeks meeting beginning at Mt. Olivet next Sunday. All are welcome at these services to be held at 11 o'clock a. m. and 8 p. m. Sun times. Remember the date of beginning, Sunday August 9th. First service 4 p. m.

### Automobiles Collide.

A Nash touring car belonging to Sam Bowen, of Camden and being driven by his son, collided while running at a fast rate Sunday morning with a Mitchell touring car owned by Rev. G. W. Moore, a colored minister of Camden. The accident occurred just this side of the bridge over Pine Tree creek and the driver of the Mitchell car says he saw that the Nash was coming at a fast speed and thought the boy did not have it under control. He brought his car to a stop on the extreme right side of the road and the Nash swerved to the left and struck him with full force. Both cars were badly damaged and a broken windshield caused Bowen and one of his boys to receive severe cuts across the face. Bowen worked for the street cleaning department of the city and by his savings had purchased the Nash car only a few days before at a cost of \$1,200 and is said to have paid for it in small change ranging from a nickel to a dollar. His first Sundays outing was a hard luck one.

### Civic League To Meet.

A meeting of the Civic League will be held on Monday afternoon at 6:30 o'clock at Library Square. All members requested to attend.

## THE STRIKE SITUATION

### Fourteen Labor Bodies Threaten Nation-Wide Tie-Up.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Acting as a unit for the first time in the presentation of wage demands, the fourteen principal railroad unions today, in expressing to Director General Hines their disapproval of President Wilson's proposal that Congress create a commission to consider increased pay, declared that wage questions must be settled immediately.

A general program to meet the present crisis, involving the threat of a nation-wide strike, was submitted to the director general. It was suggested that the money to provide increased pay should come from an appropriation by Congress, to be followed by appropriate freight rate advances. This "temporary relief" must be accompanied by a determined effort to reduce the cost of living.

Permanent solution of the railroad problem was declared to depend upon the removal of returns to capital as the sole purpose of operation, and the director general, accordingly, was asked to recommend to President Wilson that he attempt to obtain early passage by Congress of organized labor's bill to eliminate private capital from control of the railroads and to give the employees a share in the profits. The unions declared the belief of the workers that transportation rates should be sufficient to guarantee just wages, maintain the properties and give equitable returns on money invested.

Interesting as were the suggestions for removing the menace of a nation-wide strike, the unified action of the fourteen organizations attracted equal attention. Labor leaders who were questioned declined to say whether the unions would act as a whole in the future, but declared that they were going through with the present situation as the body. The result will be to put the solid weight of 2,000,000 persons, virtually the entire rail transportation personnel of the United States, back of the demands, with the possibility as never before of the paralysis of the nation's life if a general strike should ensue.

Cooperation between the four great brotherhoods—engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen—for the first time several years ago proved the power of united action in passage of the Adamson act. The present situation was said to be similar, but infinitely more dangerous. Not only are the four brotherhoods involved, but all the other unions also which have to deal with the maintenance of equipment and the movement of trains.

The program submitted to Director General Hines declared that the employees were entitled to compensation which would at least re-establish the pre-war purchasing power of their wage. Reports of pay, it was said, were in no way co-related to transportation charges. The plan for a congressional committee was disapproved because "it means months of delay at a time when the questions involved require immediate settlement," the program said, continuing:

"You already have in the board of railroad wages and working conditions the necessary machinery to dispose of these questions, and we ask that their function be restored, and they be allowed to pass upon the questions submitted to them, and that their findings be placed before the representatives of the recognized organizations for their consideration and be mutually agreed upon before being issued.

"The moneys with which to pay these increases should, in our opinion, be raised by an appropriation to be of sufficient amount to temporarily take care of immediate deficits. In the meantime let the proper rate-making body make a careful study as to what, if any, increases should be made in passenger and freight rates, prompt action in this regard being both essential and desirable. This will only give temporary relief and must be accompanied or immediately followed by a determined united effort to not only prevent a further increase in the cost of living, but to secure a reduction therein.

"Any permanent solution of the railroad problem must necessarily remove the element of returns to capital as the sole purpose of operation. Therefore, we ask that you urge upon the President the necessity of the prompt passage by Congress of the required appropriation bill to meet the emergency now existing."

Rev. J. D. Smith and daughter Miss Mary Smith of Barwick, Ga., are visiting his brother in law Mr. J. M. Capell of Camden. Mr. Smith expects to remain here for some time where he will visit his sister in Charleston and several other places before he returns.