THE PRODUCERS NEWS

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Continuing the OUTLOOK PROMOTER

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1919

Dunn Endorses Johnson

It ought to be a matter of great gratification to Senator Johnson, when he visits Helena on the trail of President Wilson, to know that he comes with the highest recommendations of W. F. Dunn of the Butte Bulletin.

"Mr. Dunn, during the visit of the president, published practically nothing about it, but he devotes about five columns to the report of the Johnson speech in St. Louis and the Borah abuse of the president at Omaha.

"Commenting approvingly on Borah's vicious attack on the president, Dunn chortles happily and winds up by saying that President Wilson is a bigger traitor to America than Benedict Arnold. This from a convicted seditionist, who did all he could to hamper the conduct of the war against the Huns.

"He winds up his editorial praising Johnson and Borah and cursing Wilson, with this expression:

" 'Wilson the Patriot! Bah!'

"On the front page of this same issue, Sept. 13, of the Bulletin is the story of Bullitt the Bolshevik booster and praise for Russia and Lenine and Trotzky.

"Taking it by and large, Senator Johnson should feel highly complimented by the support of the Bulletin. And those who think Johnson is a hero, ought to feel endorsed, because of the remarks of Dunn.

"It is said that politics makes strange bedfellows, but the bedfellow of Johnson and Borah is not the kind that a sane man would choose. Not if he knew it. —Helena Independent."

The above editorial commenting upon the attitude of the Butte Bulletin and W. F. Dunn, is clipped from the paper published by "Wild Bill" Campbell, the crazy, hairbrained blatherskite, who is known to fame as the President of the Montana Loyalty League.

"Wild Bill" feels awfully disgraced and ashamed for Johnson and Borah, because they have seemed to have won the sympathy of W. F. Dunn, in their efforts to keep England from annexing the United States to the British Empire and substituting the "Union Jack" in place of "Old Glory."

"Wild Bill" Campbell doesn't like Dunn, whom he delights to refer to as "the convicted seditionist," convicted for referring to the Montana Council of Defense as a "slimy political gang;" and as Campbell himself was a member of the Council of Defense, he can not deny the truth of the assertion, however seditious it may be.

Mr. Campbell is himself a self-confessed perjurer and taxdodger, and is a man of very questionable morality and integrity.

And as a closing reflection, we suggest, "taking it by far and large, President Wilson should feel highly complimented by the support of the Helena Independent. And those who think Wilson is a hero, ought to feel endorsed because of the remarks of Campbell."

Of course we hope that that large, patriotic mass of honest and decent people who admire the patriotism of that stalwarwt champion of the rights of man and of pure Americanism, Hon. W. F. Dunn, will take no offense at our making an apparent comparison between a statesman, held in the high esteem in which W. F. Dunn is by the honest, working, producing mass of the population of this state, with a slimy lickspittel, menial, mental prostitute, of the calibre and character of Will Campbell, editor of the Helena Independent.

Loss On Both Sides

The death of Andrew Carnegie calls to mind a question the people used to debate vigorously when he embarked on his effort to give away his wealth—the question of whether the making of millionaires is harmful or beneficial to society.

The Americans of two generations ago, among them, for instance, Abraham Lincoln, generally looked upon the growing aggregations of wealth as a serious menace to the nation.

But these earlier Americans saw nothing like what we saw when Carnegie began to give away libraries.

His decision to part with a lot of money for supposedly good causes was hailed everywhere by millionaire defenders.

In amassing their fortunes the millionaires added to our productive power.

They organized great combinations and employed vast armies of workers.

Then, with their superior knowledge of what the people needed, they did a vast amount of good in promoting those things which uplifted the people.

So the argument ran, and the arguers would point to Rockefeller and Carnegie trying to outdo each other in goods works.

The other side had far better arguments but were handicapped because the people took much more superficial views of things than they do now.

In the first place, we realize now that the millionaires were not interested in efficient production but in profits.

We know that very few of these fortunes arose except through unfair advantages which the millionaires got over other producers through political manipulation.

Thus Carnegie got a high tariff which fined every one using steel, he got railroad rebates, and he got state military forces to help him break American union and bring in hordes from southern Europe largely under false promises.

He and others, playing the same big profit game with stacked cards, were thus a curse rather than a blessing, just as the packing trust is a curse to the livestock industry and the consumers today.

But how about the good works? The millionaires can not remove the injury done in acquiring the unearned millions. And practically all are turned in such a way that in themselves they corrupt otherwise good institutions to perfume the tainted money.

Thus Rockefeller has corrupted our universities and schools and our department of agriculture for propaganda purposes under the guise of financial aid.

Carnegie died with more in his will than he had when he started his career of "good works."

The Retailer's Friends

With reailers drawing the first and perhaps the only fire of the government crusade against the high cost of living, some of our retailers will have to alter their opinions as to who their friends are.

The big press and the publicity agents of the great corporations have tried to push the blame on the retailer.

In our large cities supposedly public committees (but in reality made up of wholesalers and other large operatives) announce fair price lists on the pretense of protecting the public against retail profiteering.

Let it be noted, on the other hand, that no organization of farmers or workers has attacked the retailer as a profiteer.

The remedies which they have advanced and urged on the government deal entirely with the great monopolies, including that of land.

If the farmer-labor organization were stronger, there is no question but that they would force the government to stop its monkey business with small business men and begin on real remedies for the high cost of living.

Even where farmers and workers take up co-operation today in buying supplies, they have gotten away from the policies of going after the retailer's profits, as reported by defenders of the corporations.

They now plan to get the economies of buying on a large scale for many local stores.

Here again they do not cut into the retailer's trade so much as they bring new trade to town; whereas the great chain stores, established and run on the capital which credit corporations can not usurp in their own business, fight for the trade which the independent merchant has.

Small business must ally itself with the farmers and workers if it expects to defend itself against the common enemy of all.

The retailer, particularly, has one real friend, and that is the consumer.

The Way of the Transgressor

Writing on the "Psychology of Reformers" in the July number of the National Municipal Review, Henry Farnham brings out a point worthy of notice.

He declares that it is the universal practice of conservaives and grafters to accuse the reformer of the wrongs the reformer is crusading against.

Who can not recall many illustrations of this from the past and present?

Right now, for instance, the political ring which was ousted from North Dakota because the people were tired of outside domination are accusing the reform leaders of all the tricks this ring was guilty of.

The man who handicaps his country in war with reckless profiteering cries "disloyalist" and "traitor."

Perhaps the grafters like to talk about what they are most familiar with?

This observation also explains the vast amount of noise being raised at the present time supposedly in the interest of law and order.

No serious reformer or reform organization escapes being dubbed an enemy of law and order.

Why?

Because all these reformers and reform movements demand a better law and order than we have now.

The America of a hundred years ago needed comparatively little regulation.

Our industrial life was simple.

There were no great utilities or business corporations.

Justice between man and man was generally a very simply affair settled through the old-style courts.

Since then we have filled a great territory with over 100,000,000 people.

We have been able to do so by large-scale production and quick communication and a multitude of inventions.

Almost every citizen uses daily products drawn from all quarters of this great territory.

Obviously, then, civilization and progress demand better and more complex social organization than we had 100 years ago.

Here is where the great split comes.

Our reformers want more organization to protect the common man in his livelihood and freedom.

Our conservatives fight against any development of order because the lack of it has enabled those with wealth to profit.

With our lack of organization for the common good, the great corporations are able to privateer in society like those armed ships which used to roam the seas for profit by plundering enemy merchantmen.

And their press writers call those who want a better organized society enemies of law and order!

A South Dakota book-binder told The Leader the other day that he paid $60.00 for a cow hide for use in the bindery. The farmer who raised the cow from which the hide was taken got about $6.00 or $7.00 for the hide. Who gets the $53.00 rake-off between the producer and the consumer? Is the high price of hides due to the high wages of labor? The labor employed in the tanning of the hide did not cost to exceed $3.00 There is still $50.00 unaccounted for.—South Dakota Leader.

"Wild Bill" Campbell, tax dodger and perjurer, loudly applauded "baby" Ted's plan to shoot anybody who would bring the thieves and "body robbers" to the ax. "Wild Bill" likes honesty and common decency as a "cat likes hot soup."

The return of Archduke Joseph to Hungary, with the help of plundering foreign armies, is in line with the tradition of autocrats and plutocrats. Their patriotism never gets beyond the rule or ruin stage.

If murders of Americans are all that our state department needs to "force us into a radical change in its policy with regard to Mexico," as the state department says, may one doubt that the oil interests are able and willing to furnish these killings? If they are anxious to have thousands of Americans killed in declared war, moral scruples certainly would not prevent them from hiring a few killings to start it.

The grabbing of so many different food necessaries by the packers is the packers' answer to the public endeavor to find substitutes for meat. Armour & Co. advertises that the public can buy nearly everything for the American table from its list. What the packers want is a condition in which the public will have to buy every food from them. The packers appreciate the value of autocracy.

"Labor lays high cost of living to the profiteering farmers," says a farm paper that ought to know better. The only labor that has spoken, organized labor, has placed the blame where it belongs. Perhaps it was the labor in the editorial rooms of this paper that laid the burden at the farmer's door per order from the silent partner.

If the public could hire experts to look into the matter, it would discover that it had already paid for the railroads once. In some cases it has paid more than 100 per cent of the actual investment.

Thirty-five alleged members of the I. W. W. organization have been in jail at Wichita, Kan., for 19 months without trial. No court has even determined that they are I. W. W. members. If they are found innocent of any law-breaking, America offers them no compensation for these 19 months in a foul jail. No matter what we think about this organization, such a failunre of justice to workingmen is both a disgrace and a danger to America. It is a danger because once a precedent of this kind is established any of us who displeases a sheriff or a prosecuting attorney is open to similar treatment and because such treatment makes desperate men.

Kate Richard O'Hare is in prison because the "baby robbers" didn't like her line of conversation. "Wild Bill" Campbell filed a false return to the assessor and he was made the president of the Montana Loyalty League.

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