

The American Panama Canal Should Be Free to American Ships

It Is Our Property by Every Law and Our Right to Use It.

Senator William E. Borah has the habit of doing the right thing.

That is because Borah is an honest man, in deed as well as in word.

It's a pity that Mr. Wilson did not have Borah's honesty in action as well as in phrase.

In that case the resolution to restore free tolls to American coastwise shipping using the Panama Canal would not have had to be introduced by Senator Borah, a Republican.

The Democratic platform in 1912 specifically pledged its candidate, Woodrow Wilson, to maintain free tolls for American coastwise ships.

Candidate Wilson specifically pledged himself to carry out the platform promise.

"Our platform promises," he proclaimed, "are not molasses to catch flies."

Candidate Wilson became President Wilson by grace of Theodore Roosevelt and six million votes in a total of fifteen million votes cast.

And Candidate Wilson had hardly well warmed the Presidential chair before he broke his word and broke the pledge of the platform upon which he stood for election.

Surrounded by a carefully created and altogether false atmosphere of academic wisdom and integrity, Mr. Wilson gave the most solemn assurances to the Democratic majority in the Congress that weighty, secret reasons made it imperative to abolish the free canal tolls which he and his party had solemnly pledged themselves to maintain—and he was believed.

It was not true then, and it is false still.

But in those days the country had confidence in Mr. Wilson's judgment, and it was almost lese majeste to suspect that he might be saying the thing that was not true.

So free canal tolls were abolished, and the right to use this AMERICAN canal, built by AMERICAN men, and paid for with AMERICAN money, and running through AMERICAN territory, was denied to American ships bound from one American port to another American port.

And the day that was done the coastwise trade between American ports on the Atlantic, the Gulf, and the Pacific was practically handed over to foreign shipping concerns, paying wages and providing living conditions to which American law would not permit American sailors to be subjected.

The Hearst papers fought this dishonest betrayal of party pledges and this disloyal surrender of the rights of American ships and sailors from the inception of the bad design. But we fought a losing fight against the repute which Mr. Wilson then enjoyed, the influence he then exercised over a subservient party majority, and the weight which the people generally then gave to his now wholly discredited assurances.

The people believed what Mr. Wilson declared to be true in 1912.

That is another of the many differences between 1912 and 1920.

Now Senator Borah has introduced a resolution restoring the free canal tolls for American ships which Mr. Wilson dishonestly abolished. And, this time, we are confident that no assurance or mysterious threats by Mr. Wilson will have any weight at all with a majority of the American Congress or of the American people.

The real truth is that the surrender of free canal tolls was the first act of that obedience to British influence and British pressure which has since won for Wilson from the British press the title of "the greatest living Englishman."

We built the canal.

We paid for the canal.

It is our property by every law, and our right to use it as we see fit cannot be questioned legally, and certainly no nation should be allowed to question it in any other way.

Great Britain loses and America gains by permitting American ships to pass through our American canal free of tolls.

And Great Britain objects.

Well, let her object.

There will be an American President in the White House after March 4—God be praised!

The process of returning the United States to the conditions of a British colony will come to a sudden halt next March even in the White House and the State Department, exactly as it has been halted in the Congress by the Senators who stood up against Woodrow Wilson and his discredited Peace Treaty and his preposterous League of Nations.

And while the country is waiting eagerly for this day of national housecleaning, the Congress can add another leaf to its laurels by pressing to passage the manly and wholly American resolution by which William E. Borah does himself fresh honor and his country another of many, many admirable services.

A Much Needed Dry Docking



Letters From the Public to the Editor

Wants Bonus For "Regulars."

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Please ask Congress if this man rates any consideration in the line of a bonus.

His son went to France with the Fifth regiment, United States Marines, which was a regular regiment in the Second division, and was killed in the battle of Bois de Belleau. His wife went insane through grief over the loss of her only child.

He enlisted in the marine corps to get revenge, but the war ended too soon and he didn't get the chance to get over. He did not wait until his card was pulled or told to report to some cantonment. He just volunteered his services. So, why knock the regulars in the bonus line?

Take the regular division, the First and Second, compare their records with any citizen soldier divisions. We all know that the citizen soldier did his bit and that the regular army, navy and marine corps did their bit, too. In Vera Cruz, 1914; also in Haiti, and San Domingo, where the marines are still doing their bit.

F. J. P. (Ex-Marine).

Profiteers Should Have Treatment of Outlaws.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

The following paraphrase, with due apologies to the poet, keeps ringing in my ears as the present conditions of our beloved native land:

"Ill fares that land to profiteers a prey.

Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Profiteers are as great a menace to the safety of a community, State, and nation as anarchists, high-way robbers, and bank bandits; and if they do not desert from their profiteering, all true American citizens think they should be dealt with in the same manner as outlaws.

W. G. SLAPPEY.

Pension Bill Does Not Always Pension.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I hope you will not let it occur to any of those "decreps" "on the hill," that they have done any thing toward pensioning the clerk of the Government. Here is a woman who was left with two children, twenty-one years ago, daughters—she passed a high grade examination and was given a place at \$50 per month because she was a woman.

A good clerk, rising early, getting the little girls, then four and six years old, to a day school, when she could call and take them back with her to a little room in the evening. After five years she went up to \$1,200—doing fine work all the time—no vacation and few clothes. Every minute away from the office had to be spent on the children. Now, before she can be released, as the army and navy are, she must for the next twenty-five years, to reach seventy, pay in to the Government \$7.87. Then, few people in the Government service live to be seventy years of age. If she dies before, only one daughter gets what she paid in. She gets nothing!

If she dies at seventy-one, she will get nothing. Ye gods! The things Congress imagines they can make people believe.

MARY COLIN CAMPBELL.

Wants Bergdoll Brought To Justice.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I'm a true American, an ex-service man, having spent a year and a half as a member of the 332nd Central Postal Directory, Tank Corps.

When I recall the times at Camp

Colt, Gettysburg, where leave was refused true American soldiers to visit relatives, who were at the point of death, yet on the other hand a yellow slacker, of the worst sort is allowed to make good an escape upon representation that he had secreted a sum of money known only to himself (regular dime-novel stuff) it is any wonder that the blood of a true American should boil. Now what true American, whether he has been through the war or not, but wants this disgraceful affair thrashed out and the guilty party not reprimanded, but brought to justice.

Former Private H. C. LUCAS, 332nd Battalion, Tank Corps.

Lillie Pays Her Respects.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Having read Charles Lamy's letter about keeping children off the street, I am inclined to think he is an old crab. He is an old crank, and tell him so with the compliments of

LILLIE WEST.

Wants Drivers To Exercise More Care For Dogs and Children.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Owners of dogs are required to pay a tax for the privilege of keeping them, and I think the dogs should at least be given some protection in return. Of course, it could not be expected that a squad of policemen be employed for just this purpose, but I do believe if a driver were found guilty of carelessly running over a dog or any other animal, and his license were revoked for a certain

period, he would be more careful in the future. This would also save many children, for it must be admitted that children have a habit of running heedlessly into the streets when not watched, and if a driver is made to exercise care where the life of an animal is concerned, it stands to reason he would be even more careful where the life of a child is concerned.

"TYLAEB."

Bonus Will Make Better Citizens.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Referring to Captain O'Donnell's letter:

That one-man sportsmanship may have been possible in the army, but it must be remembered that we are all citizens again and for him to say that a soldier who needs and accepts the bonus is a profiteer is a cruel injustice to all soldiers in need. It is a matter for each individual to decide for himself and not for one captain to decide for all.

A bonus given and accepted in the right spirit will make better citizens of the ex-soldier. It will help to give him the education he may be lacking or perhaps give him a start in life. Then, if we ever have another war there will be better captains in the army than ever before.

And remember that a captain's pay in the army is over \$200 per month as compared with the private's \$30 per month. If this captain feels that he has received compensation enough and does not need the bonus, he should not accept it. However, he should not speak for those who do need it.

"A. E. F.ER."

Thinks Bonus to Every Man An Injustice.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I think the proposition of giving every man who served in the late war, either at the camps or on the battlefields of France, a bonus is a great injustice both to the country and to the soldier himself. It is an injustice to the country, as it would throw a huge tax upon the people to pay the ones who perhaps never even reached France, and an injustice to the soldier who never received a scratch and returned sound, and some of them in better shape than when they left civil life, as it would make them so that they could not appreciate what it is to work for a living and earn their own living, and consequently make them so they would not care to work. A better way is to allow everyone who was wounded in the firing lines a bonus and eliminate the others. The civil war veterans, when that war was over, retired to civil life with a spirit of patriotism, and surely our real heroes of the late war will do the same.

Wants To Know What Patriotism Is.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Capt. J. A. O'Donnell, A. E. F., objects to a bonus. He says any gift by Uncle Sam to the defenders of the country and the country's wealth is unpatriotic. The men who rushed to the recruiting posts at the outbreak of the war have a right to know what people mean by patriotism. The majority of men now agree with Dr. Johnson that "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." Many folks made money by the war, made it before we entered by selling merchandise to the countries involved. When Uncle Sam joined in the melee the flood gates were let down and yellow gold, like a tidal wave, swelled the bulging money bags. How many millions were made by this war? Johnny Bull did good by his sons; and Canada and Australia were really noble and princely in their gratitude. It hurts us to see Johnny Bull doing the right thing while rich folks here tell us to go to—!

PRIVATE FRANK KANE, Second Division.

Returned Soldiers Need Financial Assistance, Not Cheers.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

The time has come to declare the American soldier a human being, and treat him as such. Just why the soldier who gives all in defense of the country should be penalized, while the stay-at-home waxes fat on war wages and profits, is too deep for me. In war and peace the soldier should receive as much pay as he would get if he were not in the army. Being a soldier should be at least as profitable as being a stay-at-home.

This slogan "cheers for the living, and tears for the dead" sounds nice in orations but it doesn't mean anything. What the returned soldier needs is not cheers, but financial assistance.

If the country really cannot pay the bonus, the soldier will be the first to withdraw the bonus claim.

PAUL L. WHITE.

To Oppose Bonus Is a Low Down Trick, He Says.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

For a man like Capt. G. A. O'Donnell, 114th F. A., who served his country in the A. E. F. in France and who went through the hardships of war and yet who would dare to refuse our bonus—I call it a dirty low-down trick.

JOUBERT MASTLOOK.

The Crow's Nest

Sir Auckland Geddes, British ambassador to the United States, has been a professor of anatomy and knows all the ins and outs of the faculty offices, all of which ought to fit him for especially close communion with the Professor in residence at 1609 Pennsylvania avenue.

Grover C. Bergdoll may have dodged the drafters, but we judge by the way he is making his escape in this piping days, he is not dodging the grafters.—Houston Post.

Considering their privilege to sample it, it is hard to understand why the booze-hounds are given salaries.—Baltimore American.

American profits are not without honor except in their own country. They are the wonder and envy of all the rest of modern civilization.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Speaking of the value of the coin of the realm, it surely looks as though the Bergdoll-ar is going about as far as 100 cents ever did in these parts.

Reading between the lines of the Republican platform one cannot help but note the old-time claim that once again the G. O. P. can be depended upon to make the country safe for democracy.



(As Sir Auckland Geddes, British ambassador, who is a professor in anatomy, appears to David Wilson in the World, London.)

That Little Setback For Suffrage In the District

By BILL PRICE.

Those Washington patriots who privately used their influence to postpone the proposed hearings on District suffrage before a House committee can take to themselves some of the credit for the defeat of the District suffrage amendment in the Republican platform agreed upon at Chicago.

The House committee had practically fixed a date for suffrage hearings, and everything looked good for a favorable report upon a suffrage bill before Congress adjourned. That report would have meant something to the national political conventions. District suffrage was mysteriously knifed and the committee postponed its hearings until next winter.

The committee at the national convention took the view that the question was one for Congress, and virtually held that if Congress was not sufficiently interested there was no use for the convention to get excited. FRANK HOGAN made a great battle for the cause at Chicago, and had victory in sight. The argument that if District people had been unable to successfully impress Congress they could not expect too much from the Republican convention was rather convincing. Ardent local advocates of District suffrage had foreshadowed this and earnestly sought to have the hearings and a favorable report before the conventions.

It would be very agreeable to District people if the San Francisco convention should enthusiastically support a plank for recognition of political manhood and the extension of Americanism to the Federal Capital.

The setback at Chicago is not a serious one. This suffrage fight will be won in the end. Right will triumph. We will attain political freedom here by continually fighting for it.

The Republican and Democratic nominees for President are to be heard from. One of them, or possibly both, may come out in favor of local suffrage and agree to back legislation upon Congress.

It's nothing new for the District to be disregarded in national conventions. Usually these conventions put in platforms favoring "living wages" for Federal employees here and hinting at better things for Government workers. Then the politicians forget that the planks were ever written.

We may be able to do more without promises than with them.

HEARD AND SEEN

The Imperial commission which reconstructed Germany in 1903 was officially called reichsdeputationshauptschliess. How's that for a word? D. P. FRY.

A LARGE NEW INDUSTRY. You will be interested in knowing that a thriving new industry in Washington is the picking of dandelions. They say dandelions are certainly great in the home brew stuff. H. S.

Jever see the 18th and Columbia road species of lizards? If they should knock off some night the soda fountains near by would have plenty of ice cream and milk shakes left over the next day. H. A. C.

KANAWHA CLUB'S FINE WORK. You should have a word of praise in your admirable column for the youngsters composing the "Kanawha Club." Their latest work of good fellowship is the raising of money to aid an unfortunate young fellow who is confined in a local hospital, and is without funds. These are the sort of boys who make a better Washington. Mr. and Mrs. VAN NYE. (Such work is highly commendable. It is the spirit of true fellowship and human sympathy.)

POETIC SQUARE. First some of us have had in court Others find it at home. Second, sometimes comes to naught And also means to add some one. This is often. The denominator of these of high and low degree. And those of the right who show A maiden's name as we see. C A S E A B E T S E A T E T A HENRY F. SMITH.

A FRACTION PROBLEM. I submit the following problem to readers of Heard and Seen: The numerator of a certain fraction was multiplied by sixteen, divided by four, and eighteen added. The denominator was multiplied by four, and fifteen was added to it. The sum of the numerator and denominator of the resulting fraction was twenty-three. What was the original fraction? J. A. P.

GIVE ME DA SPREENTIME. Plants fresh air galore. Give me da good garlic. Make me da da snore. MILO H.

THE TELEPHONE GIRLS. Too many of us get grouchy with telephone operators, without realizing what their difficulties are. A former chief operator writes H. and S. regarding the recent complaint of F. D. to his trouble. One of his accusations was that the "queen of the wire" slammed a receiver in my face." This can't be done, she says, as the receiver is attached to the head of the operator, and it is difficult to remove it unless she has a detachable head. Then she suggests: That man be placed at switchboards if the public wants to enlarge the existing vocabulary of profanity.

Then men who swear so profusely at Central would get replies in their own language. It takes no courage to swear over a phone, but does take time, and time is precious. For one nickel a grouch wants the whole telephone company to get on its knees.

I never did like policemen, especially when kind with their pants rolled up and stockings on, as this: The District is poor, but should advance chance. May I not suggest they buy some less pants? W. C. C.

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP. Noah was hard on the animals into the ark. He noticed the camel lagging behind. "Here, get a hump on you!" yelled Noah, and the camel did. Mrs. L. E. CHATTERTON.

You tell 'em, CHAMP CLARK, W. J. B. gives you a pain. T. S. W.

A BUNCH OF REAL CHAPS. I know a bunch of real chaps (not cake-eaters), who can be seen nearly every evening at the corner near Eagle's Gate, Soldiers' Home. They are Dick CARTER, "Pop" CARTER, Guy SEYMOUR, Frank KNOX, Herman KNOX, Mike JUNGHAUS, Roy BYRON, and "Shorty" CHERRY. They are called "cigar smokers." M. P. J.

Don't you love those persons who go to the bathing beach simply to become sand lizards that they may bask their shoulders and neck, but never go in the water? L. G.