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Representing the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. of New York.

## OUR PUBLIC FORUM



Hon. Elihu Root  
On Woman's Sphere

The question of Woman Suffrage is an issue before the American people. Twelve states have adopted it, four more states vote upon it this fall and it is strongly urged that it become a platform demand of the national political parties. It is therefore the privilege and the duty of every voter to study carefully this subject. Hon. Elihu Root, in discussing this question before the constitutional convention of New York, recently said in part:

"I am opposed to the granting of suffrage to women, because I believe that it would be a loss to women, to all women and to every woman; and because I believe it would be an injury to the state, and to every man and every woman in the state. It would be useless to argue that high duty in the weak and nerveless hands of those designed by God to be protected rather than to engage in the stern warfare of government. In my judgment, this whole movement arises from a false conception of the duty and of the right of both men and women.

"The time will never come when the line of demarcation between the functions of the two sexes will be broken down. I believe, on the contrary, that it is an attempt to turn backward upon the line of social development, and that if the step ever be taken, we go centuries backward on the march towards a higher, nobler and purer civilization, which must be found not in the confusion, but in the higher differentiation of the sexes."

"Woman rules today by the sweet and noble influences of her character. Put woman into the arena of conflict and she abandons these great weapons which control the world, and she takes into her hands, feeble and nerveless for strife, weapons with which she is unfamiliar and which she is unable to wield. Woman in strife becomes hard, harsh, unlovable, repulsive; as far removed from that gentle creature to whom we all owe allegiance and to whom we consecrate ourselves, as the heaven is removed from the earth.

"The whole science of government is the science of protecting life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In the divine distribution of powers, the duty and the right of protection rests with the male. It is so throughout nature. It is so with men, and I, for one, will never consent to part with the divine right of protecting my wife, my daughter, the women whom I love, and the women whom I respect, exerting the birthright of man and placing that high duty in the weak and nerveless hands of those designed by God to be protected rather than to engage in the stern warfare of government. In my judgment, this whole movement arises from a false conception of the duty and of the right of both men and women.

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## OUR PUBLIC FORUM



Peter Radford  
On Church and State

The recent action of one of the leading churches of this nation in annual convention, in endorsing the laymen vote only for candidates for office whose views coincide with those of the clergy on one of the leading political issues, and direct and indirect efforts of other church organizations to interfere with the freedom of the ballot, make one of the greatest perils of this age, and present a problem that should receive thoughtful consideration on both sides.

Suckling babes may well squirm in their cradles when ministers in convention assembled release the hearts of men and grab them by the throat, for Christianity has broken down, religion has become a farce and the pulpit a failure. When the church substitutes force for persuasion, command for conviction and coercion for reason, the sheriff had as well pass the sacrament, plain-clothes men take charge of the altar and policemen bury the dead, for why a church?

It is as dastardly a crime against government for a minister to undertake to deliver the votes of his parishioners to a candidate, as it is for a ward heeler to deliver a block of votes to a political boss, and both ought to be prosecuted, for the law should be no respecter of persons.

It is as objectionable for a convention of ministers to seek by canonical law to control the votes of church members as it would be for a convention of manufacturers to issue orders for their employees to vote for a certain candidate. Such conduct is offensive to decency, business morals and a crime against society. Any convention, whether composed of saints or sinners, rich or poor, white or black, that seeks to prostitute power and coerce conscience ought to be broken up by the police and its leaders arrested for treason.

A crime by any other name is a crime just the same. An ecclesiastical robe cannot sanctify treason, authority to preach does not carry with it license to become a political ringster, or the right to teach us how to pray as for a minister to preach a political sermon. He has no more right to preach his politics from the pulpit than a teacher has to teach his politics to his pupils. A preacher cannot make political trickery righteous by usage any more than he can make profanity respectable by practice. It is one of the ironies of fate that a preacher may become a scandal as well as a glory to civilization.

## OUR PUBLIC FORUM



Ralph Peters  
On Railway Mail Pay

A controversy has been raging in the columns of the press between the railroads and the Federal Post Office Department over the question of proper compensation for handling the United States mails. Mr. Ralph Peters, chairman of the Railway Mail Committee, when asked to state the railroad side of the controversy to the American farmer, said in part:

"The railway mail pay question will be settled—and settled permanently and with justice to all concerned—only when the American people realize that the whole subject, while seemingly complicated and technical, boils down to a few simple points of fair business dealing, which no one need be a rate expert to understand.

"The first is that the Post Office Department weighs the mails, and adjusts the pay of the railroads, only once in four years. This compels the railroads to carry the increase in the rate of pay of the postal carriers without pay—manifestly an injustice in the case of a rapidly growing business. The consequence has been that last year the railroads carried fully half the parcel post for nothing.

"A second point is this: In addition to carrying the mails, the railroads are required to operate many traveling post offices for sorting and distributing the mails while in transit. But the Post Office Department pays for such post offices only where they occupy waiting cars, and pays nothing in the many cases where they merely require the use of post office apartments in the many combination cars, although such apartments differ from the full railway post office cars only in size. More than 4,200 apartments of this character have been fitted up, and are maintained for the exclusive use of the Post Office Department. Failure to pay for them has been an especially hardy to the smaller roads on which the Department does not find it necessary to utilize whole cars.

"One last point: In thousands of instances (though not in all) the Post Office Department requires the railroads to carry the mails back and forth between railroad stations and post offices, but pays them nothing for this extra service beyond the rates covering the rail transportation. The railroads have no choice but to perform this additional service gratis, or refuse to carry the mails at all.

"Now for the remedies the railroads ask: They do not ask to have the mails weighed daily, or to have each shipment weighed and paid for separately, as is done in the case of private shippers. They merely ask that the weight of the mail be adjusted, at least once a year, instead of once in four years. They also ask that apartment post office cars be paid for, at reasonable rates, according to size. Lastly, they ask that the Post Office Department cease to require of them free messenger service between stations and post offices, and either relieve them of this service or pay fairly for it. These are the reforms the railroads ask of Congress. They gladly lay these reforms before the public, confident that they will appeal to the common sense and fairness of American voters."

## BANKERS URGED TO CO-OPERATE WITH FARMERS

Every citizen who desires to become capable in business should study banking, and every farmer who wants to see the business of agriculture properly financed should study diligently the financial systems of other industries. All other lines of industry have developed financial facilities adapted to their needs. We have all sorts of financial syndicates authorized by law or custom to deal in a certain line of securities, but in none of these financial channels will farm securities travel without a bonus in the way of an excessive rate of interest or heavy accounts.

The most powerful financial institutions in America are private banks and they are the most important to the financial life of industry. In no line of business does honesty, efficiency and stability make more imperative demands than upon private bankers, whose greatest asset is the confidence of the buying public in his business judgment and integrity. Mr. Otto Kahn of Kuhn, Loeb & Company, when asked to state the relation of the private banker to the business of the nation, said in part:

"One of the most important functions of the private banker is to be the instrument for providing the money needed for the efficient conduct and development of railroads and other industries. He does this by buying securities in bulk from those needing capital, for which purpose he usually associates himself with a large number of other financial houses, great and small, thus forming what is called a syndicate. Having in this way concluded the buying transaction he offers to the public the securities purchased by means of advertising, circularizing and through the facilities of the retail houses included in the syndicate, many of whom employ traveling salesmen. Of course the banker and the syndicate count on a reasonable profit for their services; on the other hand they run the risk of the securities, which they have definitely bought and paid for at a fixed price, remaining on their hands wholly, or in part, if the public, for one reason or another, should be unwilling to buy them. The selling of securities is a highly specialized trade, requiring much experience, organization, machinery and scrutiny. This is one of the reasons why corporations do better in offering securities to the public through bankers than if they offered them direct. The willingness of the public to buy depends upon their confidence in the integrity and the judgment of the banker who makes the offer, and a banker who attempts to mislead the public, or who is deficient in care or judgment, would very soon find himself without customers and, therefore, out of business. In many European countries, the functions of the private banker include the placing of bonds secured by farm mortgages. Bonds of this nature are issued in large quantities by mortgage banks who buy mortgages on farm and other real estate and deposit them as security for their own bonds, which in their turn are sold to bankers. It is to be hoped that similar institutions will, in course of time, be created in America, thus placing the farming industry on a par with other important industries in facilities to obtain capital."

## OUR PUBLIC FORUM

The time was when money loaned on such a basis would severely test the sanity of the banker; such transactions would pain the directors like a blow in the face. A cashier who would dare to cast bread upon waters that did not return buttered side up in time for annual dividends would have to give way to a more capable man. This does not necessarily mean that the bankers are getting any better or that the milk of human kindness is being imbibed more freely by our financiers. It indicates that the bankers are getting wiser, becoming more able financiers and the banking industry more competent. The vision of the builder is crowding out the spirit of the parasite. A light has been turned on a new world of investment and no usurer ever received as large returns on the investment as these progressive bankers, who made loans to uplift industry. The bankers have always been liberal city builders, but they are now building agriculture.

A Dollar With a Soul.

It is refreshing in this strenuous commercial life to find so many dollars with souls. When a dollar is approached to perform a task that does not directly yield the highest rate of interest, we usually hear the rustle of the eagle's wings as it soars upward; when a dollar is requested to return at the option of the borrower, it usually appeals to the Goddess of Liberty for its contractual rights; when a dollar is asked to expand in volume to suit the requirements of industry, it usually talks solemnly of its redeemer, but soul material has entered into the vaults of our banks and rate, time and volume have a new basis of reckoning in so far as the ability of some of the bankers permit them to co-operate in promoting the business of farming.

God Almighty's Noblemen.

These bankers are God Almighty's noblemen. Heaven lent their spirit of these men and the angels will help them roll in place the cornerstones of empires. They are not philanthropists; they are wise bankers. The spirit of the builder is crowding out the spirit of the parasite; wisdom has visited upon them business foresight.

The cackle of the hen, the low of the kine and the rustle of growing crops echo in every bank vault in the nation and the shrewd banker knows that he can more effectively increase his deposits by putting blue blood in the veins of livestock; quality in the yield of the soil and value into agricultural products, than by business handshakes, overdrats and gaudy calendars.

Taking the community into partnership with the bank, opening up a ledger account with progress, making thrift and enterprise stockholders and the prosperity of the country an asset to the bank, put behind it stability far more desirable than a letterhead bearing the names of all the distinguished citizens of the community. The bank is the financial power house of the community and blessed is the locality that has an up-to-date banker.

## POLITICAL PRAYER MEETINGS

It is a sad day for Christianity when the church bells call the communicants together for a political prayer meeting. Such gatherings mark the high tide of religious political fanaticism; put bitterness into the lives of men; fan the flames of class hatred and destroy Christian influence in the community. The spirit actuating such meetings is anarchistic, un-Christlike and dangerous to both church and state.

## For a Sprained Ankle.

If you will get a bottle of Chamberlain's Liniment and observe the directions given therewith faithfully, you will recover in much less time than is usually required. Obtainable everywhere.

## OUR PUBLIC FORUM



Otto Kahn  
On Financial Farm Loans

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Co-operation is a theme that lends itself most readily to theory but yields stubbornly to practice. It is easy to speak the word but difficult to understand it and more difficult still to practice it. All can be selfish but it takes vision to be progressive. The organized farmer has been preaching co-operation for a long time, but now come the railroads talking co-operation in the language of the soul.

A recent paper read by G. E. Cassel, publicity agent of the Norfolk & Western railway, is so full of horse sense that we reproduce it in part and urge the farmers along that roadway to continued cooperation with the management of the road in all problems of mutual interest.

"So the farmer may conclude that when he co-operates with the railroads, his most potent allies, he is doing good for himself and much good for his country."

"While there to leaves in the forest and foam on the river: The farmers and railroads shall flourish forever."

"The farmers and the railroads are natural allies in all their interests. It is difficult to conceive of greater service to the commonwealth than that of firmly fixing in the minds of both the railroads and the farmers that they are mutually dependent and that the prosperity of one depends on the prosperity of the other. But that suspicion and misunderstanding destroy the various interests of both. Many of the most progressive and far-seeing railroads have fully recognized this relation and dependence.

"In the study of economic conditions in all branches of human endeavor, from the birth of our nation down to within quite recent years, we are astonished at the utter lack of the co-operative principle—the 'work together' idea—and not only that, but extreme selfishness and purblind prejudice have more apparently dominated the minds of the more progressive and far-seeing railroads of enterprise. This was a condition that government could not remedy. No statute law, or even written constitution, can do more than safeguard those inalienable rights of the individual.

"The mutual advantages of co-operation and sympathetic understanding are many and varied for both the railway and the farmer. The farmer is naturally dependent on the railroads and other transportation. His products are always comparatively bulky and consequently perishable. The railroads give farmers a worldwide market for their products. An intelligent understanding of the fundamental improvement of railway transportation is essential to the prosperity of any agricultural community. Worldwide and nationwide markets are made possible only by regular and cheap transportation such as is offered by the railroads.

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## OUR PUBLIC FORUM



R. C. Duff  
On Cotton As Contraband.

Hon. R. C. Duff, one of the highest authorities on international law in the United States, when asked to investigate the exporting of cotton and interpret the laws of nations on this subject for the American plowman, said in part:

"Article 28 of the Declaration of London reads as follows: 'The following may not be declared contraband of war: raw cotton, wool, silk, etc.' Great Britain is not only a signatory of the Declaration of London, but in fact called the conference and insisted upon the inclusion of raw cotton on the list of absolute non-contraband. Under this declaration, which was subscribed to by all maritime nations, we have a right absolutely to ship cotton, not only to neutral ports of Europe, but to Germany, Austria, etc. Great Britain is not only a signatory of the Declaration of London, but in fact called the conference and insisted upon the inclusion of raw cotton on the list of absolute non-contraband. 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