The Denison Review

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DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH

Manson Journal: During the next few months there will no doubt be some who will be disappointed because all the evils they have complained of in the past are not cured by the latest republican victory. It may not be out of place just now to relate an incident connected with the election of McKinley in 1896. At that time the country was in a deplorable condition. Corn was selling at about 15 cents and hogs $1.90 to $2.10. Some six weeks after election an old farmer living near Jolley wrote to Dolliver to remind him of his promises during the campaign that the election of McKinley would bring about a better condition. Dolliver, with his usual ready wit, wrote back as follows: "Dear Friend: Your letter at hand. Now as to getting out of the condition which the democratic party has gotten us, it is like attempting to drive through Hell slough near your place; you know you can get farther into that slough in five minutes than you can get out in six weeks. We have been four years getting into this condition and it is going to take some time to get out."

IMPOSING ON THE FARMER

Remsen Bell-Enterprise: Besides paying excellent prices to corn pickers, and furnishing them lodging and board such as most of the transients would not enjoy in their accustomed haunts in the cities, many farmers are being imposed upon by strangers who are too lazy to work, and who want nothing more than a square meal and a little money to carry them further on their ramblings. Many reports have been made of strangers who apply for work as corn pickers, get a job and then stay long enough to fill their empty stomachs at the farmer's expense and then move on. Others have been accepting jobs during rainy weather feeding themselves for several days at the farmer's well provided table and then moving on. The easiest time, it is said, to get a strange corn picker to the farm is toward the end of the week and it later develops that he came merely to spend Sunday with a good room and good board. Nevertheless many of them are good, honest fellows, but the only ones that can be depended upon for steady work are the men who have formed an acquaintance in the neighborhood and are known to be reliable.

IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Many cities and towns take up municipal planning projects in a spasmodic way, but after accomplishing a few good things the enthusiasm dies out. Every city should have its planning board, as a permanent department of its municipal organization. Public citizens should usually be willing to serve on such a board without salary, but of course engineering and clerical work must be paid for if required.

Among the projects that should be taken up in most places is some permanent improvement in real estate lying along railroad tracks. In most cities, on entering by railroad, you are greeted with a most depressing array of pigpens, chicken coops, tumble down outhouses and general chaos and disorder. The land along the railroad line is the city's front yard.

It is just as preposterous to allow this conspicuous frontage to be maintained in disorder as for a man to allow chicken coops and rubbish on his front lawn.

While you cannot force property owners by legal means to clean up such disorder, a campaign to persuade them to improve such conditions can be very successfully carried out. Prizes for the greatest improvement in grounds along the railroad lines would produce results.

Good sanitation, pure water supplies, planting of shade trees are three propositions that must be included in any city planning movement. Strangers contemplating settlement in a place inquire about the water and a city must always consider where its future supply is to come from. The lack of sufficient street trees condemns any place at sight. The city that fails to look ahead gets into difficulties as easily as a business that never exercises foresight. But the city that does plan for its future keeps ahead of the game of competition.

A lot of the people who are complaining that they can get no work are the same ones who forced their wages up to three or four times what they got in prewar times.

Now that the sale of hops and malt has been restricted, it is predicted that a large number of people will become bakers and confectioners.

$500,000,000 A YEAR FOR "DISCUSSIONS"

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19—"There has been an unfortunate attempt by some parties in Europe to create the impression that the debt owed the United States is not really a debt at all, but should be cancelled as part of our contribution to the cost of the war," declares the republican publicity association, through its president, Hon. Jonathan Bourne, Jr. "The conversion of the debt into bonds with a definite rate and maturity date would go far to dispel that illusion.

"Word comes from London to the effect that the Germans have delivered to the reparations commission under the Versailles treaty bonds to the amount of 60,000,000 gold marks, worth 3,000,000,000 pounds sterling at the present rate of exchange, or approximately $15,000,000,000 at the normal rate of exchange of American and English currency. That means that England, France and the other allies have got specific acknowledgment of a large portion of the debt which Germany owes them, to take the place of the rather indefinite I. O. U.'s contained in the peace treaty signed by only two Germans. It means that the allies will begin to draw interest on those bonds and that they can be presented for retirement at the dates specified therein. Furthermore, it means that that amount of the German debt to the allies is now in negotiable shape and it is possible, if the allies choose to do so, to sell the bonds in the world's markets and realize cash upon them.

"All of which should forcibly remind the American people of the huge debt owed by the allies to the United States, which now approximates $10,000,000,000 That debt is evidenced by the deposit in the treasury of various promissory notes signed by ambassadors and ministers from the debtor countries at Washington. Those notes bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum but comparatively little of that interest has been paid. The liberty loan acts authorized the secretary of the treasury to exchange the demand notes held by him for long time obligations of the debtor countries. For many months the secretary has been engaged in discussions with those countries as to the terms of the exchange and meanwhile the collection of interest on the debt has been deferred. It is intimated by the secretary that no interest will be collected during the reconstruction period of two or three years from the spring of 1919.

"Now, what does that mean to the American taxpayer? It means that he must contribute about $500,000,000 a year while the treasury "discussions" are in progress, and until an agreement has been reached with debotr governments as to the terms of the long time obligations we are expecting from them. Every man, woman and child in the country is to be taxed $5 a year while the exchange of opinions is taking place. That is one-eighth of the entire sum which the secretary of the treasury estimates as necessary to run the government for the next year.

"The Harriman national bank of New York is engaged in a publicity campaign to urge the prompt exchange of the promissory notes now held into negotiable bonds, primarily to secure a direct ond specific acknowledgment by each debtor government of the existence and validity of the debt, and also to establish a date in the near future when interest payments may be expected and allowance made for them in estimating the revenues of the treasury.

"Of very pressing interest in the recasting our tax laws is the need for realizing on the accounts due and collectible from foreign sources before fixing on the total that must be taken from the American taxpayers. It is a delicate undertaking, of course, but one which should show definite results at an early date. All the United States is asking is the application of the same principles that the allies themselves have applied to their German debt. The present administration has been at it for months with no tangible results. Let us hope that republican diplomacy will meet with better success."

THE ALERT STORE

Some stores are satisfied to use just the same lines of merchandise year after year.

Other stores are alert every minute to where they can get the last dollar of value. They are constantly looking over different lines searching for special opportunities, testing out new offering, trying to get the very best thing offered in the competitive struggle.

Such a policy involves more work. But thorough investigation of all sources of supply yields chances to buy to better advantage. Dealers realize they must make a special effort to please such a house.

Having made all this effort such a store is not usually satisfied to sit still and let the public come in if it cares to. Its effort will be useless unless it tells the public in detail what offerings of special value it has been able to find. Hence such a concern is usually a liberal newspaper advertiser.

IOWA PRESS COMMET.

Carroll Herald: Claude Porter will retire from the political stage after appearing many a time and oft as a candidate in the citadel of invincible republicanism. Iowa people like Clau republicanism. Iowa people like Claude, he's one of the finest fellows in the state, democrat though he is, but there is no place for him in official life. His only fault is his politics and that is a fatal fault in Iowa. Now let some other man sacrifice for the party.

Des Moines Register: The rumor that President Wilson's forthcoming message to congress will be brief may have some basis of fact. He is certainly justified in thinking that advice would be wasted on the republicans after what happened a couple of weeks ago.

Manson Democrat: The official count shows that Harding carried Iowa by over 406,000. Why bother counting to 6,000?

Cedar Rapids Republican: Of course, it will be no use in holding crops, if prices are not going to be higher. Storage and depreciation and interest on notes all count up—and what assurance does the average farmer have that he will be able to get more after he has held his stuff and that in the face of another maturing crop, if he holds it long enough? It's a problem that needs to be considered and that very wisely. The ability to get loans to tide over with may also prove to be a losing adventure.

Marshalltown Times-Republican: The average democrat is so good a loser as to kindle the suspicion that things turned out just about as he had wished quietly to himself.

Council Bluffs Nonpareil: By the time Harding gets back from his fishing trip Washington gossips will have his cabinet all completed and ready for his O. K.

Perry Chief: Des Moines people are undecided whether they need more police or better citizens—or both.

Webster City Freeman-Journal: Parley Christensen, former farmer-labor candidate for president, predicts that the late election result means the death of the democratic party, which predicition proves that Parley is only a novice in politics. The democratic party will be with us as long as there is sin and there will be sin as long as there is a democratic party.

Albia News: It will be up to the democrats to return good for evil and stand back of the new president with loyalty and good wishes for success. He will be president of all and should have a united constituency in all efforts to properly conduct the affairs of the nation.

Burlington Hawkeye: The republicans will do well to heed the comment of Senator Harding that the result of the election is "a national call to the republican party." It is not a call to factionalism, or a resumption of old quarrels; it is a call for an united party to deal with new problems.

Manson Journal: The republicans promised the people of Iowa that if given a chance they would do their own housecleaning. The people took them at their word, and now it is up to the party to make good. Gov-elect Kendall has a big job on his hands, but we believe he is a big enough man to do the job thoroughly and well. The people of the state have expressed their confidence in the party and men and we have no fear of the results.

Anthon Herald: This newspaper trusts that the Woodbury county senator and two representatives will not only vote but work for the passage of the Edson bill for a soldier's bonus that will be presented at the next meeting of the legislature. While the soldiers were away fighting for our country and humanity those who remained at home waxed fat and it is as little as they can do to divide at least part of their gains. As a taxpayer we are willing to stand our share of the additional expense.

Spencer News Herald: President-elect Harding has promised us a return to "normalcy" when he is inagurated president. We hope he can deliver. A return to normalcy in our estimation, means the ability to borrow a little money at the bank now and then.

Manson Democrat: Republicans, democrats, socialists, prohibitionists—all classes and creeds and colors—declare that Bryan made an ass of himself when he demanded President Wilson's resignation the day after election. They are all wrong—Bryan was an ass long before that.

Waterloo Times Tribune: Incidentally, tried and faithful democrats will insist that the democratic party, in answer to Mr. Bryan, be "revised by its friends."

Marshalltown Times Republican: There comes a time when the purchasing public refuses to bid. It "lays off." It is laying off "for an indefinite period" A job is going to be a job. It is going to be a contract with fulfillment of the provision demanded on both sides. It is going to be a valuable thing to have, something to be conserved and attended to, in short, a job is going to be worth something to a man who holds it and he is going to deliver as per agreement or somebody else will.

And Still Wars Persist.

Sioux Falls Argus-Leader: Forty-two nations are members of the league of nations, we believe. We "see by the papers" that the league has just had a meeting in Geneva of the general assembly, the first meeting of which was greeted with the ringing of bells throughout Geneva. In the same papers, we note that people were fleeing in terror from the Armenian capital as the reds were advancing upon it, that warships were taking refugees from Sebastopol and that more wars than usual were in progress throughout the world. The league of nations has been a fact for something over a year and still it seems impotent to do a thing to compose a troubled world.

Claimed that Russia needs modern machinery, but anyway they've got plenty of wheels in their heads.