American Sentinel

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THE SOLDIERS' BONUS

The law providing "adjusted compensation" for the soldiers which has just passed congress over the president's veto, has been the cause of a sharp division of opinion among conscientious people. The opposition assents to the majority of congress, and all will join in hoping that the law will be well administered and that the soldiers will make the very best use of it.

Many soldiers of course will be dissatisfied that this plan does not take the form of a cash offer. As far as the taxpayers are concerned, that might be considered the cheapest way out of it. Perhaps the best way would have been, in case a cash offer had been decided upon, to keep taxes up to their present level for the rest of the year, so that the surplus now coming into the treasury would pay some portion of the amount. Then the rest should have been borrowed.

But whether a cash offer would have been as good for the average veteran is another question. The offer of a life insurance policy at least encourages him to adopt a standard form of saving, which is what he should provide for himself if he marries and has a family.

It is earnestly to be hoped, when it becomes possible for the veterans to borrow money on these policies, that not many will secure such loans to spend for trivial and extravagant purposes.

Some of course will use it legitimately to borrow money for education, or for investment in farms or other productive property. Those who use such loans to buy luxuries with will not use it for the purpose for which it was intended.

THE STRAW HAT

It is in accordance with nature that along in May or June, when warm weather makes a warm hat uncomfortable, the vast majority of men discard their heavy headwear of winter and appear in light looking straw hats. Wearing a good comfortable straw is one of the pleasures of the season.

There is general gratitude among the men that the early tendency to make their hats highly ornate was long ago stopped.

During the reign of James I of England the brims of men's hats broadened out and feathers were placed fantastically at the back and sides of the high crown, and brims were often fastened up on one side with a jewel. But the men of to-day prefer simplicity, suited to people who must live by hard work, and do not want to be bothered by clothes meant for show rather than industry.

While men are said as a rule not to be governed by whims of fashion, yet the suddenness with which straw hats will appear on the street at certain dates, and soon spread to the heads of most of the men, show that the male sex is not so independent of style as it claims to be. A man will wear a straw hat on a cold day in June when a felt one would be more appropriate. Yet he would feel unsuitably dressed to be seen wearing one on a prematurely hot day in spring, when a straw would be exceedingly comfortable, but somewhat conspicuous.

An American crowd at this time in early summer, with most of the men wearing new straw hats, has a most cheerful appearance. Unfortunately, the majority of hats fade like the sere and yellow leaf. The poets who write those depressing verses on the falling of the leaves, might get out some equally melancholy ones, on the fading of the straw hat. But you can find another at the same place for a small sum, or perhaps the cleaner can do wonders with the old one.

DECORATION DAY THOUGHTS

It is sometimes said that the world values money and power and social position more than anything else. Yet the honors that are paid by the nation to those who have distinguished themselves in other ways tell a different story.

The world may bow down before money in a way. Yet it never declared any public holidays in honor of people who simply made money. It never gathered together in memorial meetings, nor held processions, to decorate and honor those who won success in such ways.

The memorial days appointed to honor those who fought on both sides of the civil war may be neglected far more than they should be. It does not seem appropriate that all kinds of jubilations should be proceeding while these sacred ceremonies are being performed.

Yet these observances, and all the utterances in churches and schools that go with them, show that the world does pay a deeper reverence to other things than money and what is called worldly success. It places a higher honor on sacrifice and devotion to duty and love of country than it does on those superficial attainments which for the moment seem to win the more applause.

It may sometimes seem as if the service of the soldiers was forgotten. For many years the Memorial day exercises in honor of the Civil war soldiers were relatively neglected while the crowds attended ball games and other sports. Even now, though the World war soldiers are generally taking hold to carry on the Decoration day observance, these exercises do not attract the attention they deserve. Yet deep down in the hearts of the people is found a warm admiration for every man who served his country in time of war. Such a record adds a distinction to plain and simple people that no wealth, power, or fame can ever quite match.

SWIFT JUSTICE

Prosecution, conviction, and punishment of crime, where competent evidence exists, should be swift, according to Secretary Hughes in an address before the institute of social sciences. Half of the majesty of the law in the minds of potential criminals, is robbed if justice is long delayed.

Most of the criminals are young and have little background. When they consider the possibility of committing some crime, they are not concerned much with what happened to offenders who committed some offense years ago. They think what has happened or has not happened to the fellow in that city who got away with some foul deed last month or last winter. If the processes of justice could work so that penalties were usually imposed within a few months, many who now go the crooked path would see it does not pay.

Long postponements of trials often make it harder to secure convictions, as witnesses may disappear, and as time goes on they are likely not to have such a clear memory of events.

ELECTRIC RAY POSSIBILITIES

A British inventor claims that the electric ray which he can control could be used in warfare to put everything in its range absolutely out of existence. It creates an atmosphere, he says, in which nothing can live.

Scientific expectations are not always realized, yet it is evident that technical men are preparing for war on a scale and with weapons that had scarcely been dreamed of when the World war began. If they keep on it is quite conceivable that a fighting nation could sweep its enemies, including all non-combatants, off the earth. The progress of such inventions is proof that man must plan for the abolition of war as never before, or nations possessed of such powers will destroy each other and make the globe uninhabitable.

GOOD GOVERNMENT

It is the fashion at present to hurl mud at the people who are conducting the United States government, and to represent that the federal services are honeycombed with rottenness, which can only be removed by a sweeping change of administration. The testimony of Secretary Hughes could well be offered to all who take that view. However one may differ from Mr. Hughes' opinions, it would be admitted that he is a man of entire sincerity and truthfulness.

Mr. Hughes told the National institute of social sciences a few days ago, that he believed that "official dereliction is rare." "The business of the government on the whole is honestly administered, with a higher level of integrity than the average of private life," he said.

Here is the judgment of a man who knows the situation in the federal departments from years of experience. He did not say this to a political audience to make votes, but to a non-partisan assembly of people interested in human progress.

There is plenty of inefficiency in the government, due to causes that are of long standing, and for which no one political party is responsible. From time immemorial politicians have been largely influenced by spoils politics, which puts their political allies in office and considers merit secondary. Government efficiency is not produced on that basis.

But Mr. Hughes' statement should be accepted as conclusive evidence that the rottenness said by partisans to prevade the federal services, exists mostly in heated imaginations of campaigners. Under the competent federal administration of the past three years, the government has been on a higher level of efficiency than ever before.

THE FREIGHT RATE QUESTION

It is claimed that the present level of freight rates absorbes a big part, and sometimes about all, of the return that the farmers get from their products, and that the farms can not be prosperous until these rates are reduced. It is claimed that these rates are based on valuations of railroad property that are much in excess of what the railroads ever cost.

The opposite point of view urges that the railroads are not making much money, their average return being less rather than more than six per cent, and that to secure the capital necessary to keep these roads running well, they must be permitted to earn more than they earn now rather than less. It is pointed out that if the roads are not profitable, they will not provide adequate equipment. The farmer who can't get his produce to market on time owing to inadequate equipment, is in a worse hole than if he merely has to pay too high a rate.

Also it is pointed out that the valuations on which the roads are basing their rates are not as a rule found to be excessive by the interestate commerce commission.

There is one way in which these diverging views could be compromised, and that is by a general readjustment of the rates by which the charges for carrying bulky stuff like farm products could be reduced, while the revenue should be kept up to the present level by higher charges on certain luxuries and manufactured products.

The senate has passed a resolution directing the interstate commerce commission to readjust freight rates to relieve any basic industry suffering from depression, particularly agriculture. Such a readjustment may be the only way to solve this problem. Other products could probably bear the burden of high freight rates better than farm stuff, which is the most basic essential of life.

THE ATTACK ON WEALTH

Many people who have acquired wealth are feeling uncomfortable nowadays, as they hear the constant attack made on people who have money. The rich are accused of various offences. They are said to live in lavish ease, while the masses of the people toil and strive for a bare living, carrying heavy burdens without prospect of relief.

Also it is charged that the wealthy people are largely responsible for wars, that they get the country into these troubles as the result of striving after commercial expansion in foreign lands.

Many people have acquired bitter feeling against persons of wealth, and their prejudice stands out in all that they say and write. They overlook the generous acts of many kind hearted people of wealth, who are doing a great deal to relieve misfortune. They also overlook the heavy responsibilities carried by business men, many of whom are working harder than their employes in their effort to maintain their business and pay good wages.

The best way to remove such prejudices is to demonstrate that they are wrong by generous and far sighted policies.

The time has gone by when a man should say in regard to his business, "This is my business and I have a right to do with it just as I choose." The community has given him certain opportunities, feeling that this chance to accumulate wealth will work for the public advantage. If in any case it is not so handled as to work for the good of the community, the holder of the wealth in that case has not lived up to his end of the tacit agreement. Unless he acts so generously and kindly that his operations are beneficial to the community, he is likely to arouse so much antagonism as to menace his material prosperity.

TEACHING PATRIOTISM

The annual Memorial day for the commemoration of the soldiers has a wonderful effect on the national life, through the opportunity it has given for the teaching of patriotism. For many years the veterans of the Civil war have done a great piece of work, in visiting the schools at this time. They won the interest of the children by telling their personal experiences in the war, and then went on to say words that few youngsters ever forget, expressing their feeling for their country.

They have appealed with success to the sentiment of youth that admires the daring and devotion of the soldier. The veterans of the World war will no doubt take up this task of patriotic instruction which the Civil war veterans have conducted so well for many years.

THE LEFT TURN

One of the causes of automobile accidents in city and town centers is the habit of cutting corners in making a turn to the left. A motorist coming to an intersection often thinks that if he can slip over to the left hand side and avoid going around the central intersecting point, he will not have to reduce speed so much. Many hurrying drivers thus avoid the correct turn because it is a bit slower.

But the result is that other drivers and pedestrians do not know what to depend on. They were not looking for that car at the place where it suddenly appears, often going far too fast for that situation.

Automobile drivers should learn to follow the rules of safe operation because then other people will know what they are going to do, and can avoid them more easily. Ten seconds gained in cutting a corner may mean 10 days for some one in a hospital.

UNCLE TED'S BED TIME STORIES

GREAT NAME—GREAT MAN—GREAT WORK

"I don't know what to write about. I've thought of everything in the world and not one thing is what we are supposed to write on," said Jack.

It was a theme for his current history class and the teacher had instructed the class to write something connected with politics—either about one of the parties or some man closely connected with them.

"What's all the worry about, kiddie," asked Uncle Ted, who had suddenly appeared upon the scene.

"I don't know what to use for my current history theme. Can't you tell us a story that I can use."

"There are many men and events about which you could write but there is one man I am sure will prove more than interesting. He is a man who has been running the affairs of the Republican party for a long time now, in fact, ever since Mr. Will Hays became the head of the Post Office Department. That man is John T. Adams, Chairman of the Republican National Committee who will retire from that position immediately following the convention in Cleveland next month. Mr. Adams has proved one great thing, that political campaigns and successful politics can be run the same as any successful business, without a lot of false noise. In fact he has been a true business man in politics and as the Washington Post recently said in an editorial: "Mr. Adams appears to have adopted the Grant idea of giving his attention to planning and directing campaigns without worrying about who gets the credit—let us have more business men in politics, and let them take political lessons from John T. Adams, of Iowa.

"Now for a brief story of his interesting career. Mr. Adams was born in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1862 and not so very long ago a Boston newspaper brought forth the interesting fact that he is a direct descendent of the Adams family of Massachusetts which gave two Presidents to the country, John Quincy and his son. Mr. Adams' father, a native of Lowell, Mass., was one of the first settlers in Iowa. In the very year that the present chairman of the Republican National Committee was born, his father ran for Congress on the Republican ticket and was defeated by William B. Allison, who later became one of the great Republican leaders of the country.

"No more interesting twist could happen in politics than that fifty years later, when Mr. Allison was a candidate for the Senate, the son of his first opponent became his campaign manager, and waged such a successful campaign that his fame spread from coast to coast.

"For the past twelve years, Mr. Adams has been national Committeeman for Iowa. During the Harding campaign, he was [illegible] of the Republican National Committee, in charge of the western headquarters.

"Long before he entered politics, Mr. Adams had achieved marked success in the business world. In 1881 as a small boy, he entered the manufacturing company of which he is now the head, as office boy at a salary of $3 a week. Today it is one of the largest sash and door manufacturing plants in the United States.

"Mr. Adams has many fine characteristics, one of which is widely known—his strong Americanism. This fine trait so well developed hhas been an inspiration to all those men and women who have been fortunate enough to be associated with him. In fact he is one of the political leaders who has never tried to make his life's ambition mere official promotion. It has been his aim, rather, to work for the good of his party and the country at large.

"Under our form of government the chairman of a great party, especially of the party in power, holds a big job and wields a great amount of influence. Mr. Adams, always kindly, calm and efficient has been a big force in our country since he put over the West for Harding.

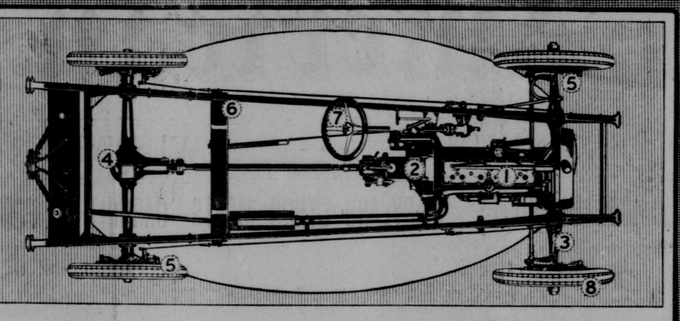
"What a man can do for his country, if given the opportunity, is generally indicated by what he does for his home town and community. Mr. Adams has always been active in the affairs of Dubuque, where he is loved and respected. Some years ago he started a Congregational mission on the edge of the city that has since developed into a big church. He has been President of the Dubuque General Hospital and for several years was a member of the school board. During the great war he was a member of the State Council of Defense, directed the Dubuque Red Cross drive and probably gave more money to the various war funds than anyone in the city.

"This in brief is the sketch of the life of the man who is soon retiring as official head of the Republican organization. He is doing so at his own request. But he has said that it does not mean the end of his interest in the party. He will continue to give what help he can as long as he lives.

"The party is surely losing one of its great, big men. The people throughout the country have not heard as much from him as from some other political leaders for he is not much for noise. He works quietly and efficiently. His methods have brought harmony and cooperation that have made many a politician wonder as to just how it could be done.

"So go to it, now Jack. Write about Mr. Adams and if you do it well, you should get a high mark. Some other time I will tell you about Mr. Buther, another successful business man and high type of citizen, who will succeed Mr. Adams.

"Now, both of you off to bed. Goodnight."



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People used to be urged to oil the wheels of progress, but oiling the wheels of Congress has not promoted much new legislation so far.

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