

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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Conspiracy of Silence.

Allan L. Benson Exposes How Kept Press Keeps People in Ignorance.

There is one presidential candidate in the field that the kept newspapers say very little about. He is making speeches every day to large crowds, but the press don't seem to know anything about it. Of this conspiracy of Silence Allen L. Benson, Socialist nominee for president, says:

"Again I warn America. Congress has passed and the president, on June 3 of this year, signed a bill into which had been smuggled a section which gives the President power in time of war, to draft into the Federal Army all male citizens of good health, who are between the ages of 18 and 45 years.

The newspapers of this country are trying to prevent this fact from becoming known. They will print almost anything else I say except a statement of facts about this draft law.

"I compelled the Associated Press, by a series of verbal and printed attacks, to put nightly reports of my speeches on its wires, and it is now sending to the 700 newspapers to which it supplies telegraphic news nightly reports of 350 words of the great meetings I am addressing.

"As a result of telegraphic interchanges between the United Press and myself, the United Press is sending telegraphic reports of my speeches to the 600 afternoon newspapers to which it supplies telegraphic news.

But the newspapers for the most part are not printing the news that I have forced into their offices. They are either throwing it away bodily, or so cutting it down that only the pale shadow of it is left for their readers.

I know of no newspaper in the United States that has printed the facts about the draft law as I have given the facts to these two great news distributing agencies.

At Indianapolis, on September 19 for instance, I gave the Associated Press a new chapter of facts in connection with the smuggling into the Hay-Chamberlain Army Reorganization bill of the section empowering the President in time of war, to draft citizens into the army.

I told how Representative Hudson, of Georgia, after the bill had been signed and he had discovered the word 'draft' in it, had introduced a bill to repeal the 'draft' section—Democratic and Republican members of Congress alike refused to vote for the repeal of the section.

I told how Representative Hudson confronted Representative James Hay, of Virginia, in the House and complained that the word 'draft' had been smuggled into the bill in place of the word 'call'.

I quoted Representative Hay's statement, made in Congress on August 25 of this year, which follows:

"The gentleman from Georgia bases his criticism on the fact that the word 'call' was stricken out and the word 'draft' substituted in conference. I do not now recollect whether this is true or not, but what is the difference between the President being authorized to call men out and to draft them? There is no difference, so far as the President is concerned."

Then I quoted an absolutely contradictory statement made in Congress by Representative Hay five months ago—on March 23, 1916. Congress was then considering a bill which has since become a law under which the President is given power to draft the entire national guard of any state or all of the states.

Representative Miller, of Minnesota, objected to the use of the word 'draft' and suggested that the word 'order' be substituted. On this occasion Representative Hay, then chairman of the House committee on Military Affairs, said:

"The word 'order' has not the same legal significance as the word 'draft'. The word 'draft' has a distinct meaning in all military bills and laws, and the word 'order' does not mean the same thing. If the gentleman will look into the debates during the Civil War, as I have done when the draft sections were considered by Congress, he will find that the same question arose and that after a full debate upon it, it was concluded that the word 'draft' was necessary to give the President the powers desired."

And Representative Hay, be it remembered, was one of the conference committee of seven who changed the word 'call' in the Hay-Chamberlain Army Reorganization bill to 'draft'.

There is no use of mincing words about this. The authorities at Washington, in enacting the draft law, have done something that they know the American people, if they knew it, would not like and would not tolerate.

Republicans and Democrats are equally guilty, because both Republicans and Democrats voted

for it in Congress and President Wilson, a Democrat, on June 3, of this year signed the bill containing the draft clause.

President Wilson has claimed the country's praise for nearly everything he has done since he became President, but neither in the Democratic platform which he wrote nor in his speech of acceptance did he dare claim praise for signing, or did he even dare mention that he had signed, a draft law.

On the other hand, Mr. Hughes, who has blamed the President for almost everything he has done since he became President, has never uttered a breath of criticism of Mr. Wilson because he signed a draft law. Indeed, Mr. Hughes has never mentioned that Mr. Wilson, on June 3, did sign a draft law, though anybody can get a copy of the law by sending to the Government Printing Office in Washington. The draft clause is section 79.

Why are these gentlemen so silent about the matter? Why do the newspapers throw away these facts when I give them to the press associations and the press associations carry them to the newspapers?

Every voter who this fall shall vote either the Republican or the Democratic ticket will thereby vote his approval of the draft law. There is no other way of voting against the draft law except by voting the Socialist ticket.

Three million Socialists votes this fall will cause the draft law to be repealed!"

Detroit, Mich., October 1.—The administration of President Wilson and the campaign methods of Charles E. Hughes, Republican presidential nominee, were assailed by Allan L. Benson, Socialist candidate for President, speaking at a mass meeting here today.

Speaking on "The Issues of the Campaign," Benson declared "that any dead issue is alive enough to be discussed by President Wilson and Hughes, and all live issues are disregarded by both candidates."

Referring to the army bill, he said: "President Wilson should repeal the draft section of the law. If I am elected President I will have enacted legislation whereby men cannot be drafted into army service without a vote of the people."

Cincinnati, Oct. 3.—Allen L. Benson, Socialist candidate for president, in a speech in Music hall here, commented sharply on utterances of President Wilson at Shadow Lawn Saturday.

"The President said," remarked Benson, "that whereas he had expected this contest to be an intellectual contest, it thus far had failed to interest him. Wilson, at any moment he desires, may engage in a contest that should interest him and, would without fail interest the people."

"Let Wilson tell the people why he signed the Hay-Chamberlain army reorganization bill which provides that the president shall have the power in time of war to draft American citizens into the federal army. This is a power that even Lincoln did not have when he became president."

"Wilson, in the Democratic platform that he wrote, and in his speech of acceptance, praised himself for many things, but he has never thought it worth while to felicitate the country on the fact that he has provided it with a draft law, nor has he ever dared mention that he signed such a law."

"On the other hand, Hughes, who criticized Wilson for almost everything else, has never criticized him for signing a draft law or even mentioned that he has signed one."

PATRIOTS SCARCE.
The war lords are not as happy as they might be. The young men are not enlisting as they expected. Although the country is honey-combed with recruiting stations, and postmasters are offering a bribe of \$5 for every sucker they can entice into the army, there is nothing doing.

The present plan of recruiting has failed and will be abandoned. A house-to-house canvass is to take its place. A dispatch from Washington says:

According to a new recruiting order, made public today, "to meet demands for the present and the immediate future, the recruiting service must be capable of furnishing annually an average of one recruit per thousand of population, and this result can be accomplished only by canvassing every accessible locality in the United States and establishing through the aid of available postmasters a conveniently located recruiting agency for each small area."

The new plan contemplates establishing such agencies in every county seat. From these bases recruiting parties will be sent to comb the rural districts.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.



CAPITALIST PROSPERITY.

From Milwaukee Leader.

Two things are sailing skyward at a rate never equaled—prices and dividends. This common move is not a coincidence. The high prices make the big dividends.

The financial reports of a single day this week show where the wealth of America is flowing in a stream so wide and deep that it is almost burying those who receive it beneath a flood of gold.

As sugar went up one-half cent a pound, American Beet Sugar announced a dividend of 30 per cent and Cuban sugar companies showed an income rate many times larger than ever before.

The dividend rate of the General Motor company is estimated at 150 per cent. This is on a capitalization blown up by promotion gas to the usual bloated size.

Lackawanna Steel announces a net income of \$6,000,000 for the past year. Anaconda Copper pays \$25 on a share and is putting aside a surplus of \$17,000,000. The American Smelting and Refining company announces that it has earned 35 per cent on its common stock.

But it is when we come to steel that the profits reach a size bigger than the human mind can comprehend. United States Steel boasts that it has not entered into the munition trade. Its products have gone in some form into almost every product on the market today. Try to think of one that can be produced and marketed without the use of steel and you will see how impossible it is to live and move and have our being without paying tribute to this monster of corporations.

Every day brings a new record

to the steel monopoly. The latest estimate places the profits for the past 18 months at \$77 a share. This is on common stock whose absolutely gaseous character has so often been exposed.

While United States Steel grabs off the biggest chunk of plunder there is wealth enough for all—except for those who produce it. We quote from a leading financial journal.

"One steel producer, with a mind for statistics, estimates that the net earnings of the steel companies in the current year will run close to \$600,000,000. This estimate does not include companies that are engaged exclusively in the manufacturing of munitions."

All this makes no mention of the wealth that is flowing to the munition makers. Of these Adams of The Boston News Bureau, one of the best known financial writers says:

"Of the good fortune of the munition makers there is no end. Prolongation of the war is believed fairly certain. Nothing is more certain than that the allies will buy large supplies of ammunition."

"On top of these things comes preparedness. What Uncle Sam's outfit for new armament and defense will total it is impossible to say, but it seems safe to estimate them at \$1,000,000,000."

Spare your indignation at the showiness that bursts forth in peans of joy at the prospect of prolongations of the horrible slaughter in Europe. Save your wrath for the slaughter at home, it is labor that must pay all these profits and that is paying and

producing them today. These profits are taken from the tables of the people of this country in high prices. They are gathered from every market basket in America.

Goods cost less to produce today than in any day the world has ever known. The laborers, who produce them, are getting just what they have always received—a bare living. Scott Nearing has shown from governing statistics that 80 per cent of them do not even get a living. The mortality statistics gathered by the United States public health service shows that so far are these wages from a "living wage" that most laborers die a score or more of years before the natural span of life.

Has Wilson anything to say about this robbery of labor through high prices for the benefit of dividends? Did Hughes say one word on this subject while speech-making across the nation? Can you find any mention of this subject, which you must discuss every day of your life, in either the Republican or Democratic platforms?

High prices are caused by high dividends. The only way to reduce prices is to reduce dividends. Dividends go to those who live by owning. The only way to get rid of dividends is to get rid of the private ownership of the things with which the world's work is done.

The only way to fight high prices is to vote for the party that exists only to abolish dividends. That party is the Socialist party.

Stick to the unmuzzled Kicker.

THE FARMER PASSING.
Nothing is quite so evident to the observer as the disappearance of the once happy and independent farmer. But what else can he expect? The robber system under which we live gets him going and coming. It fixes the price on what he has to sell, and it tells him what he must pay for the things he must buy. How can he expect to beat a game so one-sided as that? But he votes to keep it up!

During the present season dozens of tenant farmers of this county have given up farming and gone to railroad towns or other places to work for wages. Go to Illinois or Chaffee and you will find them there in bunches. They say they just couldn't make ends meet on the farm.

The tenant farmer is down and out. The mortgaged farmer can never redeem his farm. Instead of rent he is paying interest, which amounts to the same thing. Where one mortgaged farmer may have a streak of luck and pay out, at least a dozen will lose their farms and slide into the ranks of the tenants.

There are yet a few home-owning farmers who are fairly prosperous. These either inherited the farm, or else bought good land when it sold cheap and have held it. But even with these, farming would not pay if they figured interest on the present value, and wages for their own labor, as all business concerns do.

We hear a great deal about "prosperity." Whatever prosperity we have is baptised in the blood of Europe. Yet this prosperity is of no benefit to the

masses. A few capitalists are taking in billions from the war traffic. But the masses are less able to buy bread and meat than ever.

Unless the workers I meet are all hurs, times are mighty tight with them. I have almost daily evidence of this. If the farmers are hard run now, what will be their condition by spring?

Saturday, on the train, I met a farmer who was a Kicker reader until last winter. He is a good worker and in former years always had money. I noticed that his clothes were shabby. Asked why he let his kicker stop he replied, "I want the paper, but just ain't had the dollar to spare. I remember what you told us about seven years ago. You told that machine farming would get us little fellows with forty acres and a mule, and machine farming is here."

Yes, machine farming is here. The tractor is being extensively introduced into the county, and the man with 40 acres and a mule can no more compete with it than the shoe-maker could compete with the shoe factory.

The tractor will be followed by other improved machinery. And these will pay only on large bodies of land. There are now two things necessary to a successful farming. One is intensive or scientific farming, so as to make the land produce much, and the other is modern machinery. The first requires education; the second requires capital. The masses have very little of either.

Oklahoma is a new state. It was admitted to statehood only about a dozen years ago. From

IS THERE A LIVING WAGE?

Yes, they do die where a living wage is not paid. Julia Lothrop, head of the Federal Children's Bureau, has found the following facts from an accurate study of infant mortality among the children of wage earners. Listen to the terrible tale these facts tell:

Where the fathers earned less than \$521 a year, 256 babies in each 1,000 died.

Where the father earned from \$421 to \$521, 165 babies in each 1,000 died.

Where the father earned from \$625 to \$800, 122 babies in each 1,000 died.

Where the father earned \$900 and over, 97 babies in each 1,000 died.

Are dying wages a necessity in the United States, where we have such a large crop of millionaires, all of whom have made their great fortunes out of the difference between a living wage and the dying which they have paid to the workers of this country? We leave the answer to you.

A REAL ESTATE BARGAIN.

Eighty acres in Bay county, Florida, at \$20 per acre. Also 50 acres in town lots at \$75 per acre. Also a ten-acre fine fruit and truck farm will sell cheap. Any or all of it a bargain. If you are interested in a home where you can truck farm or raise fruit, address, R. L. Miller, San Blas, Florida. 31-01

A. L. Harty, secretary of the Democratic county committee of Stoddard county, announces a trip to Mr. Wilson's summer home at Shadow Lawn, N. J. The pilgrimage is to begin Sunday, October 15. The cost of the trip will be only \$75, Mr. Harty says. He also says the "business men are vitally interested in the result of Mr. Wilson. As I read this notice, two ideas came to me. One was that just about as many 'business men' were interested in the election of Hughes as Wilson. They cannot lose. The other was that no working man will take the trip. The only thing the working man is expected to do is to vote, snoot and pay taxes. The 'business men' will attend to the rest.

We are inviting war with Germany. Nobody can blame that country for stopping our furnishing munition, food and other supplies to its enemies. Sunday six merchant ships were blown up by German submarines within one hundred miles of our eastern shores, and naval officers believe that an entire fleet of submarines are operating off the American coast. That is bringing the war right to our door. And for no other reason than the profits our capitalists are squeezing out of the war. Could hyenas be more inhuman?

In Dunkland county, Mike Costner, a timber worker, cut his own throat with an ax. He had cut a tree that lodged in a smaller tree. With a double edged ax he struck the smaller tree to join the other tree down. Something caused the ax to rebound and strike the side of Costner's throat and sever some arteries. The blood spouted, and a fellow worker held the wound closed for an hour and a half, until a doctor arrived, and it is thought the injured man will recover.

Dispatches from Western Kentucky and Tennessee again tell of night-riding outbreaks. Three men are in jail at Tiptonville, Tenn., charged with this offense. That is a Democratic country, and we have a Democratic administration, and yet these Democrats are not happy. Something wrong. These people are getting all that they voted for—and then some. For them to vote intelligently would be a gain religion, break up the home, and make free lovers of them—according to the pulpits.

Don Kirby, the 10-year-old son of a Stoddard county farmer, was instantly killed last week, while working in the timber, by a falling tree. The skull was crushed and the neck broken. In falling this tree broke a limb off another tree, and it was this limb that struck the boy.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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Publisher.—Workers Prtg Co. Benton Mo. Stockholders holding one per cent or more of stock.—E. M. Daugherty, Commerce, Mo.; P. M. Daugherty, Anzell, Mo.; J. H. Branam, Vanduser, Mo.; Chas. Oliver, Morley, Mo.; J. A. Smith, Pittman, Ark.; Sol Diebold, Oran, Mo.; A. A. Evans, Morley, Mo.; T. J. Chewning, Benton, Mo.; J. C. Walker, Commerce, Mo.; J. Ed. Green, Blodgett, Mo.; J. W. Heeb, Chaffee, Mo.; Phil A. Hafner, Benton, Mo.; A. E. Curnel, Morley, Mo. Known bond-holders, mortgagees and other security-holders holding one per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities—none.

PHIL A. HAFNER, editor. Subscribed and sworn to before me this, the 5th day of October, 1916. George W. Pearman, County Clerk, Scott County, Mo.

Stick to the unmuzzled Kicker

FROM JUDGE HAYS
To the Voters of Scott County: In the coming election you will cast your ballot for the office of Circuit Judge. Knowing that it will be impossible for me to meet each voter in person, I take this means of inviting the support of my friends in the district of what ever political faith, and regardless of the outcome of the election, I shall deeply appreciate the confidence of every man casting his ballot for me.

Four years ago I was a candidate for that office and I received a very liberal vote at your hands, for which I extend my thanks. In



EDWARD D. HAYS.

that campaign I received a majority of all the votes cast in the County which now compose the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit, namely—Cape Girardeau, Scott, and Mississippi. The circuit then included New Madrid and Pemiscott counties, and although I polled more than my party's strength in those two counties, I was not elected. In other words, the present district gave me a majority four years ago, and, with that same vote, I can be elected this year.

I have had twenty years of experience as a practicing lawyer in the courts of southern Missouri, and if it is the will of the majority of the voters in this district that I become circuit judge, I pledge myself to discharge the duties of that high office to the best of my ability, and under the solemn purpose to administer the law without fear or favor.

Respectfully,
EDWARD D. HAYS,
Cape Girardeau, Mo., Oct. 1916.

A press dispatch from Chicago says \$2 wheat is predicted before New Year, and that seed wheat is now selling at five dollars per bushel in the northwest.

REPUBLICAN TICKET.

For President—Charles E. Hughes.
For Vice-President—Charles W. Fairbanks.
For Senator in Congress—Walter S. Dickey.
For Governor—Henry Lamm.
For Lieutenant-Governor—Roy E. Britton.
For Secretary of State—Wm. C. Askie.
For State Auditor—George E. Hackmann.
For State Treasurer—L. D. Thompson.
For Attorney-General—James H. Mason.
For Judge Supreme Court—Division No. 1—James M. Johnson.
For Judge Supreme Court—Division No. 2 (expired term)—Edward Higley.
For Judge of Springfield Court of Appeals—Argus Cox.
For Representative in Congress—David W. Hill.
For Judge of Circuit Court—28th Judicial Circuit—Edw. D. Hays.
For Representative—Wm. H. Baker.
For Judge County Court District No. 1—J. C. Bowman.
For Judge County Court District No. 2—Matt Thomas.
For Prosecuting Attorney—Stephen Barlow.
For Sheriff—Gurley Condon.
For County Assessor—Frank Anderson.
For County Treasurer—Joua Anguish Auerge.
For County Surveyor—Walter W. Friesz.
For Public Administrator—Julius H. Andrews.
For Coroner—T. V. Miller.
For Justice of the Peace Sylva Township (expired term)—Charles A. Mills.
For Constable Sylva Township—L. W. Schreiner.
For Constable Morley Township—Marion F. Murphy.
For Constable K. Is. Township—Robert Elliott Jones.
For Constable Richland Township—Marion F. Darter.
For Constable Morland Twp.—James C. Hand.
For Constable Commerce Twp.—Arthur Schwitz.
For Constable Sandywoods Twp.—Alex B. Thompson.
For Constable Tywappity Twp.—D. S. Hornton.

Advertisement.