

HAPGOOD PICTURES COMING FAMINE IN LUMBER INDUSTRY

By Norman Hapgood
Special Service Staff Correspondent
Washington, April 15.—President Harding has been steadily gaining strength. Of that there can be no doubt. The fact that he has shown was expected. The firmness has come to many persons as a surprise. It seems already clear that the senate will not, under Mr. Harding, be able to usurp the functions of the president. Neither will any other group be able to work its unrestricted will with him.

If I may be pardoned a somewhat personal illustration, I will use my own feeling as an illustration of what I find generally. On some of the issues that I have at heart the president has disappointed me and yet in spite of those disappointments, I find myself much more hopeful than I was last November that he will be able to steer successfully his difficult course. That also is the prevailing attitude among my friends. They are on the whole more liberal by nature than he is and yet they no longer incline to think well of his intentions and hope much of his use of power.

A BUSINESS GOVERNMENT
One expression which the Republicans, the president among them, are using a good deal, will need elucidation. More business in government, less government in business, has a talking sound, but the second half of it will have to be cleared up before anybody knows what it means. More business in government means, according to the president, the strictest economy in appropriations, the reorganization of the departments to lessen overlapping, conflict and red tape and at the least the beginning of a budget system.

What does less government in business mean? Obviously, it fits in with opposition to government ownership of railroads, of government operation of shipping lines, but does it indicate any lessening of the control of the C. C. C. is to have over the railroads? Does it give any countenance to the underground effort being carried on in Capitol Hill to abolish or weaken the federal trade commission? What does it mean?

HARDING AND LUMBER
The future of the federal trade commission is involved in an outbreak that I have just read in the Lumber World Review. The editor of this paper, one Bolling Arthur Johnson, thinks he has influence with President Harding. President Harding has had some lumber interests and he and Johnson belonged to a lodge made up of men concerned with lumber and other wood industries. This organization is called the Hoop-Hoos. The president's fellow member now writes an editorial called "What Will President Harding Do About It?"

The gist of it is that the lumber interests ought to get after the president more sharply. It is mostly a wall over their unbecoming modesty, but one hopeful paragraph says, "We understand from a Washington newspaper that President Harding had a visit one day this week from our (the whole national lumber industry) John. Here is Kirby, at which we trust one or the other of these great personages may have advanced a thought or two on this subject."

MIND NOT FAST
The subject in Mr. Johnson's view of how the timber of the United States ought to be handled by the government. He does not feel easy in his mind. "Many other persons than those in the lumber industry—many a Brisbane and Hapgood and Pinchot—are interesting themselves in these matters and are bothering the president about it with their pens," he says.

The president may be bothered by Mr. Brisbane's pen. Many people are Mr. Pinchot has made trouble in his time. But Mr. Harding cannot be much bothered by me. The worst thing I have done about lumber is to call attention to the information gathered by the federal trade commission about price fixing. In his speech to congress on Tuesday the president showed a good deal of interest

in the federal trade commission and in price fixing.
HIS WORST OFFENSE
The next to the worst thing I have done is to invite the attention of congress to the approaching lumber famine. Conflicting bills dealing with that threat will be introduced, soon referred to committees, fought about and then at the regular session reported on.

Shortage of houses is no joke. Apart from houses the cost of lumber and the freedom of the supply affect millions. Among the largest users are the railroads, the farmers, the manufacturers of furniture, vehicles and agricultural implements and the newspapers. The government report of June 1 last said: "Apparently all construction work in the United States is behind requirements, but the deficit is greatest in dwellings."

Here are a few facts based also on government reports. The supply of lumber in New England has been falling rapidly since 1907.
PRODUCTION FALLS RAPIDLY
In New York it has been falling since 1840. Pennsylvania led all the states in 1860, but now does not produce enough to supply one city district.
Once the lake states supplied the country from the Rockies to the Atlantic. In 1892 the regions supplied 3,000,000,000 feet. In 1898 only 1,000,000,000. In the South the remaining supplies of virgin pines are only one fifth of the original stand. Within a single generation the South promises to produce little if any more than it needs for itself. Even in the West, to stick to the reports, there are "warnings that the conclusion of the story will be the same as that of other

regions and in far less time than has been anticipated."
Then comes famine—a lumber famine to which there is no answer.
I return to Mr. Johnson and his editorial:
"Now that Norman Hapgood and the Hearst propaganda generally have taken up the national timberland policy question and become a crutch—a very powerful crutch, if you please—of Gifford Pinchot, just how is all this going to affect President Warren G. Harding?"
Less government in business? Perhaps. But will the attempt be made to have it mean less protection for the ordinary course of action.
Senator Pomerene said the United States was partly wrong and advocated admitting it and making payment to Colombia.

Colombia Treaty Would Dishonor U. S., Says Borah

(By United News)
Washington, April 15.—Senator Borah, speaking on the Colombian treaty Thursday, said its ratification would be a confession of wrong doing of which this country is not guilty.
"The ratification of this treaty will be construed by the world as putting the taint of dishonor on the government of the United States," said Borah, "and the impression of crime on the great Americans immediately concerned in the Panama transaction. Theodore Roosevelt was not a common adventurer; John Hay was not a liar."
Borah said the payment of \$25,000,000

to Colombia in itself would constitute a "contrite apology" in reply to arguments that removal of the apology clause in the original treaty made the present treaty more acceptable.
"Republican leaders for 17 years have denounced the treaty as blackmail," Borah declared.
Senator Knox, who was a cabinet member while negotiations with Colombia were being carried on under Taft and Roosevelt, said the senate is morally bound to compensate Colombia, "not for what she lost but for what we gained."
Knox declared there is no legal claim against this government, and upheld its course of action.
Senator Pomerene said the United States was partly wrong and advocated admitting it and making payment to Colombia.

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