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Mexican Retroaction

To understand the Mexican problem it is necessary to go back to 1913, when Madero, Constitutional President, was deposed and then murdered by military conspirators headed by Huerta. Venustiano Carranza, Governor of Coahuila, greatly to his credit, refused to submit to the dictator and took up arms to restore constitutional government, particularly the Juarez constitution of 1857.

The "plan of Guadalupe" outlined the purposes of Carranza and its principles were repeatedly redeclared, for example, in the Declaration of June 15, 1915, wherein Carranza said that his object was to restore the constitution, and that as regards foreigners, residents of or investors in Mexico, the constitutional government would afford them "all the guarantees to which they are entitled under our laws" and "amply protect their lives, their freedom and the enjoyment of the rights of property, allowing them indemnities for the damages which the revolution may have caused to them."

Carranza won, largely because of those pledges, for they brought to him the moral and material support of the United States. Huerta was driven out not so much by the force of Carranza's armies as by the steady pressure of Washington against him. Mexico was turned over to the Mexicans who pretended to stand for freedom and justice, and every American rejoiced in the hope that a troubled neighbor was to have peace.

Instead of keeping his pledges Carranza began immediately to break them. He did not surrender his sword, as Washington did to legally constituted authority, but said it was first necessary to have a new constitution and a new organization. He summoned to Queretaro a company of delegates, named by him, and through them practically decreed a new organic law. The Constitutionalists of Mexico threw the constitution they had fought for into the scrap heap and pretended to establish a new instrument. One of its provisions was that old and long recognized titles should not be valid. Retroactive provisions were inserted, which placed everything at the mercy of the new dictator.

Under the authority alleged to have been conferred a policy of confiscation was embarked on. There was not merely a denial of the right of foreigners to acquire property, but the property they already owned was put at the disposition of Carranza and his group. In the guise of establishing government ownership the government began seizing other people's property. There was only a pretense of compensation. The sums to be allowed were to be fixed by the national and state governments and bonds printed which owners must receive at their face value or get nothing.

The life and fortune of every foreigner were openly delivered into the hands of Carranza. Article 37, of the Queretaro constitution, provides: "The Executive shall have the inclusive right to expel from the republic forthwith and without judicial process any foreigner whose presence he may deem inexpedient." So Americans in Mexico have no rights the government is compelled to respect. If they are murdered or robbed—and scores have been—their friends, if they dare protest, are loaded on trains and sent over the border, stripped of all possessions.

Spanish lawyers love metaphysical law, and they have evolved the doctrine that a nation, if it so elects, may make laws retroactive. The argument, naturally, does not appeal to those interested in another legal tradition, a tradition which holds tightly to the doctrine that there are things not even a nation may do. The *ex post facto* doctrine thus revived in Mexico is in essence another expression of the Prussian theory that a state is supermoral and may do anything that it pleases. Carranza has become a dictator as much as Diaz was. He rules with substantially the same iron hand—indeed, his army is larger than the one on which Diaz relied. To the faults of Diaz he adds those of Lenin.

Crisis with respect to Mexico are recurrently precipitated by bandit Mexicans doing on their own account that which a bandit government does in the name of the nation. But the banditry of the government is the more important. A situation has been created which cannot forever be endured. Yet so far Mexico as a nation has not divorced herself from responsibility for what is done in her name. If she keeps in power so insistent, a pledge-breaker as Venustiano Carranza, a man who has betrayed

his promises to Mexico as well as those he made to this country when suppliant for our aid, we shall be unable to remain forever quiescent.

A Great Negro Gain

That I. W. W. agitators are doing their utmost to stir up discontent among the negroes is to be taken for granted. This is not because of any liking for negroes, but because of a love of trouble. They rejoice in discontent and seek all means to foment it. They make their living out of discord; concord is hateful to them.

In the relations of the two races in America has been much to discourage the dark-skinned one. No wonder its members sometimes lose faith and hope. But in the darkest hour along comes something to set the bells ringing again. Last week, just after the riots in Washington and Chicago, came news that the Southern Labor Congress had voted to admit negro unions to membership. Political equality is important. The negro will be only half a man until he gets it. But economic opportunity is more important. If the negro can gain an unimpeded right to make his living and to develop himself in skilled labor he will not long be excluded from polling places.

The sounder leaders of the negro race are not deceived by the I. W. W. They know this organization is no friend of theirs—would merely use them for its purposes. So its agents gain few recruits. The negro race is a backward one, but it sees main matters with clearness and looks to the time when white and black will dwell together in harmony.

The Shantung Eggshells

Despite the hurrah over the Shantung question and its illogical entanglement with the covenant issues, our people may be assumed to view it sensibly and calmly and with a fair appreciation of the Japanese side of the case.

That Shantung, the birth province of Confucius, is an integral part of China is established by 3,000 years of history, and that by any known standard of national association it belongs to the most ancient of fatherlands seems not open to question, but as to the general relations of Japan to the Far East it is well to bear in mind some outstanding facts.

We have a Monroe Doctrine of which we are justly jealous, and a root of this doctrine is the desire to keep at a distance possibly troublesome neighbors. We have never admitted the doctrine was inconsistent with denials of any purpose to annex or to play lord to America's neighbors.

An American who supports Monroeism should be able to understand why Japan wants a Monroe Doctrine for the Far East. Russia penetrated Manchuria and reached the Korean frontier. Japan was compelled to fight a great war to drive her back. Germany seized Kiaochow and a special position in Shantung. Often China has seemed about to be partitioned. Not without reason, then, does Japan think her propinquity and the fact that she is the only modern nation in the Orient warrant her in claiming the trusteeship which the Lansing-Ishii note recognized.

Nor will candid Americans deny the weight of the example we set in Cuba. We expelled Spain from Cuba, as Japan did Germany from Shantung, and when we started on the undertaking declared it not our purpose to annex Cuba. But when the expulsion was achieved we did not withdraw at once, holding it necessary to establish order first. We would have taken it in ill part if Japan or any other nation had demanded that we fix an evacuation date and have thrown doubt on our good faith when we refused. We insisted on making the Platt amendment part of Cuba's fundamental law and became custodian of Cuba. The Shantung and the Cuban cases are not related, but there is a sufficient similarity to excuse a Japanese pointing to what we did.

In spite of the present claims of China to our sympathy the time has not come to sign a blank check in her favor. Many reasons can be urged for leaving the liquidation of the German estate in the Far East to Japan. She may not act unfairly or exclusively.

Messrs. Lansing, White and Bliss think if the President had held out for the policy he intimates he personally favored that Japan would have yielded. But if the President and Colonel House blundered and their diplomacy was weak, the consequences can be overcome only by proceeding with care. A flat refusal to ratify the treaty unless the Shantung clause is changed will scarcely contribute to the desired end. A proud nation is not likely to bend to a peremptory demand. Japan is now in possession, and the President has consented to an indefinite prolongation. Would we drive Japan out by war? If not, Tokio is more likely to listen to soft than hard words. Some sort of understanding has been arrived at touching Japanese evacuation, and it is prudent to await developments—until it is shown whether or not Japan is to respect the understanding. At present at Washington Shantung is a word to conjure with, but it behooves the Senate to weigh most seriously all of the questions involved in an approval of the recommendation of its Committee on Foreign Relations.

Besides the delicacy of our relations with Japan it would seem highly inexpedient to take any action that would jeopardize the peace as a whole or compel a reassemblage of the conference. The step taken by the President, however unwise it may have been, is not easily retraced. Perhaps as far as the Senate may safely go at the present juncture is to make it clear that this country does not approve of the arrange-

ment he entered into and reserves the full right to rediscuss the matter should Japan's performance not be in accord with the hopes she has raised. Possibly the way to proceed is to put this reservation of right into the ratification resolution.

The City Must Pay

The public denies to its employees a right to strike, on the ground that it is an employer which has no thought of profit and thus is to be trusted to do justice. This principle has often been emphatically thrust on the attention of dissatisfied public employees.

But the rule is one that imposes obligations on the city as well as on those who work for it. The time has arrived when citizens must seriously consider whether justice is being done to policemen, firemen, clerks and to the others constituting the army of 80,000 to which the city is paymaster. Any one who makes an honest investigation will find it difficult to resist the conclusion that justice is not being done. A policeman now gets \$1,650, but little more than he formerly received. Considering the increase in the cost of living and the demands made on policemen in virtue of their duties, few will seriously contend this is enough. And what is true of policemen is true as to others, particularly true as to the unfortunate clerical class, who have been uncompensated and whose hardships practically pass unnoticed.

The policemen and the firemen ask for \$150 a year each—an increase of less than 10 per cent. Such moderation seems astonishing when compared with other recent wage demands. If the city escapes with as small an increase as this it may deem itself fortunate, and the Board of Estimate should hasten to close the bargain.

It is more and more difficult to recruit men and women for city service at the city wage scales. A public job is not as attractive as it was. The disintegration of the city's forces has already begun, the best, of course, going first. The city must pay market prices for service, not only to do justice but to prevent a re-rise of sloth and graft.

Maligning the A. E. F.

In the Magazine Section of *The New York Times* of last Sunday an anonymous "Woman War Worker" was permitted to indulge in some surprising mudslinging at the American soldier in France. "Our Bad Boys in France" was the title of her unjustified philippic. The American soldier was represented as overindulgent in drink, acting like a cowboy bent on "shooting up the town," being abusive and boorish in restaurants and other public places, and insulting to women, both French women and American women, when the latter were not in service uniforms.

There were soldiers "who complained that they did not want to go home because they could not get anything to drink in America." That remark alone exhibits the profundity of the author's ignorance of the real state of mind of the American soldier.

The sublime truth about the American army in France is that no army was ever cleaner, soberer, healthier and better behaved. Vice was practically abolished.

In his "Social Studies of the War" Dr. Elmer T. Clark, a Y. M. C. A. investigator and representative of the various religious newspapers in this country, speaks repeatedly of the serious and even deeply spirited character of the soldiers with whom he lived for many months at the front. He contrasts the soldiers' point of view with the point of view of most of the chaplains assigned to instruct them—and the contrast is in favor of the soldiers. To say that our men overseas were drunkards and bores—sorry to go home because there is nothing to drink in the United States—is an outrageous slander. Never was there a body of fighting men more to be trusted, individually and collectively, for clean-mindedness, clean-heartedness, modesty, sympathy and instinctive courtesy.

The Times owes its readers and the public an apology.

Leal Scots

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We append herewith the full text of a telegram we have just sent Senator Lodge in reference to the plea for "self-determination for Scotland" which he has received and which is engaging public attention.

We trust that you will give our protest adequate publicity.

"THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN,"

G. CAMERON, Editor.

New York, Aug. 25, 1919.

(THE ENCLOSURE)

August 25, 1919.

Hon. H. C. Lodge,

Foreign Relations Committee,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: The plea for "self-determination for Scotland" which you have received from Mr. George J. Bruce will be obnoxious to the vast majority of leal Scots at home and abroad, for whom your suppliant assuredly does not speak. Mr. Bruce, as in the case of De Valera, is not a native of the country he would represent, but a New Zealander, and we can unqualifiedly state that his cause is not upheld by the Scottish press.

G. CAMERON EMSLIE,

Editor "The Scottish American."

Preceding a Rise

(From *The Baltimore Sun*)

And now we hear from San Francisco that the salmon pack this year is the poorest in the history of the business. That means that the "grab it" lunch rooms will have another excuse for raising the price of man-killing sandwiches.

The Conning Tower

"THOSE ENDEARING YOUNG CHARMS"

The price of rouge, face powder and eyebrow pencils has advanced disproportionately.—News from Brooklyn.

"Why so pale and wan, fair lover, prithe, why so pale?"

"Oh rouge is high," she made reply, "and I am short of kale."

There was a garden in her face

Where roses and white lilies blew;
But no more shall the pencil trace
The blackness of her eyebrow's hue.
Such artifices none may buy—
The price of them is too darned high.

Mr. Herron, at 22, has the golf championship, and if Mr. Brooks, at 42, wins the lawn tennis championship we should hate to have to write an editorial telling just what was proved by those two facts.

If, as old Don Marquis suggests, Mr. Ford is made ruler of the Island of Yap, he should train for the job at Camp Upton.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPPYS

August 22—Early to the city, and called upon Mistress Cherry, and ate with her at breakfast, and she is joyous over the return to-morrow of her husband from France; and thence to the office, where hard all day at my scribbling, and I had dinner with H. Wheeler, and L. Scott tells me his daughter Helen hath grown to be a great girl. J. Kerrigan the playactor tells me a tale of a man in an Irish fishing village, and who had just begun to read, and said, "Shakespeare—he's pretty plain-spoken." Home late, and read Daisy Ashford's "The Young Visitors," and liked it to the full. But all this talk that I hear about its authorship worries me; for there is no doubt that it was written by a girl 9 years of age, upon which I would stake anything. And those who hold it was written by Mr. Barrie show how little they know of a child's mind, and how faint their recollection of their own thoughts at 9 years.

23—For a long drive with my wife and Mrs. Gossall to Bear Mountain and there for dinner, a flavourless meal though abundant. To West Point, and thence to R. Hughes's for dinner, and G. Creel there, and on his socks horizontal, an unorthodox way of dressing. And R. Hughes and I had words of the transcription of cold-in-the-head dialect, I contending that only m and n are affected, but he that I and r also undergo mutation. Home, driving faster than my wife enjoyed, and to bed.

24—To the office, and read the public prints with care, and I find little sympathy with my Lord Woodrow, and I read that Cincinnati is to win the pennant, and I am ashamed that baseball no longer hath any lure for me. Home to dinner, and Mistress Josephine Wise there, and I look her to the train, and was tempted to board it with her, but resisted, as is my way with temptations. 25—Up at seven, and to the city by train, and all day at my desk, forasmuch as it was too rainy for the lawn tennis games.

If Mr. Will Rogers were still monologuing—and his ruminating animadversions upon the theatrical situation would be diverting—our bet is that he'd say that while a lot of the chorus girls might not be striking, their costumes were.

Old Stuff

Sir: Your Actors' Equity wheeze is literally wheezing with age. I have seen it attributed to some French notable (some member of Louis XIV's court, or perhaps Talleyrand—I'm not sure), but its debut occurred, so far as I know, in the pages of Tertulian (somewhere at the end of the second century or the beginning of the third). The great Christian apologist is inveighing against idolatry, against even the making of idols by Christian sculptors and when one of the latter is feebly protesting (*De Idolatria*, Chapter 5), "Non habeo aliud quo vivam," he promptly and crushingly makes reply, "Vivere ergo habes!"

ADWAIDE.

Speaking of Old Stuff, Mr. Rollin Lynde Hartt offers the following, from "Peck's Fun," by George W. Peck, published in 1880: "Trustworthy advice from the City of Mexico, says a dispatch, show that the country is on the verge of serious trouble. Now, there is stability for you—there is stick-to-itiveness—there is, we may say, tenacity for you. Other nations which find themselves on the verge of serious trouble fidget around and get up a fuss and can't keep still. But it is not so with Mexico. Ah, no! When Mexico finds herself on the verge of serious trouble, she sits right down in the sand and dangles her feet over the verge and looks aloft and is firm of heart. Go there twenty years or forty years or fifty years afterwards—go there with a handkerchief tied over your eyes, so you can't see a thing—feel your way cautiously along until you come to the verge of serious trouble—you touch something. It is Mexico."

THE 275 RHYMES

Sir: Don't you think some of the actors had cause to strike? Pre-empt, those performers in "A Royal Vagabond," who had to sing, might as well sing the song in which "hovel dear" triple-rhymed with "love will hear."

BAE.

Strike or no strike, our support is for the Barney Fagan benefit next Sunday night. Mr. Fagan's singing—and dancing—"My Gal Is a High Born Lady" (with Miss Henrietta Byron) is one of our pleasantest recollections of the year 1895.

Conspicuous Waste

I've never held views so bohemistic, On State Operation I frown, The car-owning workman's sophistic Complaints I cannot swallow down. But when foot-sores and weary and desparate, From hunting apartments in vain, I pass all these boarded-up mansions, By Trotzky, it drives me insane!

P. G.

"During his long experience," advertises Hartford's candid dentist, Dr. J. Henry Fagan, "the doctor has not had one patient come back."

Window washers may strike, but the baseball writers' friend, "J. Pluvius," washes on forever.

It is the conviction of J. H. A., a smoker, that most of the matches are non-union.

Speaking, in the phrase of Prof. Veblen, of Conspicuous Waste, the Democratic Party wants a \$10,000,000 campaign fund.

P. A.

But Sing We Shall
(From *The Bridgeport Standard-Telegram*)
Of course, we still have women and song, but somehow we lack all incentive to sing.

Shrunkn Dollar—Swollen Profits

By James E. Neville
Of the Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis

TWENTY years ago Charles A. Pillsbury, long deceased, then the most prominent figure in the milling industry of the United States, a staid business man not given to emotion, but always intensely interested in the prosperity of the Northwest, marched in at the head of a brass band upon the trading floor of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, where there was much excitement. A wonderfully beneficial thing had happened. Wheat, that had experienced a terrific fall in price following the collapse some years before of the famous "Joe" Leiter corner in Chicago, again had sold at the dollar mark. Everywhere throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota there was gladness. Dollar wheat meant general prosperity.

Bankers of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth have been recalling this incident and others as the high-priced grain crop raised this year has begun to come to market in ever increasing volume. They have been wondering what Mr. Pillsbury and James J. Hill and other pioneers would think could they come back to-day and see conditions as they are.

It may be that somewhere in the world there is an area comparable in size to that of the three states mentioned that is today as prosperous. It is doubtful if any one could be found out here who would admit it. Perhaps no other part of the country shows more impressively how readily the people and the business interests adjust themselves to new and unprecedented conditions. Prices have reached levels the prediction of which a few years ago would have endangered the reputation for sanity of any one predicting them. Or, to put it as the economists see it, the dollar has shrunk. Whether we measure from the dollar upward or from the price range down to the dollar, it is much the same, after all. A condition of unprecedented prosperity due to price enhancement is upon this part of the United States. Nor is it altogether true that this is common experience and hence no different out here, for there are some phases of the situation that are peculiarly of interest here.

Before the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, late in July, presented to President Wilson their appeal for a wage increase, stating that unless the advancing cost of living could be checked it would do little good even if they got it, old crop spring wheat of highest grade had sold as high as \$3.05 a bushel in Minneapolis, as against the government's guaranteed minimum to the farmer of \$2.21½. New spring wheat, some early grain cut in advance of the general harvest, had brought \$2.70. Barley, corn, rye and oats all were ranging high. As for flaxseed, that in the years well back sold at times at 96 cents a bushel, it had topped the \$6 line and had sold at \$6.28.

There was little wonder, then, that the advance in farmland prices, which reached levels that the most optimistic land man would not have dared to predict a few years back, should have started.

Always history intrudes. In 1907 live

China and Shantung

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I am annexing a part of a letter from my brother, L. Vincent Collings. The letter was written on June 29, 1919, from Poyang Lakes, China, and throws considerable light on the way the Chinese are taking the Shantung matter.

L. E. COLLINGS.

You would hardly think that what they do at the peace conference would be felt away in the interior of China. But it has been felt. Unfortunately the powers gave the province of Shantung to the Japanese. It was formerly controlled by the Chinese, then taken by the Germans and then by the Japs when war broke out. The Chinese had hoped to get it back, as it is an integral part of China. They should have got it back. It is a shame that the big powers were in such a position that their secret treaties made them give it to the Japs.

The Chinese were very much disappointed and quite aroused. Led by the students and returned students, they have organized a boycott of all Japanese goods, which are sold in great quantities throughout China. They ran the Chinese Minister to Tokio out and made several other officials that have been "dickering" with the Japs get out. Shops were closed for a time, meetings were held and many demonstrations took place in the larger places, showing how they dislike the Japs. The city walls were decked with Japanese goods on which were painted turtles. This is the worst thing that a Chinese can use to show his dislike. To be called a turtle is the worst name possible. The boycott still continues. Whether they will hold out for any length of time and shut out Japanese goods is the question. I doubt if they can, because they have no goods of their own manufacture or goods from other countries with which to replace the Japanese goods.

However, this boycott users in a new day for the Chinese. I think it is the first time that even a small proportion of the people have asserted themselves and made the government listen to their wishes. It will be fine if they do not carry it too far now after they have driven out a few of the corrupt officials.

There is no doubt but what the Japanese are getting a great foothold in China. They have Corea and they are to control in Manchuria. They now have Shantung, according to the peace treaty. They own many of the mines in China. They do much of the shipping here. They have special rights here and there. Everywhere they have postoffices and consulates. In the big cities they have big garrisons of soldiers. And they are loaning money all the time and getting certain concessions for it. It is a peaceful conquest for the control of China. And unless the other powers watch out the open door of China will be closed and Japan will have the lathkey.

But Sing We Shall

(From *The Bridgeport Standard-Telegram*)
Of course, we still have women and song, but somehow we lack all incentive to sing.

hog, that recently sold at South St. Paul for \$21 and \$22 a hundred, sold at \$4. In that year of money panic, with the grain movement starting and a question whether the banks could finance it, there was big news in the announcement that James J. Hill and William H. Dunwoody, then president of a Minneapolis bank, had arranged with Eastern bankers for \$5,000,000 with which to carry on. Now it is predicted that the Minneapolis-St. Paul bank figures when the grain crop is at its height will reach totals never before recorded, and Theodore Wold, governor of the Reserve Bank, speaks of loaning \$100,000,000 for crop moving purposes as if it were a mere incident of the year.

Later manifestation of the price trend has been shown in city realty advances that have been remarkable. Minneapolis and St. Paul may not be unlike other centres in this respect, but here the situation has been somewhat different by the many newcomers. Not less than 100 Eastern business firms, dealing in everything from apparel to farm machinery, have in the last few months opened branches or selling offices in these Twin Cities. Demand for downtown store space has taken all vacancies. The dwelling house problem has been acute. New construction, under way despite the high cost of building material and labor, will relieve the situation, but it will mean that a greater proportion of the people here will live in apartments, as they do in New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh or Boston. It is becoming more and more a luxury now to own one's own home, while not ten years ago nearly every one of a family had his own home and flat buildings were few and far between.

Abundant prosperity everywhere prevails. The volume of business done this fall will be the greatest by far. The standard of living never was so high. People are better clad, better shod, eat better food and live better in general than they ever did before. Automobile dealers, and there are many here, find their greatest difficulty in making delivery. Demand is keen for every kind of car, except that, naturally, sales of the very high-priced ones are not so numerous. One manufacturer, putting out a new car of good size, five and seven passenger, that sells for \$1,350 and looks like much for the money, was swamped with orders the first week that he had his showroom open.

As for the bankers and their attitude toward it all, they believe in it. Money is abundant and the ultimate source of money supply is near. Reasonable conservatism is urged on all who are expanding their business, and sometimes when a new business enterprise is discussed the banker's advice is that which Mr. Punch used to give to those about to get married, "Don't."

But prosperity is going to last, the bankers believe.

This territory, with the exception of Montana, has crops that are running into enormous figures; the crops are coming to market, the money inflow is on, the farmers are rich and everybody else prospers when the farmers prosper.

The Avaricious Maid

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: May I also, through your paper, add my indorsement in the letter of "An Old Housekeeper," which appeared in *The Tribune* of August 16. A very similar experience has been mine, so that the truth of the letter is easily understood.

Allow me to mention one incident. After increasing the wages of my last maid three times, she still asked for more money. When I told her that the work which she was asked to do did not command a higher compensation, she said that others were getting more money and that she must have it too. Naturally, I dismissed her. She was most insulting and left in a fit of rage. She liked her home with us because the work was easy and the privileges unusual. Kindness and consideration had nothing to do with her discontent and insulting attitude. It was pure greed and avarice and a determination to have her own way in the matter.

It goes without saying that well-born and well-bred Americans are never lacking in courtesy toward any one with whom they may come in contact, and the courteous word is instinctively spoken at the proper time without thought or discrimination.

New York, Aug. 20, 1919.

The Source of Trouble

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In reply to "An Old Housekeeper," I should like to point out that from her letter it is very easy to see the reason of all her troubles with servants. She evidently is of that class of housekeeper who sets herself up as a demigod, carrying a very superior air, never failing to knock servants at all times before her friends, and then wondering why she has trouble with them.

In most cases the attitude of the mistress toward her servants tells the whole story, and until the former realizes that the more she changes help the harder it is for her to keep help she will constantly have trouble.

While over in England last year, Lady —, working as a dishwasher in a London hospital, said to me as I commented on her doing such work: "Well, it has taught me one thing