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THE BAR SINISTER.

One result of the war in Europe, in all probability, will be to remove the world-wide stain from the innocent illegitimate child who is now made to suffer by the canons of society, and this will come about not altogether because there is a serious change of opinion, one way or the other, on the part of the people, but rather because the problem has become so great that it can be met in no other way. The number of illegitimate children is now said to be enormous, by comparison with other years. In the days of the reconstruction, when the demand for lives to fill the gaps is so strong, it is not conceivable that people will insist, as they often do now, that each child shall produce the marriage certificate of his parents. The new child will be accepted for what he is, and will be on the same plane with all other children. In this way war, which belongs to barbarism, will do a real service in wiping out one of the relics of barbarism, for whatever may be said of the condemnation of parents who sin, there can be no justification for the odium that in many times and places has attached to the innocent one in the transaction.

It is a startling fact, however, as asserted a few days ago at a conference of the Women's Legislative Congress of Illinois, held in Chicago, that 3000 illegitimate children are born every year in that city alone—a condition that does not have the war in Europe as a possible excuse—and that other large cities of the United States are far from guiltless, as shown by the vital statistics. It is also worthy of note that strong influences are already being brought to bear in America to revise the statutes on the whole subject, with a view of giving the illegitimate child all of the rights that morally belong to him. These are now limited in many states. His right even to a name in many cases still is restricted as it was under the common law of England, "until he has acquired one by reputation," while in others his right to support from either of his parents beyond a relatively tender age has been left vague. It is quite certain that conditions such as these in the United States will be corrected as one of the results of the change in the public attitude in the countries across the sea.

That the bar sinister has not always been a handicap is shown by many examples in history, of which a few will suffice for the point. The most famous of all the illegitimate sons of a thousand years ago was William the Conqueror, son of a Duke of Normandy, whose mother was a tanner's daughter. His life showed that he wasted no time repining over his unhappy lot. Indeed, it is said he gloried in it. John of Austria, whose father was Charles V, but whose mother was the daughter of a plain citizen, was another. It was he who defeated the Turks in the famous sea battle of Lepanto, and whose ambition to rescue Mary, Queen of Scots, and make himself King of the island of Britain was a picturesque event in early history. John the Great of Portugal, who inaugurated the heroic age for his country, was still another. Jean Dunois made a great military mark in the world despite the so-called drawback of illegitimacy. Alexander Dumas is a conspicuous example in the literary world, being the son of a French General and a Haitien negress who had not bothered themselves about the formality of a marriage ceremony. Leonardo da Vinci's conspicuous genius as a sculptor was not the less recognized because of the bar sinister on his escutcheon. These instances show that the exceptional man is not held back by such a misfortune of his birth, but they are not an argument against a reform in the direction of simple justice in modern times.

Civilized society is sometimes slow in its reforms, as a result of the innate conservatism that characterizes in particular the peoples of the so-called Anglo-Saxon stock. The Roman law was as a matter of fact in advance of the English common law for some centuries, and it is the basis of some of the laws in states in the United States today. The common law gave the illegitimate no right of inheritance, but on the other hand his own heirs at law could only be those who were directly descended from him. Having no father, he could have no brothers or sisters, in the view of those times. This is modified by local statutes in our own country, so that the right to inherit from the mother is sometimes recognized, and the mother, to make things even, is permitted to inherit from her illegitimate child as next of kin. It has taken some hundreds of years to bring even these moderate changes about. Originally, support of the child devolved in the first instance upon the mother, but there grew out of the public necessities of the situation provision for compelling the father, if he were known, to contribute various amounts for varying periods of time, according to the views of the local legislators as to about how much relief the community ought to have under the poor laws. It is a curious fact that does not reflect much credit on our ancestors, that statutes to this effect grew out of the theory, not that the child was entitled to the support of the father, but that the taxpayers ought to be relieved of the burden.

There is undoubtedly developing, as has been said, a changing sentiment toward the illegitimate child. It will do well if it results in the liberalizing of laws on the subject, and better yet if it goes further and removes the last vestige of taint—toward the child—existing in the public mind. As to the standing of the parents under the new dispensation, it would take a daring prophet even to attempt to make a forecast. It may be that we are tending toward the "single standard," which would be morally ideal, and it may be that once more we are acting only under the pressure of necessity. It is not for us as a people to take too much credit for high motives. The records have an uncomfortable way of rising to confound our claims.

SALEM.

The indurated calm of the solemn city of Salem, Mass., has been sadly shaken by a barbarian proposal from the capital city of Oregon that it change its name. To be specific, the iconoclastic manager of the Salem (Or.) Commercial Club has ventured to suggest to the venerable fathers of the Massachusetts Salem that it adopt some other title, owing to the general confusion by the public as to the exact locale of the two Salems.

The irreverent suggestion has created consternation, not to say horror, in Massachusetts. Evidently the uncouth West is laboring under a strange misunderstanding, for is not Massachusetts the exclusive habitat of the one and original Salem? It is, in the aristocratic judgment of ancient Salem, the "venerable mother" of all the Salems. Indeed, the Eastern Mayor claims that proud distinction, saying also, in his freezingly polite letter of refusal, that "all are named for this famous historical city of Massachusetts."

Now let us see about that. The heroic pioneers who came the plains across seventy or eighty years ago brought their Bibles with them, and read them, to good purpose. They found a fine site for a future metropolis on the banks of the Willamette, sixty miles from the river's mouth, and they sought to give it a fitting name. They found in the Seventy-sixth Psalm this passage:

> In Judah is God known; his name is great in Israel.
>
> In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion.

It is impossible now to identify with certainty the seat of the original Salem; but it is known that it had a king, and his name was Melchizedek. It is quite clear, however, that the biblical Salem was not in Massachusetts.

Yet the first American Salem has a fame peculiarly its own. There, in Puritan times, nineteen women were hanged as witches. The odium of that mighty atrocity has never been quite lifted from Salem. After all, there are reasons why the request from the Oregon Salem to the Massachusetts Salem should have been given consideration.

MEXICO'S NEED.

That one of the chief causes of Mexico's present plight is the utter absence of an educated "middle class" to lead the peons in their fight against their real oppressors is pointed out by Dr. Charles William Dabney, president of the University of Cincinnati, who is chairman of a committee of twelve American educators who have recently made a study of the needs of that unhappy country. The people of Mexico think their chief need is liberty, when as a matter of fact it is, first of all, education. The trouble is that when, as the result of some local uprising, extension of liberty does come for a time to a few, they do not know how to use it. They mistake it for license and by their excesses do the cause of enduring liberty real harm.

Dr. Dabney points out with truth that the only basis that there can be for democratic government is an intelligent, organized public opinion. This does not exist in Mexico. Under the conditions that have prevailed for many years, the only leaders have been the "feudal lords" and the only political issues have been personal ones—the fights being waged between the followers of this individual or that, and not between the champions of one principle or another. Instead of campaigns intended to educate the voters, as we have them in the United States, there are in Mexico processions and rallies and demonstrations intended to impress the "common people" by their glitter and pomp. The appeal of the Mexican politician is not to the sense, but to the senses, which is a far different thing.

American educators take a rather hopeful view of the future of the ultimate capacity of the Mexican people for government. They note that in the course of wide inquiry into the character of these people, the only pessimists found were among the business and professional men of the border states. This is accounted for by the fact that they have come in contact chiefly with the worst types of Mexicans—the poor laborer, the border trader or smuggler and the cattle thief and bandit. The common Mexican in his normal surroundings is pictured as a far different being from any of these. It is not contended that he has at present much comprehension of the duties of the citizen of a free republic, but it is believed that there is hope for him under wise leadership, accompanied by education that will teach him eventually to discriminate between leaders and to decide between issues affecting the welfare of his country.

As has been pointed out before in discussion of the specific requirements of an educational system in any country, it is essential that there shall also be education for leadership, as well as for those who while content to follow should be equipped with discriminating powers. The American committee believes that the greatest service the people of the United States can do for Mexico, therefore, is to aid in its education—not only in the training of the people in the trades and in agriculture but in the higher forms of leadership. For the latter purpose, a college of the type of Robert College, of Constantinople, is suggested as an excellent working model. This is a college on a foundation approved by the people and the friends of the country, but at the same time independent of control by either church or state. In this work it is proposed that the people of the United States shall take the lead. It is admittedly not an easy task, but the reward is great, in the satisfaction of a good work well done, and in a material way.

One of the most promising possible fields for the budding young agricultural scientist to work in would be the search for a substitute for sisal, from which all our binder twine is made and for our supplies of which we are dependent on the Mexican state of Yucatan. Sisal, or the fiber of the henequen plant, has recently been advanced in price from a fraction over 7 cents to 14½ cents a pound, while for a long time prior to the organization of the henequen monopoly on modern lines the price ranged little above or below 5 cents a pound. The most recent advance meant $26,000,000 a year added to the load of the American farmer. To be acceptable, a substitute would need to combine strength with moisture-resisting quality and at the same time, of course, be produced and made into twine cheaply enough to enter naturally into competition with the sisal now used. Yucatan has prospered mightily at the expense of the United States, and it is some satisfaction to know that a good share of the money we are sending there is being used for education and other high public purposes. Still, we would rather have the money at home.

PROHIBITION PROHIBITS, BUT—

The old controversy as to whether prohibition prohibits in Kansas will not down. The New York Sun quotes from Governor Capper's newspaper, the Topeka Capital, reports of the discovery of 602 quarts of liquor in the university town of Lawrence and the destruction of "between $5000 and $8000 worth of liquor and gambling paraphernalia at Independence." The gutters ran with "beer, blackberry cordial, brandy and whisky and the air was redolent with the odor."

Possibly the word "prohibit" is not definitely enough defined. An unsuccessful attempt to violate the law, as evidenced by seizure and destruction of liquors, may mean that prohibition is prohibiting.

Still we find in Governor Capper's inaugural address, delivered a few days ago:

> It is intolerable that the United States Government should arbitrarily override and defy the sovereignty of the commonwealths which have prohibition laws. The Federal Government ignores the laws of our state and for a consideration grants licenses to men to conduct in Kansas a business which our state statutes have outlawed. Indirectly, it is aiding and abetting violations of our state laws—conniving with bootleggers and outlaws in defeating the will of our own people.

On the other hand, in his message to the Legislature, presented a day or two later, he avers that "prohibition prohibits in Kansas, the press agents and the booze makers to the contrary notwithstanding."

Still the law needs to be strengthened, he informs the Legislature. He recommends that the Governor be given authority to suspend any officer charged with law enforcement who fails to perform his duty; that City Attorneys be given inquisitorial powers; that publication of liquor advertisements be prohibited and newspapers and periodicals carrying them be barred from the state, and that the Legislature memorialize Congress, pending adoption of a Federal dry amendment, "to enact Federal laws which will aid and assist states having prohibitory laws to enforce them."

It must not be forgotten, too, that Kansas has contributed a new word to the language. It is "jointist." The Supreme Court of that state has lately been called upon to define the difference between a "bootlegger" and a "jointist," which one might, at first thought, consider somewhat of a superfluity in a state where prohibition prohibits. Says the court: "When a person establishes himself in a definite place of business, where by skillful legerdemain he can sell or pretend to sell the innocent juice of the apple as well as beer, both 'near' and 'far,' and other intoxicants, the niceties of the Kansas language designate him as a 'jointist' and no longer in the plebeian class of 'bootleggerism.'" In other words, a "jointist" is the keeper of a "blind pig," a "speakeasy" or a "life-saving station."

Out of this confusion of conflicting facts and statements we gain this conclusion: The prohibition law in Kansas is something like the prohibition law in Oregon. It prohibits, all right, when discussed with its enemies; but just between friends, it needs a bone-dry amendment and Federal assistance.

DANIELS NEEDS A SILENCER.

President Wilson has repeatedly invited the co-operation of big business men with the Government. Many big business men have expressed readiness to co-operate, have shown it by their acts and invite Government regulation of their business. But while this disposition grows on both sides, Secretary Daniels, who sits at the President's elbow, is a spouting geyser of suspicion, distrust and detraction.

Mr. Daniels has been unable to obtain bids for construction of the four battle cruisers authorized by Congress within the limit of price set by law. The reason is plain, for prices of material and labor have advanced to unprecedented figures and skilled labor is scarce. Bidders are unable to guarantee delivery of the ships within the time limit set by law. The reason for this also is plain, for shipbuilders are crowded with work and have contracted their capacity far ahead, while the same condition prevails in the steel trade and the engine works which must supply the material. Yet when they ask higher prices and more time than the law has provided, Mr. Daniels protests "against the Government's being held up and made to pay prices that have no relation to the cost of material and labor." When one company, which has been the especial target of Mr. Daniels' aspersions, reduces its bid and seeks to vindicate itself before the public by publishing the fact, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt says it was "the only one" among those making such reductions "to use this fact for self-advertisement."

Shipbuilders now retort to Mr. Daniels' charge that they are trying to hold up the Government by offering to build the ships at cost plus 10 per cent or at a price which the Federal Trade Commission decides to be fair, but the Secretary asks Congress to appropriate more millions to equip more Navy-yards for shipbuilding and for increased cost over the sum named by Congress. Private yards cannot guarantee completion in less than 46 months, but the Secretary proposes to spend a year in constructing plants and then to complete the ships in less than that period, although the Navy Department will have the same difficulty in procuring men and material as embarrasses private yards.

Mr. Daniels combines unreasoning disbelief in the good faith of business men with overweening confidence in his own ability to conduct the big business of shipbuilding. Even if it were possible for the Government to carry on a great industry as economically as does private enterprise, it would be bad policy, from the viewpoint of National safety, to undertake all the many enterprises which Mr. Daniels wishes the Navy Department to undertake. The war has proved that a nation needs all that individual enterprise can do in order to supply a modern army and navy. It must have numerous plants specially adapted for making armament and munitions, and it must divert thousands of other factories from the uses of peace to those of war. Shipbuilders and armor makers offer to use their plants as National assets, and only by making fair terms with them on the lines which they have proposed can the Nation be adequately equipped for defense. If Mr. Wilson desires the co-operation of business men in providing for the National defense, in upbuilding industry and in expanding foreign commerce, the first thing he should do is to put a silencer on Daniels.

THE VIRTUE OF SHAME.

Alameda, Cal., has adopted a plan, in connection with its cleaning-up movement, of placarding the premises of its citizens with signs bearing the words, "dirty," "very dirty," and the like, to express the condemnation of the Board of Health of the condition to which reference is thus publicly made. The idea, of course, is to shame the owner, or tenant, into doing the duty that he ought to do without especial urging.

The Board of Health is armed with full power, and tearing down the notices is heavily penalized. It is only fair to say that it is not found necessary to make use of the system in many instances, but it has proved effective in stimulating among people generally a new desire for an attractive city—which we all want, if our attention is called to it.

The force of example is contagious, as anyone who has traveled will realize, there being some cities that are clean by habit and others that are quite the reverse, and from the same cause.

THE DARK FORCE IN RUSSIA.

The reported murder of Gregory Rasputin brings into relief a trait of the Russian people, which is the outgrowth of their devotion to religion and of their superstition. It is not confined to the ignorant, for impostors like Rasputin have been remarkable for the influence they gained over the imperial family and the nobility, though the nobles have not scrupled to play upon popular ignorance and superstition in order to foist false Czars upon the people for their ambitious ends. Only the liberals among the nobility and middle classes have dared to tell the truth about Rasputin, and they have been restrained by the severe censorship imposed on them by the press censor and the Holy Synod, which forbid the least criticism of the Czar.

Wonder at Rasputin's success in imposing upon the ruling class in Russia is enhanced by the reading of his life story as related by George Kennan in the Outlook. He was born of muzhik parents in a village of Western Siberia, and as a boy received only such education in the village school as enabled him to write his name and read the Bible. Rasputin was not his family name; it was a name which he assumed in later life, and means a dissolute, licentious man. In his youth he was a village drunkard and hoodlum, but he developed into a man of powerful physique and not unpleasing appearance and was particularly attractive to women. When he approached middle life, he fell in with an itinerant preacher, and ostensibly reformed and became converted. He pursued the study of theology for two years, went on a long pilgrimage and on his return to Western Siberia became an itinerant preacher under the name of Rasputin. By personal magnetism, religious learning and reputed holiness he exerted strong influence, particularly over women. In 1905 he went to Petrograd with letters of introduction from the church authorities to Bishop Theofan and Father John of Cronstadt.

He was "well on the road to success in less than three months," says Mr. Kennan. The ladies of the higher court circles took him up and he was received as a welcome guest in the salons "as a sort of apostle, who had come as the bearer of new truth and teaching," claiming authority from on high to cleanse the world of its sins. A throng of disciples, especially female, "opened a wide arena for the gratification of his lascivious propensities."

In the Winter of 1906-7 he was presented to the Empress, and "his influence with the imperial family became so strong that even nobles, Generals and high officers of state who desired promotion or increase of salary sought his intercession and support." He would write his name on a scrap of paper and say to a petitioner: "Take this to so-and-so and tell him that Gregory ordered it." He was a frequent visitor to the palace "and was apparently on intimate terms with both the Emperor and the Empress," though "his relations with women of high social position became an open scandal."

Early in 1909 an ecclesiastical court ordered him to seclude himself for a year in a monastery and there "listen to spiritual admonition," but he did not obey and the court made no attempt to enforce the order. In 1910 Bishop Theofan "denounced him as a hypocrite and Prime Minister Stolypin ordered him out of the city." He disappeared and for two years nothing was heard of him, but his disciples interceded for him with such effect that toward the end of 1911 he returned and became more powerful than ever. "He became the favorite, if not the adviser, of the Emperor and Empress," and set up and pulled down high church dignitaries.

While visiting his native village in July, 1914, he was stabbed on the street by a peasant woman, who said she "wished to remove from this world that false, infamous prophet, who has led so many people astray, and who has falsely instructed the Czar on countless questions." The Czar sent the court physician and one of the Empress' ladies in waiting to care for him, and on his recovery he returned to the capital as powerful as ever.

Rasputin's influence on Russia's course in the war is popularly reputed to have been great. He is credited with having caused the removal of the Grand Duke Nicholas from command of the armies and with having favored a separate peace with Germany, and the Grand Duke is said to have declared that, if Rasputin fell into his hands, he would hang the impostor.

The Czar is so prone to fall under the influence of religious impostors that Rasputin's death offers little prospect of his emancipation from such malign power. Mr. Kennan mentions "the monk Iliodor, whose influence over the Czar was very great." Another Rasputin may come to be the actual ruler of Russia. The Duma and the press have dared only to refer vaguely to "dark forces" that were attempting to control Russia's policy. The empire's best hope of escape seems to be gradual transfer of political power to the people through the Duma, but the tremendous obstacles in the way of that change have been made apparent by the fall of Trepoff as Premier at the instigation of the reactionaries.

The Czar might have been expected to take warning from history against impostors, if narrow religious bigotry had not obscured his judgment. The accession of the first Romanoff to the throne was preceded by attempts to place three successive false Czars on the throne. After the death of Czar Feodor, son of Ivan the Terrible, in 1598, a man appeared at the head of an army, claiming to be Dmitri, brother of Feodor, who had been strangled. He was hailed by the people as Czar and reigned for nearly a year. He was assassinated, but other factions brought out two other false Dmitris before Michael Romanoff was finally elected Czar in 1613 as the founder of the present dynasty.

The statement that Prince Felix Yusupoff played the leading part in the assassination of Rasputin was positive, but a sketch of this nobleman's character in the New York Times by an Oxford College chum represents him as most unlikely to have figured in such an affair, and doubt has been raised as to whether the impostor is actually dead. The Yusupoff family is the most powerful and important in Russia next to the Romanoffs, and Felix is heir to its vast wealth, but he seems to have cared for nothing but social pleasure. Yet he might have been provoked by Rasputin's intrigues with women rather than by patriotic or religious motives. That he is close to the Czar may be inferred from his marriage to Princess Irene, daughter of the Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovitch.

It is impossible to forecast events in Russia when the country is disturbed by a struggle for constitutional rule with a despot who is dominated by such a fellow as Rasputin while an enemy is strongly entrenched on Russian soil.

TRACING AN ENDLESS CHAIN.

It seems to be impossible to extinguish one evil without allowing another to thrive. That is the inference to be drawn from this remark of Mr. Ward, of the United States Biological Survey:

> The number of rabbits has increased rapidly on account of the campaign which has been waged against the coyotes, which are the principal enemies of the jackrabbits.

If we exterminate the jackrabbit, what pest will thrive on which the bunnies wage war? War is being waged on rats, but they are scavengers as well as thieves and plague-carriers. If we exterminate them, we must provide some means of doing the useful work they have hitherto done. We are trying to exterminate flies and mosquitoes, but possibly they render a useful service which has not yet been discovered, and some new means must be adopted for doing their work as their numbers diminish toward extinction.

In making war on animal pests, we seem to have begun following up the links of an endless chain in the economy of nature. Whither will it lead? That is a study for scientists.

PREPAREDNESS FOR COMPETITION.

The minds of the American people are turning more and more from pleased contemplation of their new prosperity to the question whether it will last when the rest of the world settles down to the ways of peace. In two years our industries have cleared off debts, have expanded plants, increased capacity, branched out into new fields and have accumulated a cash surplus. New industries have been established to render us independent of foreign supplies for some necessary commodities. The Nation has bought back $2,000,000,000 of its securities and has lent an equal amount abroad, yet has vastly more capital available for its own business and for expansion of commerce than it had two years ago.

This is the result of our great excess of exports during the last two years. Can we continue this or even a much smaller excess after the war? Other nations will then enter the race against us with the greater zest because they will have a great gap to cover, a heavier load to carry and will be looking forward to a long period of peace after having lived for decades under a threatening war cloud.

We are well equipped in the respects named, but they will be better trained and organized for the largest and most economical production than they have ever been. Their male population will be much reduced and they will be more heavily taxed than ever, but it may prove that the higher efficiency of their surviving men, the development of women's latent abilities, the more general use of labor-saving machinery, more friendly co-operation of capital and labor, closer co-ordination of industries and other lessons of the war may offset these disadvantages.

Judge E. H. Gary is a consistent optimist about the American future, but he harbors no illusions, and in an interview with Henry C. Emery, published in Collier's, he said:

> These nations will not remain inactive or despondent or indifferent. We shall see the most active and persistent efforts to rebuild and extend and to succeed in the international race for supremacy that the world has ever witnessed. From adversity will come greater prosperity than ever before. From necessity will spring thought and study and effort that will enable the survivors to reach greater heights of success than have been supposed to be within the reach of humankind. The peoples of all the different countries, suffering in their thoughts of the past, will be inspired to greater exertions in their efforts for the future.

In order to cut down their debts and rebuild their industries, European nations will reduce their purchases and do their utmost to increase their sales, even at the sacrifice of profit. For a time they must buy many of our products, but they will do all they can "to produce their own supplies and buy only as little as they can get along with where they can't produce." As to manufactures, their capacity before the war was sufficient for their needs and left a surplus for export, so that American prices were fixed by the cost of imported goods. Their export surplus is likely to be no less, and may be more, after the war.

An article by A. Maurice Low in the North American Review will do much to dispel any illusions as to the nature and permanence of our great new export trade. Comparing the first seven months of 1914 and 1916, he shows that over 86 per cent of the 1916 total consisted of commodities either designed for use in war or the demand for which was stimulated by war. Deducting these, he finds that the normal increase for 1916 over 1914 would have been only $58,806,000 instead of $1,700,000,000. The difference between these two sums is the war business, which will end with peace. If we are to retain any part of our lead over other nations, we must develop peace trade to replace this war trade, and must do so in competition with a Europe which has been rejuvenated, reorganized and reenergized. How little advance we have made in peace trade with Latin America is apparent from Mr. Low's statement that the increase was only 12.72 per cent.

Even under the strain of war, those European nations which retain control of the sea have increased their exports to this country. During the eleven months ending November, 1916, as compared with the same period of 1915, our imports from France increased from $67,935,657 to $98,404,969; from Italy from $47,105,500 to $55,445,970; from Great Britain from $231,192,517 to $279,727,143; from Russia in Europe from $2,037,101 to $4,395,142. If these countries have been able thus to increase their sales to us while their industries are largely engrossed in production of war material, how much more will they be able to sell when their entire energy is turned to producing the things which we and other peaceful nations consume?

These considerations add cogency to the opinions of Judge Gary as to the measures of preparedness we should take for the return of peace. Though he is executive head of the greatest corporation in the United States, he holds opinions which, coming from a politician, would be considered radical. He opposed price-fixing pools in the steel trade. He inaugurated the policy of publicity for the affairs of great corporations. He advocated Government regulation of industrial corporations even to the extreme of price fixing. He established insurance and pensions for employes and has made many of them stockholders in his corporation. He has proved himself capable of viewing business problems as a citizen, not merely as a selfish moneymaker who is only "out for himself."

He recommends first that the tariff "be taken up promptly and on a purely business basis without partisan bias." He says "it would be as wrong to use the threatened danger as a means to secure excessive protection as it would be to fail to afford adequate protection." He would "establish a line of justice between producer and consumer." He predicts that Great Britain will abandon its free-trade policy and will do all in its power to lessen its dependence on American supplies. He considers anti-dumping legislation "good as far as it goes, but not adequate to meet the need." Europe will rely on its regular tariff to prevent dumping, and we must do the same.

Next in importance is the provision of an adequate merchant marine. He would have subsidies "if it is proved that subsidies are needed," but "the first step is the repeal of existing laws hampering the chance of development," including the La Follette act and any other restrictions which deter capital. On this point he said:

> The time has come when the need of sufficient transportation facilities in our own hands is felt more than ever by large exporting concerns. The need for American commerce is so great that we should not be afraid of subsidies if they should prove necessary.

It will devolve upon the President, the several commissions which have Government relations with business in charge, and finally upon Congress to provide the economic defenses of American industry and commerce. That those defenses may be adequate, they must cast aside political considerations and prejudices. If they fail, our new wealth is likely to vanish as rapidly as it has come, and the close of President Wilson's second term is likely to find us suffering from depression equal to our present prosperity.

Mr. Vopicka is exonerated of the charge of unneutrality, but being the possessor of embarrassing military information he will not join the Roumanian government at Jassy for a while. Meanwhile, the allies, of course, will not try to find out whether he knows anything.

When it is a matter of interfering with what he considers his "vested" rights, the Democrat backs up. So it is, too, with questioning the wisdom of his President. A Democrat takes his politics as he does his religion—seriously when it suits his current state of mind.

Ex-Secretary Fisher accuses the "heads by inheritance" of the great packing concerns of ignorance of fundamental economic laws, but no one will have the temerity to say that they do not know which side their bread is buttered on.

The "tentative programme" for raising revenue, which includes the bond issue approved by the Administration, seems to have overlooked the tentative saving of any money anywhere along the line.

Mr. Taft remarks that the present Congress is wasting a lot of time on the "leak" inquiry. If pork and similar legislation were held up while the inquiry is on, we could wish that it might continue forever.

Sing Sing convicts are peeved because the state prison superintendent has been censoring the matter offered for publication in the Star of Hope. They will be demanding their liberty next.

With liquor advertising barred from newspapers and mails, it will soon come to a point where the deaf-mute language will be the only means of discovering where a bottle can be found.

The second raid of the Moewe does not speak well for that ceaseless vigil of the British navy, of which we have heard so much, though the North Sea fogs are a good friend to the Germans.

Coming just after the House committee had selected another man, Mr. Untermyer's statement that he could hardly afford to accept the job is even more easy to understand.

Japan has increased its trade with China 30 per cent in a year, from which we deduce that the ancient custom of boycotting is falling into disuse in the Celestial republic.

If Pershing's men were consulted about it, no doubt the march out would be made as quickly as the advance some months ago, which would be going some.

One German submarine has just returned after having sunk sixteen ships. And they are said to be building 1000 submarines!

The "meek and lowly" potato about which we used to read is losing most of its meekness and lowliness these days.

Our Army aviators have discovered that certain sections of Mexico, also, are very dry.

It is also apparent that Switzerland has heard of the safety-first movement.

It seems proper in a double sense to remark that the Moewe is a bird.

Striking Chicago janitors appear to have a real lead-pipe cinch.

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

THE BILLIAD.

The Legislature's gone another week,
It's wheels smooth-running and with scarce a squeak.
High pile the bills, the while the clerk
Pulls off his coat and gets right down to work,
And low and lorn within the statehouse halls
The humming note of errant lobbyist falls.

Committees argue pro and argue con,
And meet together to confer upon
Plans to reduce by shrewd consolidation
Commissions in the state in operation,
While in the hall the lobbyist's trap is set
To catch a law for more commissions yet.

Yet strive the legislators evermore
To grow one board where two boards grew before,
To make the State and Desert Land Boards one,
And for a tax commission give us none,
While haunts the lobbyist the lobby still,
With new commissions done up in a bill.

Meanwhile from time to time, as meteor scoots,
Some squeaking bill is hurled upon the chutes
And the committees chuckle as 'tis done,
And start another toward oblivion;
But ever in the outer reaches shrills
The voice of lobbyists, lobbying for new bills.

The Lay of the Lost Lobbyist.

(An Intermezzo.)

The hall was long, the benches cold
The lobbyist infirm and old,
His thumbs were calloused as his soul,
From plucking many a button hole,
And,—such is habit's iron grip—
But whispers came from out his lip.

Far had he sought and seeking still
Was he, someone to take his bill;
Some stalwart Solon who would dare
His bill unto the House to bear,
And oft the aged fellow sighed
And fondled at his bill with pride.
And teardrops from his eyelids broke
And thus unto himself he spoke:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said":
"I have a cure for civic ill
Which I'll embody in a bill,
And in mine own, my native land,
Shall evil evermore be canned."

When such there be, they mark him well;
At his approach the Solons yell,
And dodge him where his course is bent,
And talk about the six per cent.
High though his purpose, proud his aim,
Noble his bill as wish could claim
Designed to help the civic health—
The legislators go by stealth
And leave to wander, fret and moan,
The lobbyist all by his lone.

CHORUS OF COMMITTEEMEN.

(Tuned to the whetting of bolos on boots.)

Come with thy bills full of many provisions
Solons most popular, Solons most wise;
Lay 'em out here while we make some incisions
Into the splendid laws you would devise;
Till the big bright clauses so neatly placed
Are half expunged and are half erased.
While we operate and we make elisions
And carve out the vitals and gouge the eyes.
Swiftly, all, swiftly your bill, is speeding
Along the road to an early tomb,
When we have finished with what it's needing
We'll gather it up with a pan and broom;
For many come and but few are chosen
And oft the bill in our hands reposin'
Has hardly a chance for a second reading
Before we consign it unto its doom.

Come with your bills, the concentration
Of all the wisdom beneath your lid;
Little you dream that evisceration
In the committee for it is hid.
For we are the lords of life and death,
And many a bill may scarce draw breath
Till we whet up our bolo with exultation.
And reach for the bucket to grease the skid.

BARD'S BONE-DRY SAENGERFEST.

"Boy, who is that thundering at the postern gate?"

"A boomerang bard," replied the C. O. B. "He has come back."

"Roll him in," I commanded, lolling back in my plush-padded swivel chair.

The bard came stealing in, and, in spite of the mask he wore, I recognized "W. J. S.," who sang blue notes but a short fortnight agone.

And plucking at his harp with either hand, he sang a song, which boosts our stock as well as being a bone-dry song, and which, as you have not heard, we will proceed to reproduce, without the music.

Friend Dean, you are there,
And it's me that does care
When you say that it is Eaton's song.
The music is sweet,
The meter is neat—
But I have heard you singing too long.

Now please don't disguise,
And tell me such lies,
Or I will be down with a club,
And what I will do
Will not be credit to you*
And you will have to send for a sub.

Now keep right on singing
And merrily swinging,
And turning the tears into smiles;
Your harp is in tune,
Like the sweet birds of June,
And your songs lead in all of the styles.

And why should we cry,
In a state that is dry,
With churches around us galore?
We'll now end the rhyme,
And think of the time
And the few that we all have in store.

(*Note—If you keep on putting too many feet in your lines, W. J. S., what I will do to you will look like chiropody.)

Old Blood Will Tell.

Puck.

Politician—Who's back of you? Office Seeker—Ten generations of glorious ancestors! Politician — Um — I might get you a job classifying fossils in the Smithsonian Institute.