

VANDERLIP CALLS FOR PROSPERITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

business relations cover, with a good deal of intimacy, the entire country, and while I have a rather extraordinary opportunity for obtaining the views of men from every section, the opinions which come to me may be highly colored by prejudice; they may come from a single class, and they may fall entirely to represent the true situation. I am not unmindful of all that, but believe I have made full allowance for such probability in testing the information that reaches me, and after doing that I still unhesitatingly say that a majority of the people of this country are not behind Congress demanding the enactment of the further business legislation now proposed.

As to the statement that a majority of Congress itself is not favorable to the passage of these measures at the present time, I can say that I have personally talked with many of the leaders, including the leaders on the administration side, and they have told me unequivocally that a majority of both Houses would prefer to give the country a period of legislative peace and end the present session without further enactments.

I believe there is not a newspaper correspondent in Washington, familiar with the views of many individual members of Congress, who will not verify that statement.

It has been charged that here is an effort to manufacture sentiment and in turn to have that sentiment impressed upon Congress by a chain of letter writers, and the endeavor has been termed a conspiracy. I can tell you that I know of cases where Democratic Congressmen have written to their constituents begging them in turn to write to the President and endeavor to influence him to permit Congress to adjourn this session without further legislation affecting business. I do not regard this action on the part of Congressmen as a conspiracy, but rather an effort to bring out a true reflection of public opinion.

Let us consider for a moment how these measures, of vast import as they are to the business of this nation, and, therefore, to the life of every citizen, whether business man or not, are being handled by Congress. There is no well crystallized sentiment there as to their form. The House has passed one measure of the first order of importance under a caucus whip and with closure of debate, openly expecting the Senate to revise it into reasonable form. Is it not probable that under the pressure of great desire to end the session, with hazy ideas of just what legislation they wish, and working in a field of practically untried experiment, with debate discouraged and legislative hearing cut short, the finished product will fall of its purpose?

I will agree with the most progressive of politicians that changed times and conditions warrant changed statutes, but I still believe that when these statutes are intended to create a fundamentally new relationship between business and government when they are designed to furnish novel curbs upon the freedom of commerce, they should have back of them a clear and certain opinion of a majority of Congress and of the citizens of the country.

You may say that I ask for delay merely in the hope of gaining avoidance, they finding proposed measures distasteful and being powerless to defeat them, naturally

the next step is to delay their enactment; and you may ask what good can be expected from mere delay, if it is admitted that new conditions now make desirable new laws.

He Offers Remedy.

The proposal that I would like to see Congress agree to is this: I would by no means ask that Congress merely stop its legislative work because its members are weary, or because they hear domestic or political calls that are with great force attracting them homeward; I would ask that the two Houses go forward now with a full discussion of these several important legislative projects; that they permit free debate, and that they gather such information from hearings as they may feel will help them toward wise conclusions; that they finally, at as early a date as they can, agree upon the exact and specific form which these measures are to take on the statute books, and then, without enacting them definitely into law, that they go home and give their constituents three months' time in which to study their completed work. Give the voters three months' time in which to familiarize themselves with the exact terms of the law which Congress proposes to enact, give themselves three months' time in which to feel the reflection of public opinion, and if after that they are so minded, let them return to Washington and enact these measures into law.

I would rest perfectly contented under such an arrangement.

I would not ask for a referendum to prove whether or not a majority of the voters actually want this legislation which at present I doubt; I would only ask that citizens have an opportunity, for a brief ninety days, to study in its minutest details the proposed legislation. For the comparatively rare examples of greed, of blindness to social obligations, of unfairness, and even of dishonesty, we have all been made to suffer, because in the past, we have silently submitted to generalizations drawn from these comparatively rare examples.

Now it is useless to complain about a condition, unless one can suggest a remedy. Fortunately, it seems to me, the remedy lies directly in our own hands.

I have tried to indicate how important it is to the future of business that we now have a background of sound and well-informed public opinion against which the new legislation which we need and are certainly going to have may stand out and be tested.

Must Have Sound Background.

I can hardly overemphasize how important I believe that is to the business in which every one of you is engaged. With this in mind, you will not be surprised if I tell you that I believe the time has come when we should see made the most gigantic contributions that have ever been made by business men to a political campaign. I do not care to which party the contributions are made, for the contributions that must be made, if you are to do anything that is effective, will not be contributions of money—they will be contributions of service; contributions of experience, of understanding, of truth; contributions in the way of an effective demand that the men whom you select as your representatives in the way of watchfulness that shall insure both honesty and intelligence in the exercise of representative obligations.

Now, all that is very well as a generalization, but we need something more specific, and I believe you have in the nature of this gathering the germ of specific action.

Let me make one more historic reference, and this time go back of the date of the foundation of the nation, and to those days when a public opinion was

with pending legislation, would be that through the neglect by business men of their duty in helping create a well-informed public opinion, the reaction is anticipated—might be delayed.

I have tried to give some hint of how important I believe it is that business men at the present time should take a wider interest in political affairs. I have no serious criticism of Congress. My criticism goes back of that to the country, and to a public opinion which I believe is not well informed, which does not fully grasp the force of great economic principles that are more potent than any laws that Congress can enact. You have your full share of blame if public opinion is ill informed. As a class, you have been silent in the face of calamity. Gross mistakes in fact, never answered. An important part of the public holds resentment against business men because of the accumulation of the charges of misconduct that have been made and gone unanswered; because of the distorted picture of your aims and methods which have gone unchallenged.

It seems to me time if business men are men of honor that they stand up and fight for their honor. You do not need to be told that in large part the life is a struggle, not of gain, but of accomplishment, an idealism as pure and clear as any statesman can boast of; but the general public does not know that, and they will not bend cravenly to their tasks and never look up to answer detractors, misrepresenters and slanderers.

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United We Stand.

Is there not here an idea that we could adopt today, and is there not in this gathering the illustration of how to do it? Let our committees of correspondence or the chambers of commerce of the United States. Let us unite them in the work of creating an informed and sound public opinion. Let the work of doing that be parcelled out with the genius that you who know the value of organization, of cooperation, of the subdivision of labor in the management of your own affairs, have proved you possess. See that the wisest and ablest men of your community are placed in the executive positions of your organizations. Make of yourselves such earnest and able lieutenants that the detail of organization may be complete and effective. Understand fully that this means self-sacrificing service; that it means an expenditure of time, and that it means constant, co-operative effort.

Through your organizations, see to it that every misstatement of fact, whether made in Congress, in the press, or in any public utterance, is challenged. Let men understand that loose statement, that misstatement, can no longer go carelessly on. Have every page of the Congressional Record read and every time a misstatement is printed there challenge the man who made it; challenge him so publicly that an answer will overtake a lie. If a man is a demagogue, if he clothes his truths in language that appeals to prejudice, go into his district and answer and expose him. If a newspaper is ill-informed, see to it that it has every facility for correct information, and then if it is still unfair, publish its unfairness in a way which will make unfairness unprofitable, and you will have no more of it.

Do not need to elaborate this idea. You are so far from what I mean by organization that I do not need more than a suggestion. But I know that some of you will answer that your lives have not been lived in the forum; that you cannot write; that you have not the power of speech so developed that you could with success publicly defend your views. In that I believe you are wrong. You do not know your latent powers. You can do it. You must do it. You need no tricks of rhetoric, no magic of eloquence. Just a plain, clear understanding of facts and principles, and a frank exposition of them.

You may think that the contribution

that I am asking is more difficult to give than have been other contributions that you have been more frequently asked to make, but I tell you the satisfaction of such contributions, and the effectiveness of them will so far transcend anything you have ever done before in the way of participation in public life that you will find the blessedness of the wisest way is yours.

Such then, is the appeal I would make for creating a constructive public opinion. The effort should include frankness to the public as to your own affairs, an appreciation of conditions outside of your own personal relationships, an active participation in political life that begins far back of the polls, begins at the beginning of the formation of public opinion—of that public opinion of which the result at the polls is only the final reflection—and I would ask that not only of the individual, but I would ask that of associations of individuals and of thorough co-operation of such associations in the work that is to be done.

I would see that there is banded together for effective militant work, not alone every business man, but every citizen who could be induced to join these organizations. I would make special effort to bring into co-operative relationship those men who more than you are interested in prosperity, although their relation to it may be in the humblest capacity of laborer, and those industries that you help to direct. I would especially invite representatives of labor organizations into your councils. I would ask that newspaper writers and editors to join your deliberations, in order that through the free exposition of your views and a free giving of information in regard to the work of your organizations, the editors may be in a better position to give facts to the public. Your organizations should be bureaus of facts. There should be an informed and sound public opinion, and your organizations should be the wisest and ablest men of your community are placed in the executive positions of your organizations. Make of yourselves such earnest and able lieutenants that the detail of organization may be complete and effective. Understand fully that this means self-sacrificing service; that it means an expenditure of time, and that it means constant, co-operative effort.

But if the work is to be effectively done, you must yourselves make the contribution of service. You cannot delegate the work. Do not try the plan of hiring others to promulgate your views. You cannot discharge your duty by writing checks. Band yourselves together, first in small associations, and then see that these associations are united in a common effort to impress upon the country those views which are the best results of your experience, your judgment, your sympathy and your righteousness.

Band yourselves together to make an appeal to the common sense of the people. That will not be conspiracy. Seek by your united efforts to build a public opinion that will promote the safety and happiness of posterity. Do not think only in days or in weeks, but think in decades. Realize the responsibility which is yours to turn present forces in right channels. Realize that patriotism means a submergence of self-interest. By a submergence of self-interest alone can you help to form a public opinion that will permit the creative genius of business to be recognized, and thus give to the world that genius the position it should rightly have—a place where it will be above criticism.

Such a course of action will create a public opinion that will be constructive, and not as now destructive, of the best sort of business activity. If you will do this, if all of you will unite to create such a movement, there need be little fear for the ultimate solution of our problems, nor for the permanence of our prosperity and the pre-eminence of our country.

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THE WAR DAY BY DAY

Fifty Years Ago.

June 29, 1864—Federal Cavalry, Numbering About 5,000 Men, Under Command of Gen. J. H. Wilson, Returning from a Raid Against the Railroads South of Petersburg, Were Met by the Enemy at Reams Station, and Prevented from Reaching the Army of the Potomac Except by a Roundabout and Hazardous Route.

Fifty years ago today a Federal cavalry command numbering about 5,000 men, under Gen. James H. Wilson, who had been on a raid against the railroads south of Petersburg, were met by the enemy at Reams Station, ten miles from Petersburg, and prevented from returning to the Army of the Potomac except by a roundabout and hazardous route.

For a time it seemed as if the command, being hard pressed by superior force and nearly surrounded, must perish or surrender; but the quick decision and energy of its commander enabled it, by the sacrifice of its wagon train and most of its guns, to retreat.

The situation in which the command found itself was one of the most perilous in which a large force of cavalry was placed in the course of the war. It resulted from a failure of certain Federal combinations in front of Petersburg.

Gen. Wilson had been sent to destroy as much as possible of the Petersburg and Lynchburg Railroad, running westward from Petersburg, and of the Richmond and Danville road, the principal line running southward out of Richmond, in order to reach the scene of his operations, and to return to the army, he was obliged to cross and recross the Weldon Railroad, the principal line running northward out of Petersburg. On setting out on his raid, Gen. Wilson had been assured at the headquarters of Gen. Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, that the road would be in Federal hands before he returned, thus assuring his safety if he reached it.

An attempt to seize the road made on July 22 by the Second and Sixth Army Corps, had failed, through a swift and successful attack made by Gen. A. P. Hill upon the flank of the Second Corps, which had driven the troops attached in panic to their intrenchments, had checked their forward movement, and had strengthened the hold of the Confederates upon the road.

This unexpected outcome of the Federal attempt to seize the road had changed the situation. Gen. Wilson being aware of the fact, and having exposed him to an attack by infantry which the enemy had sent down the road, he took them within 400 yards of the Confederate works. The route taken was eastward, as Lee held the roads by which they had come.

On the morning of June 28, Wilson's troops were well on their way. Reaching Wyllesburg at daylight, they made a halt of two hours to rest and make coffee. Then the march was resumed. The command had still nearly eighty miles to go to reach the Federal lines. Crossing the Meherrin River at Saffolds bridge, the column pushed on to the Nottaway River, which was reached at Double Bridges at noon, June 28. The raiders were now but thirty miles south of Petersburg, and ten miles west of the Weldon Railroad at Jarrett's Station. A road led from their position direct to Prince George Courthouse, passing within two miles of Stony Creek Station on the railroad. If the railroad was held by the Federals, the march would virtually end there.

track and destroying ties, freights, culverts, sidings and two freight trains of commissary supplies them.

That afternoon the head of the column, Kautz's command, reached Burkville Junction, where the Lynchburg and the Danville railroads crossed. For thirty miles along the former road the cavalrymen were at work. All water tanks, buildings and woodpiles were burned, and before they had finished hardly a rail or a tie remained in place. From Burkville, where the station and all other railroad property was destroyed, they struck south along the Danville road. The rails on this road were found to be flat-iron, laid on strips of wood. These were destroyed by building fires along the line, the wood burned the thin rails twisted, becoming useless. Several sawmills near the railroad were burned.

This road was followed in this manner for thirty miles, to the Staunton River, which was reached June 28. The command was now 100 miles from its starting point. The river was deep and the important Roanoke Railroad bridge across it defended by militia, intrenched in well-built works. The garrison, as well as the bridge, was attacked. The garrison, well to 300 men by citizens, made a spirited defense, under Capt. Benjamin L. Farinout of the Sixth Corps. The bridge was crossed and had been followed by a small cavalry division under Gen. W. H. F. Lee, who now attacked it from the rear. The fight lasted from 1 p. m. to 9, without advantage to either side. The Federals lost about seventy-five men in killed and wounded.

Direct Road Barred.

Recognizing that the Staunton River, with its well-defended bridge, was the logical end of his Southern progress, Gen. Wilson now addressed himself to withdrawing his command for the home-ward march.

This was accomplished at midnight. Without attracting the enemy's attention, the Federals passed silently down a road that took them within 400 yards of the Confederate works. The route taken was eastward, as Lee held the roads by which they had come.

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Gen. Wilson learned from negroes that the enemy had infantry on the railroad, but determined to push on. The enemy, in fact, was massing cavalry and infantry to bar his way. Before he had reached the vicinity of Stony Creek Station he was attacked by cavalry under Gen. Wade Hampton, near Sappony Church. A hard fight followed, lasting until late at night.

Finding his direct road barred, Gen. Wilson turned off to the left, or westward, hoping by a detour to reach a road that would take him across the railroad at Reams Station. He now feared that the Federal plan for seizing the railroad had failed, and was concerned for the safety of his command.

Hampton, detecting his movement at daylight, struck him sharply in flank, and followed him two miles, but later turned off to another road and disappeared.

On approaching Reams Station Gen. Wilson found his fears well grounded. The enemy held the railroad. Hampton was there before him. So also was a heavy skirmish line of infantry, with a battle line behind it. Beyond them could be seen numerous cavalry, drawn up on the road to Petersburg. Virtually all the Confederate cavalry was there, under Gen. William Mahone's division of the Petersburg lines.

Expecting help from the Army of the Potomac, for he was now not more than eight miles from his headquarters, Gen. Wilson partly intrenched his position and made use of his artillery to delay close action.

Calling one of his most active aids, Capt. E. W. Whitaker, of the First Connecticut, Gen. Wilson ordered him to ride to headquarters with a request for all. Taking an escort of forty men from the Third New York Cavalry, Capt. Whitaker dashed through the lines of the enemy, where both cavalry and infantry were in motion.

Half his escort were lost, but with the others he rode at top speed to Gen. Meade's headquarters.

His appearance there relieved a tension that had been felt for a week for Gen. Wilson's safety. Orders were issued for a division of the Sixth Corps to march at once to Reams Station. The rest of the corps was to follow as soon as it could be withdrawn from the works.

Meanwhile affairs with Wilson had become so critical that he could not wait for help. Cavalry under Gen. Fitz Hugh Lee had turned his position and attacked him from the rear, while the infantry prepared to advance.

Whatever could be done to save the command, now virtually surrounded, must be done quickly. Ordering his wagons burned, Gen. Wilson gave the word for the retreat to begin.

There was much confusion among the Federals as they broke through the entrenching lines of the enemy and took the route to the rear.

Kautz's command became separated from Wilson's. Guns of both divisions were mired in swamps or stuck in woods, spiked and abandoned. Kautz made a dash to get around the flank of the enemy in his front, and succeeded in doing so, reaching a road by which he rode direct to the Federal lines.

Gen. Wilson was not so fortunate. The enemy clung to him. His route was southward, taking him farther away from the army with every mile. He hoped, by twice crossing the Nottaway River, to shake off his pursuers. This eventually he was destined to do, though not without great stress and labor.

(Gen. Wilson's retreat will be further described July 2.)

Gen. Wilson learned from negroes that the enemy had infantry on the railroad, but determined to push on. The enemy, in fact, was massing cavalry and infantry to bar his way. Before he had reached the vicinity of Stony Creek Station he was attacked by cavalry under Gen. Wade Hampton, near Sappony Church. A hard fight followed, lasting until late at night.

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Tomorrow: Resignation of Secretary of the Treasury Chase.

SHALL THE NEGRO RULE?

Is a serious question with this Association. We contend that negroes are not legally entitled to vote, and this Association in October last filed a brief in suit 423 U. S. vs. Guinn & Beal, of Oklahoma, showing proofs of this contention. The Supreme Court has put the case over to the October term.

HOME RULE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Is also heartily indorsed by us. We dare to tell the President of the United States that he violates his party's platform when he appoints a non-resident to the purely local office of Recorder of Deeds.

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FAIR PLAY ASSOCIATION

Incorporated for the purpose of testing in the highest courts the negro's right to vote, and which is making a nation-wide fight on the question, has called

A MASS MEETING

To Be Held Under the Auspices of the Association at
 Old Masonic Temple, Tuesday June 30th, 1914, at 8 o'Clock P. M.
 To Oppose the Appointment of a Non-resident Black or White for the Office of
 RECORDER OF DEEDS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

We have invited the following gentlemen to address the assemblage, and many acceptances have been received at this writing:
 The Hon. James K. Vardaman, Hon. Hoke Smith, Hon. J. Thomas Heflin, and the Presidents of All Citizens' Associations
 Permanent headquarters have been established, and the fight has only just commenced. The only sources of revenue are from the sale of the Comprehensive and Convincing Brief, membership fees, and contributions.
EVERY BONA FIDE CITIZEN OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Is cordially invited to attend this great outpouring of indignant people—at the audacity of the proposed payment of a political deal at their expense. If it is impossible to be there, send in your application for membership. Active membership, \$1.00; honorary, \$10.00; life member, \$50.00 upward; Contributing members, 25 cents monthly. Copies of "Adriaan's" brief, \$1.00; synopsis "Adriaan's" brief, 25 cents. For further particulars call or address LORENZO G. WARFIELD, Secretary The National Democratic Fair Play Association, Washington, D. C.

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