

ONE LITTLE ITEM IN THE WILD ORGIE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING

DEMOCRATS, officially through their national party organization and spokesmen, persist in claiming to the credit of the party all that was good and worthy in the preparations for and conduct of the war against Germany. The facts that there are more Republicans than Democrats in the country, that there were more Republicans than Democrats in the mobilized forces, that the Democrats did, simply because there are more of them to contribute, these are facts that are not supposed to be considered when we discuss party politics in a presidential year.

But allowing that the Democratic party is entitled to all the credit for high accomplishment and victory in the war, there is no particular reason why it should claim to be exempt from criticism on account of those things that must be classed as failures.

The war preparations and expenses from first to last were carried on most extravagantly, without due care for ordinary and reasonable economy, conservation of resources, and efficient performance. There was waste, waste, waste, all along the line from source in America to destination overseas, waste that was not in any way due to exigencies of military requirements, waste that had nothing to do with winning the war but waste that was due to gross incapacity of executives, scandalous misconduct of public employes, crooked political scheming, private greed, and unscrupulous raids on the savings of the people and violation of their patriotic impulses.

The contents in every war discussion, and even the most amazing disclosures of unpleasant facts fail to stir, they only annoy. In such ways do lies become immortal, and history is falsified.

From a report recently published by a congressional committee which has been investigating the administration's expenditures for constructing nitrate plants during the war, certain conclusions are quoted that are worth thinking over.

The committee states that "the government's nitrate program has cost \$114,194,974, has produced no nitrate, and contributed nothing toward the winning of the war." The committee finds that if the armistice had not come, \$280,000,000 more would have been spent on these plants with no more likelihood of results of public value.

Although \$114,000,000 was spent all nitrate used in the war came from coke ovens or from Chile.

The report says, "The responsibility of locating nitrate plants Nos. 1 and 2 at Mesquite Shoals and building a dam there rests on the president of the United States. Both plants were placed at his order contrary to the recommendation of all the technical experts who had investigated the sites."

The contracts for construction in all the plants were on the "cost plus" plan, "causing enormous waste, destruction of public property, demoralization of labor, inefficiency and costs amounting to criminality," says the report, and civil suits are recommended against the contractors for recovery of damages.

The Air Nitrate corporation, contractors, swamped the plants with labor and so poor was it that the turn over was 1000 percent. Badly fed, housed and treated, the men flowed in and out, so many staying, however, that the contractors let them loaf and kill time at government expense.

The monthly pay roll was \$3,500,000. Men with their cards punched would sleep all day. Skilled carpenters would unload cars, thousands get double pay, one hundred were put in a room 30x50 to finish it, an electrical job that ought to have cost \$5000 cost \$27,000, a car was unloaded by skilled labor at a cost of \$1800.

Gangs of boiler makers, brick masons, and master mechanics were kept idle on pay for weeks. Immense boilers were moved from place to place to keep men employed.

played. Every possible thing was done with labor to increase expense to get the greatest benefit of the 10 percent profit on the cost. It was the same as to material. Immense quantities were destroyed willfully. Costly materials were dumped and covered with sand and dirt. Electric cranes and delicate machinery were crushed under stones. Expensive carbide furnaces were left idle, exposed to the weather. Hydrants were placed so that the water would blow them out of the ground and immense quantities of soil pipe was buried while the men laughed. The amount of lumber used was startling. Hundreds of thousands of feet were thrown away, burned, wasted or deliberately destroyed. The most extravagant methods of cutting it were practiced. Nails by the hundred kegs went to the scrap heap; the finest plumbing fixtures were junked. Agents for the department of justice did nothing to punish the guilty; the ordnance officers on inspection duty let them go on unchecked. Both these official departments are severely arraigned in the report for gross neglect of duty and failure to protect the property of the United States.

It all makes unpleasant reading, but there is no reason why the administration which claims all the credit for having disbursed over \$30,000,000,000 of the people's money during the war should not be placed on the defensive now to show that the money was wisely, economically, and honestly spent with the single end of winning the war.

Progressive Steps

THE NEW government in Mexico will take a step in the right direction if it abolishes public gambling and reduces the sale of intoxicants to a minimum in quantity and alcoholic content.

No city is better off for gambling. American cities learned that long ago. El Paso learned it and public gambling will never flourish here again. As for drink, it probably would be a mistake to attempt to abolish it too suddenly in Mexico. Human nature and long fixed habits must be taken into consideration. The reaction to a abrupt prohibition usually is widespread. The reaction to a gradual reduction of the amount of alcohol sold is a better situation. Mexico can never be a stable, prosperous nation so long as she clings to strong intoxicants. The decree just issued by the new government that no liquor with an alcoholic content of more than 14 percent may be sold is an indication that Mexico realizes what must eventually be done.

If Juarez were to dry up gradually nobody would leave here and just as many tourists would visit our neighbor city. El Paso must get over seeming to depend on a wet Juarez as our main attraction for visitors. There may be reactions and relapses, but in time all of North America will be officially dry and most of the people will accept the situation and even be glad of it.

This city needs public swimming pools.

Hoover spent a lot of money not to be an active candidate.

It is to be hoped that if the Republicans nominate a black horse he will at least have horse sense.

Mexico has no worries about what to do with her ex-presidents.

A man is seldom a quorum in his own family.

Go forth under the open sky, and list To Nature's teachings.

Little Interviews.

Rio Grande Converted Into Natural Irrigation Canal; Saturday, Half Holiday Movement Gains Impetus Here

IT APPEARENTLY is not known generally that the Rio Grande, between Elephant Butte dam, El Paso, no longer is a river, said L. M. Lawson, project manager of the United States reclamation service here. "The river bed now is used as an irrigation canal, and the only water in it is released from the Elephant Butte reservoir. Persons comment on the varying water level during the river bed believing that rain has fallen or that a dry season is at hand and there is little water in the river. It happens that the gates of the dam are opened and water released according to the amount needed for irrigation purposes along the valley. When a farmer telephones the dam and asks that whatever water his rice orchard needs be sufficient for his needs, more water is let through the gates and thus the amount of water varies."

"I believe the idea of some employers not to work their employes on Saturdays afternoon during the hot weather is a good one," said E. Y. Barrow. "This is particularly true in the case of the other women workers who stand on their feet. The ordinary day's work in about all a woman can stand and if she has Saturday afternoon to herself she can use it to complete little odd jobs and do other things which would otherwise be a waste of time on Sunday. With men it is more a matter of recreation. When a man goes to work with the plan that if he does not find himself losing any work because of the few hours..."

About Broadway Plays And Players

NEW YORK, May 24.—Will Morley, Elsie and Elizabeth Brien are not going to tour the Lower Manhattan circuit. Their act, "The Overcast Evening," will make the tour, but they are to have a new musical piece. It is called "Darius Around" and it will begin a summer engagement in New York in about four weeks. Mr. Morley and Elsie Madison have written and composed it. In the cast besides Morley and Brien will be Lydia Barry, Walter Wilson, Jeanette Tourneur, Masters Kraft and a number of others. There will be a chorus of beauties who can sing, says Mr. Morley. The company is known as Will Morley's Comiques.

neighbors will hear her at the New Brighton theater tonight. The Marjorie (Marmel) and Marjorie, are in "His Bridal Night," now a vaudeville offering. John Murray Anderson has begun casting for the next edition of the Greenwich Village "Follies." J. C. Williamson, Ltd., wants Chummy to make a tour of Australia. He may go. It is announced that William R. Pitt has refused the A. H. Woods offer of a job in the spoken drama. Mabel Burke returned to Frerick's path and Monday in a new act called "A Story in Songland." "An Innocent Idea," has begun an engagement at the Fulton theater.

THE LEMMONICK TICKET

William H. Torvello, who is a candidate for the presidency on the Prawn Ticket, has solved our "barber" trick. Lemmonick and has sent his check for \$100 to the Prawn Ticket. He is hereby appointing Mr. Torvello as barber for the Ladies' division in the big parade to be held on June 21. At each corner he will appear in his traps or some other popular jazz musical composition. His relation of the parade route follows: A ruler once said to his slave, "This strike of the barbers is grave. My case will hand you, and these I'll commend you. To give me a beautiful hair-cut."

"FOLLIES" BALL JUNE 7. The annual "Follies" ball will be held on the roof of the New Amateur theater Monday night, June 7. All the players in "The Midnight Trick," "The Prawn" and "The 3 O'clock Revers" will appear. CARPENTER IN FILMS. A new comedy which the Middle-Western-South comedy which went to rehearsal Monday, R. Ray Comstock has engaged Robert McWade, Leslie Palmer, Barton Elmer, Arthur Barry, Franklin Hanna, Louis Spaulding, Brandon Peters, Madeline Marshall and Eleanor Gordon. Gossip. Sidney Pilgrimage has written a so-called "Novel," "Long Ago's Trick," Pilgrimage's Bronsonhurst.

Forsaken Farms

THERE are no outlets willing to stay upon the farm; to town they all are drilling; the hayfield has no charm. I hear the farmers wailing as they go forth to plow; their stables all are falling, there are no hired men now. The woman waxes his money, and cries, "What'll work for me?" And people think it funny his dire distress to see. The farmer seeks the village, imploring hasty man to help him with his tillage and raise big crops again. He offers princely wages, he'd throw a chrome in, and all the village sages just all around and grin. The farmer's rolling acres won't roll up ample crops; his money has no takers, no helper with him stops. There is no stalwart bumpkin to help him bale his wheat, he cannot thresh the pumpkin or shuck the sugar beet. The population's shifting to towns, we plainly see, and whether are we drifting, my friends, when such things be? If I were only younger I'd farm a strip of loam, and help to thwart the hunger that threatens every home. The farm lands of the nation must grow stinger beans and oats, or we shall have starvation, and lose our valued goats.

Answers to Yesterday's Kwiz. 1.—Acetanilide is a white, crystalline solid, derived from acetic acid and aniline. It is employed medicinally in preventing or delaying fevers, and is classed as an antipyretic. 2.—The Rapeseed Oil is in Montreal, Canada. 3.—Self esteem is conceit, or a self satisfied condition of mind. 4.—The popular American author, Samuel Clemens, was written by the popular American author, Samuel Clemens. 5.—When the spring salmon are silver colored. 6.—Apples Johnny was one of the early pioneers of the west who always carried apples seeds in his pocket and planted them as he traveled. 7.—Library schools are for training librarians in a course of one or two years of study of the special duties.

SCHOOL DAYS By DWIG



Ye Towne Gossip.

Registered U. S. Patent Office. By K. C. R.

DEAR K. C. R.—Many years have I read your drivel and felt that you are too old, but I am big and strong. I think it is my duty to go. The nerve of the boy. You old to be about 70. I wrote the kid that to fight for the old, the crippled, the women and the children was not a duty, but a sacred privilege. And so I committed perjury and registered in the second draft. It didn't matter, for then the bottom dropped out of Germany, and I fell from the frying pan into the sea.

Bedtime Stories For The Little Ones

UNCLE WIGGILY AND JACKO'S COCONUT. BY HOWARD R. GARIS.

UNCLE WIGGILY! Oh, Uncle Wiggily! called a voice behind the bunny rabbit gentleman, one day, as he was hopping through the woods looking for an adventure. Oh, Uncle Wiggily! Wait a minute, if you please. "Now I wonder who that can be?" thought Mr. Longears to himself, as he stopped and curiously he looked a big tree for it. "The wipers!" but no; it could be that had chap. He never says please! It must be one of my friends. But still I must be careful.

Jacko sprinkled it on the fire and got out the blast. "Oh, you do, eh?" asked Jacko. "Well, try a bit of coconut pie instead!" With that he suddenly threw the coconut at the Bassump, and, as the coconut hit, it was very hard, and being hard, made the Bassump cry. "Oh, Ha!" laughed Jacko. "Do you want any more?" "No," said the Bassump, "my nose is sore."

They bought a lovely brown one with a fuzzy cover, and Jacko held it up to his ear and shook it. "Why?" asked Uncle Wiggily, curious like. "To see if it has milk inside," answered Jacko. "Not the kind of milk the milkman leaves, but coconut milk. Jump, my brother, and I love coconut milk, and this one is really full."

Mrs. Solomon's Advice To Damsels By HELEN ROWLAND. HEAR now, my Daughter, these Polite Proverbs for Damsels which I have collected for you. Lo, in the daily communion of Matrimony, a cheerful disposition is more to be desired than blond hair, and a sense of humor more comforting than a Scotch conscience. But a little artistic temperament is a terrible thing!

Patter And Chatter



THE heart of the hitherto bark profiteer— Provided he has one—may function more kindly! He may fill us with hope and uplift us with cheer. Instead of pursuing his present course of ill-will! Since Vila, the bandit, says profits must go. The men who are robbing prices may ponder. And cease to keep others in penury so That they may have bundles of money to squander.

IT WILL COME OF COURSE. The United States is building a \$400,000,000 dreadnaught. A Kansas farmer recently died in his barnyard. Still, we are assured that the middleman and the retailers are getting it all.

Republican Convention History of 64 Years

THE seventh Republican national convention, which met in Chicago, June 2, 1858, will always remain historic. Not only did it result in the party's nomination of its first "dark horse," but also it marked the beginning and the end of third-term presidential aspirations.

Once more James G. Blaine and the permanent matter contested delegates to the convention. The fact that an early Pennsylvania state convention declared against third terms, and that a house of representatives made similar proclamation by a vote of 234 to 19, did not stop the Grant campaign.

He went into the convention with 348 votes. Sharp practices were used in Chicago to count his votes, and in seeking to break the inhibition against the "unit rule," and in a general effort to secure the nomination. Grant had just returned from a triumphal tour around the world after his second term as president.

James A. Garfield of Ohio presented the name of John Sherman, also of Ohio, in another effort which probably had much to do with the ultimate outcome, although not as far as it is known. Sherman was formally nominated.

When a man preaches "rational dress for women," hearken sweetly and let him rave. But he not mind for so women had ever walked over a man's heart in common-sense boots. And all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. For he hath already begun to feel "lambdally."

EL PASO HERALD

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