



Everything



BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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ON SALE AT THE NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

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A NEW WORLD MAY BE BETTER

It may happen that the war will bring about more changed conditions than were ever dreamed of by even the theoretical dreamers of fifty years ago.

It has often been claimed that all of God's bounties—the coal, the rock, the oil—all things placed securely within the bosom of mother earth, belonged to the common family, and that the people should own them and control them, and monopoly should never have a hand in delivering the goods.

The trouble was, however, that the people slept and left magnificent coal fields alone; let the water powers go to waste for centuries; let the oil wells stand untouched until private enterprise, often at great hazard, sought to develop them.

Just now there seems to be a notion prevalent that all these things should come under government ownership, and as a "war measure" hundreds of things are being put over.

The railways will doubtless be government owned, because the government now practically owns them. It is controlling them, and one step further and a bill will go through authorizing the purchase of them—and, presto, in one day a commercial transformation will be wrought that will change everything.

We oppose government ownership for the reason that it is generally politics and red tape. We oppose anything that tends to stifle or discourage the big-brained man who sees things and does things and is willing to take the gambler's chance.

While the government assisted in building the great transcontinental railway, while it was only possible because of government aid, the greatest scandal ever started was the building of the Central Pacific. But before the government was induced to take a part gamblers, pure and simple, in the commercial world put the thing over.

It took an individual, Cyrus W. Field, to try the Atlantic cable, and the question is if the government finally owns all these things what about development? How can we expect railroads to be built before there are towns or people? In these days if we want a rural mail route we must show that there are enough patrons along the way to make it necessary; whereas, men who built these railroads across the continent first built the roads and then made the towns and peopled the country along the right of way. Would the government be so bold? Evidently not. In the matter of telephone service. Think of the wonderful sums of money the Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company has expended in equipment. It never waits for its machinery or instruments to get old and obsolete; it hastens to put in the latest and best, and throws away as junk those things that are not right up to the minute. It understands that the public holds it responsible for service, and it gives service, the best obtainable. What would the government do with its red tape and its political pulls? It makes one shudder to imagine what it would do, and yet because of the war we are adopting all sorts of foolish things and going headlong in reforms we know nothing about.

So it may happen, besides establishing a world peace and universal democracy, that the whole system of commerce will be changed; that customs and conditions, now well ordered, will be put aside and the red tape, the politics and the pull of the "people" will come in and give us scrambled eggs in our business affairs, and we will be forced to accept what we get, because once let a political party have such immense machinery and it will forever remain in power—until the revolution! And in all countries revolutions must come—come as certain as the sun is certain to come up over the eastern edge of the earth.

And yet suppose all this happens. We all must grin and bear it; we will all be in the same boat; so, "what's the odds?"

ALL LOOKS GOOD.
The financial and insurance institutions of this city all make splendid showings for the New Year. The year just passed saw them all prosper and expand, and the chances are that the New Year has in its keeping still greater things for them. Greensboro's business interests are in fine shape, the banks, the mills, the insurance companies, which all do state and interstate business, while the local concerns for the most part all enjoyed healthy growth in 1917, and the New Year for them, too, looks promising.

AGAIN WE REGRET IT.
Again we express regret because the North Carolina congressmen could not vote for the suffrage amendment. The party is pledged to universal suffrage. The President of the United States wants it, and the sooner a question like that is out of the way the better. It must be met, and it were better to adopt it and be through with it. Woman suffrage is certain. Prohibition is certain. Why not wrap up the package and let those interested tote their bundle and be gone?

OLD JOHN D. HANDS 'EM OUT

There is no use to talk about it. John D. Rockefeller is one of the most wonderful men this world ever had—in the financial world the most wonderful. Starting out with a scant savings account, putting together his dimes and nickels, he finally got a nest egg and hatched more millions than any other man.

Instead of attempting to corner the bounties of God, he took hold of them and sold them cheaper than individual producers could sell them; let the world have its light and oils at a figure much smaller than would have been possible for small dealers to furnish it. The following news item is worth while to read again, even if you have read it:

New York, Jan. 8.—Receipt of a check for \$5,500,000 from John D. Rockefeller to enable the Rockefeller foundation to meet increasing demands for its various forms of war work without having to make further inroads on its principal funds was announced here today, by President George E. Vincent, of the foundation.

In making the announcement he pointed out that in 1917, due to war relief contributions to the Red Cross and to the Y. M. C. A., and to meet other needs growing out of war conditions, \$5,000,000 of the fund's principal was expended in addition to its income. The trustees also authorized the expenditure of another \$5,000,000 of the principal in case of need, but it is thought, President Vincent said, that Mr. Rockefeller's additional contribution will make this unnecessary.

Not taking into account the many other millions Mr. Rockefeller has given, he sees the need of more money in the great war and hands in a check for five million five hundred thousand dollars and goes along about his business. The news agencies handle it in a matter of fact way. And yet had a single man turned loose that much money in a single check fifty years ago there would have been a subject about which the world would have talked for months. But it seems to be a matter of fact, the expected, when John D. Rockefeller sits down and signs his name to checks for many millions, tosses them over to science and charity. Wonderful, indeed, is Rockefeller, and the world has benefited by his being in it. And yet the government tried, under a harsh law it had made, to put him out of business.

The freight congestion gets worse and people who have cars out and rolling have concluded they are not rolling, but gone into congestion for the winter.

TWO CHANGES.

Colonel Jim Robinson, known as "Old Hurrygraph," again becomes editor of the Durham Sun. Colonel Jim started the Sun in Durham something like thirty-odd years ago and ran it for many years. Then he sold it, and now, in his renewed youth, he takes the quill in hand again. Jim is one of the best known editors in the state; he is breezy, original and strong. Here is wishing him well and congratulations to the Sun upon securing his services.

Another change of note is that of Editor Field, of the State Journal, who goes to Washington and leases his weekly publication to Colonel Tom Boat, an editor of renown. We have in our possession a letter from Colonel Tom written some stein years ago, when we gave him some fatherly advice, and in it he stated that he wanted to have charge of a publication some day, just about what the State Journal is. The Journal wasn't going then, but Colonel Tom wanted something where his original thoughts could be handed out regardless of a business office attachment. In his new field he will do some stunts worth while. At least here is hoping so. And if good wishes were dollars we fill his pack right here.

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM.
In Paris orders have been issued that no more candy will be made and private owned automobiles must go out or commission. In this country the automobile show is on just now; dealers are making big contracts for 1918 delivery, and we spin along without thinking. Paris is forced to come down to hard pan—no candy allowed to be made and no private owned automobiles allowed to operate. We are so much farther removed from the war, and having been in but a short time, we do not yet feel the pinch we will feel if the terms of peace are not accepted within the next year.

The coal situation is all right. Plenty of coal in the ground, and by next winter the hope is that it will be dug out.

While it is only government control the right to "sue the company" still obtains, but government ownership would knock out that heretofore constitutional right enjoyed by so many patriots.

COUNTY WORK HOUSE CLOSED

The news was printed in this paper yesterday to the effect that the County Commissioners had decided to close for an indefinite period the county work house. This pen was a place where women and boys and girls were sent who were convicted of crime and who could not work on the roads.

It was the belief of the Commissioners that to send a boy or girl to such a place where there were three or four hardened women was only to further corrupt and debase them. It was shown that the women could be utilized in the jail in doing work there that was needed, and the youthful offenders would be cared for in some other way. Accordingly the county work house, long an abiding place for the utterly abandoned old bats which flutter here and there, is a thing of the past. Now, if the County Commissioners would see their way clear to give us a county welfare league with a whole-time superintendent, the youthful offender would be cared for.

When a boy yet tender in years and young in vice, which had not yet reached crime offended Society, instead of hustling him off to jail, a work house or the roads, he would be taken by this superintendent and found a home somewhere. Some farmer, some business man, somebody would give him a trial, and the chances are that he would make good. That is why we need, and badly need, a county welfare league, a life-saving station on the land, an organization that would look after the youthful offenders and help them. This would not only save to Society a boy needed by Society, but it would reduce the expense of maintaining prisons. It is a fact which statistics prove that the youthful offender who is rushed to a prison or a jail or the roads always comes out with his hand raised against society and never willing to continue through life with his hand raised against. Prisons do not reform. It is an impossible thought. To throw a boy among a bunch of hardened criminals means that the boy will come out a graduate in crime. His surroundings are all against him, his teachings are in the other path.

In abolishing the work house the commissioners did a good day's work. Now if they will carry out the same idea and give us a superintendent for the county welfare league they will have done something well worth while.

A HABIT.

The government sends out word that potatoes this year are more plentiful than ever; that they are the cheapest food that can be found. And yet potatoes sell readily at two dollars per bushel—fifty cents a peck—which is out of all reason. Were the people of America to conclude that they would have a few potatoless days, say about thirty hand-running, potatoes would fall to a dollar a bushel—a good price for them. But because the high price on all things goes, no matter what the product is, it is a habit to make the retailer and the consumer in turn pay a fancy price.

A LIFE LINE.

In the President's message a life line is thrown to Russia. If that muddled country can see the point she will accept, in sincerity, what the United States has said. If she doesn't see the point she will go to destruction. The indications are just now that Russia is sincere. She has refused to allow the Germans to catch her in the web so finely spun by the kaiser, and the chances are that before another week has passed Germany will have given up all hope of using Russia as a stepping stone.

LONDON BUTCHERS CLOSE.

The news from London is that scores of butchers of that city have been forced to close their stalls because there is no meat to be had for love or money. Those of us who in this country still sit down to a double porterhouse steak and wonder why times are hard should rejoice to know that America is still well supplied with meat—but meatless days will help keep the supply. Not until we have been harder pressed than we are at present will we fully appreciate the privations of those rich people in the old world.

GOT TO BE.

The different investigations concerning the conduct of the war are still on, and Secretary Baker explains things to his satisfaction. No matter what happens there is always some fellow who wants an investigation. It is an inherent right to demand it. In these days, when there are so many men of so many minds, the wonder is that there are not more investigations.

January bobs along and so far has brought no warm weather. December was freighted with snow and ice, and it isn't very long until spring. Can't touch wood, because there is no wood.

CLASS ONE TO FURNISH MEN

Provost Marshal General Crowder tells the nation that he thinks from class one will come enough soldiers for the war. In other words, he thinks that a million men will be secured from this class.

Class one comprises single men without dependent relatives; married men who have habitually failed to support their families; married men who are dependent upon wives for support; men not usefully engaged and whose families are supported by income independent of their labor; unskilled farm laborers; unskilled industrial laborers; registrants by or in respect of whom no deferred classification is claimed or made; registrants who fail to submit questionnaires and in respect of whom no deferred classification is claimed or made; and all registrants not including any other division of the schedule.

There are five classes, and the men who are in the third and fourth and fifth classes feel that perhaps they will escape military duty. In other words it seems to be the idea of the government to take first those who are worth but little at home. The man who is engaged in industrial work, the man who is supporting dependents, he will be chosen last. If a million men can be secured from class one, the chances are that a million more soldiers will be sufficient to win the war.

It is a cinch that sooner or later the war must end. It cannot be drawn out forever, and Germany no doubt will finally be forced into submission. She has shown wonderful pluck, never such before exhibited; but if reports are true she is drawing dangerously near the starvation line, and the fact that she can't hitch up her way with Russia gives us all hope that the end is much nearer than it otherwise would be.

Those who are in other classes in the questionnaires submitted, it is called if needed, but the general belief now is that class one will furnish the remaining soldiers who will go "over there."

GETTING CLOSER.

Mr. Hoover now urges that the government control all sugar for the next year; that it virtually own the sugar refineries and that it also control the prices of all kinds of things to eat. This would do the business. If Uncle Sam concludes to go into the foodstuff business he can make short work of what is on hand. The question is, can he get the product if the element of chance is taken away from the man who gambles each year on his crop? If he can, all right; if he can't, all right. Try it, anyway, and then see what happens. The sugar business has shown that people get along without it, and maybe it would be a good idea to teach us something new in the way of tastes. The North American Indian never used sugar. Hunters and trappers who live to be a hundred never know what sugar means. Perhaps if we would cut sugar out there would be less sickness, less dyspepsia, less kidney trouble, less a whole lot of things. Why should a man voluntarily throw a pound of heavy fruit cake into his bread basket and expect his digestive organs to work it up without charging overtime? Why spoil the taste of coffee by using great quantities of sugar? Why? Simply because the sugar man put it over and caused the peoples of the earth to form a habit. A dog will soon develop a sweet tooth and raise shiny if you don't give him candy, and a kid will cry for the sugar treat; but all artificial, all a habit that need not be formed. Why sugar?

SETTLED.

The message of President Wilson, handing down the ultimatum of the United States on a question of peace, perhaps is one of the most important papers yet issued by Mr. Wilson. Without heralding his intentions he informed Congress an hour in advance that he had something to say, and he said something.

There is now no chance for Germany or pacifists or German sympathizers to be asking what we are wanting in this war or why we are in war. Our intention is made clear and clean—no ifs and no ands.

Germany must now either conclude that we are able to win the fight and come into camp while she has some little face left, or she must fight to the finish, which will mean her defeat and annihilation. The assumption is that if the German people get a chance to read the President's message, in connection with the message of Lloyd-George speaking for the British, they will insist that Germany make arrangements to close the war.

The issues are now clearly defined. No longer is there any chance for Germany to throw the burden on the allies. Germany must answer these two messages—and her answer must be soon.

Kaiser Bill has many admirers in this country, and some of them seem to be in the Congress of the United States.

J. BARLEYCORN IS DYING HARD

Those who are against the prohibition amendment are putting up a great fight. It is the old story of state's rights and personal freedom, but it will not work. The New York Herald views it this way:

From Albany there comes report of a determination on the part of somebody to force a vote at this session of the legislature upon ratification of the prohibition amendment. Whether, as intimated, personal politics plays a part in this movement or does not, it is one that should be dropped immediately.

There can be no warrant for an attempt to take snap judgment upon this or any other proposal to amend the constitution of the United States. There is less than no warrant for attempting to commit this state to prohibition before the people of the state have had opportunity to express their will.

The issue involved in this proposed amendment to the constitution is one that should not be forced at a time when the country is at war—when the minds of the people are directed, and properly directed, to the problems that war has brought. From the great, the overshadowing, cause in which the United States is enlisted the minds of the people should not be distracted under any pretext.

After this war is ended there will be ample opportunity to submit the prohibition question to the people of New York. Any politician who, from selfish or other motive, lends himself to snap judgment methods and tries to deprive the people of their right to pass upon this question on its merits will earn their eternal condemnation.

But there will be no need of it after the war is over, because before the war is over prohibition has been submitted. The majority of the people are in favor of it; the handwriting is on the wall, and Old John Barleycorn is really worse off than the kaiser, and that is about the extreme limit. Great things are happening and are to happen.

ARE THEY GRAFTING?

There has been a society organized in this country to solicit tobacco for the boys at the front—those in the trenches. The idea was for the American people to buy tobacco and send to the boys abroad, and the scheme was that in each package was to be a postcard that was to be returned as a souvenir to the man who sent the tobacco. In the Thanksgiving number of the "Oo La La" Times, published somewhere in France by the 17th U. S. Engineers, we read this paragraph under the caption, "Pertinent Paragraph":

We note that the congressional party has returned from a trip over the blood-stained battlefields of Europe. We are wondering if they had an opportunity to investigate the activities of the "Get-Rick Quick Wallingfords" who are increasing the size of their bank rolls by selling tobacco, cigarettes, etc., so generously contributed by the folks at home to the boys over here. This is food for thought, and if you don't believe it, just buy a carton of cigarettes and see if you don't find a postal card enclosed for acknowledgment to the donor.

How about it? So it would appear that in some way the consignments of free tobacco have fallen into the hands of dealers, who are selling the gifts to the boys for real money.

Naturally it is a pertinent paragraph, and the hope is that Washington authorities will be informed and look into this matter. Hundreds of thousands of packages of tobacco have been cheerfully donated, and it is a pity that some grafter has secured the cargoes and is holding up the boys for what is by right theirs.

THE SHOE COST.

The government is now looking into the cost of shoes and it is going to try to find out why it is that a pair of shoes should cost two or three times what they should cost according to its information. There is this about the shoe situation: All of us can go barefooted in the summer, if necessary, as a war measure, but we can't go without food. So perhaps by the time the investigation ends it will be the good old summer time, and some Society with a press agent will be advocating barefooted days six days in the week and shoes only for Sunday. That would help some, and if Fashion decreed it would give the bunions and ingrowing toe nails a chance.

And then it rained, and then it melted the snow, and then it turned and "friz." Same old story.

If you can cut it down to one grate, do so. Coal is scarce and said to be getting scarcer.