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FOLLOWERS OF VILLA'S ARMY.

During Villa's campaign in Northern Mexico the customary scene as shown in photo is frequently enacted. The women and children of Villa's soldiers follow the troops and camp within sight of the battles.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

House of Representative, Washington, D. C., Dec. 2, 1915.
Colonel Robert M. Thompson,
President, Navy League,
Washington, D. C.

I assume from your letter of the 20th ult., and from your various utterances as President of the Navy League, that the impression you desire to create in the minds of the American people is that none of the men who founded, or who have been, or are now, directors of or contributors to the Navy League, have ever been, or are now, in any manner interested in any concern which would profit financially from the \$500,000 bond issue for battleships, etc., which you are advocating.

I understand your position to be that none of the money which the Navy League has used to banquet Members of Congress and Secretaries of the Navy or to carry on the propaganda for the vastly increased naval appropriations which you advocate, has come from any gentleman who stood to profit therefrom. I contend that the opposite is true.

In your letter you request that I give you some specific information. I call your attention to the fact that Elbert H. Gary, who is described in the Directory of Directors for 1914 as "Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the United States Steel Corporation," contributed \$1,000 on June 10, 1915, and that on the same date representatives of the J. P. Morgan estate subscribed \$2,000.

I call your attention to the fact that J. P. Morgan, who is a director of the United States Steel Corporation, was formerly treasurer of the Navy League and is now a director of and a contributor to the Navy League and that J. P. Morgan's brother-in-law, Herbert L. Satterlee, was one of the incorporators of the League, and is at the present time the General Counsel of the League. I also note that Edward T. Stotesbury, a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and a director of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Cambria Steel Co., Phoenix Iron Co., Riverside Metal Co., Temple Iron Co., Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship and Engine Building Co., and fifty-four other corporations, banks and trust companies, is one of the honorary vice-presidents of the Navy League.

I also call your attention to the fact that George F. Baker, Jr., No. 2, Wall Street, New York, son of a director of United States Steel, contributed \$1,000 to the Navy League, June 10, 1915.

I call your attention to the fact that Robert Bacon, formerly a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and now first director of United States Steel, is a director of the Navy League.

I call your attention to the fact that Henry C. Frick, a director of United States Steel, and ten other corporations, banks and trust companies, is one of the vice-presidents of the Navy League.

United States Steel controls the Carnegie Steel Company, which has drawn down from the Navy contracts aggregating \$32,954,377 for armor plate alone, and if the Navy League's \$500,000,000 bond issue goes through Congress this firm will profit still further.

I call your attention to the fact that Allan A. Ryan, a director of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, contributed \$100 to the Navy League on June 10, 1915, and to the further fact that George R. Sheldon, a director of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, and the American Locomotive Co., both of which concerns have profited hugely from European war orders, is one of the vice-presidents of the Navy League. Mr. Sheldon is also a director of twenty-four other corporations.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation has obtained from the Navy Department armor contracts amounting to \$42,321,237, and if the Navy League's program goes through, Bethlehem stands to receive increased orders.

From the foregoing, it would appear that two of the three concerns composing the armor ring in this country have representation either among the contributors to the Navy League or among the officers or directors of the Navy League.

The Government has purchased from these two concerns, Bethlehem and Carnegie, \$75,275,614 worth of armor plate, paying an average price of approximately \$440 a ton therefor.

If this armor plate had been manufactured in a government armor plate factory, which the Navy League has cold-shouldered, at least \$25,000,000 could have been saved to the American taxpayers. There have been ten estimates by Government officials as to the cost of armor in a Government plant and the average of these estimates is \$238 a ton. By contrasting \$440, the price we have paid the private manufacturers, with \$238, the cost at which we might have manufactured this armor in a Government plant, it is possible to obtain an inkling as to the reason we do not now have more preparedness to show for the colossal appropriations made for that purpose.

I note there are thirty-one directors of the Navy League. The personal fortunes of those thirty-one men, by most conservative estimate, aggregate \$100,000,000, or \$3,000,000 to each director. I contend that any board of directors whose individual fortunes average \$3,000,000 can hardly be considered as representatives of the views, feelings and heartbeats of the great mass of the American people.

On November 19th I publicly stated that inasmuch as the Navy League insisted that its management and backers are entirely free from any atmosphere of war-trafficking influences, I would, as soon as Congress convened, introduce a resolution providing for an investigation of the League, specifically requiring J. P. Morgan and other directors of the League, past and present, to take the responsibility of testifying, under oath, whether they are interested or ever have been, in war-trafficking firms, or concerns which stand to profit from the proposed \$500,000,000 bond issue.

On November 21st I received a letter from you threatening a suit. I consider your letter nothing more nor less than an attempt to intimidate me into abandoning my plans to seek a Congressional investigation of your organization. When I am right, the Navy League can not intimidate me.

I now desire, in all good faith, to take the responsibility of making a suggestion to the Navy League. I suggest that you call a meeting of the Board of Directors and go on record in favor of the Government manufacture of battleships, submarines, armament, munitions, etc., in order that the people may obtain the preparedness which you are advocating at cost. I recommend that you either do this or fold your tent and quietly take your departure from the National Capital.

Very respectfully,

CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

WHAT IS WRONG IN MEXICO?

The Newark News speaking editorially regarding the situation in Mexico said:

"The root of the Mexican question is land. Out of it rises all other questions, including international diplomacy. The land is held by a small wealthy class and the vast foreign concessionaries. The peon can not get it. Mexico has but a very small middle class. That forms the nucleus of the revolution. Its object is land. The landlords and concessionaries form the Huerta government. Its object is to hold the land they have."

"Nothing we can do, or nothing any other outsider can do will solve this question. The Mexicans must solve it themselves. Either the peons will get land or they will get so thoroughly thrashed that they will not try to get it."

"The problem will remain, and Mexico alone can solve it. It is land, and land is the wealth of Mexico."

"Men like Benton represent in person and property precisely the cause of the Mexican upheaval. They typify the oppressors. Under the conditions as existing they must conduct themselves with extreme discretion. Revolutions are not child's play, the uprising of a people held down is a scant respecter of legal claims and legal titles, and it need not be expected to be otherwise. There are appeals to that right that lie behind legal rights, efforts to adjust that which the forms of law have failed to do."

"Until the legal ways are open by which the great mass of the Mexican people can own a share in Mexican property and wealth, it will be idle to expect of them the stability that comes from having a stake to lose. They will be like propertyless and landless revolutionists any place else."

The New York World, also speaking editorially, says:

"There will be no permanent peace in Mexico until the peon is on land that belongs to the peon and is protected in his ownership."

"The Mexican problem is an agrarian problem. The great mass of people are living under feudalism. They own nothing, a few men own everything. There are great estates in which practically all the land is in the hands of a dozen proprietors, and the peasant population lives in semi-slavery."

"Mexican dictators have been generous with foreign concessionaries. They have sold mines and oil rights and franchises with little restraint. There are million-acre estates in Mexico for which American and other foreign proprietors paid less than ten cents an acre; but there is nothing for the peon. He is systematically robbed of the fruits of his labor, and only his rags can he call his own."

"What is going on in Mexico is a revolution of the common people against despotic privilege. When President Wilson refused to recognize Huerta he stood with the common people against their oppressor. In helping to bring about a mediation that will restore peace and establish a really representative Government that will do justice to the peon, the President is still standing with the common people. That is where the United States always belongs, and it will be a sorry day for this country when its Government deliberately takes the other side in such a quarrel."

FIVE-DAY WEEK FOR WINTER.

Five days a week during the winter season is the new rule announced by the Varnishers' and Polishers' Union, of San Francisco, which is attempting to equalize work. The working under the same rule. Painters' unions of that city are

SEALS PREVENT TUBERCULOSIS SPREAD

A true story from an Indiana City shows how Red Cross Christmas Seals might help right here in this community.

John Allison was fairly prosperous. He held a good position in the mills. Two years ago he married a girl of his choice, and they were happy. Ten months after he was married John paid the last installment on his home, a cozy six room bungalow.

Every night—and the habit seemed to stick even after months of married life—Mrs. Allison met John with a kiss and a hug and a happy smile as he returned from work. About a year ago little Dorothy joined the family group. The atmosphere in this little home was delightfully harmonious. A nest egg for the "rainy" day began to assume comfortable proportions.

"I am worried about Jim Cole," said John one evening as he smoked his pipe, while his wife cleared up the kitchen. "He coughs, and I can tell he is getting weak, because he goes off in a corner and sits down to rest every hour or two."

A few nights later John brought home the news that Jim was sick at home. Then he began to spend many of his evenings at the bedside of his pal. In the course of time Jim died. The doctor, called in too late, pronounced the disease tuberculosis.

It wasn't many months until John, too, began to cough, and he smiled with more and more of an effort as he sank down into an easy chair to rest when he reached home from work. A romp with baby Dorothy soon tired him out. Suddenly it dawned upon him that he was "going" the same way Jim did.

The doctor looked grave when at last he went to the family physician with his trouble. "You must give up your work at once," he said. "Even then, and if you let me do everything I can for you, the chance for your recovery is mighty slim." To shorten a long story, John had waited too long. His little nest egg dwindled away. A month ago his heartbroken widow hid her face in little Dorothy's curls as the clouds began to fall on the earthly remains of her husband. She was poorly fitted for life's work. Little Dorothy is now being supported through public funds, while her mother washes other people's linen and scrubs other people's floors. In time she, too, will undoubtedly become a public charge.

In "getting" tuberculosis from Jim, who had got it from somebody else, John was changed from a producing member of society, a high class citizen, to a liability. Interest on the liability will be paid for years to come. And who can estimate in dollars and cents the value of that happy home broken up prematurely by this most terrible and relentless of all preventable diseases—tuberculosis?

How many Jims and Johns are there in our community? Every Red Cross seal you buy helps to educate your friends and neighbors to prevent tuberculosis, provides relief and help for those who suffer and secures adequate provision for the control of the spread of the disease from the sick to the well. Buy Red Cross seals for your own sake and for your community's sake.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Plumbers at Macon, Ga., have raised wages to \$5 for an eight-hour day without suspending work.

Retail clerks, chauffeurs and laundry workers are discussing organization and it is believed locals in these callings will be formed in the near future.

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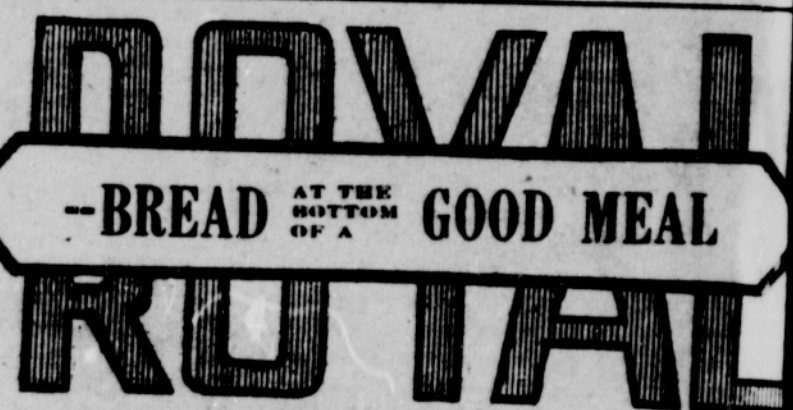
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