

WAR BILLIONS WASTED, CONGRESS PROBE SHOWS

WASHINGTON.—“What we got for our money” is the title of an expose of the democratic administration's waste and extravagance during the war, which has just been made public by Representative William J. Graham, of Illinois, chairman of the house war investigation committee. He sums up the important disclosures as follows:

We expended \$1,051,511,988 for aviation and airplanes, and up to the time of signing of the armistice not a single fighting plane was at the American front.

As a result of our entire aviation program we obtained 213 De Havilland, 4 observation planes, all of which were illy designed and constructed and extremely dangerous, and 527 second-hand foreign planes, which we either bought or borrowed from our associates in the war.

We spent \$20,000,000 for 4,608 Curtiss motors, 1,616 Curtiss-type aeroplanes, and 1,100 Standard JN-1 aeroplanes, which we purchased from the Curtiss Aeroplane & Motor Corporation, then sold them back to this company for \$2,720,000. The war department refused to sell these machines to aviators for less than \$3,500 each, and provided in the contract by which they were sold to the Curtiss company that the Curtiss company should have the first opportunity to buy any other aeroplanes which the war department might thereafter declare surplus.

We spent \$6,000,000 on Bristol planes and \$17,500,000 on Standard-J planes, and got not a single machine that could be used for any purpose.

We spent \$206,632,920 for 16 National army cantonments, built by the cost-plus system. These could have been built for \$128,101,399, or \$78,531,521 less.

We expended \$1,200,000,000 for the construction of camps and cantonments, largely by the cost-plus system, a system adopted by the war department. By this system costs were increased, labor demoralized, the completion of the camps was delayed, soldiers called to the colors were subject to conditions that induced disease and death, and from 40 to 60 per cent of the money was wasted.

Twenty-two million dollars was spent for fees to favored contractors on camps and cantonments, most of which would have been saved had this work been let by bids.

We spent \$60,100,000 to build a powder plant at Nitro, W. Va. It never produced a pound of powder for the war. After the armistice there was stored at Nitro personal property worth at a fair cash value \$10,000,000. Both plant and property were sold after the armistice for \$8,551,000, most of which is in deferred payments.

We paid the Hercules Powder company for operating the Nitro plant \$11,293,737.11. They produced no powder that we could use in the war.

We spent \$2,900,000 in furnishing electric lines for the Virginia Power company at Nitro, W. Va., and after we had built them a first-class system, giving them a practical monopoly of the Kanawha Valley, the government settled with them for \$81,000 and in addition gave them a long-time contract to furnish electric power for the naval armor plant at Charleston, W. Va.

We spent approximately \$90,000,000 in the construction and operation of a powder plant at Nashville, Tenn., called Old Hickory, and which produced no powder that could be used in the war.

We spent many millions, the exact amount being unknown, for the production of tanks, and did not produce a single tank that reached the front before the armistice. To complete our tank program we needed 1,200 tanks, which were to cost \$25,000 each. To build these we started an immense steel and concrete factory in France, which was to assemble and turn out 100 of these tanks a day, or the entire supply in 12 days. The British were to furnish the guns and armor and ship them to France for assembly, while we were to furnish the engines and running gear, and ship them to France for assembly. The British supplied their part, but we supplied nothing. The factory was unfinished at the armistice and never produced anything.

We spent \$116,194,973.37 on nitrate plants at Sheffield, Ala.; Muscle Shoals, Ala.; Toledo, Ohio, and Cincinnati, Ohio. These plants did not produce a pound of nitrate that could be used in the war.

We spent \$116,194,973.37 on nitrate. Not a pound of American gas was ever fired in an American shell, and only about 100 tons of American gas loaded in shells, ever reached the field dumps.

The government built three picric acid plants and seven plants to make phenol and acid required by them. This was to furnish picric acid for the French, who desired it for explosives. None of these plants produced a pound of anything that was used in the war. The plants cost us \$35,000,000. The French were to pay the whole bill, but the war department settled with France for \$14,000,000.

We spent \$17,116,000 in construct-

ing a port terminal at Charleston, S. C. It was built in an isolated swamp 10 miles up the Cooper river, where it was necessary to dredge to reach it. There never was a pound of produce, a man, or an animal shipped either out of or in to this terminal during the war.

We spent \$127,661,000 for port terminals at Boston, Brooklyn, Newark, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Charles, and New Orleans. Some of them were not finished and none of them were used for anything except storage during the war.

The ordnance department spent \$3,991,489,570.48 from the beginning of the war until June 1, 1919, as much as it cost to finance the Civil war. A large part of it was spent in a program of manufacturing artillery and ammunition. This is what we got for it:

We had 53 contracts for 37-millimeter shells, on which we expended \$9,134,582. Not one of these shells ever reached our firing line.

We had 689 contracts for 75-millimeter shells, on which we expended \$301,941,459. Of these shells, we find 6,000.

We had 142 contracts for 3-inch shells, on which we expended \$44,841,844. None of these shells reached the firing line.

We had 439 contracts for 4.7 shells, on which we expended \$41,716,051. Of these shells 14,000 were fired by our forces.

We had 305 contracts for 6-inch shells, on which we expended \$24,189,075. None of these ever reached the firing line.

We had 617 contracts for 155-millimeter shells, on which we expended \$264,955,387. None of these ever reached the firing line.

We had 301 contracts for 8-inch shells, on which we expended \$51,371,207. None of these ever reached the firing line.

We had 152 contracts for 140-millimeter shells, on which we expended \$24,136,867. None of these ever reached the firing line.

We had 239 contracts for 9.2 shells, on which we expended \$54,389,377. None of these ever reached the firing line.

We had 71 contracts for 12-inch shells, on which we expended \$9,507,878. None of these ever reached the firing line.

We had 6 contracts for 14-inch shells, on which we spent \$1,266,477. None of these reached the firing line.

We let 111 contracts, to the amount of \$478,828,345 for the construction of artillery of all calibres, guns, howitzers, gun carriages, limbers, and recuperators. Of this immense program of expenditures there reached our troops and were actually used in combat thirty-nine 75-millimeter anti-aircraft mount trucks, forty-eight 4.7 inch guns of the 1906 model, forty-eight 4.7-inch gun carriages of the same model, twenty-four 8-inch howitzers, and twenty-four 8-inch carriages. The details are shown in a table furnished by the war department and attached as an appendix hereto.

To sum up, we furnished our troops for use six thousand 75-millimeter shells, fourteen thousand 4.7 shells, forty-eight 4.7 guns, and twenty-four 8-inch howitzers.

These are the principal things soldiers need to fight with—guns and shells, gas, aeroplanes, and tanks. And while there was such a failure to produce these essential things, it is amazing to know what excessive orders and expenditures there were on other less essential things. A few instances will indicate this:

We ordered 41,100,152 pairs of shoes and received deliveries of 32,227,450 pairs, for 3,513,837 men.

We bought and received 500,326 double sets of harness and 110,823 single sets. We had, in all, during the period of the war 580,182 horses, of which only 67,498 were shipped overseas and 96,000 died.

We bought 945,000 saddles and had, in all, 86,418 cavalry horses.

We bought 2,850,853 halters. We bought 585,516 saddle brushes. We bought 1,637,199 horse brushes. We bought 3,033,204 nose bags. We bought 1,148,364 horse covers.

We bought for our ordnance officers, 712,510 complete sets of spur straps, about 36 sets for each officer. We proposed to have our ordnance officers properly spurred.

We bought 8,781,516 horseshoes. We bought 195,000 branding irons. We ordered 149,456,611 hard bread cans and uses 31,500,000 during the war.

Who won the war? Not the present administration. It has but little ground for self-congratulation. It failed in preparedness. It failed in accomplishment. It filled the air with fine phrases and spent the people's money. But I will tell you who won the war. The people, whose great heart was stirred to sacrifice and whose funds flowed out in a golden stream. But above all, it was the man with the gun, the American soldier, the best in the world. He won the war.

SENTENCE SUMMARY OF REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

The republican national platform is one of the strongest party utterances ever put forth by a national convention. It is a thoughtful review of existing political and economic conditions, and a comprehensive outline of remedial measures. The following sentence summary of the platform covers the high spots in the document:

Devotion to representative republican government and constitutional liberty affirmed.

The party and administration in power condemned for unpreparedness for war and for peace.

The administration arraigned for inefficiency, autocracy, extravagance and waste.

Restoration of constitutional government and ending of executive usurpation pledged.

Tribunals for voluntary settlement of labor disputes and the principles of co-operation and arbitration in industry favored.

Congress commended for constructive legislation, including the railway act, the budget bill, return of telegraph and telephone lines to private ownership and curtailment of federal expenditures.

Improvement proposed of the status of the great national interest of agriculture by legislative and administrative co-operation in its behalf.

Re-adjustment of government to a peace time basis and economy in public expenditures pledged.

Budget system advocated and president's veto of budget bill condemned.

Thorough re-organization of government departments on business basis proposed.

Withdrawal of president's war time powers advocated.

Reduction and more equitable re-adjustment of tax burdens promised.

Inflation of currency under operation of federal reserve act condemned.

Unsound fiscal policies of the administration, accompanied by burdensome taxation, decreased production and swollen profits denounced, and remedial measures promised, though declaration made that much of the injury inflicted is for the present irremediable.

Failure of the administration to enforce anti-profiteering acts condemned.

Political ownership and operation of railways opposed; private operation and public supervision proposed.

Clarification of anti-monopoly laws, enabling business men to know what they may legally do under them, suggested.

Belief in the protective tariff principles reaffirmed, with a pledge for its restoration when alien importations again endanger American enterprise and employment.

Fostering of privately owned national merchant marine favored; free tolls through Panama Canal of American coastwise vessels promised.

Selective process in admission of immigrants, with continuance of Asiatic exclusion policy, proposed.

More rigid tests for naturalization of aliens advocated.

Free speech, free press and free assembly advocated, but no man may advocate resistance to law or overthrow of American institutions; deportation processes should be safeguarded by law.

Lynching condemned as a blot on American civilization.

Obedience to law and maintenance of order advocated.

Liberal appropriations for road improvements, national conservation policy and comprehensive reclamation system advocated.

Tribute paid to American service men, and liberal legislation for the relief of soldiers of all wars advocated.

Maintenance and extension of civil service laws advocated.

Inefficiency of postal service, and mistreatment of postal employees, condemned; rehabilitation of postal system pledged.

Woman suffrage endorsed.

Social and industrial justice measures, state and national, favored.

Federal aid for education and health pledged.

Laws in behalf of children and women in industry advocated.

Encouragement of national home owning policy endorsed.

Mexican policy of the national administration strongly condemned, and protection of American lives, rights and self respect in Mexico pledged.

Help for Armenia favored, but Armenian mandate opposed.

Abandonment of the traditional foreign policy of the United States by the administration condemned.

Friendship for all foreign nations, entangling alliances with none, favored as the policy of the American government.

An international association for peace among nations, based on justice, settling the differences among nations by equity rather than by force, favored.

Any sacrifice of American national independence opposed.

The covenant signed at Paris condemned as sacrificial of American rights, interests and ideals.

THE LUMBER OUTPUT CURTAILED BY SHUTDOWNS

The lumber output has recently been heavily cut by the shutting down of a number of mills and logging camps. Action of the lumber men and millmen was necessitated by the drop of the market throughout the orient due to the exchange situation in Japan and financial stringency in Japan.

When the lumber industry is booming, business is good on the Pacific coast. Any conditions which prolong inactivity in the industry automatically reflect on other lines of activity depending on the lumber output.

The present slump, while only temporary, serves to illustrate the vital interest many states and communities have in exerting themselves to help maintain sound economic conditions

encouraging to general industrial development. Local building activity helps equalize the situation.

OPPORTUNITIES
“Ours is a country with opportunities for all. Even in Boston you don't have to operate a book store.”
“Eh?”
“You can run a beanery.”

The Strength of Organization



IN THE BRIEF span of forty years scientific advancement has brought the telephone from a crude experiment to one of the most nearly perfect of all mechanical devices. Engineering has mastered countless problems involved in the distribution of service. Construction has carried the telephone into the most remote corners of the country. Operative skill has combined the efforts of executives, scientists, engineers and commercial management. Together with vision and foresight these are the powers which, united, have made possible the accomplishments of the Bell System.

Nothing less than the finest loyalty, the most untiring devotion, the recognition of the great importance of their task, a fixed determination to serve faithfully; nothing less than this unified strength which has been so wonderfully displayed by the men and women engaged in the business of rendering telephone service could have carried the system through the great strain which began with the war and which has not yet passed.

Seldom, if ever, has public service required so long and so severe a test of a business organization. And never has an employe body responded with more hearty, united and loyal support. And they are still carrying on.

The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co.



Diamond CORD TIRES

It has taken long years of experience and great scientific skill to produce that master creation—the Diamond Cord Tire. Diamond Cords make friends by making good. They are ready to make good for you.



Babbitt Brothers Trading Company

IMITATION

The battalion was resting beside the road toward the end of its sixteen-mile hike. After the weary marchers had eased their packs and sipped from their nearly empty canteens, they watched dispiritedly the energetic setting-up exercises being gone through by a strange outfit in a nearby field. “What's that there gang?” inquired Private Hanks, of Oklahoma, without enthusiasm. “Infantry candidates' school,” replied the corporal. “Candidates! Infantry candidates!” exploded Hanks. “My good gosh! Do you have to make application and be initiated to get into this mess nowadays?”

MATTER OF ECONOMY

The other day an Indianapolis law-

yer took one of his women clients out to lunch. He, being discreet, decided to say nothing about the event to his wife. But the tattling friend who always learns of such affairs, told wifely instead, and that evening he was duly scolded for his misdemeanor. “But you sometimes go out to lunch with men who are our friends,” protested her husband, “and I don't object. Now, what is the difference between your going and my going in this way?” “Why, the difference is in the bill,” smiled the wife. “One way you save it and the other you pay it.”

MOONING AROUND

“These love scenes are rotten. Can't the leading man act like he is in love with the star?”
“Can't act at all!” said the director.
“Trouble is, he is in love with her.”

MOONSHINE SOLD FROM AEROPLANE IN OLD VIRGINIA

American aviators in France executed some daring stunts, but they all were pikers compared to the former flyer who has been peddling “moonshine” whiskey from an airplane.

A bootlegger in a flying machine recently landed at Fall Hill, on the court house road in Spotsylvania county, Virginia, carrying a number of gallons of moonshine. Customers soon gathered, the moonshiner sold out his supply, whispered instructions as to where next he would appear and then with a burr and a bang he started off into the sky.

COMPARATIVE VALUES

“Don't you think the starlight is so romantic?”
“Yes, but moonshine is more substantial.”