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STATE SAVINGS BANK
Owosso, Michigan

THE OWOSSO TIMES

EDMUND G. DEWEY, PROP.

OWOSSO, MICH., DEC. 30, 1918

A Proclamation Issued to the People of the State of Michigan.

The war has been won but not paid for; it becomes necessary to remind the people that Michigan has only partly kept her War Savings Pledge, with only fifteen days left in which to redeem ourselves.

Figures are unnecessary—suffice it to state that Michigan, leader in every other patriotic movement, has not maintained her record in this important branch of government financing.

The war has given us security of freedom. War Savings Stamps provide security for our savings. This appeal is based on Michigan's integrity and the government's need for funds.

Every War Savings Pledge is a debt to the government. The Treasury Department is depending upon this money—it is a vital part of the War Program, a tremendous program not completely financed.

Michigan must pay her share. Every pledge must be kept. We cannot break faith with our government.

Therefore, I, Albert E. Sleeper, Governor of the State of Michigan, do proclaim and set aside the days between December 9th and December 31st inclusive, as War Savings Days.

The War Savings Stamp is a badge of partnership in Victory with the United States and her Allies. Let this campaign be carried on with increasing vigor during the days I have named. Let every War Savings Worker take up the task with renewed energy; every citizen will not only fulfill his pledge, but, when possible, exceed it in a voluntary, generous purchase of these War Savings Stamps.

Never in the history of our great state have we approached the Christmas tide with such cause for joyfulness and thanksgiving. Let us give expression to these thankful rejoicings by giving Christmas gifts in Thrift and War Savings Stamps to young and old. Urge all to do likewise, and in this way safeguard Democracy and mingle the Christmas spirit with Patriotism and Thrift.

I earnestly commend this issue to all people in our loyal commonwealth.

GOVERNOR ALBERT E. SLEEPER.

DECLARES LIME AND PHOSPHATES WOULD HELP SOILS

East Lansing, Dec. 19.—Michigan farms generally could be improved considerably by the judicious use of lime and phosphates, according to Dr. M. M. McCool, head of the department of soils at M. A. C.

"The results obtained from the proper use of lime and phosphates in Michigan have been such," he says, "as to force the conclusion that a much greater tonnage of lime can be used, and that when acid phosphate can be purchased at normal figures, a half million tons more than is at present employed could be applied with profit to Michigan farms."

Where farmers are in doubt as to whether lime or phosphates would help their farms, the department of farm crops of M. A. C. is inviting them to send samples of their soil to East Lansing, for free analysis. Reports obtained by the college from farmers who have submitted samples of their soil for analysis, and then have adopted such corrective measures as were suggested, tell of much success in improving the yielding power of their land. These increases have amounted from 10 to 100 per cent.

Fordney late at Profiteers.

(Continued from page 108.)

is that the national administration still is hiding some of the wasteful squandering of money which has characterized the conduct of the war. He does not know all the reckless misuse of money. But "niggers in the woodpile are to be smoked out," he believes after peace comes.

He does know of some "criminal" wastes of money. Here are a couple of the striking incidents as he relates them:

"I have a letter from an employe of the Hog Island yards. He tells me that to haul timber 10 by 16 by 30 feet long, about 2,500 board feet, from the cars to the yard, a distance of half a mile cost \$98. For hauling gravel that same distance the charge was \$10.50 a cubic yard."

Then he commented:

"That seems to me criminal extra-

vagance. That was one of those cost plus contracts, by which the greater the cost, the greater the profits to the contractor.

"That was at a time when it was hardest to pay. The people want to know why and they learn as soon as it is over."

Asked if he thought there had been any "grafting," Mr. Fordney stated he did not think so, but that there had been "direct misappropriation and diversion of public money."

Tells of Borating Contractor

Mr. Fordney tells of a contractor whose name he does not give who boasted that the government was paying his war taxes. The congressman has a copy of a clause of this contract, which is dated July 21, 1917, stating that "all taxes shall be considered as a part of the cost" of the contract. Thus the contractor was actually paid a profit by Uncle Sam on the amount of the taxes which he paid to help win the war.

Mr. Fordney has charged this openly in congress. Chairman Hurley, in a letter to Mr. Fordney, said no such charge should be made unless the congressman was sure of his facts. To this "Uncle Joe," wrote, quoting the clause and giving the number and date of the contract. To this Mr. Hurley did not reply.

Some not-generally-known history of the Hog Island ship yards are given by Mr. Fordney. In brief his story is that the government invested \$55,000,000 in the project, then turned it over to a corporation of individuals incorporated for \$2,000, and with this plant secured contracts for \$187,000,000 worth of ship building. With a free plant, and use of Uncle Sam's money as working capital, on a cost plus basis, this corporation made a profit of \$10,000,000.

On this Mr. Fordney's comment was short, and charitable. He said: "It seems to me that was poor judgment."

But Mr. Fordney as well as others, are going on the theory of "enduring everything to win the war" and after peace comes to do any necessary laundering. That policy was decided upon in the early days of the conflict and is still being adhered to, at least by the congressman from this city.

Gives Revenue Ideas

Mr. Fordney is a protectionist and has some ideas along the lines of revenue legislation which he expects to be passed by both the house and the senate. He, however, does not venture a guess as to whether the man in the White House will sign the bill when it goes to him.

This legislation which is predicted by Mr. Fordney will protect the dye and sugar industries, and prevent making the United States a dumping ground for business to kill Yankee industry.

First to the sugar, because more persons in The State Journal's family circle are interested in this business than in the manufacture of dye-stuffs. "Uncle Joe" when taking up a new line of discussion goes to the beginning and develops the thought logically. He explained that of the sugar used in this country, half comes from insular possessions, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines and nearly all the balance is imported from Cuba and other foreign countries. Only a small percent is produced in this country.

Then he stated that if another war should come and this country should be cut off, as was Germany in the conflict which is now all but "officially" ended, there would be a shortage in the United States. Germany derived advantage from her tremendous sugar manufacturing capacity. He explained that when the Teutonic nation became short of gasoline that alcohol was distilled from sugar to operate airplanes and other war engines. It was a tremendous advantage. He wants the United States to be so prepared if another war should come. It is almost needless to say that he hopes another conflict does not arise. But as he expresses it, "God alone knows."

Would Protect Sugar

Mr. Fordney wants to encourage the manufacture of sugar in this country by a protective tariff. "I do not believe," he said, "that there is any way in the world to insure cheap and plentiful sugar, better than to produce all we may consume. The protection required to build up this industry is not very great. Under protection we should be able to bring down the price of sugar."

Maybe you think this means protection of the manufacturer alone. But Mr. Fordney is looking after the interests of sugar beet raisers as well. He says:

"Whatever law is adopted should be absolutely fair to the man who raises the beets and the manufacturer. The farmer is entitled to the same consideration as the manufacturer. The raiser of the beets must have a fair profit and the manufacturer a return for the capital invested. Whatever is worked out must produce harmony between the raiser of the beets and the manufacturer. In the protection of our industry it is not necessary to go to the extreme."

"Uncle Joe" has ideas of protecting new American industry of manufacturing dye-stuffs. There are 900 varieties made in the world. America is now making about half this number, as a result of the enterprise and ingenuity shown by Americans after the outbreak of the European war cut off imports to this nation from Germany.

"We have the money and the skill," says Mr. Fordney, "to produce dye-stuffs. All we need is to become more skillful and to protect this industry against foreign imports; especially the importation and sale at a loss in

this country in order to crush out the industry in America.

"I am strongly in favor of a clause being adopted in our next revenue law imposing an import tax sufficient to prevent selling at a loss in this country to crush the American manufacturer."

Would Prevent Dumping

"I succeeded in having the ways and means committee of the house put such a clause in the bill then before congress. It was passed by the house but stricken out by the Senate. It provided that in cases where goods sold in this country lower than in the country in which they were made that a tax of 15 per cent ad valorem should be collected. Canada has such a law, which also reserves to the government the right to confiscate such goods imported for fraudulent purposes.

"I believe that such a provision in our law would have a wholesome effect in building such an industry in this country. In my opinion it would be far better for us to produce our own dye-stuff and to keep at home the \$15,000,000 annually which in the past we sent out of this country."

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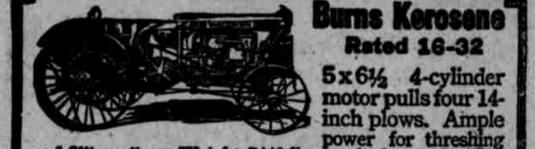
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