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ROBBING THE PROSPECTOR.

The crowning infamy of the Wilson administration is the act in forcibly dispossessing the prospector of his hard earned equity to lands in the wilds of the country where he succeeded in planting his monuments under the guarantee of the government by making locations under the placer law. There never was a question of the right of men to appropriate these lands with every intention of developing them as soon as they succeeded in raising funds for the work. Many thousands of dollars have been expended in perfecting these claims, making surveys and otherwise following the usual preliminaries for aggressive development. Just when the fruits of the prospector were about to be harvested, the government comes along with a law having retroactive features by which all the work of the locators is rendered null and void and they are placed at the mercy of any set of vandals who choose to take advantage of a technicality by re-locating the same grounds. Every part of the contract between the government and the prospector affecting the public domain was observed to the letter by the party of the second part. The action of the Interior Department by which it is ruled that none of these claims have any legal backing unless they are re-located and leased under the new law have the slightest justification. The infamy of the construction is all the greater since it emanates from the Land Commissioner who claims Tonopah for his home and therefore should be familiar with the hardships which prospectors endure in seeking out fresh locations and helping to develop lands of the public domain. A more liberal treatment should have been granted these men or at least a warning should have been issued while it was known they were engaged in the field piling up their monuments and making surveys on the meager prospect of adding more productive land to the oil area of the United States. We are told that the navy and merchant marine are suffering from the famine in oil and it is stated also that as a measure of protection, that a strong syndicate is being organized to secure oil rights in foreign countries. This is a singular state of affairs. While men at home are prohibited from making oil locations capital is sought to open similar locations in other countries that will not contribute a dollar to the earning powers or resources of the United States. More encouragement at home would probably result in developing fresh oil areas and dispensing with the necessity for spending good American dollars wrested from the overburdened taxpayers for disbursement in foreign lands.

As the latest bidder for capital to develop oil lands Nevada is more directly interested in this action of the administration in penalizing prospectors and it is up to our representatives in Congress to bestir themselves with an idea of getting a change in the ruling that will concede the propriety of the demands of the prospectors of this state.

HYSTERIA IN HIGH PLACES.

Attorney General Palmer is making his Department of Justice a travesty upon the name of the law. That department has reached a state of hysteria that calls upon some one in power to curb its manifold inclinations and gag the mouthpieces engaged in uttering warnings against mythical dangers. The whole department seems imbued with the idea of throwing a scare into the hearts of the people by indulging in frenzied utterances of the most intemperate character. The latest was the world-wide warning declaring that May day would see the nation deluged with blood as a consequence of the murderous plotting of the reds who were alleged to be on the point of rising up in their majesty of less than 100,000 and capturing the government of a population estimated at 125,000,000 sane and serious people. The attorney general sent out a warning that presaged violent deaths for almost every executive officer and every dispenser of justice under the American flag. The day came and went without any spectacular developments. There was no carnage, no bombs were thrown at any public official, no buildings were destroyed and no attempt was made to carry out any one of the thousand desperate deeds which the attorney general predicted were to be the order of the day. The state of nerves into which the Department of Justice was plunged may be inferred from the fact that the government sent word to every army and navy hospital in the United States to be ready for an emergency that would tax their facilities to the utmost. If the rumor hounds of the department did not take themselves so seriously the affair would be laughable especially in view of the day after when the world woke up to find the good old United States remained on the map and that its citizens and statesmen were doing business at the same old stand where they had been the day before.

This burlesque is on a par with the raids made on Reds in very city of the nation three months before when several thousand alleged offenders and known aliens were hurried aboard special trains and shipped to the Atlantic seacoast with the warning that they would be deported quicker than one could say "Seat". At that time there was a grand clean-up promised and this fair land of ours was to see such a purging such as it never had in history. Those alleged reds and communists still remain the guests of Uncle Sam at Ellis Island where they are enjoying three square meals a day without concerning themselves about the high cost of living or the necessity for wearing jeans or old clothes to eke out their incomes. If we did not understand the country to be on a dry basis we would be tempted to ascribe these temperamental ebullitions to the day after when the dark brown taste lingers in the mouth and the imagination is fired with the fumes of hilarious highball and the imagination sees strange things crawling around the walls.

It is interesting to note that in the recent California primaries thousands of democrats quit the democratic party and went over to

the republicans. This is a pretty good forecast of what is coming in November.

What business has an administration that can't protect the American people against profiteers undertaking to protect the Armenians against the Turks?

CHINA OVERRUN WITH BANDITS

By following this procedure, travelers from the province say, the wayfarer is ordinarily safe, but it happens sometimes that the spheres of control of the leaders overlap and travelers who have sought protection in one area are at times attacked by bandits whose leaders have not been appeased.

The consideration required to provide a guard for a traveler is not particularly heavy, as it is said to be about 50 cents a day per guard. Ordinarily travelers who do fall into the hands of outlaws do not suffer bodily harm, but it is not uncommon for native servants to be murdered and cases exist in which foreigners have been taken and held for ransom.

Chengtu, capital of the province of Szechuen, is reached by a journey of about 2,500 miles up the Yangtze river from Shanghai to Hanko and Ichwang, thence through the famed Yangtze gorges to Chungking and finally by a sedan chair ride of from 13 to 14 days through the high mountains of the country that lies between Chungking and Chengtu.

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