American Sentinel

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THE FREIGHT CAR TIE-UP.

One of the principal causes of existing business disturbance, is the congestion of the railroads. If the factories can't get raw material, they can't run.

The railroads need several hundred thousand new cars. But to provide these will take a year or two.

Business men are being exhorted everywhere to do their best to unload goods at the earliest possible moment. If car movement can be expedited, it has the same result as buying a lot more cars.

But what is everybody's business is nobody's business. Many people who complain bitterly at existing conditions, refuse to do their share to improve them.

Formation of committees has now been arranged for at 30 different junction points where congestion is heaviest, to work for car movement. This effort should not stop there. At every railroad yard in the country, at every side track where cars are tied up, it should be a matter of public spirit to see that congestions are cleared out.

If the railroad officials in any town don't attend to it, the Boards of Trade and other business organizations should act. Any business man responsible for holding up a freight car should be urged by his townspeople to get busy. And the business men should urge railroad officials to go the limit to break this jam. If extra help is needed, business concerns should detail some of their employes. Wonders can be accomplished by general co-operation. The business men of Westminster and Carroll county should do their best to help.

SUBSTITUTES IN PAPER MAKING.

The high prices of paper, and the scarcity of wood pulp and other materials, has set many scientists to working on the problem of substitutes. It is claimed that a satisfactory one has been developed on a small scale, in the shape of flax straw. From nine tons of this material a ton of pulp can be produced. It will not pay to haul it long distances, but portable mills for making the pulp can be set up near the crops.

It is not claimed that this flax pulp would be practical for use for the cheaper papers, so that little has been accomplished yet toward the problem of news print. Still if it proves that a new high grade pulp has been devloped, it may help the situation somewhat. Exorbitant prices tend to develop substitutes. If the owners of the existing pulp supply have exaggerated ideas of the value of their material, they are likely in the long run to injure their own business.

Meanwhile the public should realize that under any conditions, the paper supply will be very short for some years, and everyone must save what he can.

WHY GASOLINE COSTS HIGH.

The oil producers of the country have doubled their production in the last 10 years. And during the same period, the number of oil burning vehicles has increased 15 times. The motorist can thus readily see why his "gas" costs more.

All efforts to increase oil production have failed to create the supply that is needed. Wells are now drilled down to 2400 feet, or 700 feet deeper than was customary a few years ago.

It would seem as if every driver of a pleasure car should realize the necessity of cutting down his mileage and helping conserve the supply of gasoline. The enormous increase of automobiles and trucks, must inevitably make the supply of fuel oil very short.

THE MEXICAN MESS.

One of the first things done by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan when they assumed power in 1912, was to begin to meddle with the affairs of Mexico. It had always been the American policy not to interfere with South American affairs, no matter what revolutionary disturbances might arise. It was realized that meddling would arouse resentment and do no good.

Messrs. Wilson and Bryan were determined to meddle, and they set out to force President Huerta out of power, and to clear the field for revolutionary aspirants whom they preferred. Carranza could never have gained power but for their help.

This interference created intense anti-American feeling. It led to many murders of Americans and the destruction of a vast amount of property which American citizens had created in an effort to develop modern civilization. The country was kept in continual chaos and turmoil, and no advance has been made toward progress and order.

Of the two men whom the administration assisted to gain power, Carranza turned out an intense pro-German and anti-American. He did much to obstruct our action during the war. The other, "Pancho" Villa, soon proved himself a bloody ruffian, guilty of unspeakable outrages and a steady obstacle to orderly progress.

Thus the meddling officiousness of the Democratic administration has led to seven years of chaos, and destruction of life and property, until the Mexican people seem to have retrograded rather than advanced.

The principal reason for this absurd fiasco, has been that the administration took the advice of theorists, and disregarded the opinion of business men who knew the realities of the situation. It has been a story of blundering and incompetence.

"ROOMERS AND BOARDERS."

School teachers and many others complain in many places that it is impossible to find either board or rooms. Probably not so many boarding and lodging houses are kept as formerly, since so many women that used to do that kind of work have gone into factories and offices.

Many people are having an exceedingly difficult time as they tramp the streets looking just for a room and a roof over their heads, whether or not they succeed also in securing meals.

The community should feel particularly interested in its school teachers, who have fared very ill under the salary readjustments. It will help any town to keep its teachers, if the school authorities can assure them that they will find comfortable homes.

Formerly some folks thought a slight discredit attached if they had to take anyone into their homes as a paid guest. This snobbish notion is not held to-day by many. A great many families, feeling keenly the costs of living and other difficulties, have decided that the easiest way out is to share up their roof with some one else. A great many families have met the situation by doubling up.

Many of the most barbarous nations feel that the obligations of hospitality are sacred, and freely take in any guest that turns up. In civilized America too many people look almost with horror at the idea of welcoming a stranger to their firesides.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTIONS.

Probably nowhere on earth is a public gathering held that is so interesting as a national convention of one of the leading political parties of the United States. In no other gathering is so much history made in so short a time. No other assemblage is so picturesque and dramatic. Its cheering and yelling crowds, its flamboyant oratory, its intense strife of contending factions, its mysterious subterranean influences, its dramatic surprises, make up a wonderful battle of social and political forcers.

Considered as a means for getting good government, these conventions have faults. They are used too much to draw visitors in the cities where they are held. They are not convened to draw trade for hotel men and other business interests, but to make decisions of far reaching importance.

They would work under much more favorable conditions in some small hall, sufficient merely to seat delegates, alternates, and press representatives. The custom of organizing gallery demonstrations to yell by the hour for favorite candidates, is an obstacle to careful deliberation.

The fact that the supporters of one candidate can holler twice as long as those of another proves nothing. Howlers can be hired cheap. Such demonstrations are not consistent with the dignity of such a gathering and they interfere with its work.

In spite of all extravagances, these conventions assemble a body of very able men from each party. The average of brains is higher than that of Congress. The conventions thus constituted interpret fairly well the drift of American sentiment. Only a big man can expect to satisfy the requirements which they exact of a presidential candidate.

THE SPIRIT OF GOUGE

A workingman from another city was telling a few days ago of his experience in trying to get some repairs made on a cellar wall. He asked a stone mason what the job would cost. The mason estimated it at $60.00.

The man thought that was too high, and being a kind of jack at all trades, he thought he could do the job. So he bought his cement and little stone, and hired a carpenter to jack up the house. His expenses on the job were $8.75, and he did the work in eight hours, and now has a good cellar wall.

He saved a profit of about $40.00 on the job, which may suggest how other people can escape exaction.

SELF HELP

Public indignation against high prices may have gone to lengths of hysteria, as some people believe. But it does act as a sharp warning to profiteering concerns to stop, look and listen.

Three quarters of the American people on a pinch could wear their clothes twice as long as they do. If the manufacturers and wholesalers of clothing continue charging exorbitant prices, they will drive people into these habits of extreme economy, which will do a great deal of injury to the clothing trade.

Similarly when the building trades charge unreasonable figures for repair and construction work, it leads a great body of people to do their own work. Millions of people to-day, driven to desperation by high prices, are painting their own floors, hanging wall paper, and doing jobs which formerly they hired done. In the long run people who charge high prices hurt their own trade, and drive the public to dispense with their service.

Fickle weather, Dr. Fahrney's Teething Syrup is always dependable. Doctors prescribe it. Write for free sample.

UNCLE TED'S BED-TIME STORIES

Wilson and Armenia—Who Will Do The Fighting?

"Everybody knows the world Club is dead except President Wilson", was Uncle Ted's comment as he sat reading the evening paper. He seemed to be talking more to himself than to anyone else.

"What do you mean by that?" spoke up Jack who was playing with a puzzle on the library table.

"Hello, Jack. I didn't know you were in the room. Guess I was talking to myself. I was just reading about some of the results of President Wilson's request to Congress to give him power to accept what is called a mandate for Armenia. That is, he wants Congress to give him the right to tell Armenia that the United States will look after that country."

"Has Congress given him the right?" asked Jack.

"Not yet, Jack, and I don't believe they will. To get back to the beginning, some time ago the Allies asked Mr. Wilson to decide the question of the boundaries between Armenia and Turkey. He has accepted that invitation and by accepting it I think he has done something unwise. In the first place the people of the United States didn't elect Woodrow Wilson President so that he could fix the land lines of Armenia or decide how many horses the Arabs of the desert should own. There may not be anything in the Constitution to keep the President from saying where Armenia shall stop and Turkey begin, but I do know that it should be made very plain that in fixing these boundaries President Wilson is acting as Woodrow Wilson, private citizen, and not as President of the United States."

"Why do you say that?" asked Ruth who had been listening intently.

"Because Ruth, later on it might mean getting the United States into a lot of trouble. It is getting back to he old World Club plan again. Suppose after Mr. Wilson decides what these boundaries shall be, Turkey or Armenia, either one, decide that boundaries are not fair. Turkey might say, 'You, chopped off to much of my land,' and Armenia might say, 'We didn't get enough land.' then what would happen? If it was understood or even thought by these countries that the boundaries were made by Mr. Wilson as President of the United States the young men of this country might have to risk their lives fighting in the mountains of Armenia about something which is none of our business. In other words, if after these boundaries are fixed by Mr. Wilson and there is any fighting to be done those who asked him to fix the boundaries should also ask him to do the fighting and not expect the young men of the United States to do it.

"Now to get back to the request of the President that Congress give him the power to accept a mandate for Armenia. When the President's message arrived in Congress asking for this power it was received with a great amount of surprise. Even the Democrats in Congress admit that the Senate will never permit the United States to become the mandatory for Armenia. America has troubles enough of her own at this time without going to Armenia looking for more."

"If Congress gave the President power to accept what you call a mandate for Armenia, would that have anything to do with the World Club plan?" asked Jack.

"Yes, Jack, it would. To accept this mandate would mean that the United States recognizes the authority of the world club plan. This is because the United States would have to make a report each year to the world club about the mandate, and it would place the United States under the direction of the world club. So you see, children, if the Senate should give this power, it would at the same time accept America's loyalty to the world club, and most of the members of the Senate, as you know, are opposed to the plan of the world club of which I have told you so much.

"There would be no end to what this country would have to do under this mandate. General Harbord, who headed a commission to decide how many troops would have to be used under such arrangements, says that the number of American troops needed would be from 25,000 to 200,000. Personally he thinks about 59,000 troops would be needed at a cost to the American people of $85,000,000 for the FIRST YEAR ALONE. If 200,000 troops were used the cost for the first year would be about $300,000,000 or about 1,500,000,000 after the first five years. Certainly we should not send American troops to Armenia to be killed for something that does not concern us. And besides that the citizens of the United States, your father, Johnny Jone's father, and all the rest of us who pay taxes, have enough to pay now without paying more to keep soldiers in Armenia, simply because Woodrow Wilson thinks it would be a nice thing to do.

"Although I do not think Congress will give the President this authority, I thought you children ought to know what it would mean and just what Mr. Wilson is asking. I agree with Senator McCormick, of Illinois, who said after the President's message was read: 'They appeal to us in order that we may supply the millions and economic strength not only to defend our part, but to guarantee what Great Britain and France have taken. Congress will never authorize the sending of American troops abroad for the defense of Armenia.

"Woodrow Wilson is still wandering around in the skies and does not seem to care how we spend our money, or where we send our soldiers, just so long as he can get this country to forget all the teachings of the fathers and mix into the affairs of every little country, in every part of the world. He apparently gives little thought to the hundreds of important problems which we have right here in our own country."

Wrapped Fence Wire, Straight Wire and Barbed Wire.

We have just received a shipment of Wrapped POULTRY, field and HOG FENCE, also No. 9 Galvanized Straight Wire, and Four Point Galvanized Cattle Barbed Wire.

As you know the community has practically been bare of these goods all Spring; so if you have use for any of this Wire now or in the future, do not put off buying it until you are ready to use it for in a very short time our stock will be exhausted.

Even though you are busy now and have no time to put up your fence come in now and buy it so you will be sure to have it when you are ready for it. The steel situation is bad and there is no relief in sight for some time to come. Don't put it off until tomorrow-do it today-tomorrow may be too late.

D. S. Gehr, Established 1866

The Hardware Man on the corner, Westminster, Md.

5-28-tf.

Notice to Farmers

We will close our GRAIN ELEVATOR on JUNE 10th, in order to make necessary repairs.

We will not receive any wheat after JUNE 10th, until further notice.

Englar & Sponseller.

5-28-2t.

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5-28-4t.

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