

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## THE TEXTILE INTERESTS THINK THEY'RE HONEST

### But Their Conduct Belies Their Fair Pretensions— They Are Ruthlessly Opposed to Any Effective Child Labor Legislation

By W. O. SAUNDERS

Are the textile manufacturers of North Carolina honestly in favor of child labor legislation? They say they are. But the evidence is against them. Having introduced the Connor-Saunders child labor bill in the House of Representatives recently I have been given an opportunity to see how the cotton mill men of the state behave when it is suggested that North Carolina get in line with Federal legislation on the child labor question.

Last summer the textile manufacturers of the state held a big convention in the city of Asheville and put themselves on record in favor of effective child labor legislation. They appeared to be very sincere and some were foolish enough to believe that they had seen a great light. Some were foolish enough to believe that the manufacturers themselves would have a child labor bill introduced in the General Assembly which convened on Jan. 8.

In meantime the Congress of the United States, which has been trying to work out a lawyer proof national child labor law for several years, tacked a rider on the new Revenue act which it is believed will withstand all attacks in the Supreme Court, the final resort of all vested interests.

The new Federal act imposes a tax of 10 per centum on the accrued profits of all industries employing children under 14 years of age or employing children under 16 years of age more than eight hours in any one day or more than 48 hours in any one week. Special machinery for the enforcement of the act, including rigid inspection of factories employing children, is placed in the Department of the Secretary of Labor.

### CLEVER PROPAGANDA

This act of Congress, now a law, was about to become a law when the present General Assembly of North Carolina convened. But the North Carolina manufacturers did not come to the General Assembly with a child labor law. Instead, they had placed on the desk of every member of the General Assembly a bulky and handsomely illustrated special edition of the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer which told in beautifully worded articles and illustrations of the welfare work being undertaken by the cotton mill men of the state in behalf of children. An altruistic mortal having read that special cotton mill welfare edition of the Charlotte Observer would have declared that the cotton mill men would be the first to favor a just and humane law in behalf of the children of the state.

But days rolled on and rolled by and there came no other suggestion of child labor legislation from the manufacturing interests. And then Mitchell L. Shipman, Commissioner of Labor and Printing, asked the members of the General Assembly to consider this subject of child labor at this session. He offered a bill which he believed answered the demands of the times. His bill created a commission composed of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of Labor and Printing; his bill provided a 14 year age limit for children working in mills, factories, shops, etc., etc., and an eight hour day and a 48 hour week for children under 16 years of age. The bill copied other particulars of the Federal child labor law and provided for inspection by the state department of labor which would be acceptable to the Federal government.

### THE CLOVEN HOOF

Did any cotton mill man endorse the Shipman bill? No, not one. But almost before the ink was dry on the Shipman bill, Edgar Love, Representative from Lincoln county and chairman of the House Committee on Manufactures and Labor, introduced a bill to abolish the office of Commissioner of Labor and Printing. Love is a cotton mill manufacturer. His obviously malicious, venomous and brutal attack upon Commissioner Shipman seems to be the spirit of the textile industry generally. Of course, the textile men deny this; of course they say that Love made a blunder; of course they say that Love does not represent their attitude. But the fact remains that they have stood solidly against Commissioner Shipman and not one has by word or act indicated that Love was wrong in intent. They merely condemn Love for having thrown the fat in the fire. The more astute manufacturers would have abolished Shipman in some other way. There are no charges of misconduct in office against Shipman; it is not even suggested that he is inefficient. The only thing against Shipman is that he busied himself to get the State of North Carolina to deal honestly with its children and with the Federal government at a time when the cotton mill men thought they had lulled the state to sleep on the subject of child labor legislation.

### HOW I GOT INTO IT

It was then that I approached Commissioner Shipman and told him that

if he would give me his bill I would introduce it in the House and give it my best effort, handicapped tho I was by lack of legislative experience. About the same time Senator Henry G. Connor volunteered to introduce the same bill in the Senate.

The hostility of the Chairman of the House Committee on Manufactures and Labor having shown its face, I requested the Speaker of the House to refer the Shipman bill to Judiciary Committee No. 2. This he did. Before the committee could act on my bill, Representative Neal, of McDowell county, another textile manufacturer, introduced a child labor bill and had it referred to the committee on Manufactures, Chairman Love. The Neal bill was a sorry makeshift for child labor legislation. It recognized no eight hour day, no inspection, no record of child workers and it took the enforcement of child labor legislation out of the hands of the Commissioner of Labor and Printing, putting the Governor in the Commissioner's place. Governor Bickett immediately protested; he didn't want to be made a policeman, even tho the Neal bill provided no law worth enforcing.

### A RAW DEAL

The House now found itself in the predicament of having two child labor bills under consideration by two different committees, one committee manifestly hostile to the cause and unable to act without bias. I approached the Speaker of the House and asked him if any way could be arranged to get the two bills before one committee. The Speaker suggested that, with the consideration of all parties, both bills could be referred to the Committee on Education. I accepted this suggestion and laid the proposition before Representative Neal. Mr. Neal said he would consent to this. Oh, he acted just lovely about it! But behind his lovely conduct was the spirit of one Edgar Love, which has nothing to do with brotherly love.

Acting in good faith, I withdrew my bill from the Judiciary Committee and had it referred to the Committee on Education. What did Neal do? I'll tell you. He prepared a substitute for his original bill. He was going to send his bill before the Committee on Education. He knew the educational prejudices of this committee. He took his old hag of a child labor bill, gave her a wig of compulsory education and a set of false teeth called the Commissioner of Public Welfare. He scented her with perfumes of fragrant educational and public welfare pretensions and sent her into the Committee on Education to flirt with and seduce that body. But it wasn't enough for Representative Neal to have played this unfair game. He did not keep his promise to withdraw his child labor bill from the Committee on Manufactures and refer it to the Committee on Education for consideration. Before referring his substitute to the Committee on Education he had the Committee on Manufactures recommend the child labor features of his substitute bill.

Is it any wonder that when the child labor question got to the Committee on Education, that committee was at a loss how to function? It wasn't child labor to be considered at all, but a hastily constructed and utterly inadequate compulsory education law. In a limited time it was almost impossible to get the issue straight before the committee. Under pressure from lawyers from cotton mill counties in the state Senate, perhaps misled too by a powerful lobby of manufacturers which had been working at the capital for days, a majority of the committee, tired and worn out with other matters, recommended the Neal substitute. It looked good to them. It is not the first time men were fooled by good looks only to discover in nine days that they had gotten something wrong into their blood.

### BALLING THINGS UP

The manufacturers in their frenzied, thoughtless efforts to block the passage of a real child labor law in this session of the General Assembly have ruthlessly embarrassed the Department of Charities and Public Welfare and the Department of Education. The Neal Child Labor Bill has hopelessly mixed compulsory education with child labor, to the embarrassment of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Superintendent Brooks has some ideas of his own about state-wide compulsory education and one of his ideas is that it ought not to be confused with the child labor question. By tacking even a good compulsory education act onto a child labor bill, the state misses the point entirely. The compulsory education act is for the whole state and is not primarily concerned with a certain group of children in the state. Dr. Brooks and all true friends of education are convinced that compulsory education in North Carolina will be given a serious setback and the Department of Education involved in endless difficulties with the mill people if compulsory education is not divorced from child labor legislation and given a dignified stand on its merits.

At the same time the Department of Charities and Public Welfare feels it is to be badly handicapped if it is identified in anyway with the enforcement of

## "Hot Stuph" Out for Congress



HON. H. S. (HOT STUPH) WARD

HON. HALLET S. WARD, familiarly known thruout the First Congressional District as "Hot Stuph" Ward is a candidate for congress, opposing Congressman John Humphrey Small. There are two reasons why Mr. Ward opposes Mr. Small. The first is, he wants Mr. Small's job; the second is, he thinks now is the time to get it. Mr. Ward is a great admirer of Hon. Clarence R. Pugh, the late Republican nominee for Congress in this district and he thinks Mr. Pugh battered Mr. Small some in the last campaign. Mr. Ward thinks he can finish the job, spite of the fact that there will be a great national death of stimulants after July 1. Whether Mr. Ward will have as much confidence after July 1 as he has now is some question. The above cartoon of Mr. Small's distinguished opponent was made by Ernest Williamson, the inventor of the submarine moving picture. Mr. Williamson is now somewhere at the bottom of the Caribbean Sea taking pictures of fossils for the Smithsonian Institute. This explanation is made to save Mr. Ward the trouble of coming to Elizabeth City to look for him.

## MR. MUNDEN WILL QUIT THE WEDDING BUSINESS

Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County Will Be Just Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds J. W. Munden has accepted Representative Saunders' proposition and will cease to be a Justice of the Peace after March 1, 1919. And now Mr. Munden says he is going to hold certain office hours and no one can get a marriage license from him after 6 o'clock P. M. on any week day and not at all on Sunday. Heretofore Mr. Munden has carried a supply of marriage licenses in his home and sat up nights waiting for the Virginia runaways who came this Gretna Green to wed. Mr. Munden would issue a marriage license at 11:59 P. M. and perform the marriage ceremony for the licensees at 12:01 A. M., taking his chance on getting a substantial fee from the bridegroom. Now he can go to bed along with the rest of Elizabeth City folk.

It will be recalled by readers of this newspaper that it was agreed that the salary of the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank should be fixed at \$2,400 per annum, in view of the increased work of the office and the fact that the Register of Deeds has to have expert office help for which he has to pay out of his own salary. Representative Saunders refused to raise his salary except upon condition that he give up the position of Justice of the Peace.

### LOST—A FOX TERRIER PUPPY WITH BROWN EARS AND A BROWN SPOT ON TOP OF HEAD. REWARD FOR RETURN. J. W. SELIG.

child labor legislation. Superintendent Beasley's task is to deal with the delinquent and abnormal children of the state and the duties of his office are clearly defined. He has stated positively that he does not want the machinery of any child labor legislation placed in his office.

Friends of Superintendent Beasley believe that sinister motives lie behind the manufacturers' scheme to put the burden of enforcing child labor legislation upon the Superintendent of Public Welfare. This is an appointive office, and not an elective office as is the office of Commissioner of Labor and Printing. There are those who believe that the manufacturers have an idea that they can somehow get control of the State Board of Charities and oust any man who becomes offensive to them. Superintendent Beasley is to-day the most efficient man in welfare work in North Carolina. He has a better grasp of North Carolina's social problems than any other man. It would be a calamity to the state and to the social welfare to put him in a position where he might offend the cotton manufacturers and bring their wrath down upon his head. No one who has followed the cotton manufacturers of North Carolina, in their efforts to keep their strangle hold upon the child workers of the state, doubts that the manufacturers would endeavor to destroy Beasley if he enforced Child Labor legislation, just as they have signified their intention of destroying Shipman who dared to propose Child Labor legislation.

The textile manufacturers of North Carolina are not honest on the child labor question. They merely think they are.

## WAR BABIES THAT HAVE NOT SEEN THEIR DADS

This Newspaper Wants Their Pictures For Publication; If You Have One Send It In

How many War Babies that have never seen their fathers are to be found in Elizabeth City and northeastern North Carolina? This newspaper would like to locate all such War Babies and print their pictures. Every mother of a War Baby born while the father is overseas is invited to send a picture of the baby to this newspaper. Give the father's name and company and regiment number and any other facts that may be interesting. The picture will be returned unharmed. Write baby's name and the name of its parents on the back of the picture. THE INDEPENDENT is sure there are lots of War Babies in northeastern North Carolina, born after their fathers were called to the colors. Let's put their dear pictures in the paper. They will appreciate looking at the clipping from the paper years hence.

## ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON GETS LIGHT FINE

An attack on a man's life is not a very costly thing in Elizabeth City, his has been demonstrated many times but the most recent fare towards dealing justly with a criminal was when one Elliott Baum was fined \$50.00 in the Recorder's court for slashing D. D. Smith, a United States sailor now stationed at the U. S. Hospital. Baum's attack on Smith was nothing more than a criminal assault with a deadly weapon, a razor being the weapon in this case, and it is a travesty on justice to think that the defendant should get by with such a light fine. The case was tried before Recorder Spence Saturday morning. E. F. Ayldett represented Baum.

Immediately after he had been fined, an appeal was noted but those well informed say that this is merely a "stall" to get a chance to raise the fine thereby keeping out of jail. Of course Baum is under bond but the bond is considerably reduced from the 10,000 originally set making it quite easy to get a signer or two for same.

I wonder what the penalty would have been if the defendant had been an ignorant negro?

## A CORRECTION

In his article dealing with the attitude of the manufacturers toward the child labor question, printed elsewhere in this newspaper, W. O. Saunders says he "laid the proposition before Representative Neal," etc. Mr. Saunders should have said he "was assured that it had been agreed to by the manufacturers and that Mr. Neal himself had given Governor Bickett to understand that this course met with his approval." This explanation is made because Mr. Neal contends that Mr. Saunders had no understanding of the matter referring the child labor bills to the House Committee on Education. The point is immaterial and Mr. Saunders is willing to let Mr. Neal have his way about it.

## SMITH NOT SURE WHEN HE'LL GET BACK HOME

But He Is Sure The Soldiers Are Sure On Republicans, Democrats And The Y. M. C. A.



Real human interest stuff is contained in a letter from First Lieut. Herbert H. Smith, formerly shop foreman of THE INDEPENDENT, now with the American Expeditionary Forces. His letter is dated at Poincon les Lorrey d' Ore, France, January 22, 1918. Smith says:

Snow is several inches deep and still coming down. Bids are good for it to be a few feet deep before it quits. A Frenchman told me that he remembers seeing a snow over here that took him to his belt, and he is a tall guy. So I guess we'll be snowed in and have to remain here 'till August or September.

At one time there was an over amount of hot-air, more commonly called 'bull,' floating around here that we were on our way home, but the scene has changed, and the "bull" is that we will be here for 4 or 5 months yet (ain't that Hell). And I guess we will. No need to worry, only gives one a wrinkle and disarranges his digestion!

This little burg, Poincon is a small town (not on the map) but it is about 10' kilos. (6 1-4 miles) from Chantillon, a pretty good size town, with a school, wine, women, etc., are plentiful—also the soldiers! (that makes it bad.)

The average American soldier is yet to learn that these Francs are money, and we spend them (when we have 'em) as tho they grew in the back yard. (I might mention that the lucky guy usually spends his own pay, and the pay of several others.)

A fellow in our Company had his Local Board to pull a few wires and strings (political, of course) and the said Board had him discharged and he left us last week for God's country. Lucky Dog, I say! And say, speaking about politics, I think that the Democrats and the Republicans have lost some over a million voters, and the Socialists (and anarchists) have gained about that many—you should hear these fellows, from any Company or Division. There are two things that he will surely "cuss," the Democratic Party and the Y. M. C. A. And if you feel like fighting, just say one good word for either one of these organizations, and in right away you are in a fight!

What was that big "Frenchman's" name? Poltaire, or something like that anyway, he had himself a regular palace up near Wassy, and the folks say he kept a bunch of "good-lookers" there while his wife stayed in Paris—Oh, he was a regular old bird!

One time I said stop the paper—now I say please don't, because we are liable to here 'till August. I haven't had a paper or any mail since November 16, but maybe it will come along after awhile. You see while I was in the hospital my mail was sent to A. E. F. Headquarters P. O. and it hasn't come back yet.

I have learned three more "French words, now that makes four I know! ha! Pretty soon at that rate I'll be speaking "boo-coo" French just like a native son!

How are Stanley and Everett coming along with their girls? It's about time they were "doing that which all foolish men do" and start a little war I guess! But in the long run I guess it's a better life, 'cause if a fellow is married he doesn't run around so much and then, too, he has some one always on hand to fight with him. (ha.)

My love and regards to you all.

Sincerely,  
SMITH.

P. S. A guy just came in with some more "bull." Says we leave here for "somewhere" the 15th of February.

## AN UNUSUAL SERVICE

The country is full of good eye specialists and there are hundreds of good eye glass manufacturers, but it is worth something to Elizabeth City and vicinity to know that both can be found in this town. Dr. Hathaway is not only a reputable and skillful optometrist, but he grinds and fits glasses on his premises. This unusual service is seldom found except in much larger cities.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY  
OPTOMETRIST  
Over McCabe & Grice  
Elizabeth City, N. C.

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS SHOULD MEET APPROVAL

### Should Get Endorsement From This Country. It Applies The Monroe Doctrine To The Whole World

## HOG CHOLERA WORK BE HANDLED FROM KELFORD

Addition of Several New Counties to  
Northeastern Carolina Territory  
Takes Control From This City

In August, 1916, the Federal Department of Agriculture, co-operating with the State Department, undertook to bring the disease of hog cholera more nearly under control in the six northeastern counties of North Carolina, and established headquarters at Elizabeth City. The plans for the work were to organize the farmers of each township into a hog growers' protective organization, and each organization to select one of their members to be the local serum administrator, he to proceed to Raleigh, where he received special training at the hands of the state authorities, and after which his training would be continued in the field by the Federal inspector, Dr. F. D. Owen. This man was then capable of doing the work of inoculating and immunizing the swine for his neighborhood.

This work has been highly successful, and resulted in the reduction of the hog cholera losses to a minimum, and has so proven to the farmers of the district that hog raising can be rendered safe that very few farmers have not improved the character of their stock, and now northeastern Carolina probably has a better class of swine than any other section of the state. The results of the work were so pleasing that the Federal Department of Agriculture granted to Dr. Owen several assistants and the same plan of work is now being conducted in three other districts; in addition, the State Department has employed two veterinarians and turned them over to Dr. Owen to continue the same work.

The original plan was to have the work in a district being finished within one year, or at the most, 18 months, but when this country entered the world war it was found expedient to continue the work from the Elizabeth City headquarters, but several of the original territory were added to the original territory. Now organized that it has been decided to transfer the headquarters of the work to a point more central for the other counties on the South side of the Sound, and the other counties in the district further west, such as Northampton, Bertie and Hertford counties where the work has been handicapped because of the difficulty of rail and road transportation from Elizabeth City. The new headquarters will be located at Kelford, Bertie county, which is nearly the geographical center of the newer field, and will be under the supervision of Dr. T. L. Glenn, a graduate of the Alabama School of Veterinary Medicine, at Auburn, Ala., and who has until very recently, been in the veterinary corps of the Army.

Altho the headquarters of the work is being removed from Elizabeth City, and the six northeastern counties, this section will still continue to receive the assistance of the Federal Department of Agriculture, thro the office of Dr. F. D. Owen, at Raleigh, and the office of Dr. Glenn at Kelford, as well as being protected and the swine raisers being able to secure the services of competent serum administrators in their own townships, and if the name of the nearest serum administrator is not known such information will be supplied upon application to either of the above named men. The work of these serum administrators will be supervised by Dr. Glenn and careful checking of their work done, to see that no one is permitted to do inoculation work unless he is thoroughly competent.

## LEGISLATURE SENDS A DELEGATION DOWN HERE

Committee of Senate And House Investigated The Claims of The State Normal Last Saturday

A special joint committee of the House and Senate of the N. C. General Assembly visited Elizabeth City Saturday for the purpose of ascertaining the needs of the State Normal State School and reporting thereon to the Appropriations Committees of the General Assembly.

The committee was composed of Senator Titus G. Currin, of Granville county; Senator James F. Shinn, of Stanley county; Representatives W. F. Morgan, of Perquimans; J. D. Eckles, of Brunswick and Oscar Maguire of Surry.

The committee landed in Elizabeth City on a wet Saturday and Elizabeth City always looks its worst on a wet Saturday, but they were well pleased with the town and the weather didn't prevent them from getting an exact line on the needs of the State Normal. In fact, the weather was in favor of the school because it enabled the committee to see just how badly the school buildings needed new roofs. The committee seemed to think that the State Normal needed everything it had asked for, especially sewerage, water and laundry facilities.

There has been much opposition raised to the recently created League of Nations by a few small-visioned politicians in Congress. Senators Poindexter and Borah in speeches made before the Senate claim that the United States would surrender its sovereignty in accepting the points laid down by the League for adoption. I wonder if the same senators think that all of the other thirteen nations approving this League are willing to stake their sovereignty by the signing of a mere official document.

These same senators say that this league of nations would absolutely abrogate the Monroe Doctrine while I say that instead of the Monroe Doctrine being "America for America" it would be "Civilization for Civilization." It would be one of the strongest links in a doctrine to uphold world-wide peace; it would have been the instrument to save the millions of lives so recently sacrificed on the bloody battle fields of Europe.

Allowing the peoples of the various localities of Europe, especially in Germany and Russia, to choose their way of living; allowing them to set up government of their own; all of this would amount to naught if these new and smaller nations could not have some guarantee that they were not to be the contention of another titanic struggle between the jealous nations of Europe. This proposed League of Nations offers to them the only guarantee which fills them with hope and inspires them to make a nation worth while. I wonder what the objecting senators could offer to these new nations better than this? I wonder what these objecting senators would offer us as a preventative for future wars? I wonder if these same senators believe in the old axiom that might is right? I hardly see how they can after witnessing the awful downfall of the mightiest military machine in the history of the world.

I am sure that the people of this country will acclaim the League of Nations with as much fervor as do our allies abroad. The scathing attacks made upon it by a few "short-visioned statesmen", as ex-president Taft speaks of them, will not carry much weight with it as it is merely a case of the Republican party trying to discountenance the workings of the Democratic party, political trick which has been in vogue since Cornwallis surrendered in Yorktown. If by adopting this League we are just one inch toward an universal everlasting peace then I say we should adopt it and stand by it for it is peace we want and so long as it is an honorable peace guaranteed us let us all acclaim "Give us The League of Nations."

## TO PUBLICLY WELCOME SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

There are few communities that have not staged Victory Celebrations of one kind and another, in recognition of the services rendered the country by the men who have now returned home from the army camps, or from across the sea.

This matter was brought to the attention of the members of the Chamber of Commerce at the last monthly meeting, and it was unanimously agreed that Elizabeth City should publicly welcome the soldier and sailor boys of this community who have returned home. It was felt that our citizens would welcome an opportunity to show their appreciation of the services rendered the nation by such men, and their sacrifices for the principles which are the very warp and woof of our national life.

And the conviction was expressed that these men in our midst should not only be given a public testimonial of esteem and appreciation, but that their names should be preserved in imperishable characters, and a bronze tablet erected to tell the story of their loyalty to coming generations.

The suggestion was also made that Elizabeth City should have an incorporated Historical Society, to carefully preserve the flags, posters, records, etc., connected with the great war through which our people have passed so gloriously and so triumphantly. If we of today are interested, as we surely are, in the relics and mementos of past rises in the history of mankind's struggle for a larger and better life, will not the men and women of tomorrow, our children and our children's children, be equally interested and inspired by memorials of the titanic war for the dearest and most sacred rights of humanity?

Both of the above mentioned matters were referred to a special committee which will present definite suggestions later. It was felt by the meeting that both matters were important enough to receive most careful consideration before acting.