

## BE PATIENT.

### Another Month of it, and the Agony Will be Over.—But it is Trying.

Another month of it and we will truly have cause to be thankful. During the past month the press and pulpit have inflicted on us the usual dose about Thanksgiving. We have been told how we should be good and charitable to the poor—especially the children of the poor. These should have at least one square meal a year. Even the prisoners of the penitentiary were given turkey Thursday. And all of the professional philanthropists turned on the steam—even the Boss Robbers sending ship-loads of stuff to war-stricken Europe.

That was for November. Now we must pass through another month of it. This year, after Christmas we will get a rest until "Independence Day"—July 4. Christmas is even worse than Thanksgiving—for the people buy more and therefore more profits for the merchants. God bless the merchants and booze vendors. Only for them and we might lose all of our patriotism and religion. But they keep us posted and we know when to be patriotic and when to be charitable and good.

On Thanksgiving we buy turkeys and cranberries and some whole raft of more or less useless presents for relatives—and more booze. On July 4 we waste our money on bunting, flags, fireworks—and some more booze. Oh, its a glorious civilization—this Dollar civilization of ours.

But the dispensers of good cheer have about run aground. The sickening rubbish that came from press and pulpit this year, telling us why we should be thankful, had a very hollow ring to it. The very best they have been able to do is to yawn about prosperity and tell us to be thankful that it is no worse. In the Thanksgiving edition of the Jackson Items appeared this:

"In the United States there are 100,000,000 people, whose farm products alone this year exceeded in value \$10,000,000,000. In Belgium there are 7,000,000 who have practically lost everything they had with which they could gain a livelihood. We have gathered our crops and our factories are busy. The Belgians have lost their crops and their factories lie in ruins. The men workers are dead or in the army. The women have no work to do. The children are helpless. All are without food and clothing, and the rigors of winter have already begun. Only the heart of a broad human love and the hand of help that love will hold out, can come between these helpless women and children and starvation and death from exposure. We are celebrating a day of national thanksgiving. We are called upon to express gratitude to God for the material blessings of peace and plenty we enjoy. Are we truly grateful for them if we do not offer to share them with those in such dire need?"

According to the Items, the first reason for giving thanks is because our farm products this year exceeded ten billion dollars. The little matter of who got the ten billion does not seem to concern the editor in the least. Neither does it worry him that every government report shows that the tillers of the soil are becoming more and more homeless with each passing year. Three-fourths of the farmers of the nation are either tenants, or have their farms mortgaged. Yet for this, the farmer should be thankful.

The next reason why we should be thankful, says the Items, is because "in Belgium there are seven million who have practically lost everything they had with which they could gain a livelihood." If this blind editor will look about him he will find twice seven billion in the United States in the same fix. Didn't he read about the public soup house that was opened up in St. Louis last week to seat 500 persons at a time?

Concerning Belgium he goes on: "The men workers are dead or in the army. The women have no work to do. The children are helpless."

Does this editor not know that in these United States, where the farmers produce so much, there are millions of men, women and children who have neither food nor shelter? Does he not know that the prisons and insane asylums are bursting from overcrowding, and that the charity and welfare associations of every industrial center are throwing up their hands in utter helplessness? Crime and insanity increase in exactly the same ratio as poverty increases. The latter is the CAUSE of the former.

Increased from seven billion to one hundred and forty billion! Do you get that? While our population has increased four-fold, our wealth has increased 20-fold. The great mass of people—the workers—are more dependent today than sixty years ago. Yet they alone create the wealth. Will the Items please explain what there is about such an arrangement that the masses should be thankful for? One hundred families are credited with owning the bulk of the wealth of this country.

The owners take everything from the workers except the share that goes to a mule—just enough to keep them in condition to work. When the owners get too hogish and don't give the workers enough to live on, they often strike for living conditions. In such cases the government usually takes a hand and sees to it that the "rights of the property" are respected. Under capitalism the rights of men are not considered when pitted against the rights of property.

"The children are helpless" wails my editor friend as he shuts his eyes to conditions at home and sees the misery of far-away Belgium. For his especial enlightenment I reproduce the following press dispatches taken from daily papers last week:

Philadelphia November 23.—The American Federation of Labor turned its eyes to Dixie today and saw there a sight that brought tears to the eyes of many and that fixed in the hearts of delegates a resolve to send the emancipating hosts of organization marching through the sunny south.

Down in Atlanta the delegates saw, in word pictures graphically sketched, little children driven into the mills sapped of their life blood and turned out starved, stunted and all but dehumanized. It saw them falling victims to the dreaded disease, pellagra a disease which, it was declared, is more prevalent among the Atlanta textile workers than tuberculosis, and more deadly because there is no satisfactory remedy known.

Barton, O., Nov. 25.—"Will there be any shoes for me?" It was the piping voice of Julia Yuliska, aged 5, one of the 18,000 children of striking miners in east Ohio who face suffering from hunger and cold.

A rain was falling, and across the Ohio river blew the northeast wind, presaging snow. Storm warnings had been sent out by weather bureaus.

Frank Woody, member of the relief committee that is seeking to obtain warm clothing for Ohio's unfortunate little ones, stooped down and took Julia by the hand.

He tried to explain to her that only 3,000 pairs of shoes had been received, and that was only one-sixth enough to go round.

But Julia didn't understand the big words and the big figures as she repeated: "Will there be any shoes for me?"

Now let us return to the reasoning of my neighbor. He says we ought to be thankful that it is the other fellow, and not us, that is being butchered. Nowhere does he hint that such butchering is wrong, nor does he hold anybody responsible for it—except God. He says we ought to "express gratitude to God" that it wasn't us, while the Holy Men tell us that the hell in Europe is the work of God.

Isn't it just a little strange that the God of the capitalists always vents his wrath on the poor and helpless? The rich are not fighting in Europe—except at a safe distance. As usual, the rich are making loans to carry on the war, and after the war the workers that are left can pay the principal and interest. It is a splendid arrangement—for the plutes. The wars are not as harmful as the debts created by them. We have been paying on our civil war debt for nearly 50 years—and it is bigger today than at the beginning.

What assurance have we that the hell in Europe will not spread to this country? The same causes that brought it on in Europe are at work here. And to hope to escape similar results is foolish.

THEN what will my neighbor spring on us to be thankful for?

### THE CHURCH AND WAR.

I am re-reading English history, but it wouldn't be judicious to set down some of the impressions it gives me. If we are "made in the image of God," little room is left for His Satanic Majesty to exploit his own prototype. It is hard to conceive the changes he could ring in on the existing breed. Just take a look at the wholesale murder and outrage now engrossing the attention of the world and employing the utmost endeavors of our European brothers. If you are puffed up with the notion that we are so far removed from the savagery of "ye olden times,"—Ironton Register.

Tut, tut, Bro. Ake, that won't do. You are wabbling out of the established rut. You mustn't read history. To do so liable to increase your knowledge and decrease your respect for things as they are. I notice, however, that you are very cautious and that in reading history, you say "it wouldn't be judicious to set down some of the impressions it gives me"—thus admitting that in these days it is not good policy to publish the truth.

Well, it isn't—from a social and financial view-point. It is only by keeping the masses in ignorance that the existing order maintains itself. But you went a little too far when you hinted that we are so little removed from savagery, and speak of war as "wholesale murder." To talk that way is almost inapropos.

According to the Pious Ones, war is a divine institution. They prove it by the bible—just as the Southern ministry sixty years ago proved by the bible that chattel slavery was a divine institution. There are several hundred different Christian religions—all different, all exactly right, and founded on the bible. I once had an argument with one of the best learned priests of the county and to prove my point, quoted the bible on him. "You can prove anything by the bible," he said. Such an authority is sure handy.

Did you read Bishop Tuttle's sermon delivered on President Wilson's prayer-for-peace day? He didn't seem to take kindly to the president's idea of trying to interfere with God. Among other things St. Louis Republic, on October 5, quoted the bishop as saying:

"War in itself is not wicked. It is horrible, it is sorrow and untold agony. I grant you. But many good things come out of evil. How does war begin? Among civilized people at least it begins by the government declaring it, and what is the government but God's minister in the world? Governments are ordained of God, according to St. Paul's epistle to the Romans, 13th chapter. The State is a divine institution, as much so as the family or the church. In one sense of the word, its declarations are under the authority of Almighty God himself."

Now, what do you think of that? Your idea of war and its causes are all wrong. You say it is wholesale murder. The good bishop tells us that "war in itself is not wicked." You seem to be of the opinion that ambitious rulers are responsible for the wars.

Not at all. The divinely inspired bishop tells us that war declarations are "under the authority of God Almighty himself."

See where you are wrong? I don't exactly understand it, but we who live in the 20th century cannot be expected to understand a cave mind. If the good bishop would only substitute Almighty Dollar for Almighty God, I could agree with him—and the position of "the church" would not appear so foggy.

No doubt many people are surprised at the position taken by the churches toward the war. The average mind is beginning to believe that is quite as wrong for a million men to engage in butchering each other as for two men. Yet the million men are applauded as patriots while the two men are hung as murderers.

For all things there is a reason, and an investigation in England has partially revealed why war is not wicked. The December Rip-Saw contains this story:

"The question of why the church was so utterly impotent to prevent the war now raging in Europe, if indeed it had any real inclination to do so, is at least partially answered by the revelations recently made in England, showing that the most prominent churchmen there are stockholders in the gun-works and in the concerns which manufacture armaments and munitions of war.

Here we have a truly edifying state of affairs, and one well calculated to make innocent Christians sit up and take notice.

In the disclosure just made it is shown that Canon Inge, dean of St. Paul's cathedral in a heavy stockholder in Armstrong, Whitworth Co., and the Vickers-Maxim Ordnance Co., as are also the Bishops of Adelaide, Hexham, Kensington and Newport, and the Arch-Deacons Campbell, Clarke, Watkins, Richardson and Seagrave, the president of the Y. M. C. A., and others too numerous to mention.

### WHAT WILL THEY DO?

Next month the Missouri legislature meets and is supposed to act for the people. But it will not. Whatever it does will be in the interest of "business." The working class need expect nothing—except more taxes.

Some times the legislature gets cornered and has to enact a law objectionable to Big Biz. But such laws seldom stand. Money rules, and when a law is so just such a law, the legislature is forced to enact it, money finds a way to nullify the law. It always has the power of government and the press at its command.

The Full Crew Law is a fair illustration. Through the organized efforts of railroad employes this law was enacted. Usually such laws are declared unconstitutional by the courts. But in this case another lever was worked.

In Missouri we have a sort of half-baked referendum law. The people demanded such a law, and when it was found that there was no way around it, the legislature enacted a law not intended to hurt business. It contains the usual "joker" that all laws that do appear just contain.

The law provides that any law enacted by the legislature may be submitted to the people and shall not become effective until approved by them, if submitted.

And here comes the joker that makes it next to impossible for any other than big corporations to take advantage of such referendum. Within 60 days after the adjournment of the legislature petitions signed by thousands of voters from a majority of the congressional districts of the state must be filed asking that the law be submitted to the voters.

To do this in so short a time requires not only money, but organization. How could the unorganized masses get any benefit from such a law. Besides, the masses are apt not to know of an objectionable law until after it is too late, while the corporations have their representatives on the floor and in the lobby to watch.

If a law objectionable to the interests is put thru, their representatives are right on the job and proceed to nullify it.

That was the way the full crew law was killed. The railroads opposed it.

A month or so before election the Missouri Press Association held a meeting in St. Louis and the editor treated mighty nice by railroad officials—free ride, free grub, free booze.

When a editor got back home he had a mighty good opinion of railroad officials and every paper told us about how the poor railroads were suffering from injustice. Columns of slush appeared.

Then two weeks before the election the good officials distributed sixteen thousand dollars among country editors to tell the voters about the evils of the full crew law. And it worked—as it generally does.

Of the legislature about to meet the people need expect nothing more than usual—the road laws made a little worse, the election laws a little harder to understand, the money appropriated to the politicians and interests that have a pull—and more taxes.

### THE NEW PROSPERITY.

From the Milwaukee Leader.

The financial journals, politicians, professional optimists, capitalist editors, and the whole bunch of manufacturers of "public opinion" are agreed that the new era of prosperity is about to descend upon the United States. From the point of view of this class there is little reason to doubt this expectation.

Exports of food stuffs from the United States are larger than ever before in its history. Therefore Americans will soon have enough to eat. Cotton and woolen mills are running over-time to supply uniforms and blankets for soldiers in Europe. Therefore the workers in America will be well clothed and covered this winter.

### GET THIS IDEA.

Debt, interest-bearing debt, is the modern or capitalist method of enslaving a people—although it is strictly forbidden by the bible that the plutes pretend to worship so much.

"Thou shalt take no usury," says the good book. "Give me an 8-per-cent mortgage" says the business man and pretended follower of Christ. Even some good ministers do it.

Usury means interest. It means money paid for the use of money or property. It means rent. If you have a thousand dollars invested in a house or farm, and rent it so that it will net you the usual rate of interest, it is the same as if you had loaned the money.

The Pious Ones get around this by claiming that usury means excessive interest. But who is to judge when interest is excessive? Some say it means interest in excess of the legal rate. If that be the case, then God's law works different in different states. In some states the legal rate is 6 per cent, in others it is 10 per cent, and in still others there is no limit. What are they going to do with a situation like that?

They can't do anything except look pious and say that God did not intend for us to understand these things. The fact is that rent, interest and profit, in one form or another, are as old as civilization and have been the curse and downfall of every civilization. They are the basis of all wars.

In history we read of it as "loot" or "plunder." That was when the system was in the rough. We have got it all polished up now. In the old days one tribe or nation would descend upon another and, if powerful enough, would take what the other had by force. We are not very far removed from that method today—except in what we call civil life. Look at Europe! There they are playing the old game. The boss looters have a quarrel. But in civil life we have what we call law.

The original intent of the law was all right, but the boss looters have doctored the original idea so much that little of the original intent remains.

For instance: Originally it was intended that a family should not be deprived of a home, nor imprisoned because of debt. This is called the exemption law. With such a law the boss looters could never enslave the people. The first exemption is the home—and may come next, or a homestead, or a homestead.

This law has been all nullified by the passage of mortgage laws, whereby they can take even the bed from under you. Gradually and by pussy-foot methods these laws are made more severe until now they are reviving the old laws of a hundred years ago of imprisonment for debt.

It is not uncommon now to read of a citizen being imprisoned for failure to pay a board bill. This law was put through by the hotel men. It is the first step. Next may come the merchants, and so on. There is no argument that will justify imprisonment for a board bill that will not justify imprisonment for a store or any other bill.

RENT, INTEREST AND PROFIT have taken from the masses about all they possess. With the dispossessed the mortgage has about lost its power. Hence the jail, and after the jail comes penance.

What is penance? It is the last stage of capitalism. When the plute gets crowded the plute and sees profit in working the prisoners, and it becomes law to work the debtors on the creditors own terms. In plain English, it is slavery in its worst form. From this develops bloody revolution. See Mexico, for example.

This system has already taken root in the South. It has been exposed time and again that down in Dixie, where only good Democrats rule, the officials are in cahoots with the big planters. The "contract lease" system exists—something like we have it at the penitentiary in the good old Democratic state of Missouri.

In the South they have rigid vagrancy laws. The masters do not bind themselves to furnish work, yet it is a crime for a worker to be found idle. When big planters or contractors need help, the officials get busy and droves of men are arrested for vagrancy and turned over to the boss, where they must work under heavy guard, and under most inhuman conditions.

Federal and state investigations have disclosed these facts, and even some men have been sent to the penitentiary, but the evil continues. It is a natural outgrowth of the system. And unless the masses wake up, it will spread.

In the Globe-Democrat appeared a cartoon that impressed me. A little child named "Truth" stood bound and gagged. In front of "Truth" sat the war-news censor with gun in hand saying, "One word from you, or a move to escape, and—" This is "Truth." In the rear of the censor stood a big mouthed boy labelled "Annius, Jr." yelling out the lies about the war. And I wondered why this cartoon would not correctly illustrate the condition of the capitalist press if the editorial censor be substituted for the war censor.

There should be less condemnation of girls who marry worthless young men. If no women married worthless men, the marrying business would take a serious slump.

## IN THE SOUTHEAST.

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

Jackson Cash-Book.—When the next legislature meets the corporation are going to storm the citadel. The poor down-trodden railroad companies are going to seek for the relief they failed to get in the highest court in the land, and the poverty-stricken old-line fire insurance companies will ask for legislation that will enable them to continue charging the rates which they have all agreed to make Missouri property owners pay. The two-cent fare and the maximum freight rates which the law in this state says the railroads shall not go beyond will be assailed by the representatives of the railroads and lobbyists, and statesmen whom the people have elected to serve them will be eloquent in their portrayal of the ruin which will soon come upon the railroads if they are not allowed to charge the people all they want to charge.

Pemiscot Argus.—Sheriff Stubblefield has had considerable trouble with unruly prisoners in the jail, particularly when it is so crowded as at present. Recently, in some manner, they secured a heavy piece of timber from an old filter which they had broken up and concealed in the cells. The sheriff tried to make them give it up but all denied any knowledge of its whereabouts. Tuesday evening, Mr. Stubblefield entered the corridor, demanding the club and failing to get it, fired three shots down at the floor, the particles of lead scattered in various directions and wounded Sam Leabert a man named Rice and another man in the feet. Before the smoke cleared away, Leabert threw out the club and the prisoners were all content to get quiet and go to bed.

Dexter Messenger.—Walter Hutchison shot and dangerously wounded George Mitchell Saturday evening near the Big Lick club house on the St. Francis river. One shot took effect in the right shoulder and passed through the other shot was in the lower portion of the back. The later shot doubtless struck some vital organ. Large shot or bullets were used. Both men are farmers and lives on the same place. The shooting was the result of domestic affairs, and Mitchell charged Hutchison with separating him from his wife.

Fire destroyed five dwellings and a blacksmith shop at Bernie last week.

SHIFTING RESPONSIBILITY.

Just before the emperor of Germany declared war, three million men in his realm, calling themselves Socialists, went on record as opposed to war; but when the Kaiser said he and God needed men for the allies to kill, they shouldered guns and began to do what they were before violently opposed to—murder.—Hayti Critic

While I knew that the plutes were busy trying to shift responsibility for the hell in Europe onto the Socialists, yet I did not believe that Col. Walker would be guilty of looting in the chorus.

For a whole year the protest meetings of the Socialists held the dogs of war. But suddenly war was declared without warning, and further protest became impossible—outlawed. To protest meant to invite being shot as a traitor. It was up to the Socialists to take up arms or be shot.

What would you have done, Col. Walker?

That there are millions of Socialists in Germany is true, but these are yet in the minority and have no control of government. They are not of the rulers, but of the ruled. There are other millions who call themselves Christians in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, and these are of the majority and have the power. Aboard Christmas you will hear them singing, "Peace on Earth" good will toward men." What part did they play in bringing on the war, Col. Walker?

GIVE THEM TIME

Day before yesterday—or maybe it was the day before that—two lovely young girls of the just-after prep-school age were confiding in each other all about the secrets of their innocent hearts. It seems that their souls were involved, also.

"Why is it, Tillie," inquired the first "that you are waving your handkerchief from the basement?"

"It's like this, Reena," answered the second. "Since papa has forbidden Harry the house we have had to arrange a code of signals."

"How terribly romantic and exciting! What is the code?"

"When he waves his hand three times, it means 'Do you love me?'"

"Yes."

"And when I wave back it means 'I do, darling!'"

"How perfectly sweet! Now tell me something about the rest of the code."

"What do you mean—the rest of the code? We've only had this thing working a month!"—Cleveland Plaindealer.

A woman's idea of a perfectly awful thing is to have a visitor call when she is washing her hair.

Jackson Items.—Saturday night colored people at the Cape gave a dance at the fair grounds. Among those attending was De Witt Lane, also colored. The next morning at an early hour Lane was found in a semi-conscious condition, being almost dead from loss of blood, as an artery in one of his arms was severed. It is said he was attacked by two men, who were unknown. Lane is the state's chief witness against the negro "Curley" Smith who is charged with having shot and killed a white man named Stout in Cape Girardeau in September. A physician stated that if Lane had lain another half hour he would have been dead. In that event the prosecution would have been without an eye witness when the Smith case is called in January.

Hayti Critic.—Is the great Demiseot county going to go to its own poor farm, and if so, who will be the keeper? There is no money belonging to the jury fund and the jury debt of the last court is unpaid. The law provides that the money collected for 1914 can not be used for debts contracted in previous years, or that each year the court must provide sufficient levy to meet all obligations. We are face to face with the most dreadful condition that ever confronted the people of any county in the United States. We are ruled unless the bondsmen of the county's funds and the county court come to a settlement.

The Pemiscot Argus seems to concede that there was nothing to be thankful for and got off this: "Our finite blessings are sent to us, not according to our deserts, but in accordance with the infinite knowledge which knows just what is the best for all of us. Let the words of thanks be free and sincere, for otherwise they would come but as a sort of mockery, and would fail of bearing in the realms above."

Robberies are very common. A Dexter, last week the safe of Hubbard & Goforth was blown and some \$150 secured. Maiden blood-hounds were telephoned for, but could not be had because they were leaving for Libourm where a safe had been blown the same night. This "New Freedom" is a sight. But we were told that as soon as the new currency law got in its work we'd be all right. It is now in operation.

Cape papers report that Wilson Cramer, a prominent lawyer of Jackson, was viciously attacked by a cow, inflicting a deep wound in his left thigh. Mr. Cramer has a farm near Jackson and keeps a good deal of live stock which he feeds and looks after himself. On Thanksgiving morning he was attacked by the cow and was painfully injured but is reported as getting along well.

Fredericktown News.—On Monday of this week Geo. Weigenstein unconcernedly walked into our sanctum and quietly informed us that he had brought us a bushel of turnips. He produced them in a dithers, four—yes, just four—and they weighed 3 pounds over a bushel. The largest weighed 10 pounds, another 9 pounds and the other two tipped the balance at 8 pounds.

In a Cape paper I was attracted by a large headline, "The story of Lucretia Borgia." Hoping to learn something I read the article and found that it was only the advertisement of a play at the opera house. Lucretia was of the Royal Set of Europe in the early part of the 16th century. Will the Cape papers please tell us who her father was? Hardly.

Charleston Enterprise.—Charles L. McDowell, a merchant of Gid-Don, New Madrid county, was assassinated last Saturday night after he had closed his store and was returning to his home. Who did the shooting none seem to know. Mr. McDowell at one time resided at Charleston and worked for Walter Lee. This was about fifteen years ago.

Malden Merit.—The postoffice and store at Townley, four miles north of Malden, was burglarized and the robbers profited to the extent of thirty or forty dollars in money, some shoes and other wearing apparel which they exchanged for their old habiliments a short distance from the town. As yet, no trace or clue.

Clariton Gazette.—Some of our exchanges have been telling about big turnips and one of them thought it had found four that weighed 7 1/2 pounds but we have found two that weigh just twice as much, or 15 pounds. Just think of two turnips weighing out a peck, with a pound to spare. Some turnips, eh?

Mrs. J. B. Dennis was buried at Cape Girardeau Saturday. She was born in Cape county 70 years ago. Major Dennis, her husband, was a well-known lawyer who died ten years ago. Her son, John, conducted the Benton drug store here some 15 years ago.