

## IN THE SOUTHEAST.

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

There are signs on all sides that the light is breaking in on even the most petrified minds. What are we to think when so orthodox a publication as the Bloomfield Vindicator says "there is something wrong with this civilization of ours?" It says: "We boast of civilization, yet the details of a mob murder at Waco, Texas, are more revolting than the details of the aboriginal head hunters. A negro boy was the victim. He had already been given sentence of death by the law, but the frenzied mob were not satisfied with that. They hanged his body to a limb of a tree over a fire, then put the charred body in a sack and dragged it all over the city. Later it was taken to the scene of the crime and hanged there where every one could see. Souvenirs of his fingers were cut off by some of the participants. The negro was being given sentence for the murder of a woman, but the conduct of the mobbers did not atone for his crime. Waco, however, is not to blame, nor even Texas, for this barbaric display. There's something wrong with this civilization of ours."

Hillsboro is a little county seat town of Jefferson county with a population similar to Benton. It had a bank which, according to news reports, had a capital stock of \$5,000 and deposits amounting to \$120,000. In other words, for every \$24 that a depositor put in the bank there was one dollar of security in capital stock put up by the promoters. Yet we are told that the banking system is safe. The only reason there are not more bank failures is because the graft is so great that there is more profit in continuing to take a great deal of newspaper advertising about "safety" to get people to put their money in so flimsy an institution as the banking system. Every day we read of bank failures, but you never find the newspapers telling you that it is the fault of the system. The Hillsboro bank failed and, as usual, the cashier was made "the goat." He was sentenced to the pen for three years for accepting deposits when he knew the bank was on its last legs. What good will it do those who lost their money to send this hired man to the pen?

The Catholic Union held a three days session at the Cape last week. Since we are assured that "the church" and these societies are purely religious and have no political significance, I watched the papers carefully to see what resolutions might be passed. The constitution was revised, so the papers said, and resolutions were adopted—but nothing was published. However, the Tribune assures us that in their resolutions "the delegates made a flat declaration of patriotism and loyalty to the United States. The Kicker would like to know why a purely religious body finds it necessary to declare its patriotism and loyalty to the POLITICAL STATE? This political state is capitalistic. At New Hamburg, only a few days before, they denounced both capitalism and Socialism. Ain't they getting their wires crossed?

Campbell Citizen.—While grading on the Glennonville road last Thursday Sam Hopper's big tractor engine went through the bridge across the slough near Henry Skidmore's. The middle pier gave way and the engine plunged into the water, the cab being nearly submerged. John Flowers, the engineer, stayed with the throttle and had to swim out. It is a wonder he did not get hurt. Hopper and Flowers took a stump puller and turned the engine right side up. Saturday, and discovered it was damaged about \$100. The fly wheel, governors and cab being damaged badly. The bridge was completely demolished.

Bloomfield Vindicator.—Harry Richmond, the seventeen year old son of E. W. Richmond, of Advance, was found dead by his companions in the woods east of Advance Saturday after he had been gone from them for several hours. They were all together hunting near Perkins and Harry Richmond had gone off alone with his gun. Late that evening when he had not returned a search was instituted, resulting in the discovery of his dead body. A small gunshot wound in his face was the only mark upon him. His death remains a mystery, but it is generally attributed to the accidental discharge of his own gun.

It is evident that somebody has done gone and "seen" the Oran Tribune man. Week before last his paper contained a very strong article opposing the re-employment of the farm adviser. Last week he reversed his engines and, without explaining what it was that caused his change of heart, published just as strong an article in favor of it. Usually, when an editor changes his "opinion" or night, he offers some sort of an apology or explanation for it. Not so with the Oran editor.

Our old friend Oscar Hill, the hero of the New Madrid county "night riders" needs the assistance of his former employers—the landlords. He is in trouble up in St. Francis county and was sentenced to six months in jail and to pay a fine of \$900 for boot-legging whiskey. It is such men who are hired by the employers, and on whose evidence workingmen are sentenced to the penitentiary and to go to church. Six or eight of the New Madrid county tenants were sent to the pen, and about 60 were sentenced to go to church and to Sunday school every Sunday. Which of the two groups got the worst of it I don't know.

The boot-legger is a "criminal" created by law, and he operates in dry territory. The Farmington Times says: "Several successful raids were made by deputy sheriffs in the Lead Belt, resulting in the taking of a few more whiskey peddlers and the transferring of their merchandise to the sheriff's quarters in this city. Deputy Sam Doss headed these raids and it required the services of several automobiles to transfer the wet goods secured to this city."

J. W. Todd, about 70 years old, very feeble and postmaster at Gibson, was arrested and taken to Cape Girardeau by federal authorities because his accounts were found short. Todd is also running a little store at Gibson. He claims that the mistake in the postoffice accounts were made while he was laid up with a paralytic stroke recently.

The inmates of an insane asylum are some times as vicious as those outside. John Miller of Shannon county died at the Farmington asylum as the result of injuries received by being hit over the head by a man named Elders. Both were inmates and got into a row just like so-called sane people do.

IN THIS "FREE" COUNTRY.—Whether in a republic, a monarchy or a despotism, the things that the ruling powers fear most are publicity and education. For this reason they seek to destroy all avenues of publicity and education they cannot control.

In any country the chief sources of publicity and education are the press, the pulpit and schools. While it is becoming pretty generally understood that the press and pulpit serve the master class, it is not so well known that the colleges and universities are similarly tainted. The "regents" of these schools, which are similar to our directors in the country, are all of the very wealthy, and are appointed—not elected.

Prof. Scott Nearing is one of the ablest of teachers of today. And he has a world of trouble in satisfying the plutocrats and the higher schools. He believes in teaching the truth to the young. For this very grave offense he was dismissed from the University of Toledo, Ohio, jumped at the opportunity to get him Toledo is, perhaps, the most advanced city in America. At the head of its government it has had such radicals as "Golden Rule" Jones and Brand Whitlock. But Prof. Nearing is in trouble again. He has offended a school organization that wraps itself in the flag and calls itself the Sons of the American Revolution. They want him removed from the faculty of the University of Toledo because he has criticized the parrot-like repeating by public school children of a bombastic oath of allegiance to the United States, and because he is reported to have said that "the flag belongs to the capitalists." Says the Milwaukee Leader:

"It is safe to say that Nearing might have denounced the flag to his heart's content if he had not also denounced low wages. When James Maurer was falsely accused of saying, 'to hell with the flag' there was a roar of indignation and demands that he be punished. "When it was discovered that Maurer was only quoting a member of the Pennsylvania constabulary no one even suggested that the guilty one be disciplined. It is the business of the constabulary to beat down wages and beat up workmen. If, in so doing, they find it necessary to 'cuss out' the flag, then such denunciation is praiseworthy. "Nearing would make this country one that every citizen would wish to defend. His enemies would maintain it as an instrument of oppression in the hands of a small class of rascals. "Nearing points to greed and robbery hiding behind the flag in order to drive them out and restore that flag to all the people. The Sons of the American Revolution would cover up that greed and robbery with the flag in order to continue the robbery."

INVITING.—The warden of the penitentiary has just completed the finest cell building in the United States. It has every modern convenience, is sanitary and roomy.—Factory editorial in Caruthersville Democrat.

That is inviting. Let's all go to the penitentiary. No working man outside of the penitentiary can boast of "every modern convenience" and of quarters "sanitary and roomy." He usually lives in a board shack if he can pay the rent.

SECURITY AND STABILITY.—The orators and newspapers of the ruling class tell us a great deal about the stability of our government and the security of your life, liberty and property. We have had this preached to us until we really believe it.

Stable means permanent, secure. If we have such a stable government, why is it necessary to spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually to support an army that has never been used for any other purpose than to shoot down working men and women who may protest against the tyranny of Dollar Rule? Can you point out a single instance where the army or navy has been used for any other purpose than to protect Dollars. I challenge anyone to show where the military force has been used otherwise since the rebellion of '61.

As to the protection of life and liberty, that all depends on who you are. If you have the price you can buy both. But if you happen to be poor, and especially if you oppose the ruling class, the constitutional guarantee of life and liberty is a joke. Hundreds of men and women have been jailed and are today in prison for no other reason than that they thought they had the right to express their views in speech and print. And I could mention quite a number who have been put to death for the same reason—in this "free" country.

As for the security of property, even the defenders of the present order are aware that there is only a flimsy pretense of security. And there is no peace of mind for those who have the property. The cutest and slickest of them get caught. If you sit down to a game of seven-up or euchre you know the rules, and the game is open and above-board. But when you sit in the game of profits the game is secret, the rules are many and conflicting, except the rule that the longest nose knocks the persimmon, or that might makes right.

It is impossible that any kind of government can protect conflicting interests with equal justice. It must either favor the skinner or the skinned. And there can be no peace so long as the skin game is tolerated. Hence the thing to do is to change the game so that there will be no conflicting interests—each for all and all for each. And that is nothing more than pure Democracy for which so many of our statesmen pretend to stand—our Republicanism as advocated by its founder—Lincoln.

You may hear co-called Democratic orators yawn about the "time honored principles of Thomas Jefferson." You may hear Republican spell-binders spout about Abe Lincoln. But you will never hear either of them quoted on the relations of capital and labor. And that is the issue—the only real issue—before the people of this or any other country today. And the chief job of the politicians and their organs is to hide the issue. How long can they do it?

Lincoln said "Labor is prior to capital" and is therefore, entitled to the greater consideration of the government. In other words, labor creates capital and should be the master. Jefferson held the same ideas. But none of their alleged followers do.

These alleged followers of Jefferson and Lincoln will tell you that the interests of capital and labor are identical, and that harmony should prevail. It would be as easy to create harmony between two dogs fighting over a bone. According to brute logic the bone goes to the dog that is able to take it. That is also capitalist law stripped of all its trappings and hypocritical pretenses. Take a peep at Europe and see capitalist law in its hideous nakedness.

PLEASURE IN WORK.—From the Milwaukee Leader: "It makes you feel like a foot-ball game or a four mile boat race if you doubt it. A chess tournament will prove that nervous exhaustion does not necessarily come from hard thinking. Muscle and brain both revolt at doing work that is not directed by the will of the person working. When we do what we wish, when we do what we are forced to do, it is work and it tires us. "The essential difference between work and play—between painful and pleasurable exertion—is found in the question of whether the muscles and mind are doing things that are planned by their possessor. "Give the worker a chance to decide on the work to be done, and how it is to be done, and then make sure that the product will go to those who do the work, and we will have made all work play. This is something that comes inevitably from the common ownership and direction of industry by a democracy of labor. Just now it sounds fantastic—as fantastic as an aeroplane 20 years ago, or a public school a couple of centuries ago. "People will believe in a Golden Age before there is even a tradition to describe it; and in all kinds of paradises beyond life, but they sneer at the possibility of a society on earth where those who work shall say what the work shall be and shall enjoy the product."

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

THE FARM ADVISER.—Judging from last weeks county papers, there must be considerable stir over the re-employment of the county farm adviser. Those papers that had not already expressed themselves favorably to re-employment, were made to do so last week, with two exceptions.

A prepared article a column in length appeared in those papers—all alike, word for word. The article was not signed, nor was it marked "advertisement." The reader was to be left under the impression that it was the opinion of the editor on the necessity of retaining the farm adviser. These editors who, like the Kicker man, are scarcely able to distinguish between a cabbage plant and a goose-berry bush, could tell the farmer all about it—if someone else prepared the copy. Since the matter is to be passed upon next Thursday, we may expect another press bombardment this week.

Whether or not a farm adviser is worth while under the conditions in Scott county I do not know. Nor is there any question as to the ability of Mr. Deer. He is probably as useful as most other men on the public pay roll, which I think would be better off if we dispensed with about four-fifths, and reduce the pay of the remaining one-fifth about one-half.

All the Kicker did was to tell the people what was going on. None of the other papers would tell it. Some of them did efforts to "drum up a crowd" before the county court, but paid no attention to it. It was the evident intention of the promoters to slip up on the blind side of the court and "put it over" before any opposition could develop. But the court sensed something and hesitated. Then the Kicker told the story. And now there is pronounced opposition. From what I have learned since, it is my opinion that not one in ten of the men who work the soil care anything about the farm adviser. But the opposition is disorganized and the opposition of a disorganized body amounts to little. And I repeat that if the men behind the re-employment of the farm adviser don't get what they want, it will be the first time they have been turned down. When the landlord, the priest and the politicians want something, what the rest of us want matters but little.

TEACHER'S EXAMINATION.—The regular teacher's examination will be held in the public school building at Benton, Friday and Saturday, June 2nd and 3rd. Examination begins at 8 o'clock, a. m. The order of subjects will be as follows: First day, forenoon—Geography, Language, Algebra, Orthography. Afternoon—Grammar, Arithmetic, Literature, Reading. Second day, forenoon—Civil Government, U. S. History, Agriculture, Algebra, Adv. Science. Afternoon—Physiology, Writing, Pedagogy, Literature, Adv. History.

M. E. MONTGOMERY, County Superintendent.

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION.—County of Scott, State of Missouri. In accordance with Sec. 5658, R. S. Mo., 1909, notice is hereby given that the following are the offices for which candidates are to be nominated at the primary election to be held in Scott county, Missouri, the first Tuesday in August (August 1) 1916:

United States senator in congress for Missouri.  
Governor.  
Lieutenant-Governor.  
Secretary of State.  
State Auditor.  
State Treasurer.  
Attorney General.  
Judge Supreme Court—Division No. 1.  
Judge Supreme Court—Division No. 2—unexpired term.  
Judge Springfield Court of Appeals.  
Representative in Congress for 14th District.  
State Senator for 23d District.  
Judge of the Circuit Court for the 28th Judicial Circuit.

County officers—  
Member of the House of Representatives.  
Judge county court, 1st district.  
Judge county court, 2d district.  
Prosecuting attorney.  
Sheriff.  
Assessor.  
County treasurer.  
County Surveyor.  
Public administrator.  
Coroner.  
Justice of the Peace, Tywappity township—one to elect.  
Justice of the Peace, Morley township—one to elect.  
Justice of the Peace, Sylvania township—one to elect.  
Constable Kelsa township.  
Constable Richland township.  
Constable Sylvania township.  
Constable Morley township.  
Constable Moreland township.  
Constable Commerce township.  
Constable Sandywoods township.  
Constable Tywappity township.  
Committeemen for each twp.  
Given under my hand and official seal at Benton, Mo., this 5th day of May, 1916.  
GEO. W. PEARMAN,  
Clerk Scott County Court.

Put the Kicker in every working class home. It is good.

WHAT IS CIVILIZATION?—If what we have is civilization, we should try to exchange it for barbarism or savagery. Surely nothing in savage life excels our inhumanity. And we read of it not only one day, but every day.

In the south the good Christian people declare a sort of holiday, with ice cream, lemonade and lunch stands, when an ignorant negro is to be hanged. And a lynching here is a greater event than a western wolf-hunt.

But it was left for Waco, Texas, where everybody votes the Democratic ticket and a Socialist is given hours to leave town, to cap the climax last week. Under the most favorable circumstances a negro has no more chance in court in the south than had the Kicker in the libel suit in Scott county. Yet the "wise and order" people are not satisfied with this advantage.

When a negro is to be the victim, "justice" is swift in the south no matter whether statute or lynch law is applied. At Waco, Jesse Washington, an ignorant negro boy was accused of the assault and murder of Mrs. Lucy Fryer. The boy was given a trial just a week after the alleged offense and was found guilty and sentenced to death.

The press dispatches said the boy confessed—but press dispatches can and do say anything that will make more palatable the crimes committed by the respectable citizens.

A frenzied mob was in readiness and the boy was taken from the court room as soon as the verdict was pronounced. In the Leo Frank case, in Georgia, a great deal was said by the friends of Frank, that the court and the jury were intimidated by the mob spirit. Not so in this case where the mob was actually present in the court room.

The rush came with such suddenness that officers, lawyers and newspaper men were swept off their feet and the negroes before any word could be said. The press reports says the press reporter "he was dragged to the city hall yard where the chain already around his neck, was thrown over the limb of a tree, wood hastily obtained and the fire started."

Yes, this ignorant negro boy was burned alive by the good Christian people of Waco, and the press reports say that fifteen thousand people enjoyed this spectacle or were witnesses to it. That, it seems to me ought to satisfy the brute instinct of the very savages of savages. But it didn't satisfy the good citizens of Waco.

The press report says that business men "left their places of business to view the burning." After the body had been burned to a crisp the charred body was put into a sack and a man on horseback dragged the body through the principal streets.

That, it would seem, ought to satisfy the finer sensibilities of any highly civilized community, but the report goes on: "What remained of the body then was dragged behind an automobile to Robinson in a sack and suspended from a telephone pole at that place."

Great is our civilization!

AT THE "SHOW DOWN".—From the Milwaukee Leader: "It seems that the Lender was somewhat premature in making the conversion of the Methodist Episcopal church to the gospel of decent living for workers. Altho the report favoring organized labor was almost unanimously adopted by the original committee, when it came before the conference it was defeated by a vote of 47 to 37."

The debate was one of which the Methodist church will sometime be most heartily ashamed. Federal Judge John M. Kilgus made a speech that was strangely reminiscent of those reported to have been delivered by the persecutors of a certain Nazarene Carpenter some 1,900 years ago. The Pharisees denounced the unions because some of them draw wages deemed inadequate. Labor has no monopoly of the strike. The horrible possibility of all the capitalists in the country taking their capital and going off into the garden to eat worms while the people suffer is too terrible to contemplate.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

RAILROAD POVERTY.—From the Milwaukee Leader: "It is always most embarrassing when you are explaining to the tax collector that you are continuing your business only as a charity to the public to have your bookkeeper come in and congratulate you on your unprecedented profits. That is exactly what is happening to the railroads."

Just as the railroad publicity agents have finished explaining that to reduce the hours of their employees would positively bankrupt every road in the country and compel a great increase in rates, the Bureau of Railway Economics of the federal government hands out a statement that threatens to spoil the whole game. According to this statement, which is made up from the officials reports of the roads, the revenues of the American railroads in the eight months ending March 1, shows a gain of 41 per cent in operating income and an increase of less than one-half of 1 per cent in operating expenses.

Commenting on the prospect for the remainder of the year, the bureau heartlessly remarks: "If this rate of business keeps up railroads will make a total net profit of more than \$701,000,000."

Now as the wildest estimate of the cost of the increased wages and shorter hours is only \$20,000,000, and since no one except the most expert railroad statisticians believe that it will cost more than one-half this sum, it would seem that there would be several pennies between the roads and bankruptcy if the unions get what they are asking for.

First make your "public opinion." Then quote it to prove that you are right. This is the method used by the railroad managers in opposing the eight-hour day. For several weeks the press has been subjected to a regular "rainstorm of fire" in the form of ready-made railroad editorials. All the papers that claim to railroad music have been trying these editorials on their readers.

Now the Association of Western Railways compiles some 150 of these machine-made editorials into a pamphlet and sends it out to the press to show that "public opinion" is opposed to the eight-hour day.

As might be expected from such a standardized product there is a certain sameness in the output. Nearly all quote the same figures to show the poverty of the railroads all weep for the "dear public" and threaten that increased wages will mean increased rates. Financial America and The Railway Age Gazette rise to a suspiciously similar level of indignation. The first is frightened at the possibility of a strike while the second denounces the "treasonable" attitude of the railroad workers that is an appropriate term for such an attitude. The Gazette pictures a possible war with Mexico and concludes: "This would be a mighty poor time for a strike; and to call it under such conditions would be little short of treason."

The Chicago Herald holds out the frightful prospect that "Capital may refuse to work for wages deemed inadequate. Labor has no monopoly of the strike. The horrible possibility of all the capitalists in the country taking their capital and going off into the garden to eat worms while the people suffer is too terrible to contemplate."

The Chicago Tribune and The Iron Tradesman drag out the threat of government ownership. If the engine and trainman should win their point it would be but another step toward a general break-down and that would mean eventually government ownership," says The Tradesman. The Tribune goes a step farther and tells the prospective strikers: "Government ownership of the railroads will take away from the employees the right to strike."

But the dominant note of the whole chorus is that the poor public is about to suffer. This is probably true. Most of the "public" are members of the working class and they are continually soaked for all that the traffic will bear. Therefore they should not worry much about anything more the railroads can do to them.

If there was an additional penny that the railroads could have obtained from any source they would have gone after it long ago. During the past half a century they have grabbed everything loose, and plenty of things that were supposed to be locked up and nailed down.

If the workers in other lines of industry can get the wealth they are producing and that is taken away from them by their employers they need not be disturbed at the threats to raise rates.

The attention of those who compiled the pamphlet of editorials should be called to the fact that they did not include any quotations from The Leader.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.