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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1916.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.
 By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

WORTH TRYING.
 Here comes another risen sun
 With drafts that we must drink.
 Well, to your mirror quickly run,
 And with both optics full of fun
 Just tip yourself a wink.

It may be but a foolish thing
 For one like you to do,
 But if while doing it you'll sing
 'Twill make you smile, and ease the sting
 Of some sore bit of rue.

And anyhow a chance to smile
 Is worth most anybody's while.
 (Copyright, 1916.)

"Hughes Train Beats 80 an Hour," says a headline. Evidently the Republican nominee is getting somewhere.

The joy we get in recalling that December always brings Christmas is overbalanced this year by the sorrow embodied in the knowledge that December also brings Congress.

Billy Sunday announces that he will go to New York if New York will hand him \$100,000. It would be just like that naughty city to raise the limit to \$200,000 and give it to Mr. Sunday to stay away.

According to persons in the Calder camp, it cost the opposition managers \$300,000 to bring home the Bacon. And it is not yet a certainty that the expensive delivery system did not break down on the way.

Quite a contrast in two recent reports of air activities on the French front—A French flier had part of his wooden leg shot off and landed safely; a German was reported to have been hit in the head by a shell, and landed safely.

A dispatch states that secret orders were found on a German officer, the purport of which was that German officers must force their men to "fight to the end," on pain of court-martial. This may presage a higher mortality list in the armies of the Kaiser.

The British government has apologized for boarding the Cebu, an American ship, in territorial waters, blaming it on a "dense fog." There seems to be indications that the "fog," as regards United States trade, is beginning to lift.

"What will the war cost?" This question has been asked every day since the war began and has not been answered fully. The cost can be estimated only and the estimates must be only approximations. These estimations usually are made of the financial cost or of the number of men killed. Beyond the number of men the estimators seldom venture. What will England have to pay for the men she loses? No man knows. England, like all the other nations involved, is losing the very cream of her manhood. Just a few days ago a dispatch recounted the death of a British lieutenant named Raymond Asquith. He was the son of one of England's greatest men, a young man of great potential value to the nation, yet the life he gave counted for no more in battle than the life of the poorest, most ignorant peasant. England is paying with her most valuable young men, the backbone of her existence, as the South paid in the civil war. Fifty years have passed since the civil war and the South still feels the loss of those men who died in that war.

WAR.

An original poem first printed in The Washington Herald.

By FRANK S. INGOLDSBY.
 Huge but uncouth the monster stands revealed,
 Its shame exposed, its boasted glory gone.
 Degraded, useless, senseless, greedy, all
 Insane, it shows us what it really is.

Here does it grovel in a noisome trench,
 Its head bent down, its writhing form suppressed,
 And spews its horrid heaps when it is struck.
 There does it sink and hide, or steal upon
 Its unsuspecting victims, with intent
 So low that only lowest beasts compare.
 And even these are not so truly low,
 Since they have hunger to impel their deeds,
 While this mad monster has its food supplied
 By toiling millions whose own children starve.

To call it brutal shames the brutes, for no
 Wild beasts do kill their kind in wanton lots,
 And it remains for man to breed this thing
 Of infamy—this thing that kills its kind!

In days gone by this monster was adored,
 Loved, petted, housed in temples of renown,
 Bowed down to, worshipped, glorified and all
 Cheered loudly when it strutted into view.

Its votaries were clothed in pompous garb,
 The glitter of their trappings masking well
 The blood that stained them when their work
 was on.

And men were satisfied that might was right,
 As once they thought the earth was really flat,
 And that the gladiator was most brave,
 And that the duel marked the higher field,
 And that the prize ring made for manly men:
 All these as children think that make-believe
 Is truth, and never stop to question it.

What fools then, if we have a wish to live,
 To nurse this monster which consumes our lives!
 What fools to feed it with our choicest sons
 So it may grow and shame the life we lead.
 Pontiac, Mich., June 18, 1916.

Public opinion in Spain is imperiously urging the restoration of order in Mexico so that Spanish citizens who are established there may no longer be seriously molested. American intervention is not considered unfavorable in Spain. At the beginning of the Mexican revolution Spaniards found efficient aid from direct measures which it was not in Spain's power to start.—Le Temps, Paris

The Paramount Issue.

President Wilson arrived at Shadow Lawn Tuesday afternoon and announced that he now is ready to reply to the Republican attack. Mr. Hughes began his second tour of the Middle West Tuesday night with an address at Springfield, Ill.

These announcements indicate that the national campaign is running into the final lap, that the nominees now have entered upon the speech-making grind that may be expected to continue with only brief intermissions until that day in November when the voters will speak.

Mr. Hughes, in opening his second Western tour, devoted the bulk of his first speech to an attack on the Adamson eight-hour law for trainmen. Mr. Wilson, at Shadow Lawn, allowed it to be known that he is preparing to make his first extended and detailed defense of the Adamson law. As a sort of preliminary to the President's speech, Senator Stone, of Missouri, issued a statement in Chicago said to represent the "thought of the administration" on the Adamson law.

Coming as the campaign warms up for the finish, these events bear a notable significance, viz., the Adamson eight-hour law, for the time being at least, has been developed into the paramount issue in the great political fight. The boldness with which Mr. Hughes has injected the issue seems convincing that he intends to treat it with increasing importance as the campaign progresses.

Mr. Hughes drew the issue into the ring in the fog end of the campaign in Maine and his views were given quite an airing, but the most severe arraignment yet made of Mr. Wilson's action in the railroad crisis was delivered by Mr. Hughes in Springfield.

The statement issued by Senator Stone in defense of the Adamson law, cannot, of course, be accepted as the administration's full reply to the Republican attack. The voters must wait until Mr. Wilson himself speaks before passing final judgment on this issue. Senator Stone's speech may be regarded as a sort of "feeler." Its reception by the public may serve as a guide to President Wilson in framing his full reply.

Analyses of the attack by Mr. Hughes and the reply by Senator Stone indicate, however, that Mr. Wilson will have a very difficult task. Mr. Hughes, in his Springfield address, said in part:

The Adamson bill is a force bill. It was legislation without inquiry, without knowledge. The demand by the administration for such legislation as the price of peace was a humiliating spectacle. It was not only a serious misuse of official power, but a deplorable abdication of moral authority.

The excuses presented are futile. The Adamson bill is not a bill providing for an eight-hour workday. It does not fix hours at all. It regulates wages. Its provisions do not require any employer to employ any set of men for only eight hours a day. Eight-hour day laws are to avoid fatigue and overstrain by prohibiting employment in excess of the requirement. There is nothing of that sort in this bill.

We are, therefore, not concerned with anything that is said of the judgment of society with respect to an eight-hour workday. There is plainly no judgment of society upon the increase of wages this bill requires.

What was the manifest duty of the Executive? Plainly to insist that investigation should precede action, and that nothing should be yielded to force. It was stated by the Executive in his address to Congress that "the matter" had been agitated for more than a year. Why, then, was it not investigated? Could not the administration command all necessary machinery for fair and thorough inquiry? Not only did the administration fail to take proper action on its own initiative, but the business men of the country appealed in vain to the administration for investigation. Their request won no favorable action.

Time was allowed to run, and then came the surger that shocked the people throughout the land. Was the "crisis" unforeseen? Why was it permitted to arise, when the administration was forewarned?

Senator Stone, in his reply, said in part: "Nobody threatened the President or Congress, nobody demanded anything of them. There was no controversy between the government and the railroad employees, no between the government and the railroad managers. The controversy was purely industrial, waged between several hundred thousand men who actually operate trains on the one hand and the managers of the railroads on the other.

The trouble had reached a point so acute that these hundreds of thousands of men were on the verge of a strike; they were about to quit work, and thus leave the entire railroad transportation of the country tied up for an indefinite period.

The very threat of this nation-wide lock-out caused a big jump in the prices of food, coal and all the necessities of life and industry, and it is worthy of note that when the danger passed prices went back to normal.

These are the things the President faced, and such the calamity he bravely, patiently, patriotically sought to avert. Who blames him? Mr. Hughes says he should have investigated the questions at issue before acting. They seem to think that although the house was on fire, the President should have inquired into the cause of the fire before putting it out, instead of first putting it out and then investigating the cause.

The substance of Senator Stone's defense seems to be that even if the President did commit an error he should be excused because he acted to save the nation from the disasters of a strike. But Mr. Hughes believes that the President had ample time in which to prepare for the crisis. Senator Stone does not attempt to answer Mr. Hughes' statement that the eight-hour law does not provide for eight hours work a day, but serves only to increase wages. As President Wilson sought to justify the passage of the Adamson bill on the ground that society sanctions an eight-hour day, the crux of the matter seems to be embodied in Mr. Hughes' statement that the law does not provide the eight-hour day, and the fact that Senator Stone evades the very heart of the issue seems to give the Republican nominee the best of the argument.

On both sides, the heat cooled down and the notes exchanged became more courteous. That's the way things stand now when it seems that there will be a mutual patrol of the border by American and Carranza troops acting in concert. This will undoubtedly be more equitable to Mexico than a forced invasion of her territory, and a great deal more satisfactory to the United States whose country near the border has been subjected to an intolerable state of terrorization.

Villa, who keeps very much alive, has resumed his bandit raids. If his object is really to create war between the United States and Mexico his kindly intentions will be much more readily defeated if the present Mexican government and that of the United States seriously set about mutual action against him and his like.

It is quite evident that the European countries in the entente do not want war between the United States and Mexico. Not so much because they fear a stoppage of our ammunition supplies—which they are rapidly getting to be independent of—as because England and France have large interests in Mexico which might be adversely affected. All their vast investments in railways, mines and oil fields would be seriously threatened.

In the campaign so much stress is being put on the achievement of this country "keeping out" of any close identification with the interests of either group of combatants that it is a serious question whether politicians are not in danger of overlooking future disadvantages. The isolation of the United States from the interests of the European combatants has resulted in very big profits to important American industries. At the close of the war a very different situation is going to develop. And it is a pretty serious issue how the United States is going to fare then.—Boston Advertiser.

The Navy Department announces that no location open to naval attack will be considered for the government armor plate will provided by the navy appropriation bill lately passed. The best informed public opinion would not greatly grieve if no government armor plate should be built anywhere. However, in deciding to put it far enough inland to be secure from hostile attack it is evident that the administration is showing some power of foresight, and is making the best of what must be regarded as a rather bad job of work on the part of Congress.—Chicago Herald.

The reaction has set in! Mr. Wilson begins early to pay the piper that skirled last week. What was national expediency becomes political cowardice and unscrupulous partisanship. The spectacle of a minority backed by the President of the United States choking Congress into submission is an evil one. Its novelty stunned the country for the moment. Now the novelty has passed.—Buffalo News.

Seen and Heard by George Miner.

New York, Sept. 20.—The conference between the American and Mexican commissioners has attracted attention to Mexican affairs again. A great many people had almost forgotten that only a comparatively few weeks ago we were on the verge of war with that country. Now we have even stopped worrying over our army on the Rio Grande and ridiculing the national and State organizations for the clumsy and inefficient way in which the army was mobilized.

This is fortunate. It is just the sort of spirit that should permeate the country while international negotiations are going on. Nobody's temper is out of hand. Everybody can talk sensibly and reasonably, and consequently the commissioners are not being handicapped by heated public clamor.

For all that, the majority of us are still pretty strongly prejudiced against Mexico in general and the present Mexican government in particular. Few North Americans are ready to give the existing Mexican government any credit for really wishing to preserve peace with the United States, to clear up the internal disorders within the Mexican borders, and to solve the pressing problems of Mexican economic organization. Yet it is evident that these aims would be the most likely and reasonable ones for the Mexicans to adopt, and Senor Carranza has never shown himself to be deficient in reason or common sense.

He has nothing to gain and all to lose by anarchy within Mexico and trouble with other countries.

Villa no doubt prefers the condition of outlawry. If he didn't he wouldn't have kept it up for so long. He had a good chance to stop when his old friend was settled in the Presidential chair in Mexico City. But he was a bandit way back in the days of Diaz and remained a bandit until Mr. Bryan made him a pet, fed him with guns and ammunition and encouraged him to believe himself a true patriot. His status is no doubt quite satisfactory to himself.

Anyone taking up the reins of the Mexican government has a serious task to face, and there is no reason to suppose that the First Chief has not been setting about it seriously. Embroilments with other countries, big or little, could not help him. When he says that disorders in remote sections of Mexico are as hostile to himself as to the United States, Guatemala or British Honduras, all of which have seen their citizens raided and killed it is probable that he is right in disowning them and in saying that he is doing his best to suppress these disorders.

That Senor Carranza is making every effort to redeem Mexico's financial plight there can be no doubt. He is taking up treasury bills promptly and has so far succeeded in restoring confidence that the depreciated value of the peso has risen to four times what it was a little while ago. Decrees have been enacted which, if they can be carried out, will completely break down the old peonage system, elevate the citizenship of the laboring classes and equalize taxation.

The recent municipal elections all over Mexico, the first under the new government, went off peacefully and without any sign of disorder. For the first time in the history of Mexico the peon and Indian went to the polls and voted. This is certainly a most encouraging sign and an earnest that the constitutional government is trying to do what it says it is—a government of the people.

If peace ever settles over the whole country and Carranza is given a real chance to govern, he will not restore the Mexico of Porfirio Diaz, when the whole land was under bondage to wealthy Mexicans and foreigners, but he might build up the newer and freer system which his state papers promise.

The sending of the National Guard to the border brought the shadow of real war close up. Almost at once, it gave pause even to the people who had been crying out for hostilities. A sort of chill passed over both countries. Various societies besieged the President in the cause of peace and Latin-American republics cabled suggestions for mediation.

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Officers at the New York Navy Yard have denied the report that defects of a serious character have been revealed in the big guns of the Pennsylvania. It is stated by them that the heavy firing accompanying the tests has caused a slight disarrangement in the elevating gear of the main turrets, a state of affairs which generally exists aboard new battleships. The Pennsylvania, unlike other battleships, is equipped with turrets having three guns abreast instead of two.

To insure perfect accuracy in firing, the vessel was ordered to the navy yard to have adjustments made in the elevating gear. It is said the overhauling will be completed by October 1, when the Pennsylvania will steam from the yard to take her place as flagship of the Atlantic fleet. Certain alterations have to be made before Admiral Mayo hoists his flag. Workmen are busy making alterations so as to have the ship ready to time.

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ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.
 Best Service Column in City.

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AFTER DINNER POLITICS.
 When Fremont Went to the Senate.

By Dr. E. J. EDWARDS.
 September 1, 1850, California was admitted as a State to the Union. No other territory within a short time after territorial organization achieved Statehood. There was one member of the United States Senate who was especially devoted to California's star was added to the flag of the United States. He was Thomas Hart Benton, for many years United States Senator from Missouri. Senator Benton was a rugged statesman of the old-fashioned Democratic school. He believed in sound money "coin" or "bullion." For that reason the nickname which he did not disdain was given to him, so that he was commonly known as "Old Bullion."

But there was one thing, perhaps dearer to his heart than any other proposition with which he was associated while serving in the United States Senate. The brilliant young pathfinder, John C. Fremont, had gained the heart and hand of Benton's accomplished and beautiful daughter, Jessie, and there was some secret romance associated with the engagement after the marriage. The old Senator took the young South Carolinian to his heart and largely due to Benton's efforts that Fremont was able to make at least one of the exploring expeditions which gave him the name of pathfinder and whose romantic achievements brought to him the nomination of the Republican party for President in 1846.

Strong Democrat as he was, and representing a border State, as he did for many years, nevertheless Benton supported the resolution authorizing the admission of California to the Union as a free State. Senators suspected that lurking in the grand old Democrat's mind was the hope that if California were admitted to the Union he would be able to welcome his son-in-law, John C. Fremont, to the Senate chamber. If that were his hope, it was realized. Fremont was the first Senator chosen by the California legislature, although for the short term. The Senators were intensely interested when the handsome, celebrated explorer and pathfinder was greeted by his father-in-law, the veteran Senator, on the day when the credentials of Fremont were presented to the President pro tempore of the Senate.

After Fremont had taken the oath of Senator, he thought it worth while to take a seat beside his distinguished father-in-law, and they sat for some moments in earnest conversation, which was frequently interrupted by Senators who came to Fremont for the purpose of welcoming him to the Senate.

At one time father and son occupied seats in the Senate—Senator Dodge of Wisconsin and his son, Senator James Cameron of Iowa. At another time a son, Daniel Cameron, took the seat in the Senate which had been vacated by his father, but up to the time of the admission of Fremont to the Senate there had been no case where a father and son had sat side by side at the same time members of the Upper House.

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What form Secretary Baker's action will take was not disclosed by him, but it is apparent from what has been said in army circles that the whole matter of the adoption of the best type of machine guns for the army has been reopened by the appropriation by Congress of \$2,000,000 for the purchase of these weapons.

Authority to expend this amount for machine guns is carried in the annual army appropriation bill, recently enacted. The bill appropriates \$6,000,000 for machine guns for the regular army and \$6,000,000 additional for machine guns for the National Guard.

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