

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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IS HE VACILLATING

One of the chief faults found to President Wilson by his republican opponents is vacillation. While they rarely attempt to fix the particular features of his policy in which he is said to vacillate, it is generally understood to be his Mexican policy to which the faultfinders refer.

It is an easy chore to find fault, especially when one desires to do so. Probably another man if placed in President Wilson's place, no matter what he might do in the Mexican muddle, or in dealing with the nations at war over in Europe, would be found fault with. But is there reasonable grounds upon which to charge the president with vacillation? Let us see.

When Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as president, Mexico was engaged in internecine war. President Diaz had been forced to abdicate. Madero after serving as president for a few months, was assassinated by or at the instance of Huerta. Ambassador Wilson, appointed by President Taft, seemed to be secretly taking a hand in Mexican politics. Yet President Taft did nothing whatever towards advising the warring Mexicans. During Mr. Taft's administration, the Mexicans had an abundance of food, consequently there was no cause for them to make raids on United States territory.

President Wilson soon recalled Ambassador Wilson and, because he regarded Huerta as a red-handed murderer, refused to recognize the Huerta government. A large shipment of arms and munitions from Europe caused President Wilson to rush naval vessels to Mexican gulf ports and the occupation of Vera Cruz by United States forces.

When Huerta was forced to skip from Mexico and there was some hope that the Mexicans were on the road to pacification, the United States forces were recalled from Vera Cruz. By this time a border guard became necessary and thenceforward conditions grew no better fast.

President Wilson is accused of vacillation, principally, because he recalled our troops from Vera Cruz. If he has made any mistake whatever, it was made at this time. He placed confidence in Carranza's ability to secure control of Mexican affairs and, so far, Carranza has failed to secure such control.

The fact that our troops were recalled seemed to fill Carranza with a sort of bombastic egotism. He acted and talked as if the withdrawal indicated an unwillingness on our part to meet the Mexicans in battle. Nor did he awaken to the fact that fear was not the cause, until the order for mobilizing the entire national guard on the border was given when, he concluded, the gringos would fight if pressed too far.

Now wherein President Wilson should be accused of vacillation, is

not clear. True he did not wish to involve our nation in war and was willing to go to great lengths to avoid war. While it is now certain that he has not lost prestige, even with the Mexicans, he has maintained the moral honor of the United States in every way. While it is a regrettable fact that American lives have been sacrificed down there, the number is insignificant to what it would have been, had we declared war and invaded that country.

In his diplomatic negotiations with Germany relative to the use of undersea boats against neutral and unarmed merchant vessels, there are no grounds to accuse him of vacillating. While it is true that the diplomatic correspondence covered a period of several months, during which Germany assumed quite a belligerent tone, in the end she acceded to every demand for which the president contended. Nor did President Wilson vary his position and demands, in his several notes. He accomplished by peaceful means, what another president would have involved our nation in war to obtain.

President Wilson may have and probably has made mistakes in his judgment on some measures, and developing conditions have caused him to change his views somewhat. It is said "wise men sometimes change their minds, fools never do." Whenever President Wilson has changed front on a measure, developing conditions have been the cause. He has been honest enough and humane enough to modify his views to meet existing conditions. This is not an evidence of a vacillating mind, but a fact that he has met the strenuous situations of his administration with the wisdom which the day or the hour requires. Judge Hughes, should he be elected, is sure to follow a similar line of conduct. He would be a dangerous executive if he did otherwise.

DELIBERATELY MISLEADING

For partisan purposes, of course, the Oregonian continues to mislead its readers relative to the working of our present tariff law. It pronounces the law a failure because no more revenue, if as much, is derived now from tariff duties than was received when the Payne-Aldrich law was in force during the Taft administration. The Oregonian's statement of fact is right, but its willful deductions therefrom are grossly in error.

When our present tariff schedules were enacted, the Ways and Means congressional committee reasoned that with a reduction of practically 50 per cent in duty rates, would greatly stimulate importations and that the cash thus received from duties on imports would not be reduced. The committee reasoned further. It expected that liberal importations of foreign made goods would furnish competition sufficient to cause our American manufacturers to reduce the prices of their output and that American consumers would thereby be enabled to buy as cheaply as foreign consumers. Under normal conditions this expectation would undoubtedly have been realized. That is to say, our tariff revenues would not have been depleted and American goods would have been sold to American consumers at a lesser price.

Before the full effects of the new tariff law could be established, the great world war was on, which created an abnormal condition. Nearly all of the foreign nations from whence we import the great bulk of foreign made goods, became involved in the war and the activities of their workshops, instead of making goods for the American market were, perforce, required to turn their attention to manufacturing munitions of war and supplies for their armies.

It is an easy matter to see that while we import but few more goods now than when Mr. Taft was president, a cut of one-half in the duty rates means a reduced revenue therefrom. This is solely due to the war and is not a fault of the law. The Oregonian should be honest and fair enough to state this condition of fact in its deductions.

This condition of commerce has been highly satisfactory to our American manufacturers. It has enabled them to raise the prices to American consumers and has largely increased the foreign demand for their output. It has shown to the American people just what conditions would be with a practically prohibitory tariff law, the goal for which our tariff boosters have been striving for years and which our republican friends promise to bring about if they are given control of the government.

As stated above, our present tariff law has not yet had a fair tryout. Even with the present 50 per cent cut in duty rates, the rates are higher than at any time during the civil war. Our manufacturers then said give us a tariff to protect our infant industries. That protection was given and those same infants have grown into lusty giants. Now they say give us protection because we need it to pay the difference in the cost of cheap labor used in operating the plants over in Europe and higher cost we must pay to the American laborer.

Such claims are all bosh. Our manufacturers pay their employes no more than they have to pay. During busy times as now they pay good wages. But when the present high pressure rate of manufacturing has filled the warehouses with their surplus output, Mr. Laborer will have to work for less money, else the mill shuts down. Strange to say, the time for shutting down almost always occurs when the democratic party has control of the government and their tariff subsidy is threatened. They do this to make the fool laboring man think that with a democrat administration, hard times are sure to follow, to coerce him to vote for the republican candidates.

President Lincoln said "You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." These tariff beneficiaries have been able to fool our American laborers, heretofore, because of the tariff dope they have been dealing out. But the working man is getting wise rapidly. He can be fooled no longer.

The European war has played our republican party false this time. Instead of making times hard for the working man, it has given him so much work to do and at big wages, that he has been striking for still higher wages. And he gets 'em too. Our manufacturers cannot now run over to Europe and import thousands of cheap laborers to take their places. By the way, there never is any tariff duty to pay on these cheap European laborers and thus give protection to the working man. Oh, no! Protection is only for the rich manufacturers who spend their money largely in European tours.

The Oregonian may think that its efforts to mislead the people on this tariff subject will win. But they will not. The people are reading and thinking for themselves these days. They can be fooled by this tariff buggaboo no longer. They now form their own conclusions and next fall they will tell you what those conclusions are.

Should Be Defeated


One of the measures which will be submitted to the people next fall is the building of a normal school at

Pendleton. An appropriation of \$125,000 and a maintenance fund of one twenty-fifth of a mill on the taxable property of the state is asked for.

Seeing that the state is already overloaded with these higher institutions of learning, the people should reject this proposition emphatically. At the present time one third of

our state tax goes for the support of the colleges at Eugene, Corvallis and Monmouth and to add further to this burden when Oregon property is now so heavily taxed that capital is being barred from the state, would be both unwise and unjust. Nor will this Pendleton scheme be all. Ashland is preparing (Continued on page 4)

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