

is a great likelihood of a still further increase.

The same old story repeats itself, that as soon as WAGES go up, COMMODITIES go up as well.

The merchant has to pay more to the porter to place his goods in the store, and the consumer has to pay more when he buys from the merchant.

The farmer pays more for the care of his cattle.

He therefore charges more to the butcher, who in turn is compelled to charge more for his meat.

The same thing applies to milk, and we find the fisherman raising the price of fish.

What is the remedy?

Is the Capitalist going to lose out? NO.

He hasn't lost out anywhere else, and you may rest assured, that he will not lose out here.

Can the Food Commission do anything to relieve the situation?

Again I say, NO.

The Food Commission at its best, can only prevent PROFITEERING, which is only a remedy to keep the Capitalist from unjustly charging the consumer for his goods at extortionate prices.

But the Food Commission can never demand the CAPITALISTS, be he merchant, farmer or else to sell his goods at a loss.

FOOD PRICES can never be made LOWER, as the price of LABOR goes HIGHER.

In the meantime the people of the MIDDLE CLASS are made to suffer.

The salesman or saleslady, clerk or book keeper, manager or overseer, and in fact all persons on fixed salaries, are unable to meet their immediate expenses.

They, in turn cannot afford to pay more to the cook, laundress or general house-worker.

Without means, suitable wearing apparel cannot be bought, and the TAILOR suffers.

Our tradesmen and mechanics cannot afford to buy material, and you cannot afford to pay them for their profession, so long as you are not being paid better wages.

And so WE have facing us, a very threatening situation; a situation that gives good cause for UNREST.

Leaving the island is no help to these conditions.

We cannot prosper by DEPOPULATION.

This island is OUR'S by Divine right, and as such it owes EVERYBODY a living.

What MUST be done, and done quickly is to organize into a UNION of the MIDDLE CLASS.

CITIZENS !!! PROTECT YOURSELVES NOW, or sink into OBLIVION. AWAKE FROM YOUR LETHARGIC STATE, and get together for your own salvation.

This is an age of re-construction.

UNITE!!! CO-OPERATE!!!

For CO-OPERATION is the road to SUCCESS.

A movement is on foot along these lines.

It is your duty to respond to the CALL if you have any hope for the future welfare of your country and yourselves.

I REPEAT, READ AND THINK.

THINK DEEPLY, and let your thoughts lead you to the meeting which will be held in the very near future.

ASILEY L. TOTTEN.

Delegate V. I. P. L.

To The Editor of St. Croix Avis.

Dear Sir:—

This letter is written by request. I have received several anonymous letters in which the writers express surprise that I did not take the stand or even attend the Hearings held before the Congressional Committee in the Colonial Council Chamber on February 9; and one of the writers—he calls himself "Admirer"—has requested "an explanation in the Avis."

The letters seem to be the sincere outpourings of honest minds. There is no "gall and wormwood" in them, and, to use a current inelegancy, the writers are not "knockers." One expression, to wit; "I have always looked up to you" might have been approximately written by Mr. La Bega (or any other person of similar stature) who has time and again been compelled to look up to me.

Now, I am free to confess that while ostensibly the purpose of this letter is to say that pressure of work only prevented me from being in the Council Hall on Monday last, in reality it is with feelings akin to those of the old maid to whom suitors flocked when she inherited a fortune with which I write.

A woman who had passed fifty summers (so the story goes), and the Lord only knows how many winters, was still unmarried when she inherited a large fortune. The men in the community began to pay attention to her at once. One suitor was more persistent than the others. He was always on the scene; and when the "psychological moment" had arrived he told her how he had always admired her beauty, and intellect, and always would, and how wretched life would be without her. The lady listened attentively—she had a sense of humor—and when the oration was over she said: "I know that all you have said is a dodgasted lie, but I love to hear it—repeat it again, please."

Similarly, I appreciate the many good things my anonymous admirers have written about me, and ask them to send me their names not for publication by any means but simply for my own gratification.

Respectfully,

R. H. AMPHLETT LEADER.

Frederiksted, February 16, 1920.

Queries.

1. Is it of the slightest benefit to the community that the Food Commission fixes, so to speak, prices, whether equitable or not, on a long list of articles published in the newspapers and leaves the suffering public who scarcely ever sees those advertisements, to be charged anything the seller feels inclined?

2. Shouldn't in the first place the ruling prices be published through public notices posted about in public places? Or must everybody be a subscriber to the Avis and Herald to get in touch with a matter upon which the economic salvation of the people depends?

3. Has the Food Commission any means of enforcing the observance of the prices if fixes? If not what's the use of it?

4. Isn't fresh fish one of the chief staple articles of food in this island? Why then isn't the price of it regulated on an equitable basis to permit one and all of the underfed poor getting a square meal of at least fish which the local costermongers are selling at simply abominable prices?

5. Is it true the Dairy did such a splendid business the first half year that one of the smaller stockholders banked \$800. clear surplus from his dividend.

6. Couldn't the Council pass an appropriation to get Mr. Hoover come down here for a few weeks to straighten up things.

ANTI-HUMBUG.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Dominica, Feb. 16th. Mr. C. G. Harris leaves this evening by R. C. M. S. Caraque to attend the forthcoming conference of the associated chambers of commerce at Barbados. The other Dominica delegate, Mr. Donald Riviere, is already in Barbados.

St. Thomas, Feb. 17th. Traffic for Antigua and St. Kitts must be accepted subject to heavy delay owing to a serious fault which has appeared in the cable permitting only slow and occasional working.

President Wilson's Reply To King Christian's Cable Of Thanks.

Translated from "Politikan"

I rejoice that the Versailles Treaty, in the discussions of which I had the honor to partake, by the deposit of ratifications of the subscribing Powers, has been executed, so that the opportunity may be afforded the inhabitants of the Danish Slesvig to express their will respecting a reunion with their beloved Mother Country, through which one of those ideals for which contended, has been realized.

WOODROW WILSON.