THE AMERICAN UNION

Sixty-Fifth Year. DENTON, MARYLAND, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 9, 1922 $1.00 Per Year.

CHILD LABOR VS. CHILDREN'S WORK

Third Article in Series on Child Welfare Discusses an Important Question

DANGER TO THE NATION'S HEALTH

The following article is one of several on the subject of Child Welfare, to which we call the attention of our readers. These articles are put out by the Department of Child Welfare of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, urging the improvement of the conditions surrounding the children of the nation. The first article of the series concerned the hot lunch question—a question which is prominent in educational circles today. The article last week talked on the children and the Bible. This week's arti dren and the Bible. This week's article treats of child labor. Read and judge for yourselves the case of the little children.

"Nobody really believes in child labor; everybody believes in children's work."

"To every child belongs the right to freedom from child labor." To this cause we have pledged ourselves, and yet, how many of our nation's children are laboring in factories, tenement home work, street trades and fields.

The National Child Labor Committee, in a pamphlet recently issued, says, "Is Child Labor over? One child out of every eight from the age of 10 to 15 is gainfully employed outside the protection of federal or state laws. This statement is to be understood in connection with the limited scope of the federal child labor law and with the variation of the state laws in regard to occupations and ages covered.

Each year one million boys and girls of these ages leave school to go to work, perpetually swelling the ranks of the great army of men and women handicapped in respect to health, education, vocational fitness. Old enough—very young children, even children too young to go to school—are found in child labor. The task of abolishing this nation-wide evil is not yet finished.

In homes where work is sent in from the factories child labor is common. Children become helpers at such work almost from their babyhood, working often under the most unsanitary conditions, in poor light, and for long hours. A recent study by the U. S. Woman's Bureau in Connecticut showed that among 268 children in homes where such work was done, at least 110 worked regularly. One woman said: "Homework isn't worth while if the children don't help." One 9-year old girl worked a footpress during her noon hour at home from school, while a younger brother and little cousin helped. When asked "When do you have time to play?" she answered, "Sometimes on Sunday."

In large cities children as young as six are regularly engaged in selling newspapers, working at unseasonable hours and learning the tricks of the trade and unhealthy wisdom of the streets and public resorts. The streets of our cities are no fit school for little children."

Distressing indeed are these statements relating to child labor as it still exists, and to the limitations of the existing laws. Still another serious problem must be considered—that of the child in agricultural work. To keep the children out of the factories, we are having an ever-increasing amount of legislation, but in the open fields even the smallest children are found bending their young backs all day in the hot sun. This is not children's work which invigorates and upbuilds. It is labor which will leave a mark which maturity cannot erase.

Why are these children called from their rightful play to labor thus? Possibly the economic causes are most potent. The wealth of many sections of our country depends largely on some one crop, such as cotton or sugar Beets. Schools close when these crops mature and the children go into the fields. Child labor is cheap. If the father be the planter he gets the labor of his children free and he arrogantly states that he is within his rights in so doing. Because the children seem strong, because they do possess some reserve strength upon which they can draw for some time, and because they do laugh and attempt to play at their work, men often do not realize that the children are being harmed. No one has taught the parent of the child's lowered vitality, and that seldom in later years can the child attain his full strength or his life be of normal length, or his body be ready to resist disease. No one has taught the parent that children must have time to play in order to become men and women who can take their part in our great social order which demands that we "play the game" and abide by its laws of cooperation, one with antoehr. They know perhaps that the child needs exercise in the open air. "Well, and don't he get it on the farm? All day long it me he goes in the fields to pull weeds, or beets or to hoe."

And we have seen the boy at the end of the day, his back sore and tired, the muscles that were used that day aching and the whole body too tired for play even.

What will be the result to the next generation to be brought forth by these factory and farm laboring children? Will the race be as stong and virile as the needs of life require?

Our states are awakening to the needs of the child and are legislating for him. We rejoice at what has been accomplished but we are still appalled at conditions which exist, and particularly in rural communities,

(Continued on Page. 8)

GIVES REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMM.

Maryland League of Women Voters Sends Members a Report of Work

URGE CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Following is a news-letter sent out by the Maryland League of Women Voters, giving the report of the legislative committees on three bills especially close to the women's minds and hearts:

The three bills removing the political disabilities of women were introduced early in the session. As they are administrative measures, they were introduced by the floor leaders, Mr. Stephen Gambrill in the House, and Senator David McIntosh in the Senate.

House bill No. 14—Senate No. 18—is a bill entitled "An Act to add a new section to Article 69 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title 'Officers,' the same providing that women shall be eligile to hold public offices and positions."

House Bill No. 22—Senate No. 19—is a proposed amendment of the constitution providing that words or phrases used in creating public offices shall be construed to include the feminine gender.

House Bill No. 23—Senate No. 17—is a bill entitled "An Act to add a new section to Article 51 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title 'Juries,' the same providing that women shall be eligible for service on grand or petit juries.

We shall be glad to hear from you in regard to this bill. You will recal that we were instructed by the state legislative convention to introduce such a bill. It is a platform pledge of the Democratic party. Remember that men are excused from jury service when they have a legitimate excuse. A womanw ith children or one who does her housework should be entitled to the same exemption.

There is a suggestion from the men in the legislature that a clause be added making the service optional as it is in Wisconsin. If this can be done, we shall not object.

Jury service is one of the duties of citizenship that may be unpleasant, but thew omen of Maryland certainly do not intend to shirk the less pleasant phases. There are many cases of women being tried or giving testimony when we believe there should be other women present. In numbers of such cases a jury of women or part women would be fairer and more apt to administer justice.

The bills accepting the Sheppard-Towner fund were introduced by the State Department of Health. Mr. Hubner Rice introduced them in the house and they were referred to the Committee on Hygiene, Chairman, Mr. Milton Tolle of Baltimore County.

House Bill No. 72 is a bill entitled "An Act to repeal Section 24 of Article 43 of the Annotated code of Maryland, title 'Health,' and to re-enact the same with amendments; and to add a new section to said Article 43, to be known as Section 29A, for the purpose of creating a Bureau of Child Hygiene in the State Department of Health, and to define the duties of such a Bureau."

House Resolution No. 6 accepts the federal appropriation and provides for the financing of the Bureau.

This is the measure for which you worked all last year. The Sheppard Towner Bill was endorsed and supported by nearly every big organization of women in Maryland. Here in our own state we have an infant death rate of ten per cent. That and the number of blind and crippled children in the state are sufficient argument for the bill. However, there has been an attempt to circulate a story that this is an attempt at birth control propaganda; also a charge that it is a federal act operated from Washington. Will you call the attention of everyone with whom you speak to the following facts concerning the bill.

1. The Bureau of Child Hygiene will be a part of the State Health Department and its organization and operation will be entirely controlled by our Maryland officials. The Children's Bureau will advise with them, but has no power to dictate either policies or methods.

2. There are at present strict laws against the dissemination of birth control information. This act repeals none of these laws. The Sheppard Towner Act was endorsed by the Catholic Welfare Council, which alone should be a guarantee that it does not advocate birth control.

3. The cry that we do not need it is answered by the death rate of the children of Maryland. Surely this small appropriation can be spared by the great and wealthy state to save the lives of children and to prevent blindness and permanent disability due to lack of proper care at birth and in early childhood. We believe that it is common sense to spend a few thousand in preventitive work and to save the thousands that will have to be spent in caring for them in institutions.

How the Bureau Will Work

The details will be left to the first head of the Bureau. However, we assume that it will be along the same lines that other states have adopted. District nurses establish clinics where they are needed and carry on campaigns of instruction. I visited one class in the Court House of a small Pennsylvania town where the nurse was teaching a class of 60 women the proper food for children of certain ages. Everyone of you have suffered moments of horror on railroad trains at the sight of a mother giving a baby a pickle or some such article of diet. The number of children who die of stomach or intestinal poisoning is appalling. A little simple instruction saving of hundreds of lives.

to these young mothers will mean the

Pause Here a Moment!

I am speaking on the occasion of the celebration of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and to men who count it their peculiar privilege that they have the right to hold Lincoln's memory dear and the duty to strive to work along the lines that he laid down. We can pay most fitting homage to his memory by doing the tasks allotted to us in the spirit in which he did the infinitely greater and more terrible tasks allotted to him.—Theodore Roosevelt.

* * * *

It took his countrymen full four years to find Abraham Lincoln out. By the light of the campfires of victorious armies they learned to see the outline of his gigantic figure, to assess the integrity of his character, to comprehend the majesty of his conscience, and, when at last they looked upon his careworn face as the nation reverently bore his body to the grave, through their tears they saw him exalted above all thrones in the affection of the human race.—Jonathan P. Dolliver.

BIG MINSTREL SHOW IS BEING PLANNED

Plans are fast nearing completion for the staging of a big minstrel show in Denton about the last of April. Early reports on the show were to the effect that it would be staged the latter part of this month, but the time has been changed.

Dr. W. A. Smith has been appointed director of the show and Mr. William Neal is prompter. Many of the young men of the town who are gifted along musical lines and black face monologue will be seen and heard when the big show comes off.

At a meeting last night of those interested, end men were selected who are very good in their lines and promise a brilliant program. Practice will be started at once so that the night the curtain rises everything will be in readiness.

This big affair will be staged for the benefit of the Denton Base Ball Association to procure funds for a lively startoff in the spring and to equip the boys in order that they may bring home the bacon each game.

MRS. ELLA A. ROBINSON

Word comes from Philadelphia of the death of Mrs. Ella A. Robinson, wife of William A. Robinson, of that city. Mrs. Robinson, who was Miss Ella Knight before her marriage, was a former resident of Denton, leaving here about 10 years ago.

She died February 4 from blood-poisoning received from burns from a candle she was carrying. Some three weeks ago she went to fix the furnace and in some way was set on fire from the candle.

The funeral occurred at her home last Tuesday, with interment in North Wood Cemetery, Philadelphia. Mrs. M. P. Hignutt and Mrs. William Fleetwood, sisters-in-law; Robert Fleetwood and Mrs. Gilbert Hignutt attended the funeral from Denton.

We have just the valentines you are looking for.—The American Union.

It is interesting to note that the S. P. C. A. was formed some years before the S. P. C to children. Just so for years the government has maintained a Bureau to give advice to farmers on the subject of raising cattle and hogs. An epidemic among the animals in a neighborhood will bring a government specialist on the next train. Now we ask for scientific help to be made available to mothers who need it in meeting the problems of raising healthy children. We have passed the sentimental period when it was thought that every woman by instinct knew all there was to know about caring for children.

The bill provides that no agent of the Bureau shall enter any home or enforce treatment of any child without the consent of the parent or legal guardian of the child.

SHORE POWER COMPANY WILL SPEND $300,000

Will Bring Transmission Line from Laurel to Denton this Spring

Half a million dollars will be spent by the Eastern Shore Gas and Electric Company for improvements in this section of the Eastern Shore within the next two years, according to an official of the local office. Of this amount more than $300,000 will be expended this year in betterments and in extensions to property.

During 1921 more than $150,000 was spent in improvements, of which $40,000 went into betterments of the central generating plant at Laurel, Del.; $55,000 was used in improving the transmision system; $30,000 was necessary to provide line extension for 700 new customers; laying mains and making certain improvements at Cambridge cost $10,000, and $20,000 was spent for transformer and distribution equipment, this in spite of the year of general depression.

Appropriations for 1922 will be expended as follows: Installation of 2,000 K. W. generating plant, boilers, transformers and equipment at Laurel, Del., $160,000; $45,900 for a transmission line from Laurel to Denton; $13,900 for rebuilding the transmission line from Laurel to Salisbury; $6,200 for installation of transformers and switching equipment in Salisbury; $58,000 for construsting a second circuit on the transmission line from Laurel to Cambridge; $30,000 for making line extension to take care of some 800 customers, and several other items.

PROOF OF EASTERN SHORE'S CLAIM OF HEALTHY CLIMATE

This section of the Eastern Shore is noted for its healthy climate, which is proven by the longevity of life of the residents.

In the year 1837 a young couple named Mary Anne and John Benge came to this country from England and settled in Cecil County. They had at that time one son, James. Five other children were born, all of whom lived to be over 70 years of age, and of whom only two have died. The children and their ages are: Henry, 79; James, now of Philadelphia, 83; Mrs. Mary B. Simmons of Denton, 77; Mrs. Elizabeth Boozer, 73; Mrs. Ellen Barber of Wilmington, 73, and Mrs. Rachel Sharer of Philadelphia, 70.

All the members of this family married and their husbands or wives also lived to a good old age on the Eastern Shore: Mrs. Emmarine Benge, 73; Mrs. Margaret Benge, wife of James, 84; Messrs. G. W. Simmons, 77; C. H. Boozer, 80; John Barber 78, and Charles Sharer, 78. The total age of these six children and their wives or husbands reaches the large number of 925 years. The oldest ones, Mr. and Mrs. James Benge, 83 and 84 respectively, are still living.

Watch the Classified Ad Column grow. Why? Because it pays!

FARMERS FEDERATION ENDORSES SCHOOL BILL

The Caroline County Farmers' Federation held a very lively meeting at Denton last Saturday afternoon.

Seven duly appointed delegates were present, two from Preston, H. Reick chairman; Denton, two, F. E. Yeoman, chairman; Federalsburg, four, Nicolies Largneil, chairman, with other representative men of the county. The acting officers were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year: President, W. R. Dulin, Preston; Secretary, F. E. Yeoman, Denton; Treasurer, F. M. Stevenson, Ridgely.

Professor E. M. Noble fully explained the desired purpose of the bill before the state legislators for the equalization of school funds of the state, afterwhich it was heartily endorsed by the federation and the secretary was instructed to send such notice to our county representatives at Annapolis, urging them to support this measure. He was also requested to ask Congressman T. Alan Goldsboro to give his support to the Voight bill now in congress and other measures as slated by the American Farm Bureau Federation, viz: Volstead-Capper bill which legalizes co-operation of farmers.

The Kenyon-Dickenson bill or some similar measure, which would provide credit to the farmer on warehouse receipts.

The truth-in-fabric bill which provides for the branding of all cloths and clothing wherein shoddy or reworked wool is used.

The anti-filled milk bill striking at the combination of skim milk and cocoanut oils now sold by some of the large milk canners, and a further reduction of freight rates for farm products.

A committee of seven were appointed to canvass the county for subscriptions to purchase a moving picture machine for the county agent's use, to instruct our people along agricultural lines.

The Federation heartily endorsed the movement for tubercular test of all herds in the county; also Mr. Collins Thomas' plan for protective association as outlined by him in the county papers of the week ending January 28th.

Preparation is being made to hold a county wide farmers' picnic some time in August as well as a county exhibit in the latter part of October.

Motion was made and carried that the Almshouse farm of the county should be put under the supervision of the County Agent Thomas, with the object of making that institution at least self-supporting.

Delegates were appointed from each of the county organizations to meet the County Board of Education to work out a plan, if possible, that with some aid of County Agent Thomas, agriculture could be more generally taught in our schools.

TO DISTRIBUTE 3,600 RABBITS IN COUNTIES

State Places Big Order for Hares to Replenish Stock for Hunters

The State Game Department will distribute 3,600 rabbilts among the counties this year, in addition to the 10,000 Mexican quail, to replenish the game stock of the State.

This is the first time that the department has ever distributed rabbits. There was considerable demand for them, however, from several of the counties where they had been slaughtered during the past season, so Warden LeCompte decided to purchase a stock for distribution. He has contracted for 600 snowshoe rabbits from the Western Pennsylvania section and 3,000 cotton-tail rabbits from the West. Both of these species of rabbits are larger than those which are found in Maryland.

Warden LeCampe wired Dr. Frank Kent, who buys the Mexican quail for the department, not to ship any birds to Maryland until later in the season, owing to the snow and bad weather. The department has been notified that some of the birds were already in fumigation on the border ready for shipment. As a rule these birds are not shipped to Maryland until late February or March. However, the trappers in the Mexican states began working on their contracts earlier this year.

New Home Demonstrator

The Community Club met Friday afternoon at the club room in the Law Building, and was delightfully entertained by the Mesdames Harry A. Roe, Harvey L. Cooper, Asbury Greaves and Miss Hattie Dukes. During the business meeting it was decided that Miss Kellogg should succeed Mrs. Edith G. Norman as Home Demonstrator. An address was given by Miss Mable Reed, of Palmerton, Pa. Miss Reed gave a very interesting and instructive account of her personal experiences as a Red Cross nurse of the Hopkins Unit during the war.

Mr. Stevens Condition Improved

The many friends of Mr. J. Kemp Stevens will rejoice in the report that comes from Mrs. Stevens of his improvement in health. Mr. Stevens has had a long, hard illness of a complication of diseases, but now the tide seems to have turned in his favor, and it is the earnest hope of the community at large that his recovery will be swift and complete.

To Be Seaford Postmaster

Seaford, Del., Feb. 8.—James Emery Willey, young Seaford business man, member of the firm of J. E. Willey & Son, Seaford merchants, was today appointed postmaster at Seaford. He succeeds Orlando A. Short, Democrat. Willey is a leading Sussex County Republican and a member of the State Central committee. The office pays $2,500 a year.

SCHOOL PATRONS' SOCIAL MEETING

Seniors Entertain Patrons With Good Program; Spelling Bee and Refreshments

TWO COMMITTEES NAMED

The Patrons of Caroline High School held a social meeting in the Assembly Hall on Monday evening, February 6th. The following interesting program was given by the seniors:

"The Damper Song," Senior girls.

Soprano Solo, Mrs. William Denny.

Prof. Bang-the-keys, Deweese Carter.

Romeo and Juliet, Deford Beasley and Malcolm Bye.

Selina Sue at the Movies, Jessie Betson.

Weeping Song, Senior girls.

Following this enjoyable feature of the evening, Mr. Norstedt announced an old-fashioned spelling bee. Mr. W. I. Norris and Mrs. Norman Straughn were asked to head the opposing lines and Rev. Harris B. Thomas pronounced the words. Finally with 20 opposing 20 the battle began, but, because of the lateness of the hour, it was considered advisable to halt the friendly warfare before the champion speller could claim the victor's palm. However, those remaining standing when the truce was declared, were: Mrs. Straughn, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Ramsdell and Mrs. Nuttle against Mrs. Brown, Miss Hobbs, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Orme.

After the spelling bee hot chocolate and doughnuts were served after which followed a brief business session. It was thought advisable to elect a 2nd vice-president, and Mrs. Harry Ramsdell was duly elected to fill the office. The officers of this organization at present are: President, Mrs. D. W. Davis; 1st vice-president, Mrs. F. E. Yeoman, Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Mary Hobbs. Two committees were also appointed, namely, the publicity committee, consisting of Miss Stephanie Ford and Rev. H. B. Thomas, and the program committee, consisting of Mrs. Norman Straughn, Mrs. Elmer Orme and Mrs. Mabel Duffy.

The dues for this organization have been fixed at ten cents per month, and at present there is an enrollment of 57 members. These representative ladies and gentlemen of Denton have at heart the advancement of learning and the betterment of the condition of the schools which our children are attending.

It is hoped that at the next meeting which will be held on the first Monday in March, each old member will bring at least one prospective new member.

PEABODY ACCEPTS PICTURE BY FEDERALSBURG ARTIST

Mr. Charles M. Walker, an artist of Federalsburg, has had a picture accepted by the Peabody Institute, of Baltimore, which has been hung in their annual exhibit of contemporary paintings, which began on the 2d and continues until the 26th of this month.

The jury which passed on the more than 400 paintings submitted for this exhibition is composed of three of the most well known judges of art in the United States, and the fifty per cent. accepted had to meet the most rigid requirements as to technical and artistic execution before being accepted.

Mr. Walker's painting, which has hung in his private gallery for three years, is of special interest to this community, as it presents a local scene. The canvas, entitled "The Path that Leads to Home" is 12 by 14 inches, and was painted on the Nichols road, just off Main street, Federalsburg. It shows the old house on the hill, and the colored woman going home was posed for by Arabelle Collins.

Yielding to the request of many friends and art critics who had admired the picture in his home, Mr. Walker submitted it for entry in the exhibit at Peabody.

Birthday Party for Miss Rairigh

Miss Esther Rairigh entertained a few of her friends on Monday evening at a birthday party. The color scheme was red in all rooms, using St. Valentine's decorations. The guests were entertained with games and at 9:30 o'clock delicious refreshments were served, consisting blocks of cherry cream, cake, candies, salted nuts, mints. Those present were Misses Esther Rairigh, Lucile Cooper, Katharine Wright, Mary Nuttle, Edith Straughn, Bernice Wooters, Katharine Thawley, Esther Kauffman, Victoria Deen, Ann Wilson, Edwina Nichols, Mary Walls, Margaret Allaband, Anna M. Richardson, Esther Statum, Esther Bowdle, Ruth Smith. The many gifts received were all very pretty and useful.

REV. J. H. STRAUGHN, D. D., AT M. P. CHURCH LAST SUNDAY

Rev. J. H. Straughn, D. D., president of the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, preached Sunday morning at Denton M. P. Church to a large and interested congregation. Dr. Straughn had not planned to be in Denton on Sunday, but weather conditions necessitated the change in his itinerary. He had expected to be at Thawley's Chapel instead.

Guild Will Serve Oyster Supper

The ladies of the Rector's Guild of Christ Church will serve an oyster supper in the Rectory on Friday evening, February 10th, from 5 until 8 o'clock.

The charge will be 35 cents. Come anld bring your family.

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc2929_scm3545-0046.jpg