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Friday, August 15, 1919.

What Next?

It is plain that there is a great
unrest all over this country. In
some places, it is the high cost of
living that appears as the prevail-
ing cause of this unrest. In others
it is a desire for higher wages, no
doubt partially at least, to meet
the high cost of living. In others,
a desire for a shorter basic work
day, either for the purpose of in-
directly forcing higher wages
through "increased compensation
for all over-work performed be-
yond the basic day" or in order
that the worker may have more
time to himself for recreation and
self-advancement.

There are alleged thinkers who
allege that this unrest is caused
by failure of the United States
Senate to ratify the peace treaty
and put into operation the League
of Nations, thus removing from
the public mind the possibility of
another world war. There is no
doubt that the unrest strikes and
other outward manifestations of
general discontent have been
fanned and added to by political
agitators of both parties seeking
partisan advantage and that the
drastic and unnecessarily severe
prohibition enforcement law now
proposed in Congress, coupled
with the threat to prohibit the
growing, manufacture and sale
of tobacco have contributed and
indirectly to the creation of a
state of public mind which will
be hard to subdue even if the agi-
tation be withdrawn at once and
not resumed.

High wages and high wheat
together force up the price of
everything purchasable in the
way of food stuffs and commodi-
ties in general use by all the peo-
ple. There is no doubt of this. [In
the face of this the workers are
moving heaven and earth to force
wages up while the farmers are
demanding that the Government
take its hands off and permit
wheat to go to \$3 or \$3.50 a bush-
el which means \$18 a barrel for
flour and correspondingly high
prices for all grains, feed and
dairy products.

While foodstuffs soar and work-
ers in industry soar, prices of all
other commodities are soaring
accordingly. Producer, manu-
facturer, wholesaler, jobber and
retailer apparently vie with
each other to see how high they
can boost prices to the consumer.

Now there is a third party to
all these transactions. Probably
more than one-third of the popu-
lation is not profiting by the ad-
vances in wages while they are
confronted just as inevitably by
the high prices. That is the pro-
fessional men, clerks, bank em-
ployees, office help and all who
are on fixed incomes with but
very small increases. The value
of their dollar has shrunk com-
paratively to fifty cents or less.
In other words the teacher, or
clerk or bookkeeper or the person
who has a fixed income of
\$1200 really is only receiving un-
der the artificial prices exacted

these days, about \$600 as com-
pared with three or even two
years ago. These are the persons
who are hardest hit. They have
no trades union, no manufactur-
ers combine to plead their cause
or force up their salaries. They
pay the bills and a great propor-
tion of the profiteers profits either
in direct prices or higher taxes.

Where will it all end? That is
confessedly a difficult question to
answer. But if some relief is not
afforded soon, there is likely to be
either a forceful disturbance or
an industrial and commercial
cataclysm.

Good Work.

It was a gathering of more than
the delegates to a fraternal con-
vention that assembled in Buf-
falo last week when the Supreme
Council of the Knights of Colum-
bus opened its sessions; more than
an assemblage of representative
Catholic laymen although that
were sufficient to stamp it as an
assemblage of more than ordi-
nary movement. That Supreme
Council represented the flower of
American citizenship gathered to
grapple with the great world
problems of the day, strengthened
by an abiding faith in Almighty
God and fortified by the guidance
of the greatest stabilizer in Amer-
ica or any other country—the
Holy Catholic Church.

That the faith in the Knights
of Columbus felt by the Catholic
Hierarchy as an exemplar of
Catholic American citizenship is
well founded was evidenced by
the thoughtful discussions of the
convention, the spirit of loyalty
breathed throughout to God, to
country, to church and to all that
stands for the highest in service
to humanity.

All hail to the Knights of Co-
lumbus and its far seeing leaders!

It is to be hoped that Roches-
ter's clothing industry will not be
tied up by jurisdictional fights
between rival clothing workers'
unions.

Even a Federal receiver must
yield to the universal sentiment
in favor of arbitration of indus-
trial disputes.

Maybe we are approaching a
universal closed Sunday.

Governor Smith also throws his
hat into the ring as a battler with
old "High Cost of Living."

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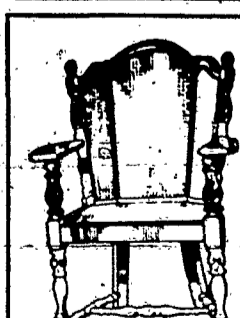
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