

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

THE CONGRESSIONAL ISSUE

The issue before voters in this year's congressional elections is a simple choice between the Republican party and the Democratic party. After all is said and done, the people are going to decide whether they wish to retain the Republicans in control of their government or whether they wish to recall the Democrats to power and by so doing revive the policies and practices for which that party was responsible while it was in control. In order that the people may make their choice intelligently and with their eyes open it is only fair that the Democratic method of handling public affairs be reviewed from time to time. The public's memory is short, especially in these times when so many things of vast importance transpire so rapidly.

One of the performances by which the Democratic party's ability to handle public affairs must be judged is its record in connection with the Shipping board. Congressman Graham, of Illinois, has reviewed in a very concise form the record of the Wilson regime in this respect. Mr. Graham sets forth that in 1916, as a part of the machinery for stimulating the merchant marine by act of Congress, the Shipping board was created. After the declaration of war Congress, by the urgent deficiency act of 1917 conferred vast powers upon the President to requisition and build ships. This power by executive order, dated July 11, 1917, the President delegated to the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

"Thereafter occurred the monstrous expenditures of our shipping program," says Representative Graham. "They cost the nation \$3,306,000,000. Contracts were made with anyone and with everyone who said he could build a ship irrespective of price or quality. There was no uniform plan for these ships adopted. No thought was given to what use the ship might be put after the war. There were no cancellation clauses in the contracts so that if the war ended the work might be stopped.

"Five hundred and eighty-nine wooden ships were built, costing approximately \$375,000,000, which were absolutely worthless; 30 concrete ships costing \$27,000,000 more were equally worthless; 2,288 ships were built and delivered but of these only 455 were delivered before the armistice, while all the rest, or about 1,838, were delivered after the war was over and further necessity for them had disappeared. Because the contracts had no cancellation clause and because of the insistent pressure of the Democratic administration this war time ship building went on feverishly not only in 1919 but it went on until the present administration came into power. As late as 1920 there were 473 ships constructed and delivered to the government, and the most shameful part of this was that of these 61 were wooden ships, conceded by everyone to be worthless.

"When the present administration came in on March 4, 1921, it tried to take stock. It now finds about 5,000,000 tons of steel ships which are salable for approximately \$150,000,000 and estimated other assets of \$190,000,000. It finds claims pending against the government of \$298,428,845, which if allowed in full, would just about wipe out all our assets and leave us nothing to show for our \$3,306,000,000 of the people's money expended.

"To show the rank incompetency of the preceding administration, it has been found that mortgages and other liens securing the government for vast sums had not been recorded and the liens were lost. Liens for millions which should have been taken were not. Vast sums for repairs and reconditioning were charged against the corporation for things which the slightest care might have prevented; ships had been sold without a cent of deposit or a letter of security; vast contracts, uncancelable, for materials were found. To illustrate, a contract to take 40,000,000 barrels of fuel oil a year. The board is involved in 50 concerns which are in the hands of receivers. Three thousand five hundred lawsuits in the civil courts are pending and \$62,739,315 of claims in the court of claims, and a business which is now losing \$4,000,000 a month.

"Now we have this wreck to salvage. For 50 years the contingent liabilities of this experiment will haunt us. We have not only spent our three and one-third billions, but we must contrive some method of subsidy to keep what ships we have upon the sea. And in this last attempt to get something constructive out of this insolvent business, we are meeting the almost undivided opposition of the Democratic minority in the Congress."

REPUTATIONS

The most desirable of reputations are the easiest to lose. It requires years of correct living to build them up, and but an incautious moment to destroy them.

Too many men seem to forget that they are judged not by what they really are, but by what they seem to be. Their actions and their words are the only things that count.

The little things of life are of vast importance. They indicate the character that lies beneath the polished surface, and it is from them that the most lasting impressions are formed.

A sanctimonious countenance is not indicative of a clean heart. It is a cloak under which many disreputable deeds are performed.

A cheerful smile, a truthful tongue and an honest heart are all that any person requires.

Character is built from these, and reputation is but the aftermath of character.

A city exchange remarks that some towns spend more time in sounding their slogans than they do in cleaning their streets and yards.

It is quite true, to the detriment of the towns. Glowing slogans cause the stranger to expect something out of the ordinary, and when he learns his mistake his interest ceases to exist.

Fine words on the wings of the wind travel a long way, but a clean town leaves a more lasting impression.

The national senate is a dignified body of dignified gentlemen who are too dignified to lose their dignity.

The fellow who is up to date today makes dates for tomorrow.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Ups," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods

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REMEDY IN YOUR HANDS

I have been asked many times, and particularly since this series began: "What is the remedy for the condition and situation of government business that you have described? What can we, the average man or woman without influence, and with no knowledge of politics, what can we do about it?" Well, the answer is that you can do everything about it. The remedy lies wholly within your own hands, as I have tried to point out in each one of the articles that have preceded this one. It is a remedy easy to prescribe but, I confess, difficult to put into effect.

Difficult, I mean, in the sense that you will have to give up time from your own engrossing private affairs to pay some attention to what you probably think of as public affairs and, as such, not concerning you. The whole point I have to make is that public affairs are your affairs.

I do not suggest that you go into politics. I do not suggest that you attend political meetings. I do suggest that you take an interest, a direct personal interest, in the business of government as distinguished from the politics of government. A part of the remedy you ask for the conduct of the business of government has been applied when the facts and the conditions are spread broadcast and made known to every taxpayer. Bad conditions are in a way to be remedied when they become known.

But some hundreds of you have written me and asked: "How can we help? What can we do?" Let's take a concrete case. Congress has committed itself to the policy of building twenty first-class battleships in the next few years. Armed and equipped, these battleships will cost in the neighborhood of \$45,000,000 each. That will make a total cost of \$900,000,000; that is, just short of a billion dollars.

Do you approve that expenditure? Do you think it wise and necessary? Do you think we ought to spend our money that way? Do you think we ought to spend 80 or 90 per cent of our total national income for wars, past, present and prospective? That is what we are doing. If you approve of it you have only to sit still and say nothing. If you disapprove of it, let your congressman know.

You live in a congressional district and every two years you send a man here to Washington to attend to your public business. Do you know him? Do you know what he is doing here? Your state has two senators, who also represent you here. If they do not represent you fairly, you can keep them at home. Whatever a majority of you want you can have.

To this moment a majority have approved, at least by silence, the great military expenditures that have been made from the money you have paid in taxes. If now you have come to the conclusion that it is too much, you have only to say so. Do you realize that this conference on the limitation of armament which President Harding called arose fundamentally out of the circumstance that all of the so-called big nations are paying more than they can afford to pay by way of preparation for war? The endeavor to find a formula to limit armaments is another way of saying that the nations are trying to find a way to save money. Since the war the great powers are all living beyond their means. All of them are in debt. All of them, except ourselves, owe more than they can pay. In all of them, including the United States, government expenses are running beyond government income. A nation can no more stand that sort of thing than a private person or a private business.

If you will devote a half hour or an hour every evening to thinking about and talking about public business you will be amazed at the prompt response you will get. If there is any question you want to ask, write to your congressman or to either one of your senators. That will cost you two cents for a postage stamp, and it won't cost him anything to reply, for his letters go through the mails free. That is one way of helping to remedy the present condition.

An Arms Cache in Crater. A weapon storehouse in the immense crater of extinct Haleakala, where the natives of Maui many years ago made their last stand against the all-conquering king of Hawaii, has been discovered, according to Emil A. Berndt, a business man of Honolulu, says a dispatch to the Cincinnati Times-Star.

Mr. Berndt says each of the three white men with knowledge of the cave stumbled across it when wandering aimlessly about after losing their way in the crater. He reports that it contains eruder stone hatchets, immense quantities of slingshot stones, spear heads and other implements of an ancient warfare.

Special this week—Maple Nut Ice Cream, 40c per quart. DeLuxe Candy Co.—advertisement

Never rub your friend's feathers the wrong way. The canker beneath the gloss is not pleasant to see.

One of the best grades of Italian cheese is ripened for four years.

Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

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JAMES A. GARFIELD

1831—Nov. 19, James Abram Garfield, born at Orange, Ohio. 1858-61—President of Hiram College. 1858—Married Lucretia Rudolph. 1860—Member of Ohio Senate. 1861—Colonel in Ohio Volunteers. 1862—Brigadier General. 1863—Major General. 1863-80—In Congress. 1880—Elected to the United States Senate. 1880—June 7, nominated for President by Republican Convention at Chicago. November, elected President.

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD was the latest and, it is fairly safe to say, the last of the presidents born and bred in log cabins. Notwithstanding that humble start, he was one of the half-dozen scholarly men who have sat in the presidential chair.

Garfield is the only president who was present at his own nomination. The presidential lightning struck him as he sat in his seat in that most extraordinary and exciting national convention which met at Chicago in 1880. All the "Stalwart" clans, believing with a St. Louis editor that there was "one more president in the bloody shirt," seized upon the great name of Grant, and under the banner of the "Heroes of Appomattox" they rallied against the "Half Breeds" who followed "the Plumed Knight," James G. Blaine of Maine.

The rival champions in that remarkable tournament at Chicago were Roscoe Conkling, chief of the "Stalwarts," and James A. Garfield of Ohio, the spokesman of the "Half Breeds."



James A. Garfield.

although he was restrained from directly supporting Blaine by the instructions of his state in favor of the nomination of John Sherman. Conkling, a handsome fop, carefully studded the right moment to make his theatrical entry upon the stage the first day, drawing the applause as he advanced down the aisle with his "grandiloquent swell, his majestic supercilious, overpowering, turkey gobble strut," which Blaine had held up to the laughter of congress years before in a never-to-be-forgotten speech. The next day Garfield took his revenge by entering while Conkling was speaking, and the welcoming cheers drowned the voice of the indignant speaker. On the third day the two came to grips in a debate and the Ohioan scored on the New Yorker.

While the gallery still was cheering the victor in that round, Conkling wrote on the margin of a newspaper and sent to Garfield a mocking suggestion that he was playing to the gallery in his own interest: "I congratulate you on being a dark horse!"

In truth Garfield could not rise in the convention without helping himself more than he helped Sherman, who never had a chance to win. As ballot after ballot was taken, it became plain that neither the "immortal 306" who followed Grant nor the deafening cheers which his name evoked could overcome the prejudice against a third term in the White House, and it was made equally plain that this "Old Guard" never would surrender to Blaine.

A new candidate was necessary if the convention was not to fall to pieces in factions. One solitary vote for Garfield on most of the ballots had continued to point the finger of destiny at him. Wisconsin pointed all her fingers in his direction when her delegation broke to him on the thirty-fourth ballot.

Garfield rose with pallid face and dry lips to a point of order. But Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, who was in the chair, rapped him down. In two more ballots he was nominated by a combination of the Blaine and Sherman men.

In the midst of the uproar the nominee sat limp and perspiring in his seat. "Get me out of here," he faintly whispered to his seatmate, Ex-Governor Foster of Ohio.

A London policeman has retired with a record of having arrested 100,000 motorists for speeding and other offenses.

One of the best grades of Italian cheese is ripened for four years.

Phool Philosophy

BY Old Cy Collegy

With everybody wearing shoes there seems to be a tremendous demand for bootlegs.

The lack of a shave makes a gentleman a hobo.

Europe is quite willing to saw wood if the United States will furnish the wood and the saw.

A still tongue does not always make a wise head. Dead people can't talk.

And still, the man who lives to a good old age may not be good.

When lawyers begin a violent controversy in court it is by no means a sign of animosity. They can not demand additional fees without some excuse.

The road to success is not a boulevard.

When in doubt set yourself right. The fellow who gives you advice may not be any more sure of his attitude than you are.

Many a man has fought his way to the top of the ladder only to have the blamed thing collapse.

All things come to him who waits if he reaches out and grabs them as they go by.

When a man and his wife agree on every subject one of them does all of the talking.

One of the best cures for a swell head is a standpat mother-in-law.

Spooning in public by married people covers up many an ugly scrap behind the scenes.

And why should Europe be begging for American loans? Our rich tourists are juicy picking.

Mr. Bryan once remarked that a million men would spring to arms over night in the event of war. But that is mild compared to the number who would respond if the arms were to consist of a well filled bootleg.

It's difficult to blush upon occasions when the druggist furnishes the complexion.

If you want to see a woman with her head in the clouds just watch her as she passes her dearest enemy on the street.

Some old skinflints drop a penny in the collection box and expect to reap a dollars worth of blessings.

Ministers are about the most considerate people we know. They are extremely delicate in the methods they employ in awakening sleeping members of their congregation.

'Tis fortunate our neighbors never know us as we are. It saves us a lot of unnecessary worry.

Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

President and Congress

President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$35,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$160,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$36,000 in all. (Subject to change.) Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$22,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa. Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass.; salary \$12,000. The 96 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$3,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 213,117 population. Party Division in 67th Congress: House 301 Rep., 133 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 59 Rep., 37 Dem. U. S. Senators—Chas E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry. Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet

Arranged in order of presidential succession: Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court

Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$17,500. Associate Justices, salary \$11,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. B. Duff, Ohio (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo. (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Dem.)

Michigan Government

Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000. Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$300.00. Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00. State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,500.00. Auditor Gen., Oramel B. Fuller, salary \$2,500.00. Attorney Gen., Meritt Wiley, salary \$2,000.00. Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00. State Highway Com., Frank C. Roeder, salary \$150.00. Senator of District, Aaron Amon, salary \$800.00. Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$800.00. Supreme Court Judges, salary \$1,000.00. Joseph H. Moore, Joseph H. Steere, Howard West, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird Nelson Sharp.

County Officers

Sherriff, Edward J. Moinet, salary \$3,500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kross, salary, \$2,400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Wellert, salary, fees; Clerk, Bernie Case, salary, \$1,500; Treas., Sidney Kovey, salary, \$1,200; Post. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2,200; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heister, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,600; Circuit Court Com., Archibald McCall, Wm. A. Ishler, fees; Drain Com., Erva Laycock, salary \$1,500; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government

Jayor, Chas. H. Murphy, salary, \$200.00. City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Crosser, salary, \$200.00. City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$5,000.00. City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$3,000.00. City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,000.00. City At-torney, Wm. A. Baluk, salary, \$1,200.00. Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1,500.00. Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1,750.00. Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert F. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$3.00 per day on actual time.

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PHONE 197

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SPECIALS FOR SATURDAY

Kansas Bread Flour 1.00 Kettle Roasts of beef none better, sack 14c extra quality, lb

Table listing various food items and prices: Corned beef, boneless, lb 10c; Ribs of beef, lb 10c; Hamburg steak, lb 12c; Pork steak, lb 18c; Fresh pork in chunk, lb 14c-15c; Fresh pork shanks, lb 10c; Pork in pickle, lb 12c-17c; Bacon, home smoked, lb 25c; Pork sausage, lb 10c; Lard, home rendered, lb 15c; Smoked hams, sugar cured half or whole 33c; Smoked ham butts, 4-5 lbs. per lb 15c; Veal for stewing, lb 12c-15c; Veal roasts, lb 20c; Veal chops, lb 22c-30c; Fowls for stewing and roasting, per lb 30c; Lake trout, lb 25c; Mackerel in brine, lb 25c; Salmon, tall can 15c; Cheese, full cream 27c; Corn, can 11c; Milk, tall can 10c; Peas, sifted, can 12c; Soup, can 10c, 3 for 27c; Peaches in syrup No.2 1/2 can 20c; Prunes, good quality, lb 15c; Raisins in bulk, lb 24c; Apricots, fancy, lb 34c; Cane sugar, cwt \$7.40; New Honey, lb 22c; Rles, good quality, 3 lb 29c; Qt. Mason Jars, doz. 90c; Qt. Ideal Jars, doz. \$1.15; Cocoa, qt. jar 20c; Black Cross tea, lb 65c; Coffee in bulk good quality lb 27-32c; Ginger Snaps, lb 12c; Fig bars, lb 15c; Peroxide bath tablets 8c; Good broom 50c.

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