

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

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

Stoddard Tribune.—The body of Frank Wilkerson who with his brother, John, robbed the bank at Williamsville at Williamsville, Mo., March 1st, and locked the cashier and board of directors in the bank vault, was recovered near Mill Spring yesterday morning by two fishermen. The fishermen found \$570 mostly silver in the clothing. The body was in water about eight feet deep and covered with sand and driftwood only a part of a leg being visible. At the time Wilkerson drowned the river was high and muddy and being covered up by sand shortly after he had drowned, dynamite and dragging the river failed to bring his body to the top. The river yesterday was clear and the two fishermen could see the body at the bottom and had no trouble getting it to the bank.

Delta Item in Cape Republic.—Saturday afternoon the Iron Mountain agent received a message from the dispatcher at Illinois that trainmen had reported seeing a woman lying dead alongside the track some distance below the depot on the Cotton Belt, and requesting him to investigate. Two of the depot force jumped on a speeder and pulled down to see about it, and when they got there the woman was not dead, but was in a laborious attempt to bore a hole in the dump with her head. They soon discovered that she was intoxicated. A man who passed by said he knew the woman and that she lived at Rockview. She handed some choice compliments to the man and swore she never was at Rockview in her life.

Poplar Bluff Citizen.—Charles Randall, a prisoner in the county jail awaiting trial on a charge of robbing the postoffice at Puxico was seriously and possibly fatally injured Sunday night at the county jail by Harry McCoy, another prisoner. They became involved in a difficulty during which McCoy struck Randall with the hot-air radiator, striking him on the face and head. The bone of the nose was crushed, the skull fractured and an ugly flesh wound inflicted. The skin of the forehead was lacerated until it dropped and fell down over the eye.

Now that the legislature has increased the pay of supreme court judges from \$4,500 to \$7,500, and of appellate court judges from \$3,500 to \$6,000, the Jackson Cash-Book hopes that the increase in pay will stimulate the judges to "even greater industry." But will it? To spend all of the money will require more and longer vacations. If there is anything the job-holders know how to do, it is to increase their pay. Think of a black-headed congressman or a judge drawing \$20 a day while the laborer who pays it is lucky to get \$1.50.

Pemiscot Argus.—J. E. LaDuke of Blytheville, Ark., was a caller at our office Monday. He said that financial conditions among the farmers there was not of the best, that the merchants were not only refusing credit for supplies for the coming season, but were also taking stock, tools and farming implements from farmers on last year's accounts. He said several farmers had told him that much land would lie out this year on account of inability of tenants to secure help to cultivate crops.

The Massachusetts legislature voted down a resolution calling upon President Wilson to issue an order prohibiting exportation of arms and ammunition to the warring nations of Europe. Of course the way to stop war is not to quit selling war material and food to the fighters. That would interfere with business. The better plan is to set aside an occasional Sunday and try for peace. Then, on Monday, pay out more guns and ammunition on and food.

Stoddard Tribune.—William Slover, a young man about 25 years old, was killed at Perkins last Tuesday morning by a freight train on the Cotton Belt. He had left home at Randall's day before yesterday for Cape Girardeau, and it is thought by his neighbors that he was trying to get back home on a freight train and fell off. His body was found early Tuesday morning in a horribly mangled condition.

Jackson Items.—A news dispatch in the St. Louis dailies of Sunday, dated Bentonville, Ark., stated that on Saturday W. E. Talley had been convicted in the Circuit Court of that city of having received money on deposit at the time the bank of Rodgers, Ark., failed, knowing that the bank was insolvent, and his punishment fixed at two years in the penitentiary. The bank was closed August, with liabilities amounting to \$400,000. Talley in former years was a school teacher in Cape county. When J. E. Franklin began his career as Napoleon in Finance, Talley entered his service. The Arkansas bank was known as a Franklin bank. Six other employees of the Rodgers bank are under indictment on the same charge.

Dexter Messenger.—Friday and Saturday were chicken days in Dexter, and it is conservatively estimated that 125,000 pounds of poultry were marketed here during these two days. Four cars left here on last Sunday, and there is at least three more cars of poultry here in the hands of dealers ready for shipment, or when cars can be secured and loaded. As near as we can get at it something between \$17,000 and \$18,000 were paid out to the farmers at Dexter on these two days for live poultry, and something over a car load of eggs, amounting in round figures to \$3,000 were marketed here. It was the biggest two poultry days ever seen in Dexter, and the price was away above that of normal years.

Hayti Critic.—The democratic platform demanded retrenchment in public affairs, and we got it when Billy Patterson hit Mike O'Connell in the neck. Twenty years ago we had a congress that appropriated nearly a billion dollars. Do you remember how we kicked? The congress just closed, appropriated almost two and a quarter billion dollars—and they can not be charged with throwing any of it away on necessities of life for the poor. It all goes for the buncomb, for the buncomb.

St. Louis Labor.—The St. Louis Court of Appeals has sustained the setting aside of the \$1,000 verdict against Phil Hafner of the Scott County Kicker. There is deep gloom among the Democratic politicians of Scott County, as they will have to pay the costs and find themselves stamped as engineering a libel suit that had no foundation in fact. The original verdict was secured from a hand-picked jury of the court-house clique.

Malden Merit.—While sound asleep in his home, located in the east part of town, George Allen was robbed of \$156.80 Friday night of last week. Before retiring he took the money off his person and putting it in a grip in where there was a blue flannel shirt and a razor. Saturday morning Mr. Allen found the grip in the rear of his yard robbed of its contents.

A new law in West Virginia makes it cost a political party about \$30,000 to put out state and county tickets. The law is aimed at the Socialists. But, then, it's a free country. Any political party that has not the backing of the rich corporations don't have to put out a ticket.

Albert Riggs, a ferryman at Bird's Point is missing and it is supposed that he was drowned. His gasoline launch was caught floating down the river ten miles below. The river was dragged for the body without success. Riggs has a wife and three children.

Aunt Harriet Hopkins, a colored woman said to be 104 years old, died at the home of her son in Jackson last week. She came to Jackson from the south in the early sixties, and old settlers say she was about 50 years old then. Her exact age is not known.

Federal Judge Pollock declares the migratory bird law to be unconstitutional. He holds that separate states only have the right to enact laws to protect game.

If you want the truth, you must read the unmuzzled Kicker.

THE "NIGHT-RIDERS."

The seven so-called night-riders arrested last week were taken to Sikeston for their preliminary trial before Justice Parsons Friday, and were remanded back to jail in default of \$2,000 bond each. But just why these poor, ignorant devils, most of whom can neither read or write, should be declared to be "night-riders" I do not know. Night-riders have horses on which to ride, but these fellows appear to be too poor to own a dog.

While I have not allowed myself to suspect that this affair may, to some extent, be a frame-up to frighten the tenant farmers who are organizing in the lower end of the county, yet the press dispatch sent out of Sikeston on the day after arrest, would justify suspicion. The dispatch starts off:

"Twelve FARMERS and laborers were arrested here last night at the residence of J. C. Harris, after they had organized a night-riders' association and writing threatening letters to land-owners up to the Scott County Milling Company."

Can you draw any other conclusion from the above except that the men arrested were farmers and farm laborers? Yet they all lived in town and worked, when they had work, at the mills and factories, or at other common labor. So far as I was able to learn during my brief interview last week, not one of them is engaged in farming.

I accept with a great deal of caution, any alleged facts established by detectives. They are often more crooked than their victims. What happened at Sikeston after the arrival of the detectives is not at all unusual. Ignorance and poverty is quick to fall into such a trap.

The ugly feature is the threatening letters alleged to have been received before the arrival of the detectives. However, if such letters were received—and I believe they were—it was the work of individuals, as it seems clear that there was no kind of organization formed until after the arrival of the detectives, and the organization was wholly their child. Yet "the law" turns the organizers loose and holds the organized!

People who have watched the slimy work of detectives despise them. It is known that in many cases they have sworn away the liberty and the lives of men for a reward. They usually encourage crime, help to commit it, and then appear as witnesses against their victims.

Among the miners of Pennsylvania, many years ago, Detective McPartland wormed himself into an organization known as the Mollie McGuire. He worked himself up as leader and, after planning and helping them commit many atrocious crimes, he turned informer and caused about twenty of his ignorant dupes to be hung. But McPartland got a "reputation" and is still a detective. But he came near losing his "reputation" when he undertook to railroad Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone to the gallows on the "confession" of Harry Orchard.

That I am not alone in my opinion of the comment of the Illinois Jimmie on the Sikeston affair. Editor Purcell in a newspaper man of many years experience. He says:

"If the only evidence the state has is these two detectives, someone is liable to get into trouble. We doubt if there is one man in 25 in Scott county who would believe one of these imported detectives on oath. We know we would not."

It was detectives who framed up an "anarchist plot" in New York only last month to have a couple of half-witted boys to place a thing they called a bomb in a church where the rich "worshipped," and the newspapers of the entire nation screamed about how detectives dressed as scrub women, fooled the dastardly plot to blow up the rich. Now it develops that the boys were dupes of detectives who wanted to "pull the legs" of the rich, and according to the state's attorney, the bomb would not have blown out the panel of a pew.

THAT HOLY INCENTIVE.

The trouble with our industrial system lies in the fact that the necessities are produced primarily for profit and not for use. The country may be overflowing with food and clothing, yet if you are not able to pay the profit, you can starve and freeze.

There are those who believe that the necessities of life should be produced for use only, and that the profit system is criminal and should be abolished. Then there are others who believe that if the profit system should be abolished every body would be lazy and cease to produce. They seem to think that there would be nothing doing if people ceased to rob each other.

"There would be no incentive to stimulate our best efforts," they say. They do not seem to realize that the "incentive" necessary to succeed under the existing order is the incentive of the hog.

I have just read a press dispatch from Denver, Colo., telling of a business transaction that caused these remarks. This particular transaction is not different from like transactions that we read of every day.

Last fall Val Turley, a Denver furniture dealer, discovered that Democratic prosperity was not

what it was cracked up to be, and set out in quest of a little easy money. He carried \$10,000 life insurance in old line and fraternal societies.

Turley died and his body was cremated. Demand was made for the insurance money. Suspecting something wrong, the insurance concerns began an investigation. And here is what developed: A conspiracy was framed up between Turley, his wife, the coroner and an undertaker. Turley disappeared and lived on a farm in obscurity. The body that was cremated was that of a pauper whose features resembled Turley. The undertaker confessed.

THE LAND LEAGUE.

The Land League of America, seems to be spreading rapidly in this section. Last week the Kicker reported three active locals in the southern part of the county, and now there are four. The first local was organized in Mississippi county last week, and the movement is expected to cover much of the Southeast Missouri before the crop season is far advanced.

There are renters unions in Dunklin county, but these seem to be local affairs not affiliated with the national organization. In Pemiscot county the old Farmers educational and Co-operative Unions is being revived. The farmers in the lower counties feel that they need something, but haven't yet got hold of the real thing, and the papers that "keep them posted" are not going to give them any information. No doubt all will finally merge into the Land League as soon as they understand.

Last week the Kicker gave you the outlines of what the Land League proposes to accomplish. Therefore it is in order to give their idea of how they propose to bring it about. Here is their program:

"To secure justice, end oppression and realize the golden rule we pledge ourselves to use all lawful means at our disposal whether it be by suggestion or demand upon governmental power or by co-operative action of the membership, to attain the ends stated herewith:

1. To abolish the unlimited ownership of land and to that end we advocate amendments to the various state constitutions that will provide that all land held out of use or for speculative purposes be taxed to its full rental value.

2. To abolish any system of farm tenure whereby the landlord receives an amount that equals more than one-third the grain and one-fourth the cotton.

3. To secure more convenient and sanitary dwellings and out-buildings and modern improvements for tenants.

4. To educate our membership in scientific agriculture and secure the co-operation of land-owners with our membership in the rotation of crops and other modern methods of conserving energy and fertility of the soil.

5. To prevent a tenant from being forced to cultivate more land than he can reasonably work without the excessive labor of his wife and children, and in fact to educate all our membership in more intensive farming.

6. To prevent the planting of an excessive amount of any one product, and to secure the co-operation of all interested parties in such proper diversification as will cause each farmer to raise as nearly as possible his own living.

7. To educate our membership to look upon the credit system, a curse and to secure such rental trading and marketing contracts as will allow farmers to control their own products.

8. In order that home life may be made brighter and more secure we demand a more just and permanent rent contract so that the tenant may not be dismissed without good and sufficient reasons.

9. To co-operate with all other workingmen's organizations to secure better conditions for our class, including the direct representation of farmers in congress.

10. To strike at the speculators and industrial combines that fix low prices for raw products and high prices for finished products we advocate co-operative buying and selling systems, ware-houses, gins, compresses, oil mills, cotton mills and other industries and institutions related to the farm.

WHERE WE ARE AT.

I would be very thankful if the wise ones would explain what we have for a national congress and state legislature?

What service do they perform except to consume the peoples' money? The courts have usurped the power to nullify their actions, why not abolish these expensive pretenses of a government of and by the people and admit the truth?

What is the truth? Why, the unvarnished truth is that we live under an irresponsible despotism, with federal judges, not elected by the people, in possession of the despotic power.

What does it matter what kind of laws your so-called representatives in congress or state legislature may enact, so long as the courts of the privileged class may nullify them?

In the first place, your so-called representatives are not likely to enact any law that is of benefit to the masses, except under extreme pressure of an aroused people. And even then the proposed measure is emasculated and filled with "jokers" so that the law of

ten works the reverse of what the people wanted.

Take, for instance, your anti-trust laws. When the Sherman anti-trust law was enacted, every body thought it would hold the big trusts now; and nobody ever dreamed that this law would be twisted so as to apply effectively to organized labor—the "labor trust," as the courts have declared it. But it has been applied effectively nowhere else.

Why not admit the truth? Why not remove the sham and hypocrisy and look at things as they are? What use have we for law-makers whose laws are of no effect unless approved by the federal judges appointed by the powers of plutocracy?

WHY WON'T PEOPLE SEE?

Why will people, intelligent people, insist on being blind to plain facts that anyone who looks may see?

We are having what we call "hard times," and the wise men tell us it is caused by the drought of last year, the war in Europe, the Democratic administration, and so on—none of which is responsible for the general depression.

In individual cases the drought may have hurt, but the general crop conditions last year was not bad. The wheat crop was the largest ever known. The local pea and pea hay crop was good. Only corn suffered. That the corn crop failure was not so bad is proven by the fact that the market price is no higher than it has been for several years.

Last week Leo Stehr, who is farming near Redman, was in the Kicker office and we discussed the "hard times" and the destitute condition of the farmers in the Sandywoods territory. I asked:

"They made the best wheat crop ever known in Sandywoods, didn't they?"

"Yes."

"Made about double the usual average?"

"Yes."

"And their pea crop was fine?"

"Yes, but the corn crop was a failure."

"Well, you raise three crops, wheat, corn and peas, and there is seldom a season that not one or the other of these is a failure."

He admitted this. Hence there must be some other reason besides the corn crop failure. Corn crops have burned up before in Sandywoods, but the people did not suffer as now.

Then there is that story about the war causing it. Everybody who knows anything about it knows that when there is war, the nations not at war have greater demand for food, clothing, horses, leather, ammunition and other war supplies. Do you remember how the Boar war in South Africa jumped the price of our horses from about forty dollars to about a hundred—and the price has remained up ever since? Don't you see the agents of France, Germany and England among us every day buying horses and other supplies? It is my opinion that if it were not for the war, this country would be much worse "on the bum" than it is.

As for the Democratic administration, it is responsible to the extent that it is capitalist. The same condition would exist under any administration run in the interest of the capitalist class.

The cause lies deeper—in the system itself. As machinery began to displace human labor we had "periodical panics." The workers are both the producers and consumers. When the workers produced a great deal more than their own wages would buy, a "panic" set in. The plutocrats called it "over-production." The workers had produced too much and were therefore, turned out to starve for the want of the things they had produced.

A half century ago these panics appeared about every 20 years, but as machinery has more and more increased productivity and displaced men, the panic periods multiplied until NOW IT HAS BECOME CHRONIC.

Let me illustrate what I mean. Before the appearance of the factory it was a big day's work for a man to make a pair of shoes. Today the factory turns out twelve pairs for every man, woman and child employed. The same is true of every other occupation—including the up-to-date farm.

Machinery is doing the work while the men, women and children who formerly did it are tramping the country in the hopeless pursuit of a job.

Finding all doors closed, they become desperate, commit crimes, or suicide, or go insane.

The Democrats of the South are getting awfully good and pious. Down in Alabama it is against the law to sell a newspaper or magazine containing a liquor advertisement, even though the publication is printed outside the state. But they still arrest as vagrants men who can find no work and place them on the plantations to work under conditions as bad or worse than peonage. If you want to find a man with the dust of the cave not yet removed from his back, hunt up a Democratic statesman.

It is a glorious "civilization" that drives men into police court to be sentenced to prison where they may get warmth and food. Yet this is happening every day in this land of plenty.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

FROM A MOTHER.

Editor Kicker.—I have been reading your paper a long time and think you keep telling the people a whole lot of truth. Now I want to ask you a few questions.

We have several slot machines in our town. Some are poker and all are gambling. I have children and I hear my boy sometimes plays them. Would it be asking too much of you to give the public a little light on the question.

We have some grand juries selected from our town and they may learn their duty. We also have two or three negroes here who make it a business of bringing in whiskey and peddling it. There ought to be some way to stop this. We have a W.C.T.U. here, but they don't have time to bother about that.

Commerce is a nice place to live if people would live nice. I regret to see so much meanness before my children. I would sign my name if I was not afraid of my husband.

Commerce, Mo., March 27.

I regret that there is a woman anywhere who must fear the man who has sworn to love, provide for and protect her. But until woman is made economically and politically free, it will be so.

As to the grand jury you are mistaken. Only a petit jury has been drawn.

Slot machines are illegal and permitted to operate only because of the indifference of those whose duty it is to suppress them. As for "boot-legging" that is also a violation of law and not so easily discovered as the slot machine.

Personally, I do not object to the slot machine any more than I do to the "church raffle" or the piano or automobile "contests" inaugurated by the merchants. The moral effect is the same—a game of chance, just as is all "business."

A SOCIAL REFORMER.

The Social Reformer set out boldly upon his self-appointed task of abolishing poverty. He came upon a politician and asked him said:

"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 assent to you. 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 no money, money nor influence, there is nothing I can do."

The Social Reformer moved on and at last accounts was still moving.—Life.

The country has more law-breakers than law-makers. How can we ever expect to get "good" at that rate?

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 is 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.

COST OF CHILD LABOR.
From address by L. W. Hine.

A 5,000-mile procession of child workers is asking us if we can afford child labor. If I can show you but a part of that procession which I have followed from the canneries of Maine to the cotton-fields of Texas, they will tell you what child labor has cost them, what it costs their families, what it costs industry, what it costs society—YOU AND ME—and they will ask you, "Does it pay?"

They start off with happy hearts and happy faces for work is fun at first, but a machine tears at one child's body; coal-dust smothers another; eye-strain and body-train arrests their development; their joy ceases. They are ready for the human junk-pile, and who foots the bills?

Even if they escape physical harm, can they escape the mental and moral taint of illiteracy, of leading monotony, of close acquaintance with vice and crime? The news on the street games and knows "the underworld," the messenger-boy on his wheel carries notes to and from the red light districts. The majority of the boys in our juvenile courts have been street-workers; they have tampered with the moral buttress.

So, if industry saves by child labor, society pays, because child labor works in a vicious cycle by making a great many children orphans and handicapping them for future work and the rearing of their own families. Industry has stepped pretty low when it draws on our young people, cutting their parents' wages below the point of support by employing children. It robs children of homes, play time and health and makes material for the institutions our society builds for the sick in mind and body. The expense society should charge to child labor we cannot calculate.

Of Interest to Farmers
Money Saved by Buying
Farm Implements, Wagons, Buggies and Furniture of
R. B. Heuchan & Son
Commerce, Mo.

Terms on Wheat and Hay Machinery and binder twine until after harvest. On corn machinery until November 1.
All kinds of extras for Acme Harvesters and sections and guard-plates for all other Binders and Mowers
Also UNDERTAKERS' SUPPLIES

George Stehr

Has Opened Up a New

Blacksmith and Wagon Shop

On his Lot, Opposite Public School, Oran.

I am prepared to do all kinds of work in my line at reasonable prices. Horse-Shoeing a specialty.

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