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PASSAGE OF THE CUMMINS BILL.

So far as the railroads and their control are concerned, two important events have transpired within the past week toward which the public can not be indifferent. The first of these was the passage of the Cummins bill and the second the official announcement that federal control over the railroads will be extended to March 1. The Esch railroad bill, quite the opposite from the Cummins' measure, is also pending and joint house and senate conferees will later take up consideration of both in an effort to provide a railroad measure generally satisfactory to all concerned.

The Cummins measure will draw organized opposition due to the anti-strike provision that it contains. Organized labor will fight its passage to the last ditch, and hope to be able to bring about its defeat in the house. It passed the senate by a vote of 46 to 30.

Congress having failed to pass legislation to regulate and care for the railroads, there seems but one thing to do and that is to extend federal control until a later date. Without this legislation, many of the roads would go back to their former owners in a much worse financial condition than when they were taken over. This would spell financial ruin and the country can not afford to see its great transportation system go into the hands of receivers.

The change from federal to corporate operation of the railroads likely will be made with such ease and so little ceremony that it will cause no excitement. The business of railroading will go on about as before. The officials who have since Jan. 1, 1918, been running the railroads for Uncle Sam are the same officials who used to run them for the stockholders and they are the same officials who will continue to run them, but for the stockholders again, instead of for the government. Changes of policies and practices will not be made in a day. They will come gradually, and quite a period will elapse before the good or ill resulting therefrom will be felt by the public.

Turning the roads back will be a popular move, generally speaking. There is no doubt that it is popular with business men, and farmers seem to favor it. Organized railroad employes made the strongest fight against the return of the roads, and they had the support of some other labor unions, of the Socialists, and of those individuals who for many years have been advocating government ownership.

ROCKEFELLER AND HIS GIFT.

A gift of $100,000,000 was the present made by John D. Rockefeller to raise the salaries of college professors and to the Rockefeller foundation to aid in its work of combatting disease through improvement of medical education, public health administration and scientific research.

One hundred million dollars! The figures are so great that it is difficult for the human mind to grasp them; in fact, comparatively few people realize the enormity of the amount. We are so used to talking in big figures that we do not stop to get their full significance. It is said that Rockefeller has made public gifts amounting to $450,000,000!

While the citizens of the United States will praise the act of this greatest of all billionaires and admire the spirit prompting him to give back to his fellow citizens a portion of his vast earnings, they can not help but wonder how it comes that one man is able to accumulate this mountain of wealth when the vast majority of people are struggling to save for a rainy day a few hundred or thousand dollars; yes, many of them find it difficult to save at all. And wondering they are very likely to come to the conclusion that while John D. Rockefeller is doing a great service to mankind, the example set before the people of such colossal wealth is, taken as a whole, and from the viewpoint of the nation, neither helpful nor healthful. Mr. Rockefeller has accumulated far more money than he can ever hope to need, and an amount that it is impossible even for him to spend, so he gives it away in sums so large the entire world is startled.

John D. Rockefeller is a brilliant financier. No one will deny that. In the land of opportunities he made the most of them at every turn. Nothing was let undone to make every dollar multiply. He showed a rare genius for this. As a money-maker he stands pre-eminent among all men. It will be said in his defense he not only took advantage of opportunity but he made opportunities and in the making became immensely rich.

AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK.

The statement issued by the Twelfth Federal Reserve bank governing business conditions in the Twelfth reserve district which includes Idaho, should bring cheer to the residents of this and other states. Despite the high prices, which are becoming more objectionable every day, the statement shows business has been excellent, real estate is transfering in large volume, there is general building activity and the period of reconstruction is in reality upon us.

Idaho is shown to lead all other states in the district in the matter of the production of wool, the total clip for 1919 reaching 22,145,000 pounds. Our nearest competitor was Utah with but 15,800,000. It has been a good year for the wool growers, just as it has been a good year for the merchant, the jobber, the manufacturer, the farmer and others.

The banks, too, came in for a large share of the prosperity. In 24 of the principal cities in the district bank clearings increased from $1,191,986,000 in 1918 to $1,626,120,000 in 1919. The percentage of increase was 36.4. This is an excellent showing and certainly a barometer showing the health condition of business generally over the district.

BEWARE OF COAL FIGURES!

Poor mathematics and coal seem to have a real amnity. The United States treasury has put out a statement about the profits made by coal operators, which by implication was a correction of an earlier declaration by a former secretary of the treasury. The former secretary asserted that "earnings on capital stock" of from 15 to 2,000 per cent were shown by income-tax returns for 1917. The treasury's declaration is that all bituminous coal mines east of the Mississippi river had in 1917 average profits of 100 to 150 per cent on invested capital, and a range in profit between 15 and 800 per cent.

That a correction from a basis of "capital stock" to "invested capital" was essential would seem to appear from the figures themselves; for example, one of the companies which the former secretary may have had in mind, as its data appeared in the compilation which he probably had before him, had in 1917 a capital stock of $10,000 and invested capital of $569,000. In other words, a return of 2000 per cent on the capital stock would have amounted to 36 per cent on the invested capital—a rate of profit that is certainly high enough.

DEFLATING OUR IDEAS.

To prevent a further rising of prices it is necessary that production be increased and consumption be decreased. In Europe and in the United States there never was a greater recklessness in spending money than there has been prevailing since the conclusion of the armistice. The ease with which a larger amount of depreciated money can be earned has diminished the respect for money and the eagerness to save. A willingness to subordinate or sacrifice one's wishes and pleasures to the greater advantage of the country, splendidly manifested during the years of the war, has ended in the present reaction—of an orgy of brazen self-indulgence at the very moment when the war bill is presented for payment.

The first thing to be done is—as a prominent British financier put it—"to deflate our ideas." The world lives in a fool's paradise based upon fictitious wealth, rash promises and mad illusions. The disease is world-wide, it is spread too far to enable us to deal with it as a whole. We may agree on the principles on which it must be fought, but each country will have to be treated in accordance with its own particular conditions. The first step, however, is to prick the bubbles of false premises and to begin by clearing the world balance sheet of fictitious assets as far and as fast as we can.

RIPPLING RHYMES

By WALT MASON.

GETTING BACK.

Let us all get back to working, back to earning honest rocks, back to baking, painting, clerking, back to winding eight-day clocks. Long enough we've whooped and clamored, making all the welkins ring; long enough we've knocked and hammered every sane and useful thing. If we'd all get back to toiling like a bunch of earnest men, industries now dead and spoiling would be cutting grass again. There would be a trade revival in the annals of this land. There would be no idle pulley, smoke would come from every stack, if we'd be less wild and woolly, if we'd hit the old time track. Let's get back to useful labor, as we labored long ago, peeling onions with a saber, sawing firewood with a hoe. Let us all resume out knitting, make the shining needles fly, working blithely, nor admitting any "agitator" guy. Let us darn the socks and mittens, prune the hedge and shear the cow, hunt the eggs and drown the kittens — let us all get busy now.

:-: PEPS :-:

SHOULD BE MORE CONSIDERATE

It was a scrubby little room in a scrubby little hotel, in a scrubby little part of a scrubby little city's scruburbs, and the Picadilly traveler didn't approve at all.

When he went to wash he found that there was no water for the basin, no soap to wash with, and no towel to dry himself with.

So he rang.

Five minutes interim bringing no answer, he rang again, and then again and again, until his arm ached. At the end of 20 minutes a waiter of forbidding aspect opened the door.

"Did you ring?" he inquired, in a bass, rumbling voice.

"Of course I did!" snapped the Picadilly visitor.

"Well," said the waiter as he withdrew, "don't do it again! You'll wake the missis!"

HEATLESS

In the trolley car I sit,
Thinking, mother dear, of you
And the old baseburner stove we used to feed;
Which would warm us to the soul
As we shoveled on the coal;
Them was the happy days, oh yes, indeed.

Stamp, stamp, stamp,
The boys are riding.
Colder feet each mile they come.
Get the old electric pad,
Slap the mustard onto dad,
Or he's going to have the flu when he gets home.

THE FREE LANCE

The free lance has an easy life,
His hours are his own
(And frequently he has a wife—
She doesn't live alone
All through the day while he is out
On some eight hour job),
He stays at home and grows stout,
Free from the bustling mob!
He stops and starts whenever he
May choose to set the time,
No clock selects his course, you see,
For writing prose or rhyme.
And yet 'tis easy to be shown
That he needs forty clerks!
Oh, yes, his hours are his own—
The SIXTEEN that he works!

"Down Goes the Cost of Living" is the head over an editorial in a western paper. That editor reminds us somewhat of the party who always whistled when passing through a cemetery.

The ex-kaiser objects to having his face in the films. That makes it unanimous.

"Mama, I want a dark breakfast."

"Dark breakfast? What do you mean, child?"

"Why, last night you told Mary to give me a light supper, and I didn't like it."

A glacier has been christened Lloyd George, but it doesn't show any signs of breaking up.

Mrs. Clarke came running hurriedly into her husband's office one morning.

"Oh, Dick," she cried, as she gasped for breath, "I dropped my diamond ring off my finger, and I can't find it anywhere."

"It's all right, Bess," replied Mr. Clarke. "I came across it in my trousers pocket."

"And you tell me several men proposed marriage to you?" he said, savagely.

"Yes, several," the wife replied.

"Well, I only wish you had married the first fool who proposed."

"I did."

"My daughter is positively delighted with her new piano," said Mrs. Potts; "she's quite familiar, you know, with all the classic composers—"

"Familiar?" exclaimed Mrs. Peppery, "why, she's positively flippant."

Professor Garner reports that the female ape says "Moohoo," and the male replies, "Wahoo." Evolution doesn't appear to have carried us very far. A chap on the moonlit beach last night said, "Who is oo?" and the girl replied, "I's oo's."

"Take this rubber plant into the garden."

"Mistress said I was to put it on the balcony, sir."

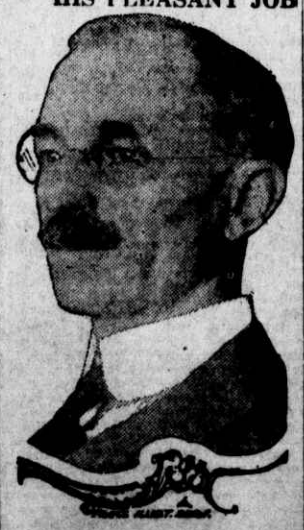
"Do as I tell you. You will put it in the garden first. Afterward you can put it on the balcony."

"My husband says he cannot understand women."

"My husband says after a man does understand women he wishes he didn't."

WHO'S WHO IN CURRENT EVENTS.

DEPORTING REDS HIS PLEASANT JOB



Byron H. Uhl.

Byron H. Uhl, acting commissioner in charge of immigration at Ellis Island, has charge of deporting the radicals and other undesirables from America. The busier the day the better he likes his work.

WHAT THE PRESS OF THE NATION SAY

SHOULD BE CAREFUL.

(New York Herald).

Pancho Villa may kidnap Americans and hold them for ransom, but he better be careful about confiscating the persons of subjects of His Britannic Majesty. The arrest and murder of William Benton is still to be accounted for. John Bull's memory is excellent and his arm is long.

GET IT PASSED.

(New York Evening Post).

But it is pretty cool to maintain that any one man or one party must shoulder the undivided responsibility. The treaty got knotted up in a political snarl, and the business now in hand is to extricate it, not to distribute blame or call names. The plain truth is that the country is not at present much interested in fixing the responsibility for getting the treaty into a tangle.

STILL MANEUVERING.

(New York Tribune).

The administration senators are fully aware of the weakness of their position. But they are not free agents. They are under an outside influence which says to them: "Yield nothing. Create all the dust you can." So the treaty rests on the table of the vice-president, where the president indicates that it is his wish for it to lie. He still maneuvers to prevent any sort of reservation being attached and so maneuvering there is a lack of the good faith which is essential to arriving at a settlement.

BEDLAM VISIONS.

(New York Sun).

As a free nation and of its own will the United States will do its share in the struggle of Europe against economic demoralization, financial bankruptcy, starvation and chaos. What national license does the United States need from the league of nations to do a less share for the world in peace than the United States, without license from any earthly authority, but its heart and its conscience, did for the world in war? Let us put away these bedlam visions of the consequences of the rejected covenant and get on our rational, practical, American job of delivery the goods for ourselves, for Europe and for the world.

AN EXTREME PROGRAM.

(New York World).

To assail the courts as tyrannical, to thunder against the writ of injunction, to demand that the supreme court of the United States be stripped of its power to enforce the constitution, to glorify strikes, to deny to the public as against any organization of capital or labor the right to continuous service on transportation lines, to encourage the unionizing of the postal, fire, police and other public employments, to suggest the idea that increased productivity of labor results only in swollen profits, and to indorse in effect the nationalization of railroads, industry and credit is a program extreme enough to satisfy almost any revolutionist who is not in addition a terrorist.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS.

(State Journal, Ohio).

Another advantage the Republicans have over the Democrats in the preliminary arrangements for 1920 is that it is so much easier just at present to view with alarm than it is to point with pride.

BRITISH TRADE.

(New York Sun.)

Steady old England, tried in a thousand financial and economic tests, as tried on a thousand battlefields, knows that every day British exports go up; knows that if British imports go up it is only because they are being brought in to be manufactured and sold abroad again at very much higher prices than the imported material cost. England knows that though she may be selling part of those exports on credit, the date of settlement draws nearer every day. England knows that when her ocean freight bills, her interest charges, her dividend returns and her current trade receipts from abroad have risen, as they are rising rapidly, to a higher point than her current outgo abroad—England knows that then the pound sterling will rise, perhaps soar more swiftly than it fell.

SURGERY'S NEW MARVEL.

(Toledo Blade).

Wonderful as have been the achievements of modern war, more wonders are yet to be seen. Industry, transportation, invention, organization and other activities of mankind have worked under the stress of necessity for higher accomplishment and have set new marks for peace to meet.

In the field of medicine and surgery there have been like advances. Bones from animals have been used successfully to replace human shin and arm bones splintered by high explosives. Skin grafting and facial reconstruction have become commonplace. New noses and ears have been created of thumbs and fingers.

The latest and most startling bit of surgery that has grown out of the war was performed at Fort McHenry hospital, Baltimore. Through it four soldiers, blinded by explosives and gas, have recovered their sight. The operation in each case was to repair shattered optic nerves. Skin, tissue, bone, muscle, veins and arteries have been patched and spliced successfully, but the delicate fabric of nerves has mostly defied the skill of surgery heretofore, and the mark of success upon four operations of such novelty and delicacy promises large things for humanity.

STRANGE FACTS THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

"When German and Bulgarian looters carried away the clothes of the Rumanian populace they did more than put a people to a temporary inconvenience; it was as if a war veteran were robbed of his uniform, or a matron of her bridal gown," says a bulletin from the national geographic society, which tells of the Rumanians' devotion to the historic costume.

"Especially was this loss felt by women," the bulletin states, and quotes from a communication to the society by James Howard Gore in explanation of this attachment, as follows.

"In no part of Europe do the peasants hold so tenaciously to their distinctive costume as in the uplands of Rumania. It is, in fact, almost an asset in nationalism, and its unifying influence was emphasized some years ago by the dowager queen, when she herself put on the native dress.

"Some of the outdoor work is almost wholly in the hands of the woman. She takes the hemp and the flax from the seed to the finished garment, and deems herself fortunate if the husband plows the ground for her. As the spinning and weaving is done by the women, the clothing worn by the family are tangible evidence of the taste and industry of the women folk.

"To wear store-made clothes, was, until recent times a token of indolence or awkwardness on the part of the females of the family—characteristics that are the butt of most of the jokes improvised by the leader of the Sunday village dance.

"The most important thing about the costume is the fact that it is entirely made at home by hand, so that the dress exemplifies both the taste and the skill of its owner, and gives to the mate hunting swain an index to these all important qualities.

"All who have visited Rumania have caught the vision of some of the peasant women met by the roadside. It will be recalled that they are the fairest among their neighbors, and that this natural gift is most apparent under conditions best calculated for its preservation. Their dress is varied and elaborate. The foundation is a sort of shift, reaching to the ankle, the upper part embroidered with colored cotton, usually red or black. Over this is a petticoat, which in its material and detail, reflects the taste and buying power of the weaver.

"On her head the peasant woman has a scarf of cotton tissue with silk stripes, if her means permit, and on gala occasions she puts on a brighter kerchief, ornamented with a fringe or row of spangles.

"Both men and women seem partial to having their heads covered, even in the house; but it is not regarded as proper to eat without removing the hat."

EDITORIAL OPINION OF IDAHO EDITORS

SENSELESS CONTROVERSY OVER THE COAL TERMS.

(Tribune, Lewiston).

So far as the surface news shows there is no just ground seen for the uproar being made at Washington over the new status of the coal strike controversy. There have seemed to be serious grounds in the past for public indignation and resentment over the treatment of the situation at Washington, but those phases were passed over in silence, perhaps because of the critical condition to which the country had been reduced, but having accepted the various steps taken without objection and even with apparent approval, there now seems little reason to complain at the logical development of the process. One point remaining undisposed of is as to the inception of the conference at which the strike was terminated. An obscure employe of the department of labor is credited with the feat, but just what inspired him, whether the higher authorities of the government or whether representatives of the striking miners, remains undisclosed. The true meaning of the settlement cannot be understood until it is known who sought a reopening of the conferences and who therefore, in effect, surrendered it will mean that there was an implied agreement that terms satisfactory to the strikers would be forthcoming in the award to be handed down. If the miners surrendered it would mean that the appointment of a commission was only camouflaged, intended to save appearances. Meanwhile, at the time of surrender conditions appeared to be getting rather desperate, for the miners, and there was little disposition then to question the propriety of ending the strike, without looking too closely behind the scenes to discover the secret springs of action. Whether the proceedings of that time were questionable or not, they were not questioned, and their reasonable results should therefore be acceptabed without taking the good grace.

The difference between Dr. Garfield's consultative commission and the president's plenary commission seems favorable to the latter. The Garfield plan meant a mere report, with decision to be reconciled and endless delays to be encountered. The plenary commission is not only authorized but required to render a final award within sixty days, but its decisions must be by unanimous vote. We must take it for granted that the appointments made by the president to this commission are capable and worthy and will discharge their trust with prudence and fidelity. One member, Mr. White, is committed to the miners' side; another, Mr. Peale, is an independent coal producer and in that fact may be found the source of the organized operators' grievance; the third, Mr. Robinson, representing the public, must be taken on faith. A full examination and effective award will be made by these men and there can be no reasonable objection to that, considering the serious matters involved in the dispute, unless there is something beneath it all of which the public knows nothing. The operators are now saying that they have never consented, and do not now consent, to the proceedings of this tribunal, but they are on record as having done so, and very gladly, as a means of ending the deadlock then existing. The president's statement of the issue seems fair, and his method of reaching a conclusive settlement safe and reasonable. The assent of the public's representative is necessary to give effect to agreements between the operators' and the miners' representatives, and an increase in the price of coal could be expected only in the event it is found the miners are entitled to a greater advance than 14 per cent and that the operators' profits could not be made to absorb such an advance. An increase in the price of coal founded upon those convictions by a man holding the public confidence, as the president's nominee should do, would not be objectionable or unfair. If the present price of coal does not permit the payment of proper wages to the miners, the price should be increased. Any process that enables an adjudication of that point to be made is right and is timely, and if the president has made a mistake in this respect it has not been shown by the present antagonists of peace in a great basic industry.

TO HELP CUT THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, THE 'BIG 5' PACKERS' TRUST HAVE AGREED TO WEAR UNCLE SAM'S MADE-TO-ORDER ANTI-TRUST HOBBLE SUITS

Secrets of Health and Happiness

How to "Harden" Children Safely These Cool Holidays

By DR. LEONARD KEENE HIRSHBERG
A. B., M. A., M. D. (Johns Hopkins University)

DR. HIRSHBERG

There is such a thing as "too much hardening" of children. The attempt to cure the ingrained, home-grown method of coddling youngsters by an indoor life in cold weather or an excess of garments when outdoors led faddists to the other extreme—to overdo the exposure.

In the brave days of Indian life the red men and their children endured severe degrees of cold and ice with little more than moccasins and a blanket. Their children, however, were not "all face."

The papoose or child was wrapped up like a mummy and strapped upon the back of the squaw. But as the child grew up, his bare legs, arms and face became accustomed to the elements.

Then came the inoculated poison of civilization, namely, a lot of garments, artificial heat, more meat and luxurious food than was needed. This affected the flesh much as pepsin and predigested foods do the stomach. That is to say, it removed the habit, training, adaptation and the necessity to work and resist.

Just as such a stomach becomes lazy, so a skin thus petted and spoiled by clothing, heat and rich foods becomes tender.

"Hardening" Dangers.

Art, artifice and artificialities of civilization make the skin easily subject to weather conditions. Thus if by chance altered weather conditions occur at moments not opportune to change the garments, the skin is less prepared than that of ragged urchins, Indians and others accustomed to bad weather, and colds, sore throats, influenza, pneumonia and similar maladies begin.

The "hardening process" adopted some 20 years ago for children and others was the attempt to counteract these weakening influences of overclad, overwarmed children. Unhappily, it was somewhat too sudden and too radical in several instances, and pneumonia and worse occurred from cold winds. Infants and young children too tightly clad in midwinter were allowed to be cold over too long a time.

Ways with Babies.

At last a sane middle course has been successful. Children need not wear hats until freezing cold begins. They must be kept active in the cold, but if still in arms or in go-carts they should be protected from winds by being indoors in carriage or crib near open windows and in the sunlight.

When out of doors no intervals of resting an hour or half an hour ought to elapse without taking the child indoors and changing its linens.

At night a screen around its bed and sufficient covers pinned in to insure it against a "kick-off" of the bed covers will permit plenty of fresh air in the room.

Babies nursed by the mother keep warmer, are less subject to coughs and colds and seldom have pneumonia, while bottle-fed infants are apt to succumb to the prevalent winter ailments unless unusually intelligent obedience is given to a good doctor's instructions. You should not try to harden such babies too soon.

Answers to Health Questions

MISS A. M. Q—Please give me something for bleaching the skin.

A—This is an admirable preparation for bleaching and cannot injure the most delicate skin:

Glycerine	1 ounce
Rose water	1 ounce
Carbolic acid	10 drops
Tincture of benzoin	10 drops

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A READER. Q—I am 14 years of age and my weight is 104½ pounds. Do I weigh too much?

A—This is a good weight for the age. Join a swimming class, and ride horseback or a bicycle.

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Dr. Hirshberg will answer questions for readers of this paper on medical, hygienic and sanitation subjects that are of general interest. He cannot always undertake to prescribe or offer advice for individual cases. Where the subject is not of general interest letters will be answered personally, if a stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. Address ALL INQUIRIES to Dr. L. K. Hirshberg, care of this office.