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A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Nations, like men, owe all the strength and vitality that is in them to noble thoughts and aspirations.—Balzac.

A NEEDED CHANGE.

The Sentinel referred, a few days ago, to the desirability of a change in the present court system whereby a two-thirds or three-fourths majority vote by the members of a jury would be sufficient to assure a verdict.

Commenting on this subject, the Danville Register says: "The Greensboro Record in commenting on this case and the ability of one man to thwart the administration of justice, advocates such a change in the organic law as will warrant conviction on the judgment of a certain decisive majority of the jury of twelve."

"It will take time to overcome the conservatism which clings to legal procedure and custom because of its antiquity. The life of the citizen is deemed too sacred in the eyes of administrators by law nowadays to warrant conviction for murder unless the case be an extremely heinous and clearly established one."

"Our humanity should be exerted a bit more along lines of prevention of crime by the adequate punishment of guilty criminals."

In discussing what The Sentinel had to say on this subject the Greensboro Record says:

"Maybe by insisting, by keeping everlastingly at it, the people will some day awaken to their responsibility and give us a law that will come nearer guaranteeing justice—justice alike for the innocent and the guilty."

Of course, needed changes like the one under discussion are not easily made. The only way to get them is for those favoring them to keep persistently at the matter, urging the changes until public sentiment reaches the point where it will demand them. And to work up public sentiment to such a point is a rather slow process.

There has been considerable newspaper comment on the action taken by Congress to avert the railroad strike and, as stated yesterday, there has been some criticism. However, we believe a vast majority of the American people and American news-

THE IMPORTANT POINT OF THE WHOLE MATTER.

Since the passage by Congress last week of the measure designed to prevent the threatened railroad strike, some newspapers and individuals have expressed the opinion that the legislation was unwise. They seem to feel that the best interests of the country have not been served by the law enacted.

Those who take such a view of the situation are inclined unconsciously, we think, to place the interests of the parties to the controversy above those of the general public. A great strike was threatened that would have caused much inconvenience and immense loss to the public at large. Heroic measures were necessary in order to prevent it and such measures were taken. Probably those who framed the measure enacted did not regard it a perfect piece of legislation but they knew it would protect the interests of millions of American people and that any imperfections could be adjusted later.

That is a point that should not be overlooked. If there are defects in the law passed by Congress, these can be corrected later, after an opportunity for detailed consideration has been given. But, if a strike had been called, it would have resulted in the loss of millions of dollars even though it had only continued a few days and would have entailed great inconvenience and, in many cases perhaps, suffering. It was an impending calamity that could not have been delayed. Immediate action was necessary.

That was the condition confronting both President Wilson and the members of Congress. It was a most difficult situation, to say the least, and we believe a great majority of the American people, regardless of criticisms here and there, feel that it was handled in the best possible manner, under the existing circumstances.

papers as well approve of the course pursued, no matter how much they may differ about details.

In discussing the attitude of those opposed to the legislation that stopped the strike, the New York World had the following editorial reference to the matter just before the eight-hour law was finally enacted:

"If Congress failed to rush this legislation through and a strike followed, these same people before Tuesday night would be imploring Congress and the President and all the agencies of government to settle the strike at once and on any terms. The most hysterical shouters for a settlement would be the members of chambers of commerce and manufacturers' associations who so smugly deplore the 'surrender' of the United States government to the pernicious demands of trades-unionism. The minute their pocket nerve was touched by the tie-up of traffic, there would not be enough ears in the country to respond to their screams. It is silly to charge Congress with surrendering to the unions. The unions had a legal right to strike when the strike was ordered. There is not a line on any statute book which prevents their striking, nor could any law be enacted before Monday which would compel them to work. Whatever their moral guilt may be, they are within the law when they do the thing that they threaten to do. Therefore, it is the duty of Congress to take such practicable means as may be adopted at once to remove the excuse for a strike. Whatever further adjustments are necessary can be left for the future. That is the common-sense method, and Congress is displaying far more intelligence and patriotism than its critics. The rights and wrongs of this controversy are yet to be determined so far as they affect the railroads and their employees. But the rights and wrongs of a railroad strike so far as they affect the public are obvious and incontestable. A philosophic fire department might plausibly contend that its chief duty was not to extinguish the flames, but to frame a fireproof building code and strengthen the laws against arson. That would no doubt be an admirable public service, but in the meantime the building would burn down, the fire would communicate itself to other buildings and a whole community would be left homeless. We prefer the congressional way of putting out the fire first, and determining later whether it was of incendiary origin or due to defective wiring, and whether the owner can legally collect his insurance."

This was the attitude of Congress and we believe it is an attitude that will appeal to the nation at large. It is very easy to criticize but it is not so easy to formulate a plan that will avert a great industrial calamity. For their efforts along that line the members of Congress deserve hearty commendation.

A STRIKING CONTRAST. The more the Democrats of Forsyth county see and hear of their candidate for the State Senate the more thoroughly are they convinced that no mistake was made in selecting him. He is constantly growing in favor, not only with members of his own party but the people generally, and there is every reason to believe he will be elected by a majority of such proportions as to show unmistakably that the voters of Forsyth want to be represented by a business man of Mr. Gray's type, one who will give due regard to the rights of all and who will work unceasingly as a member of the Senate to advance the best interests of the State and county. There never was a time when business men of the constructive type could be of more service as members of the State's law-making body than right now, and the people are fortunate in having the opportunity to vote for such a candidate.

Mr. Gray made his first campaign statement at Kernersville last night, and his opening remarks were in striking contrast to those of his Republican opponent at the same place. The Democratic candidate made a calm and dispassionate presentation in a few words of his position on public matters. It was just such a statement as might have been expected from a business man who looks at public issues from the constructive viewpoint, and with a desire to serve the best interests of the whole people. There was no appeal to prejudice and the voter who heard him, laborer, farmer or business man, must have felt that in Mr. Gray's hands his interests would be safeguarded with fidelity and justice.

His statement on the six per cent interest matter was clear and unequivocal. He said positively and definitely that he is not in favor of a change in the rate. He showed conclusively that Democratic Federal Reserve Banking law had removed any necessity for a change and had made it possible for business enterprises, large or small, to get money needed on the most advantageous terms. Some of the State's best men felt, before this law was enacted, that unless something were done a change in the interest rate might be inevitable, but the Federal Reserve system, enacted by a Democratic Congress, has removed such a possibility. During the depression some time back banks in this section were forced to get money from New York at over 6 per cent and lend it at the 6 per cent rate. Under the new law the condition has been materially improved.

Although Mr. Gray's speech last night was not in the nature of a formal opening of his canvass, being merely a brief statement, it showed, if indeed any evidence along that line were needed, that appeals to prejudice are to have no part in his campaign. We feel sure that the voters in the November election will show their hearty approval of such a course.

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THREE YEARS' SENTENCE FOR CRIMINAL OPERATION Charlotte, Sept. 5.—Dr. J. W. Summers, a physician of some prominence here, who was convicted in criminal court Saturday of performing an illegal operation, was sentenced today to serve three years in the State penitentiary.

MR. J. B. WHEAT MARRIED MISS MARTHA PANCAKE. Mr. J. B. Wheat, of Hanes Station, was here today. In speaking of himself he stated that he had lived here for the past ten years, and is a native of Virginia. About 43 years ago he was working in Ohio, where he married Miss Martha Pancake. He says they have eleven children, ten daughters and one son, and that the first death in their family occurred a few months ago, when one of the daughters died.

THOMAS A. EDISON FOR WILSON, NOT AN UNTRIED MAN

Says President Has Given Us Peace With Honor and Earned Trust.

Thomas A. Edison, although a lifelong Republican and a supporter of Colonel Roosevelt for the Republican presidential nomination, announced Sunday, through the Democratic National campaign committee that he intends to vote and work for the re-election of President Wilson. Mr. Edison said:

"Not since 1800 has any campaign made such a direct call on simon-pure Americanism. The times are too serious to talk or think in terms of Republicanism or Democracy. Real Americans must drop parties and get down to big fundamental principles."

"More than any other president in my memory Wilson has been faced by a succession of tremendous problems, any one of which, decided the wrong way, would have had disastrous consequences. Wilson's decisions so far have not got us into any serious trouble, nor are they likely to."

"He has given us peace with honor. This talk about the United States being disgraced is nonsense. Neutrality is a mighty trying policy, but back of it are international law, the rights of humanity, and the future of civilization."

"With reference to Mexico, I think the president has acted wisely, justly and courageously. It was right that the United States should not have recognized such a murderous personality as Huerta. I do not believe that we should have intervened now. Mexico is a troublesome neighbor just now, but war and conquest are not going to make her a better one. Both against England and against human slavery the United States worked out its salvation through revolution, and it was a pretty slow, trying process."

"It has been said that Wilson at first was against preparedness. Perhaps he was, but when convinced that intelligent public opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of it, he changed. That is the proper thing for our presidents to do. A president defiant of public opinion would be a dangerous man in our system of government."

"His attitude on the tariff shows an equal openness of mind. A tariff commission will take the whole problem out of politics. It is my hope that experts will be named, and that the body will be continuing and vested almost with the dignity of the Supreme Court."

"They say he has blundered. Perhaps he has. But I notice that he usually blunders forward. You can't get 100 per cent efficiency in a democracy. I don't know that we ought to want it. We would be machines, and we would have to sacrifice too much of freedom."

"As I said at the start, it has been just one big thing after another with Wilson. I have never known so many dangerous questions brought up for decision to any one president. Now he has the general strike of the skilled railway men which, if carried out, will throw the whole country into confusion, and prove a calamity that, in certain eventualities, will have lasting results bound to extend over a long period of time. He is acting with his usual courage and sanity."

"In my opinion, Mr. Hughes, if president, would find it difficult to decide on the best course for the government to take in this strike. His capacity for hindsight, as we learn from his speeches, is highly developed, but as to his foresight, we are not equally well informed."

"Mr. Wilson has had about four years of experience, and he has earned faith and trust. I do not think it a logical or sensible thing to change to an inexperienced and untried man just for the sake of a change, or without much better reasons being given for the change than we have noticed."

"Roosevelt was my choice. He has had experience, and is one of the best of Americans, but the machine-controlled Republican party would not have him. Therefore, I am for Woodrow Wilson."

Mr. Edison is on a camping trip with Henry Ford and John Burroughs, the naturalist, and he sent his statement from Saratoga.

FOUR AMENDMENTS WILL BE VOTED ON

Legislative Reference Librarian Starts Campaign to Get Them Before People.

Legislative Reference Librarian W. S. Wilson has begun efforts to get before the voters the amendments that are to be voted on at the November election. One way in which he will do this, says the News and Observer, is to get letters from candidates and others giving their views as to the amendments and have them published in the newspapers. He has mailed letters of request to Democratic and Republican candidates of all States, district and legislative offices and about one hundred others. His letter which states and explains the amendments is as follows:

Mr. Wilson's Letter. The general assembly of 1915 enacted four amendments to the constitution which are to be voted on at the November election. They are:

- 1. To restrict local, private and special legislation.
2. To prevent delays in trials by providing emergency judges.
3. To prevent special charters to corporations by the general assembly.
4. To prevent special charters to towns, cities and incorporated villages.

In order to give publicity to these important measures, I am writing to a number of prominent men in the State for a statement of their views concerning them, and will duplicate their replies and furnish them to the newspapers for publication. The Press Association has endorsed these amendments and has agreed to urge their adoption. Amendments 1, 3 and 4 are intended to restrict the ever increasing volume of local and private laws, and to provide for the amendment of general, uniform, State-wide laws and to provide for the amendment of general, uniform, State-wide laws and to provide for the amendment of self-governing privileges, and all private corporations will be placed on like footing as to charter powers and rights.

From 1909 to 1915, inclusive, there were enacted by the general assembly 1,549 pages of public laws, and 11,017 pages of private and local laws. Eighty-eight per cent of the volume of legislation during this period has been local and private. The authority given and relief granted in ninety per cent of this mass of legislation could have been provided for in a more satisfactory manner by the enactment of general laws which would probably have required 500 printed pages.

Amendment No. 2 is proposed for the purpose of meeting the widely prevalent condition of over-crowded court dockets. At present there is no provision for filling a temporary vacancy caused by illness of the judge or otherwise, and thousands of dollars are uselessly spent each year and trials are longer delayed because of this defect in our judicial system. The constitutional guarantee that litigants "shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial or delay" appears to have been lost sight of in the maelstrom of over-legislation.

It is a rare occurrence that a case on appeal gets to its final hearing within a shorter time than three to years. The people may well trust the conservatism of North Carolina legislatures to see to it that no loop-hole will be permitted for the abuse of the power to be delegated by them for appointing emergency judges.

I shall be glad to have a letter from you for publication in the manner herein suggested.

"LEFTY" ROBINSON ONLY FANNED EIGHTEEN MEN

Mr. Airy, Sept. 5.—The Mt. Airy baseball team celebrated Labor Day here by taking two games from the Strong High Point team. The morning game was won by the local boys by the score of 3 to 1, and they took the afternoon game by the score of 7 to 1.

The big feature of the afternoon game was the pitching of young Robinson, who twirled a sensational game for the Twins not long ago. Young Robinson was in great form and struck out 18 of the High Point boys with apparent ease. Blackburn, for Mr. Airy, also pitched good ball in the morning contest, holding the visitors to one run.

CARL RAY HURLS NO-HIT GAME AGAINST NORFOLK

It Saturday's game against Norfolk Carl Ray, of Newport News club, set a Virginia League record and bettered his own for the season by striking out 16 batsmen in a nine-inning game. He did not allow a hit or a run, but walked three, hit another and allowed one more to reach first on his wild throw. In the 15 innings of the two games against the Newport News club Norfolk made only one hit, that coming in the seventh inning of the second game with two out off Pitcher Hamilton, formerly a member of the Twins' pitching staff.

TERRIFIC RIGHT SMASH TO JAW SETTLED CHANEY

Cedar Grove, Ohio, Sept. 5.—In less than eight minutes of actual fighting Johnny Kilbane of Cleveland, spoiled the hopes of George Chaney, for the world's feather-weight championship yesterday. A terrific right smash to Chaney's jaw settled the battle near the end of the third round.

The champion's lunge was a greater defense skill offset the spirit of the first round. The leads of the Irish pugilist were blocked easily for the most part by Kilbane and the champion earned an even break in the first two minutes by his clever defensive tactics.

It was not until the third that Kilbane cut loose and then fought with a vengeance. He forced the challenger to the ropes at the opening of the round and drew blood with a left to Chaney's face. Four times the men

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