AEMRICAN SENTINEL

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The Republican Paper of Carroll County

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FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Fact 1st.—The first fact, political, worth considering and remembering is that Woodrow Wilson is not President of the United States by the votes of a majority of the electors. That, as votes count, he and a majority of the members of Congress are in a miniority. At the Presidential election in 1912 the number of votes cast was 14,908,615 and of these Mr. Wilson received 6,282,542, or 2,626,073 less than the number cast for other candidates. That together Roosevelt and Taft received 7,594,064, or 1,312,522 more than Mr. Wilson, and a majority of all the votes cast.

Fact 2nd.—That this minority President and minority Congress succeeded to power through constitutional methods and thus legally, but they have not represented and do not represent the wishes of a majority of the American people, because, eliminating the votes cast for all other candidates, the principle of political economy, known and recognized as tariff protection, was held in common by Roosevelt and Taft and their supporters.

Fact 3rd.—This principle, except for the brief period of a single administration—1893 to 1897—had been in force without interruption for fifty years.

Fact 4th.—That during that half century the country had grown in wealth and material prosperity, and in the better condition of its citizens of all classes, to a greater extent than ever did any other nation or people previously in an equal period of the world's history.

Fact 5th.—That the country is now suffering in the depression of its business interests by the abandonment of this principle of protection, and that a vast body of those who depend upon their labor for the support of themselves and their families are in enforced idleness and without employment for the same reason.

Now these are facts patent, it is believed, to a majority of the voters of the country, who would fain have a change for the better, if they can be brought together against the principal contributing cause of the prevailing condition in the business and industrial interests of the country. And this leads to

Suggestion 1st.—The importance of those who hold similar views on political economy getting together and making common cause against the party that is wrecking the prosperity of the country. "United we stand; divided we fall." Shall we continue divided?

Suggestion 2nd.—Mark the attitude of those whose policy it is to continue this division. Principally, it may be supposed, these are of the common enemy, whose interest it is to keep the friends of protection alienated from each other, and thus make their own task of aiding foreign interests to the detriment of their own country the easier. That, of course, is Democratic party policy and it is a policy that works with the unwary.

Suggestiono 3rd.—For the sake of the country cultivate a spirit of fraternity among those who, in a day were torn so widely apart by the unfortunate wrangle of 1912. We should not be enemies, but friends. Practically we belong to the same household of political faith and should not be at war with each other. Differences there may be, but estrangement should not be perpetuated.

Suggestion 4th.—While we do not live in the past we may well call to remembrance the former days when, united, we held the country to the policies that have made it great. But we need not live in the past to have issues upon which we once stood together and should stand together again as an unconquerable host of American freemen battling for our homes and the prosperity of our people.

Suggestion 5th.—Frown on every proposition to keep us divided and upon all who, for whatever reason, would perpetuate the division. The division in this State was not very great. There are those who have been affliated with the small element maintaining a separate organization, who stand for the old ideas of political economy, who desire that a united front be presented to the enemies of this principle. Encourage them to persist in seeking a union of all the protectionist elements of the country. Remind them again, and again, that we are having an object lesson in the Wilson-Underwood tariff, not to mention some other things, that should drive us together into a solid phalaux.

THE NATION'S ANNIVERSARY

Among the nations of the earth America has no antiquity. Old Parr, the Englishman who lived 165 years, was its senior by 27 years. At birth it comprised a population of three millions, in thirteen States, but in its brief existence it has grown to a nation of a hundred millions, inhabiting forty-eight States, stretching from ocean to ocean and from the lakes to the gulf. How trite it is to state this, yet in reality it seems like an impossible dream, though to our waking comprehension a dream come true, a vision in which all the world may see that America is the "heir of the ages."

Other great nations have been born, flourished and departed, without having, in all their history conferred upon the human race a tithe of the blessings for which this country is the creditor of the race. The birth of America gave birth also to "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." It is true, this is, as yet, only an imperfect, and, to some extent an unsuccessful, effort of man to place the race on an equal footing in privilege, right and justice, and, it may not yet have passed the experimental stage. It is impossible to close the eyes to the fact that dangers lie in the path of progress towards the still greater freedom and better condition of the people as a whole; dangers that may even shake the stability of a people's government. In meeting these dangers it will be wise to cultivate neither over-enthusiastic optimism, or gloomy pessimism. There may be a lion in the way, but lions can be conquered with prudence and courage.

Whatever may lie before us, therefore, as a people, we have almost infinite cause for thankfulness to the Ruler of Nations for His past goodness, and be able to exclaim with all sincertiy, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." For it is beyond cavil that no people in the world's history have enjoyed prosperity and happiness in as high degree as those of the United States.

The writer has frequently told in conversation, and perhaps in a public address, of the opinion of an English sea captain whom he once met in Baltimore. This sailer of the sea was commander of a large steamer, then lying at Canton, and the writer was a government official. To the latter the captain suddenly turned and said: "My friend you Americans do not appreciate your country." The remark was a surprise and the reply was: "That is a singular opinion to come from an Englishman." "But," he said, "it is nevertheless true." "Why," was answered, "we Americans are supposed to be braggarts. We are perpetually boasting about our country." "Yes," he said, "but you do not know what you have got, and do not appreciate it." And then he launched into a strain of almost startling panegyric. "I tell you this, is the greatest country God ever made," he said. "It has never been equalled in history. And no other people in the world's history have ever been as free and happy. None can compare with them in this day in these respects and in general prosperity. I speak from personal knowledge, for I have been in every land under the sun." Much more he said in the same strain and he repeated: "You do not know what you have got, and do not appreciate it."

His testimony was true. We are apt, as a people, to underestimate our blessings. Let us be thankful for them and take courage for the future as we are about to celebrate the anniversary of our country's birthday.

ROAD BUILDING AND STATE INDEBTEDNESS

In the article from the Baltimore American relating to the State debt, elsewhere printed in this issue of the Sentinel, allusion is made to the prevalence of repudiation sentiment 70 years ago, when the State was burdened with an indebtedness equal to about $50 for every man, woman and child of its inhabitants. It is not surprising that many people felt it beyond the power of the State to carry this enormous burden, and that repudiation was openly advocated by leading citizens and political aspirants. It required more than ordinary statesmanship to successfully resist the appeal of the repudiators to the cupidity of the taxpayers. But the man called to the helm of the ship of State was equal to the crisis, and the name of Thomas G. Pratt should be honored for the firm stand he took and the measures he advocated for maintaining the honor of the commonwealth. Few of the business men of that period are living, but here and there may be found one who remembers the onerous stamp tax which made it possible for the State to meet its obligations. It was a tax that especially burdened the debtor, who never renewed a note during the ten or twelve years it was in existence without paying tribute to the State for his poverty. It is possible that even then the bulk of the obligations might have descended to later generations, if all the enterprises financed by the State had been as nonremunerative as the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. But the stamp tax, the direct tax and other sources of revenue aided in tiding over the crisis and then the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad began to meet its obligations and other works to which the State had extended assistance also helped the cause. To this day the Northern Central Railway is paying the State $90,000 a year on a loan of a million and a half of dollars, which that work would be glad to cancel by paying the principal, with a big bonus as a premium.

So, after all, the debt of seventy years ago has been largely paid by the beneficiaries of the loans. Now, that cannot be the case except in a very indirect and uncertain way with the present indebtedness. The State is doing its own road building at its own cost and can only be reimbursed by the imposition of additional taxes. And it must be conceded, without argument, that these taxes are bearing very unequally upon the tax-payers. It will take all the wisdom of the public men of the State to devise a system that will be just in its effect upon all property owners. A direct blanket tax on all property will not meet the case. Those who are now and who will continue to use the State roads most, should pay most to their construction and maintenance. It has been suggested that the taxes on automobiles be doubled, but these vehicles are already paying about all that those even moderately able to own them can bear. By the present system not much more can be realized than will be necessary for the repair and maintenance of the roads already built or under construction. And the prospect, therefore, is, that the debt has come to stay, at least for an indefinite period. It is not yet onerous, but the probability is that it has about reached the limit at which that word may not be justly applied. It is time to take stock of the situation and be prepared for the future.

THE GRACE OF MODESTY

If modesty were a sin Maryland's junior senator migsit be canonized as a saint. He had no hesitation whatever in an effort to utterly supplant the senior senator in the ordinary prerogatives of his office. Though not warm in his own seat he cooly undertook to appropriate all the senatorial patronage in sight and gravely lectured the senior on his temerity in claiming anything whatever at the hands of the administration which both of them are supporting. But not content with attempting to gobble up everything due to the senatorial office, in the way of patronage, he lost no time in invading the territory of Congressman Lewis and demanding the appointment of postmasters over the head of the district's representative. But in this he was foiled by Postmaster General Burleson, who sustained the Congressman in his contention that it was his privilege to name these officials. And now he is in another clash with Mr. Lewis, this time over the appointment of the superintendent of the Government Reservation at Sharpsburg. Long ago, it appears, Mr. J. E. S. Pryor, of Hagerstown, was recommended by Mr. Lewis, who still urges his appointment. Heretofore no question has arisen in regard to the source of authority in selecting the successful applicant for this position. The representative of the district has been recognized as entitled to direct the appointment. But, while Mr. Lewis has recommended Mr. Pryor, Senator Lee has another man for the place, in the person of James F. Staubs, of Sharpsburg, and is determined to win in the controversy, even if he shall find it necessary to carry the fight to the President. Precedents have no influence with him. He may be built on the order of the Texan who thought he was "a bigger man than old Grant," and imagine himself so highly endowed and exalted as to be without a peer in Maryland; but he was given a mild jolt by the Postmaster General, a hard one by Secretary McAdoo, and may experience a still soverer one at the hands of the higher authority unless he shall cultivate, in some measure at least, the grace of modesty.

Hon. Philip D. Laird, chairman of the Public Service Commission, has resigned and will retire from the commission. Those who have knowledge of his valuable services as head of the Board, must regret that he can no longer, in justice to himself, remain in this service. His health is impaired and he needs the rest which he has earned by his conscientious and faithful attention to the duties of the position. As a public servant he is entitled to the unqualified respect of all parties in the State. Since the death of Dr. Hering he has been the only Democratic member of the commission.

BALTIMORE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Under the law creating the Public Service Commission, the City of Baltimore is required to share the cost of the commissioners' salaries with the State, and did so, until sometime ago, when action was taken by the city authorities to resist further payment. The question of the city's liability now rests with the Court of Appeals. Without understanding the full scope of the law, it would be presumption on the part of a country newspaper to express an opinion upon the subject, but it may be said that the Court of Appeals will possibly find reason for sustaining the city's contention. If that shall occur it is intimated that Mr. Towers, a member of the commission, will retire, because the salary remaining will be inadequate to compensate him. He is an able and successful lawyer, whose practice at Denton was quite as lucrative as the five thousand dollar salary paid by the State and City together. As stated in a brief editorial in the Sentinel, Mr. Laird has already resigned the chairmanship of the commission on account of ill health and it would be unfortunate to have the board lose another efficient member. It is more than possible that if the Court of Appeals shall sustain the city, the legislature would make up the difference in salaries, but that would not be a certainty. It may present a situation that will be perplexing and make it difficult for Governor Goldsborough to find competent and satisfactory appointees for actual or possible vacancies. He is to name a successor to Mr. Laird. It will be a matter of regret if he shall be called upon to name one to Mr Towers also.

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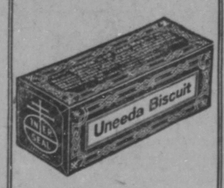

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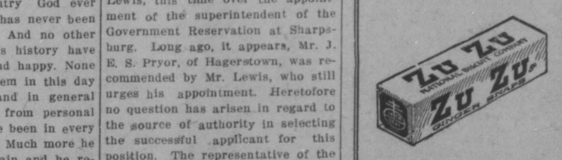

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JULY 4 MISCHIEF

The American people are not ordinarily much afraid of noise. City life, with its steam whistles and banging trolley cars, is more popular than rural scenes with their pastoral quiet.

The protest against the old Fourth doings would never have attained headway on the basis of noise alone. It was rather the lawlessness, the defiant destruction of property, the heedless injury to human life and faculties.

Cannon cracckers and dynamite caps were a skillful effort of ammunition companies to market their goods. These sold readily to young smarties who lacked brains enough to make themselves conspicuous in useful ways. The tolerant public could stand noise, but it is not sensible to pay hospital bills indefinitely.

Millions of dollars of property are burned up annually in July 4 mischief. The hoodlum element would never go out in a vacant space and have a safe bonfire. Buildings must be endangered to make it interesting. The public is learning that it settles the bills when the insurance premiums come around.

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LENGTHENING HUMAN LIFE

The present generation of young people should live 15 years longer than their parents. The latter lived 15 years longer than did their ancestors of 100 years previous.

At least, this is what Dr. V. C. Vaugh, the new president of the American Medical Association, told that body the past week at their Atlantic City convention.

The death rate was reduced in a century in London, for instance, from 50 per thousand to 24. Twice as many children live to grow up now. It was formerly quite an achievement for a young person to acquire maturity. Small pox used to kill one in ten of the population.

Still the ordinary observer of human life can hardly believe that the babies of today are going to gain any 15 years.

Diseases like cancer, brights, heart troubles, are increasing. The science of modern life saves the infants, but the pace of human life kills the old folks.

It is a good deal like a paragraph seen in some paper the other day. A young man was reported as seeking a $5 per week increase of pay and getting it. He immediately telephoned his wife that she could close the deal for another house at an increased rental of $20 a month. Added income means added outgo.

If a man through better science or physical exercise acquires increased strength, he rarely uses it in building up a reserve of resistance against troubles to come. Ordinarily he uses it in speeding up his business pace, so that he can make more money.

What is needed for a greater longevity is not so much more science, as a better spirit of philosophy. It is just as important to live within our physical means, saving up a reserve of energy against future drains, as to live within our financial means and acquire a bank balance.

Judge For Yourself.

Which is Better—Try an Experiment or Profit by a Westminster Citizen's Experience.

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