

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

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

The social unrest that has heretofore been confined to the industrial centers is now developing in the rural districts. But the bone of contention is always the same. The producers want a greater share of what they produce. In New Madrid county, as elsewhere in this end of the state, the land is owned by a very few men who take all they can in rent. The county has a large colored population which can live cheaper than the whites. The contracts between land-owners and tenants are made at the first of each year. Last December the white renters demanded a reduction in the rent from \$3 to \$3 an acre. The negroes were satisfied to keep on paying \$6, and the result was that in the rentals made early in January, more negroes than ever were placed on the farms. This caused discontent among the poor white tenants, and caused personal threats, the posting of anonymous warnings, and, finally, to night-riding raids. Last week the situation became so threatening that the sheriff wired the governor to send troops and General O'Mera was sent down to investigate. The landowners, who rule there as elsewhere, are on the side of the negroes—not because they love them more, but because they can get more profit out of them—more rent. Hence for once the negro has the protection of "the law," and the army is called to see that his "constitutional rights" are not interfered with. It would be a nice spectacle to see the state troops chasing those poor, white farmers. They are all good Democrats and are kicking because they are getting exactly what they voted for. Foolish fellows, foolish fellows!

New Madrid, Mo., Feb. 21.—The night riders shot into several of the houses and negro cabins along the Mississippi river, below Point Pleasant early today. No one was injured, but several had narrow escapes. The shooting is believed to be a warning from the night riders that they still intend to run the negroes out.

Adj. Gen. O'Mera called a meeting this afternoon of citizens and farmers who had appealed to Gov. Major for protection. He said he believed the situation could be handled by county officials and advised Sheriff Klimes to deputize about fifteen residents.

"We will know tomorrow what action we will take to preserve order in the county," said Sheriff Klimes tonight. "If we are not given aid by the state's militia, we will do the best we can with additional deputies. It seems to be the general opinion that the shooting last night was a warning of the night riders to show that they were not frightened by our attempt to get soldiers to defend the negroes."

It must have been just a little embarrassing to Judge Kelley to have the farmers and laborers of the unaffiliated Democratic county of Pemiscot to meet in the court yard to tell their troubles and demand relief at a time when the Democrats are in control of the whole work—from president to constable. But Kelley turned the usual trick. He shifted responsibility and told the hungry crowd to make their complaint to Washington or Jefferson City. There the responsibility would again be shifted, and the farmers would be told to address their grievances to God. The Pemiscot Argus relates: "A large number of men, chiefly farmers, met in the court yard Monday afternoon. While the court-room upstairs was crowded to hear an address by C. Rains of Canton, Mo., upon the Rural Credits bill, those outside were addressed by S. D. Bray, Vance Smith, Wm. Tucker and others, the talks being chiefly along Socialistic lines and intending to embody a demand for immediate relief and assistance during the coming crop season. Later Judge Kelly of the circuit court made a short talk in which he told them that he was unable to afford any relief, and that their petition should be addressed to Washington or Jefferson City."

Ironton Register.—A bill asking \$3,000 for a survey of the feeble-minded of Missouri by the State Board of Charities and Correction, is now before the General Assembly. I am heartily for it, provided the City of Jefferson, between January and April of every odd-numbered year, be given the Board's special attention. After that, the editors at large may be considered.

Ironton Register.—Some federal judge a few years ago held that the use of the man by the people who own the man is not a "privilege" that the postal department could grant or withhold, in its good judgment. Has our Democratic Congress challenged this heresy? If so, it has escaped my observation.

Dexter Messenger.—The county court of Dunklin county has gone on record refusing to pay for any more pauper coffins. Just what is to take the place of the cheap, popular box is not stated, possibly the winding sheet.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

Cape Tribune.—Residents of the neighborhood of Good Hope and Fountain streets have recently been aroused to a condition of restlessness bordering on alarm, over the mysterious appearance of a silhouette outline of a human form, which marks with distinctness the position in which Ira Stout was lying on the cinder walk immediately after his murder a few months ago. The surface of the walk on which the body rested, has been turned almost completely white, and at this time presents the appearance of a marble slab carved into a human shape and packed in a bed of cinders. The outline is pronounced a perfect reproduction in every particular of the position in which the victim of the tragedy was found, and the material upon which the body rested appears to have been bleached and turned to stone. Where a stream of blood had flowed from the head of the murdered man and formed in a pool a short distance away, the same transformation has occurred, and the same petrified condition exists. The spectacle has been observed by a large number of people, none of whom has been able to offer a satisfactory explanation of the strange phenomena.

Cape Tribune.—Herman Sauerland, who left Cape Girardeau in May to go to Germany to sell property, owned by him in the fatherland, and to bring home with him his only daughter, has been pressed into service and is now at the front. A letter reaching his wife in Cape Girardeau stating that he had been ordered to the front, but he did not know whether he would enter the service against the French or the Russians. Sauerland's wife formerly was Miss Mary Lafarth, a niece of Wm. Wellecke, the retired cooper. Sauerland had been in Cape Girardeau four years, but had never taken out naturalization papers.

Having adopted township organization in Dunklin county the township officers March 30. In Union township, in which Campbell is located, the voters held a mass meeting and decided to keep politics out of it. Somehow, the great mass of people have a dim idea that present day politics is a very rotten article and avoid it when possible. When it comes down to school and local matters that the people understand, they are quick to shut out partyism. But in the larger affairs they do not understand, they let political prejudice control them.

Jackson Items.—Frances M. Williams, one of the oldest and best-known citizens of Jackson and the county, died Monday night, suddenly, death coming while he was asleep. Mr. Williams had eaten a goose berry pie and drank a glass of milk at dinner, and afterwards complained of feeling not well. Dr. Atkins, his son-in-law, prescribed some medicine and, on looking after him at bed-time, found him sleeping peacefully. About 1:30 o'clock Mrs. Williams awoke and found her husband dead. Deceased was born in Wayne Co., Mo., in 1832.

Only the "better class" ride in sleeping cars. The Kennett Democrat says: "Complaints are being made of the conduct of some of the passengers on sleeping cars between this place and St. Louis. We are informed that parties under the influence of liquor are in the habit of making themselves very obnoxious to some of the fellow passengers, and an appeal to the porter, the only one in charge of the car, brings little relief. Recently, in an aggravated case, the woman was compelled to move her berth."

How their toes do turn up! It is a dull week when some business concern in this section does not file a petition in bankruptcy in the federal court at Cape. Last week there were two—a drug establishment at Kennett and a general merchant at Canalou. These "psychological conditions," as the president calls our troubles, seem to hang on well. So that the average reader may understand the president's language, it means, "in your mind—not real."

Portageville Missourian.—A written contract has been entered into between J. C. McCrate, the home market man, and H. A. Killion, in which the latter binds himself to deliver next October 225,000 pounds of Sunflower seed at a fixed price of \$2.25 per 100 pounds to be paid by Mr. McCrate. This future deal assures Mr. Killion of something as good as so cotton, ready money and a safe market for at least one of his crops.

Malden Merit.—Now comes a scientific professor who says the day is near when there will be no more need of school houses. His theory is that children can read at home and at certain periods receive educational instructions from a point of knowledge through mental telegraphy. What is this world coming to? Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

They who do not read the radical press of today don't know what is going on in this country—or any other. They are as completely in the dark as if they read nothing at all. The little they do read is a twisted and emulsified mass to leave the wrong impression.

Things are happening these days. And nothing is more noticeable than the number of ministers, doctors, college men and university heads who are crossing the line and stepping in rank with the working class. I have before me a Baltimore paper—Public Ownership. On the front page is advertised "Two Big Lectures" for February 26 by New York ministers. One of these ministers, Rev. Bouek White, has just served six months in jail for daring to enter Rockefeller's church and asking Rockefeller's preacher a question.

It seems that in the Rockefeller Joss House there is a time set apart when the minister answers questions. Rev. White had sent the minister a note that he would be there and ask something about Colorado. This was soon after the burning of the Ludlow tent colony in which two women and eleven children were cremated.

On the Sunday that Rev. White was to appear the church was honey-combed with thugs and detectives. Rev. White came and reverently took a seat and awaited the proper time, when he put his question.

Immediately the thugs and detectives pounced upon him, dragged him to the door, clubbing and beating him as they went, and then pitched him head-foremost into the street—his face striking first.

He was horribly mangled and bruised. Not satisfied with this, the Rockefeller angels dragged him into court and gave him six months.

In the same paper I noticed a lengthy announcement of the "Christian Socialist Fellowship to Meet Next Tuesday." Among the delegates to attend I noticed the names of Rev. W. D. P. Bliss and Rev. Bouek White of New York; Rev. and Edward Ellis Carr, Rev. Irvin Tucker, of Chicago; Rev. George I. Brown of Lancaster, Pa.; Rev. Charles G. Gleilow of New Jersey and Rev. Geo. W. Slaughter, a colored minister.

In the same paper I find the following declaration by Rev. Stitt Wilson, ex-mayor of Berkeley, California: "I impeach capitalism as the supreme anti-Christ of modern times. I take my stand on the life and spirit and teachings of Jesus and declare that capitalism is a menace to every purpose and program of the Christ. Any man or church which professes to offer the word of God to the souls of men and make arrangements are necessary in the saddle on the backs of the people is deluding the people. Any church in this city or any other city which at this late date is still at peace with capitalism is a moral and spiritual tomb."

REV. BILLY SUNDAY.

Phil Wagner, of the National Ripsaw, and Henry M. Tichenor of the Melting Pot, St. Louis, have been arrested by Federal authorities. When Mrs. Hafner asked me "What for?" My reply was "For publishing the truth, of course."

"What about?" She insisted. "Billy Sunday."

Rev. Billy Sunday is one of these hell-fire and damnation evangelists who go about the country in regular circus fashion—hitting only the big cities. Just what arrangements are necessary to get Billy to save souls in a certain community I do not know, but my understanding is that the general terms of these fellows is that they have to be guaranteed a certain amount by the "best citizens" of the community and expenses.

Billy is not cheap—and has been holding forth in Philadelphia. In that city is also the University of Pennsylvania, at the head of which is Prof. Scott Nearing. Prof. Nearing attended Rev. Sunday's show a few times, and addressed to him the following letter:

"You are preaching in a winter almost without parallel for the frightful amount of distress and suffering among the poor; yet you have directed your invective mainly against the churches. Why? Are the churches the chief culprits? Is not the world beginning to realize that today the most sinister crimes against the ideals of Christ's religion are committed by the system of INDUSTRY FOR PROFIT—a system which pays wages so hideously low that if the poor were made spiritually and morally perfect, they would stand as abjectly poor. Why do you put the harmless penny gambler in jail while we send the parasitic dollar gamblers to Congress? If the penny gamblers were powerful enough to have their operations quoted in the daily papers, perhaps it would be different. But, being poor, they must keep under cover. And when the 'guardians of the law' need a little 'coffee money' the cover is lifted."

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coal fields are reaping exorbitant profits; the traction company exacts the highest fares paid by the people of any American city; the manufacturers, entrenched at Harrisburg, are fighting tooth and claw to prevent the passage of up-to-date labor laws; and the vested interests are placing property rights above men's souls.

"These monstrous offenses against humanity—this defiance of the spirit of Christ's gospel—exists today in the city which hears your message. And further! The well-fed people, whose ease and luxury are built upon this poverty, child labor, and exploitation, sit in your congregation, contribute to your campaign funds, entertain you socially, invite you to hold prayer meetings in their homes. These are they that bind grievous burdens on men's shoulders, that make clean the outside of the cup and the platter, the devourers of widows' homes, against whom Christ hurled his curses. Here is Divos; yonder is Lazarus, and if is the Divos who have made your campaign financially possible.

"Make no mistake! The chief priests, scribes and pharisees of Philadelphia will never enervate you while you deal in theological pleasanties. Has it occurred to you that your kindness is a return for your services in helping them to rivet the shackles of economic servitude upon the bodies of those who do their bidding?"

"The employers of labor have always welcomed any one who could divert men's minds from worldly injustice to heavenly bliss. Turn your oratorical brilliancy Philadelphia, but never enervate you while you deal in theological pleasanties. Has it occurred to you that your kindness is a return for your services in helping them to rivet the shackles of economic servitude upon the bodies of those who do their bidding?"

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ENFORCING THE LAW.

Conestable Crawford arrested and carried before Squire Bray, Sunday, exactly one dozen sports charged with crap-shooting. This party of sports was found at the fair grounds. One flew the coop, one made bond, three were released, and seven pled guilty and were fined \$25 each, which, with the trimmings added, amounted to \$34.80. None of those who pled guilty had the money and were unable to make bond, so were sent to the Kennett jail—Campbell Citizen.

Could a more insane system be devised? Who will get anything out of this except the officers, and who will suffer more than the tax-payers who must foot the bill?

Some young fellows plead guilty to shooting craps and their combined fines amount to \$240.10. They have no money and must "board it out. The stakes were, perhaps, pennies or nickels.

In the newspapers we read of Mr. Patton or Mr. Leiter, clearing up a million on a grain deal. But they don't put these in jail. No sir-ee!

Yet the principle is exactly the same. The one bets his money on the turn of the dice. The other bets his money on the turn of the grain market. In either case the element of chance is the same. The difference in "the eyes of the law" is that one bets a penny and the other bets a million.

In fact, the same element of chance is in all speculative business. If you buy a town or city lot, or a farm on speculation, you are betting that the price will increase. If it does not, you lose.

If you buy bank stock, railroad, sugar, oil or other stock, you do it with exactly the same motive that prompted the fellows in Kennett jail to roll the bones, you hope to win. All is a gamble. Then why put the harmless penny gambler in jail while we send the parasitic dollar gamblers to Congress?

If the penny gamblers were powerful enough to have their operations quoted in the daily papers, perhaps it would be different. But, being poor, they must keep under cover. And when the "guardians of the law" need a little "coffee money" the cover is lifted."

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THE HARVEST IS RIPE.

The home for feeble minded at Marshall has a waiting list of over 800 feeble-minded people that it cannot provide for because funds are not available to increase the capacity of the house for charitable making a strong effort to get the legislature to appropriate enough money to complete the home as originally planned so that hundreds of feeble-minded boys and girls who have no idea of what is right and wrong can be taken care of properly.—Cape Republican.

Poor houses crowded, bread lines crowded, prisons crowded, houses of correction crowded, insane asylum jammed, and eight hundred on the waiting list to enter a home for feeble-minded! Great God! And the bishops, priests and preachers tell us that to substitute co-operation for this competitive hell would be against religion. What a slam on religion!

But some of the bone-heads are waking up. I am in receipt of a circular letter from the Missouri Conference for Social Welfare, 901, Carr St. St. Louis, concerning the feeble-minded which reads:

"We of Missouri are just waking up to the fact that these people are clogging up our schools, depriving normal children of the care and attention they should receive, because the teacher must spend all her time with them. Because they have not the mental capacity, they become charges upon the public and drift into crime, poverty and disease."

You see, you can never reach a bone-head until you touch his own interest. He is an "individualist." Therefore, when these feeble-minded children take up the time of teachers at the expense of their children, then the thing comes right home and a "Welfare Conference" is set to work to stop it.

But these people never think of putting the axe at the root. Their remedy is always more asylums, more prisons, more law. It never occurs to them that feeble-mindedness is the result of unnatural and unwholesome surroundings—fruits of our "higher civilization." And the higher the so-called civilization, the more feeble-minded, the more afflicted, the wild tribes the afflicted. There are yet a great many Indians in this country on their different reservations. Can you find one in an insane asylum? I have never heard of one, and if there be one found, he has absorbed too much of our "civilization."

But the concluding sentence taken from the St. Louis letter indicates that the author does not understand what he is writing about. He says, "Because they have not the mental capacity they become charges upon the public and drift into crime, poverty and disease."

That is all wrong. The overwhelming majority do not drift into crime, poverty and disease. THEY ARE BORN IN IT.

Change that, and we won't need to have any homes for the feeble-minded.

FRANK JAMES DEAD.

Frank James, the former outlaw, died at his home near Excelsior Springs, Mo., last week, aged 74 years. His body was taken to St. Louis for cremation and the ashes are to be kept in a safe deposit vault. As requested by the deceased, there was no religious services at the funeral. Former Federal Judge John F. Phillips delivered the funeral oration.

Frank James did not explain why he preferred to have his ashes kept in a safety deposit box instead of the cemetery at Kearney, Mo., beside the bodies of his mother and his brother Jesse, but relatives said he wished to avoid the constant procession of morbid persons who visit the grave of Jesse James. Jesse James was buried in the doorway of the old homestead near Excelsior Springs until thirteen years ago, when it was removed to the cemetery at Kearney. Thousands of persons have visited the grave every year. Cole Younger, the last surviving member of the James band, who is a farmer near Lee's Summit, Mo., sent word that he would be unable to attend the funeral, as he is confined to his bed with a severe cold.

INCONSISTENCY.

The inconsistencies of the various laws and their application are puzzling. Last week Phillip Strabler of near Oran came over to pay his taxes, and was charged two per cent interest. That is the law—one per cent a month.

Then there is another law that makes it unlawful to charge more than eight per cent. This last-mentioned law is the latest. Yet the state violates its own law every time it collects one per cent a month on delinquent taxes.

But the state, being more powerful than a citizen, can do much—especially under a civilization where might makes right.

THEY NEVER BLUSH.

Gloom in the Republican editorial factory! Business is waking up, prosperity is coming, and the people know it.—Squib from Democratic Editorial Factory.

Goah, but it must require unfathomable ignorance and a large mountain of gall to get off such a story. Certainly the crossroads editors never read the stuff that is furnished them for "editorials."

ABOUT HENRY FORD.

It was about a year ago that Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, started the industrial world by fixing a minimum wage of \$5 a day for his employees and letting them share in the profits of his business. The great captains of industry who spend a large share of their earnings on expensive lawyers and lobbyists to corrupt elections, legislatures and courts said Ford was crazy.

Is he? Have any of the kept newspapers told you of the result? Ford's plan is a plain business proposition and he was far-sighted enough to see the result. He realized that his employees were as much a part of his plant as the engines and other machinery, and deserved as much care and consideration.

The Ford plant is capitalized at two million dollars and the profits were twenty million in 1913. Think of that! An industrial plant pays for itself ten times over in a single year in clear profits.

Well, it was too much for Mr. Ford. He is not a pious Rockefeller and decided to let the men who created this wealth share it. He decided that for 1914 ten thousand dollars of the earnings should be taken from the stockholders and given to the employees. Even floor sweepers were to receive \$3 per day for eight hours work, and skilled workers more. In addition they were to share in any increase in profits.

What happened? You who read the Globe-Democrat, Republic and other plute papers ought to know—in a horn. Well, here is what happened, according to Allen L. Benson in Pearson's Magazine:

Mr. Ford distributed among his employees in 1914 not ten million, but twelve million dollars.

In August he began taking each month a sum that in twelve months will amount to eighteen million dollars. This sum is to be prorated and handed back to buyers of Ford machines at the end of the year.

In spite of the two million extra distributed among employees and the eighteen million that is being set aside to be returned to patrons, the Ford plant paid its stockholders just what it did before—twenty million dollars—with the same working force.

Impossible, you say? Well, let's see. Within the increase in pay came better housing, better food and better living. The men were contented and took an interest in their work. Consequently they produced \$2,988, or about half as many more cars as the year before.

Nor is that all. Mr. Ford reduced the price of his cars last year about ten per cent. And when the rebate fund that he began to set aside in August is distributed, it may bring the price of cars down to where we may all have one.

There are people of 51 nationalities working at the Ford plant—just such men as you find in any big industrial plant.

Every day is pay-day at the Ford plant—except Sunday. This means that the employees are formed into twelve groups, and a group is paid every two weeks. As Mr. Benson was passing the paymasters office just before the envelopes were handed out, he was invited in and tells this story:

"At the upper end of each envelope was the employee's number and the amount of money due him for two weeks work. I was asked to look over the envelopes. I did not look at everyone, of course, but I looked at a good many—perhaps 100. I did not find one that contained less than \$60 for two weeks work. Most of them contained sums ranging around \$65 to \$75, and some contained more."

What a wonderful lesson in Socialized industry Mr. Ford is teaching. No wonder the plute papers won't tell about it.

WHO GETS IT.

From Pearson's Magazine.

Wheat at \$2 a bushel before the summer comes, is the prediction of many experts.

The American farmer, says one editorial nanny, is coming into his own.

Is he? On January 1, according to the Agricultural Department, there was scarcely any wheat in the hands of the farmer.

Where was it all?

In the hands of the speculators and elevator gouge men. They had bought it for \$1 or less, and were holding to sell at twice the purchase price.

Meantime, eight cent bread was in sight, and had arrived in some places.

Give thanks for every abundant harvest. It means just that much more for the poor and deserving speculators that reap the profits of the farmers' toil and the goodness of God.

The jitney bus is getting right after the dividends of the street railway monopolies, and of course, the railway monopolists are getting right behind "the bulwark of our liberties"—the courts—and want the jitney outlawed. Jitneys started up in the Cape last week.

Ever notice how much more consideration of widows and orphans the bosses are when it is proposed to reduce the pickings of some pirate corporation than when they order out the militia to kill workmen on strike for more bread?

MORE COLORADO JUSTICE.

From the Milwaukee Leader.

After the world, or such portion of it as is not watching Europe, had just finished reading of the final official proof of the horrors perpetrated by the mine owners in Colorado, the "machinery of justice" in that state began to move.

The commission on industrial relations had brought out the evidence and is supposed to be looking for the remedy. While it is looking the Colorado grand jury was getting busy.

The evidence before the commission showed that miners and their wives and children had been shot, clubbed and burned to death. Proofs of "atrocities" had been produced equal to those imagined by the worst press agent of the warring nations.

For these deeds the evidence before the commission had shown that the owners of the mines and their agents were responsible. The importation of mine guards from the ranks of professional murderers, the purchase of machine guns for private killing and final devilish use to which these instruments were put, all were proven by sworn testimony.

Now the grand jury has met and done its work. But there are no indictments for the Rockefeller. There are none for the mine superintendents, the thugs, the machine gun operators, the murderous militia, for anyone else who helped to make Colorado run red with the blood of those who had created the wealth of the state.

But 150 of the victims of these were indicted at a single session of a grand jury. Nearly every officer of the United Mine Workers, and all of its members who could be identified are threatened with imprisonment or death.

DIPLOMACY AS IT REALLY IS.

From Pearson's Magazine.

We issue a note to Great Britain demanding that American ships be allowed to go to their destinations in Europe without interference from British ships of war.

We did not say so, but these cargoes consisted chiefly of copper.

At that time Germany's supply of copper was almost exhausted. In the German cities, and the Belgium cities under German control, men were engaged in stripping off door fronts and taking down business signs to get copper.

The American cargoes of copper about which we protested to Great Britain were intended for Germany by way of neutral ports. Germany was offering \$625 a ton for copper—more than twice the normal price.

You can't make war without copper. Shut off the copper supply of any warring nation and it must seek terms of peace. Copper furnishes all the cartridges, most of the shells, and many other essentials of warfare.

Germany must have copper. The chief copper interest in this country is a subsidiary of the great Oil Group.

The great Oil Group has been for years the most powerful single influence in the affairs of the American government. It gets what it wants.

Glory be to peace. It is thus we make it. Also history.

Who governs the United States? Sweet spectacle. The world looks upon it with astonishment, and may well be astonished. Was this what we meant when solemnly and with fervent remorse about the Delty, we set apart a Sabbath day for national prayers for the restoration of peace? Is this a sample of that neutrality so plausibly commended to us by the Chief Executive? Neutral about everything, except when it comes to the profits of the Oil Group! Neutral to beat the band except when it comes to furnishing, at 100 per cent advance, the materials by which war may be prolonged! With hands uplifted and eyes rolled to heaven, we deplore the horrors of war, and with the next breath insist that we shall have some more horrors because they are good for the dividend account.

GETS \$15,000 A YEAR.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Declaring that Secretary of State Bryan does not allow his official duties to interfere with his lecture dates, Representative Rogers, of Massachusetts, demanded his resignation on the floor of the House. He denounced Bryan for having worked only eight days out of forty-six.

The Missouri legislature killed the bill to provide shoes and clothing for poor children of St. Louis so they might go to school. But they reported favorably the bill to increase railroad rates. And the state institutions have automobiles bought with state funds.

But the children who have no school clothing because of no fault of their own, can grow up in ignorance and become criminals.

And now we are told that the real fight in Europe will not begin until along about May 1. By that time, it is reported, more than twice as many as now will be engaged. Capitalism, with its markets is such a holy thing that it would "break up the home" to destroy it.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.