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PROFITEERING

The term, "profiteering", is having a tremendous vogue, as though the word were freshly coined or it described something just discovered, neither of which is true. Profiteering is as old as the system that admits of getting something for nothing, and that system dates back beyond written history because of the selfishness of the people who really make the history that is written. The figures that stand out in the records of time are the exceptional characters, saints or devils, fools or seers, charlatans or true men, conspicuous in one capacity or another, but, in the composite, always expressive of the public drift. In the material sense of success, we count the getting of money as the only criterion. Money in sufficient quantity to be conspicuous and therefore to represent so-called success is obtainable almost exclusively through profits, and the making of profits running beyond an accepted average is profiteering. Profiteering is as old as profits and always as highly developed as time and circumstance admit of.

These factors, time and circumstance, have played into the hands of profiteers during the past few years, and these last have left their mark upon the social state. Hence, we are hearing much of profiteering.

Denunciation of those who have been making inordinate profits avails nothing. Unless the cry is one of repentance and correction, there will be no change. Complaints made merely by those who are worsted, complaints made because of seeming personal injury or because of a denial to the complainants of the opportunity to do the same thing themselves, will neither decrease the suffering nor change the system.

Profits, in their true sense, are after all only wages, the reward of service, of labor. But they have been perverted and swollen until the student of economics would no longer regard them as just rewards, but would count them tribute, in the main.

Now, tribute is not paid; it is exacted, and nothing can be exacted as tribute unless some special privilege or power is behind the exaction.

An utterly false purpose or an absence of sound and just intent, has led to an inequitable distribution of powers and privileges, and under these unjust conditions the profiteering, as we now call it, has thriven mightily. So, we hear a good deal about it. The average man suffers a good deal from it, because he is an average man. But crying out against the effects of profiteering avails nothing. Laws specifically against it remain ineffective. They are too easily evadable. You cannot alter the spots of a leopard by shouting in his ear that you don't like them or that you wish that you had them yourself. Profiteering may seek concealment, or be temporarily less obtrusive, or change its aspect or form, but it will only cease when most people have no desire to get something for nothing, or much for little, or wish any advantage over their fellows.

REPUBLICAN PRETENSIONS

The Republicans have proclaimed their superiority and their greater efficiency in government so long—chiefly because they were in office so many years—that many of them undoubtedly believe their claims to be justified. They are like certain of the pioneers who, after repeating a hair-raising piece of fiction a good many times, finally come to believe the story is true and even a matter of personal experience. They deceive themselves.

If one pauses long enough to give the matter serious thought, he sees plainly how absurd it is to suppose that pinning any particular party label upon certain men is going to make them wiser or better than either the men wearing some other party label, or the men who wear no party label at all.

The Republican party has, in later years, come to be rather too much the agency by which the larger exploiting interests work their sweet will. These larger, exploiting interests employ a great many clever men, of course, the best they can secure. They furnish employment, indirectly, also, to many very smart gentlemen who serve them through the government. Representing the plutocratic, superman idea in politics, it is quite natural that these men and all their party associates should grow into a fixed habit of assuming that they possess all the wisdom and the virtues. It is an unwarranted assumption. Just as in everyday life, it is most often the men who come from humble stock and have risen from the ranks, who reach the highest pinnacles of what we call success, so it is in political life that the party which naturally and by its professions stands for the plain citizens, rather than the snobbish, for the workers rather than the idlers, for the producers rather than the exploiters, for the progressive impulses rather than the standpat or reactionary, will naturally be the party of real efficiency and progress, though it will be attacked, maligned and sneered at because it departs from the conventional lines and from many of the customs of thought and action to which we have long been habituated.

Having been out of office, now, some seven years, and quite naturally desiring to get back in again, if possible, our Republican friends begin their campaign, as usual, with the assumption of superiority. "We are the people," is the central idea. "We are the only people. We have nearly all the 'best people'—meaning the rich—with us. We are the only people fitted to govern. We are the superior people. We have a sort of divine right to office that none should presume to deny. We alone know how to govern. By comparison with the government we provide, that provided by any other party or class must necessarily be inferior," and so on, and so on, to the point of wearisomeness.

It is only fair to state that most of these bumptious and uppish pretensions are made in quite good faith. The pretenders really believe them. They rise in the morning to sing a paean to their own greatness, and they carol an evening lay about their divinely conferred superiority. Meanwhile the world, or a very great part of it, has learned to laugh, to chortle gleefully if not derisively, over the matter. It is a joke.

They are setting out a lot of poplar trees in Pennsylvania to help out the paper supply. Now, if we can induce the propagandists and publicity agents to just "lay off" until those trees are grown.

When a New York promoter succumbed to the financial pressure recently, his "sucker list" was the only visible asset. No doubt his victims will be glad to get their names back.

Premier Lloyd-George says the Versailles treaty must be executed. The United States Senate tried to execute it, but bungled the hanging.

Trap Shooter Made Famous by Dilapidated Winchester

By Peter P. Carney.

Along about the fag end of a day in late October, 1911, was the year a young man breezed into the Honeyman Hardware Emporium in Portland, Ore., and asked the clerk to show him a shotgun that would kill ducks. The young man was shown a dilapidated Winchester, 1897 model, and he purchased it for the munificent sum of \$19.00.

For the past seven years this self same young man has been making trapshooting history with miniature "cannon." Trapshooting lore for the last seven years is full of the exploits of Frank M. Troeh, for he is the fellow who purchased the second hand Winchester shotgun. With this gun that no one else in the world can shoot Troeh has won upwards of \$50,000 and up to January 1st, 1920, Troeh has fired 85,000 shots with the gun.

Archie Parrott, the clerk in question, when he interested Troeh in the purchase of the gun, didn't for a moment think that Troeh or the gun would become so famous. When Troeh asked for a good duck gun, Parrott picked up the old shotgun which some one had palmed off on him and said:

"Frank, I have a gun that ought to last you the remainder of this season and if you like it you can have it for \$19. You are not investing much money and next year you can buy a new gun and trade this one in. Troeh took the gun. He has it yet. There isn't money enough in the world to get it away from him."

But the peculiar part of the thing is that no one else can shoot this gun. It has an eight pound trigger pull. The average gun has a trigger pull of 3-4 pounds. Shooters who try to use Troeh's gun are turned completely around when they shoot at targets. They can sight the target just as well with Troeh's gun but by the time they get the trigger in action they are shooting in an entirely different direction. This heavy pull doesn't bother Troeh. His record is the best proof of that. He doesn't know why the pull should be eight pounds on his gun and less than four pounds on other guns. Furthermore he doesn't worry about it. He knows what he can do with his gun and when the gun falls to pieces he will have another made that will have the same trigger pull. This weight pull suits him perfectly.

Troeh's fowling piece is the wonder of all shooting irons. It gets as much attention at the shoots as Troeh himself does. Troeh gives the barrel of the gun a dose of black wagon paint once a year and it always looks as if a little more paint wouldn't hurt it; it is handled carelessly; he will allow any one to handle it or shoot it—as long as he sees them shoot and there is no tinkering with the trigger, which is something that very few shooters will do. Most shooters do not think any more of their guns than they do their lives.

Troeh ever since he wormed his way into the trapshooting game has appeared in a red sweater and always wears a linen collar. No matter how warm he day Troeh wears the sweater and the collar and usually he is the coolest person on the grounds. I remember distinctly when he shot in the Liberty Bond event in Wilmington, Del., in 1918. It was 104 in the shade. And there wasn't much shade. Most every one stripped themselves of all unnecessary clothing, or what they thought was unnecessary. Troeh, however, finished with the red sweater and there wasn't a wrinkle in his collar when he finished—a winner. We have heard much and read much of the athlete who was "as cool as the proverbial iceberg." That's Troeh all over. No one ever saw him frustrated. He always wears about the same amount of clothes, so that the gun fits him the same way all the time, and he goes about his business of winning trapshooting championships just as any one else would go about collecting their salary.

Troeh comes from family of shooters. He was raised at Watertown, Iowa, and about ten years ago moved to Vancouver, Wash. He is now 31. His father was an excellent field shot and his three brothers are all good trapshooters. One of the brothers, John B. was second to Frank in the Washington State Championship contest last year. Following the Grand American Handicap in Chicago last year the four Troeh brothers entered a shooting event at Lincoln Park, J. A. broke 50 out of 50; J. B. broke 49 out of 50; and Frank and Edward P. each broke 48 out of 50, an average of 97 1/2 on 200 targets. It is doubtful if any four brothers in the world could defeat the Troeh brothers in a shooting match.

Although learning to shoot as a boy it wasn't until 1911 that Troeh took to trapshooting. After the game season was over he and several others in Vancouver formed a gun club and

began shooting. It was just prior to the formation of this club the Troeh purchased he Winchester that has made him famous. With the little practice in 1911 Troeh began the 1912 season a full fledged clay target bug.

The first tournament Troeh entered was the Washington State Championship in 1912. The Post Intelligencer trophy at that time was emblematic of the state championship. Troeh won this, and he has been winning championships ever since. He has been a star of the first magnitude ever since his appearance at the traps. In 1912 Troeh also was high average shooter in the Pacific Coast Handicap, and these two shoots made him famous on the coast. These two shoots made Troeh a real gun bug and he decided that he would make his mark in trapshooting. He had played minor league baseball, football, basketball, but from 1912 he decided that trapshooting was his sport. And since 1913 he has been a national figure.

He won the Washington State Championship in 1914, 1916, 1918 and 1919 and the year he lost out he was in hailing distance. He won the National Amateur Championship of the United States in 1916 and was second in the National Doubles target championship the same year. Troeh won the 18 yards championship of the United States with 199 out of 200 in 1917 and in 1919 he repeated this victory but on the occasion of the 1919 win he made a world's record of 200 straight. In 1918 Troeh made the longest amateur run of the year—284. The same year he won the doubles championship of the United States and Canada, the International doubles championship, tied for the International Singles championship and made 49 runs of 50 straight or better, of which 17 were better than 100 straight. 1918 was his big year. He traveled 27,000 miles to participate in shooting tournaments, shooting in 15 cities and in 11 states, making the trip from coast to coast twice. He was also high average amateur shot of the year. In 1919 he finished third in the averages, with the best average he ever made, and besides winning the 18 yards National championship, the championship of Washington, he won the Hercules All-round open trapshooting championship and the Columbus Ga. cup for high average in the Grand American Trapshooting tournament.

Why do they always refer to him as an "old" bachelor? Some of the worst ones are young.

Mythical All-American, All-East-

ern, Western, etc., trapshooting teams have been picked for the past five years. Troeh has made the Western team for five years and the All-American team for the past three years. That shows his class. During his travels Troeh has covered 89,000 miles. When you compute the traveling expenses and the entrance fees Troeh won't be found to have much money but he has made many friends in a sport that is full of fine fellows. They don't grow better sportsman than trapshooters. Dopesters have an excellent chance to figure out how much weight Troeh has lifted in firing 85,000 shots at 8 pounds a shot. All we know is that it is more weight than we would care to lift every day. Troeh evidently intends to go down the line just as clean in 1920 as in the past few years for with O. E. Lynch as a partner they won the two man team "Championship of the world" at Riverside, California, in January. Each shooter shot at 450 targets. Troeh and Lynch broke 881. Troeh broke 447. He had one run or 323 straight. He has a good start on the field for the longest run of the year. But before we go any further we want to tell you something else that Troeh did in 1919 and then we will conclude with his average over the seven year period that he has been shooting—the best seven year average of any amateur trapshot in year. But before we go any further amateur runs over 200 and had 15 runs over 100 and in the point scoring competition for runs over 50 straight he had 89 points—nearly twice as many as his nearest competitor.

Troeh didn't shoot at enough targets in 1912 to get into the official averages but since that time he has shot at 27,800 targets and broke 26,756 of them for a grand average of .9624. Here is his average by years:

| Year | Shot at | Broke | Average |
|------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1913 | 2550 | 2362 | .9262 |
| 1914 | 2430 | 2278 | .9371 |
| 1915 | 2050 | 1975 | .9634 |
| 1916 | 2890 | 2751 | .9519 |
| 1917 | 4290 | 4150 | .9673 |
| 1918 | 6845 | 6655 | .9722 |
| 1919 | 6745 | 6585 | .9762 |

To really appreciate the shooting of Troeh it must be borne in mind that he has done his best work in the past three years; that he has shot all over the United States and Canada, under all conditions of climate, all kinds of shooting grounds; has never picked a tournament nor ever uttered a complaint. He takes things as they come and does the best he can—which as you have already noted is very good.

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