

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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THE TEMPEST THAT IS COMING

There is a tempest coming—a fearful blow—and its rumblings can now be heard in the distance—for our friends—the enemy the gops—are already launching their campaign, which has but one object—that being the putting of republicans in the places of those now held by Democrats, and which the latter have held successfully through one of the most critical periods in the history of this grand republic.

And these self same republicans have been hard put to find a campaign issue—in fact they are now advertising and offering cash prizes for one—and so far without success. The fact is there are none really to be found for Democratic statesmanship in three or four years preceding the war, put the country on a solid foundation.

It solved a number of important problems the republican party had been dabbling with for forty years and getting nowhere. It wrote into the federal statute books notable and progressive works of legislation that will endure for generations. And when the supreme crisis in the history of civilization came, when the storms of war broke, a democratic administration—democratic in both executive and legislative branches—rose splendidly to meet the great emergency. It organized the country for war. It raised a great army. It transported it across seas. It threw it into the breach at the crucial hour and turned the tide of war. It drafted and enacted the great measures that financed the war and that directed the industry of the nation into the indispensable war channels. It sent John J. Pershing abroad as general of the American forces, gave him supreme command and rallied all the resources of the republic, moral and material, to support him. It sent the navy into hornet infested waters, and with it afforded such protection to the countless transports that not a man was lost. And the war was won, completely, decisively. And it was American idealism, invoked by a democratic administration, that carried to the forefront of the tremendous contest the pure white gonfalon of democracy and justice and liberty that became the sustaining inspiration of the struggling peoples in many other lands beside our own.

Now if the democratic legislation for the war had been faulty, or if our democratic commander-in-chief had lost it, the gops would have a clear issue—but neither happened, and now some "issues" must be found—no matter how even if the sewers must be searched—and that is the reason of their many charges of graft and corruption not one single one of which have been proven.

That is the meaning of the numerous congressional investigations ordered since congress came under republican control, all of which have come to nothing.

That is why General Wood is brought before the public to show his sores, caused by giving to General Pershing the post of command abroad which he coveted for himself.

That is why Admiral Sims is brought before the senate naval committee to scold the navy department and publicly exhibit his sores of pique and wounded self-pride.

That is why Chairman Hays made his scurrilous charges that the treasury department was using the lists of liberty bond purchasers for campaign purposes.

That is why Elihu Root is lamenting that our administration has not done more for our dear friends, the Russians, who have done so much for us since the day when they elevated Lenin and Trotsky as the autocratic assassins of democracy and signed the infamous treaty of peace with Germany.

It is only the rumblings we hear now. Aton the full fury of the tempest will be upon us, but Democrats and the friends of a democratic administration and the record it has made, will have no reason to flinch from such a contest.

They will be proud to stand as the champions of a great American president who made of our republic not only the beacon light but the militant and fearless champion of liberty and justice throughout the world.

They will be proud to stand as the champions and defenders of the superb record made by the American army and navy, and to defend it

against all assailants. They will be proud to explain what works for progress and building were done by a democratic congress and to contrast it with the do-nothing record of a republican congress which is efficient only in scolding.

They will be proud to tell the wonderful story of American achievement and service that saved a world from the chains of despotism.

If the republican campaign is to be a campaign of belittlement, democrats will be proud to meet it with a campaign of extollment—extollment not merely of a democratic administration but of the great republic which called that administration into being and whose faithful servant it was.

YOU—AND THE H. C. OF I.

In an address the other day Attorney-General Palmer said:

"If everyone who produces will produce his utmost; if those who buy and consume will save and eliminate extravagance; and if all honest people will join with the department of justice in stamping out hoarding and profiteering, the cost of living can be reduced."

Every word that he said is true—and it is also true that not much real progress can be made in any other way.

So long as we continue our blithering heedless ways, trusting to the government to work some magic that will cut the cost of living and railing at it because it doesn't, little gain can be made against the high cost of living.

At a time when production is short and prices consequently high, we are consuming faster than we produce. Worse still, we are consuming luxuries so heavily as to cut into our capacity to produce necessities.

We are raving about the price of eggs, while we pay recklessly the most fantastic prices for milk shirts and fancy shoes.

A furniture man tells us, as a typical instance, that rugs which used to sell for \$65 now go like hot cakes a \$125, and not enough can be had to supply the demand.

A woolen manufacturer says that if everybody didn't insist on getting only the highest quality of wool, clothing would be cheaper.

Shoe dealers declare that people won't buy sensible shoes at sensible prices, but that there is always a run on the counters where the high-priced shoes are sold.

An eastern furniture dealer reports that a set of furniture that he could not get rid of at \$200 sold immediately when he marked the price up to \$425.

If those who produce would produce their utmost and, if those who buy and consume would buy and consume sensibly, the problem of the high cost of living would be solved promptly.

So long as we spend extravagantly, consume wastefully, and impede our production, while we implore the government to work some magic that will make things cheap while we continue the reckless spending that makes things dear, we shall get nowhere.

At least half the railing we do at profiteers and commercial pirates we ought to save for our own folly which encourages profiteering and promotes commercial piracy.

THEY ARE ALL DODGERS

There is not a man who has permitted the use of his name as a presidential possibility, that has not declared his intense opposition to bolshevism.

That being the case, by the simple rules of logic, if everybody is against a thing nobody is for it. So, that something everybody is against and nobody is for cannot be appointed as issue. The candidate arises, clears his throat and thunders:

"I am against bolshevism and for 100 per cent Americanism."

And the echoing roar comes from all the rest: "So are we."

Now, then, until some outstanding candidate comes out and says "I am for bolshevism and against 100 per cent Americanism," what's the use of all this platitudinous blarney?

If 100 per cent Americanism means anything to the man in the street it means courage and clear-headedness. Why do not their candidates then prove the capacity of their claims by telling their views on the solution of the labor problem, the railroad problem, the child labor problem, the problems having to do with our foreign relations, the national educational problem, the farm problem and his eminent majesty, the H. C. of I. problem?

Why not get down to brass tacks and cut out the sound and fury which signify nothing?

We are going to be told all this year of our presidential campaign that we have the greatest country on earth. We don't need to be told it. We know it. We've always known it. George Cohan made a fortune by setting it to music and singing it through his nose. It's old stuff. It's lying, telling us that two and two make four. It's the obvious. The United States is not only the greatest but the best country on earth, but in the past

five years we've been looking over the rest of the earth quite a bit and have begun to learn that is pretty well mused up with a lot of rather poor countries. We know ours is the best, relatively of course, but there is so much room for improvement we have no time to loast. Our task is not finished.

We started the thing in 1776 and put down a firm foundation. France copied us and England followed and so has most of the rest of the world. We have led and the others have followed; that's all in the school books. We've got the foundation in government of and by and for the people. It's our house and home. We're not going to burn it because the roof leaks as half-cracked red gentlemen suggest, and we're not going to let a lot of Wall street gentlemen steal our deed from us and assume a landlord and tenant attitude toward us. We have as much to fear from the black and devious ways of high finance as we have from red and fiery ways of bolshevism. And there is no need of having fears of either of them if we keep our heads, and see to it that they neither burn our house nor take it from us.

And the problem of setting our house in order will not be solved by generalities that do not even glitter. The bugaboo of bolshevism is not an issue; it's a pretense behind which certain gentlemen hide because they do not dare to take up the responsibilities of discussing the real issues.

AND WOOD WOULD BE PRESIDENT!

General Wood has already demonstrated that he is entirely lacking in tact and diplomacy, let alone all other great qualities which go to make presidents. The latest way in which he has shown his total lack of the qualities mentioned is demonstrated by the fact that it would have been much better for him to have stood by the statement he made in his recent speech about the navy than try to get away from a stenographic report.

The stenographer's notes catch him saying: "All that we have now is not a navy; it is a floating death trap." If the general had stood by his guns and declared that was what he meant, many would rally to his support. But when he tries to explain and offers such a weak and commonplace observation as "First class ships filled with untrained men do not mean a navy, but are sometimes a death trap to those in them," nobody can say a word for him.

General Wood has caught the bad habit from Mr. Roosevelt of saying slap dash things without having any of Mr. Roosevelt's talent for picking time and place. Mr. Roosevelt had a positive genius for that sort of thing no other American has ever had, and he cannot be imitated by anybody, much less by a man of General Wood's mental habit.

General Wood has been guilty of dozens of statements just as likely to embarrass him as this statement about the navy. Not long ago he proposed to deport all Americans guilty of treason. The newspapers had to point out to him that Americans could not be deported, only aliens are subject to deportation, and that treason is not a crime for which deportation is the penalty.

AS EXTINCT AS THE DODO

Well—well—well—here is something new—and not really new either—but it sounds a trifle strange in these days of autos and aerial transportation.

From Tarkie comes a complaint that that enterprising Atchison county town is short on hitching posts—just think of that!

But it is the truth—and the farmers are the complainants. The reason of this complaint too is that on account of the heavy snow of December there was much bob-tailed transportation which is very popular with the farmers and dairymen of outlying districts. They drive into town with their sledges, horse-drawn, and remember the good old days when that was the only way to get around in the winter.

But lo!—upon arriving in the city, there are no hitching posts whereto to anchor their prancing steeds!

The automobile has made the hitching post a sort of Passenger Pigeon or Dodo or other extinct vegetable.

Traffic and parking rules forbid tying up the trusty team to some fire plug or mail box, and the driver is in a sad fix.

THE LAW AND FREE SPEECH

Those who are lovers of their country should make the championship of the civil liberties guaranteed by the constitution and the laws their personal concern when they see those liberties threatened or invaded either by mobs or overzealous administrative officials. One of the most precious of these liberties is the right of free speech and assemblage. If this right is undermined for one group, however unpopular, it will be undermined for all of us. It is impossible by an arbitrary act to deprive a single individual of his lawful privileges without attacking the foundation upon which rests all organized society.

A law and order mob is a contradiction in terms. If law and order must depend upon lawlessness, then law and order becomes nothing but a name for lawless force and the state starts on the high road to anarchy. It is immaterial whether mob rule, which may be minority or majority tyranny overriding constitutional rights by controlling administrative functions, sends a negro to the stake after dragging him from jail with a rope around his neck, or prevents a radical public speaker, actually violating no law, from addressing his meeting—the same nasty blow is struck at the theory and practice of government as it was constitutionally developed in America by the fathers of the republic.

The police authority has often been used throughout the country during the past year in ways that have very seriously disquieted many good citizens because of the junkerish indifference to the right of free speech and assemblage displayed by officials and people giving them inspiration. This sinister tendency has been tolerated as merely a transitory phase

of war's aftermath which would soon disappear, but in the future it will probably be found that the number of citizens demanding the observance of constitutional rights will rapidly increase.

LODGE HAS FORGOTTEN MCKINLEY

In their unqualified hostility to President Wilson, the G. O. P. in Congress have raised such a hue and cry about the "blind gropings of a visionary" for perfection in International relations, and referred with such ill-concealed contempt to the president's "school master idealism," that is sometimes well to recall to these admittedly materialistic devotees of the G. O. P. the words of some of their own great leaders of the past.

President McKinley, writing twenty years ago relative to "the national emergency" following peace with Spain, voiced a sentiment which may be said to vie with the most idealistic utterance of the present executive, but which Senator Lodge, though an active member of congress at the time it was written, and his followers apparently have "forgotten."

"No political outcry," wrote McKinley, "can abrogate our treaty of peace with Spain or absolve us from its solemn engagements. It is the people's question and will be until its determination is written out in their enlightened verdict. We must choose between manly doing and base desertion. It will never be the latter. It must be soberly settled in justice and good conscience, and it will be. Righteousness, which exalted a nation, must control in its solution."

President McKinley, it would seem, was unjustifiably optimistic concerning the magnanimity which members of his party were to display in the future, but it is difficult to conceive how the most prophetic of statesmen, writing twenty years ago, could foresee to what depths of base political intrigue certain of our public men would descend in their bob-tailed attempts to defeat a treaty of world peace, and for no other reason than that it was negotiated under the influence of a president who chanced to be a democrat.

THE SILENT INDISCRETION OF SIMS

While nothing will probably come of it officially, England is likely to take seriously the indiscretion of Admiral Sims. When he was sent to Great Britain in March, 1917, the United States had already broken off diplomatic relations with Germany, this in itself sufficiently shows that if any official told him "we would as soon fight the British as the Germans," it was not seriously meant. If he was cautioned, "Don't let the British pull the wool over your eyes," the advice may or may not have been needed—it was a question of the admiral's strong pro-British proclivities and temperament rather than of any iniquitous design on the part of the British admiralty. Whether or not the matter was discreetly put, the unnecessary revelation of it is a blazing indiscretion which under imaginable conditions might do serious harm. Fortunately, Great Britain and the United States now understand each other too well for that.

And now the owners at their Chicago Cleveland meeting this week predict still higher fuel prices. Some of these days the common people who

bear all of the burdens and reap none of the rewards—will arise in their might—and their wrath as well—and there may be—mark you we said, may be—a few necktie parties which after they are over will leave profiteers hanging loosely and dangleing around on convenient trees, and no one will even care enough for them to cut down their carcasses.

About all that you read now—a-days of Red Cross activities is the fact that "The Red Cross spent \$15,000,000 in Siberia," or "The Red Cross spent \$5,000,000 in Italy," or other like story of expenditure of money. Many people have come to the conclusion that about all that is accomplished now is the spending of money—which is why there was such a tremendous falling off in the last Red Cross fund drive.

If any sane person will show why clothing should still go higher as advocated and ordered at the Clothiers' convention in Chicago two weeks ago, when the report of the earnings of Hart, Schaffer & Marx for 1919 just published shows that that concern cleared \$2,200,218 and earned 13.15 per cent net on its \$15,000,000 of common stock, we would like to have them rise up at once and do so.

We now have prohibition—but still Shupp who has drawn money for years for fighting booze now announces that \$25,000,000 must be raised to corrupt legislators and legislators. When formerly if a "wet" man sought to use or raise a dollar to defend his interests his fund was denounced as the "devil's own, etc.," what is this \$25,000,000 fund?

The next time that John Downey's bank is robbed—which now seems regularly—John does not know how he will be personally situated. When it was robbed before he was in the structure and was locked in the vault. This time he was away and in South St. Joseph. The next time—he don't know what will happen.

You have heard of robbing blind men and suckling babes—and how reprehensible it is to do so—yet here were two young men who thought that they had done a wise thing when they film-flamed blind and infirm Hunsinger out of a little whiskey which he had properly purchased to use in his infirmity.

The St. Joseph republican women are following well along the lines of their male preceptors. Already there is such a racket in their local camp—and there was so near a hair pulling match—that at the meeting on Saturday most of the officers threw down their commissions and resigned. 'Twill be over thus.

With this week John H. Van Brunt will close thirty-one years of service well rendered for the street railway people. With his departure that company loses a man who did more for it than money could buy. The people of St. Joseph will miss John H. Van Brunt.

Attorney General Palmer's decision that all of the Reds arrested who held Communist, and Communist Labor membership cards, can be deported without trial or other proceeding, is cheering news. Get rid of the whole rotten crew, and as speedily as possible.

And hardly a dollar's worth of Liberty bonds that are stolen now days are registered, and as a consequence they are the same as money to the thieves. If people would simply register them—at no cost at all—their bonds would be safe.

Gov. Allen's anti-strike law had teeth enough in it to send all of the miners back to work, no matter if Howat did protest. When the Allen law will seize and dispose of such as Howat, the country will be far better off—and there will be no strikes.

All Missouri is proud of the elevation of David Houston of this great state to the secretary of the most important position in the president's cabinet. There is no such thing as holding down a real Missourian—they always climb to the top.

Those mysterious sounds which are disturbing the Marconi wireless instruments are simply the noise made by John Albus in trying to bring out a new candidate for mayor against Elliot Marshall.

No wonder that the railroad men do not want the roads to go back to private ownership. They know that under private management, that there will be no more fat picking—as there is now.

Republicans are the ones who seem most anxious that the Democrats should name Hoover as their candidate for president—which in itself is too suspicious.

Like the worst sinner—there is still time—for the "temp will burn"—therefore if you are not exterminated—get

on the rolls at once—and save St. Joseph's credit.

Decreasing returns at each drive now put on, show that the people are slowly getting back to normal, and are not giving up to all sorts of whims and isms.

Samuel Gompers was given his first serious set-back Sunday, when an unknown cigar maker defeated him for delegate to the national cigarmakers' convention.

The time for the city election is nearly here, and it is important that the Democrats of St. Joseph get busy. Begin now—and thus elect a full ticket.

Mrs. Geiger resigns—Mrs. Robertson resigns—my! my! some other member must have used those gop women's powder puffs at the last session.

Why not secure the Democratic state convention for St. Joseph? It will convene shortly and with a little effort could be secured for this city.

There are numerous telegraph and telephone poles in the vicinity of John Downey's bank. Ideal, on which to hang bank robbers.

Take care, weather sharp Belden—we are a little hot headed now—even if you are bringing zero weather—which we object to.

Possibly it is as well that a new surgeon general for the United States has been named. The retiring one was too Blue.

It is to be hoped that the federal coal investigator who was here this week, did something more than investigate.

Pretty soon John Downey will conclude that he is fair picking once a year for high-up bandits.

Get your name on St. Joseph honor roll—the census roll? If not, get on now.

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

Getting Ready For the Summer Many applications for divorce were reported during the recent holidays, and a lot of people are now ready to sign matrimonial contracts for the 1920 summer season.—Worth County Times.

A Tip to St. Joseph. Because of the fuel shortage the people of Vienna are said to be burning billboards. It is almost worth having a fuel shortage for.—Potomac Independent.

Further Than We Expected And now scientists have found some ancient tablets that say Eve didn't do it. The feminist movement, it is thus apparent, dates back further than had been suspected.—St. Louis Times.

And They Won't Either. And the negro republicans are saying that they must be noticed, or they will not help the white republicans out in the state.—Dade Co. Advocate.

Why So Technical? The Finns requested the Bolsheviks not to fire when the Russians departed from the United States. Why be so technical?—Kansas City Times.

It Is Not the First Time. "Bryan Goes South," runs a newspaper heading in "Tuesday's" papers, but this isn't the first time his party as well as the papers have had him going in that direction.—Hopkins Journal.

Are Saved One Pest. Anyhow, some of those who drank bootleg whiskey without investigating, this winter won't be rocking the boat at some Sunday school picnic next summer, as they doubtless would have done.—Kansas City Post.

The Mistake People Make European exchange has fallen again. Its frequent falls, in fact, probably account for the mistake some people make of supposing European exchange and European cabinets are the same thing.—St. Louis Times.

And Would Do the Same. A newspaper in the far Southwest in the days of old, once refused to publish the ten commandments, for fear its readers would think them too personal and stop the paper.—DeKalb Tribune.

At the Sugar Bargain Counter Those riotous scenes observed in many towns are not the Bolsheviks trying to establish Soviet government but merely the house wives crowding up to the counter for a 25 pound lot of sugar.—Worth County Times.

Would Have to Enlarge Supporting the United States supreme court should sustain Rhode

Island's contention under the 18th prohibition amendment. That state would have to extend her borders to accommodate the influx of population.—Moberly Democrat.

Can Find the "Stinger"

That was a very polite note the allies sent to Holland asking for the release of the Kaiser for trial, but if you will read it carefully you can find the "stinger" without much trouble.—Platte Co. Gazette.

Will Be Worth the Price.

The Republican National Convention has offered prizes totalling \$10,000 to the person who writes the most acceptable platform for the Republican National Convention. And if the platform can straddle and camouflage the issues, it will certainly be worth that much to the G. O. P.—Henry Co. Democrat.

Will Find the Excuse

Indications don't point to a coming down of the high cost of living. Clothing manufacturers assert that men's and women's apparel will increase 25 to 40 per cent in price next spring and lay the increased cost to advanced wages of garment workers, which they say are in some cases 300 per cent higher than before the war.—Moberly Democrat.

Harry Owen and Do It.

Senator Owen of Oklahoma, in a statement issued Sunday said, "there are forty Democrats back of the reservations and who are for immediate ratification of the league of nations." He also said he believed that President Wilson would accept the reservations. Well, hurry up and do it and cut out the "spies".—Milan Standard.

First Time Promises Fulfilled.

Governor Allen's industrial court will be passed by the Kansas legislature almost unanimously. This is about the first time a special session of the legislature did what it was called to do in so short a time. The bill promises great good for labor and as it has so near the approval of all the people of that state will be put into effect without delay and used for its best merits and purposes. It is to be hoped that it will accomplish all that is claimed for it and that its opponents will so soon acclaim.—Moberly Democrat.

Walt a Dead Game Sport

Walter S. Dickey, of Kansas City has charge of the work of raising Missouri's quota of funds for the national Republican campaign fund. This is the same man who ran for United States Senator against Jas. A. Reed. He wore white oxfords and a palm beach suit and looked more like a dead game sport than a would-be United States senator. He read his speeches from manuscript copy and made no impression whatever upon his audiences. Dickey is a millionaire and can furnish the slush funds to grease the wheels of the G. O. P. machine.—Howell County Gazette.

Hay Wants the Whole Field

It would be interesting to know if Charles M. Hay, of St. Louis, has made up the full list of democrats eligible to represent Missouri at the democratic national convention. He has been kind enough to tell the party certain democrats who must not be elected delegates to the convention, and now he should extend his favors sufficiently to let the party know the names of the men and women who should be on the delegation. He no doubt considers himself eligible to be one of the delegates-at-large, or possibly, all four of them.—Jefferson City Democrat Tribune.

If He "Knows How"

Every man can still have his own hard cider—if he makes it himself. He can't buy sweet cider, unless it contains some kind of a chemical, that will prevent fermentation. The man who gets himself a hand press can buy up the farmer's wind falls, along in October, and make himself all of the cider he wants. He can boil this apple juice down, to just about half its original volume, set it away and let nature take its course. Then along about Christmas, he can go down in his cellar and bring up a pitcherful of liquid, that tastes like a drink of the gods, and has a kick equal to that of a four year old mule.—Lamar Democrat.

The Open Season For Editors

One might think from the frequent attacks on editors in this state that the laws permitted an open season for maiming and killing them. But a few weeks ago Uncle "Wes" Robertson of Gallatin, was shot down by a man named Tarwater, almost without cause, while last Saturday, Editor Blagg of Harris, was pounced upon and beaten by a man practically without cause or provocation, if we have been rightly informed. If such occurrences as these are to become general, editors had better begin practicing the art of self-defense, instead of devoting so much time to study on how to live on hot air and promises.—Newton Chronicle.