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Washington Letter

Washington, Feb. 9. The ultimate purpose which President Wilson expects—or at any rate, hopes—to achieve by his speech-making tours is his own re-election. He realizes that when he is once renominated the proprieties of the presidency will not permit him to go out on the stump as a candidate for office. But now months before the national convention meets, he is bound by no such restriction; and he is thought here to have been very glad to make use of the opportunity to do a little campaigning under the guise of presenting his new-found policy of national defence of the people.

The value of his efforts to this end cannot be estimated just now—but the fact that he has awakened little that can be called enthusiasm is regarded as significant.

The immediate purpose which the President had in mind before starting out with his little bag of speeches was to procure a reaction of pressure upon the Democrats in Congress who are opposing his programme of preparedness. The President's prestige is at stake in this matter. He has executed a sudden flop, as Congressman Moore calls it, on this question; but his party associates in the House are not as nimble as he is, and they are still standing where the president bade them stand in his message of a year ago. In this they are actuated by two beliefs. They think that the Wilson of a year ago is the real Wilson and that they are doing him a real favor in saving him from what they think is a misguided political manoeuvre. In addition they think that they are representing the sentiments of their constituents in opposing a policy which they describe in rather loose terms as "militarism".

The President's idea is that if he can stir up the folks "back home," they will communicate their feelings to their representatives and produce a shift of position on the part of the recalcitrant Democrats who are now impeding the President's program from a party point of view. No change of opinion of this sort has yet manifested itself among the rebellious Democrats. Perhaps it is a little early to look for it—but the fact remains that the only activity thus far displayed has been among Democratic pacifists, who have been busy every minute perfecting their organization and preparing to go to the mat with the President in a strangle hold for supremacy. The same night that Mr. Wilson opened his speaking campaign in New York, Mr. Bailey of Pennsylvania announced that more than twenty Democratic Congressmen had signed a formal compact to stand together in opposition to the President's military bills and that recruits were coming in almost every hour.

This does not mean that there will be no legislation for defence at this session. On the contrary such legislation is assured—by Republican votes. The speech of Minority Leader Mann made that clear.

Mr. Wilson's speeches have contained frequent references of scorn for those who would make the question of national defence a partisan matter, yet his whole intent in taking his trip has been to secure Democratic support for a plan which he, a Democratic President, has formulated and which he would like to see adopted by Democratic votes alone. It is a common remark here that if the President is sincerely desirous of legislation for national defence, he will abandon efforts to compel Democratic support for it and will begin to co-operate in good faith with the Republicans who are willing and anxious to see the country put in a state of adequate preparedness.

Wilsonian Conceit

For concentrated quintessence of conceit it would be impossible to find anything surpassing the remarks of President Wilson in his New York speech before the Railroad Business Association, in which he said:

"We must not be misled, from time

time out, in terms of the world, and must learn what it is that America has set out to maintain as a standard-bearer for all those who love liberty and justice and the righteousness of political action."

"From this time out!" Heretofore we have not thought in terms of the world. Hitherto we have not known what it is that America has set out to maintain. We have been drifting in darkness without captains and without compasses. "From this time out," however, we are to be guided by the latest declaration of truth from that man, who, of all men prominent in American history, has been unrivaled in changes of mind, vacillation of purpose, and uncertainty of action. "From this time out," we are to be guided by new ideals as to liberty and justice. That is, we shall be so guided until Mr. Wilson again changes his mind and marks out for us a new path which we must follow if we would truly know what it is that America has set out to maintain.

Poor deluded Washington, short-sighted Jefferson, misguided Monroe, hapless Lincoln, thoughtless McKinley! what a pity you lived before it was possible to "learn what it is that America has set out to maintain as a standard-bearer for all those who love liberty and justice and the righteousness of political action!"

Our Own Autocracy

The further evidence of a preposterous censorship over Mexican news supplied by The Tribune's correspondent, Mr. Watson, emphasizes the folly as well as the impropriety, of official suppression of fact in this country. The truth about Mexican conditions will come out in spite of the administration's desire to disbelieve it or suppress it. These conditions are not what the government would like them to be or would like the public to think them to be. They are very bad, indeed. Perhaps they are improving rapidly. We hope so. But certainly deceiving ourselves will not better them.

The motive back of the official censorship of news concerning Mexico has been clear. The President did not wish to deal with the public demand for intervention which a realization of the horrors of anarchy in Mexico would have created. Doubtless this autocratic conception of his duty is justified to his conscience on the ground that Mexican conditions would have been sensationalized by the yellow press and utilized by the property interests seeking protection. If, however, this is a justification for an American president let us not pretend that he is, in respect of foreign relations at least, any more responsible to the nation than the German kaiser or the Russian czar or the Japanese mikado.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Wilson has given us as extreme a specimen of secret diplomacy and of essential autocracy as can be exhibited by any government in Europe.—Chicago Tribune.

We Americans seem to be in some doubt as to what will happen "after the war". British manufacturers are not. They have bought twice as much raw wool as last year. The quantity on hand is far in excess of visible needs and greater than could possibly be used in making war supplies. The fact is that British factories know they have a free trade market awaiting them in America. In seven months after the Democratic wool tariff became effective, America increased her purchases of woolen goods nearly \$21,000,000, or nearly \$8,000,000 a month. The British manufacturers feel that they are safe in laying in a huge stock of raw wool, for they expect the American people to retain the Democratic President on the plea that "he kept us out of war".

Missouri closed the year 1915 with a deficit of \$1,500,000. It had a Democratic state administration. There is evidently harmony between the state and national administrations

on fiscal policies.

Judge Lamm Says He Will Not Be a Bound Partisan.

Former Judge Henry Lamm of the Missouri Supreme Court, in announcing why he became a candidate for governor in an address before the Sedalia Lamm Club, said: "The governor of this state should know and love the state and all its people, its history, its multiform interests, and that he should not be a hide bound or narrow partisan, nor 'play politics' in office."

The announcement was in the form of a letter setting forth the jurist's reasons for becoming a candidate at the primary in August.

"The time came," he says, "when such persistent appeals were made by friends, by personal messages, letters, petitions from clubs and wide-spread appeals from Republicans, Progressive and Independent voters, that I consented to file on assurances I no longer dared disregard."

"A governor of Missouri, it seems to me, should be a man who believes in work as the prime quality of manhood and who would give his days and nights to his task; for a mighty task it is in the fix we are in. The citizen who toils, the teacher, the farmer, the banker, the citizens of pr. party and the poor man with none, the courts, the laws, the schools, the charities, the prisoners in bonds, the roads, the corporations, the railroads, the cities, the country, public decency, taxation, expenditures, all and more—much more should come within the sympathetic range of his vision, for they come within his functions is one or another phase of them."

"If I read the signs aright the majority of the people of Missouri profoundly believe that the party in power in this state needs to be taught at the polls (I put it mildly) the sweet uses of humility and adversity. It looks in Missouri as if our Democratic friends have ridden fast and far toward a fall at the next election. No one need mourn over this fact, for it will do the party good to be soundly beaten. It will do Missouri good to go Republican. But let us not deceive ourselves, it will not go Republican unless we take ourselves seriously. We must so conduct ourselves that men may see we have the welfare of the state at heart, and that, with one accord, with might and main, we are setting ourselves to the task of doing good to the state in the most exacting sense. The task is a great one, for state affairs are in a bad way, and a majority of Missourians have come to believe:

"That we need a change.
"That there has been a waste of money, and our taxes have been extravagantly frittered away.

"That there have been loose and reckless appropriations, beyond our ability to pay.

"That public money was profligately squandered on unnecessary expenses of legislation.

"That the funds of our state, a state jealous of its financial honor, have been dissipated."

"That great deficiency bills are coming and cannot be prevented by any belated stroke of executive power.
"That the overhead cost of some of our activities are out of all proportion to results obtained.

"That it was a pity, in order to make ends meet, it was thought necessary to take over \$300,000 of the money belonging to our school children and divert it to other purposes—an attempt contrary to usage and only prevented by the strong hand of the law.

President Opposed in Own Party

Woodrow Wilson is just now listening to language sharper than any he has heard since the trustees of Princeton used to tell what they thought of him. To obviate any erroneous conclusion from this assertion it should be added that the new Mrs. Wilson is no relation to Mrs. Caudle and that the President's curtain-lectures are being delivered to him by members of his own party.

Senator Newlands of Nevada has taken occasion to make a speech in which he has denounced, all and

eral, the pet financial policies of the Wilson administration—the tariff in particular, while other Senators and Congressmen have expressed, in no flattering terms, their criticisms of Wilson's foreign policy, his Mexican policy, his preparedness policy, etc., etc.

The fact is that Wilson no longer controls Congress. Senators and Representatives on the Democratic side are now playing, each of them, his own game—which is to get re-elected if possible. If Wilson is re-elected too, so much to the good. But no member of Congress, of any consequence is subordinating either his own opinions or those of his constituents to the presidential intellect in order to strengthen the President's position before the voters. Whatever a Democrat at the Capitol thinks will be helpful to his own political prospects, that he does; while the White House—is left to skin its own skunks.

Taxation, preparedness and Mexico are the chief vehicles for conveying Congressional criticism to the executive; and it is probably the last topic which gives the President his largest concern. The recent massacres of American mining men—men, who, by the war, were invited into Mexico by Gen. Obregon, Carranza's strongest military leader—has inflamed public opinion here to point where "watchful waiting" has become a term of lethal loathing; and if the President does not soon take action Congress will.

In this connection it must be noted that the most embarrassing and irritating of all the proposals thus far advanced in Congress is that put forward by Senator Jim Ham Lewis of Illinois. Jimham has been one of the fair-haired boys of Congress during this administration. At one time he thought he ought to be Wilson's running mate in the coming election; and, in his position as majority "whip" in the Senate, he was looked upon as one of the most reliable and ready of those to whom Tumulty has been wont to convey the executive's orders by telephone.

Now Lewis seems to be definitely off the reservation. He has introduced a resolution calling for intervention in Mexico, where he wants our armed forces to be employed "to the same extent as now permitted in the navy in Nicaragua and Haiti".

Whether the Senator's reference to Nicaragua and Haiti was intended to be purposely irritating or not, may not be said. But the fact is that the President acted in both those cases on his own responsibility—and the plain implication is that the President acted in both those cases on his own responsibility—and the plain implication is that he could have taken action in Mexico if he had really wanted to protect American interests there.

Just what he does want in Mexico is the great enigma in Washington just now.

Ordinarily by this time Congress would have passed one or two appropriation bills. In fact such is the general record of a session even prior to the Christmas recess. This year, however, not a single bill has been reported, to say nothing of passed. However, the session is likely to last until the autumn leaves are falling and there is ample time for the Democrats to make another new record for reckless expenditure of the public money. Extravagance, be it remembered, is the Democratic party's middle name.

Democratic newspapers allude to the most recent muzzling of their party's Senators who wish to end the Mexican muddle as having given Wilson "a free hand". Has he ever had anything else? He has had his own sweet way with Mexico in everything that this government could possibly do, and what has been the result?

When Wilson says the Mexicans must be permitted to shed all the blood they want to, whose blood does he mean—that of Mexicans or that of Americans?

John T. Moore For Circuit Judge

In this week's issue of the Republican appears the formal announcement of Judge John T. Moore, of Ozark, as a candidate for re-election to the place he now holds.

Judge Moore is one of the old line Republicans of this district and has always stood for the best interest of the party at any and all times, but more important than this, in connection with his candidacy for this place is the fact that he has always conducted his court in a fair, square manner, giving justice, as nearly as human power can give justice, to each and every one alike. He has been on the bench now about twelve years, and very few of the decisions rendered by him in the trial of cases in his court have ever been changed by the higher courts. That is a big thing. It denotes fairness, and a knowledge of the law, a desire to do justice to all comers, and an open mind that can decide a case on its merits, unbiased by the prejudices and feelings of the man. A judge on the bench has to be something more than a mere man. He must be able to see through things in a clear manner or he will surely go on the rocks in making decisions in cases where oftentimes large amounts of money, property, and sometimes human life are at stake.

Judge Moore has conducted the affairs of his office in as satisfactory a manner as it could be conducted by anyone, and we have a feeling that the voters of the thirty-first judicial circuit are going to say on election day we have a good man in that place and we had better keep him there. That is the wise thing to do. When you get a good man in a place, a man who conducts the affairs of his office in a business like manner and is honest, capable and fair in his dealings with his fellow men, keep him there.

We do not know of any dissatisfaction in this part of the circuit with Judge Moore's conduct of his office, and we feel sure that he will receive the nomination to which he aspires by a handsome vote at the August primary.

Mr. Wilson's "Liars"

President Wilson says that he secured his information about Mexico from a lot of liars.

As we recall it, he was told about Mexico by John Lind, William Bayard Hale, Duvall West and the late Paul Fuller—all of whom were sent down there as "personal representatives" of the President and all of whom made reports to him which the public has not yet been privileged to see.

Were all of these men liars? Or will the president particularize and name one or more of the quartette for membership in the Ananias Club which he seems bent upon organizing?

Mr. Fuller is dead and cannot defend himself against the insinuation which Mr. Wilson's remark implies. Lind, Hale and West are very much alive and they probably are not "too proud to fight".

That Flood Of Cheap Products

"At President Wilson's direction"—so runs a Washington dispatch—"the Department of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission have begun an investigation to find means to prevent flood of cheap products from Europe on the American market at the end of the war." This is a gratifying precaution, but in the light of Mr. Wilson's previous observations upon a much-vexed subject it obtains some elements of surprise. Only last week the President wrote gloatingly that previous to the war there had not been the influx of foreign commodities which was predicted by Republicans as a result of application of Democratic low tariff rates. Why, then, is it assumed that there will be a flood after the war? Are we to deduce from the forward looking step, that after all, the Underwood bill is not essentially a measure calculated to benefit working men and manufacturers, but one that operates to the advantage of Europe?

Again, it is planned to stay this flood, that can be done only by fixing import duties which will be protective.

The Gazette Times would be glad to have this done, and believes, with the Republican party, that it ought to be done. But what, meanwhile, has become of President Wilson's airy remark, when he was engaged in revising the tariff downward, that it was up to American manufacturers and their employes to match their wits against the world and achieve industrial success without the adventitious aid of protective duties? Have American wits deteriorated since the fall of 1913 or has the President learned of things in the economy of nations not dreamed of in his philosophy two years ago?

It would be interesting to know also whether this awakening at the White House is due entirely to an appreciation of industrial necessities or is to be ascribed to a keen perception of the political exigencies of 1916. It looks much like throwing a tub to the whale, and therefore presents an amusing spectacle. Republicans, happily can view it with equanimity. Every little concession made to their principles, whether as to economics or otherwise, simply goes that far to illustrate the ineptitude of false position of the Democratic outfit now in control of national affairs.—Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

European War a Scapegoat.

The European war makes a convenient scapegoat for the inefficiency of the Democratic administration. In particular it is a handy alibi for departmental heads who have failed to make good from a business standpoint. As another has said:

"Postmaster General Burleson announcing a deficit of \$11,333,308.97, follows the example of his chief and the Democratic congress and charges it up to the war. By the simple process of estimating that the war has cost the service \$21,000,000 Mr. Burleson gives himself credit for a balance of ten millions.

"The money isn't in Uncle Sam's strong box, but no matter. He can have the satisfaction of dreaming that it would have been there if there had been no fighting in Europe.

"When there is considered Democratic strictures on Republican management of the postal service, Mr. Burleson presents a sorry figure. More than any other responsible administration agent has he been given to criticism of what he found in his department when he took charge of it. Ever since he has been in office the service has been under treatment for imaginary ills. Dr. Burleson has reorganized and retrained and reformed it to the limit He has reduced the force, shifted men changed schedules, discontinued routes and imposed impossible tasks. And the net result is a woefully deficient service and a deficit of \$11,333,308.97.

"It is customary for Democratic officials to promise much, perform prodigiously and wind up with nothing to show for the noise and effort. Mr. Burleson, however, has made a new record in this respect.—Racine Journal-News.

Future Work For Mr. Wilson

There are 408 more days of Woodrow Wilson as President.

We suggest that Mr. Wilson, when he leaves the White House, devote his entire time to writing history.

The history of the United States during the years 1913 1914, 1915 and 1916, in 100 volumes, should furnish an agreeable field for the exercise of his talents.

The claim to immortality of the hero of this narrative would rest, we take it, upon this proposition:

He found a country so sunken in cowardice that it was resentful of the murder of its women and children. He left a people to proud to fight.

Mr. Wilson should issue a volume a year. A hundred years is none too long a time to devote to the elaboration of this proposition.—New York Evening Sun.

W. J. Bryan is raising lemons on his Florida farm. And we can guess who will be handed a few of them.