SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

Vol. XV | BENTON, MO., JUNE 3, 1916. | No. 18.

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

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

The stuff that the politicians get off on one another is enough to vomit a dog. Among the Democrats in Missouri it seems to be "the field" against Gardener for governer. Gardener is a St Louis millionaires who figured out the land bank scheme on which he depends for support. He may be perfectly honest in his belief that his land bank will solve all difficulties of the farmer, yet, in practice, it will prove about as helpful as did the government's aid to the cotton farmers, through the banks, two years ago. However, the opponents of Gardner are circulating a good one on him. He is president of a coffin company in St. Louis and they accuse him of standing in with the liquor interests in shipping whiskey into dry territory in his coffins. And they seem to just about prove it. Gardener comes back with a letter from Rev. Wm. Wirt King, pastor of Grace Method st church, St. Louis, who says that Gardener has been an "official member" of his church for 18 years. An "official member" is one who sees to it that the pastor gets his salary. Rev. King speaks very highly of Mr. Gardener and says "nobody among us stands higher than he." This endorsement is then signed by quite a bunch of "Revs," including Bishop Tuttle. Go to it!

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Just now the railroads are "going" to build new depots at the principal towns. Charleston is to have a new $14,000 depot; Sikeston, Dexter, Bismark and so on are to have similar structures. Maybe these towns will get the new depots and maybe they wont ff I were betting I would put my money on the "wont" side. Looks too much like an effort on the part of the railroads to get public opinion going their way in these towns. The railroads are facing the probability of a big strike and, of course, they could not be expected to build depots until that is settled favorably to them.

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Chas. Buckner, a 13-year-old boy of Campbell, was at Piggott, Ark., where he stole a watch from a jewelry store. "The law" now has this little fellow in charge and will proceed to make a real criminal of him. As a starter he is put in jail along with a lot of hardened criminals to await the action of the grand jury. Next he will be taken before a Cave Man who will give him a strong lecture on how to be good and take advantage of the glorious opportunites open to all boys. Then he will very piously and regretfully sentence the lad to be cooped up in a reformatory until he is grown.

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Jackson Items.—Old Applecreek church, located a mile east of Pocahontas, was organized 95 years ago last Sunday, the day of organization having been May 21, 1821, and the event was commemorated last Sunday, Rev. Green preaching two sermons and a picnic dinner being served on the grounds. It is the oldest church still in use in this county; old McKendree east of Jackson was built ten, twelve or more years earlier, but is not in use and can't be reached unless going through fields.

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County papers are now filled with the pictures of distinguished citizens. But a fellow has to examine closely and read underneath the pictures. Otherwise he couldn't tell whether the picture represented someone cured of an incurable disease, or an "evangelist," or a wife-murderer, or a candidate for office. These usually get their pictures in the papers. Those appearing now are mostly "eminent divines" and politicians who want to connect with the public treasury.

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What the dirty politicians can't think of isn't worth while. By his stand toward Germany and his resignation rather than sign a note Mr. Wilson wanted him to sign, Bryan won the favor of the German element in this country. But the Germans are bitter against prohibition. Hence the newspapers are busy telling us Mr. Bryan will probably be the Prohibition candidate for president. Reason has no place in capitalist politics. Only prejudice is worked upon.

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The Methodist General Conference recently held in Saratoga, N. Y., believes that within five years the church North and South will unite. The split was over slavery. Each faction was an expression of the economic interests that supported it. The Southern church found no trouble in proving by the Bible that slavery was a "holy" institution, ordained of God. And the Northern church had just as little trouble in proving that it wasn't.

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At Ava, Mo. in Douglas county, 9-year-old Johnnie Carter is held under $3,000 bond for the murder of his playmates, Paul Denny, also nine years old. It was a clear case of preparedness. The boys quarreled and Johnnie had a 22-calibre rifle. The two were living on adjoining farms near Ava.

It would be interesting to learn what the defenders of the present order would give as an excuse for crime and poverty if they didn't have booze to charge it up to. The underlying cause never concerns them. If they can find traces of booze, that is enough. Last week the Farmington Times contained accounts of a stabbing affray at Elvins and a suicide at Flat River, in the Lead Belt. Jess Forsythe dangerously stabbed a baker, and in searching for a cause the Times says, "Both were thought to have been drinking, in which case there is no need of searching further for a reason." Otto Forbes, a young married man, committed suicide by hanging. The Times says, "Forbes is thought to have been drinking." Yet St. Francois county is "dry," and only last week the Times told of deputy sheriffs raiding this very territory and bringing in automobile loads of confiscated booze to Farmington.

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Maiden Merit.—One of the most horrible double murders of the year occurred at Williamsville when Arthur Goodman shot his stepdaughter and then killed himself. From the information we have of the case Goodman and his stepdaughter were in love with each other and both had agreed to run away or kill themselves. The girl was Mrs. Evelyn Hawthorn, having just been married the Sunday before to a young farmer near her home. In the morning of the tragedy Goodman had sent his wife to visit a neighbor and it seems that the girl then failed to live up to her agreement to run away with her step father.

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Farmington, Cape Girardeau Sikeston and several other Southeast Missouri town have recently received cannon from Washington to be mounted in public places with "appropriate services." Will somebody who understands modern democracy please explain what all this is for? Of course this is going on all over the nation, and unless there is some reason for it, the waste of money is shameful. Many of the people who are forced to help pay the expense haven't got enough to eat or wear.

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By the time the War Lords get through over in Europe, there wont be much of the male population left except the capitalists th e aged, the crippled and the boys. The capitalists will hold a first mortgage on the different nations for billions of dollars on which the aged, the crippled and the boys will be expected to pay the interest. The thing to do is to dump the capitalists by confiscating the debts. And that may be done.

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St. Genevieve Herald.—Frank Smith discovered the lair of a wolf on the farm of Clarence Govreau near River Aux Vasse, and captured four of the little cubs. A fifth one made his escape. Mr. Smith brought them to town and they aroused considerable curiosity. He sold one of them to Ed Basler for $3. We are told that in the southern end of our county wolves have destroyed many sheep for the farmers.

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The National Conference of the Methodist church held at Saratoga, New York, declared for woman suffrage. "We assert our belief in the justice and righteousness of granting to women the franchise, "they declared. Well, that is going some. Gradually the religious bodies will be forced to realize that we have emerged from the Dark Ages. But they refused to stand for any expression favoring organized labor.

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Piedmont Banner.—G. P. Lewis and Claude Pipkin while cutting logs for H. B. Kerr on Otter Creek last week found bones of a large deer head inside a large hollow oak tree. There were no signs from the outside of the tree of an opening, and how this deer head could have gotten inside this hollow tree is a mystery. The tree was about eight inches thick to the hollow center where the skeleton was found.

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Jackson Items.—T. J. Browning is one of the largest sheep owners of the county, for last Friday he brought 841 pounds of wool to town, for which he received 34 cents per pound. The sheep are at present one of the best paying propositions on the farm, for the wool as well as the animals are bringing very high prices. Sheep will subsist where other animals would starve.

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Attorney H. E. Alexander of Cape Girardeau was chosen pass distributer for this end of the state to the Democratic National Convention in St. Louis and Atty. J. A. Finch of Fornfelt has been selected as assistant door-keeper for the Republican convention at Chicago. Only lawyers cut any ice in old party conventions. The rest can shout, vote and pay taxes.

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Put the Kicker in every working class home. It is need d.

THE KICKER TAKES A REST.

While I haven't said anything about it, yet I have been in a pretty bad shape for several months. Along about Christmas I was just about "all in." The four years fight against a pack of office-holders and lawyers, backed by landlords, bankers and the "Holy Fathers," in a court where I KNEW I had no chance, proved too much for my strength—although I thought I could stand anything. But age will tell.

In a battle of brains I would have welcomed them singly or collectively. But they wanted none of that. It suited them best to apply their "Law." In December I went to a docter, and his verdict was that I must have complete rest. That was impossible without suspending the paper. However, I followed his advise as near as I could, and am slowly improving.

For the purpose of giving myself a complete rest for a month, I have decided to suspend publication of the Kicker during June, and my readers will receive instead the Cape Girardeau Weekly Tribune—one of the best edited papers in Southeast Missouri.

The next issue of the Kicker will appear the first week in July. Correspondents will please make a note of this and also take a vacation.

Respectfull, PHIL A. HAFNER.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

There is a whole lot of difference between strutting about home in an army uniform and being on the firing line. There is also a difference between the pictures you see in the postoffices and actual service. When a craze strikes a community to "organize a company" many suckers are caught by the glitter of brass buttons. But when the call comes for action, then it is different.

A few years ago Sikeston had a lot of tin soldiers. Some joker sent a telegram there for them to get ready for service on the Mexican border. The patriots took to the tall timber—hard to catch.

It always gives me the "giggles" when the yaps who follow their old party leaders get bumped. In Texas all of the substantial citizens are Democrats. And the Rubes take their ideas from the better class. Hence they felt it their duty to be particularly patriotic while Wilson is president and many joined the National Guards—thinking there would be nothing to do but parade and show off.

Recently the governor of Texas called on these patriots to do patrol duty along the Mexican border. That was different. The yaps hadn't thought of anything like that and many refused to go. Now they are to be court marshalled—one hundred and sixteen of them.

Some fifteen years ago a law was slipped through congress was slipped through congress, known as the Dick military law, that makes every able-bodied male citizen between the ages of 18 and 45, subject to the call of the president for military duty. We are told that this is a government of and by the people. Yet even today not one person in fifty knows anything about this Dick law. If there is any difference between it and what is known as conscription, I can't discover it.

But the patriots of Texas are soon to learn something about it. It seems that the Texas call was by the president through the governor. These patriots thought they were only in the state service, and did not know that they were subject to the call of the president. If the newspapers had told us of this Dick law instead of so much about the tariff and other bunk, the people might have become aroused and forced its repeal.

What happened in Texas also happened in other states along the border—New Mexico and Arizona. Concerning the Texas affair Secretary of war Baker gave out the following statement:

"The Dick bill, not being repealed, expressly, remains in force. The 116 men in question, having taken an oath to preserve the constitution of the United States and obey the lawful orders of the governor of Texas, and not having yet taken an oath to obey the president as commander in chief, must still present themselves for muster. They are capable, therefore, of committing the offense in the Dick bill and are, therefore, liable to punishment.

"I have decided to have the court martial assembled by command of the president, and have asked Gen. Funston to recommend the members thereof.

"While I shall not prescribe, I shall be inclined to recommend that the proceedings be abated in cases where the men are willing to take the oath."

As I understand this, the Guardsmen have sworn to preserve the constitution and obey their governor, but not the president. They can now take their choice—swear to obey the president or take the consequences.

It is quite a flop from the "anti-imperialist" campaign of the Democrats 12 years ago and their militaristic campaign of today. Do you remember those cartoons the Donk papers carried, picturing Roosevelt with cannons sticking out of his eyes ears and mouth?

The earth belongs to all the people. Why should 90 per cent of us pay rent to live upon it?
Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL.

Did you know that there was such a thing as birth control, and that it is applied by the wealthy? I didn't know there was any such thing until a couple of years ago, when I read in the papers that Mrs. Margaret Sanger had been indicted by a federal grand jury in New York for publishing and sending through the mails an "obscene" book on the subject. Then I wrote and got the book. I always like to get hold of what the "good" people don't want me to know.

Of course Mrs. Sanger was imprisoned. Nobody has ever succeeded in keeping out of jail who attempted to do anything for the oppressed class. Even Christ was crucified for it. While the rich don't want to be bothered with the rearing of children themselves, they want their slaves to breed like rats. This gives them more slaves and more soldiers.

Last week Mrs. Sanger was advertised to speak in a St. Louis theatre. Eighteen hundred tickets had been sold, and when Mrs. Sanger arrived she was denied admission to the theatre. The Cave People had threatened the manager with the boycot if he permitted her to speak. The Globe-Democrat says:

"Several ministers, hearing of the proposed lecture, spoke against it. Arch-bishop Glennon dismissed the subject curtly when he was questioned about it. He said that the Catholic church objected to infanticide or any unnatural act and declined to discuss the matter further."

Of course the Arch-bishop and the other he virgins above and below him are against "unnatural acts." BUT WHERE ARE THEIR CHILDREN? Concerning the suppression of Mrs. Sanger's lecture, the Globe-Democrat says:

"The effort to prevent Mrs. Margaret Sanger, the birth-control propagandist, from speaking in St. Louis is having the same result that follows every such effort to suppress public utterances upon any subject whatsoever. Mrs. Sanger is finding places to speak without difficulty, and her audiences are larger, and the interest aroused in her mission infinitely greater, than if she had been permitted to say her say and pass on to other fields. Of the character of that mission much might be said, something for it and much against it, but the only way to combat argument, in this country, is with argument. Men and women are continuously arising with notions that they feel impelled to put before the public for its good. They are filled with a desire to speak and speak they shall. But the public is not to be fooled very long, as Lincoln said. If there is really anything good in the ideas of these crusaders they will be accepted. If not they will be rejected.

"And the best way to kill a bad cause is to let it talk itself to death. That it will most certainly do, sooner or later, if it is bad. And if it is not bad, if it is good, then it should live, and be encouraged to live.

NOT SO BAD.

Paul H. Hafner, Tacoma, Wash., has been sentenced to serve four years in the county jail for writing a letter to a local newspaper in which he defamed the memory of George Washington—Penobscot Argus.

It was only 4 months that the pious cave man on the bench sentenced the man who so far as I can learn, wrote only the truth.

I haven't been able to get the inside of this very grave crime against the memory of Washington, but the little I do know about it indicates that he wrote something about Mr. Washington being a consumer of booze and an apt scholar at swearing.

I don't know about the swearing. But I believe it will be pretty generally admitted that all military men swear. However, as to Washington being a consumer of rum, history relates that he traded a negro and took rum in part payment.

REALISTIC

"When I grow up," said little Ethel, "I am going to be a school teacher."

"Well, I'm going to be a mamma and have six children," said tiny Edna.

"Well, when they come to school to me I'm going to whip 'em, whip 'em, whip 'em."

"You mean thing," exclaimed Edna as the tears came into her eyes. "What have my poor children ever done to you?"

PUBLIC SALE

Terms.—$5 and under cash; over $5 a credit of 9 months will be given, purchaser giving 8 per cent note with approved security. If paid at maturity no interest will be charged. C. P. BRYEANS.

Why should the workers expect anything from Congress? They have never indicated by their votes that they wanted anything more than what they are getting.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

IN DARKEST AFRICA.

(The Heathen's Prayer.)

O Mumbo Jumbo, God of Stone,
We kneel in terror at thy throne!
Save, O save us—if you can—
From the clutches of the Christian man!
Save us from kaiser, king and czar—
And worst than all—from fierce T. R.
We sit in darkness, so they say—
O Mumbo, keep us there, we pray!
The only thing we heathen fear
Is that the Christians may come here!
Hold back these creatures from our shores
And save us from their bloody wars!
They'd confiscate our native soil
And doom us all to lives of toil;
The more they made us slave and sweat,
The more they'd have us in their debt—
And every blooming cocoanut tree
Would soon belong to some John D.
And if we ever should rebel—
He'd have us heathen shot to h——!
Good Mumbo Jumbo, God of Stone,
Make the Cnrlstians leave us alone.
Amen!

—From the National Ripsaw, St. Louis.

THE FACTS AND FIGURES

Last week I received the usual "News Letter" from Washington, which is usually dumped into the waste basket without opening, for the reason that these letters contain only dry, statistical figures that very few would read and still fewer would understand if published.

But I opened this letter and a glance showed me that there was something of interest in it if cut and copied to pieces and made plain enough so the average mind could grasp the meaning. So I put it aside for future analysis.

It was a report of the government census bureau on manufacturing in Missouri. The purpose of my investigation was to find if the report contained anything to sustain the Socialist contention that Labor is robbed of the greater portion of the wealth it produces. I will relate my discoveries and let you be the judge.

The report is a comparison of the years 1909 and 1914. Except in a few instances I will refer to the year 1914 only.

The report covers 8,386 establishments in Missouri, engaging 188,266 employes. Of these 28,386 are salaried employes, and 152,182 are wage earners.

The government, like the newspapers, makes a difference between salary and wages. The gentleman with a biled shirt is on a salary. The Rube in overalls gets wages. The gentleman "accepts a position." Rubes takes a job. The gentleman "resigns his position." Rube gets fired.

This report tells us that the 28,386 salaried employes received $37,207,000 in 1914—or about $4 per day. Mind you, this is an average. Some of these probably received less that half of $4 per day while others received perhaps $10 per day or more. The good soft jobs are held by the owners of their relatives and the salaries are made from any profit from operation.

The $152,182 wage-earners received $80,158,000 in 1914, which is $526 per year or less than $2 per day. The same government that sends out this report sent out a previous report showing that in these industrial centers, where rent and living is very high it takes $800 to provide the bare necessities of life for a working class family for year. Here we find a deficit of $274. This explains why the mother and often the children are driven into the factory to help support the family. It explains why so many children are robbed of an education. In Missouri there are over 100,000 illiterates.

The report shows that during the five-year period the number of establishments decreased 11, the number of proprietors and firm members decreased 528, and the number of wage earners decreased 811. Yet the increased value of the product of 1914 over 1909 was $63,841,000!

This proves increased concentration and efficiency. However, there was an increase of 3,900 in salaried employes, which I cannot explain unless, as in politics, there were too many relatives to be taken care of. Also salaries increased 28 per cent while wages increased but ten per cent during the five years period and the increased cost of living—well, you know about that without being told. You know that ten per cent increase in wages wouldn't cover half of it.

Now let us take up the value of the product of these establishments for 1914. It was $637,052,000. The cost of the material, in which the report includes fuel, mill supplies, rent for power and heat—in short, all operating expenses except salaries and wages—was $388,715,000.

Add to this the $126,486,000 paid in salaries and wages and we have the total cost of production, $515,201,000. Now deduct this from $637,052,000, the total value for which the products sold, and you have the swag that the 7,698 employers, divided up among themselves—$122,751,000!

Do you get the meaning of this? The 7,698 employers took almost exactly as much as the 180,568 salaried employes and wage earners. Is it any wonder that the few revel in excess while the many are in want? These employers are in a position to dictate terms because of their ownership of the machinery of production. The wage slaves must work on the terms offered or starve. If they get rebellious the police and the army and the courts will attend to them.

Remember that these are the figures as sent out by you capitalist government. They tell the story as cruelly as any agitator could tell it. Let them soak into your noodle.

Less than 8,000 idle owners get $122,751,000 out of industry, while 180,568 salaried employes and wage slaves get $126,486,000.

ONE ON BILLY.

Billy Sunday stopped a newsboy in Philadelphia the other day and inquired the way to the postoffice.

"Up one block and turn to the right," said the boy.

"You seem a bright little fellow," said Sunday. "Do you know who I am? "I'm Billy Sunday, and if you come to my meeting tonight I'll show you the way to heaven."

"Aw, go on!" answered the youngster; "you didn't even know the way to the postoffice."—Bos-

The Kicker prints what other papers must suppress—or move.

THE SEARCH FOR LIGHT.

Modern discovery is wonderful, and is knocking the props from under superstition. Fossil remains of human beings and animals that inhabited the earth hundreds of thousands of years ago are being unearth. The remains of animals resembling lizards in shape, have been found that must have been 75 feet in length. The mastodon is an extinct animal and, so far as known was the largest. Judging from reports, the mastodon must have been as large as a young steamboat. Wonder how many of these Noah fed in his little ark?

On the farm of N. D. Salisberry near Halls, Tenn, about 150 miles from Benton, Ellis Boone recently dug up the remains of a mastodon—one tusk or tooth of which weighed 98 pounds and was five feet and eight inches long.

Boone claims the find by right of discovery. Salisbury claims it because it was found on his land. And the result is a law suit over the remains of an extinct animal that may have existed a million years before the invention of the garden of Eden story. Salisbury won in justice court. Boone appealed and won in circuit court and now Salisbury has appealed to the supreme court.

A great many people do not believe the truth of these ancient discoveries. If you are a doubting Thomas it wont take you long to run over into Tennessee and see for yourself.

WATCH COAL PRICES

From the Milwaukee Leader.

Prices for hard coal are made in Pennsylvania and then shipped west with the coal. The price of hard coal in Philadelphia is 65 cents a ton more than last year at this time. On Oct. 1 another 10 cents will be added making the price 75 cents a ton more than last year.

The excuse is the strike. Any other excuse would have done and there been no strike. The raise in price is at least three times as much as the increase in wages gained by the miners.

The coal dealers will gain at least $20,000,000 a year in excess of the increased wages.

The Cleveland Press is calling upon Attorney General Gregory to prosecute the anthracite coal trust under the Sherman law. Let us hope that he will not do so. The Standard Oil trust was prosecuted under the law, convicted and "busted." Now look at the price of gasoline and the dividends of the standard stockholders.

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, ss—

In accordance with Sec. 5858, 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—

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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 Corcuit Court for the 28th Judicial Circuit.

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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 Kelso 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.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.