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The Paper That Does Things

MARCH 18, 1918.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF RAILROADS.

Director Gen. McAdoo has announced that while the railroads are under the control of the government it is futile to impose fines upon them for violations of the law and of the orders of the interstate commerce commission.

It is also announced that when the prompt public transportation service requires it, employees will be required to work a reasonable amount of overtime, but excessive hours of employment will not be required.

Pending a disposition of the question of wages and hours, all requests of employees involving revisions of schedules or general changes affecting wages and hours will be held in abeyance.

The director general states that if he is notified of the location of specific supplies for transport to Europe and the port or ports in the United States to which such supplies should be sent he will guarantee the necessary transportation subject alone to interruptions from blizzards and floods.

NO NEED FOR ATTORNEYS.

The secretary of the treasury has announced that neither the soldiers, sailors, nor their dependents or any beneficiaries under the soldier and sailor insurance law need employ attorneys or claim agents to collect the insurance.

The procedure for the presentation and collection of insurance claims is very simple and the proper blanks can be secured from the bureau of war-risk insurance in Washington.

The response of the people to the national need of economy and saving has been general and generous.

lain super-war board that our contemporary so workshops—and asks in its stead for the Overman bill, which would render his responsibility quite unlimited—not of an extra-constitutional order either.

But the most of this is neither here nor there. The sort of criticism our contemporary indulges in as against the war administration is not criticism at all. It is propaganda. It is "nagging" for political effect for partisan advantage.

Never mind the intermediate effects of such propaganda upon the public mind; seems to be the republican idea. Suppose it does interfere with American progress in the conduct of the war; what if it does encourage the enemy, giving him "aid and comfort" to be able to prove to the German people that there is a great political party in America opposed to Pres. Wilson in his war work?

Our contemporary should not mix freedom of seditious propaganda with legitimate criticism in that way. We are as strong for freedom of the press as the next one but we hope we know how to distinguish between liberty and license.

LABOR AND FREEDOM.

The hope of labor lies in the opportunities for freedom; military domination, supervision, checks, bondage, lie in Prussian rule. So declare the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor.

All Americans are supremely and vitally interested in the war against German autocracy and none more than the working man of America. To him freedom means everything.

The test is on whether the autocratic regime of Germany has bred better men than the free institutions of this country has—whether the independent men of America can fight so well, can manufacture such guns and aeroplanes and other instruments and munitions of war and put them into effective use as can the human product of German rule.

There is no doubt of the result, but it depends upon the whole American people and not alone upon our fighting men. We who remain in safety at home must do our part, work, economize, save and support the finances of the government.

THE PEOPLE ARE SAVING.

Evidences are accumulating that the habit of saving among the American people, especially among the patrons of savings banks and postal savings, is outstripping the financial demands made upon them by the government.

While no exact figures are available at present, it is known that postal savings deposits have steadily gained during the year 1917, and notably since the first of July of that year, which was after the first issue of the Liberty loan.

The reports from savings banks also show a steady gain, and the same is true of cooperative building and loan associations.

Nor have the people of small means been the only savers. It is estimated that the savings of the whole people of the United States, ordinarily \$5,000,000,000 annually, were increased to \$11,000,000,000 to \$15,000,000,000 in 1917.

Other Editors Than Ours

Running through the testimony heard by the United States senate committee inquiring into the operations of the National German-American alliance, with the view of determining whether or not the charter of that organization should be forfeited, because of its pro-German activities, is indubitable proof that the liquor interests and the disloyal propaganda were closely identified with each other.

AGAINST PROHIBITION.

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NOT CRITICISM, BUT PROPAGANDA.

Our main st. contemporary's ingenious attempt to explain or excuse its political "cooperheadism"—a "cooperheadism" that puts the promotion of party advantage above promotion or maintenance of loyalty to the government—by asserting that the charge all comes from the super-sensitiveness of the president, is almost as idiotic as it is ingenious.

Well, if this responsibility does not rest on the president we would like to know who under heaven it does rest upon? And, if our contemporary does not so intend, why does it, every time it demands the resignation of Secy Daniels—quite often up of late—or Secy Baker—still an almost daily occurrence—take the president to task for retaining them? If their retention in the face of so many such demands does not make the president responsible for them, what would?

They ask for "centralized authority," and, well, there you have it—the president, and he is not shirking the responsibility. The president is no "slacker." He has never blamed "George" for anything nor left anything for "George" to do, in order that he might dodge the blame.

THE MELTING POT

"Come Take Pot Luck With Us"

A WORD TO THE WISE.

The brooklets singing as they run. Make music all the day. And, like the mists before the sun. The snow drifts slip away.

The skies are soft and warm overhead; The crows are on the wing; The grass feels velvet to the tread, As in the early spring.

The air is like the breath of June, Light clouds float through the sky, And all the golden afternoon The flies go buzzing by.

Little Phyllis February Wears a witching smile; Seems a gentle maid and merry For a little while, She will lead you rainbow chasing.

They didn't save a bean.

REMEMBER WHO HE IS? It also begins to look as if the Hon. William J. Bryan had also stopped functioning.

PRETTY SOFT. The rooster's at the butcher's. The pullet's sound and hale. The female in the hencoop Has an edge upon the male.

MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD 'EM. The weariest words beneath the sun Nowadays are these: "Knit two; puri one."

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.

If written in the present The scriptures would declare: "Cast your bread upon the waters And get Hoover in your hair."

JULIE WAS WRONG. Anyone who reads the evidence about the Hog Island contract will be convinced that there is something in a name.

PRICES KEPT GOING UP ALL THE TIME. Jack Spratt conserved the fat, His wife conserved the lean, But notwithstanding all of that

Absence Did Help — By Catherine Parsons.

Mrs. Granger had at last decided to leave her comfortable but lonely home in Banbury and come to live with her son and his new wife, Edna. She would try it for a while she said; for the winter, anyway, which was always the loneliest season for her in her home town, since her husband had died and the years had brought increasing infirmities. Not that Mrs. Granger was at all feeble or ailing; but, as she herself confessed, she didn't feel as spry as she used to.

John Jay and his wife were pleased with their decision, the son because of a vision of his aging mother in her empty home cast a shadow over his growing prosperity which he wanted to share with his deservingly parent; and his wife because Edna Granger was pleased over everything which gave pleasure to John Jay.

Then the young man began to make plans for his mother's reception; and her avowed intention to stop on her way to the city to visit an old friend made his task comparatively easy. Edna listened to her husband's plans and approved as she did everything which John Jay said or did. She thought him a very clever and engaging person, and credited him with all the wisdom of Solomon—and a little beyond this.

"It is a lovely idea!" Edna exclaimed, her eyes shining and a smile emphasizing her dimples. "Most people—your people—don't understand the wishes of their clients at all. Your mother's going to be very comfortable here, John Jay."

To this end, young Granger made a flying trip to Banbury, and entered the cosy home his mother recently had left. He made mysterious journeys from room to room, gathering up various objects which were duly deposited in the large van that drew up before the door in the evening shadows.

There was the wide, ornate bedstead with a marble-topped bureau on one side and a sewing table on the other, equipped as it had been through many years. There was the upholstered rocking chair near the window; and across one corner a couch stretched its length draped in its usual blue and gold cover. Banbury rugs on the floor and Banbury pictures on the walls completed the transformation.

John Jay and his wife stood side by side in the doorway and beamed upon their finished work. "It's like an old-time picture—so sweet and comfy," breathed Edna, pressing her husband's arm with a caressing fervor.

"It's like home — for mother," John Jay nodded. "Can you think of anything else for her comfort, Edna?" Edna meditated. "What are her favorite flowers, Dearie?" "She's partial to clove pinks, the little ragsgedy kind."

"Then we'll have a bouquet of those, right here on the table, waiting for her," Edna dimpled and shone beyond her usual sunny radiance. "And I'm going to ask your mother to show Callista how to make some of her favorite Banbury dishes."

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