

the post office appropriation bill and other bills affecting the postal service.

Not one of them was called to the head of the post office department. Neither did the selection go to a man of large experience in private business. The appointment went to a Texas congressman who began practicing law when he was twenty-one, held positions continuously as city and district attorney for eleven years and then went to congress where he served fourteen years.

Inspection of the Congressional Record fails to show that Mr. Burleson ever served on the post office committee or took any part in the discussion of postal affairs. He was in no way identified with the enactment of the parcel post law—the most important development in the postal service in recent years. However, good a lawyer he may have been, he had no special fitness for the business management of so large and so complicated a public service as the post office department.

No private enterprise would have selected a manager in any such manner. If it did, it would certainly meet the fate the postal service has met in its financial accounts. No factory, construction company, or other large concern doing a business of \$300,000,000 a year could succeed if such policies prevailed in the selection of a manager.

Undoubtedly Mr. Burleson was a good prosecuting attorney, and his seven elections to congress are strong evidence that he is a good politician. But his lack of special qualification for the position of postmaster general, together with his experience in politics, is not altogether reassuring to those American citizens who think there is more need for business management than for politics in the postal service.

HIS FEET ARE IN A NET

The more Mr. Bryan endeavors to disentangle himself the worse he becomes entangled, says the New York World. His latest—at this writing—pronouncement, in which he endeavors to explain why he refused to sign the second note to Germany, although he willingly signed the first, merely piles up confession that his every energy while American Secretary of State was to shape American diplomacy along the familiar von Bernstorff lines. Mr. Bryan's effort to complicate the case against Germany involving American lives by injecting into the correspondence dealing with it a wholly unrelated issue affecting only American dollars was merely playing into the hands of the German government.

Mr. Bryan's contention that the United States should agree to arbitrate the principle at issue in the Lusitania outrage because, forsooth, Mr. Bryan's "piffle" treaties are assumed by him to commit the United States to the principle of arbitrating everything, becomes, in the last analysis, merely a damning indictment of those treaties. If Mr. Bryan is not mentally dishonest, then it is clear that he is unable to grasp the vital fact that no individual and no nation can ever afford to arbitrate a continuing offence.

Until the German government agrees to cease its illegal warfare against noncombatants and neutrals exercising their rights upon the high seas and makes good its promising by ceasing there can be neither arbitration nor anything bearing slightest resemblance to arbitration. Germany has at no time agreed to do this; President Wilson, for the government of the United States and the American people is insisting that it must. This is the whole case.

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