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W. L. W. SEABROOK, Editor

GUY N. FRINGER, Manager

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CAN THE KING DO NO WRONG?

It was a maxim of ancient times that the king could do no wrong, and it has apparently been renewed in this day by a set of sycophantic admirers of President Wilson. They, by their constant praises of his every act, invest him with the mantle of infallibility. His Congress waits his word before deciding what to do with any measure pending before it. Nay, more, it actually awaits his pleasure before introducing any contemplated measure. By the fulsome praise of a portion of the press he has been elevated to the character of a demigod in the minds of many unreflecting people. Why he has achieved this distinction it is difficult to understand. He does not possess a vast degree of personal magnetism. There are people, however, who admire boldness and coldness combined in the same individual and these are qualities apparent in the President. His assumption of power in forcing legislation in harmony with his wishes and in defiance of the plain principles upon which this government is founded—the independence of the several branches of authority, legislative, executive and judicial—and his interference with the prerogatives of the people in their choice of representatives, may seem commendable to his inordinate admirers, but are not in harmony with the genius of the government. It would be amusing, if it were not humiliating, to witness his congressional puppets sitting around and fixing their eyes on him as they wait for the word to take up and consider some important subject of legislation, such, for instance, as amending the immigration laws to exclude foreigners lacking the rudiments of education. Only a day or two ago it was announced, in substance, that Congress was waiting the expression of his views in relation to the matter, before taking up the consideration of a bill to carry this design, which was previously defeated by Taft's veto, into effect. For the time being he was cold and silent in relation to it, and this coldness and boldness combined served to increase the admiration of his sycophants.

Now all this may seem like a harsh judgment of the man; but is it not justified by the facts? Is it not true that the tariff bill enacted at the exra session of Congress was almost entirely at Mr. Wilson's dictation. Vain were the pleadings of members of his own party for its modification. He would not have it so, although more votes were cast by the American people against than for his policy. Is it not true that he exerted the same sort of influence in shaping the currency legislation; legislation the value of which is yet to be determined. The measure is probably far from perfect and may require future amendment, but is not to be condemned unless found defective by actual experience. But whether good or bad, it was the part of Congress to enact it without having been subjected to executive dictation.

Now he is pressing legislation for the drastic regulation of trusts, and goes in person before Congress to distate the sort of measures he desires for the purpose. He has introduced a new order of things and is fast placing the executive department of the government above the legislative in the very interests that are confided to the latter branch of the government.

His admirers may look upon him as infallible, and work themselves into ecstacies of devotion over his every act. They may even contemplate the beginning of a new era to be designated A. W. W., (anno Woodrow Wilson,) but all that cannot blind patriotic people to the fact that he is assuming prerogatives which do not belong to the executive branch of the government. That the king can, in this instance, as he could in ancient times, do wrong, must be patent to many, indeed to a large majority of the American people.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER CELEBRATION

Thus far the Sykesville Herald is the only Carroll county paper that has shown sufficient appreciation, apart from the Sentinel, in the proposed pilgrimage to the birthplace of Francis Scott Key during the week in September next, when the centennial of his immortal song, the Star Spangled Banner as the national anthem, is to be celebrated. Under the caption, "What Will Carroll County Do About It," the Herald says:

"Does Carroll county, the birthplace of Francis Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner," propose to permit the big demonstration now being planned in his honor in Baltimore, to pass without taking some prominent part in it, or at least doing something at home to honor the man? Key is buried over in Frederick and there will be a pilgrimage to his grave during the demonstration. Why could not this also be extended to the place in Carroll county where he first saw the light of day?

"In this connection we are reminded by the Carroll Record that a son of Francis Scott Key, John Francis Key, is an inmate of the Confederate Soldiers' Home, at Pikesville—an institution also little heard of. Mr. Key was a visitor at the Gettysburg battle reunion—another fact not widely known—and he was taken there in an automobile through the enterprise of a Philadelphia evening newspaper. Through some misunderstanding, he did not secure transportation from the authorities.

"Another relative—a granddaughter, Mrs. A. McDonald McBlair—lives in Washington, and is said to be in destitute circumstances. Her husband, so report goes, had a government position, but, for some unannounced reasons, lost it, and it is said has no chance for reinstatement.

"The patriotic sentimentality of which there is aplenty just now in some sections, does not appear to extend to these relatives of Key who must have been very dear to him—a son and a granddaughter, both in destitute circumstances. What better way could Old Carroll county honor the memory of the famous author to whom she gave birth, than to provide a comfortable home for these two for the rest of their lives? A movement properly organized in this county for this purpose would, we believe, be properly financed."

But it appears that the pilgrimage has been practically determined and will be extended to Frederick, where the body of Key lies buried in Mt. Olivet cemetery, so that feature of the celebration needs no further urging. But it is to be made from Baltimore and will be independent of any action of the people of Carroll county, except as they may join with the pilgrims from Baltimore, many of whom will no doubt be from other States. The Sentinel takes pride in having been the first to suggest this pilgrimage, which was at once taken up and considered by the committee in Baltimore having the preparations for the celebration in charge.

But the pilgrimage is not the only proposition of interest in connection with the centennial. It should be a matter of civic pride on the part of the people of Carroll county to erect a suitable and lasting memorial at the spot to be visited by the pilgrims. And it should not be something inexpensive. This county, with seven millions of dollars on deposit in its banks, can surely spare a few thousands to this object. If the Sentinel is not misinformed, committees will soon be announced to take up and push the work. And it now appeals to its local contemporaries to join in advocating and urging the consummation of this project. It is hoped that no spirit of jealousy will prompt them to refrain from giving it their earnest, hearty support. They need make no reference to the Sentinel's early efforts in the cause and give it no credit for its zeal in pushing it. What is needed is the patriotic will to give the enterprise earnest, persistent support and the Sentinel will be willing to drop into the back ground and give its brethren of the press the prestige of pushing it to a successful termination.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

What to do with or for the Maryland Agricultural College is a problem that is perplexing the officials of the State having direct connection with it, as such, and the members of the General Assembly, upon whom devolves the responsibility of solving it. It is plain that in its present condition the college is not doing the work for which such an institution is designed, that is, not doing it to anything like the proper extent. The trouble with it is that it has never had adequate means to accomplish the real purpose of its existence. It may be, too, that its work in the interest of agriculture has been hampered by its curriculum, which has combined classical and agricultural instruction. But its main difficulty has been in the lack of funds. Handicapped as it has been in that respect it has not been a useless institution. It has certainly stimulated inquiry on the part of the farmers in relation to the best methods of cultivating their lands, and it has furnished them with valuable information in the practical work of farming. Its farmers institutes have brought to the farmers' doors much practical and useful information, and to this cause, as much as to any other, may be attributed the increased production of the soil, especially in the article of corn. It can hardly be supposed, therefore, that its comparative failure has been the fault of its faculty.

But the college has come to a point where it must either have adequate State aid, or come to an inglorious end. It rests with the General Assembly to say which of these alternatives is to be adopted. The State should and must have a real agricultural college if it will keep abreast of the times and do justice to the farmers. Whether that can best be done by abandoning the existing institution to its fate and establishing another under absolute State ownership and control, must be decided by the legislature.

The college is now appealing to that body for an appropriation that, if granted, will surely place it upon its feet and put it in the front rank of such institutions in this country. It asks an appropriation of a million of dollars, to be paid in sums of $200,000 annually for five years; and, in addition to this, $50,000 annually for its maintenance. This, of course will not be granted unless the State be given the practical directorate of the institution. It is probable, however, that it would be less expensive than the establishment of a totally new institution. The college, though burdened with a heavy debt, has a valuable property at College Park, and might be the nucleus for building up a great institution upon its foundations. The issue is at hand and must be met. The heart of the whole question lies in a sentence—the college should either be properly supported or left to perish. A piecemeal policy will not avail. It would only prolong a condition that has already become intolerable.

Speaker Champ Clark, in a speech in Baltimore, the latter part of last week, called upon the American people to stand by President Wilson, in his Mexican policy. Apparently an exhortation of that sort was unnecessary. Thus far the people have given the President their confidence and moral support in his dealing with Huerta and his usurped government, and in admonishing foreign nations to keep hands off in the struggle going on in Mexico, between the usurper and the Constitutionalists. It may be, however, that a crisis is impending. London newspapers have been caustically criticising this country and its President for refraining from some active measures to put an end to the strife in our neighboring republic. There is apparently good reason for discontent with the existing situation: but the people of this country have just as much ground for dissatisfaction with the condition of things in Mexico as foreign complainants. American citizens, as well as foreigners, have been obliged to flee from the country and millions of dollars worth of their property has been destroyed. Some of the sufferers may be disgruntled because this country has failed to protect them But the great mass of the American people realize that to do that meant intervention by military power and the beginning of a burden upon this government the end of which could not be predicted. Foreign governments have no call to demand such an undertaking by the United States, at least not as long as the American people are a practical unit against it; and they must respect and conform to the Monroe doctrine. The situation is embarrassing, but at present the people of this country should sustain their government in its refusal to embroil the nation in an endless struggle to force the Mexicans to keep the peace.

Postmaster Burleson has received a favorable report from three officers of the department in relation to the acquisition of the wire lines of the country—telegraph and telephone—except farmers' lines. This term probably refers to lines owned and operated solely by people in the rural districts, which are insignificant in extent in comparison with commercial lines. It is thus apparent that it will require an unjustifiable expenditure of a vast sum of money by the government to acquire this property. But even that is not the worst feature of it. To operate the lines requires a large army of employees who, as government officials, would receive much larger salaries than they are willing to take from the companies, to say nothing of the immense political influence they would exert. Mr. Koons, a native of this county, was one of the officials comprising the committee of three, who reported in favor of the acquisition of the wires, but it is now said the Postmaster General will not press the matter during the present session of Congress. Probably the President has put his foot on it, for the present at least.

President Wilson has lifted the embargo against the shipment of arms from this country into Mexico. Both the Huerta government and the Constitutionalists will be privileged to purchase munitions in this country, under the new order. Which will profit most by it remains to be seen. Confessedly the embargo was a departure from the universan practice of neutral nations. It probably should never have been issued and perhaps has served to delay the end of the conflict.

Some people are still kicking about the income tax, in spite of the fact that paying one is the cheapest method of acquiring social standing.

TO KEEP UP COURAGE

Some people whistle in the dark to keep the courage up and others sing for the same purpose. Just now some Democrats are whistling where others are singing the praises of President Wilson to convince themselves that stories of dull times are overdrawn and that the people of the country as a whole, are prosperous. They willfully shut their eyes to conditions calculated to depress even persons of sanguine temperament. It is true that there is no overwhelming collapse of manufactures and trade, but there is, undoubtedly, a shortening of output in industrial affairs and a large increase in the number of the unemployed throughout the country. And this condition, in lines of that character, reacts upon general trade and from all quarters there are reports of dull times. These reports are kept as far as possible from the public, but letters from private sources and from some of those who are personally affected by it, in widely separated sections, north, south and west, tell the same story. Retrenchment, curtailing expenses, doing much less trade than was done a year ago, are uniformly the stories told in such letters. On the other hand those who will not consider the cause of the depression have roseate visions of dawning prosperity. And these visions are told, with or without circumstance to justify them, and pessimism on the part of those who see and profess otherwise is decried and reproved as calcu'ated to destroy confidence and increase the depression. Whistle merrily and sing joyfully and "wait till the clouds roll by," seems to be the practice of those who look only on the surface of things and ignore the fact that there cannot be an effect without a cause. No amount of gloomy prediction; no large degree of pessimism will stop the wheels of machinery from turning, or quench the fires in factory chimneys if there is a demand for the products of the factory. The cause must be found elsewhere than in pessimistic talk and, being found and understood, the people should address themselves to the work of removing such cause as soon as it can be done in the regular way, and that will be by voting out the Democratic party and restoring to power the party which gave to the country by far the most prosperous era in its history.

Senator Maloy has introduced a bill in the legislature to establish a State University by co-ordinating the Maryland University, with its several branches, with the colleges of the State. Details of the plan are not at hand, and it is impossible to express an intelligent opinion for or against it, without such knowledge. If, however, the University and the colleges are favorable there can be little reason for opposition to the scheme. The institutions to be combined are the University, the Maryland Agricultural College, Washington College, St. John's College, Western Maryland College, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Maryland Medical College, of Baltimore, and the Blue Ridge College. All these institutions are receiving State appropriations, and the purpose seems to be to unite these appropriations in a single lump, perhaps for the sake of economy. It does not seem desirable to destroy their distinctive features. But if the colleges are willing nothing need be said in opposition.

THE TIME TO BUY CHEAPLY

There are some people who complain bitterly about the high cost of living, while they pay too little attention to he opportunities for reducing expenses announced in any of our issues in the retail advertising.

The great majority of the public is by this time thoroughly educated up to the idea of watching the store news in the papers, and buying from the bargains there reported. But while nearly every one reads this advertising, yet some people are too procrastinating to plan their purchases in advance. They persist in buying at the top of the market.

People who feel motives of thrift, however, must realize that February is a fine time to buy goods. There are few merchants who do not cut prices to reduce stocks. People who consistently plan to take advantage of these reductions can carry the burden of household expenses much more easily.

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Discipline must be maintained on the railroads, and some people even say that when an engineer smashes up a trainload of people he should be docked his day's pay.

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