

An Epitaph For The Wagner Act

In a season of bad losers some sort of new record has been established by the American Federation of Hosiery Workers (CIO) which is petitioning the National Labor Relations Board to set aside results of an election held here at the Hudson Hosiery Plant. The union was rejected as bargaining agent, 321 to 206, by Hudson's workers after a long organizational campaign.

Union complaint. It is charged that the Hudson Company offered its employees "inducements" to stay out of the union. Specifically, those inducements were wage increases, additional bonuses, additional holidays, and certain increases in overtime pay. This, the union charges, was a grossly unfair labor practice.

We gather that the Union stands foursquare against higher pay, unless it negotiates it. When an election is pending management forfeits its right to raise wages or grant employees any other privileges. If unfair practices exist in a shop they must continue to exist until the Union can get around to correcting them. This is an interesting theory, indeed, for in many cases the process of organization stretches over many, many months.

Well, the Government has been trying to find some method of freezing wages until the inflationary emergency passes. Maybe this is it, courtesy the AFHW.

When the epitaph for the Wagner Labor Relations Act is finally written, we suggest that it include the line: Done to death by those it sought to aid.

Salute To A New Champion

WE would never have believed, if we hadn't seen it, that 85 kids driving homemade racers in a district could produce adult spectators with the skill of thrillies they are accustomed to receiving at the two-mile-a-minute Indianapolis speedway. But all things are relative, and the 85 "soap-boxes" roaring down the Euclid Avenue hill yesterday would have bugged the eyes of Barney Oldfield.

must be the handwork of the kid who drives it. There are complicated regulations, a variety of disputes to be settled. And, of course, there is a rigid protocol to be followed; the Derby, a preliminary event in a national competition, is to backyard race what Big League baseball is to the sandlots.

We hasten, therefore, to make our manners to Co-Chairman Bob Allen and Lawrence Mason who staged the event. These gentlemen labored faithfully and well, and with the assistance of Gene, star reporter of The News, of Chevrolet, and of Station WAYS, they presented a flawless Derby yesterday. The chills and spills (none serious) that accompanied the dash down Euclid hill were an integral part of the affair.

And we are not forgetting to sound a bugle for young Tommy Smith, driver of the racing car Ben de Craves, who outdistanced that vast and speedy field and stands today a Winner and New Champion. He'll take the town's hopes with him to Akron; may his crown never tarnish.

A Note On Fire-Prevention

IN the best-oriented editorial offices (and surely The Raleigh News & Observer) is as well-oriented as any we know of.

a ready answer, have noted that two of these hostilities were equipped with cocktail lounges, and that the fires started in their vicinity. The way to prevent hotels from burning to the ground, they insist, is to outlaw the sale of liquor on the premises.

This is an interesting line of thought, and we have pursued it a little further. The third hotel is in Texas, a state which does not permit bars but confines brutalized consumers to bottle purchases. Surely the advocates of outlawing the Demon do not believe that the Texas hotel was operating a speakeasy? It follows then that the sources of the trouble are (1) the hotel, (2) lodgers who smoke in bed, (3) kitchens where open fires are used in the preparation of food. We are prepared to join in a campaign to outlaw the sale of food, and to require hotels to equip all beds with asbestos sheets.

We're even prepared to go a step further. In view of the disastrous fire in the ferry terminal on Staten Island, New York, and the well-known fact that New York harbor is covered constantly with a film of oil, we recommend that in the future all ferry slips be built as far from the water as possible. (No rights reserved.)

Another Voice

There Have Been Other Strikes

THE shortage of meat is in part caused by a sellers' strike. Owners of cattle and hogs, though not organized, hold onto their animals; they await higher prices. Comes the report that coal miners will go on strike unless they can buy more meat. These strikes of producers and sellers, in many industries and trades, besides those of miners and cattlemen, are not the first bunch of strikers of which we have been informed by reading. We read of a strike which a well known writer, who we wish were now in remembrance, on our staff, recorded. His name was Aesop. He said that the "Members' strike" (his word was rebelled) against the "Boss" insisting that old Bely did no work. In short, the Members held that Bely was an economic royalist, a capitalist, a lazy, loafing old plutocrat and a wholly incompetent and superfluous representative of the leisure class. They refused to stand for him. They forthwith went on strike, they refused to lift a hand or leg, to use an eye or a finger in the service of Bely, the old rascal. Well, you know what happened to those strikers. They were on the point of starving. The coal miners and the producers of wheat, corn, raisins of cattle, hives and lambs, sellers and workers, if they strike, will

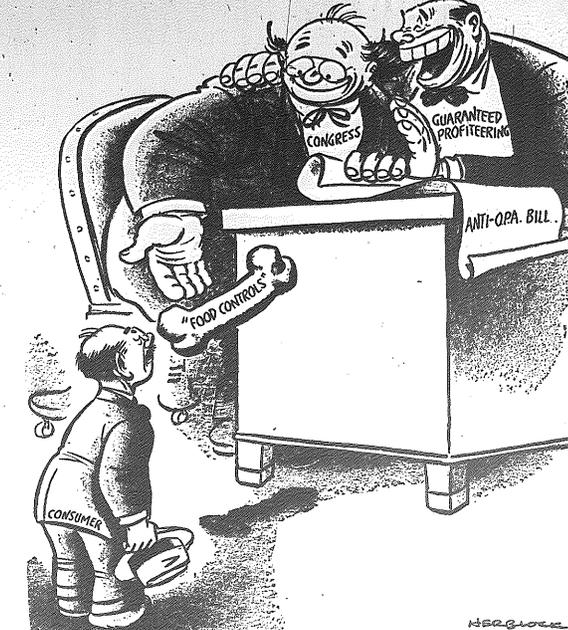
come to a complete and profitable understanding with Bely's Rebellion. It may be too late.—Charlotte News & Courier.

Fairy story: "As no brains of ours went into this," said the anthology compiler to the publisher, "let's agree not to make any money on it," and the publisher agreed.

"We must choose," says the British Minister of Food, "between making whisky and feeding the people." Solomon was a good man on a close decision, but one like this he never had to call.

A sociologist feels the disappearance of the cracker barrel from grocery stores marked a decline in the citizen's preoccupation with affairs. Improved the crackers, though.

We were never very clear about Government subsidies. We don't even understand how the burlesque show candy butcher encloses a wrist watch in each 15-cent package.



People's Platform

A Kind Of Censorship

Without any scenery, Bill Hart stood in front of the footlights and merely narrated "The Shooting of Willie Hill" Hickox. There was many a gasp, dimmed eye as thousands of these people of the theater stood on their seats and wildly cheered-one of the great figures of the American stage.

But his attack had very little effect on the "tide of reaction", because it got very little publicity. Probably not one per cent of the "people" know what the Billings had done, and other than the fact that he attacked the organization as being a "Communist outfit", his remarks have been spread over this nation as thoroughly as Mother Nature spreads the dew over Dixie.

This good high Catholic churchman attacked the Congress as "peculiarly inept". "This Congress," he said, "had a great responsibility, but it did not meet it, failing to enact a minimum wage law, to pass FEPC, tipping up price control, emancipating the full employment measure and yet being in so great a haste to pass anti-strike legislation and the 'ill conceived' Case Bill."

Billings' theme was that if this country provides a decent living for its people, it has nothing to fear from Communism, since people who are well-fed, well clothed, and well-housed are not interested in Communism.

The Rightists cannot win without their old ally—fear. Nothing must happen to the Red bogey. Kill the people beloved of the other hand, but do not let the Liberals shoot get tough. Tell the Rightists what Franklin Roosevelt told them, when he dubbed them "the American Reactionaries": "You're doing it, you're leaving in democracy!" Shoot 'em with the naked truth—"again, and again, and again."

Not By Guns Alone

I noted your editorial "William S. Hart", and came across the line, "... the inadequacy of his setting."

I hope that Bill Hart, Bob Benchley, Sarah Bernhard, Heywood Brown and others smile tolerantly as they look down upon you from their parapet in Heaven.

Bill Hart was one of the greatest Richard III's who ever trod the boards. He played Henry, Phero, and the Shakespeare to the delight of thousands and appeared with Sarah Bernhard on her first tour of the United States. Of course the motion picture industry is the delight of thousands and feared that Bill Hart's new cowboy admirers would think him a "sissy". It is a tragedy that this money-making role has obscured one of America's greatest artists.

In his old age, he made a last appearance on the stages of the Lamb's Gambol in 1930—a benefit for the various artists' charities. "The greatest names in the theater appeared on that stage, each doing his special act for his partners, props, etc. I am certain that if we were to poll thousands of the professionals, writers, critics and experts who were there, the majority of them would agree that Bill Hart's performance that night, on its merits, was one of the most memorable in the history of the American theater.

Drew Pearson's Army & Navy Fight Over Pacific Victory

IT is now getting close to a year since the end of the war with Japan, and yet the strategic bombing survey for Japan has not been made public. Inside reason is a vigorous backstage tug-of-war between the Army and Navy which boils down to the basic question: "Which of them won the war in the Pacific?"

The question secretly under debate is whether the Navy's carrier-based planes or the Army's land-based planes inflicted most damage on Japan. Mixed up in the question is whether Navy submarines or Army air power did most to bring Japan to her knees.

Worm Fanciers

READ the following in the Raleigh News & Observer (Sunday, June 23, 1946):

"Thirty years ago there seemed a promising start of North Carolina's making its own silk when silk-worms were cultivated in Cumberland County. The Charlotte News notes that retired soldier keeps 25,000 in his garage apartment. He says Charlotte is a good place for silk-worms."

"Am very anxious for the address of the retired soldier who keeps 25,000 silk-worms in his garage apartment."

"Years ago I had silk-worms. My mulberry trees have grand immense leaves good to waste. We fed our silk-worms the leaves. I'd like to have a pair of silk-worms to feed the leaves and won't you kindly give me letters to the address of so very many silk-worms. 25,000 are a lot of worms! Perhaps he'd give me a pair?"

Please locate this owner and I sincerely hope I will receive a reply soon. R.S.V.P.

—MRS. W. D. FARRIOR SR. (NOTE: This request has been duly forwarded to Nathaniel H. Fox, Charlotte's silk-worm purveyor. But let it be noted that Mr. Fox is no 25,000-worm piker; he keeps 250,000 in his apartment.—The News.)

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and only one side of the paper. Labels and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, addressed to the editor, and the writer's name, address, and city will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, The News.

Quote, Unquote

NOT until the Fall of 1947 is there any hope that world food supplies will come into balance with the urgent needs.—Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson.

An unfriendly country near to us is always the first to be attacked. As long as we are surrounded by friendly countries and the world realizes this they will let us alone.—Gen. Eisenhower.

A people's peace cannot be won by flashing diplomatic trumpets. It requires patience and tolerance among independent nations.—Secretary of State James F. Byrnes.

This country cannot possibly enjoy its views on the world situation unless we are willing to accept responsibility, and by extreme disarmament at the time we indicate our lack of a sense of responsibility.—Col. Stephen Bonsai, 1944 Pulitzer prize winner for history.

Justice Jackson's Bitter Pill

MORE insight as to why Justice Robert Jackson "blew his top" against Justice Hugo Black has now leaked out. It

Wall Grows Higher

THE statement made by the Soviet government in Paris on December 24 and 25, 1945, is growing into a sort of Chinese wall. New stones are being added at the United Nations meeting in New York and at the conference of Foreign Ministers in Paris. It is clear that soon the wall will be so high that no one will be able to look across at one another.

In view of the extreme gravity of the situation it develops from day to day, it is important to keep the record straight. Shortly before the current meeting of the Foreign Ministers, the statement was made in this column that it was regrettable that Secretary of State James F. Byrnes had not at an earlier date pressed his proposal for a 25-year four-power treaty to keep the peace in Europe.

Shortly before he left for the conference now going on in Paris Secretary Byrnes wrote me taking courteous issue with that statement and averring that he had intended to keep the chronology straight. Perhaps the best way to present the record is to immediately left for the Potsdam conference. At Potsdam, the Council of Foreign Ministers was established. The first meeting was held in London in September. It was during this meeting in the early part of which the announcement was made of what had been proposed in September, 1945.

"I became Secretary in July and immediately left for the Potsdam conference. At Potsdam, the Council of Foreign Ministers was established. The first meeting was held in London in September. It was during this meeting in the early part of which the announcement was made of what had been proposed in September, 1945."

"I announced this history to all the correspondents in Paris on the day I announced that I had made the offer. I emphasized that, instead of first being offered, that time, it had been agreed to by Generalissimo Stalin on Christmas Eve, 1945."

"When Mr. Molotov for the first time questioned Generalissimo Stalin's agreement, I stated at a press conference the history, a copy of which I will enclose for you because I do hope you will be interested in keeping this record of its being proposed last September. The Paris meeting was simply the forum in which the announcement was made of what had been proposed in September, 1945."

"I am enclosed by Secretary Byrnes shows that Stalin said he would 'wholeheartedly support' the treaty if Mr. Byrnes would do it. Apparently Byrnes was still un-

Samuel Grafton

Journey To Mexico

WE DROVE southward from Los Angeles where even the undertakers for Detroit and St. Paul. We tried to learn what each stands for and we could make out were a few phrases from the sound trucks which seemed to be an attack on American domination of Mexico, away from politics and people.

THE Mexican Presidential election takes place on July 7 and the walls of the Texas are thick with posters for Axtell and Padilla. We tried to learn what each stands for and we could make out were a few phrases from the sound trucks which seemed to be an attack on American domination of Mexico, away from politics and people.

NOTHING BUT HILLS

HERE BELOW TA JUANNA there is a nothingness and a loneliness such as I have not seen anywhere else on this earth. A hill and a valley of many colors like sky and water but there is nothing but the hills, and the car shoots arching up into nothing and one understands why the map of Northern Mexico is so barren. The Russians of holding up the war.

Then south again into that strange emptiness above San Diego where the people are so few and where the perfect seashore and where the forest and vacant hills wait patiently for the people who never come. One drives through this vast, rolling, unpopulated country thinking of the people in the hills who have no place in which to live, and looking at these hills which are so empty and where the people place nor mind, nothing but place. They into San Diego, where suddenly the people are so many and so diverse to oneself a moment before, one cannot find a place to park. One is having the feeling of driving through California and then on to Mexico and then to Monterrey, an occasion which seems to make Mexicans sad. One street after another with the people themselves to be exactly like the burg of Los Angeles but most of the streets are so empty and in another part of town where rival sound trucks were fighting out the Presidential election battle.

And we find ourselves suddenly talking with a small Mexican who says abruptly with a goodly laugh: "I am for Aleman. He is for the people. The labor unions are for Aleman. He is for the people. He does not wish Cardia to win." He turns to go, carrying his anger with him, but he says to us, "I am for Aleman, and the Mexican says, 'Yes, he came to visit us. He was a fine man. He came as far as Monterrey.' Only one other American President, after the death of President Roosevelt, came only to a border town. Mr. Roosevelt came to Monterrey. He was kind and he was a good man. He repeats them. They are to him the dates of great events."

REPUBLICAN NO!

We mention Truman, but the Mexican shakes his head. "He is a Republican," he says and we go in to dinner.

Capital Chaff

JUDGE ROY HOFFMEYER, who has backed Jesse Jones' new power in Houston, Texas, and is making radio history with his station KTHH, has set aside ten hours of his best time to go to the time for the broadcast—free to the public. Able Congressman Eusef Kestauer of Tennessee will start a probe of growing American business monopoly. He will show how the war was concentrated business in the hands of a few big companies.