

# President Wilson's Annual Message

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point the way for the settlement of industrial disputes, by the establishment of a tribunal, fair and just alike to all which will settle industrial disputes, which in the past have led to war and disaster? America, witnessing the evil consequences which have followed out of such disputes between the contending forces, must not admit itself impotent to deal with these matters by means of peaceful processes. Surely there must be some method of bringing together in a council of peace and amity these two great interests, out of which will come a happier day of peace and co-operation, a day that will make for more comfort and happiness in living and a more tolerable condition among all classes of men. Certainly human intelligence can devise some acceptable tribunal for adjusting the differences between capital and labor.

This is the hour of test and trial for America. By her prowess and strength, and the indomitable courage of her soldiers, she demonstrated her powers to vindicate on foreign battlefields her conception of liberty and justice. Let not her influence as a mediator between capital and labor be weakened by her own failure to settle matters of purely domestic concern be proclaimed to the world. There are those in this country who threaten direct action to force their will upon a majority. Russia today, with its blood and terror, is a painful object lesson of the power of minorities. It makes little difference what minority it is; whether capital or labor, or any other class; no sort of privileges will ever be permitted to dominate this country. We are a partnership or nothing that is worth while. We are a democracy, where the majority are the masters, or all the hopes and purposes of the men who founded this government have been defeated and forgotten.

In America there is but one way by which great reforms can be accomplished and the relief sought by classes obtained, and that is through the orderly processes of representative government. Those who would propose any other method of reform are enemies to this country. America will not be daunted by threats nor lose her composure or calmness in these distressing times. We can afford, in the midst of this day of passion and unrest, to be self-contained and sure. The instrument of all reform in America is the straight road of justice to all classes and conditions of men. Men have but to follow this road to realize the full fruition of their objects and purposes. Let those beware who would take the shorter road of disorder and revolution. The right road is the road of justice and orderly process.

## PRESSURE ON GERMANY

The American public, we think, will find it rather difficult to understand why the sinking of the German fleet should be held to justify a military advance of the allies farther into German territory.

By that sort of logic, the destruction of the Essen works might bring about an expedition to Berlin. If the Germans had sailed the fleet out of Scapa Flow back to Bremerhaven, we could accept this as a threatening and provocative act; but not the fleet's destruction, especially as it leaves Britannia unchallenged as ever as mistress of the seas.

Neither will Americans, except extremists, sympathize much with the demand that Germany surrender more of her already drastically reduced merchant shipping because warships delivered to the allies were made away with. In this country it is not considered wise, and we think a very influential body of British opinion is of the same mind, to overwhelm the German people or prevent the restoration of their industrial and financial health. We cannot take seriously a fear that they will begin another war now or that, depleted as they are at this time as to men, munitions, and other essential resources of modern warfare, to say nothing of their unstable political and social condition, they constitute a serious threat to France.

We can make allowance for an abnormal psychological condition among the French, yet the tendency of their government to go to extremes with Germany seems to us one which

## PRESIDENTIAL SPROUTING SEASON



—Exchange.

will produce unfortunate effects, postpone the return of that stabilization of European relations which is so urgently sought by us all, and prepare the way for another war.—Chicago Tribune.

## ANGELES' EXECUTION A TRAGEDY

The execution of General Angeles deprived Mexico of the greatest man who has appeared in Mexico for many years. It was a tragedy—a loss to the United States as well as his own country, for he was a friend to our nation. The press dispatches report him as saying, during his last days:

"Our great neighboring nation, headed by its great president, Mr. Wilson, has only the kindest feeling for us and our welfare. It is often said here that the American army is a non-entity.

"Though true that its former army was of little importance, its present army is one of the greatest in existence. It embodies all of the flower and young, clean blood of the nation."

Angeles quit the Villa movement before Columbus, N. M., raid of 1916. He referred to the raid during his trial.

"A most dastardly attempt against the United States was made in the attack upon Columbus," he said. "A town belonging to a great friendly nation was attacked. Men, women and children suffered and property was destroyed. We showed ourselves to the whole world—for while the American is clean in mind, body and environment, we are absolutely and unequivocally opposite.

"General Pershing, whom the majority regard only as a trespasser on our soil, is one of the foremost generals of this day."

Ever since General Angeles was brought to Chihuahua he had considered his fate settled, according to those who visited him in his cell. To all he said his main hope and thought was to publicly say "something that would not leave my memory blackened and dishonor my children."

## LAFOLLETTE CALLS RAIL BILL "GREATEST STAIN"

A Washington dispatch, dated Dec. 10, says: Attacking the Cummins railroad bill as a measure especially designed to help the roads with their return to private operation, Senator LaFollette, republican, of Wisconsin, declared in the senate today that its enactment would "constitute the greatest stain on legislation in the history of the American nation."

"There is nowhere in this bill one clause in the interest of the people," said Senator LaFollette, who charged that the measure sought to validate "all the chicanery of 17 years of railroad jugglery and fasten it on the people."

When the senate recessed tonight Senator LaFollette had not concluded his address, after speaking two days hand-running, and he will resume tomorrow.

The governor of Nebraska, who announced some months ago that if he ever got his code bill working the profiteers would begin to understand that life was just one thing after another, now comes to the fore with a declaration that the only way to reduce the cost of living is to work and save, and that after all it is an individual and not a political proposition. A glance at the date when the Nebraska primaries are to be held is sufficient explanation.

## FOR ONCE MR. BRYAN IS RIGHT

It isn't often that we can agree with Wm. J. Bryan, but he has turned up at last with something worth while. "The party which by insisting upon unreasonable demands makes the treaty a vital issue in next year's campaign will invite the wrath of the voters."

We believe that to be true.

Of course the question arises, "What are unreasonable demands?" By implication, at least, Mr. Bryan mentions two. One concerns the much disputed Article X. He finds no difficulty with it whatever. He says that the language of the covenant left no doubt—and this is absolute fact—as to the right of each nation to decide whether it would follow the advice of the league, and the reservation merely asserts the authority of congress alone to declare war. Having admitted that congress cannot be deprived of this power, the democrats are in no position, he says, to go to the country in opposition to the reservation.

On the other hand, it is unreasonable to insist upon the preamble by which three of the powers must accept the reservations in writing. "Acquiescence in the reservations is much easier for the other nations and just as effective in protecting our rights."

Mr. Bryan apparently believes that the republicans should cut out the preamble, and that the democrats should accept the reservations.

And for once The Inquirer stands on common ground with him.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## IN THE OHIO CAMPAIGN

Another factor of tremendous help to the drys was the tour of William Jennings Bryan and Col Dan Morgan Smith. Bryan did the hardest campaigning of his strenuous life in this year's Ohio battle. For 26 days, most of them rainy days, he went up and down the state making four and five speeches to the throngs which crowded to hear him.

Never was Mr. Bryan more effective and convincing. He tore to shreds the sophistries of the brewers. He sounded the alarm. He urged action. He never rested. He got results. He left a trail of dry enthusiasm everywhere and he made the voters resolve not to have Ohio disgraced by a wet victory.

Scarcely less effective was Col. Smith—one of the heroes of the World War. He was heard by tens of thousands and his patriotic utterances found an echo in all who had the pleasure of hearing him. The returned soldiers knew he was one of them and they were with him in battling Hun influence here as they battled the Hun "over there."—American Issue.

## AN AMERICAN WOMAN IN PARLIAMENT

By a majority of 1,064 over both of her opponents Lady Astor becomes a member of the British parliament and authorized to wear her hat during solemn sessions if she wants to. She has shown a disposition to do what she wants to do and others have shown a disposition to let her do it, as this large majority of more than 5,000 votes over her leading opponent shows.

Lady Astor was Miss Nannie, or Nancy, Langhorne of Virginia, and so she not only becomes the first woman member of parliament, but an American woman member at that. Her campaign methods had quite the American flavor and seem to have suited the British palate very well. She was accused of bribing the voters by being good to them, a somewhat intangible crime and one which it might not do other candidates harm to emulate. She had a sharp tongue of ready wit, but with no vitrol in it, and this carried her far with the voters, who appreciate the readiness with which she turned against her opponents the barbed shafts they shot at her.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## KENYON AND BRYAN TALK

(From the Hot Springs, Ark., New Era.)

Great American issues were presented to the people of Hot Springs at the auditorium theatre last night by two of the nation's most prominent statesmen. Both Senator William S. Kenyon, of Iowa, and Colonel William Jennings Bryan, former secretary of state in President Wilson's cabinet, are keenly interested in present problems which confront America at this time and both are well informed as to conditions in the United States. These two statesmen gave highly interesting and instructive addresses to the people of this community. The joint speaking was under the auspices of the Business Men's League.