

Profiteers In Business

(From the Pitchfork, Dallas, Tex.)

The entire conscience of the world has united on the judgment that it is morally wrong for a money lender to charge more than a modest and sensible per cent of profit on his loan. Since we see that the money lender is nothing more or less than a MERCHANT in credit-values, why shouldn't we place a limit on the profits of other MERCHANTS? It is as unjust and immoral for a shoe merchant to sell a pair of shoes for \$18.00 that cost him \$9.00 as it is for a money lender to lend \$9.00 out on interest and charge \$9.00 for the use of it, collecting \$18.00 in the end.

If we permit a clothing merchant to sell a suit of clothes that cost him \$25.00 for \$60.00, we have no business passing a law that forbids a banker (a money merchant) from selling money at more than 10 per cent profit. You know this is the truth.

I think the law which forbids the banker charging more than 10 per cent profit is a good one; and I think the same sort of law should be passed to protect us against the greed of the shoe merchant and the clothing merchant and the food merchant and every other merchant who deals in the necessities of life. The banker is a merchant as surely as they are, and they are no better than the most avaricious banker who ever lived. In fact, we are all cut out of about the same leather. All of us need to be tied down lest our greed for gain runs away with our sense of decency.

The only reason we continue to tolerate the Profiteer in life necessities is that we have always done so. We seem to think there is no other way. It's like sleeping with a crippled boy—you get so, finally, you can't sleep without him.

What we need to do is take a club to the Profiteer.

We must stop our monkey business in dealing with the high cost of living. About all congress has done so far is to go on a periodical spree of

investigating the packers. They are very safe in doing that. It is always perfectly safe for a politician to cuss out the packers, or the Standard Oil Co., or the Mormon church, or even take a fling at the old Manchu dynasty of China. So far as I am concerned congress can let the packers alone. It is an established fact that they make less than two cents profit on the sale of a dollar's worth of meat. What I want congress to do is to get after the retail butcher shop and the hundreds of thousands of small-fry thieves who are bleeding the country to death? Congress is going to be very slow in attacking these worst offenders for the reason that they nearly all belong to some church and generally have a good deal to do with politics in their respective localities. But if congress wants to quit fiddling and do the country a real service, it will stop the ravages of these little, "respectable" robbers.

Congress knows how to do it. Congress knows how to pass a Prohibition law between suns over the president's veto. Congress should be convened in extraordinary session for the special purpose of fixing a rate of profit on all goods sold through interstate transaction. The state legislatures should be convened in the same way to back up the national congress. This is the way to subdue the Profiteer and the country is going to hell in a gallop if the Profiteer is not subdued pretty pronto.

BRYAN A TARGET

For twenty ears and longer William Jennings Bryan has been counted a pretty good American. All to'd he has received more votes for the presidency than any living man, and on at least one occasion received almost enough to elect him. Even now he predicts that the prospect for Democratic success is poor enough to select him to run again. If it should come to that we are certain there are still remaining many thousands of Democrats who would rejoice to "throw away" another vote for him.

Col. Bryan has suffered for lack of attention during the last year or so. Nothing is so galling to the statesman as neglect. If he cannot be praised he needs to be condemned. To be abandoned is slow torture and a lingering death.

But he isn't going to be neglected much longer. The papers are printing a story of an informal dinner the colonel gave a few evenings ago to some Democratic senators in Washington, at which time he expressed an interest in the ratification of the treaty of peace and the league of nations, and, seeing the hopelessness of the present situation, with his usual good sense, suggested that the antireservationists should make a compromise with the reservationists and get the matter behind them. For the campaign approaches, and Col. Bryan has a supernatural faculty for looking ahead.

Lloyd George and a few British-Americans are the only ones that have not conceded that it will be impossible to ratify the league of nations covenant without reservations. They, of course, we take it, will at once begin a campaign of villification against Mr. Bryan. We shall shortly except to see him caricatured as "Wilhelm Judas Bryan," and such other epithets as are common to those who dabble in mud. On the other hand, his attitude on his subject may cause some of his Irish friends to compliment him by calling him "Mr. O'Brien." We do not know what new ambition he may have up his sleeve at this time, but we are positive he is not getting ready to stand for parliament.—News Scimitar, Memphis, Tenn.

COLLEGES FAVOR TREATY OOM-PROMISE

New York, dispatch, dated Jan. 14, says: Incomplete returns early today from fifty-three of nearly 400 colleges and universities whose students and faculty members voted yesterday on four questions concerning the peace treaty and league of nations, showed that out of a total of 41,889 votes cast, 22,643 favored any compromise which would make possible immediate ratification.

The wording of the proposition which was generally favored follows: "I favor a compromise between the Lodge and the democratic reservations in order to facilitate ratification of the treaty."

The proposition favoring ratification of the league and treaty without reservations got 8,979 votes; that opposing ratification in any form, 2923, and that favoring ratification, but only with the Lodge reservations 7,344.

BRYAN PRAISES HOT SPRINGS

(From Hot Springs Sentinel-Record.)

Of the many statements made to officials of the Business Men's League by visitors desirous of expressing their gratification at relief and cure obtained from the famous radio-active hot baths, none has ever been more sincerely given, or is regarded as more valuable, than the testimonial written by Col. William Jennings Bryan, who was requested by Walter M. Ebel, the League's director of publicity, to sum up the benefit obtained by Mrs. Bryan, who had been brought to Hot Springs helpless with rheumatism.

Before Col. and Mrs. Bryan left for their residence in Miami Fla., Colonel Bryan gave Mr. Ebel the following statement:

"My dear Mr. Ebel: "I speak for Mrs. Bryan as well as for myself when I praise the waters of Hot Springs. We are more than satisfied with the results secured here. Mrs. Bryan was carried to and from the train when she arrived on the Fourth of last July. She was lifted into and out of bed for weeks after she came, and could not feed herself.

"Now, she walks with the aid of one cane, and can walk alone without any aid whatever. Her hands are so much improved that she is able to sew and knit and writes with pen and typewriter. She is almost without pain and improves daily.

"We are leaving for Miami, Fla., believing that the mild climate down there will insure continued improvement. If there is any relapse or threatened return of the rheumatism we shall come back to Hot Springs at once. With us, the healing streams that flow from these smitten rocks have no rivals, and, I may add, we are grateful to all the people, residents and guests for their kindness.

"William Jennings Bryan." Aside from the joy Colonel Bryan experienced in the improvement of his wife, he also had a most pleasant sojourn. Colonel Bryan became a prominent factor in the life of the resort while he was here. He has made nine different addresses in Hot Springs, filling not only several of the local pulpits but has also addressed the children of the public schools and assisted materially by his presence and wonderful oratory other worthy projects. Hot Springs, while rejoicing with him over Mrs. Bryan's restoration to health and strength, regretted to see them leave.

BRYAN IN LINCOLN

[From Nebr. State Journal, Jan. 11.] William Jennings Bryan will arrive in Lincoln Sunday. He will remain in the city he still calls his home town until 4:30 p. m. Monday. During his brief visit he will make four addresses. The exact time of his arrival from the east was not

announced by his brother, C. W. Bryan.

Sunday evening Mr. Bryan will address the prohibition jubilee celebration of the Lancaster county W. C. T. U. at the First Christian church. The rest of the day, before and after the address, will be spent with his brother and friends.

At 2 p. m. Monday he will address the constitutional convention on "The Fundamental Principles of a State Constitution." At 11 a. m. he will speak at university convocation in Grant Memorial hall. It is probable that his topic will be the peace treaty and the league of nations. At noon he will be the guest of the Commercial club at luncheon and will make an address. All of his speeches will deal with non-partisan subjects or deal with non-partisan views of partisan subjects.

He will leave for Omaha at 4:30 p. m. Monday. It is expected that a delegation of over a hundred Lincoln citizens will accompany him. He will speak in the evening at the auditorium. The Omaha meeting will be a partisan affair. Mr. Bryan will outline the platform which he thinks the democratic party should adopt.

Tuesday Mr. Bryan will give an address in Des Moines. From there he will go to Washington to be on hand for the celebration January 16, the day national prohibition becomes effective.

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