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Foreigners on Wilson's Mexican Policy

It is interesting to note the attitude of foreign papers to the "waiting" policy of President Wilson in connection with the Mexican situation, and especially as it relates to the killing of Benton by Villa's orders.

The Evening News takes this view of the situation: Indignation is rapidly growing, not only in England, but in the United States, over the murder of Benton, and, as it is feared, of several other British subjects and American citizens. Villa is a bandit and a ruffian, and he has been tacitly encouraged and protected by President Wilson with most evil results to Mexico. "Now, however, something has got to be done, and Mr. Wilson's own countrymen will not be the last we imagine, in urging him to abandon his policy of folded hands."

This is the way the Pall Mall Gazette feels about the matter: "A British subject has been done to death and in one way or another retribution must be exacted for the deed. We have not yet forewarned our duty to flag the protection of the flag over Englishmen in every corner of the world. But we have willingly intrusted the task of protecting them to the friendly government of the United States. We recognized the paramount interest of the American people in that torn and distracted land and we will await the result of the inquiries which President Wilson has set afoot."

Only we desire to say at the outset that the pretense of a court-martial cannot be accepted as justifying the murder of Benton. If that is the only result of the inquiry, the obligation on the government of the United States to act as a mandatory of civilization will remain. It is the fundamental right of every State to protect its nationals abroad. We cannot abandon that right and remain an empire. "Arduously as we desire the friendship of the United States, we cannot purchase it at the price of our national honor."

"There is no desire to embarrass President Wilson," says the London Globe, "but there are limits to complaisance and they would be reached if the sense of grievous injury were mocked by the suggestion that for the lawless acts of Villa, General Huerta must be held responsible. Equally astounding and affronting is the contention that in foreigners remain in Mexico they do so at their own risk. It is to be feared that President Wilson hasn't quite foreseen the full consequences of his own line of action. The murder of Benton is a warning signal."

In a spirit of trenchant sarcasm the London Times comments thus: "The nation which demands respect for the Monroe Doctrine has a particular obligation to the other powers. In regard to the murder of foreign residents in Mexico, the obligation is made heavier by the fact that the government that upholds the Monroe Doctrine is deliberately conniving at a supply of arms and ammunition to the faction by whom these murders are being committed. This fact surely imposes direct responsibility on the government in question."

Renewed interest in Mexican affairs is manifested by the Deutsche Tages Zeitung. It says: "Representations at Washington that England expects America to take better care of her nationals in Mexico are practically worthless. The only effective solution is to support Huerta, primarily with money and in every other way. "If the British government acts in its own interests it will choose this alternative. As Great Britain, however, is accustomed to subordinate its own interests to the wishes of the United States, perhaps, also, it thinks the lives of a couple of Englishmen cannot be allowed to disturb Anglo-American relations, especially as President Wilson has regulated the anama canal affairs in favor of England. It is probable Sir Edward Grey will continue to approve the moral attitude of the United States, which consists of supporting the rebel party."

The London Financial News openly censures President Wilson for prevailing conditions, remarking that "if the murder of Benton is not directly traceable to President Wilson's door, it may be said to be the consequence of his recognition of the rebels and his removal of the embargo on the importation of arms and ammunition into Mexico. Something must be done by the British government for the removal of British subjects, even in a disturbed country, cannot be tolerated for a moment."

Some of the statesmen who have sojourned in Washington would be inclined to settle the question of when to call by referring to that ancient authority on cards, Hoyle.

Sometimes the letter of indorsement from the chief which follows a criticism makes it well worth while for a government official to have been under fire.

Japan is becoming noted for the amount of listening it can do without in the slightest degree changing its mind.

A large corps of experts will be required by the government in the task of removing Mr. Rockefeller from his usufruct.

What Governor Hanna Is Like

In anticipation of Governor Hanna's contemplated visit to Ellendale, which is scheduled for tomorrow, the Ellendale Leader says:

"The visit of Governor Hanna to Ellendale next week is looked forward to by most of our citizens with a great deal of pleasure. The Leader editor has been asked by not a few as to what sort of a man the governor is, some of them seeming to have the idea they will see someone out of the ordinary person. Governor Hanna is a plain, everyday citizen, just like any ordinary successful business man. He has a pleasing personality and no one can help liking what he has to say when he speaks, either in public or private. There is nothing what people call "stuck up" about Governor Hanna. He has grown up in this state just like all the early settlers and he has been very successful as a business man. This success as a business man is what put him in Congress. It is what put him in the highest office within the gift of the people of the state, the governorship, and during the first year of his incumbency he has given to the state his experience as a successful business man and the state has benefited thereby. The affairs of state were never in better shape than now, and this is due in a large measure to the guiding influence of Governor Hanna. We bespeak for him a hearty greeting at Ellendale."

Everybody who has a pet project for which he desires an appropriation cites the \$40,000,000 Alaskan Railway appropriation as a precedent.

Northern Pacific's Anti-Noise Crusade

Appreciating the fact that unnecessary noise around trains and, particularly, that sleeping cars should be "cut out" at night, so as to avoid disturbing the rest and nerves of passengers, the Northern Pacific Railway has started an anti-noise crusade.

Loud talk, ringing of engine bells, sounding of whistles, blowing off of steam, and other noises are to be avoided and reduced to a minimum, and coupling cars, setting out or picking up cars, etc., are to be controlled by signals and done as silently as possible.

Instructions have been sent out from headquarters to trainmen, station agents, etc., to bear these facts in mind constantly and reduce all avoidable noise and talk to the lowest limits.

The public that travels will certainly appreciate these efforts on the part of the "Old Pioneer Line of the Northwest."

If the modern drama has not advanced morally beyond the time of the Greeks or the Elizabethan age it has not improved its opportunities.

English and American Schools

"A radical difference between English and American systems of school organization is in the relation of elementary and secondary schools," says I. L. Kandel of Manchester, England, in a bulletin on English elementary education just issued by the United States Bureau of Education. "The American high school receives its pupils after they have completed the elementary school course and builds up its curriculum on that foundation. The English secondary schools receive their pupils from a variety of schools—special preparatory schools or elementary schools—and the pupils on entering may vary in age from 10 to 14."

In general Mr. Kandel finds it difficult to institute a detailed comparison of the standards of elementary school work in the two countries, because circumstances are so different. "The American elementary school has been for nearly a century the national school, the common school of all the people. In England the elementary school is just in the process of developing into a national institution, a public service for national needs, instead of being regarded as a charity school for the education of the 'lower classes'."

Another factor that renders comparison difficult, according to Mr. Kandel, is the inherent difference between the English and the American child. The latter, he declares, "is by nature more precocious, matures earlier, is by circumstances of his upbringing thrown more into the company of adults, with the consequence that he is less reserved and self-conscious and more alert than the former."

"American children have a far better knowledge of the history of their country and in some cases of general history than is to be found among English elementary school children. The same is certainly true of their knowledge of local and national government. In English language the American child has better command of oral expression; he is more given to debating and discussing than the English child. The reading of English literature is also more extensive in American schools, and in art work there is greater variety."

"But if the English elementary school has much to gain from the study of the American curriculum, American educational administration would profit as greatly from what is the strength of the English system—freedom of the individual school."

It is in the work of medical inspection and general welfare work that England's school system has recently made the most notable development, according to Mr. Kandel.

Every citizen of the United States should be able to read and write, but illiteracy is not necessarily a proof of bad citizenship. The men who commit most of the murders, robberies, burglaries, forgeries and other rascalities in this country have at least a smattering of education. Multitudes of humble and honest laborers can neither read nor write, yet are useful citizens.

While installation of dictographs may check profanity at polling places, the right of electors to cuss after an election cannot be constitutionally denied or abridged.

The scientists who ascribe the recent volcanic eruption to the influence of the moon surely will not dispute the ancient superstition about the time to plant potatoes.

There are now 24,527 publications in the United States, but there are folks who could not be satisfied by any of them.

The President and Free Tolls

In the matter of the Panama canal tolls the President's power over Congress will be subjected to a severe test. He is asking that body, not only to undo action recently taken, but to repudiate the Baltimore platform. He reverses himself—for he accepted as a candidate the free tolls provision of that deliverance—and wants Congress to follow suit. If Congress obeys, the triumph of the President will be extraordinary.

The question proper remains as when first decided. Had we the authority under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty to exempt American coastwise shipping? Leading Republicans and leading Democrats were found on either side. Exemption was voted after full discussion, and the Baltimore convention ratified the act after Great Britain's protest had been voiced. The delegates who nominated Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Wilson in accepting the nomination, declared against the British attitude.

What explains, then, Mr. Wilson's change of front? Why is he desirous that what has been done should be undone? What has taken place since the Democracy took the reins making it advisable that Great Britain's views in the premises should now prevail?

The country is curious, and in the dark. It is entitled to enlightenment. Congress, likewise, is entitled to all of the President's latest information. The matter is not for discussion behind the closed doors of the Senate. Repealing a law must be done in the open and after debate.

Popular belief is that influences that did not exist when free tolls were voted by Congress and indorsed by the Baltimore convention exist now; that this government has been maneuvered into a position where it is feeling a squeeze, that the free tolls question proper is carrying a burden not legitimately belonging to it.

For this reason disappointment will be felt at the statement that the President does not purpose addressing Congress on the subject, but will depend upon his friends there to introduce a repeal measure and pass it with the influence of his indorsement.

Some of those friends are in a pickle. They voted for free tolls, and still regard that policy as just, both economically and as a feature under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. If they reverse themselves it will be entirely at the President's request. They will surrender their own opinions and accept his under a pressure of circumstances which they had no part or lot in bringing about.

These men are going before their constituents next fall to give an account of deeds done in the legislative body, and are disturbed about how much or little campaign material there may be in such an excuse as that "the President did give to me, and I did eat." Under our system of government a national legislator is expected to be a judge of fruit himself, and to make his own selections.

The practice of swathing bride and groom in anti-septic bandages prior to the marriage ceremony will not become a fad.

The Social Burden

Social-official Washington is to be relieved of a heavy burden, if present plans carry. The business of making formal calls, imposed as a duty upon the women whose husbands hold important positions in the government, has become a serious handicap on health and something must be done to effect a remedy. Those who are strangers to Washington's mid-winter social life have no conception of the grave problem that this has become and cannot appreciate the gratitude that is already felt by the "official" matrons in the mere prospect of release from the thrall of "duty" calls. Mrs. Secretary and Mrs. Senator must do their part to keep acquainted and to prevent Mrs. Commissioner and Mrs. Justice and Mrs. Representative from feeling slighted. Mrs. Ambassador's calls are part of her husband's diplomatic business and she doubtless regards them as part of the career of an envoy's wife; still she is affected by the development of the calling custom into a complex and formidable system, requiring the guidance of advisers, in the puzelle of precedence and the conventions of cards and the schedule of "days."

As a means of promoting acquaintance the exchange of formal calls is not particularly effective. The average call lasts not much more than ten minutes, and in that time neither the caller nor the hostess can gain more than a superficial impression of individuality. There is no more "visiting," such as the women of earlier days could do, taking, perhaps, their handwork along to keep occupied while talking. Those long, intimate discussions over household affairs and the health of the children and the matrimonial prospects of mutual friends have gone, perhaps forever, from the upper social circles. Conversation turns on politics and sociological issues, and in the case of persons of direct or reflected importance it must be painstakingly safeguarded to prevent the passing of too much information. Discretion replaces freedom of speech and the monitor of the minute hand is forever alert to command a move to the next station in the social pilgrim's progress.

Just what can be done to effect a change, giving the official women of Washington more leisure to pursue their own inclinations to cultivate real friendships; to relax into genuine social intercourse is not to be lightly prescribed. A mountain of supposed obligation is to be removed. Many minds are now at work in the endeavor, and there is, happily, a general feeling that some change is essential if life in the capital is to be restored to a satisfactory basis. The exactions of etiquette must be relaxed. Cards, perhaps, can be declared acceptable in lieu of formal calls marked by languid handclaps, weary platitudes of politeness and hasty adieus. Uncle Sam's mail carriers can possibly bear the brunt of the burden. Other means will doubtless be devised to simplify the system of personal acknowledgments if the women of official Washington really want emancipation from their present state of servitude. —Washington Star.

Paris cafes that require cooks to wear kid gloves will, of course, maintain glove-cleaning plants.

Some of our train robbers are becoming as recklessly cruel as Mexican generals.

A Talk to the Boy

Come, boy, to your dad. Let me tell you some things
Of the man who loved me as I'm loving you.
For the heart's but a pendulum, heavy, that swings
Aye forward and back, as all pendulums do.
And tonight mine has swung far away to the time
When your dad had a dad just as you have, my son—
A dad to those arms I was welcome to climb
When his day in the cornfield or meadow was done.
I crept into arms that were stronger, my lad;
And his hands—O so tender—were harder than mine.
For the world had been stern with the dad of your dad—
Yet I would that my soul were so gentle and fine
As the one roughly clad in that body of his.
That lavishly gave of its strength for the one
Who shelters you now. And my prayer's burden is
That you may think thus of your father, my son.
What I've gained, I have gained—his tie heavier cost:
He in embryo held all the things I have done.
Eut I fear—vaguely fear—there are some things I've lost
That sadly diminish the triumph, my son.
So lie close, little man—there's so little we know
Except that I love you and you can love me.
And I'll smile with content that you're loving me so,
And be glad in that love, as my dad used to be.
—Strickland Gillian.

The Good Roads "Pork Barrel"

What is regarded as the most gigantic "pork barrel" proposition ever attempted by any Congress is the \$25,000,000 item in the Appropriation Act recently passed by the House of Representatives for the alleged purpose of a national highway.

Says the Newark News: "To get a 'pork barrel' bill through, every fellow must have a penchant for pork, and so states like New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts that have not waited for federal appropriations, share with Missouri, South Carolina and Texas in the distribution of the appropriation."

"While there is a semblance of equality in the plan of distribution, it is shrewdly devised to the advantage of those states that have done little or nothing for themselves in the way of road improvement. One-half the funds to be divided on a basis of population, and the other half on a basis of post road mileage in each state, as proportionate to the total of such mileage in the United States. As this includes star routes and stage routes, it is evident that the South and West will benefit more in this distribution than the thickly settled states of the East."

The Philadelphia Press seeks to justify the appropriation by saying:

The sum of \$25,000,000 is not magnificent when it comes to be distributed among forty-three states. In its application to roads in some states, it means for road building double the amount appropriated, because of the conditions attached that no money shall be paid out on any road work until an equal amount towards the joint construction shall be provided by the local authorities. In those states already enlisted in the work of road building, the federal grant will be a welcome addition. For Pennsylvania, there will come \$1,623,750 should the bill become a law, and it should be a real addition to the state's appropriation and not be made an excuse for reducing the state's expenditure by a single dollar."

The Springfield Union regards the appropriation as a "raid on the treasury" for a partisan purpose, and observes:

"It is well not to be in great haste about voting large sums of government money for this object. Self-reliance in this matter is just as good a rule for the Southern and Western states as for Massachusetts. And if the government is to appropriate liberally for this object, let us take pains to avoid the mistake that so long attached to our expenditures for rivers and harbors and so order our expenditures as to derive the greatest possible permanent value therefrom. President Taft read some wholesome lectures to Congress on the "pork barrel" question."

Under the title of "Ice-Water Johnny," Opie Head, the most popular of all the fiction writers of ten years ago, "comes back" in the March Red Book Magazine, with a story that has some of the finest humor he has ever done. This is a sample. The story opens on a train in Georgia during a yellow fever scare. Enters a typical Southern colonel. Quarantine officers are taking the temperatures of all passengers who have not health certificates. The colonel refuses to have his taken. The officers demand an explanation. "Well, sir," answers the colonel, "I don't want to advertise it throughout the state of Georgia, but I have just had an ace-full beaten back there, and I'll be hanged if this is the time to take my temperature."

It might be a great help toward simplifying the situation if Secretary Eryan could persuade Mexico to insist on soft drinks for its officials.

The question of social calls is not so easily disposed of as the question relating to the personal visits of the President to the capitol.

News of the State

- The Bee wants a band of Edmond.
- Hebron's band will be re-organized.
- Calvin entertained a big farmers' institute.
- A farmers club has been organized at Knox.
- Alf. White at Dickinson is a candidate for mayor.
- Township and village elections will be held March 17.
- Minor wants a \$10,000 addition to their school house.
- Flasher has shipped its tenth car of hogs this winter.
- The baby of Nick Simons, near Glen Ullin, died last week.
- The civic improvement league at LaMoure wants a city park.
- The mountain lions have been seen again at Churches Ferry.
- Knox baseball enthusiasts have already organized for the season.
- There is an ambitious class in agriculture in the high school at Lankin.
- There is some unusually good fox hunting in the vicinity of Austin this winter.
- Carson business places close at 7 o'clock on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- The seven-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Schweitzer of Shields died last week.
- The annual meeting of the Glen Ullin cemetery association was held last Saturday.
- John Gallant, an old and eccentric bachelor near Hamburg, was found dead in his shack.
- The exchanges over the state just can't get over the closing of the LaMoure creamery.
- The annual meeting of the state dairymen's association is in session at Fargo this week.
- The auto garage of G. G. Candee at Leeds had a narrow escape from destruction by fire recently.
- The Belfield Times commends the splendid music supplied for dances by the orchestra at Medora.
- Esmond will have many improvements the coming summer, among them some cement sidewalks.
- It is rumored that Schaller post-office will be discontinued; no one will accept the postmastership.
- The druggists of Morton, Mercer and Oliver counties have organized the Twelfth District association.
- Local Equity unions are after argo with a gun on each hip because of the recent convention trouble.
- Farmers near Westhope are wishing for milder weather so they can haul their grain to the elevator.
- Former Governor Frank White has been elected president of the Valley City Chautauqua association.
- A prominent traveling man in this state has forsaken his samples and become a homesteader near Bowman.
- Farmers near Elgin are organizing a mutual fire insurance association—a result of the recent farmers institute.
- Editor Thurston made a great improvement in the appearance of the center Republican the first issue he published.
- H. W. Nelson of Leith, has sold his butcher shop to C. E. Peterson and has gone to Beach to start a motion picture show.
- O. H. Phil and John W. Lutgen, both of Glen Ullin, have been mentioned for county auditor and coroner, respectively.
- The building and stock of the Cogswell Hardware Co. were destroyed by fire Monday with a loss of about \$23,000. The Cogswell State bank also "suffered."
- Forman's druggist "flitted" away while under bonds in a blind pig case but the ensuing drouth is said to be quite agreeable.
- The funeral directors are trying to make planting more pleasant. They hold a state convention in Grand Forks recently.
- The Presbyterian church at Gratton was burned recently. It was built in 1883 and was the first to be erected in that city.
- The Dickinson Press has started on its thirty second year, and there is no better weekly paper in the state. Editor Ayers has reason to feel proud of his life's work.
- A Gratton man has invented a cash register which it is claimed will do anything that the "big business machine" will do. We want one that will do more.