

Weekly Reflector.

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1916

Last year for the first time in a half century, it is said, railroad construction in the United States fell to less than 1000 miles. Evidently some folks are not so enthused about our war prosperity after all.

Isn't it rather ingenious how some administration newspapers can blame the high cost of living on to the war when they are addressing the consumer, and give credit for the boosted prices and rush orders to the administration when they are addressing the manufacturers?

We observe that the Democratic congress is "speeding up" its work—in the newspaper headlines. The real state of public business remains as Senator Underwood of Alabama described it, more backward than he had ever known it in twenty years of congressional experience.

We note a good deal of discussion of the "terms" on which this or that man would accept the Republican nomination. A useless and unprofitable discussion. The Chicago convention will name the terms and, combined in proper form, they will constitute the Republican platform in 1916.

Wichita Beacon: Before Felix Diaz decides to cast his lot against the United States he should remember how kind we were both to Carranza and Villa when they began their career as bandits. With the exception of Huerta we have never refused to give a bright, ambitious bandit a little start and some ammunition.

The Houston "Post" shows some impatience with straw votes—perhaps because most of them record a majority adverse to Wilson. The Post would have such polls taken only in what it describes as "doubtful states." This is an impossibility. There are no doubtful states this year. There are the state of the solid south—which are Democratic. Then there are all the other states—which are Republican.

There's another famous Kansan—Joe Tinker, the baseball player. Joe started out with Coffeyville, Kan., at \$35 a month, but he soon got on with better clubs and was a short time climbing into the big arena, going to the Cubs. Now his annual salary is \$12,000. In 19 years he has drawn down \$105,000 in salaries. Big money is not all in the movies.

Kansas afforded a fine illustration this spring of the great truth that in politics prosperity is the father of discord and adversity the mother of harmony. Not an unkind word was spoken at the Republican state convention—and hardly a kind one at the Democratic convention. The party in power has everything to quarrel over, the party out of power has nothing to breed dissension. It is the way of the world, and there is no sense in the Republicans gloating over the contrast for four years from now the Democrats will be as harmonious as the Republicans were this year.—Iola Register.

WHY NOT BUTTERMAKERS?
The manager of a big creamery says he is having trouble getting buttermakers. "We have been securing them from Denmark," says he, "and the war has stopped the supply." Why not get them in the United States? you ask. Because the American does not study the business long enough or carefully enough. So in a country where the creamery industry is one of our largest industries, shipping butter to all parts of the world, we send to Denmark for workmen and pay them big wages. It is wrong and is

but one incident in the long list of weaknesses in our industrial system which should be corrected by our schools—and by a higher respect for industrial occupations.

Globe Democrat: Republicans have no fear that the Chicago convention will go back on America. They do not doubt that a virile American will be chosen as standard bearer. He will appoint an experienced note-writer as secretary of state. He will uphold every American right. Furthermore, he will not be obsessed by academic free-trade theories. He will urge upon congress economic preparedness. The people of this country will have to live after this war is over and they will have to restore the Republican party to power to insure domestic policies that will give them the largest opportunities. We may be crossing a stream in November, but if we are it will be safe to put a big, wise old elephant in the place of a fractious donkey.

Lawrence Gazette: Governor W. R. Stubbs was before the congressional judiciary committee the other day pleading for some relief from the packers' combine. Governor Stubbs declared that fines against the packers were jokes. And every one knows that is a fact. A packer cares nothing for a fine. All he has to do is to pay and set even and away ahead is to lower the price he pays for stock, and raise the price of his meat products. A fine has no terrors for a man who can pay it with the money of some one else. And repeatedly the packers have shown that that is just what they will do. Mr. Stubbs demonstrated the truth of this, and said: "Fines are jokes. They are not effective. The producers and the consumers pay the penalty. Anyone who juggles with the prices of food when millions are struggling for bread, should be imprisoned and not fined. Forty per cent of the feed lots of this country are empty because of present market conditions."

BLUE SKY

When in doubt play safe. Blue sky is too common in weather and investments. Black earth is common, too, but its ownership means more.

Once upon a time an Abilene man who had saved a portion of his salary, listened to a promoter from Santa Loona, Cal., whose company was distilling gold from sea water. He listened too long. Today the promoter has the gold and the Abilene man the water.

The next man who came by was a solicitor for the Spineless Cactus, Incorporated, of Corpus Christopher, New Mexico. The man bought. This spineless corporation never had backbone enough to get up and answer inquiries about dividends. This also was vanity and vexation of spirit.

The next man along represented the Figless Fig Syndicate of Holy Smoke Valley, Ariz.; and the next man the Pineless Pineapple of St. Pollyann, Fla. The investor is now saving up enough money to pay for an excursion to the hole where these disappeared.

Finally a sympathetic friend gave the man a bum steer on the wheat market. Like Pharaoh's ill-favored kine, this brute ate up the wheat and was none the fatter therefor. So it fell out that this investment, like unto its predecessors, buttered no parsnips.

And all this while close about the daily walks of this man in Abilene and Dickinson county were lots and acres of earth so full of substantial value that you couldn't knock the profit out of them with a hickory club. The acres raised salable crops and the lots rose in salable value and people grew well-to-do on the proceeds.

Thus appears the truth of the adage, "Anybody can save money, but it takes a wise man to spend it."

THE SHORT, UGLY WORD

If the short and ugly word were in general use just now it could be most properly applied to a description of the manner in which the administration has communicated to the country the various episodes attending the dispatch of the "punitive" expedition which is now five hundred miles south of the Mexican border and which may at any minute be attacked by the armed forces of the Mexican government.

The administration gave the country to understand that the expedition was ordered to "get Villa, dead or alive." The publication of the actual orders show that Pershing was ordered to "capture or disperse" the Villa band and to cease even this effort as soon as the Carranza forces appeared to be able to carry on the work.

The administration gave the country to understand that the expedition entered Mexico with the full consent of the Carranza gov-

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ernment and that we were to have a large measure of cooperation from Carranza's men. It now appears, from the note which Carranza has sent to Lansing, that no complete assent was ever given to the pursuit of Villa and that the Mexican government feels justified in demanding that our men withdraw. There is but one way of fifty characterizing the conduct of the administration toward the people of this country whose patience has been so sorely tried by the blundering futility and the hateful humiliation of the several episodes which have marked our relations with Mexico by a trail of obloquy and ignominy. The short and ugly word has a place here as it rarely has had anywhere.

DEGENERACY IN KANSAS

Here is a serious statement of a situation in Kansas that every thinking man and woman should read. It is from the Topeka Capital:

In 29 years the population of Kansas has increased 17 per cent. In this time our degenerates have increased in number from 2039 to approximately 7000, or about 250 per cent.

Let these figures be taken as exhibiting Kansas unfavorably in comparison with other communities, it should be said that the last figures, 7000, are not those of the Kansas census, but an estimate for Kansas based on the census of other states. The first figures given are from an accurate census taken by the United States 20 years ago.

In 16 years the actual insane, epileptics and feeble minded in the state have increased 102 per cent, or nearly seven times as fast as the whole population; therefore nearly ten times as fast as the sane population.

The defective are increasing with immense rapidity because of the absence of proper restraining laws. "The stream of weakness, crime and dependency," says Prof. Blackmar of the state university, a high authority, "flows steadily on and will continue to do so unless we go to the source and stop the fountains that feed it."

With the degenerate and defective classes increasing out of all proportion to the supporting classes, society is going backward, in a statistical sense. The defectives marry one another and rapidly reproduce their kind.

The remedies are segregation, perhaps sterilization where it seems advisable, though this is not as important as the first mentioned, and the public care of dependents.

In 16 years the cost of the county poor of Kansas has increased 65

per cent. This is chiefly and mainly for the maintenance of degenerate families. Yet county care of degenerates is a failure. If the state took over this entire function, relieving the counties of a duty that they do not perform and have no proper facilities for performing, the increased cost of the state charitable work would be offset by the diminished cost of county poor.

KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT

It is a little curious how history gets twisted. Within a month Col. Roosevelt and Mr. Charles D. Hilles, the one in an interview and the other in a speech before the Hamilton club in Chicago, found occasion to refer to the taking of Vera Cruz by the American fleet, and both of them stated that the attack upon the city was part of President Wilson's campaign to compel Huerta to salute the flag.

In point of fact the controversy with Huerta over the salute of the flag had nothing whatever to do, or at most, was but remotely incident to, the assault upon Vera Cruz. One night about midnight there came to the navy department a cablegram from Admiral Fletcher reporting the approach of a German vessel which was believed to have a cargo of ammunition consigned to Huerta, and asking instructions. The president was called out of bed and the message was read to him over the telephone. He replied: "Tell Fletcher to take Vera Cruz," and went back to bed—having sentenced 21 American marines and more than 200 Mexican soldiers and citizens to death. He gave the order, of course, for the purpose of preventing the cargo of war supplies from reaching Huerta. But after the city had been taken and the people killed the president was informed by his legal advisers that he had no right to prevent this cargo from landing; and in point of fact the German ship sailed around the corner and landed its shell at a port of Mexico. Because he thought he knew it all, because of his school teacher habit of consulting nobody, the president committed a horrible blunder—a blunder which cost nearly three hundred people their lives, which cost this country several million dollars, and which gave the Mexican people a new cause to hate us. Only the other day the anniversary of the landing of the American troops occurred, and the people of Vera Cruz observed it as a "Day of Sorrow."

But to get back to our text: If Vera Cruz really had been taken in pursuance of the president's demand for proper reparation for an insult to our flag the act might have been justified. But it was in fact taken to prevent the landing of a certain cargo with which we had no right to interfere—taken by reason of sheer, heedless ignorance of international law on the part of the president of the United States! And the history ought to be kept straight.—Iola Register.

DWIGHT EISENHOWER STILL AT FORT SAM HOUSTON
Mr. and Mrs. David Eisenhower today received a letter from their son Dwight, a Lieutenant in the army stationed at Fort Sam Houston. He informed them that although two companies of the 19th regiment, of which he is a member, have gone to the interior of Mexico he is still stationed at the fort. He mentions that he has passed all the necessary qualifications for entrance to the aviation corps but was yet undecided whether to enter or not. His parents will write him and try to persuade him from becoming a flier. There is unusual activity and much talk among the soldiers as regards the Mexican situation but he offered no opinions or predictions as to the outcome as his correspondence had to pass the censors.

FARMERS PLANTING CORN WELCOME 3/4-INCH RAIN

A dandy soaking rain totaling 3/4 of an inch fell yesterday. The greatest fall came early in the morning and throughout the day a cold drizzle continued. The precipitation was greatly welcomed by the farmers, although they are in the midst of corn planting. The corn planting is well under way by this time. A larger acreage than in the last few previous years is being seeded because of the successful crop last year and the bad conditions last fall for wheat sowing, which left much vacant land.

PEOPLE ARE "AUTO CRAZY" BUY CARS ON THE ROAD

People are becoming so "auto crazy" that they stop the salesmen on the road and buy the machines in which they are riding. Recently P. C. Redman, the local Maxwell agent, went to Junction City and drove in three cars, being unable to get them in Kansas City. While on the road back to Abilene W. D. Ballantyne of Pearl hailed him and started negotiations for a Maxwell. In five minutes the transaction was closed, Ballantyne having a new automobile while Redman owned a motorcycle taken in on the deal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Superintendent
I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Public Instruction of Dickinson county, subject to the Republican primary, August 1.
C. U. NICHOLS.

County Clerk
I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the Republican nomination for County Clerk, subject to the action of the primaries, August 1.
WILL A. MOORE.

I am a candidate for the office of County Clerk, subject to the action of the voters at the Republican primary election.
H. W. KING.

Sheriff
I hereby announce that I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for Sheriff of Dickinson county, subject to the primaries August 1, 1916, and respectfully solicit the support of the Republican voters.
JOHN H. SHERMAN.

I hereby announce that I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for Sheriff of Dickinson county, subject to the primaries August 1, 1916, and respectfully solicit the support of the Republican voters.
JOHN N. SEATON.

Treasurer
I am a candidate for the office of Treasurer, subject to the action of the voters at the Republican primary election.
NEWTON COLE.

Clerk District Court
I am a candidate for the office of Clerk of the District Court of Dickinson county, subject to the Republican primaries August 1, 1916.
E. M. BLACHLY.

I am a candidate for Clerk of the District Court, subject to the action of the Republican voters at the primaries August 1, 1916.
L. E. JEFFCOAT.

Probate Judge
The undersigned is a candidate for Probate Judge, subject to the action of the Republican voters at the primaries August 1.
J. C. ROYER.

Register of Deeds
I am a candidate for Register of Deeds, subject to the action of the Republican primaries, August 1.
FRED MARTS.

I am a candidate for Register of Deeds, subject to the action of the Republican primaries, August 1.
J. L. WORLEY.

I am a candidate for Register of Deeds, subject to the action of the voters at the primaries August 1.
GEO. C. DAHNKE.

Commissioner, Second District
I am a candidate for County Commissioner from the Second Commissioner district, subject to the action of the Republican primary August 1.
C. W. PETERSON.

The undersigned is a candidate for County Commissioner of the Second district, subject to the action of the Republicans of this district at the primaries to be held August 1, 1916.
GEORGE A. RUSH.

I am a candidate for the office of County Commissioner from the Second district of Dickinson county, comprising the townships of Liberty, Logan, Center, Newbern and Grant and the city of Abilene, subject to the decision of the Republicans at the primary election.
HARRY C. BRENNER.

Commissioner, Third District
The undersigned is a candidate for County Commissioner of the Third District, subject to the action of the Republicans of this district at the primaries to be held August 1, 1916.
JOHN BOOK.