

**ainted!**  
 Company I repre-  
 know you—hadn't  
 it to Good Men.  
 Insurance of  
 C.  
 Mgr.  
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**ainted!**  
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 What 22 Years  
 as taught US about  
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 Would  
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 Needles, Bands,  
 anything.  
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**Music Co.**  
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**Owners.**  
 do all kinds of au-  
 in the most satis-  
 none but skilled  
 that you give us an  
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**OMPANY**  
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**Storage Co.**  
 Manager.

**TAINTED NEWS.**

The New York World and other Roosevelt journals resent his charge that certain newspapers misrepresent the progressive cause. They utter complaint while the reporters of the New York Progressive convention are fresh in the public mind.

For days prior to that gathering the tory papers teemed with stories that it was to be a bossed convention; that the delegates were mere amateurs and puppets, and that the strings were jerked by Boss Roosevelt or Boss Perkins.

The World itself, on September 10, headed its convention story, "Perkins Regarded as Boss as State Moose Gather," and on the following day used large type to say that the delegates "Await Perkins to Point Nomination, on Moose Ticket."

The New York Herald, political editor of a feeble imitation of the World, told its readers that "when the time comes to name a ticket, a handpicked one will be put over with all the clarity that could be desired." Also, it said: "The delegates know that if there should be a real dispute, a telegram from a special train out west will settle any differences."

These extracts are typical tory convention "news," two days later stamped as false and fraudulent by the result. The New York Evening Post, vigorous opponent of Roosevelt, praises the selection of Oscar S. Straus and takes note of the silly slanders about "bossism." It says: "The history of the nomination will go far to deprive of effectiveness with the voters, so far as the state campaign is concerned, the charge that the party is simply the instrument of Mr. Roosevelt's will. . . . This will do away with all possibility of drawing any parallel between the action and that of a convention whose choice is dictated by a boss."

**Democratic Humor.**

Whatever the Democratic party lacks, it has an abiding sense of humor.

When the Maine campaign was on, Vice Presidential Candidate Marshall and Speaker Clark and other "big guns" of the Democratic national organization spent days stamping that state on tariff and trusts and Roosevelt.

Maine went Progressive. The Democrats lost a governor, a United States senator, a congressman and a legislature.

Now come all the Democrats chorusing that the result means absolutely nothing, as the fight in Maine was purely on state issues.

So Marshall and Clark and others cavorted about the state for the amusement of the people. They didn't mean anything by it, so the people reciprocated and refused to take them seriously.

Having fun with the people is becoming one of the favorite pastimes with the Democratic party.

And, just as Maine did, the people are snickering at the Democratic party. It furnishes amusement, but no statesmanship. It gets the biggest laugh, but the least support.—Philadelphia Evening Times.

**Clapp Committee To Begin Work Sept. 30th.**

Washington, Sept. 12.—Presidential candidates in the pre-convention fight of last spring have furnished to Chairman Clapp, of the senate campaign expenditures committee, names of the men who handled their campaign funds. All the financial managers have agreed to appear before the committee when its hearings begin September 30.

A preliminary meeting of the committee will be held before the hearings open to fix the time when each witness shall testify. All witnesses are now under instruction to appear on the opening day, Sept. 30. Members of the committee are still considering a plan to hold some of the hearings in New York.

It has been found impossible to secure the testimony of Will Rockefeller in regard to alleged Standard Oil contributions in 1904, unless the committee virtually goes to his home. In case New York sessions are held, J. P. Morgan, George W. Perkins and other financiers probably will be asked to testify about any contributions they may have made to political funds.

"I tell you, young Jaggs is a bird."  
 "That may account for his fondness for bats."

**WILSON AND THE MINIMUM WAGE.**

From the time that Governor Wilson, in accepting the Democratic nomination, repudiated the Democratic platform, he has carefully avoided any utterance that might seem to offer a program as a substitute for the one upon which he declines to stand. In one speech, however he did take a stand on two issues. That was in labor day speech at Buffalo, in which he denounced the Progressive platform for its plank on the regulation of trusts and for its declaration in favor of a minimum wage for women workers.

On the question of the minimum wage, Governor Wilson was particularly clear and emphatic, much more definite on the other issue. Indeed, he seemed to be quite deeply moved against the proposition that the law should a minimum wage below which an industry should not be permitted to pay its women workers.

He expressed fear that if the principle of the minimum wage were established for women workers it would be extended to other kinds of labor. That he regarded as a very calamitous prospect. This is what the governor said on the subject:

"There is a plank in the program which speaks of establishing a minimum of living wage for women workers, and I suppose that we may assume that the principle is not in the long run meant to be confined in its application to women only. Perhaps we are justified in assuming that the third party looks forward to the general establishment by law of a minimum wage. It is very likely, I take it for granted, that if a minimum wage were established by law, the great majority of employers would take occasion to bring their wage scale as nearly as might be down to the level of that minimum, and it would be very awkward for the working man to resist that process successfully, because it would be dangerous to strike against the authority of the federal government."

Two explanations are suggested by this rather astonishing utterance of Governor Wilson. To a stranger, to one unacquainted with Wilson's work during the last two years, it would seem that he is a Tory. But he isn't, we are driven to the alternative that Governor Wilson has taken his positive stand against the principle of the minimum wage solely because he is ignorant of its meaning.

This is no disparagement of Governor Wilson. It is said in no spirit of criticism, but rather in extenuation. It is really not to be expected that Governor Wilson in the short space of time since he got into the progressive movement should have familiarized himself with all the instrumentalities that are suggested for the furtherance of its aims.

It is not yet two years since Governor Wilson got into the progressive movement. Before that time, while his instincts were for democracy, his training and intellectual bent had all been with the old-line political economists upon whose teaching the opposition to the progressive movement is based.

This old school of political economy has been known as "laissez-faire," which in that application virtually means "hands-off." It was the teaching of those old doctors in the government should keep its hands off nearly everything, that it should let the individual do everything he could do short of positive crime, regardless of its effect on others or on the community. If he could hire women at less than starvation wages to do work for him, it was none of the government's business, according to the teachings of these philosophers.

For twenty months, since he became governor of New Jersey, Doctor Wilson has been pulling bravely against the teachings of these old-time masters of his. But in his shocked opposition to the minimum wage, he shows that their influence still dominates him in this one respect at least.

But, this is palpably because he has not come to an understanding of what the minimum wage means. In the Progressive platform, the declaration is restricted to women workers. This is, indeed, a very moderate and almost a conservative proposition. For the minimum wage, as applied to men and women, has been in successful operation in other countries for at least sixteen years, while the

identical legal and economic principles upon which is based have been enforced by statutory enactment for nearly a century. The direct application of the minimum wage is not new in this country. It has been established in many trades—not by law, but by the labor unions—for years. The very type by which the readers is enabled to read this editorial was set under a minimum wage regulation, differing only from that which the Progressives seek to establish for women in that it has not the force of law behind it, only a voluntary contract.

But, even by law, the principle of the minimum wage has been established in this very conservative old state of Pennsylvania. True, it applies only to school teachers, but it is a minimum wage fixed by law.

The minimum wage has been much discussed in England of later, as a result of the great coal strike in that country. The demands of the unions which led to that strike had no reference to the hours of employment or the rate of pay of the great majority of the workers in the industry. They were intended to benefit only the poorest-paid classes. The minimum wage has already been established in other industries, and it became part of the terms of settlements for the strike.

R. C. K. Ensor, in an article in the famous English review, "The Nineteenth Century and After," states the case for the minimum wage. He cites the figures of investigators who found that in London and in York about 30 per cent of the people were living on incomes below the physiological minimum; that is, their wages were not sufficient to support them and their natural dependents from the physical deterioration that comes from improper and insufficient food and lack of clothing and shelter.

Where the industry fails to pay a physiological minimum, either physical deterioration of the worker sets in or else the deficiency of the underpaying industry is made up by support that is given by others—either by members of the family employed in a more remunerative industry or by charity.

In either case the underpaying industry levies a tax on the community and becomes in reality boundy fed. The community is paying to keep up an industry that cannot support itself; if it can, which does not, but which makes its profits by compelling the community to support its workmen. Mr. Ensor says:

"The boundy received by an industry which pays less than subsistence wages is indefinite and elusive; its burdens are laid at random, largely on the weakest shoulders, and the nation foots the bill, not in money only, but in physical deterioration, moral degradation and social catastrophe."

This being so such underpayment tends clearly to the loss of the nation; and it is difficult on any ground of pure logic to see why the state, as trustee of the national interests, should not interfere with it, just as it has interfered with other features in competitive industry which appeared destructive of the nation's human capital.

The writer points out that for a century parliament has been passing acts to regulate the conditions of work. These fix the kind of people who may work in certain industries, the restrictions being as to age and sex, the hours they may work, conditions of sanitation, ventilation and the protection of machinery.

In this country such regulations have been enacted into law by our state and national legislatures, though to a lesser extent than in England, because here the old "laissez-faire" hand-off, political philosophy, which Governor Wilson exemplifies in his attack on the minimum wage, has retained its influence to a much greater degree than in England.

But such regulations have been passed, and for the same purpose that the minimum wage is proposed. That is, to conserve the human resources of the nation. Perhaps the fact that this country has been receiving a constant stream of immigrants made its ruling powers less careful of its human resources than otherwise they might have been. A Survey worker quotes a Pittsburgh steel mill superintendent as saying, when questioned about the great number of accidents in his mill: "Well, you know they are mostly ignorant foreigners, and we have no trouble in filling their places with others."

Now, the very same principle which would compel that steel company to protect its workmen

from being maimed and killed could be applied to compel any industry to pay a wage large enough to prevent the deterioration of the workmen through lack of shelter or nourishment.

Such an act would not in the least prevent those employers and workmen bargaining for higher wages. But it would say to them that they could not bargain for lower wages, because below that point wages could not sustain life, and to permit lower wages would be to waste the human resource of the nation. This is the general principle of the minimum wage. In its practical application success has been shown in Victoria, where the first statute applied it to five industries, and where it has since spread to nearly fifty.

The Progressive platform propose to apply it only to women workers, to protect the mothers of the future race, and therefore the race itself, from the deterioration that comes from a struggle to live on starvation wages.

But the disquieting thing about Governor Wilson's opposition to the minimum wage is that its principle is the very essence of the Progressive movement, which holds that the first duty of the nation is to conserve its human resources. Back of it all is the doctrine that the most important duty of each generation is to promote the divine plan of progress by leaving behind a better race of men and women.

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