

WOODROW WILSON BY PERFORMANCE PROVES HIMSELF TO BE THE FIRST REAL PROGRESSIVE LEADER IN AMERICA, ASSERTS IDA M. TARBELL

(Authorized interview with Ida Tarbell, concluded from yesterday.)

The net result of President Wilson's handling of the Mexican question to date is not unlike the result of his handling of the difficulty with Germany. He has brought a large number of us to a more civilized point of view. We are beginning to see that it is a greater and nobler thing for this hemisphere for us to wipe out the suspicion and hate that all South and Central America has had for us, with considerable reason—consider Panama—than it is for us to exercise our undoubted ability to force a smaller and distracted neighbor to keep the peace.

President Wilson is the first president to say in terms unmistakably sincere to a hostile neighbor on this continent: "We don't want your territory; we don't covet your lands; we would help you; we would give you of our strength; we won't go to war with you unless you force it. He is the first president to say to the leading South American nations: Let us try to decide by conference what should be done in the case of prolonged civil war in one of the countries on this hemisphere. How few realize the importance of that arbitration conference at Niagara Falls? That was a practical demonstration of modern diplomacy, indicative of the change that has come over our attitude toward our neighbors on this continent, and their idea of us. The Mexicans had reason to mistrust us. They know our history. Nor are they unmindful of how we have gone into Mexico, and why. They have their own problems to work out. They are jealous of their honor and their dignity as we are. They are risking everything in their struggle to straighten out their internal affairs—even as we risked everything during the Civil war. What is it to them if certain Americans lose the dollars they have invested in Mexico? This is nothing compared to the issues which are at stake and which the Mexicans believe have been lost because of the internal disorders in that country; but what would they weigh in the balance were we to resort to intervention—which is simply another word for war, with the destruction of thousands of Americans and Mexicans? President Wilson has clearly seen the bigger stake, and he has realized that Mexico wants a chance and needs sympathy and support, and he has given it in every way that he honorably could.

"Trucent Pacifism."

For centuries rulers have talked of universal peace and internationalism. President Wilson acts universal peace and internationalism. There are those who sneer at what they choose to call his "trucent pacifism." Is it any more trucent for us, a great and powerful nation, to keep hands off Mexico than it is for a man to refrain from inflicting corporal punishment on his child? Or was it more trucent for us to shame Germany into ceasing her frightfulness, than for a real man to withhold his fist when he has been unintentionally injured in the blind passion of a street brawl?

President Wilson's handling of industrial problems has had this same forward looking quality. He has from the beginning of his administration shown a disposition to find out what labor thought and wanted, and, where possible for him, he has been on its side.

The Brandeis Appointment

One of the best proofs he has given of his desire to secure sympathetic and intelligent treatment of labor and social problems in the government was the appointment of Louis Brandeis to the supreme court. It is one of the greatest and best things that President Wilson has done. The supreme court is a body of high minded, upright men, but the majority of them are not experienced or interested in modern industrial ideas. They represent the prevailing conception of ten years ago. They can hardly be expected to be in touch with the new social and industrial questions of our times, and he has a feeling for and a sympathy with them.

Now, by this very act of putting Brandeis on the bench of the supreme court, especially by the opposition made by the old guard to his confirmation, Brandeis and the point of view he represents was forced into the foreground of consciousness of the people. They talked about Brandeis. And the better grew the contest over his confirmation, the more clearly did the people see and agree with the reasons which prompted President Wilson to make this seemingly radical promotion. This is the real progressivism in a leader.

The Eight Hour Day

President Wilson is absolutely right in his attitude toward the eight hour day. It is a movement world wide in its nature, and nothing will stop it. Like any other great invention of the

human mind, it has been looked upon askance; but it will come, because the big majority of the labor believes in it, think it right and just and demand it. Under proper management the eight hour day in any modern industry is the most productive. There are hundreds of intelligent experiments to prove this. The long hours make for inefficiency. They are tolerated only by old fashioned and out of date managers. When the railroads declare they cannot adjust their day on three shifts of eight hours each they are simply saying they do not want to try modern scientific management, which would quickly enforce eight hours. It is a difficult problem, no doubt, but it is a possible one—a standard day with a standard task are for me conclusions in modern history.

Moreover, President Wilson was right in asking that the possibility of such a humiliating experience as the country has just gone through will be made forever impossible in the future. If the program he first proposed to the disputants could have been put through it would have marked a tremendous advance in our industrial life. Sooner or later, it will be put through, and more, too. One thing is certain—the public, labor or capital, is going to control our common carriers. President Wilson's handling of the recent trouble makes that far more certain than it would have been if he had let the strike come. What he has done is to set us all to thinking hard. A strike would simply have set us to fighting, or at least feeling fight, and to inventing reasons for backing our particular side. Nothing, in the long run, is so disastrous to reasonable purposes of the mind as war; and what are strikes but war?

The Roosevelt Attitude

Yes, he's our greatest progressive. He should have been that party's candidate last June. He would have understood them—which Mr. Roosevelt did not. The convention was a tremendous gathering—a unit from start to finish. It was a nucleus for a great and a holy crusade. Roosevelt could have done anything with that crowd. He could have had that party solid for Hughes if he had wanted to, but in his chagrin at the refusal of the republican convention to nominate him, he threw over his followers. I think the trouble was that Roosevelt had sincerely come to feel that he was essential to the country's salvation. He saw himself as a Providence, and when, to his surprise, the republicans refused to take his estimate of himself, he turned his back on the progressives. I could not believe it true. I still do not believe he could have done it if he had been there and seen and felt that wonderful body. And to think of his suggesting Henry Cabot Lodge to them! The comedy and tragedy of it!

Mind you, there is much in Mr. Roosevelt that I admire. He has done many great things. It is a great pity that we cannot continue to get out of him and Mr. Taft all that they could give us. They both should be in congress. That's the place for all ex-presidents. Why should we not have a half dozen national congressmen at large? Think what an asset these men would be now!

Hughes Lacks Sympathy

Mr. Hughes? I have great respect for him. He certainly gave us one of the most refreshing and stimulating intellectual exhibits in the insurance investigation which the country has had in years. And he was a courageous and intelligent governor. His years on the supreme court bench seem to have taken him out of the world—and he has not yet found himself. Certainly, he has not as yet given any sign of understanding or sympathizing with the things we call progressivism. And, as far as I can see, President Wilson is the only leader we have that does.

A progressive of President Wilson's type is big enough to see that issue of 1916, because of the world wide shake up in the last three years, must be different than those of 1912. There is something bigger to talk about today than the "referendum." New issues are bound to come to the front—perhaps with startling rapidity and frequency. President Wilson can bring to these issues his tremendous experience. The evolution in thought and action of the last four years may be as nothing to that which is to take place in the next four. Does any American today see bigger, better or more dispassionately or clearer than President Wilson? I believe that the progressives will see this: if they don't, it is a reflection on their intelligence.

The Greatest Victory of the War

President Wilson has proved his fitness to lead the cause of progressive civilization. True, he has not yet had time to convert the man who eries for his pound of flesh, nor altered the vision of him who falls to

PLAN IRRIGATION TALENT DISTRICT FOR COMING YEAR

The board of directors of the Talent Irrigation District finding that they were not going to be able to recommend a comprehensive plan of irrigation for their whole district so that it could be constructed for the season of 1917, have worked out a plan under which at least a part of their district can procure water at once. They have procured a contractor who has agreed to finance the matter and will deliver water to not less than 5000 acres by March 1, 1917.

The territory to be irrigated includes about 2000 acres above Ashland and 3000 in the neighborhood of Talent. The board of directors have issued the following letter to the land owners:

To the citizens of the Talent Irrigation District:
Your board of trustees, realizing that it would be impossible to procure irrigation for 1917 and feeling that the people desire progress as rapidly as possible, sometime ago sought to develop some means under which relief could be furnished as many members of the district as possible, and at the same time start actual construction work along the district plans.

We are gratified to state that we have interested C. E. Bade, a large contractor, in our project and he is now offering to you as individuals, a contract to meet our views of the situation and which contract is not only approved by the board, its engineer and attorney, but which we recommend to all land owners. The canals under this contract are to be constructed under plans approved by our board and when complete will be the first unit for our permanent district scheme. The contract provides that the district may, upon notice, purchase those contracts and this we expect to do.

The plan contemplates the diversion and use of such unappropriated waters as may exist in Emigrant, Neil and Ashland creeks. The records show that there will be sufficient water available to warrant this expenditure.

In order to make possible the construction of said canals and the delivery of water for 1917, as stated, it is necessary that the contracts be executed and delivered by October 1, 1916, and we urge that you give this your immediate and earnest attention.

ED ROBINSON,
President.

J. W. MILLNER,
O. A. MANNING.

These canals are to be constructed under plans approved by the board and each contract provides that when the district completes its final plans that the contracts will be turned over to and become the property of the district.

In other words the units when built will become as the district plans mature, a part of the permanent plans of the district.

This, Talent people believe, is real progress and they are congratulating themselves on having a board of men who are doing things and not content with just heating time.

see that bloody war is but the primitive expression of savage weakness promoted by the ignoble desire of conquest or revenge.

But he has forced respect for neutrality and he has handled his delicate Mexican inheritance with tact and wisdom. And for the Michaelian authority in diplomacy and the resort to cannon in internationalism he has substituted the Sermon on the Mount—he has proved that though trampled under foot by the sovereign of all lands for 2000 years, the Golden Rule was good enough to win the greatest victory of the greatest war.

FEDERAL EXPERT SAILS FOR ORIENT FOR BLIGHT DATA

Mr. F. N. Meyer, who is recognized as the world's greatest agricultural explorer, has just spent three days with Professor Reimer of the Southern Oregon experiment station, studying the blight resistant species of pears which are highly resistant to pear blight, and one of which appears to be absolutely immune to this disease. Three of these species are native of the wilds of China. Unfortunately none of these are now in the nursery trade and hence cannot be purchased from any nurseryman. Since China contains many wild species of pears, some of which are very susceptible to pear blight, it is important that these blight resistant types be collected by an expert who can distinguish them from the undesirable types.

For this reason Professor Reimer enlisted the aid of the department of agriculture in collecting this material. Hence, the department sent Mr. Meyer here to study these types and to collect samples which he is taking with him to China to assist him in collecting this material. Arrangements have been made whereby Mr. Meyer will collect large quantities of seeds which will be sent to the experiment station. The experiment station will propagate this material for the use of our fruit growers and nurserymen.

It is interesting to note that the local experiment station has finally found a special which appears to be entirely immune to pear blight. This species is known as Pyrus ussuriensis, having received this name because it occurs along the Ussuri river in Manchuria. Professor Reimer has named this the Siberian pear as it also occurs in that country, and is able to endure its severe climate. It thrives in sections of Siberia where the mercury in the thermometers freezes nearly every winter.

During the past spring and summer the experiment station inoculated trees of this Siberian pear 210 times, on eight different dates. Not a single case of blight developed from any of these inoculations. Check trees of Bartlett, Anjou, Comice, Bosc, French Pear seedlings, and others, inoculated

with the same lots of bacteria at the same time and in the same manner blighted to the ground.

The experiment station has found another distinct wild species which although not immune shows very marked resistance to blight. This species blights only in the very young succulent branches, and never in wood more than one year old. Since this type grows wild in central China where the climatic conditions are similar to those in this valley, it should prove valuable here as a blight resisting stock. Mr. Meyer will also collect quantities of seeds of this type.

Mr. Meyer is admirably suited to this work. He has spent many years collecting seeds and plants for the department of agriculture, in China, Chinese Turkestan and Siberia. He expects to remain in China for three years on the present trip.

Mr. Meyer stated that he work at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station on blight resistance is by far the most extensive and the most fundamental that is being done anywhere in the United States.

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HALT!

The command to halt has back of it the power of the army. In hundreds of communities in this country today a halt has been called on the Community Robber, on the man or woman who, thoughtfully or unthoughtfully, robs the community by refusing to patronize home interests. What is needed today are more sentries, more men and women to call a halt on such thoughtlessness. Our community is asked to take a definite stand on this question. Let each man appoint himself a sentry to see that the community life is preserved. Other communities have fallen in line. They have hoisted the Home Trade flag. We must fall in line or fall behind. Forward, March.

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