

# Winnetka Weekly Talk

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by

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### Irregular Work Conditions

While the unemployment conference called by President Harding must give its first attention to temporary measures to set idle people to work, it should try to initiate a permanent movement for the relief of the seasonal working conditions existing in many industries. With many industries operating only about 200 days in a year, a great deal of poverty is created that could be prevented if these employments could continue more regularly.

The lack of work is the great menace that darkens the days of the workers. It introduces anxiety into millions of homes, it creates unrest, and makes people feel that the present social system is radically wrong.

In the coal industry, which is usually slack in the spring and early summer, the most obvious means to stabilize this condition, is to offer coal at a marked reduction if bought early in the season. That plan has sometimes been opposed, on the ground that it would be unfair to the people who have no money ahead and who must buy it in a hand to mouth way. Yet it would so stimulate the spring buying that it would help the mines to run with greater regularity, and it ought to make coal cost much less for everybody. It would be an incentive to thrift on the part of everyone, and it would be a tremendous boon to the coal workers.

The community ought to do its utmost to assist industries to stabilize their operations. Some perhaps could run more regularly if they had better storage facilities, or if they had larger capital with which to manufacture reserve supplies in dull times.

It is for the interest of the community to see that such industries are supplied with all the capital they need with which to keep working regularly. Seasonal operation causes a tremendous loss to production, and is one of the greatest drains now existing on the prosperity of the country.

### Football And Endurance

A squad of football candidates was observed practicing on a field the other day. They were told by the coach to allow themselves to fall from a certain position without making any effort to save themselves. The coach evidently felt they needed a certain course of toughening. Anxious mothers probably lamented over the bruised knees and elbows when they got home, and perhaps some boys would be withdrawn from the squad by cautious parents.

Such exercises in rough and tumble have value provided they are directed by competent people. One can imagine that an inexperienced coach might ask them to do some stunt that could cause serious injury. But if the coach knew his business and really understood how far boys could safely go in such exercises, the experience of rough and tumble should be a good thing.

The tendency of modern life is to develop softness. People ride in automobiles instead of walking, they work indoors at light and easy tasks, few of them ever engage in anything that calls for hard knocks.

Consequently the majority of people become extremely sensitive to pain. They make a fuss about having teeth filled and similar incidents and they never seem to have developed any quality of endurance.

The fellow who goes on the football field comes to look at hard knocks lightly, and he learns not to draw back so shrinking from the conflicts of life and the hard things of daily

work. Furthermore, the boy who can go through all this melee and keep his temper like a gentleman, has acquired a poise and self-control, that should be a wonderful stabilizer in times of stress.

### Visiting Relatives

Millions of people used to spend vacations in visiting relatives. Country folks went to "see" their city

cousins, and the city folks camped down on Uncle Reuben. In those days of free and easy times the latch string was always open, and people took care of unexpected guests without getting flustered.

If people could see a chance to get away, they wrote to their friends that they would be glad to come and visit them. The suggestion was rarely turned down. The visitors helped with

the housework, everyone had a jolly time, and family ties were kept close.

In these times people are not satisfied unless they entertain in a stylish way. The folks who used to spend weeks with relatives, perhaps come and take a meal or make an afternoon call: Labor is saved for the housewife, but the old family intimacies are breaking up.

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