

# The Denison Review

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## REVELATION TO MINISTERS.

If the ministerial associations and conference could but understand how the people generally look upon their political maneuvers and could appreciate the harm they are doing to the cause of religion, they certainly would avail themselves of the first opportunity to undo the things which they have done in connection with the gubernatorial situation in Iowa.

They have, by their uncharitable and intemperate action, alienated a large number of laymen and driven them into a hostile attitude toward the ministry. If protestant churches have complained of the tendency on the part of another church to favor a union of church and state, when low and behold we find this tendency in a marked degree as exhibited in the conduct of the churches during the last few months.

Notwithstanding the fact that the indisputable evidence shows that Mr. Meredith has not personally led a temperate life and that Mr. Harding has, the ministerial associations and conferences have been endorsing Mr. Meredith's record and condemning Mr. Harding.

Mr. M. W. Fitz, a member of the Methodist church and a banker of unquestionable integrity, of Manson, Iowa, has written an open letter to Bishop Stuntz of the M. E. church and the presiding bishop over the northwest Iowa conference, and addressed the letter to him at Spencer, where the conference is being held, and in this letter of October 5th, Mr. Fitz points out the extraordinary and apparently indefensible conduct on the part of the ministers in passing the resolutions condemning Mr. Harding candidate for governor on the democratic ticket.

We imagine this letter is a revelation to a good many Methodist ministers who have joined in the persecution of Mr. Harding and have committed themselves in favor of the candidacy of a man whose life according to the evidence, has been anything but a clean and temperate life.

We submit herewith the letter of Mr. Fitz, who clearly demonstrates the unfairness on the part of the ministers.

Bishop Homer P. Stuntz, Omaha, Neb. Dear Bishop: While in our former correspondence you did not signify your willingness to discuss the matter of taking politics into our church conference, yet I feel impelled at this time to address you again on that subject on account of the division of sentiment in the republican party as to which one of the candidates for the office of governor more properly represents the prohibition element.

The platform of the republican party, which Mr. Harding has accepted, is fully as satisfactory to most vot-

ers on the liquor question as that of the democratic party. I need not remind you that if the history of the two leading parties in the past is to be considered one must be very credulous indeed to expect progress in temperance legislation from the democratic party in Iowa. It is my desire in these lines to seem as nonpartisan as possible. However, a lifelong republican as well as a lifelong foe to the use of intoxicating liquors, the fact is that I supported Senator Allen in the primary election, but when Mr. Harding was fairly nominated and when he accepted without hesitation the declaration of our historically dry party on the liquor question I unhesitatingly gave him my support, because I believed he could be trusted to carry out the party will.

"Calling your attention further to the fact that a man to whom temperance legislation has meant so much as Senator Kenyon would not desert unless he honestly believed that the cause of reform for which he has so faithfully stood would be safe in his hands.

"The report of Mr. Meredith's questionable habits has not seemed to interest the leaders of our church, and repeatedly resolutions have been passed declaring him to be clean and upright in his life. Therefore, I esteem it my painful duty to bring to your attention some incidents in his life quite to the reverse of the declaration of our conference, and we verily believe that our ministers must in many cases be misinformed as to the private character of this man, or they vote with the majority advised of the facts that I am now about to bring to your notice. I cannot take you time to recite all of the incidents of which I have proof, and a few of them must suffice as a sample of this candidate's public and private habits.

"So far as I know, the first description of Mr. Meredith by himself that he was absolutely dry, the driest of the drys, which was his statement at Oakland, Iowa, early in the campaign. That the extent of his drinking was a glass or two of champagne at a banquet. Investigations following this statement prove that it was only a fraction of the truth, lacking very largely of the whole truth, and in order to prove my assertions I now call your attention to Mr. Meredith's joining seven friends at the late democratic convention, himself ordering and drinking apricot brandy and personally paying for one round of the drinks.

"In the early spring months of 1915 Mr. Meredith attended a bankers' group meeting in the town of Manson which was held at a place where he was absolutely dry town, yet Mr. Meredith attended a beer 'drink' in a business office at the time and drank beer with the other guests present.

"In June, 1914, Mr. Meredith gave a banquet in the city of Des Moines. It is stated by a guest at that banquet that he served cocktails, champagne, light wines and other intoxicating liquors and drank with his guests.

"Undisputed evidence is in my hands that in the year 1914, when Mr. Meredith was candidate for the United States senate against Morris Connelly of Dubuque, he made a statement to three men who had been introduced to him, in substance as follows: 'I want your support in this fight. I want you to vote for me with you I believe in the open saloons. I am too busy to frequent them myself. I keep liquor in my house at all times, and have liquor served. I am away from home a great deal of the time and in states where it is permitted I have lunch with my meals. I belong to a club in Des Moines where liquor is permitted to be served, and I never turn my glass down. I want you when you hear reports of my being dry to refute the statement on the strength of my word given here to you that I am not a prohibitionist in any sense.'

"I am writing at too great length but I must recite another incident of another character. In regard to a meeting that took place in the month of June, 1916, a Meredith meeting two gentlemen from Iowa of his acquaintance who are very dependable stated to them that he had just pulled out of a poker game where he had played for high stakes.

"The writer is slowly recovering from a two months' illness and am only able to be active a very few hours each day. Therefore, will be unable to attend the Methodist conference of northwest Iowa, which has been my custom for many years. Therefore, I cannot take this matter up in person and I am using this method of getting these facts before you, all of which I can substantiate when called upon to do so, but felt it my bounden duty to place them before you and in some way will undertake to get them before a majority of the members of the conference. Then, if they feel it their duty to declare themselves in a body in favor of this candidate, and hold his life up as an example before Methodism, I shall have discharged my duty in furnishing the foregoing facts. Begging to remain yours truly, M. W. Fitz."

Order of Railway Conductors, urges the re-election of President Wilson. There would be very little red blood in President Garretson's veins if he did not do this. When President Garretson's union was asking for higher wages and saying, in effect, that nobody should ride on a railway train until its demand was granted, President Wilson acted the part of a close friend. The president decided on the spur of the moment, without any pretense of investigation, that the demands of the brotherhoods must be met. He used all the prestige and influence of his office to induce congress to pass a law giving the trainmen the increased wages they demanded. President Wilson is entitled to the loyal support of President Garretson and of the presidents of the other three brotherhoods. He also is entitled to the support of all the members of the four brotherhoods who believe that their best interests were conserved in the Adamson act. It would be curious if those who cooperated in putting over a piece of class legislation should not cooperate in political defense of it.

While President Wilson is entitled to the support of the 400,000 trainmen for whom he has helped to get a \$50,000,000 raise in wages, he is not entitled to the support of the 1,600,000 railway employes who have received no increase in wages and whose prospect for getting one has been diminished by the subtraction of \$50,000,000 from the sum of railway revenues for the benefit of the trainmen. If there is to be any further increase of wages to railway workers it can come only after freight rates have been raised to provide the needed revenue. It is still an open question whether freight rates will not have to be raised to compensate for the enforced raise of trainmen's compensation. The president might have promoted a settlement that would open the way for a general readjustment of railway wage and working conditions, but he chose to quit after getting what the trainmen insisted upon. If the other railway employes vote as selfishly as President Garretson advises the trainmen to vote, three votes will be cast against the president for every one that is cast for him on account of the Adamson act.

The railway brotherhoods are part of organized labor, but their recent victory in Washington, with the help of President Wilson, was not a victory for organized labor as a whole. To force through the demand for increased wages, under threat of a paralysis of railway traffic, the brotherhoods had to repudiate the principle of arbitration. This is the principle with which organized labor has won every victory of any consequence won since it has been an appreciable influence in industrial life. If arbitration is to be abandoned as the standard method of settling industrial controversies, organized labor as a whole stands to lose a billion dollars for every million gained by the trainmen. It is wholly improbable the New York tracto nmagnates could have got away with their recent refusal to arbitrate had it not been for the precedent established by the trainmen with the approval of the president of the United States. The fixing of the traction strike and its accompanying sympathetic strike may be regarded as a natural consequence of the failure to settle the threatened railway strike in the right way. A representative of organized labor who wants to vote for the principle of arbitration cannot consistently support President Wilson.

Railway stockholders were entitled to a settlement of the railway wage issue on merit. Shippers, out of whose pockets every dollar paid out in railway wages must be voted to a settlement of the same sort of settlement. The public in general was entitled to a fair settlement of the late issue and a guaranty against recurrence of the danger of industrial paralysis. It got neither.

If everybody who was vitally interested in the Adamson law and whose interest was ignored lines up on the other side, the lineup President Garretson is promoting among the trainmen will seem rather insignificant.

A Democrat's idea of an ideal watchdog of the Treasury is a Pommeranian. Mr. Wilson is now busily engaged working the other side of the suffrage street. The campaign agents who two years ago were busily engaged thanking God for Woodrow Wilson seem to be taking their vacations just now. A record wasn't the only thing the late Congress broke—there's the Federal Treasury. Congress didn't want a Tariff Commission composed of \$12,000 men, those \$7,500 salaries being designed for \$1,200 men. President Wilson's scheme for commissions for everything has been adroitly planned to make three jobs for deserving Democrats work where only one would grow before.

Vice-President Marshall says Mr. Hughes is an echo of the past. Quite true. Of statesmanship, of patriotic performance and safe legislation. First fruits of the Adamson bill: The New York street car strike. SINFUL MUTILATION OF FAMOUS SPEECH

We notice that the editor of the Democratic campaign book, made up of samples of "Woodrow Wilson's Wit and Wisdom," has tampered with one specimen speech by omitting the phrase "too proud to fight."

This smacks of lese majeste, to say the least. The only possible excuse for this sin of omission that we can think of is that there may also be times when a haughty handbook compiler is too proud to print.

## Political Jottings

The Wilson Keynote. In his kneeling to the demands of the trainmen, in his sacrifice of the sacred principle of arbitration on the altar of peace-at-any-price, we see, in review, the whole philosophy of the Wilson theory of government and nationality. "It is better to run than to fight." That theory is at work in American government today for the first time.—Boston Journal.

The Wilson Waltz. In view of recent events the following formula overheard on a hotel veranda may be of interest: The Wilson waltz, one step forward, three steps backward, hesitate, then sidestep. The Administration is depressed by the reflection that under no circumstances can it postpone election day. Wilson insists that he will never recognize government by assassination, but he hasn't cut off relations with those who have assassinated Americans. The first President and the first Congress that ever submitted to a hold-up.

And, by the way, nobody will ever be able to claim this was a regular Democratic Administration unless we have a bond issue before March 4, 1917. Betting on Hughes and Wilson is dangerous both to Democrats and Republicans. In one of the New England states such a bet was made a few days ago. The officers heard of it and they arrested the Republican on a charge of robbery and sent the Democrat to an insane asylum. Be careful.

One thing we must all admit. The President is never too proud to sidestep. A surplus of \$5,200,000 from the postal service during the fiscal year ending June 30, is reported by Postmaster-General Burleson. With the department more than paying expenses, it would seem that the executive officials could afford to keep on the payroll members of the National Guard, who responded when the President called out the Organized Militia for duty on the border.

President Wilson seems to have founded his diplomacy on a rock which is off its base most of the time. The Eastern witsmiths persist in referring to the Secretary of the Navy as Miss Josephine Daniels. No wonder the Woman's Party is camping on the trail of the Administration! Mr. Wilson forgot to mention the pledges of economy in the 1912 platform.

"In his diplomacy," says Ollie James, "the President has sounded a new note." What, another one? It begins to appear that that single-track mind system will have to be temporarily double-tracked. A few weeks hence, of course, it will be side-tracked.

WILSON FORMERLY ASSAILED THE LABOR UNION. The President is now a candidate for office and speaks well of labor. Until he became a candidate for office, and as long as he was President of a University, he, with entire safety, ignored or assailed the Labor Unions. Indeed, he was then their bitter, ungenerous, and often unjust critic. At the People's Forum on February 25, 1905, he said: "Labor Unions drag the highest man to the level of the lowest." In an address at a dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria on March 18, 1907, in speaking of the capitalists, he said: "There is another equally formidable enemy to equality and betterment of opportunity, and that is the class formed by the labor organizations and leaders of this country." In a letter written January 12, 1909, he said: "I am a fierce partisan of the open shop." In June of the same year, speaking at Princeton, he said: "The usual standard of the employe in our day is to give as little as he may for his wages. Labor is standardized by the trades unions and this is the standard to which it is made to conform. I need not point out how economically disastrous such a regulation of labor is. The labor of America is rapidly becoming unprofitable under this regulation. Our economic supremacy may be lost because the country grows more and more full of unprofitable servants."

I have no question that when Mr. Wilson thus spoke he expressed his sincere convictions. Less than two years later he was in public life and immediately his attitude changed. There is no reason to believe that his convictions changed. From the Speech of Colonel Roosevelt at Battle Creek, Michigan, in Behalf of Mr. Hughes.

If you had two dollars to invest would you trust it to the business sagacity of Josephus Daniels? Then, why let him handle the millions that are to be spent on the new navy? Judging by the signs of War Department activity the Administration is cunningly arranging to bring the millitamen home just in time to enable them to vote for Mr. Hughes. A train of thought on a one-track mind has to be composed of shuttle cars. Three years ago Woodrow Wilson was explaining that hard times were psychological, but he isn't trying to squirm out of responsibility for the present prosperity. The disaster to the Memphis caused very little excitement, Americans being used nowadays to seeing the navy on the rocks.

President Wilson's speech of acceptance could have been phrased even more succinctly in the graphic words of Boss Tweed, "What are you going to do about it?" We see by the interviews with the Mexican commissioners that the campaign slogan this year in the Sonora bandit belt is "Thank God for Woodrow Wilson." Mr. Wilson's eulogy of Lincoln at Hodgenville was more literary but less sincere than the one he pronounced upon himself at Shadow Lawn. The new half dollars will have an olive branch on one side and on the other an eagle, in full flight. Wilson money. Motto of the McAdoo shipping law: "The sun never rises on the American flag."

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