

Letters To The Editor

PASSES THE BUCK, SAYS GIBBONS.

Coolidge Passes Union's Petition for Carter's Removal Up to Department of Justice.

Editor, The Herald: President Coolidge asked the Department of Justice as to the legal status of George H. Carter. The decision of the Department: as to his qualifications as a practical printer has not as yet been handed down...

"When Is a Printer?" As to Carter's qualifications as a "practical printer": A delegation from the International Printing Pressmen's Union waited on Secretary C. Bascom Sloop at the White House...

Ye Gods! Has it come to pass that the opinion of a delegation of hod-carriers can give a clear bill as an "expert plumber" or "plasterer" or "stair-builder" to one of their own craft?

Representative Blanton, of Texas, is contemplating registration to abolish the Government Printing Office and put this business in private hands...

"Directed by a non-expert; Force is dissatisfied and disgruntled. Under the present regime men take little interest in their work."

Appointments controlled by patronage instead of merit and experience.

In speaking of the public printer Rep. Blanton said: "That man Carter knows more about printing than a jack rabbit. He isn't a practical printer or bookbinder. Some senator friend put him there."

We are waiting the official "qualifications" decision. Mr. Lauffer is somewhat of a scrapper and last Sunday he made the remark: "I have just begun to fight."

The I. T. U. Election.

As a forerunner to the I. T. U. election of officers in May, we organized a James M. Lynch Campaign Club last Sunday with several hundred strong and every one immediately got on the job. Each office has one or more members of the committee as representatives...

AND ANOTHER PASSES ON.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 10, 1924. Fraternally, GEO. W. GIBBONS.

CARPENTER WANTS A WIFE.

Editor, The Herald: I am intensely interested in the organization campaign, and also interested in the organization of the Women's Auxiliary to the Central Labor Union.

I want a wife so she can join the Auxiliary, I am a carpenter, and a good one. I am 43 years of age, but don't look it. I make as good wages as any carpenter in Charlotte, and am trying to have the scale raised here so I can receive more.

If any of you fair readers are unattached, lonely, and looking for a strong right arm for protection, a letter addressed to me will bring an appointment. Respect for my mother and the other women through whose veins my blood runs is sufficient guarantee to any woman that all correspondence will be treated as a gentleman should always treat the correspondence of a woman.

DARN UNDERWOOD, ANYHOW.

Editor, The Herald: Senator Oscar W. Underwood is a candidate for President. He is a "wet" in disguise and a reactionary in the open.

Another measure he opposed, and likewise his ardent supporter for the Presidency, former Senator Joseph W. Bailey, was one to regulate the manufacture of matches. In 1910 President Taft urged Congress to enact a law to protect the many thousands of workers, mostly women and children, engaged in the manufacture of matches...

In line with the President's suggestion a bill to prohibit this dangerous and inhuman practice was introduced, but a strong well-financed lobby appeared in Washington and successfully opposed

it. It was introduced again in 1912 with a thoroughly aroused public sentiment supporting it. In the issue of the "Outlook" of February 17, 1912, Editor Lyman Abbott wrote an editorial under the caption "Human Lives or Commercial Profits," in part as follows: "Sooner or later the health of the workers who come into contact with the fumes of the phosphorus are almost inevitably attacked by the disease, known as 'phossy-jaw,' whose consequences are often death, but more often a life worse than death."

Pages 3965 to 3979, Congressional Record of the 62nd Congress, records the votes and speeches made by Mr. Underwood against the bill. Despite his strong opposition it passed the house by a vote of 168 yeas and 31 nays. It then went to the Senate where Senator Bailey took the lead against it. During one of the many speeches delivered by Bailey against the bill he was reminded by Senator Gallinger that the good women wanted the legislation. Senator Bailey replied to Senator Gallinger as follows: "Oh, yes, Mr. President, when the women and the labor organizations get through running this Congress there will not be one shred of the Constitution left; see page 4235 Congressional Record, 62nd Congress. The bill was finally passed, became a law, and the inhuman practice ended."

In calling attention to the Coolidge candidacy being affiliated with "Team Democracy," let us Democrats not forget that the Underwood candidacy has "Phossy-jaw."

JOSEPH S. MYERS, Austin, Texas.

FROM PENS OF OTHERS

EDITORS AND EDITORS (Iowa Homestead.)

There are two paths which any man starting life as an editor may choose. One is the easy way of conventional platitude and harmless union, in which nothing is said which could by any possible chance give offense to anyone for whose support the editor cares.

The other path is a rough and rocky one to travel. Its surface has not been smoothed by as many feet as the other and easier road. Sometimes it leads to dark valleys and up steep inclines, and whoever chooses it must oftentimes travel a lonely journey. But it has its compensation, and the man who chooses it needs no sympathy, and is not entitled to any particular credit, because he is simply acting out his natural impulses, which he is powerless to alter.

Big "Bill" Pitts pulled his faithful old engine into the Salisbury yards and then turned to meet death, and he met it unafraid and with manly courage. More than once he had faced the terror that flyeth by night along the shining rails which made light by the glare from out his engine.

But in the old engineer's cab ride many a Bill Pitts, strong, courageous and true to duty. It is on this type of red blooded men who pilot the monster trains by day and dark nights that the weary traveler invokes a blessing and then turns calmly and peacefully to his pillow, strong in the belief that he will awake with the morning well on his journey and with every hair unharmed.

"Bill" Pitts has made his last run, his old engine bearing the personal imprint of the man who guided it for many years will sadly miss the old pal, if such can be possible. He has gone to a reward which he has earned, but another of like type and courage and character will take his place in the cab and many thousands of passengers will calmly trust and believe to the full that all will be well when the trains pull into the terminal, even though with strength gone the engineer turns to meet a new face that is coupled with an icy hand.

Bill Pitts has climbed down out of the cab, but another has climbed up to take his place, and it will be ever thus with life, for as the tired hands that have served lose their grip and straighten out for a final rest, another with rich life blood pulsating vigorously will take the throttle and the old engine will bound out for a service that lengthens with the days, even as men rise, serve and pass out. Give Bill a clear track, serve and pass out. Give Bill a clear track, wave a friendly goodby and a word of commendation for his gallant service through a brief day.

MR. BAILEY'S TAX CONTROVERSY. (Wilmington Star.) The public is probably not as much interested in the quarrel between Mr. Bailey and certain newspapers about his taxation views as they are in the question as to what his views actually are. However, the views of any and all candidates on taxation at this time are of supreme importance to the people of North Carolina and of great interest to them.

During the last two years the policy of the democratic party in the state has been to leave the valuation and assessment of all real estate to the local communities, that is, to the counties, towns, and tax districts; and to raise the revenue for state purposes, from corporation taxes, income taxes, license taxes and the like. We are unqualifiedly committed to that policy because it is democratic in two senses—it is democratic in the first place on account of the fact that it is the policy established by the democratic party; and it is democratic in the second place; because it takes away from the state the power to fix the rates and valuation of lands and other property locally situated, and leaves this to the local communities, so the people of these communities can hold their own representatives responsible to them for such matters.

On the same date, to-wit, February 11, 1919, the Greensboro quoted from the same speech of Mr. Bailey, the following: "Declaring the income tax had always been the last resort of the state for raising revenue and never used except upon the spur of necessity, and usually in war time, Mr. Bailey declared the plan to tax incomes was the most untimely ever proposed to a general assembly of the electorate."

We are not using these quotations as criticism of Mr. Bailey, because he has a perfect right to hold these views, but we use them as an expression of his views in 1919, which we do not know that he has changed, which views are unalterably opposed to, because we believe that the question of local taxation should be left to the localities and not determined at Raleigh, and because we believe that the income and corporate taxes are necessary for the administration of the government with all its charitable and educational institutions, which must be supported.

We have not seen any denial of this statement as being Mr. Bailey's views on the taxation of timber. We are prepared to go a long way in advocating tax laws which will encourage the preservation of our resources rather than their destruction, and we are afraid there is a tendency in North Carolina to tax unused property out of existence so that it will be forced into the hands of someone who may use it, but we cannot countenance the suggestion that standing timber of this state, largely owned by timber companies, which is increasing in value by growth so as to make the investment profitable, should be relieved from taxation or bear any less burden than other real estate.

We are merely expressing our views on these tax questions as they arise, which have been the views we have held through recent years of tax legislation; and which we expect to continue to hold as a general proposition regardless of who may be the next governor of North Carolina. We regret that we have found it necessary to differ with life-long friends on many public questions, and especially on the question of taxation, but this difference carries with it no bitterness or animosity, but only represents a definite conviction on our part as to these public questions.

We differ in many respects with our friends in Washington with reference to the present tax controversy there, but we insist that we are in absolute harmony with democratic platforms and democratic principles on the question of taxation. We favor the present segregation of local and state taxes and believe that the only method of getting the best results from equitable tax laws is for the state to levy and collect the taxes for its purpose out of these enterprises which are more than local and out of incomes, franchises, etc., and to allow the counties to take the entire tax for local purposes from their own people.

Control of the number of safety appliance inspectors, their salaries and allowances is given to the Interstate Commerce Commission by a bill that is sponsored by Senator Cummins of Iowa just offered in the Senate. Existing law limit the number of inspectors that may be employed to 50 and stipulates the amount that may be paid as salary. Chief Inspector A. G. Pack, in his report to the commission, declares that there are too few inspectors and that their salaries are not adequate, but that nothing can be done about it until the safety appliance act is changed. Under the Cummins proposal it would be up to the commission to say how many inspectors are needed, what they shall be paid and what their duties shall be.

S. Glenn Young, the bravest of the brave, the hero of the heroes, the man with a charmed life, has been cutting up in Herring, Ill. He is lucky in that he always gets someone else killed while he himself escapes. He walks off with the laurels, and leaves others to mourn their dead. Wish he'd take a trip up to Shalton Laurel, in Madison county, and meet some of those old mountaineers who can shoot a hoot owl's eye out with their old rifle at a distance of a mile and a half.

SHIPSTEAD SAYS MELLON HAS BOOSTED THE INTEREST RATES

Charges That Added 1 Per Cent Means Billions a Year to Financiers and Levies Burden of Five Billion on the People. Mellon Stops Sale of Treasury Certificates in Western States.

In the administration, through Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and the members of the Federal Reserve Board, engaged in an effort to systematically boost interest rates in this country, thus adding tremendously to the burdens of the farmers and business men? Senator Shipstead of Minnesota raised that issue in a scholarly address in the Senate last Friday.

Evidently news of what the Senator proposed to say "leaked" and reached the ears of the Secretary. In any event, Secretary Mellon hastily issued an order stopping the sale of treasury savings certificates in 17 Western states.

Senator Shipstead pointed out that the high rate of interest paid on these treasury certificates by the government had drawn deposits from the banks and was to a great degree responsible for the many bank failures in the West and Northwest.

People's Burden of Debt. In this connection Senator Shipstead produced some figures which were calculated to provoke widespread discussion.

He said exhaustive research had convinced him that the total indebtedness of the people of this country—including federal, state and municipal indebtedness as well as private indebtedness—totalled \$117,000,000,000.

Senator King of Utah interrupted to say that he had been engaged on the same task but that his figures show that the total is approximately \$129,000,000,000.

"Therefore, I am sure the figures of the Senator from Minnesota are well within the limit," said Senator King.

Senator Shipstead pointed out that an increase of one per cent in the interest rate on this vast indebtedness would mean an increase of more than a billion dollars a year in the interest charges which the American people must pay.

"There appears to be a concerted effort on the part of the treasury department and the Federal Reserve banks to maintain a high rate of interest," declared Senator Shipstead. "An increase in the interest rate on the debt of the United States raises the rate on all borrowings."

"I have stated that in my opinion one-half of one per cent interest could be saved if the Secretary of the treasury saw fit to do so. I think that is a very conservative estimate. I have had letters from many bankers who state that in their opinion the federal government should not pay over 3 to 3 1/2 per cent interest on its indebtedness."

Financial Writer's Estimate. "In the Journal of Commerce and Finance" Mr. Theodore H. Price makes the claim that the people of the United States are paying at least one per cent too much interest on all indebtedness in the United States."

Shipstead pointed out that Treasury Department, which has been engaged on the same task but that his figures show that the total is approximately \$129,000,000,000.

Native—What are you jabbing about, my good friend? Tourist—This wonderful climate—this great country—Native—Well, now, stop and stay here the rest of your life. You don't have to go back. Tourist—I'm not going back, but think what I've missed by not being born here!



UNSEALED "What we want to do is to get at the solid facts." "I have been gnawing at one of those months—the concrete floor of my empty coal bin."

An Exception. A fool and his dog are soon parted. In a saying we picked up at school: But what of the grasping old miser? He's surely one kind of a fool.

A Hopeless Task. Judge Cluer (to young married woman, who would persist in talking in the Shoreditch county court)—You have been married only a short time, and he hasn't taught you to hold your tongue yet.

Woman (emphatically)—And he never will—London Tit-Bits.

Has a Full Supply. Hub—So you've been to a teacher of physical culture? Well, what did he tell you? Wife—The first thing he told me was to keep my chin up.

Hub—Huh I hadn't noticed any falling off in that line.

Saved by Quick Wit. "For the first time you forgot to kiss me this morning."

"O, how those words of yours relieve me!" "What do you mean, dear?" "Why, I thought you wouldn't notice it!"—Stray Stories.

Securities amount to only 11 billion dollars, while at the same time the government of the United States has outstanding over 91 billions of securities, which the law makes tax-exempt when held by corporations."

Senator Shipstead said that economists argue that a one per cent addition to the original cost of a product would be multiplied five times before it came to the ultimate consumer.

"If that rule holds," said he, "then one billion dollars' additional interest rate that goes into the original cost of production has increased to five billion dollars by the time the product reaches the ultimate consumer."

Shipstead's Plain Language. "The power to tax is the power to destroy," asserted Senator Shipstead. "The power to fix the interest rate is the power to tax, and therefore, the power to destroy."

"I maintain this power has been so used by the Secretary of the Treasury. There is plenty of evidence to sustain this claim, not only in the empty vaults of the North west states, but also in the empty pockets of the despairing American farmer."

Stock speculators, he said, get all the money they need for margin gambling at 4 per cent, while farmers and business men in many sections are unable to get it at any price.

Some Questions for Mellon. Then he propounded these very pertinent questions: "Why was this special favor granted to corporations?" "Why should the secretary of the treasury urge a constitutional amendment to remove future tax-exempt features of municipal and state bonds when he states on page 6 of his report that these tax-exempt

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