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### "Foreigners First," Democratic Policy

Washington, Nov. 16. It is altogether probable that Democratic leaders in the coming session of Congress will call some of the administrative department heads to account for the manner in which government appropriations have been expended. This administration has thrown itself open just criticism in so many instances and in such important particulars that democratic congressman will find embarrassment in defending the party record in their 1916 campaigns, and they do not relish the predicament in which they are unwilling placed.

It is not merely extravagance that has put the democratic party in bad standing before the country. If the money were merely wasted, doing nobody harm, there would be sufficient grounds for criticism, but when the administration uses the money and offices of the American people against the interests of our own countrymen, the situation is one that invites a degree of censure and rebuke that renders the word "criticism" inadequate.

The recent example of the Department of Commerce issuing a statement to the press boasting that it had aided Swiss manufacturers in securing orders for toys in America is a case in point. While American toy manufacturers are employing salesmen to place their goods in their own home market, the Department lent the aid of government employees to the marketing of Swiss goods in this country in competition with the American product. As an illustration of the democratic idea of "America First," this is a shining example that has probably never been surpassed. The nearest approach to it was the removal of the sugar duty at the request of men who openly admitted that they expected such action to drive American producers out of business.

With an administration practicing "Switzerland First," the democratic spell-binder of 1916 is certain to have a sorry time. He will have an embarrassing time of it when some native born American citizen stands up in the audience and asks the candidate to explain this feature of democratic administration—a policy maintained at a time when the Department of Labor is sending out bulletins showing a very large number of unemployed in practically every city in the United States.

In these days of organization for mutual cooperation, every city has its Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade for the purpose of promoting local commercial interests, to encourage the development of local industries and to invite new industries and invite new enterprises to begin operations in the local field. All these organizations urge a policy expressed by the phrase, "Patronize Home Industries". Every local merchant, banker, and mechanic preaches the doctrine. Every newspaper gives columns of space to arguments designed to induce its readers to buy from local merchants. It is sound economic sense for the community, for the county, for the state, and for the nation.

Naturally, it is a severe shock to people who have contributed of their hard earned money to build up this sentiment, when they see Government officials using government money to foster Swiss industries. Not that the American people have prejudice whatever against Swiss toys. Far from it. But the loyal American has an intense prejudice in favor of the American article, whether it be a toy or something in the line of daily necessity. And that same loyal American will not stand for insincerity which preaches "America First" and practices "Foreigners First".

Hence the likelihood that the Department of Commerce will be asked to explain itself.

tics for one week in 1915 with comparative figures for 1914. Naturally the showing was a very gratifying one. Now, in an effort to give its readers all available information upon which to base their opinions, figures are also given for 1913 and 1912. The disclosures will not be at all pleasing to those democratic statesmen who have been boasting of prosperity "restored". Figures for seven cities—New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, St. Louis, Baltimore and New Orleans—for the week ending October 22, 1915 show that in every instance the bank clearings were larger for 1915, than for 1914. In only two cities, however were the clearings larger in 1915 than 1913. These two were New York and Philadelphia, both located in the region made prosperous by "war orders". In spite of the great boom of war orders, not one of the seven cities above named above named reports as large an amount of transactions in 1915 as in 1912, the last year of Republican Administration. The European war will become far more strenuous than it has yet developed, before it will "restore" the degree of prosperity enjoyed by this country in 1912.

### Confidence Shaken

There is no doubt that confidence in the Wilson administration has been sadly shaken. It has been relying for a long time past principally upon the claim that the president has kept the country out of the European war. Just as if it were not the duty, consistent with honor, of any president. But as to the promises of 1912 with respect to the tariff, prosperity and lower cost of living, and as to the solemn professions of reforms which would produce a sort of universal contentment, there is not much for either the president or his party to boast of. They are on the defensive and will continue to be in that position until next November. They have increased nothing but the deficit and have constructed little but new places for deserving democrats. The public is in no misconception as to the general failure of the new freedom. Hundreds of thousands of voters from coast to coast who had been tolerant and kindly disposed are now impatient to apply the recall in the manner provided by the constitution.—Pittsburg Gazette Times.

### No Great Achievement

The politicians who are planning to go ahead and violate the one-term pledge of the democratic national platform and renominate the president say Wilson deserves credit for keeping us out of the European war? Have you heard of anybody in this country who wanted to get into that war? Or have you heard of any one of the warring nations of Europe who wanted us to get into it? It is unanimous all around against going in and yet the president is to be credited with keeping us out. A neat achievement, that, keeping folks out of war who were just as strong for keeping out as he.—Kokomo Tribune.

### Curing Meats Part of Short Course

The farmer who is tired of eating improperly cured meats or who loses money each year in butchering is not a graduate of the Two Year Winter Course in Agriculture of the University of Missouri at Columbia. In this course students are taught to kill, cut up, and cure their own meats.

Actual practice is given the students in the short course in slaughtering, beavers, hogs, and sheep under farm conditions. The meat slaughtered is cut up and cured by the students. The relative values of the different cuts are learned. The instructors show how to make them and how to use economically the cheaper cuts.

The University is provided with farm equipment for butchering and curing meats. Two half days a week are given to the class in butchering during the second term of the last year.

A card addressed to P. M. Brandt, Superintendent of Short courses, Columbia, Mo., will bring full information about the instruction given in butchering and about other courses given the short course students.

### Trying to Evade Tariff Issue

"It might be a wise act for the democratic administration to create a tariff commission and put it to work. It would at least stop the clamor of those who are shrieking about the future effect of the war on our industries and are trying to inject the tariff into the next national campaign".—St. Louis Post Dispatch. (Dem.)

If the democrats can find anyway to prevent the injection of the tariff into the next national campaign they will seize on it with feverish glee. If there is one subject in the realm of American politics which they are utterly incapable of handling, or which has reduced them to a state of "confusion worse confounded" it is the tariff. Having been goaded into wakefulness by a populace irritated beyond measure by the flippant treatment of the question of national defense by President Wilson and Secretary Daniels, who were being admonished daily by Representative Augustus P. Gardner, the administration leaders now come leaping to the center of the stage with all the blood thirsty accoutrements of the Pirates of Penzance, and seek to eclipse the tariff question with the "preparedness" propaganda. But as the whole country is agreed that they should be adequately prepared, they are going to have a hard time making that an issue. At the time the crisis in our foreign affairs was most acute, the cry went over the land, "Stand by the President", and the country did it to a man. The metropolitan papers carried pages of letters from public men all over the United States, of every shade of political belief, declaring allegiance to the President. The watchword of the country was the declaration of Senator Lodge, "Politics ceases at the water's edge". And yet the democracy intends to go to the country, if possible, on that issue. They will seek to convince the people that the United States was howling for war and only the strong hand of Mr. Wilson held the war dogs in leash. But to the consternation of the free trade party, our old friend Tariff continues to bob up serenely. It will not down. The tariff crushed to earth will rise again.

Democratic leaders here attribute the increase in republican strength to the votes of the progressives. They assert in effect that none of the progressives turned to the democrat party. This is in itself a confession of democratic weakness, because it is a virtual admission that the independent voters, the men who in 1912 turned against the republican party and made the election of President Wilson possible, can find no justification for supporting the democrats.—Washington correspondent Philadelphia North American.

### Winter Care For Roads

Water, not cold, is the cause of the deterioration of roads in winter, according to the road specialists of the department. Cold weather does not with itself injure roads, no matter whether they are earth, gravel, or macadam. In fact an earth road will stand more traffic when it is solidly frozen than at any other time. Excess water, however is always detrimental to a highway. When cold weather turns this water into ice, the damage that it does is greatly increased. Ice occupies considerably more space than the water from which it is formed, and every person who has lived in a cold climate is familiar with the powerful bursting effect of water when left to freeze in a confined vessel. The same action takes place when a wet road freezes to any considerable depth. It simply bursts, or, as we generally term it in road parlance, the road heaves. Later when the frost leaves, the road is disintegrated and rutted badly. If this process is repeated a number of times during the winter, a gravel or macadam road may become entirely impassable.

A dry road will not heave. Rock, gravel, sand, and even clay when perfectly dry contract slightly on freezing. In order to expand on freezing, these

materials must contain or be mixed with water, and the more water they contain the greater the expansion which takes place. But so long as the road remains frozen the damage does not become apparent. Hence the frequent and erroneous idea that it is the thaw which injures the road. The injury was done when the water in the road froze and the particles of the road surface—broken stone, sand, or small particles of earth or clay—were pushed apart by the expanding power of the freezing water. The injury merely allows the ice to melt and change its original volume as water.

The remedy is self evident. Keep the water out of the road. The time to begin preventive measures is early in the fall, before the rains begin. If the road soon after the winter thoroughly dry, with the surface and drainage in good condition, the chances are extremely favorable that it will come out all right the following spring.

Keep the ditches and drains open. Remove all accumulations of weeds, grass, etc., which tend to retain moisture and obstruct drainage. Further, make the work early, while the ground is still dry and hard. Vegetation and other hold water like a sponge and allow it gradually to soak in and soften the earth. The job before the road man is to keep the bare, dry surface formed in the summer time from becoming softened by the fall and winter rains and snows. When the fall rains begin the earth or gravel road should be dragged frequently to prevent the formation of ruts and the retention of water. All raveled places or erosion surfaces should be carefully filled in and consolidated.

During the winter, whenever a thaw is coming on, the cross drains and side ditches should be opened up as far as possible so as to prevent water collecting along the roadway. If the thaw is so pronounced that the roadway itself is coming on, the drag should be used; sometimes one round trip of the drag, with the hitch reversed, will carry off the earth road of wash and melting snow and leave the road surface gradually dry. Don't get the idea that the drag is not needed on your earth and gravel roads in the winter time. Instead, keep it where you can get at it readily. If the winter is an ordinary one you will need it many times.

Winter destruction begins in the early fall. The best way to prevent such destruction is to keep the road dry and remember that so long as it remains dry it will not be seriously injured by frost. Keep the drains open, the ditches clear, remove all vegetation and litter, and use the drag frequently. If the road is kept dry to a depth of 2 feet below the surface there will be little trouble from the coldest winter.

Commenting on our large export balance for September, due to war orders, the New York Journal of Commerce observes a principal means of paying it off is through the sale of American securities now held abroad. The Journal then calls attention to the fact that that "There is no record of that or means of estimating it with accuracy. That it has fallen in short of providing the means of payment for our exports is proved by the exchange situation and the necessity of establishing foreign credits to be drawn upon over here, which is equivalent to borrowing money in the United States, the money to be paid back with interest when normal times return. Sooner or later those payments will be made in merchandise form, which means that our imports must greatly increase while our exports will undoubtedly diminish. Then will come a period very different from that through which we are now passing and some views of foreign wars and domestic prosperity will have to undergo revision." Which means that the United States free trade measure will have to be supplanted by a Republican protective tariff law, if we are to be commercially prepared to meet the situation.

### Two Hundred and Fifty Stories

And every story a good one. They are entertaining, but that is not all you can say about them. You know there is hardly a periodical published that is not full of time-wasting stories, but not a single story in The Youth's Companion is a time waster. Take the stories of C. A. Stevens. It would be hard to pick out one item which you cannot find something useful and yet entertaining.

Some of The Companion stories refresh your knowledge of geography; some tell you the mysteries of chemistry, some reveal secrets of forestry and general farming. They cover a wide range. They are chosen with an eye to the possible liking of every member of a comprehensive family—series of agricultural and stirring adventures for boys, studies of college life and domestic vicissitudes for girls, stories that range all the way from sheer drollery to deep seriousness for men and women. There are no stories quite like those in The Companion.

If you are not familiar with The Companion as it is today, let us send you sample copies and the Forecast for 1916.

New subscribers who send \$2.00 for 1916 will receive free a copy of The Companion Home Calendar for 1916, in addition to all the remaining 1915 issues from the time the subscription is received.

### THE YOUTH'S COMPANION.

Boston, Mass.

Now subscription received at this office.

"National defense is not a party issue", remarks the Washington Post, "preference for the Administration program is likely to be more largely supported on the Republican than on the Democratic side. And, dependent on the president is upon Republican rather than the success of his measures for preparedness, the Post points out that 'no advantage is to be achieved by offering a gratuitous slight to Republican members.' Yet, by furthering the debate with the Senate, the President seems bent upon this very thing."

### Finish Sowing Wheat

During the last few weeks farmers have had a very little chance to sow any of their wheat crops which have been withheld by the Healy fly. Many samples of these leaf hoppers are being received by the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station. They are small and when very abundant in wheat may injure it somewhat if kept in the field long enough, but their injury is usually not severe.

These leaf hoppers may look an awful lot like a quarter of an inch in length, jump much as grasshoppers do, and may be green, grey, or variously colored and striped. In addition to these points which distinguish them from the fly, mosquitoes like Healy flies, the hoppers have four wings while the fly has only two.

On the morning of election day the Hamilton Post remarked: "Democratic success in electing legislatures in New York and New Jersey and the State tickets in Maryland and Massachusetts would tend to greatly encourage democratic hopes of easy sailing in the next national contest, as the country as a whole would be inclined to accept the result as indirectly voicing its satisfaction with democratic administration of public affairs."

In view of this, the corollary is that democratic hopes of easy sailing have gone glimmering.

### Sell Old Hens Or Eat Them Before They Eat Their Heads Off

Now that old hens have ceased to be productive the farmer should begin a systematic culling of his poultry flock. All hens not to be held over for next year should be sold. While the cost of keeping hens is seldom realized, they are eating valuable food. This expense with no production is cutting down the profits. Hens are rarely profitable producers after they are two

years old according to H. L. Kemper of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture. All old hens, especially those which lag down or "crop" behind, should be sent to the market. This years young stock should be sent to market. This years young stock should be marked with leg bands, toe marks or otherwise, so that next year the age of the hen will be known.

Hens in laying condition will have bright red combs and will show their pin bones well spread apart. This test is a sure indication. The pin bones are located just above the vent. If three or four inches apart the hen is probably laying. These points will assist materially in culling out the unprofitable producers.

Circulars prepared with special references to Missouri farm conditions dealing with the farmer's poultry house and feeding for egg production are available on application to the College of Agriculture, Columbia, Missouri.

### Spoiled Silage

Spoiled silage may not seem to injure some farm animals, but it is dangerous to others, and has lost much of its food value for all. The loss results almost entirely from mold, according to C. H. Eckles of the dairy department of the University of Missouri, and could have been prevented, although the only thing to do now is to study what has happened in your silo and learn how to do better next year.

Unless the silo was sealed or feeding was begun immediately after filling, from six inches to a foot at the top is sure to be spoiled. It should be put where it cannot be reached by any farm animals. Lower down, the presence of spoiled silage always indicates the presence of air, as the molds which give it the appearance of rotten manure could not work without air. The lack of sufficient water in filling is the commonest cause of the presence of air, but sufficient tramping in an airtight structure is also necessary. Red mold which sometimes causes alarm is no more dangerous than the less conspicuous forms which often pass unnoticed.

Among the various publications on silage which may be secured by writing to the Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbia, Missouri, are: Bulletin 113 Corn Silage for Fattening Two Year Old Steers; Circular 67, How to Build a Better Silo; Circular 73, Silage for Horses and Mules.

Canine never laughs. No other kind of man could be president in Mexico.

### Fail Feed for Cows

Use silage as the grass becomes shorter and drier. You cannot expect a cow to keep up a good milk flow without plenty of feed of the right kind. Now that pastures are furnishing less feed, silage should be given to keep conditions as nearly as possible the same as those found on spring and summer pastures. It is easy to forget that the cow's feed is being shortened, but if the best returns are to be secured the milk flow must be kept as high as possible for ten or eleven months of the year. If it once goes down it is very hard or impossible to raise it again before the next freshening.

When the pastures dry up while corn is still green, it furnishes the cheapest and most efficient addition to grass, but silage, grain and hay are now the main things to rely on. The amount given should be gradually increased as the pasture furnishes less and less feed.

Less feed will be required and better results secured if a good barn is used. While the fat steer is so well protected by a thick layer of fat that he does not feel the cold so keenly, even he requires more food if not sheltered. The dairy cow will not do her best work when exposed to cold even though given plenty of feed. It is cheaper and more effective to keep her warm by means of a barn than by means of corn.—C. H. Eckles, University of Mo., College of Agriculture.