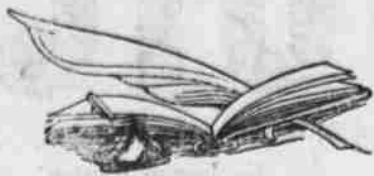


EDITORIAL



FIGHTING THE RAILROADS

C C. CHAPMAN, of the Oregon Voter, objects to the eternal and vicious warfare on the Railroads and large investors generally, and in the main we think Mr. Chapman is right. Management bureaus governing the country from Washington are not ideal and sometime will be changed. Yielding to popular clamor in making laws against capital or against centralization of capital is fully as reprehensible.

We cannot develop this country without vast sums of money and that money should be permitted to earn more than a mere legal interest; some allowance should be allowed for depreciation and risk.

It does seem hard to advocate by taxation the construction of hard surface roads to convey freight across a railroad to the Columbia river in a farming community where the railroad must pay at least forty per cent of the taxes. It is apparently unkind to tax the roads for construction of docks and elevators whereby their strongest competitor is benefitted. It is burdensome for the jitney to compete with the city road without paying something toward the upkeep of the streets.

This has been and should be a country of individual effort, but it has been practically demonstrated that to continue as we were headed 35 or 40 years ago would have made veritable slaves of 90 per cent of the people of the United States. The creation of our corporation law, which has made our tremendous development possible, without some kind of check, some strong restraint, would have become a genuine Frankenstein.

Casting about for some method of restraint our commission scheme was hit upon, and now the eternal cupidity of man, his veritable passion for power bids fair to overwhelm the country with a protection far more irritable and fully as expensive as that of the greedy monopolists of the past decades.

The destruction of the saloon has been brought about through the abuse of their privileges by the whiskey and beer producers through their unprincipled greed. It is precisely the same unprincipled greed and disregard for every decent principle of manhood in business which has turned the country against the railroads. They were the autocratic rulers of the country more powerful and more relentless than the Czar of Russia. They destroyed towns and built rivals. They robbed the bondbuyer and the public. The history of the transcontinentals—Central Pacific, Union Pacific, Northern Pacific, Atchison, rightly portrayed would make Capt. Kidd and all his ilk ashamed of themselves. With all the power of the commissions they have not entirely quit.

Through the tremendous flood of water poured into their securities by the past generation the present generation is made to suffer. Added to all this is the physical valuation farce going on now which will cost almost as much as one of the transcontinentals before it is finished and will fail to squeeze out the aqua pura.

Thus it is that the people are still carrying on the fight against the roads by endeavoring to reduce the freight rates by increasing transportation facilities. The people know that they are paying too much for carrying their goods to market. The creators of the vast load of interest bearing securities have passed to their reckoning but the present generation is struggling blindly with the oppressive burden, endeavoring to cast off the Sinbad of debt placed there, perhaps by their own forefathers.

The real question is the justice in the endeavor now to squeeze out water poured into their securities 20 and 30 years since. "It is a condition and not a theory which confronts us." Someone must be hurt if it is continued. In that hurt we must all suffer. Is it worth while?

And lastly how are we going to get rid of the centralized government being rapidly built up in Washington. Every tendency is toward it regardless of politics. The final consummation will be a "man on horseback" who will of course be unhorsed, but at what fearful cost.

"THINK IT OVER"

THE OREGON VOTER, under the above caption, enters into the rate matter as between Astoria and Portland as well as Seattle and San Francisco. The recent rate decision equalizing Seattle, Astoria and Portland seems objectionable to Portland and is, perhaps, a knock out blow for water shipments from that city. Well, why not?

Is Portland a seaport? If so why should it receive a lower rate on grain shipments than either Seattle or Astoria? We remember early contentions between Portland and Seattle, with Seattle always a little ahead. That town is

about the same distance from deep sea sailing as Portland, but that does not make Portland an equal as to harbor facilities and depth of water. It is useless for any community to strive against geography or against natural barriers.

The contention that river improvement has not helped Portland seems not to be well taken. Columbia improvement has done more to bring people into Eastern Oregon and Washington than any other one thing. Lowering freight rates through canalization of the Columbia has made possible the continuance of grain raising and the prosperity of grain raising communities all tributary to Portland.

Portland capitalists were hurt through the failure of the old Oregon and Transcontinental and the Villard interests generally, but take away the present O. W. R. N. and where would Portland stand?

Interior development is what Portland needs and it is well for her to set up and take notice. If the Hill interests build from Eastern Oregon to San Francisco before the connection is made to Portland she may well bid good bye to Eastern Oregon trade which is hers for the taking.

Attention to Eastern Oregon has been grudging or nil. They helped the development of Central Oregon through construction of the Tumalo project by the State and because that work was ill advised and practically a failure they have practically refused assistance to Eastern Oregon.

We have been unable to induce investigation of our nitrate deposits and are at least a year behind where we might have been had attention been paid to our frequent attempts to induce examination. Eastern capital has been obtained in some instances and their work indicates a natural disposition to favor the community which favors them and one of the companies makes its headquarters in Idaho.

If vicious attacks on railroads and industrial corporations continue, backed up by complete indifference of Portland capital, Oregon and Oregon's metropolis will wait sometime for prosperity.

Portland is advising subsidies for steamships to carry freight. They also advocate taxation for the same purpose. Money put into development of the interior of the state will of itself induce investment in freight carriers and if such cannot be brought to Portland without taxation or subsidy it is unworthy of consideration. If Portland capital will not invest they will have some difficulty in getting the poorer taxpayer to help them out.

The real situation which will develop later is that Portland must forget that she once claimed to be a great seaport and bend her energies to building up an interior which will be hers for trade and exploitation. If she fails to heed the "tinkling of the camel's bell" the awakening will be rude and the result ruin.

A world is hers, at her command, but once headed in another direction, the last sheep will jump the bridge rather than turn back.

RURAL CREDIT BILL

THE FARMER must think by this time that he must be in an awful condition, as every political booster in the country is making endeavors to save him from one evil or another.

The Republicans wish to save him with a tariff and the Democrats propose to finish his prosperous ascent with rural credit and market bureaus. The Oregon saviours from economical evils and wordy producers of freak laws propose to confiscate his property through a single tax scheme and thereby relieve us all from any necessity of thinking, but compelling us all to go bareheaded to work in a garden belonging to the state. Meanwhile another contingent of wise law makers—wise from the standpoint of one who prefers to get a blacksmith rather than a lawyer to revise a law—whose politics, if they have any is unknown to us, propose to save him with a rural credit bill whereby the farmer is to bond himself for money to lend himself.

The Government, having passed a rural credit bill which requires the state to take some action before its privileges are offered the citizens of that state, our Oregon freebooters in the forest of law making, rush into a scheme of their own and endeavor to allure the people of the state to create more indebtedness on the ground that it will help the farmer.

The proposed law has no negative argument in the state pamphlet but the affirmative argument is negative enough and ought to condemn it without further words.

As an organization of real and painstaking knockers these same promulgators of affirmative arguments should receive the laurel crown: "We have been enticing people into the state who find they cannot make wages on the farms in which they have sunk their savings," etc. etc. Poor old Oregon land is no good—must confiscate it with single tax and give it back to the coyote and rabbits—everybody but these same single taxers and rural credit schemers are thieves—capital must be driven from the state through one or another freak law, and last, farmers must be made prosperous through the issuance of state bonds for the purpose of lending money to themselves. "Lord save us from our friends."

Woodrow Wilson League

OF VALE, OREGON

B. F. FARMER, President WALTER POWERS, Secretary-Treas.
MRS. I. BLAYNEY, Vice President

The space below has been purchased by the Woodrow Wilson League of Vale, and all matters appearing therein are under their direction and upon their responsibility.

WHAT WILSON HAS DONE

The record of President Wilson's administration may be summarized as follows:

- 1—The federal reserve banking law, which takes from Wall Street the power to control the money volume and makes money panics impossible.
- 2—Law revising the tariff downward—taking the duty off of the necessities and placing it on the luxuries of life.
- 3—Election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.
- 4—Income tax law—which lifts the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the masses and places it on those better able to bear it, the rich.
- 5—The law extending parcels post—increasing weight limits—reducing postal charges.
- 6—The law creating a federal labor employment bureau.
- 7—The law creating a secretary of labor in the president's cabinet.
- 8—Rural credits law—giving financial freedom, long delayed justice, long time loans, low interest, to the farmers.
- 9—Federal trades commission law—aiding and protecting honest business, curbing lawless trusts.
- 10—Seamen's law—humanizing labor conditions on shipboard and lessening the dangers of ocean travel.
- 11—Clayton amendment to anti-trust law—preventing control of big corporations by few men, declaring that "labor is not a commodity."
- 12—Alaska railway law—opening America's storehouse to the people.
- 13—Eight-hour labor law on all government work.
- 14—Law providing government insurance on ship cargoes.
- 15—He furnished government money to aid in moving farmers' crops to market when Wall Street was holding money for speculative purposes.
- 16—He averted a threatened panic at outbreak of the war by offering to use government money to relieve the business situation.
- 17—He perfected 29 peace treaties with other nations, thereby greatly lessening the danger of war.

He is now urging congress to pass the following laws:

- 1—A tariff commission law, taking the tariff out of politics, politics out of the tariff and regulating it on scientific business principles.
 - 2—Inheritance tax law.
 - 3—A law taxing munitions of war.
 - 4—Child labor law.
 - 5—A merchant marine shipping law curbing and controlling the greatest of all trusts, the shipping trust.
- He has kept us out of war, maintained a strict neutrality, strengthened and extended the Monroe doctrine to South American countries. He has refused to be forced into a war of revenge or conquest with Mexico, has extended the hand of friendship rather than the mailed fist. More progressive legislation has been enacted during the Wilson administration than in the previous 40 years, vitally affecting the people's welfare.

The "empty dinner pail" slogan is notably absent, much to the discomfiture of the Republican spellbinders.

Candidates Hughes' speeches will be his own undoing before the campaign is over. In his frenzied ambition he is not reckoning with the good sense of the American people and presumes on their ignorance. His party managers may yet have to call him down.

WHO OWNS MEXICO?

The people of the United States do not want war with Mexico. The Mexican people do not want war with us. And both President Wilson and Carranza have manifestly done everything in their power to avert war.

What is it, then, that menaces the peace of these neighboring countries?

It dates far back of the Columbus raid. That outrage upon the residents of one of our border towns was the logical outcome of conditions for which the Mexican people were in no wise responsible. Worse than that! The Mexican people were really innocent victims of traitors in our midst. For it is charged upon the highest authority that the raid was inspired and arranged for in our own country!

Do you get the full meaning of that statement? Benedict Arnold was not more guilty of treason.

The secret service of this government has a long arm and a strong arm. The net may yet be drawn on the "higher-up." It is fair to assume that President Wilson did not disclose all of the facts in his possession when he declared officially a few days after the raid that: "There were persons along the border actively engaged in creating friction between the governments of the United States and the de facto government of Mexico for the purpose of bringing about intervention in the interest of certain owners of Mexican properties."

There you have it! The gentlemen who want war with Mexico are the gentlemen who "have Mexican properties." They are a very powerful lot.

They prate about "patriotism." They clamor for preparedness. They have tried to plunge the country into a hysteria of fear that we are going to be thrown into war with Germany or England or Japan.

These American "investors" in Mexico—millionaires—are using every instrument they can control—their money, their newspapers, their magazines, their political influence, all their "dark and devious ways,"—to bring about "intervention." Intervention means war. War means blood, and killing, and bereaved families, and unmentionable horrors. And all for what? Profiteer Privilege Profiteer! Who owns Mexico? Really owns it?

In the ownership of Mexico we find the real menace to the peace between Mexico and the United States. American capitalists are desperately attempting to have the flag follow their investments.

They who own Mexico are the ones who want war.

Shall these powerful interests be permitted to succeed in their plot?

ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE.

AN ILLOGICAL CANDIDATE

Mr. Hughes is thus left in the position of a candidate with nothing to offer save quarrelsome criticism of acts which have been performed, under the most trying circumstances, to the satisfaction of the great majority of voting and thinking citizens of the United States.

He is therefore a candidate who can offer no logical reason why he should be elected.—Harrisburg Patriot.

THE GRADUAL PROCESS

Here is the way Col. Henry Waterson sizes up the situation in the Louisville "Courier-Journal":

Charles E. Hughes was strongest as an aspirant for the presidency immediately after his nomination. He was weaker yesterday morning than he was on the day he was nominated. He is weaker this morning than he was yesterday morning.

LEFT IN THE DARK

We know what Mr. Wilson is, and what he probably would be in a second term. At least, he has been through the fire. What Mr. Hughes would be and what policies, both in foreign and domestic affairs, he would most actively and forcefully promote—as to all this which is vital, his speech leaves us more in the dark than in the light—Springfield (Mass) Republican.

MUST COME CLEARER

He has been a statesman. He may become a statesman again. But for the present he is a politician engaged in the politician's business of case-making. He is tearing down without building up, and until he reveals a capacity for building up, the man whose vote is controlled by his intelligence and not by partisan prejudice will subject his public utterances, including his speech of acceptance, to considerable discount.—Brooklyn Eagle (Ind).

PITIFUL

Mr. Hughes' address is a little short of pitiful. How much more inspiring his utterances would have been if he had outlined a constructive programme and offered a remedy for what he considers the dangerous policies of President Wilson. As it is his speech is base political stuff which will appeal only to the deep-eyed partisans of the republican party.—Springfield State Register.

Unable to make any headway with their slogan "Anything to Beat Wilson," the Republicans have changed it to "Blame everything on Wilson."

Mr. Hanley is another of the strong Progressives whose principles lie deeper than party expediency, and who refuse to be delivered by George Perkins to Mr. Hughes.

Wilson has opened the way for the business man to prosper. He is prospering. Under Wilson he will continue to prosper.

The people of the United States do not wish a war of conquest in Mexico. If Wilson is President their wishes will be respected.

THE OLD ADAGE FITS

Mr. Hughes is lawyer enough to know the old adage, "When you have a poor case, abuse the other side." He has not hesitated to adopt it. He tries to tear down, but he has no suggestion for building up.

It is but just to say that the candidate has made an earnest and studious essay at a hard task. But it is no trumpet call, there is in it not a motive nor a phrase nor a note to arouse the already rather dispirited republicans to ardor and the flame of enthusiasm. It is "hard" reading—and by all the millions of voters, save the few thousands in Carnegie Hall last night, it must be read or not known at all.—Boston Post.

The road to recovery is not always smooth.

NOTE THE DIFFERENCE



Between a "tried-out" suit that is shapeless and be-dragged, and the same suit after it has passed through our hands and received the new look which we impart to it. Shapelessness and neatness take the place of the "must" looking clothes they were when they came to us. And the change is not only effected quickly, but economically.

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WILL JAMIESON.

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\$25.00 reward will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone taking poles or wire from any of our lines. Malheur Home Telephone Company Vale and Ironside Telephone Co.

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