

## The Charlotte News

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1935

## Were There an Anti-Lynching Law.

The extraordinary judicial inquiry into the lynching in Franklin county produced, after three hours of know-nothing testimony, not one scintilla of evidence, however sketchy, on which to hold anybody for anything. The sheriff nor his two deputies from whom the prisoner was taken could even guess at the identity of a single person in the crowd of 20 or more which pursued them and relieved them of the Negro. The inquiry receded, because there was nothing to do, until the next morning. The state, though it displays a willingness to go to the bottom of the shameful affair in Franklin, is impotent. It cannot apply the third degree to the officers of the law in that county, or make them incriminate themselves. Therefore, it occurs to us to examine the federal anti-lynching bill, the Southern members of Congress blustered into oblivion to see what would have been possible had that bill become federal law or a bill like it state law.

The sheriff and his two deputies would have been guilty of a felony, punishable by a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment for five years, for failing to protect their prisoner. Franklin county would have been liable to the extent of \$10,000 to the estate of the Negro, null to be brought by the superior court. There are other provisions of the bill. There are other provisions of the bill. There are other provisions of the bill.

One lynching does not indicate the necessity of an anti-lynching bill. But if the state had a law somewhat similar to the Wagner-Costigan bill, it would be a little less helpless in the Franklin county instance than it obviously is.

## Speaking of a Showdown, And How to Bring It On.

There have been rumors of a Blue Sunday movement's getting underway in Mecklenburg county outside of the city, and yesterday there was a sign of it. A petition bearing the names of 225 persons was presented to the county commissioners, and they, not caring for mouse even when brought forth by the labor of a mountain, passed it on to the county civil service commission. There it rests.

The reported ire of the country people at the desecration of the Sabbath by their city brethren, is, if this very petition expresses it, not very great. Beside, have we reached that stage in our development that county police forces have to be petitioned to enforce the law? There is a very proper Sunday law on the books. The county's books, and unlike the city, distance it overlooks nothing, not even business as usual.

But is there any slight attempt to enforce, without discretion or discrimination, the terms of that law? You bet there isn't. You see a county cop breaking up a Sunday golf, tennis and swimming at the two swank clubs in the county, thus offending all the best people? You bet you can't. You happened to see, you would want to protest against the interference with personal rights which would be vehement and forceful enough to secure somewhat similar privileges of recreation to all those thousands of people within the

## ECHO OF A DUD.

A woman suing a bottling company for alleged injuries, was turned down by a jury in Mecklenburg civil court. The defense brought out that the plaintiff had using the city within six months, claiming to have fallen in a water meter box. (If she hadn't, it wasn't for lack of opportunities.)

## Visiting Around

Almost a New Deal. (Claremont item, Catawba News-Enterprise.)

Miss Gertrude Dale is able to be out again after an illness of several days.

Yeh, 'n' He Says He's Paulin's Potatoes Too.

(East Side news, Western Carolina Tribune.)

Govan has been making trips to Laurens, S. C., each day for the past two weeks hauling potatoes.

He says it is fun.

Then They Do Have It There? (Little Hill item, New Bern Tribune.)

The Little Hill boys and girls entertained a large number of their friends at a delightful ice cream supper Saturday night.

The Main Course and Dessert, Too. (Aron news, Dare County Times.)

Sunday was a day long to be remembered in Aron as they met on the grounds of Hamilton school, where twenty baptisms, although the rain was falling.

Maybe It's Reporter's Cramp. (Lane's Creek news, Monroe Journal.)

My news is about this week because a bumble bug or something bit me on the right hand and I can hardly write the news I have, my hand is swollen so bad.

Pointed Toward Recovery. (Upper Cleveland news, Cleveland Star.)

Miss Gladie Whinsant has been suffering with a sore finger, but it is reported to be better now.

Mebbe It Was Some Low-Church Methodist Brother. (25 Years Ago, Davis Record.)

One of our boys has been shooting through the windows of the Episcopal church, and we have been requested to publish a notice of warning to the guilty parties that if caught, they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

These Twins Became One in Sixteen. (Dudley X-Roads item, New Bern Tribune.)

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Whitford are glad to learn they are better of their illness.

When One Man Prevented a Lynching. (Item, Raleigh News & Observer.)

North Carolina again has been reminded that one has been shooting through the windows of the Episcopal church, and we have been requested to publish a notice of warning to the guilty parties that if caught, they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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## THE CHARLOTTE (N.C.) NEWS

Washington.—Like every other question, there are two sides to the "prevailing wage" row in P.W.A.

## Monthly vs. Hourly Wages

By Hugh S. Johnson

On the side of the labor, the argument is this:

(1) The hourly wage in construction is high because there are no steady jobs. Unless a painter, or a bricklayer can earn, say, \$1.40 an hour while working, experience (even in good times) shows that his income in practice is not above \$75 a month.

(2) After years of strife and dispute, this principal is at last recognized. If labor now accepts a lesser rate, its progress will be set back for many years. Private contractors are threatening that if labor permits this on government work, the contractors will pay no more on private work.

(3) To have the government order a rate knocks labor's right to bargain into a cocked hat and destroys the very thing which has built and destroys the very purpose of the unions.

(4) Just to "make jobs," the federal government is moving into the cities and doing at these low rates, every job that can be expected in the next ten years. That will cut out for a long future much work that normally would take the prevailing wage.

These things are true and, on the face of them, are strong medicine. In addition it must be said for labor that it is not fighting for more money in total for each man. It is willing to work only a few days a week to spread the work among all. If only the hourly rate is preserved. It is not seeking to profit.

That is not so of the contractors who are "putting the heat" on labor and threatening to break down the private rate. They do that because they want the government to do the work by contracts. That would include a profit out of relief funds.

which are all needed to prevent suffering.

That is the "prevailing wage" side of the government. Now the other side.

The "security wage" is not an hourly wage. It is a monthly salary—from \$55 for unskilled to \$93.50 for highly skilled labor for a month of 120 hours—less than a 30-hour week. The worker draws his pay whether the work continues every day or not—in spite of wind or weather.

This fact offers nearly every argument on the other side. There is work enough to employ continuously all available skilled labor. The result is that this offers a higher monthly income than any of these trades have ever averaged.

The argument of the contractors falls because of the difference in the contract. A deal "to pay \$1 an hour wherever I need you," which results in an average 60 hours a month over a six-month period, is nowhere near as good as a deal "to pay \$93.50 a month for six months."

It is difficult to see any reasonable good which would come of swearing in all workers. Mr. Metten, as is customary in strikes, has raised the red scare. And, even so, in testifying before a subcommittee of the house he was forced to admit his previous project that he had been a Communist who worked covertly. "But" added Mr. Metten "it will be a step in the right direction."

But think it is fair to inquire in just what direction Mr. Metten means to go. When he stamps a thing as "right" one has a natural curiosity as to whether this means right for the House of Metten or right for the nation as a whole. Although Mr. Metten told the house committee that the strike in his Camden yards had been brought about as the result of a "red plot" testimony did disclose the fact that the management refused to arbitrate the differences.

When Arbiters Are Wrong.

We know by experience that arbitration simply will not work in our business," explained Carl Kauter, the executive vice-president of the company. It seems that on a previous occasion the New York Shipbuilding company did submit a controversy to arbitration, and the award went against it. So arbitration is out. I wouldn't be surprised if Mr. Metten also regards that as a constitutional.

It seems to me that the general public has every right to be suspicious of promoters who wish to cover the question as to how much of the surface the school teacher or the shipyard worker or the student is asked to support the flag as a symbol of the organic law of the land. But in practice this pledge of loyalty is almost invariably stretched to cover up and protect extremely remote authority which has not the slightest right to claim immunity from criticism and attack. Many a teacher has found that disagreement with the demands of the school superintendant has been held to constitute violation of the oath and gross and criminal rebellion.

The Little Cow Came Home.

All kinds of secret cows are snatched into the main tent. I haven't a doubt in the world that Mr. Metten wants, by suggestion at least, to set himself up as an integral part of the "American system" and therefore a sacred tradition not to be profaned by the criticism of any "outside agitator."

The question for pledges has been so forced that presently we shall all be forced to live by taking in each other's oaths. Teachers—and I suppose shipyard workers as well—will be checked for competence and character, but after the selection has been

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