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CONCERNING PRESIDENT
WILSON

To the man who lends an attentive ear to talk upon the streets, in shops and at country cross roads, it is manifest that the most serious blow President Wilson has suffered is not in the industrial depression of 1913-14, not in the mismanagement of Mexican affairs, not in the extravagance of his administration, not in his violation of campaign pledges—though all these were enough to break the power of any ordinary occupant of a public office. In spite of all these faults and failings, the American people were behind President Wilson until they lost confidence in his sincerity. That cost him his prestige. That broke the strength that was said to be "greater than his party."

His advocacy of repeal of free tolls through the Panama canal after pledging himself in favor of free tolls, might be due to new information. His violation of the spirit of the civil service law could be excused by some on the ground that political pressure was more than he could withstand. His urgent support of a ship purchase plan which he was pledged to oppose, would be accounted for by others on the theory that he had been misled as to the results to be accomplished. These were large matters involving intricate problems which a great majority of the people have no opportunity to study in detail.

But there have been a few minor incidents which the people could understand and which made an imperishable impression upon their minds. For instance, there was his declination to deliver an address at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, and his change of mind after Champ Clark had agreed to speak on that occasion. No member of the G. A. R. has forgotten that.

Then there was his abrupt change from an avowed policy of pitiless publicity to a practice of studied secrecy. The American people will not long trust any man who will not trust

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them. For many months he resisted the efforts of the equal suffragists to learn his attitude upon the question in which they were interested and to which they were giving of their time and labor and money. His belated announcement was received with open expression of doubt as to its sincerity.

But there is one other, and much less important incident, which has had a more wide-spread and lasting effect than any of these. For more than a year the American people were given a picture of President Wilson bowed with the weight and worry of public duties, bearing a load of grief and devoting his entire time to the cares of government. This went on with the President's knowledge, if not by his instruction. Then came the sudden disclosure that much of his time had been spent in pleasure seeking—golfing, motoring, and other

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matters, to the exclusion of cabinet meetings, delay of diplomatic correspondence and inattention to the public service.

Prior to this latest incident, the American people were wont to listen to all of President Wilson's utterances with a marked degree of respect. If they differed with him they did it courteously and with reluctance. They believed him sincere in his attitude. But one after another have come the little acts which appeal to the minds of the common people and give them an intuitive understanding of their fellowmen.

ELEVEN YEARS AGO

Dr. R. M. Morrow, J. M. Fix, J. C. Staley, J. L. Scott, J. Zel, Walter, J. P. Cook, J. W. Cooke, W. E. Sharpe and a few others met and organized

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