

PRESIDENT WILSON AND PROSPERITY

Is the Latter Due to the War or the Administration?— The Political Significance of the Answer.

By THEODORE H. PRICE

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NOT long ago I was talking with the superintendent of a large manufacturing establishment in New England. He had about six thousand employees under him. I asked him how they were going to vote. He replied that, though they lived in a State that was nominally Republican, and most of them usually voted the Republican ticket, as he did, as though they would nearly all vote for Wilson next election. I inquired why. "Well," he said, "there are two reasons: first, Wilson has kept us out of war, and these people feel they would have had to take the bullets, though New York might have had to raise the money; second, they have had more work at better wages than ever before in my recollection."

I reminded him that the Republicans claimed that our remarkable prosperity was not due to the Democratic Administration, but existed in spite of it; that they urged that the advantage of a protective tariff had been demonstrated by a war which shut out all foreign competition; and that they insisted that the loss of our National honor was the price we had to pay for peace.

"That's all very well," he retorted, "but Wilson has given us prosperity—he hasn't asked us to be content with promises; and as to our honor, time enough to consider that when the rights of some of those who live here and are willing to stay here are attacked. Most of those who are here, or their fathers, left Europe to escape the enforced military service that would be their lot if we went to war, and Wilson is right in leaving a lot of bloated aristocrats to fry in their own grease, while they hide behind the poor devils that they put on the firing line."

"These fellows here are brave enough," he said, "but they care a lot more about their wives and children than they do about all the kings and princes that ever lived."

I report this conversation because it expresses what I am convinced is the attitude of a large majority of the wage-earners of the United States.

Their political conclusions are admittedly subjective. They have no use for economic theories. Most of them are spending the larger portion of what they make. The first duty of government, as they conceive it, is to provide them with an opportunity to earn a living and to live in comparative happiness and comfort. The party or administration that does this will get their votes and retain their support until employment is not to be had, or the purchasing power of the wages paid is seriously diminished. I do not mean to endorse this view. From the standpoint of the political or patriotic idealist there is much to be said against it; but there is also much to be said in favor of it, if it be true that the greatest happiness of the greatest number is the chief end of government. Since it is the view that will largely control in the approaching Presidential campaign, it is in order to review the politico-economic development of the United States under the Wilson Administration, and to contrast the conditions that prevailed in 1912 and 1917, which were the last years of Republican ascendancy, with those which exist in 1916, after only 40 months of Wilson.

It would not be difficult to present pages of figures that would show the marvelous economic progress of the United States since 1912-13, but they would be tiresome in the monotony of expansion that they would disclose, and the following brief comparison between the more important indices of business activity and progress under Wilson and his Republican predecessors will suffice. Whenever possible this comparison is made between the figures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, and that ending June 30, 1912, but in many cases the statistics for these dates have not been available, and others covering an interval nearly as significant have been used.

There are other facts equally important that cannot be subjected to the telling comparison of the parallel column. In all parts of the country transportation lines, rail and water, are taxed beyond their capacity. Freight embargoes have been resorted to in many instances. Shipbuilding is progressing on a scale unknown since the Civil War.

So far as labor is concerned, we have the word of Samuel Gompers that never before in the history of the world were so many people employed at such high wages and under such excellent conditions as in the case in the United States today. No capable man need be idle.

Throughout the West farm-hands are offered \$3 a day and board, and farmers themselves have rarely experienced such prosperity.

According to an analysis made by the Bureau of Statistics and Information of the State Industrial Commission of New York, the number of employees was twenty-one per cent greater and wages paid were thirty-seven per cent higher for factory employees in New York State in April, 1916, than in April, 1915. The same thing is approximately true of most other industrial communities.

Another interesting sidelight on present business conditions is furnished by a comparative summary of the numbers of arate lines of advertising published during the month of June this year and last in the newspapers of the large cities. Here it is:

SUMMARY OF TOTAL ADVERTISING FOR JUNE			
Papers	1915	1916	Gain.
17 New York	9,434,322	8,510,585	924,237
7 Philadelphia	3,268,200	2,599,900	668,400
7 Chicago	4,967,650	4,344,372	623,278
6 Los Angeles	3,364,000	2,566,700	297,300
5 Baltimore	3,240,867	2,490,636	750,174
5 St. Louis	3,148,301	2,566,642	581,659
4 Cleveland	3,082,475	2,612,325	271,150
4 Minneapolis	2,580,988	2,308,387	272,601
4 San Francisco	2,181,252	2,070,382	110,320
4 Detroit	3,770,914	3,000,816	770,098
4 Washington	2,337,210	2,126,173	211,037
4 Cincinnati	1,877,160	1,673,700	203,460
2 St. Paul	267,084	224,464	32,620
Total	44,021,863	38,106,139	5,915,724

Commenting upon this showing, The New York "Evening Post" says:

"Business conditions throughout the country have an excellent general barometer in the counting-rooms of the leading daily newspapers in the large cities. When the advertising columns of such newspapers show substantial gains in all cities, there is but one conclusion to be drawn—the public has money to spend and is spending it. The big manufacturers, who constitute the National advertisers, and the stores and shops are enjoying increased prosperity."

Facing this summarized record of the Nation's growth since they were removed from power, the Republicans, through their candidate, endeavor to belittle the showing by saying: "No intelligent man is deceived by the temporary prosperity due to abnormal conditions." The implication intended is that the European war is entirely responsible for a prosperity that we would not otherwise have enjoyed. Let us analyze the facts. It will be admitted that whatever profit the United States has derived from the war in Europe is measured exclusively by the increase in the balance of trade in our favor.

As our imports have varied but slightly since 1912, the increase in our exports must include everything that we have gained from the expansion in our foreign trade.

This increase in exports is about equal to the increase in our trade balance, and while it cannot all be profit—for the cost of producing the things exported should be deducted from it—we will, for the purposes of this argument, assume that our war gains equal the entire amount by which our balance of trade has exceeded the normal average before the war.

For the four fiscal years ending June 30, 1914, our favorable balance averaged \$550,000,000 a year. For the last two years it has been as follows:

For the year ending June 30, 1915	\$1,091,000,000
For the year ending June 30, 1916	2,126,000,000
Total	\$3,217,000,000
Normal for two years, 1913-14	\$550,000,000
Each year	\$1,100,000,000

Increase for two years of war

This increase of \$2,126,000,000 is manifestly in excess of our entire gain from the war. It is equal to our profits plus the cost of production, and it is only through the increase in our foreign trade that the war can have profited us at all. Our maximum possible gain from the war is therefore \$21.30 per capita.

This, then, is the measure of our abnormal prosperity. Against it we find that our National wealth has increased by \$11,000,000,000, or \$410 per capita. Our debt to Europe has been reduced by \$2,340,000,000, or \$33 per capita. Our total bank deposits have increased by \$6,570,000,000, or \$65 per capita, and the value of manufactured products by \$9,400,000,000, or \$94 per capita. If the war in Europe has been the

only reason for our prosperity, of what alchemy has the gain of only \$2,130,000,000 from our foreign trade been multiplied nearly twenty times in the growth of our National wealth? The Republicans must supply the answer if they can.

Until they do, the non-partisan economist will believe that, while the war has undoubtedly stimulated the foreign demand for some things, our prosperity has been mainly due to the encouragement that has been given to business and enterprise by the Democratic party under the leadership of President Wilson.

The work of the administration in this respect is unparalleled. Never before have so many sound and necessary economic reforms been enacted into law in so short a time. The list is a long one. Our political economy is short. Let us refresh it.

Since Woodrow Wilson became President congress has passed:

1. The Federal Reserve Act, which stands out as the most superlatively beneficial legislation that any party has ever given to the people. Through it business has been unfettered and panics have become almost impossible. The strength and mobility that has been given to our financial resources through the Federal Reserve system have enabled us to withstand the shock of the greatest war in history and have converted what might have been a period of utter prostration into one of extreme prosperity.

2. The Rural Credit Bill, which gives the farmer the same access to credit that has hitherto been reserved to the business man.

3. The Income Tax Law, under which the inordinately rich are contributing a larger share toward the maintenance of a Government which protects them in the possession of their large and unnecessary fortunes.

4. The Federal Trade Commission Act, which seeks to remedy industrial injustice, prevent unfair competition, and protect both the business man and the public. It provides for a continuing and careful investigation into business conditions. In the words of the President, it "substitutes the gentle processes of counsel for the harshness of criminal law," and attempts to correct abuses without injuring the innocent.

5. The Clayton Bill, which defines the indefinite negations of the Sherman Law, prohibits interlocking directorates, delegatizes the monopolistic control of one corporation by another, and declares "that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

6. The Good Roads Law, which extends Federal aid to the States in road building and promises greatly to facilitate human intercourse in the country districts, reverse the cityward tendency of our population, and enormously increase the value of our agricultural land by making it more accessible.

7. The Smith-Lever Agricultural Education Act, which provides for Federal co-operation with the States in extending a knowledge of progressive farming, and responds to the demand that "the last load of illiteracy shall be lifted from American youth."

To these should be added the Child Labor Bill, now advocated by the President, and numerous other less important measures which evidence the wise solicitude of the Administration for the business of a Nation that consists chiefly of business men.

This solicitude has been manifested not only in constructive legislation, but in the manifold activities of the various great departments of the Government.

The Agricultural Department has extended its work aggressively and variously. The Secretary of the Treasury has taken the lead in organizing many movements for relief and extension of commerce.

The Postoffice Department has been conducted at a profit instead of a loss, as under Taft and Roosevelt. The rural free delivery service has been greatly extended. The parcel post has been popularized and the depositors in the postal savings banks have increased from 165,000 in 1913 to 350,000 in 1915.

The Department of Justice, while pursuing real criminals relentlessly, has inaugurated no political prosecutions for the glory of trust-busting and has preferred to caution rather than persecute those who were guilty of any intent to transgress our complex laws.

The State Department, under the personal direction of the President, has secured for us the benefits of peace without the loss of honor, and the candid-minded man must admit that we have benefited humanity more by our diplomacy than we could have done by a resort to arms that would have cost millions of lives and billions of treasure.

It is true that mistakes have been made, but they have been quickly corrected. "A wise man changes his opinion, a fool never," and considering the difficulties of his position and the divided public opinion of the country, the President has shown marvelous skill in guiding the Ship of State through the most troublous period of the world's history.

The hindsight of the critic is naturally more accurate, though less necessary, than the foresight of the statesman, but the fact that his detractors can find nothing except the idealism of the President's Mexican policy to attack shows how remarkably correct most of his judgments have been.

Through it all he has never lost sight of our sympathy with American business industry and labor. Toward them his policy has been one of constant solicitude. It has found expression in the halls of Congress, in the White House, and in all his public utterances.

If there is any relation whatever between constructive legislation and business progress, between conservation and prosperity, and between the statutory enactment of economic law and material advancement, then we must conclude that the marvelous business development in America during the past two years is due to the policies of the President rather than to the war in Europe. Can there be any doubt as to the



"I don't know who wrote that article in your last issue asking for night service at the local postoffice," remarked a citizen Sunday, "but I heartily agree with it and I think something ought to be done at once by the local postoffice authorities with the view of securing this night service."

This man no doubt voiced the sentiment of a great many Gastonia business men. Whether or not the Gastonia postoffice authorities can secure another clerk at this time is unknown, but inasmuch as the patrons want a service at night it is very likely that an effort would prove successful. It is true that Gastonia has fewer clerks than several other towns its size and even smaller. The majority of the local mail is brought into Gastonia on the night trains and therefore a night clerk is needed in order to handle this mail as well as to dispatch the out-going mail.

An alligator was killed by a resident of McAdenville one day last week on the banks of the South Fork river. It was brought to Gastonia and put on display in one of the windows at Torrence's drug store. It was kept in the window for several hours and attracted considerable attention. There were some who thought that the "gator had paddled up stream from some southern river away down in the heart of Florida. Others knew that such a thing was impracticable and stated that the animal was the last of several that Mr. Ben McAden bought and placed in the river at McAdenville as a means of keeping the boys from bathing near the mill. This explanation would not suffice; there were still others who clung to the migration theory, saying that the aquatic creature had been washed down stream from some point north of here during the recent high waters. When all had been said that might clear up the mystery only one settled fact remained, that being that the "gator was found and shot on the banks of the river at McAdenville. Other than this explanation nothing definite could be decided upon.

"There is more hustle and bustle on the streets of Gastonia than in any other city in North Carolina," asserted a merchant Saturday. "Considering Charlotte's size there may be more activity noted, but I challenge any town in any part of the State to show more life than is witnessed every day in the week in Gastonia." he concluded.

When Gastonia is mentioned by anyone in another section of North Carolina or even in another State you will see the folks prick up their ears and try to hear more about the town. Recently a Gastonian was visiting in Waynesville and when he told a stranger that his home was in Gastonia the gentleman replied, "Oh yes, I've heard about your town but have never been there. You folks down there are evidently doing great things from what I have heard lately. You know, everybody I have talked to who has ever been to Gastonia seems to be struck with the way your folks do things. I think I'll stop there the next opportunity I have."

And the best part about all this advertisement the town is getting is that it's every bit the truth. Gastonia has made wonderful progress in the last few years and her fastest growth will be seen in the next ten years.

CELEBRATE THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

The following from Fridays Statesville Landmark will be of interest to many Gastonians. Rev. Dr. Ware having at one time been pastor of Main Street Methodist church here:

August 25th Rev. Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Ware, of Statesville, celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of their marriage. There was no formal celebration but Dr. and Mrs. Ware were remembered by their children, who sent them a handsome gift of silverware, and their first knowledge of the gift was when it was placed on the table for the anniversary dinner. It was a pleasant surprise. Their daughter, Mrs. Kriebbaum, of Litleton, and son, Mr. W. R. Ware, Jr., of Greensboro, were with them on this occasion.

The pleasure of Dr. and Mrs. Ware was increased a week later, September 2, by the arrival of a grand daughter, Sara Ware, born to Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Kriebbaum, of Warren county. Mrs. Kriebbaum is the oldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ware and the baby was born in Statesville.

THE GAZETTE FOR \$1 for the school year. If you have a boy or girl away at college, send them their home paper. The pleasure and profit it will derive from it twice a week while away from home will be worth many times the small cost to you. Send cash with order to The Gazette Publishing Co. tt

disposition of the people toward a public servant who can give such an account of his stewardship? In one of his essays upon the United States John Stuart Mill said that "the American people, when confronted with grave economic questions, often seemed upon the point of doing the wrong thing, but in the end the common sense of the people has prevailed and they have done the right thing."

Since the time of Mill the common sense and economic sanity of the American people have not diminished. Thanks to the conservatism, tact, and statesmanship of President Wilson, we have become the most powerful Nation in the world, both morally and economically.

That the majority of the American people recognize this and will insist upon retaining the services of a man who has served them so well is a conclusion of both logic and observation.

Which President Said:

"To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace?"

"No, you're wrong. It wasn't Roosevelt. It wasn't Wilson, either. You're simply guessing, now."

Well, maybe you can name offhand the 12 states in which women will be allowed to vote for President this year? No? My, but you're getting rusty. Better brush up your historical knowledge right now by reading

"The Presidency of the United States"

This is a 48-page, vest pocket size manual, chock-full of reliable, authentic facts, dates, incidents, statistics, etc., about all past and present elections. It's the biggest little election argument settler you ever saw.

You can obtain a copy at this office for the small sum of 10 cents.

Out-of-town parties can get it at same price. Send 10 cents silver or stamps.

To possess information is always desirable. Even a fence should be "well posted." You'll certainly need this book during the coming election. Get your copy today. Just fits the vest pocket.

GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.

GASTONIA, N. C.

ABOUT THE ALLIGATOR.

To the Editor of The Gazette:

As the alligator which has lain in state and has been viewed by many wondering admirers (?) seems to be under a cloud of mystery, I thought it only just to the wandering saurian to account for its appearance in this vicinity.

I want you to know that this is no common "gator from the lowlands, but an aristocrat—one of a proud family of Hot Springs, Ark. It was hatched in an incubator and "handled with care," about ten years ago. I bought it as a curio and souvenir. Ever since it took up its dignified residence with us a stream of men, women and children have respectfully called upon it—I use respectfully advisedly—some would stand in awe 20 feet away while others more bold would dare to lean upon the fence of his pen. He was perfectly harmless at all times. His blowing and thrashing around was like some candidates, all noise.

But alas, for his wandering disposition shown at an early age. The first year he crawled from the warm winter quarters prepared for him and went under the house and remained there until April. Through the intervening years he took many little strolls, sometimes going out by the front gate and sedately keeping to the sidewalk until he was brought back, but more often he made visits to the barn and while en route would take a meal of tender chicken by way of diversion. This spring his prison seemed more irksome than ever before. After he was brought back from one of the cotton mills, where he was making strenuous efforts to get into a pen of fine chickens, he seemed to understand that he was shut out from his rights and climbed over the new four post wire fence to freedom.

After his long trip to McAdenville he was no doubt home-sick and repented of his faithless behavior and was looking with sad eyes and "wet tears" for some one to sympathize with him and take him home.

O wayward son of Saurian
What thou hast missed,
Six hundred years from now
Thou mightest have kissed
A reptile brought from Mars.

Thou mightst have seen
A game of ball played in the air,
Each player with electric wings
Fixed with care,
And the fans would sit on the stars.

Thou mightst have lived in days
When women ruled the world;
When universal peace prevailed,
The domestic flag by man un-
furled
When babies cried for Pa.

Had'st thou been good
Thou mightst have seen a sight
To stir thy cold blood—a world
Set free from pain and blight.
MRS. FRANK ROBINSON,
Lowell, N. C.

Children No Exception

In Gastonia as Elsewhere Youth and Age Suffer Alike From Kidney Weakness.

Is your child weak, frail and pale? No control over the kidneys' action? Kidney weakness is a serious thing—Far too serious to overlook. It may mean a life of sickness. Profit by Gastonia experiences. Use Doan's Kidney Pills. Endorsed by Gastonia parents. Read this Gastonia mother's endorsement:

Mrs. J. H. Walters, 315 S. Oakland St., Gastonia, says: "Some years ago one of my children had weak kidneys. I tried different medicines, but nothing seemed to do him any good until Doan's Kidney Pills were used. Since taking one box, his kidneys have been normal and he has enjoyed good health. I certainly can't speak too highly of Doan's Kidney Pills."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Walters recommends. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.—(Adv.)



The Girl the Captain Loved

was Liberty Horton. The Mexican son of her father's partner loves her too. The rivalry between them is one of the most beautiful love stories ever told on the screen. You can follow it through 20 episodes of

"LIBERTY"

The Serial Glorious with MARIE WALCAMP JACK HOLT-EDDIE POLO

The most talked of serial ever presented. Scenes laid along the Mexican Border where Uncle Sam's boys went ready for what ever happened. You'll see a truthful portrayal of Mexican bandit raids; thrilling rescues by American troopers, and you will enjoy the love story to the limit. Don't fail to see every one of the 20 glorious episodes.

SEE IT AT

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16th AT

Broadway Theatre



Annual September Excursion to Washington, D. C., Via Southern Railway, Wednesday September 20, 1916.

The Southern Railway will operate low round trip fare excursion from North Carolina points to Washington, D. C., Wednesday, September 20, 1916. Special train consisting of Standard Pullman sleeping cars and high-class day coaches to leave Charlotte at 7 p. m., arriving Washington 6:15 a. m., Thursday, September 21st. The following round trip fares will apply from stations named below:

From:	
CHARLOTTE	\$7.50
Concord	7.50
Salisbury	7.00
High Point	7.00
Greensboro	7.00
GASTONIA	8.00
Morganton	8.00
Statesville	7.50

Fares from all intermediate points on same basis. Tickets good going only on special train. Good returning on all regular trains except train No. 37. Passengers on branch line points will use regular train to junction point connecting with special train. Tickets good for four days in Washington.

This will be the last excursion to Washington this season and is a good opportunity to visit the Nation's Capitol at a nominal expense. Pullman reservations should be made in advance.

R. H. DeBUTTS, D. P. A., Charlotte, N. C.

GALOMEL WHEN BILIOUS? NO! STOP! MAKES YOU SICK AND SALIVATES

"Dodson's Liver Tone" is Harmless To Clean Your Sluggish Liver and Bowels.

Ugh! Calomel makes you sick. It's horrible! Take a dose of the dangerous drug tonight and tomorrow you may lose a day's work.

Calomel is mercury or quicksilver which causes necrosis of the bones. Calomel, when it comes into contact with sour bile crashes into it, breaking it up. This is when you feel that awful nausea and cramping. If you are sluggish and "all knocked out," if your liver is torpid and bowels constipated or you have headache, dizziness, coated tongue, if breath is bad or stomach sour, just try a spoonful of harmless Dodson's Liver Tone tonight on my guarantee.

Here's my guarantee—Go to any drug store and get a 50-cent bottle of Dodson's Liver Tone. Take a spoonful and if it doesn't straighten you right up and make you feel fine and vigorous I want you to go back to the store and get your money. Dodson's Liver Tone is destroying the sale of calomel because it is real liver medicine, entirely vegetable, therefore it can not salivate or make you sick.

I guarantee that one spoonful of Dodson's Liver Tone will put your sluggish liver to work and clean your bowels of that sour bile and constipated waste which is clogging your system and making you feel miserable. I guarantee that a bottle of Dodson's Liver Tone will keep your entire family feeling fine for months. Give it to your children. It is harmless; doesn't gripe and they like its pleasant taste.