

About Passing Events.

The Mexican Situation.--Huerta Skeddables.--Socialism in Dunklin County.--Uncle Eli Ake Losing Faith, Etc.

IN MEXICO.
Capitalism and its resultant wars are never understood by those not in the game. And if you imagine that Wilson and Bryan will not protect "our" interest in Mexico, you may as well change your mind. Of course you and I have lost nothing in Mexico, but we don't count. We are not considered in the affairs of government. But Morgan has been to see the president, and we are now assured that the rebels must tote fair with "our" investments in Mexico, or there'll be trouble.

Every sort of jugglery and shenanigan has been resorted to for the purpose of developing an excuse for us to butt in. Our flag was insulted and we rushed our fleet down there to compel a salute.

Then, when we got our soldiers on Mexican soil, we were not so sure about it and decided that we had better "mediate" some.

So we mediated five or six weeks and decided that, since we had our troops on Mexican soil, we could get along without the salute.

When we found we could not trap the rebels into a parley where the dice were loaded against them, we concluded that it would be a good idea to get old Huerta out of Mexico while getting was good. So Huerta resigned and skipped.

In the mean time J. P. Morgan calls on the president and is reported as coming out smiling. News reports from Washington say that "I understand" that Morgan, representing the Big Financiers of New York, was assured that the custom receipts that we are collecting at Vera Cruz will be applied to paying the interest on Mexican bonds held by "us." The Chicago Tribune says:

"This being the attitude of the administration toward American citizens owning property in Mexico, it is assumed that the United States does not contemplate holding the Vera Cruz revenue to apply on damages. Nor will these revenues be held to cover a national indemnity, which the United States waived in the protocol signed at Niagara Falls. New York bankers, therefore, are confident that eventually a large part of the Vera Cruz receipts will be turned over to them by United States government. This situation they regard as much more favorable to an early payment of interest on Mexican bonds than would have been the case had the United States not occupied Vera Cruz."

See whose government it is? You and I are paying the expense of keeping the soldiers in Mexico to collect the tariff or revenue at Vera Cruz so the bond-holders can get their interest. What would we do if it wasn't for our precious bond-holders? The navy would be cast upon the junk heap and the soldiers would have to go to work.

The navy is nothing more than a big constabulary that goes from nation to nation and compels the payment of debts due our capitalists--just as your township constable or sheriff seizes your property for debt. And the national army is for the same purpose--when it is not engaged in driving wage-slaves into submission at home.

When we send the little constabulary out to collect a debt for us, we have to pay the costs. But when we send the Big Constabulary down to Mexico to "protect OUR interests," we get together at Niagara Falls, have a big feed, and sign a protocol waiving any claim for costs. Which is proper. If we charged up the cost, there would be nothing left for the invisible government--known as Morgan, Rockefeller & Co.

Ho, ho! for you! Ain't we smart? Vote 'er straight.

IT IS ALWAYS SO.
Down in Dunklin county the Socialists are going thru the same evolution that it seems they must go thru everywhere. We are passing thru it now in Scott county.

At the last election in Dunklin county the Socialists polled more than thousand votes. Yet it is not likely that more than a third of these understood Socialism--as it should be understood. Any boob can be an old party shouter and there is no way to question his loyalty--except by family history. If pap and grand-pap voted for 'em all right. He is not expected to know anything or believe in anything except his party platform--which he never reads, and wouldn't understand if he did, and which shifts and changes like the wind. But to become a class-conscious Socialist one must shake loose from all of the ancient prejudices and let a little light in on the brain.

When the light first begins to appear, the realm often goes hog wild. He wonders why others can see--forgetting how stubbornly his own cave mind resisted. He does not understand how systematically the forces of Darkness are organized to shut out the light from the cradle up. Nor does he understand the importance of organization. In the earlier stages the Socialist retains his inherited belief in "leaders" to pull him out of the hole--although he is continually warned that whatever freedom the workers obtain must be obtained by the workers themselves. They must be self-reliant and not wait for Jones to do it.

In Dunklin county the Socialists set out to "carry the county" this year. Yet they seem to have about the same kind of organization we have had in Scott county--practically none at all. In the primary they are operating along old party lines. Anybody could file for nominations. Under such conditions it would be a sad calamity if they won. The state secretary called them down on their irregular methods, but they thought they knew their business and refused to be dictated to. The result is already apparent. Strife and confusion have arisen, the old parties have split within, and it is only a matter of very short time until collapse will set in--if it has not already set in.

But there is nothing new about this. It always happens. In fact it is a lesson the workers must learn by experience in order to understand the necessity of more compact organization. Fifty years of experience in Europe has taught the Socialists the path to follow to avoid disaster. And so long as the constitution and by-laws are adhered to, the organization is almost impregnable.

HE SWALLOWED IT ALL.
Campbell, in Dunklin county, has a court house organ called the Citizen. It's editor is a sort of cheerful idiot whose son has the job of going to the legislature as a Democrat to make laws for us. On July 4 the Socialists held a picnic in a community called Peedee. It was a gathering of farmers with basket dinners and many were there.

Of course the "best people" were not there--just as they were not at the Socialist picnics in Scott county. There being no automobiles nor silk skirt Ladies, the affair did not appear respectable to the cheerful idiot. Hence the following comment in the next issue of his paper:

"They say the picnic at Peedee Saturday for the benefit of the Socialist candidates for county office was a wide open affair. Every kind of gambling apparatus, booze joints and plenty of women of questionable character were there in full force. It was certainly a 'jimdandy.' If our informants tell the truth."

This reminds me of Collector Buck's comment on the Morley picnic in the Banner two years ago. But the Dunklin farmers are not as patient and submissive as they are in Scott county. They made a "pleasant call" on the cheerful idiot and impressed him with the wisdom of swallowing what he had said, and that he must not use capsules. In the last issue of the Citizen appears this:

"There was a mob of mad men in town Saturday to lick old man Overall for publishing an article about the Socialist picnic at Peedee on July 4. These mad men say the charges of drunkenness, gambling and lewd women being present at said picnic was a lie and from what we gather from others of that neighborhood, who were at the picnic, the charges were false and therefore unjust to the promoters of the picnic and citizens of that neighborhood. We only told what was told us, and since our informants misrepresented the facts to us we can do nothing else than apologise to all of those interested in the picnic. We therefore mean this as an apology for the article in the Citizen, and to every individual in the community whose reason controls his prejudices, and an especial apology to the whole of

the Peedee community. We were not present on that occasion and had no more idea of offending that community than we had of flying.

"Don't you think the term 'cheerful idiot' is rather mild to apply to one who will publish such a slanderous article about a gathering in a community and then say he had no idea of offending the people of that community?"

LOSING HIS FAITH.
Uncle Eli Ake of the Iron County Register, is "coming" some. In some strange way he seems to have made the discovery that "there are yet extant some persons who steal the livery of heaven, but everything else that is not nailed down tight--and even that which is thought to be securely nailed is pried loose by a court decision or a crooked act of legislation. But it is always reverently and piously done--the chaplain opening the show with the 'divine invocation.' Of a recent failure in St. Louis Bro. Ake writes:

"I note that both members of the Nichols-Ritter Realty Co. of St. Louis, which recently went into bankruptcy with \$300,000 liabilities and \$5,000 assets, were truly (and maybe yet hold themselves so) pious people. According to the Post-Dispatch, Chas. C. Nichols, president of the bankrupt company, 'has been prominently connected with the Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church, first as a deacon for 12 years, and later as an elder.' E. P. V. Ritter, vice-president of the company, nearly 35 years ago, 'became the secretary of his brother-in-law, Jos. Specht, who founded the famous Shoe and Clothing Co. of which Ritter later became vice-president and treasurer. On the top floor of the store he fitted up a chapel and required all the store employees to attend religious services there several times a week. At the same time he enrolled many of them in a building association. For many years he was superintendent of the Union Methodist Church Sunday school and later was a prominent member of the Lindell Avenue M. E. Church.' It is harrowing to read the stories of the victims of this failure. Confining widows and old men who had entrusted their hard-earned savings to the care of the company believe themselves penniless in their hour of need. The money they had saved against the 'rainy day' which comes with age and sickness seems to have 'gone glimmering.' Deception and falsification, they charge, were used--second mortgages and unsecured notes, worthless stocks, etc., pledged in exchange for hard-earned cash. The report of experts upon the schedule of assets submitted by the company is not reassuring, but everybody will pray that the outcome will not mean utter loss to the investors, who say they had confidence in the company because Nichols and Ritter were 'church members.'"

A DOUBTFUL INVESTMENT.
It was Dr. Cannon, the Democratic war-horse of the North End, in answer to my statement that the Democrats are getting awfully good to the Socialists in providing a ticket for them, who said: "Why, Phil, we didn't see any use of one man getting it all for keeping a Socialist ticket out of the field in the interest of the Republicans; we thought we ought to divide up and give the rest a show."

Judging from present indications, if the Democrats divided up more than about 30 cents, they made a bad investment--almost as bad as when they turned over to Rucker that \$500 note two years ago to start the ball to rolling.

However, the Democrats are still at it, and seem determined

that the Socialists shall have a ticket. On July 6 a bunch of the patriots were grizzled, and did not notice that I was near. Said one of the chief manipulators: "I was down at Morley and had a talk with Old Man Curd. The old man said he didn't believe the Socialists were in favor of putting out a ticket, but I tried to convince him that it was necessary; that the Socialists ought not to let their organization die down, and ought to keep it up by putting out a ticket; and I believe I had the old man about convinced. You see the principles of the Socialist party."

And there the lid was put on. I was discovered. But a letter received by the Kicker a week later from Mr. Curd, did not indicate that he had been very thoroughly convinced.

WONT WORK HERE.
It pays to have The Critic in Pemiscot county. Instead of the county having to pay two dollars an inch for publishing the notes of the primary candidates three times, it got the work done for five cents an inch, each insertion.--Hayti Critic.

Well, that may be "the law" down here, but Scott county is above Missouri law and has a law of its own. We go right on paying the two dollars. The only printing that has been submitted to the lowest bidder was the financial statement, and on this the county saved at least 300 per cent.

While Pemiscot county is conceded to be pretty rotten, yet there are some things to raw for it--and one of these is to ignore the law regulating public printing.

A SOCIAL REFORMER.
The Social Reformer set out blithely upon his self-appointed task of abolishing poverty. He came upon a politician and asked his aid.

"Too bad, old man" replied the politician. "I should like to oblige you, but poverty is not an issue just now. I'm afraid you will have to move on."

The Social Reformer went on a bit farther and met a physician. He asked the physician to help. "Really, good sir," replied the physician, "you will have to excuse me, without poverty I should have to go out of business, for it is the cause of many of the diseases I am called upon to treat."

The Social Reformer went on a bit farther and met a Manufacturer, whose aid he solicited.

"Can't do it at all, sir," declared the Manufacturer, emphatically. "It would be ruinous to my business. Without poverty I could not hire little children or secure adults at such low wages. You will have to move on sir."

The Social Reformer moved on farther and came upon a Charity Worker whose help he requested. "I cannot deny that it would be a good thing in a way," replied the Charity Worker, "but I cannot assist you. You see there is a vast quantity of capital invested in this and other charity organizations. Also they employ a great many people and give a great many others an opportunity to ease their consciences through contributions. Without poverty, of course, all this effort would be wasted."

The Social Reformer moved on farther, and, meeting a Pauper, asked him to help him to abolish poverty.

"A splendid idea," declared the Pauper, "and I should be delighted to help, but as I have neither job, money nor influence, there is nothing I can do."

The Social Reformer moved on and at last accounts was still moving.--Lile.

THE INJUSTICE OF IT.

By Ruth Cameron.
Woman is the weaker vessel--at least so everyone has been saying for the last million years or so--and yet, again and again, the weaker vessel is called upon to stand the greater strain.

I am thinking especially, just now, of the home service which working women are so frequently called upon to render. When a woman goes out into the business world and works all day long to earn her living, and turns in part of her wages to the family budget, she ought to receive the same immunity from home care which is given as a matter of course to her father and brothers.

And yet what one of us doesn't know of a dozen cases where women, just because they are women, and presumably the weaker vessel, are asked to bear a double burden.

I know a young girl who works at high tension for eight and a half hours a day in a very strenuous business office. She comes home utterly exhausted. Home ought to mean absolute rest to her, but it doesn't. She must spur herself on to the task of helping her mother get the supper and clear it away. A younger brother who is doing some easy office work which doesn't take half his energy is far more able to work than she, but no one thinks of expecting him to. I asked his mother once why Gertrude always helped with the dishes and Charlie never did. "Why, Charlie is a boy," she said "why should he?"

Again, at this very moment, I can think of two cases where women are working eight or nine hours a day in business offices and acting as convalescent nurses to some member of the family at night. In both cases there are male members of the family who, by reason of being male--the stronger vessel--are considered immune from such work, and in both cases, also, it might be a strain on the family finances to pay an attendant, there is no doubt that that would be done if the choice lay between that and asking the father or brother to do what the daughter is doing.

CHILD SLAVERY.
Shameful love of money builds wide-open and eager money-making machine--mills, factories and mines in which the poor child of the exploited can quickly be changed into dollars and stunted failures.

There are men in this country today who buy the most expensive houses, automobiles and steam yachts, and every dollar they spend is stained with the blood of helpless little children, worked to death to make them rich.

This is the richest country in the world, but under the capitalist system it is not rich enough to give the child of the poor an equal chance and a right to its own childhood.

The nation owns a million acres of land blessed with sun-light and fresh air, but the money-making instinct of the nation demands the children--nearly two million of them--shuts them away from the air and sunlight, makes slaves of their bodies, dwarfs their brains, sacrifices the life of a child for a dollar and then, with brutal hypocrisy, goes to church and prays in the name of Jesus Christ, who gave his life for the very children that are being destroyed in our factories.

The bare fact that a child is deprived of its growth, deprived of sunshine and education, driven to hard labor in babyhood, deprived of all chance in life, should arouse indignation that nothing could increase.

The fathers, who have the power and the right to change these conditions, can do so anytime they wish. Certainly no man can defend an economic system that demands for its success the life of the future citizens of the republic.

We brag of our prosperity, our power, our intelligence, but we have not, as a nation, THE MANHOOD OR THE CONSCIENCE TO SHIELD HELPLESS CHILDREN. Resolve that you will never rest until the brutal system responsible for all this brutality is kicked into perdition. You can kick it there in five minutes with YOUR BALLOT.

"Democrats aim to purge their party of undesirable officials," says a capitalist paper. If they do that, there won't be democratic officials enough left to rob a hen roost.

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

Cape Girardeau. George Pierce, a farmer living near Neely's Landing was bitten by a monster copper head snake last Saturday while engaged in pulling the weeds out of the potato patch. The reptile was coiled under the sheltering leaves of a very large weed, and when Mr. Pierce reached down to grasp the stalk of the plant, the cruel and poisonous fangs were sunk into the fleshy part of his hand between the thumb and fingers. At first he could not think that he had been bitten, thinking that some of the fibre or a sliver had been forced through the skin.

When the reptile began to uncoil for the purpose of crawling away, its movement were detected, and Mr. Pierce realized what had befallen him, at once. He lost no time in killing the serpent, which proved to be of unusual size, measuring almost three feet in length. Rushing to the house, Mr. Pierce quickly obtained some strong strips of cloth and bandaged the arm above the wrist so tightly that circulation was virtually stopped. He then took a sharp knife and cut out the flesh immediately surrounding the bite, after which he proceeded to suck the poison from the wound with his mouth. The presence of mind thus displayed no doubt saved the victim's life, as the copper head is considered to be not only the most treacherous, but the most virulently poisonous of all American snakes. The hand swelled to abnormal proportions, and for several hours the pain was intense. The swelling began to subside Sunday and the hand is now about normal.

About a year ago Miss Myrtle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Morris of Sikeston, married James Brown at Blytheville, Ark. Miss Morris is said to have been very pretty and attractive. About a month ago she died at her home at Blytheville and was brought to Sikeston for burial. The parents had not been informed of her serious illness. Accompanying the remains were the husband and the nurse. A week later Mr. Brown and the nurse married. People began to suspect and talk. Last week the body of the dead woman was taken up and the vitals examined. It was found that an operation had been performed and that a wad of cotton wool had been forced into the cavity of the stomach, and it seems to be the opinion of the doctors that this was not done by a practicing physician, but was planned to cause death.

They prayed for rain over at Dexter Monday of last week. The Messenger says "practically every business house closed its doors and the proprietors and clerks attended in a body." I'll bet the prayers of those profit mongers sounded good to him who drove them from the temple at Jerusalem. About the earliest religion of which we know were the Sun Worshipers. When Old Sol would move south until the pinch of winter was felt, they would offer sacrifices and pray for his return. And their prayers were always answered.

During a storm at Cape Girardeau one evening last week the people were treated to a display of "fire works." Limbs of trees were blown against a large exposed copper wire that carries the electric current to light Illinois, Farnfield and Chaffee. These limbs were set on fire and became floating fire-brands--often alighting on the roofs of houses. "The whole street was in an almost continuous blaze," say the news report.

Dexter Messenger.--Possibly the oldest woman in Stoddard county died at Bloomfield last Sunday. It was Mrs. Jane Owens, widow of Rube Owens, and she lacked one month of being ninety years old. She died at the home of Manning Phelan, where she had lived for several years. She had been a resident of Stoddard county for over 75 years, the principal part of this time being spent in and around Bloomfield.

A few years ago the Malden Merit threatened to tell something awful--even if they did call him a Socialist. I have seen nothing of the threatened expose, but I have noticed considerable legal advertising in the Merit since the threat. Officialdom has so arranged it that they can muzzle the newspapers at public expense. If you don't take kindly to the muzzle you don't get no printing.

Dorle May, of Oran, a member of the Frisco bridge gang, was on his way to St. Mary's to work there. While waiting for a night train at Cape Girardeau he strolled up around the old paint mill and fell asleep on the railroad track. A freight train crushed his feet and his condition is said to be serious.

Caruthersville has had no city attorney since April. The mayor and council can't agree on the man to "enforce the law." The mayor appoints and the council rejects.

Dr. M. B. Shelton, dentist, Cape Girardeau, had his wife, who was about 80 years old, taken to the hospital from stomach trouble for years.

Describing a storm the Des Arc correspondent to the Iron County Register says: "It came from the east, accompanied by six inches of rain and hail as big as hen eggs. The farms on Big Creek were damaged thousands of dollars. The storm struck Des Arc at the Hollins College, uprooted large trees, and when it reached Wm. Stevenson's farm, unroofed several houses and blew down his machinery house. Then it crossed to John Stevenson's farm, damaging his new dwelling \$500. Lots of shade and apple trees were blown down. The iron roof on Thos. Fitz's bath house was blown off. It ruined our Woodmen Hall and damaged every house in Des Arc, more or less. The water in T. P. Fitz's yard was four feet deep and around the railroad station four feet. Uncle Ab Daniels suffered a great loss, his orchard was greatly damaged, trees blown down and all fruit blown to the ground. The Walls farm was in the storm's path; the house was partly unroofed and the orchard damaged. The water came pouring off the Mountain side and rushed through the home of L. L. Schmidt and destroyed carpets and damaged furniture."

Fredericktown News.--It looks very much like Madison county would sustain the greatest financial loss of her history. The Bankers Trust Co. in which nearly \$500,000 of Madison county capital is invested is slowly but surely gathering to itself more and more trouble and the stock is slowly but surely declining until yesterday only \$30 per share was offered as against \$190 to \$200 two months ago. The News learned from sources close to the highest financial sources of St. Louis that nobody expects the company to pull through and that a receiver may be asked for at any time.

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

Cape Girardeau got a taste of military life last week and, judging from the tone of the press, the citizens have about all they want of it. A regiment of these "brave" and "loyal" patriots were there for "drill" purposes. The Cape Tribune says: "Some of them accosted women and girls on the street, and made themselves generally objectionable. This was the original cause of the fights between the guards and the civilians. The citizens who originally took part in these affairs did so because members of their families had been insulted. But last night's collisions were participated in by what might be called gangs. The men on both sides were of the gang type and they fought for the sake of the sport. Harrison Tyler was a victim of the illfeeling existing between the soldiers and the civilians. While he did not take part in any of the fights, he was attacked in Haairig last night and almost scalped. He was left unconscious. When found by pedestrians, he was taken to the office of Dr. G. W. Walker. Dr. Walker found that Harrison's scalp had almost been removed. The wound the physician vast, resembled that of a saber cut. On the right side of his head was a gash three inches long and on the left side of the face a wound of almost equal dimensions. These were dressed and several stitches were taken. His right shoulder was badly bruised and he suffered internal pains, due, the physician believes to a kick in the stomach. A number of residents suffered minor injuries and several soldiers were taken out to the encampment grounds, badly disfigured.

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Democratic exchanges are carrying whole pages of "boiler plate" dope for Baking Powder Bill Stone and don't get a cent for it. If the same organs carried the same amount of legal printing they would charge taxpayers several hundred dollars for it.

Lawrence Gosnell, 15 years old and a deaf mute, was walking in the center of the railroad track north of Chaffee, going home at Rockview. He was struck by a train and fortunately thrown clear of the track. His shoulder blade was broken and he received several bruises on the head, but was not seriously hurt and is reported to be recovering nicely.

Jackson Items.--More baling wire has been sold in Jackson this summer than in a long time, for many farmers are baling their straw. Hay is scarce and as straw is in fine shape, having received no rain, it will be called upon to supply a part of the deficiency in food.

Probably through an error the Pemiscot Argus last week came much nearer the truth than it knew. It evidently intended to suggest to its readers to carefully investigate the qualifications of candidates, but instead of the word candidates it got "candidates."

Dr. M. B. Shelton, dentist, Cape Girardeau, had his wife, who was about 80 years old, taken to the hospital from stomach trouble for years.

Politics

Is a GAME the Average Voter does not Understand. Hence he uses Prejudice instead of Reason. The Kicker will keep its Readers informed. It is not muzzled and is therefore free to tell you of the Important Events that other papers MUST suppress--or move! Only \$1.00 a year.

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