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The War Against the Boll Worm

Prevention is to be the basis of the campaign against a potential enemy of King Cotton. The annual agricultural appropriation bill, just passed, carries an item of \$554,840 to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to fight the pink boll worm in Mexico and prevent its establishment in the United States. We do not know a great deal of the depredation caused by the pink boll worm, but judging from our disastrous experiences with the boll weevil, every means that can be employed to prevent the encroachments of another plague to cotton should be employed.

The program provided for by the act includes the prevention of the movement of cotton and cottonseed from Mexico into the United States, the making of surveys to determine the distribution of the worm in Mexico and to exterminate local infestations in Mexico near the border in co-operation with the Mexican government, and the conducting of surveys in Texas or other states to detect infestation.

In addition, the department is empowered to investigate possible control methods, and to conduct control measures in co-operation with the states. The latter may include the establishment of cotton-free areas to stamp out infestation.

Adequate measures should be vigorously performed, lest King Cotton who has been so often reckless in his waste of soil and human force take a heavier toll from the land on which he lives.

The College Professor And Business

Not the least vital phase of our educational crisis today is the difficulty of keeping college professors in academic fields of endeavor. The war begave it, of course, with the cuts in faculties combined with the calls for trained men in all types of work. Men who had spent their lives in preparation for instruction of youth left college halls, and many of them have not returned. The reasons for this are many, but are well expressed in an article written by a doctor of philosophy for Harper's magazine in 1920. It may be well to review these briefly, for the conditions of which he spoke still exist, and the public as well as the institution are to blame.

The first consideration, but by no means the most important, is the financial one. After years of service as instructor, then as assistant professor, and finally as full professor, if the other older men in the department did not live too long, the college teacher can expect a salary of from four to six thousand dollars a year, and he can not "hunt for a job" as a business man can, when promotion in his particular industry is blocked. As an illustration, the ex-instructor who states his case was receiving, at the end of two years in industry, a salary of \$3,500; if he had returned to the university, his income would have been \$1,800 a year.

This salary situation is true in spite of the great material growth of the universities. The great sums bequeathed to universities in the past two decades, says the doctor of philosophy, "instead of being devoted in large part to the development and improvement of the teaching staff, have been spent almost entirely on new buildings and equipment." We in North Carolina can hold ourselves clear of any such charges, yet for the country at large there is evidence of the truth of his contention that architectural grandeur and impressiveness seem to have been the keynote in the recent progress of universities. Human equipment has suffered in comparison with material equipment in education.

Even this would not have moved him to stay in industry, in a position which used to great advantage his scientific training, had he not found in his contact with industrial executives and industrial literature a more active interest in human affairs than in his entire academic career. "Service, generosity, and humanity, instead of being ideals, were being regarded as every day bread-and-butter facts." Contrasted with this, he found the professor's "interest in the masses is intellectual rather than active, and his sympathies are academic rather than practical."

Furthermore, this former university instructor has found the university not the center of the free exchange of speech and ideas which tradition makes it. There is, he says, an intellectual hardness and inflexibility among college professors, due probably to their years of laying down the law to those who dare not contradict, in marked contrast to the mental alertness and openness to conviction of the big men in industry. The latter illustrate this by their willingness to use in business the fruits of academic endeavor, as university professors are placed in important technical positions and given a chance to make good.

The New York Police

The Whitman investigation in New York, in connection with allegations of widespread graft among the city's police, gives promise of developing a fair-sized scandal. A decade ago, when the gentle art of muck-raking was at the height of its vogue, we learned a great deal about the darker side of American municipal affairs. There were scattered convictions here and there, a few jail sentences for persons of local importance, whereupon most of us proceeded to forget all about it. We had found out the worst, and there was some consolation at least in the feeling that any change would necessarily bring improvement. Undoubtedly, an improvement there has been. But we are about to be reminded, as a people, that the complex life of our great cities makes it necessary to adopt a more intelligent remedy than an occasional house-cleaning, if we would keep our municipal governments straight and effective.

We are used to the impression of New York as a city of vice and corruption. Perhaps the city is not, in fact, as vicious as it is ordinarily painted. But it is less startling to hear that the first American metropolis has a wicked underworld than it is to be told that its police department, first and chief line of defense for public safety, has sold out its principles and no longer represents the people of the city at all. Former Governor Whitman, who is conducting the investigation of the police situation, asserts that graft flourishes today more vigorously and openly than it ever did under the notorious Becker. Unprincipled members of the police department formerly plied their trade of graft among the criminals of the city, accepting bribes from those who operated in defiance of the law. The Whitman inquiry now is bringing out the fact that the graft levy is being laid most heavily today upon the city's legitimate business.

Says The Herald: "The old-time crooked policeman got money for protecting law-breakers—for ignoring his duty. Now he gets it for protecting honest business against law-breakers—for doing his duty. And the possibilities for graft under the new system are much greater than under the old, as Mr. Whitman views them."

An illustration is found in the allegation that a total of \$450,000 was divided last year by seven members of the police department as rewards for the recovery of stolen automobiles.

Indictments are coming with increasing facility, and the prospects are that a pretty large degree of rottenness will be shown before the inquiry ends. Whether we shall merely have another vil odor for a time or something resembling an actual purification remains to be learned.

Contemporary Views

WHERE TO BUY

Whiteville News-Reporter: Approximately four thousand dollars per month goes out to the mail order houses up north from the two Whiteville postoffices. In practically every instance this money goes for goods that could be bought just as readily and just as cheaply from the home merchants. The same conditions can be found at all other postoffices in the county. Enough sight-unseen trading with Chicago and other northern mail order houses is done from Columbus county each year to maintain a town the size of Whiteville, the largest town in Columbus. On one day this week alone twenty mail bags full of mail order catalogues were received here. A like quota was received at all other offices in the county. As we have said before, we believe that practically every article that is bought from the Chicago mail order houses could be bought in Columbus county just as cheaply as it can be bought in the north and with the added advantages of the buyer knowing just what he is getting and also getting it quicker. The patrons of the mail order houses should stop a moment and ask themselves if the mail order houses in the north contribute anything in the way of taxes for the support of our schools, roads and county and state government. They do not. The merchant who is inclined to criticize these mail order patrons should stop a moment and ask himself if he has the backbone to compete with the northern houses and make an honest effort to keep trade at home where it belongs.

A GO-AHEAD LOOK

Asheville Citizen: A modern Rip Van Winkle was released not long ago from the Charlotte state prison. He had been a prisoner for twenty-five years, and although he had read and heard of improvements that had taken place, he had not seen them. His observations are of peculiar interest. Particularly his impression of children! For the young people have been the object of much criticism for their freedom of manner, disregard of the advice of elders, and many other changes for which they are compared unfavorably with the young people of a quarter century ago.

The man looking on the outside world the first time since 1895 was amused by the short skirts worn by the girls, and said they appeared as if on stilts. But he added: "Young people today appear to be much more intelligent. They've got a go-ahead look that only one in a hundred used to have."

"No Magic Date"

Apologists for Mr. Root in his opposition to the Borah disarmament resolution are reminded by the New York World that "March 4 is no magic date, marked red in the calendar, on which the ills of the world will vanish." Mr. Root argues for delay, "not seriously hurtful," because of the approaching inauguration of Mr. Harding, holding that the Borah resolution, if adopted, would only serve to embarrass Mr. Harding and his cabinet.

The World's rebuke is appropriate, not only to the obstructionist plea for more time, but markedly also to the indecision of the President-elect in the matter of selecting his cabinet. Particularly with reference to the positions of Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, there had been a widespread popular hope that the President-elect would decide promptly and take the public into his confidence. Despite frequent suggestion to the contrary, there is little evidence that he has decided at all. Certainly, if he has arrived at any choice for these important posts, the moral value to the nation of an early announcement has not been considered. It has been wisely argued that a prompt selection for these places would exert a stabilizing influence on the public mind. It may also be considered that a speedier choice of a Secretary of State would provide an interval of preparation for the man chosen for the post. But everything, it appears, must await the "magic date"—five weeks distant now, four months away when Mr. Harding received his call from the American people.

Excusable Tardiness

Thanks to a resolution offered by Senator Smoot and adopted with good-natured abandon by the Senate, the four or five state messengers who arrived at Washington behind time with their respective collections of electoral votes will not have to pay the fine of \$1,000 prescribed by law. Our own interest in the case has been heightened by the fact that North Carolina's messenger was among those who tarried somewhere by the way and failed to answer when Vice-President Marshall rang the electoral college bell. It appeared for a time that, perhaps, we had wasted our time and energy in casting our block of votes for Mr. Cox last November; that is, that the waste had been somewhat more pronounced than it seemed all along. Anyhow, we very particularly wanted Mr. Cox to get those votes. We are gratified to learn that he did and that the man who took them to the capital won't have to pay a thousand dollars because he stopped off somewhere to get a soda water.

Senator Sherman has offered a bill to raise the salaries of Congressmen, who, he says, are unable to live comfortably on their present pay. We would like to propose an amendment, making the raise apply only to those members who were earning more than \$7,500 before they went to Washington.

Tennessee's anti-cigarette law, an old and very feeble statute, has been repealed by the legislature. We don't know why the solons happened to think of it. There has been no indication that the law ever made an impression on others in the state.

Perhaps Mr. Harding wouldn't find his devotion to the principles of party government so productive of trouble if he had any reliable means of telling which of the several G. O. P.'s may properly claim him.

The House has voted to accept J. P. Morgan's London residence as an American embassy. Thus, by the generosity of a private citizen, we are about to make a start on the long neglected business of providing our diplomats with a place to call home.

Mark Sullivan says it may be taken for granted that Mr. Harding will appoint his friend Daugherty to the cabinet. Taking things for granted, where Mr. Harding is concerned, has been a precarious sort of sport in some respects as far as the public is concerned, but we suppose the men who really know him know all about him.

Unemployment and Its Remedy

At a time when editorial columns speak of the "army of unemployed" and news columns carry stories of closing plants, decreased labor forces, and even of bread lines and soup kitchens, the report just made by the Federal Employment Service does not reassure the press as a whole. A number of papers take the position that an analysis of the employment service's figures nearly three and a half million unemployed will show that it makes no allowance for redistribution and is consequently merely an enumeration of those who have been dropped from the payrolls of industrial concerns during the year. But the press on the whole is inclined to discuss the unemployment situation seriously, and many writers point to the action of the Pennsylvania and other railroads as a possible way of meeting what threatens to develop into a crisis.

Already "the unemployment problem is keeping the whole country awake nights," according to the Flint (Mich.) Journal, Independent, and the Boston Herald, Independent. Republican, while it does not believe that "the present level of unemployment will continue indefinitely," warns that so long as the condition obtains it presents "one of the most pressing of our domestic problems," since "it strikes a blow at the comfort and happiness of hundreds of thousands of American citizens."

Serious as the present situation is admitted to be, it is regarded by most writers as a passing phase, caused by normal readjustment from war prosperity. Some view it more specifically as the result of the "buyers' strike," which in the nature of things cannot continue indefinitely. The Richmond (Va.) News Leader, Independent-Democrat, for instance, thinks "it has been apparent from the first that the chief cause of unemployment is the so-called 'buyers' strike.' The moment the demand for goods ceased, production began to decline. It will not be resumed on an adequate scale until the public decides to buy more goods." As the Washington Post, Independent, sees it, the "unemployment that is widespread in the nation... is but one of the manifestations of the process of industrial readjustment" and it is "temporary in its character." The New York Herald, Independent, feels that the country has seen the worst of the readjustment, and that while unemployment figures are admittedly "grievous," they do not, "thank heaven, spell the doom of American industry and business." But to the Baltimore American, Republican, the fact that crowds of men in that city "want work badly enough to form in line on the chance of getting it" suggests the fear that business readjustment and deflation of wages must be all, come "by way of the bread-line, a method that all wish to see avoided."

The news dispatch from Toledo that soup kitchens have been opened in that city to relieve acute distress resulting from unemployment has produced something like a gasp of astonishment from editorial writers, to whom, as to the Cincinnati Enquirer, it has "strange sound in this land of teeming plenty, of tremendous resources, of prideful moral integrity."

European News and Views

An Italian Plea for Germany

General B. Benicivenza writes an article in the Tempo (Rome) showing the absurdity of the Allies' demands in expecting Germany to reduce her army to 100,000 men and compare her situation with Italy under similar conditions. "Let the reader imagine Italy vanquished and subsequently a prey to a revolutionary upheaval; a hungry Italy which would give rise to stupor in the enemy would insist on the carrying out of the following conditions: Demobilization of the entire army and disbanding of the royal guard. Public order to be kept by 60,000 men, a number equal to our carabinieri. The reader would say it is absurd, and I am quite of his opinion. "And yet such an absurdity was sanctioned by the treaty of Versailles with regard to Germany. The Allies order within her borders and on her frontiers with one hundred thousand men. "Germany is a country of 60 million inhabitants consisting of many large industrial centers, of many large cities, of many ports and 4 million inhabitants; Germany, a prey to terrible internal upheavals threatened on her frontiers by the Bolsheviks who wish to spread revolution into the heart of Europe, and also by the Polish revolution. Germany, I say, is supposed to entrust her security to 100,000 men. "And yet Italy, in normal times and under very different conditions, requires for her security at least 250,000 men to keep public order. "Only hate could suggest such an absurdity! "It was the hate of Clemenceau who would not even listen to what Marshal Foch's common sense suggested, viz. to leave Germany an army of 300,000 men. If Foch had been listened to the Entente would have confronted Germany with two contingencies: either to act in good faith and carry out the conditions fixed, or to violate the conditions, showing bad faith, and thus give the Allies the right to take the most severe reprisals. "But in respect of Germany to carry out such an absurd agreement in good faith was and is foolish. "We must not forget either that if Germany had obeyed the Entente would today be a prey to Communist revolution. "It is necessary to have seen Germany in the midst of the violent struggles of 1919 in order to understand that danger was threatening Europe at that time. "Germany at that time saved Western civilization; impartial history will give her credit for this. "But to suppose that Germany should try to avoid carrying out the conditions of the Treaty in order not to commit suicide. "In the first place she tried to remedy the weakness of the army by creating a band of armed police resembling our gendarmes. 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