



Everything



BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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ON SALE AT NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

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CASE OF PAGE THE CITIZEN

Page is the blind man who has been a resident of this city for many years, and who has gained his livelihood by playing a violin on the public streets, receiving from those willing to chip in a few coins a day. He has never been loud or boisterous or persistent in asking for alms. In fact, he never says a word. A little tin cup on the end of his violin suggests to the passerby what to do, and it is strictly up to the passerby. The Commissioners have made a motion, which prevailed, that Page can no longer engage in this pursuit, his only means of subsistence. The idea seemed to be that there were too many mendicants, too many cripples and blind men and deformed men and all kinds of vagabonds seeking a livelihood by holding up the general public, much to the annoyance of shopkeeper and pedestrian.

That may be true. But we shall insist that in the case of Page there should have been consideration shown. He has been here for many years. He is a resident of the city. He must become a charge on some society or some taxpayers. He must live, and he is blind. He says it is no pleasure to him to stand four hours on the streets staring at people he cannot see. He does it as his duty, in order to be self-sustaining.

The Commissioners argued that if you let him play his fiddle, then you must let all blind people play fiddles. But that is not the case. If the city defines a new fire limit it simply says no more houses shall be built of wood in that district; it doesn't destroy those already standing. The Commissioners with good grace could have passed an ordinance declaring that no street mendicants would be allowed save those who for ten years had been here. Page had rights and they should be protected. He is a man wholly unfitness to do anything in the way of manual labor. He says he has no money to embark in business, such as broom making or mattress making or things in which the blind engage. He is willing. He doesn't want to be a county charge and he doesn't want charity to directly assist him. He wants to play his fiddle and take his chances.

In this state once upon a time a medical society was formed and certain requirements had to be met before one could procure license to practice medicine. But a great many men were already practicing and had been for years who had no license. The law very properly took care of those people and they were allowed to continue. So it was with pharmacists. So in many trades, and so in many professions.

This blind man Page, this unfortunate fellow being who looks with staring eyes upon a world of darkness, is willing to try to make his own living. In this city for at least a dozen years to our knowledge he has been allowed to do this, and suddenly, because some new commissioners are given authority, the blind man is knocked down and his only pleasure taken from him—and he is a resident of our city.

We are opposed to the professional beggar who travels from town to town and who is offensive in his demands for alms, but when a citizen who plays on his violin four hours a day and receives from transients his scant livelihood is denied that pleasure and privilege when so many unspeakable things are allowed in this town, it is time everybody chipped in, and reminded our public servants that after all they are but representing the citizens.

We never spoke to Page in our life. We don't know him and have no interest in his case except the interest every man should have in his unfortunate fellow brother. The permit which Page asked the Mayor to give him should be granted, and it needn't take a vote of the Commissioners on the subject. Page is a citizen of the town and rights of priority exceed any authority that is assumed. Page has as much right to play his fiddle on the sidewalk as the five hundred joy riders who make night hideous with their horns when leaving the Municipal theater. Indeed he is not one-half the nuisance that a hundred other things are which apparently are unnoted.

The Straws.

It is said the straws show which way the wind is blowing, and the average reader of the newspaper cannot help but be impressed with the fact that women are just now more active than men in things having to do with the war. Every day we read where the women are organizing something worth while—and the men of course are enlisting. But the men who are at home are not doing one-half as much as the women are doing—and think how all this would have shocked old man Saint Paul, the tentmaker.

The revenue bill hasn't yet been sent out, but it will be along in plenty of time to make Uncle Sam a Christmas present.

FIGHTING BOB IN HARD LUCK

The American Defense Society has started a vigorous campaign to arouse the people to bring pressure upon the Senate for the expulsion of Senators La Follette, Reed, Stone, Gronna, Gore, Hardwick and Vardaman "as public enemies."

This action was decided upon at a meeting of the executive committee of the American Defense Society held recently, and work has been begun along the lines laid out. At that meeting it was resolved:

"That the society unremittently devote its energies to the expulsion of Senators La Follette, Reed, Stone, Gronna, Gore, Hardwick and Vardaman from the Senate of the United States and all further participation, as public enemies, in the affairs of the nation."

In furtherance of this decision the society has forwarded a sample resolution to hundreds of organizations throughout the United States, with the request that it be adopted at meetings of the various bodies and forwarded to the representatives and senators at Washington. The sample resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

"Whereas, this nation is at war and seriously involved with internal questions which demand a definite declaration of loyalty and allow of no question of motives and principles of patriotism or acts or utterances unbecoming Americans; and

"Whereas, all over this land, and especially in our large cities, there exists a propaganda of treason under cover of free speech and a free press; and

"Whereas, recent developments have shown that the motives of true and patriotic Americans have been retarded by the willful obstruction and treasonable tactics, as well as public utterances of a disloyal nature by Senators La Follette, Reed, Stone, Gronna, Gore, Hardwick and Vardaman; and

"Whereas, such utterances, accompanied by the prestige of their high offices, have served to create treasonable sentiments that tend to weaken the government in its prosecution of the war, be it hereby

"Resolved, That we (name of organization) respectfully petition the Senate of the United States to institute proceedings looking to the expulsion of the above named senators as being disloyal and seditious, giving aid and comfort to our enemies."

And why not? If Emma Goldman is to be deported; if newspapers not half so blatant as the senators named are denied the mails; if the soap-box orators are to be suppressed, why not go after the higher-ups and give them what is being given those in lowlier walks of life? That is the question which irresistibly presents itself to the average man, and the hope is that the society having this matter in charge will make such a vigorous campaign that the Senate will be forced to act.

Officers of the American Defense Society call attention to the fact that the resolutions committee of the Senate, which is considering the charges made against Senator La Follette, includes two senators who since the beginning of the war have consistently obstructed the measures for the successful conduct of the war advocated by the President and Congress and have voted against them. Specifically, they say, the resolutions committee of the Senate includes in its membership Senators Reed of Missouri and Vardaman of Mississippi, who have opposed nearly all war legislation.

Every effort will be made by the American Defense Society to arouse sentiment against the senators named, to show in detail what they have done to obstruct war legislation, to give extracts from their alleged disloyal speeches on the floor of the Senate and elsewhere, and to give a record of their negative votes upon legislation vital to the interests of the United States to the war against Germany.

Such literature will be sent broadcast throughout the country, and it is believed that by the time Congress convenes again in December public opinion will so express itself that drastic action will be forced upon the loyal senators to expel from their body the men whose Americanism is charged as doubtful.

Liberty Bonds.

The Guilford County Liberty Bond Club will meet Monday night. It is suggested that a great mass meeting be held at the Municipal theater Sunday. Just whether this suggestion will meet approval is not yet known. Upon request we made the announcement last night that such a movement was desirable. Up to today we have received no definite information as to whether the meeting will be held. It should be. Every citizen of Greensboro has a great interest, a vital interest, in the successful outcome of this second bond sale. It is necessary to secure money to prosecute the war, and every citizen must do his bit. If he can't buy bonds he can enthruse, he can help. Let the meeting be called officially tomorrow, and the crowd will gather.

The great state fair is to be on next week, and thousands of people will attend along the lines of conservation. This year the women are taking an exceptionally active part in the big show.

HOOVER'S JOB IMPOSSIBLE

There has been much speculation as to whether Hoover could regulate the prices on things people eat. It appears that he is moving up, and pretty soon the President is to issue a proclamation that will really regulate prices, and it is said that in effect the government will really control the food supply from the corner grocery as well as from the wholesale house and the manufacturer.

That there has been in these war times terrible manipulation there is no doubt. Take it in the metal trade, and within ten days certain metals have fluctuated, gone from 161-2 cents to 14 cents and from 14 to 11 cents, and if you buy wire the market changes before your message reaches the house from which you order. That is all speculation, gambling pure and simple; and such things can be stopped and should be stopped. True, there will be some fluctuations, but to jump and dance around like the market has been doing the past thirty days is conclusive evidence that it is manipulation pure and simple.

The print paper situation is another exhibition of manipulation and speculation and highway robbery. These things we know about. There is no reason why a small load of wood should go up fifty per cent, except that people owning wood arbitrarily say it is worth so much, and the dealer must pay it and the consumer must meet his price. The attempt to regulate coal prices, dealers tell us, has failed. Some coal has been reduced and other kinds raised, and after all with the coal business it isn't so much the price that pinches as it is the supply.

It is said that Hoover proposes to put a price on all things that people eat, and that meats and potatoes and butter and milk and rice and canned goods and staple vegetables will come in for regulation. The hope is that Mr. Hoover can work out his price list and put it in working order.

But we can't see how it will come about. Eggs, as an illustration, are selling around fifty cents. Take the Greensboro market as an illustration. If there are but a few dozen eggs brought in and people want them, the farmer is wise. He has the eggs and he says they are worth so much, and the grocer pays him forty-five cents a dozen and naturally must have his profit and he sells for fifty cents. The grocer, the man from whom you buy, isn't making anything. Suppose Hoover says eggs must sell at thirty cents. This would mean cold storage eggs, and the farmer comes along and says that his eggs are fresh, just laid, the cackle is still on them, and the man who has doodle bugs and who takes his raw, why, naturally that man is willing to pay more for the fresh, home-laid eggs, and the price is whatever the owner of the eggs decides upon.

In a general way it may be decreed that people cannot store eggs in cold storage; it may be unlawful for a dealer in food products to have more than a certain amount on hand, and if this happens the farmer, the man who produces all these things, will go into something else. Consequently the supply and demand theory will again prove good.

In this section of the country we all know how the farmer does with tobacco. If it happens that tobacco sells at a low price the farmer the next year doesn't raise any and the price goes up. Then the next year he goes into the business and all of them raise tobacco and tobacco comes down. This year those who raised tobacco have been getting almost fabulous prices for it, and next year the chances are that the crop will be so large that the price will be cut perhaps a third. Then the next year the crop will be light and up it goes again.

More Revelations.

It is stated that the State Department has many new features to bring out in connection with the German propaganda in this country, and it is said—how well authenticated we do not know—that many Americans so-called are living in fear and trembling lest their names be disclosed.

As time goes on it becomes apparent that the Germans had in this country the greatest organization ever known; that they had in their employ big men and little men, and that public speakers and newspapers were bought just like merchandise, and the scheme was to capture America by getting Congress to believe that German sentiment was so strong in this country that it would never do to declare war against her, the while she was planning to get in position to actually capture this country.

And it may happen that all these things will be disclosed, and those who took money, those who really conspired against the flag, will be held up to the scorn they deserve. The Bernstorff correspondence, the fact that he was nothing but a German spy, high up and trusted, has shocked the nation, but perhaps greater shocks are to come. And all this accumulative evidence only gives the President greater strength, because it shows he acted only when he had to act; that had he waited much longer all would have been lost.

THE PICKETS ARE MILITANT

The White House picketing is on again, and some of the deluded suffragettes—the kind who are mannish and foolish and perhaps half-witted—are invading this state in order to force their views on the nation. The White House picketers should not be thrown in jail. Some house of detention for the simple-minded would be the proper place to put these street bawlers who have set suffrage back at least twenty years.

These women are panting for notoriety. They can not argue their cause, therefore they proceed to make themselves notorious by doing unlawful things, morally unlawful if not legally unlawful. They dream in their little, half-baked think tanks that they can coerce President Wilson; that they can force him to do something that he isn't going to do because they parade up and down in front of the White House carrying banners which proclaim the feminine of the jackass species.

The Wilmington Dispatch writes an interesting editorial on the subject, which we reproduce as follows:

"The only way to break up that White House picketing nuisance is to keep on arresting the guilty women and putting heavy penalties on them. As the nuisance continues the severity of the punishment ought to increase. The women who form those pickets know they are violating the law, and their conduct has become a defiance of the law. There is a grandstand play, and they do not deserve any sympathy when they are sent to prison. In fact, they most probably would be greatly disappointed if the authorities took no notice of their conduct. It is part of their game to be arrested and sent to prison so they can pose as martyrs before the country."

"We are glad to know that the real leaders of woman suffrage are not parties to such procedure and do not approve of the conduct of those women who are forcing themselves and what they claim to be their cause on public attention."

"No doubt the refusal of the leaders of the New York campaign to endorse the picket movement has strengthened their cause."

"We are also glad to note, as announced in yesterday's Dispatch, that the Wilmington Equal Suffrage League will not conduct the meeting to be held in this city tomorrow, at which Mrs. Younger will speak in behalf of the cause, because of their disapproval of the White House picketing proceedings, of which Mrs. Younger has been a prominent supporter. The North Carolina women who advocate and are working for woman suffrage know that such are not the means to be employed to gain the votes of the men of this state to their cause. They know that when North Carolina adopts woman suffrage it will be through a sense of justice to the women and a desire to give them what those so voting believe to be their just rights, and that no such sentiments can be instilled into them by such conduct as that of the White House pickets. And, besides, our North Carolina women would not care to use such means to acquire the deserved end. They are not that kind of women."

"We believe the principle of universal suffrage will be adopted in this state before many years pass by, but it is going to be brought about by calm, dignified and womanly campaigning on the part of the women leaders in the cause, aided by men whose high esteem for women and belief in their qualifications lead them to think that they should be given the suffrage privilege."

The Case Of Dr. Alexander.

The case of Dr. Alexander, president of the Farmers' Union and two or three more things, is a bit peculiar. He has been accused of being in a class with La Follette when it comes to talking sedition, and many newspapers have demanded that the Governor unhorse him. He holds some positions in the state which are appointive and to which Governor Bickett appointed him. But despite the many charges against him, despite the fact that the council of defense passed resolutions directed at him, but with not enough nerve to name him, the doctor still holds on and Bickett refuses to comply with the demands calling for his deputation.

We haven't kept up with the doctor. We know that the Farmers' Union is a joke and that it is simply a political machine worth nothing to farmers, but supposed to be worth something to politicians. But it isn't.

Dr. Alexander, when the Ten Sacred amendments were before the people to further the cause of a few politicians, pledged the Farmers' Union in support of them, but it was noticed when the proposition was pounded into the flat earth's surface that the farmers helped do the job and didn't consider the pledge made by the president.

If Alexander is guilty of making speeches he should not have made he certainly should retract or stand where he belongs. Of our own knowledge we haven't any information, but it appears that several people think they have. Therefore an investigation by the Department of Justice is certainly in order.

PRIVATE CAR IS NECESSARY

Judge Clark, always level headed and not always on the main track when it comes to dealing with some things, provided, of course, we know what the main track is, which we don't, is a little wobbly in this proposition:

Speaking of conservation and the elimination of waste, the Charlotte Observer, remarking that three private cars of railroad officials were recently seen attached to one Southern railway train, suggests that the private car be abolished during the war period. And why not? If the private car is not adapted to public use, for hauling passengers, it could be run in the shed and cost of operation saved—the cost of fuel necessary to haul it, the wear and tear, the wages of porters and cooks, who could be more profitably employed elsewhere.

If it be offered as an objection that the railroad officials who must travel would further crowd the already crowded cars if they had to go to day coaches and Pullmans along with their passengers, it may be answered that the traveling public would cheerfully submit to the little additional "scrouging" for the pleasure of seeing the railroad officials take what they have to take at times—standing room.

The private car is now marked the "official car," and whether the general public knows it or not the private car of the railway official is a veritable work shop and men in them work many hours a day. Stenographers and clerks travel in these cars and piles of documents are scanned, letters written and difficult problems solved. It was once our misfortune, in our sad young life, to be an employe of a railway official, and we traveled with him in his "private car." And we are here to say that the work done was harder and more of it than any desk job we ever held on a daily newspaper.

The man who imagines that the private car is simply a car carried to haul his nibs is sadly mistaken. The officials must inspect tracks; they must do a half hundred things that they could not do in a day coach or a Pullman coach, and the stenographer or clerk who accompanies an official for a week's "outing" gets home about as weary as any man who toils.

Colonel A. B. Andrews rode much in his private car, as it was called, and Colonel Andrews did more hard work on that private car than he ever did in his office. He was always a busy man. We have ridden in his private car many trips in the south, and we are here to say that he had but little time for pleasure. Night runs and day runs, all kinds of problems he was solving, and had he been forced to attempt to do the work he did in a Pullman car it could not have been done. To the man standing on the side track and looking in at the cook or porter of a private car the conclusion is that a high-salaried railway official is out for a larf. But the "official" car is one place where hard work is done, and it is as necessary in the railroad business as the conning tower on a battleship. And in these war times, when the railroads are really performing miracles, you will see a great many more private cars in service—because the master minds in them are doing big things.

Most Startling Revelations.

The revelations now being revealed to the American people concerning the Bernstorff played while pretending to be friendly to this government should make us no longer doubt the necessity of our helping the allies annihilate the kaiser. It is shown that Germany planned the conquest of the world and set about it years and years ago to accomplish its end regardless of how it was accomplished. The representative of the German government in this country, getting nothing but a spy—a man who was all in the league with murderers and cut-throats—planning to destroy the industries of this country, to blow up railways, to murder innocent people, do anything and everything that was devilish. The latest revelations made public by Secretary Lansing, and not to be questioned, should make the blood of every American citizen leap high. There is no longer any room for doubt. And when a man like La Follette says we had no right to go to war, and when he criticizes the Congress and the President for doing what they have done, he should not be investigated—he should be hanged from the nearest lamp post. That is what should happen to all such men who still attempt to criticize this country because, to save its existence, it entered a war against a country that for years has been planning its destruction. No more need be said to explain why we are in the war. That it is a righteous war no man can now doubt. And that ultimately the kaiser will be dethroned is certain.

When They Come.

When this city, acting on business principles, gives license to people to sell fresh meats on the suburbs, the people will be satisfied. Scores of citizens think the Central meat house should be abandoned. The poor man should have opportunity to buy fresh meats of his grocer, if he lives ten blocks from the market and has no telephone.