

The Falls City News

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The Council meets in regular session on the first Monday night of each month, at 7:30 o'clock, in the office of the Falls City News.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1915

NEWS AND COMMENT

HOPE OF DEMOCRACY

Speech of Congressman Nicholas Longworth of Ohio at Republican Meeting in New York City

The one hope of the Democracy today is the popularity, in some quarters, of President Wilson. They are trying to capitalize that popularity into a party asset as an offset against the liabilities of their sins of omission and commission. No one questions that President is greater than his party. His complete control, and his facile manipulations of the last Congress proved that. No one questions that he is more popular than his party. He has an almost uncanny faculty of obtaining credit for everything of good that may happen, and shedding onto the shoulders of some other individual, or of the party as a whole, responsibility for the bad. He is the luckiest man that ever sat in the White House.

Just as the country was becoming fully awake to the disastrous consequences, both to the nation's industries and to its revenues, of tariff law, for which he was mainly responsible, the war came and distracted public attention from affairs at home. Overshadowing as it did all else, it offered the opportunity, immediately seized upon, to transfer the blame for approaching national bankruptcy upon circumstances which have nothing to do with it. It artificially revitalized our dying industries by making them the main contributors to Europe's needs. It forced upon our foreign trade from a loss in the year previous of more than twenty per cent to unheard of proportions. It greatly relieved the international aspects of the Mexican situation, for be well assured that, had it not been for this war, a situation was developing, due to our faltering and pusillanimous policy in regard to Mexico, that would surely have brought us into serious altercation, if not war, with one or more European powers.

A striking piece of luck came to him when, as a result of the war, diplomatic questions of the gravest import were suddenly thrust upon us; his luckiest star again shone brightly when he received the resignation of a Secretary of State notoriously unfit for the position.

Unexampled luck has been so far the portion of the Wilson Administration, but it is luck predicated upon the greatest disaster in the world's history and cannot and ought not forever to endure.

It has seemed to me that we Republicans on the firing line have been altogether too mealy-mouthed about discussing the Wilson policies, foreign as well as domestic. It is as though an odor of sanctity prevailed the maintenance of our

neutrality. No doubt a very large portion of the American people would approve any policy, the result of which has been to keep us out of war. The American people don't want war. We would be foolish if we did, for we have not been, and are not now, in the least degree prepared for war, either offensive or defensive. Practically we have not been at war during this Administration, unless you count the little one that we had with Mexico at Vera Cruz. At that time Uncle Sam showed his teeth. Through Woodrow Wilson and William J. Bryan, his attorney in fact, he demanded an apology for an insult to our flag. We sent the armed force of the United States to Vera Cruz to enforce our demand. It is true that that apology was never made. We sailed away with the taint of insult to our flag unremoved. The blood of some American sailors, not many, perhaps, judged by modern standards, but more than the entire Navy lost during our war with Spain, was left to mingle with the blood of peaceful American men and their women outraged on Mexican soil, but still we were at peace—at peace, at least, so far as the nations of Europe were concerned.

We have continued to preserve our neutrality. Good, but why not? The situation is not without precedent. This is not the first European war within the memory of men here present. A Democratic President preserved it during the Franco-Prussian War. Another Republican preserved our neutrality during the war between Russia and Japan.

Granted that the present situation has been handled admirably, but what American President, Republican or Democrat, would not have done likewise? There is nothing sacred about it; there is no reason why it should blind us to the lamentable results of other Democratic policies and performances, either foreign or domestic.

It is not in accordance with the American system of government that any man, the leader of a great political party, should monopolize all the credit and shirk all the blame for the results, good or bad, of the administration by his party of the affairs of the American people. If another plank of the Democratic platform is to be shattered, another solemn pledge to be violated, if the President is to be a candidate to succeed himself—and what man doubts it—he must stand or fall upon the whole record of the party of which he has been the most puissant and undisputed leader in modern times.

It is now, and always has been, a characteristic of the Democratic party to promise all things to all men and then proceed, if successful in deluding a sufficient number of voters, to carry out or repudiate just so many of their promises as may seem to fit the demands of the occasions as they may arise. You remember the solemn protestations of good faith that accompanied the platform enunciated by the Democratic Convention of 1912. Each plank was a sacred pledge intended to be redeemed to the letter. That was what they said before the election. What did they do after election?

Let me enumerate a few of those pledges and leave it to you to be the judges of the fact of their redemption. Rigid economy in contradistinction to Republican extravagance; ample revenues for the support of the Government; industrial prosperity under a tariff law which provided for 'effective competition'; reduction in the cost of living; free tolls for American ships in the Panama Canal; the rehabilitation of the American merchant marine; strict enforcement and extension of the Civil Service; a single Presidential term, and many other things. Merely to

state them is to effectively bring before your minds the evidence of their complete repudiation.

What of their promised rigid economy? The fact is that the last Democratic Congress appropriated of the people's money \$177,000,000 more than any Republican Congress in history, and would have been far worse, by millions upon millions, had it not been for certain Republican Senators, who not only waited watchfully, but acted effectively, to check the rapacity of the pork barrel advocates. All this, and mind you, in the face of falling revenues, falling revenues in time of world-peace; falling revenues before war was ever heard of or even dreamed of; falling revenues in spite of increased importations, not only before, the war. Then came that they called the war tax, a tax burdensome and oppressive in the extreme; a tax imposed on objects and business transactions never before taxed in history except when this country itself was actually at war. The name "War Tax" is a gross misnomer. Some such tax was inevitable, war or no war, to remedy the deficiency caused by the Underwood Tariff Law. It was a deficiency tax, pure and simple, but even with the hundred million dollars additional revenue that this tax raised, the deficit grew and the Treasury balance continued to fall.

On the first of July a year ago the balance in the Treasury was more than \$140,000,000. On the day Congress convened, when the Democracy started their Treasury raid, it had shrunk to \$66,000,000. By the end of June it had shrunk to practically nothing at all. It was difficult to find out just what it was because the policy of pitiless publicity went on a vacation for a time, and the Treasury balance was not given to the newspapers. A windfall came, though, during the last two or three days of June. The screws had been put on as they never had been before to collect the last possible cent of the income tax, and on the first of July it was heralded to the country that the Treasury balance was something like seventy million dollars. Again the process of erosion set in and the balance began to dwindle until on the last of September it was about cut in half. The Treasury was running behind more than \$10,000,000 a month. The policy of pitiless publicity would soon have had to take another vacation. The situation would not look well to the public. They would begin to compare the balance with Republican balances, and so a new method was hit upon, designed simply and solely to fool the people.

On the first of October the Treasury balance was announced to be some \$128,000,000, and accompanying it was a brief statement to the effect that the Treasury officials had changed their methods of bookkeeping. For the first time in a hundred years the Treasury accounts were juggled to make a good showing. Methods of high finance had found their way into the management of the people's money. This method was ingenious, if you please, but even it could not stop the process of erosion. Within twenty days the balance had fallen to \$116,000,000, a loss of \$12,000,000 even under this new and enlightened method. Under the old time-honored method of keeping the public accounts this shows that there is today a balance in the Treasury of not more than about \$20,000,000, and with the continued loss of something like \$800,000 a day it is not difficult to estimate when the United States Treasury runs dry.

The American people, gentlemen, under this Administration, are riding hell-bent to bankruptcy and paying for the privilege with a war tax. Their boasted prosperity has not come. Want and misery have prevailed in the land. Some industries, it

is true, are prosperous, but they are industries which are not supplying the American market, but the markets of the warring countries of Europe.

The cost of living has not been cut down. On the contrary, from the day that the Democratic tariff law was enacted it has continuously risen. The law granting free tolls to American coastwise ships in the Panama Canal was repealed. It matters not whether the law was good or bad policy at the time of its enactment. The Democratic party indorsed it; Democratic leaders from the President down, praised it. Its repeal was a flat repudiation of a Democratic pledge. So as regards our rehabilitated merchant marine, they have swept the last vestige of it from the Pacific Ocean and have turned it over to Japan. If this law had been drafted by the shrewdest Japanese statesman it could not have served more effectively to transfer the control of the carrying trade of the Pacific Ocean to the Japanese.

Of all infractions, though, of their various planks, that relating to the Civil Service has been the most barefaced and brutal. I say, and I measure my words, that under this Administration Civil Service has been debauched and outraged. I am not speaking at random. I know of one revenue district where in the last year seventeen men, all Democrats, have been appointed, and thirty men, all Republicans, have been removed, where the only Republicans remaining on the roll are men who cannot be discharged without cause because they are old soldiers, but the process of dealing with them is about as effective as discharge, because they are not assigned to work and can draw no pay. Can there be a more flagrant debauchery of the Civil Service than to drop men of, in some cause, thirty years of experience, for no reason except that they are of the Republican faith, and to fill their places with men of no experience at all solely because they are Democrats?

Cupid, the Caddy and the Cabinet

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia "North American" makes the unqualified declaration that "Cabinet meetings have apparently been abandoned. The last held was the memorable one when William Jennings Bryan presented his resignation as Secretary of State."

That was five months ago. Meantime, there have been several acute incidents in governmental management which called for all the skill and prudence in council which a President could

muster. We have known, of course, that Mr. Wilson has been busy this summer Galting and golfing. But we had not thought that Cupid and the caddy had so crowded his days and nights that there was no room for his Cabinet.

What does he have a Cabinet for? Are the councils of his Cabinet valueless? If so, why does he not select a new one? And, if he cannot be depended upon to choose a Cabinet worth having and heeding, why should he be depended upon at all?

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned taxpayers of Road District Number 21, in the County of Polk, State of Oregon, who are more than ten per cent. of the tax payers of said District, that a meeting of the resident taxpayers of said Road District will be held on Saturday, the 27th day of November, in the year 1915, at the hour of 2 o'clock, P. M., of said day, at the Public School House in School District No. 60 (Oakhurst) in said Road District for the purpose of voting on the question of whether or not an additional tax shall be levied by the resident taxpayers of said district on all the taxable property in said district for road purposes, under the provisions of Section 6321 of Lerd's Oregon Laws as amended by Chapter 316, General Laws of Oregon, 1913. At said meeting the resident taxpayers of said district will by a majority vote of such taxpayers levy such additional tax (if any) as they may deem advisable to improve the roads of said district.

Witness our hands this 4th day of November, 1915.

Names: Barney Phillips, Mrs. K. Mack, Chas. Hartung, H. Hardt, M. L. Thompson, Thos. Valentine, J. M. Valentine, Mrs. Anna Mehring, A. Brown, L. T. Murphy, R. Van Denbosh, Geo. M. Tice, Ella DeWitt, J. J. Sammons, D. Toller, C. L. Hopkins, J. Lowe, W. A. Persey, G. Fry, F. Droege, E. R. Lewis, J. C. Talbot, W. F. Nichols, Albert Teal, E. E. Lee, F. M. Hellwarth, E. G. White, R. A. Titus, E. A. LaDow, J. D. Moyer, J. A. Young, A. Sampson, G. W. Brentner, R. M. Wonderly, N. A. Lunde, E. S. Rich, Laura E. Grayum, S. R. Skeels, B. W. Brown, O. H. Hudson, John Wagner.

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President Wilson has designated
Thursday, November 25, 1915
as
Thanksgiving Day

Round trip tickets will be on sale at reduced rates on Nov. 24 and 25 between all Southern Pacific stations in Oregon. Return limit Monday, November 29th. Also between Oregon and California points.

Here is an Opportunity
to visit your friends for a week end. A fat roast turkey and pumpkin pie awaits you.

GO!
Information as to rates, etc., can be obtained from nearest agent

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