

# The Gasoline Problem of Supply and Demand

The second of a series of three statements

The war directed attention to the need of petroleum conservation. Speaking on this subject, Mark L. Requa, General Director, Oil Division, United States Fuel Administration, recently said:

"The disproportion between the supply of and demand for gasoline is enormous and constitutes a critical problem.

"Projected at the percentage of increase, 1904-1914, we should require in 1927 something like 700,000,000 barrels of petroleum. In 1918 our total production was only 350,000,000 barrels."

To meet this situation both the petroleum and automobile industries have for several years been making every effort. The problem has been approached from every angle:

- (a) The oil producers are constantly prospecting for new fields. They have sunk many wells and are doing everything possible to increase petroleum production.
- (b) The oil refiners, with the help of their chemical engineers, are ever devising new and improved processes of refining by which they squeeze every possible drop of gasoline out of each barrel of petroleum.
- (c) The automotive engineers have aimed much in gasoline conservation by their constant improvement of automobile engines and methods of carburization. Their efforts are to secure the operation of automobiles on grades of gasoline that permit the maximum production of this motor fuel from each barrel of crude oil and which, at the same time, will give the greatest power and mileage from each unit of gasoline consumed.

All these methods are succeeding to a marked degree, and yet gasoline consumption is increasing much faster than production.

Facing these bald facts last summer, it became evident to President Wilson and the United States Fuel Administration that there was virtually as great need for gasoline conservation as for food conservation.

In consequence the United States Fuel Administration requested Eastern states to discontinue entirely all non-essential use of passenger automobiles, and for a time this request was so extended that only automobiles in Government, emergency or war service were in use on Sunday. These limitations were not extended to the Western states, because at the time there was enough gasoline being produced in California for Pacific Coast needs and its distribution did not require the use of transcontinental transportation facilities needed for war.

It was part of this same campaign to conserve gasoline that led President Wilson to appoint a Government committee to determine and adopt standard

specifications for gasoline and other petroleum products.

This committee consisted of the United States Fuel Administration and representatives of the War and Navy Departments, the United States Shipping Board, the Director General of Railroads, the Bureau of Mines and the Bureau of Standards.

The committee was assisted and advised by technical experts from each of these departments and bodies.

After extended discussions, exhaustive tests and experimentation, this Government committee adopted standard specifications for gasoline, not only for aviation purposes, but also for general motor use on land and sea.

These United States Government specifications were drawn up with a view to providing a grade of gasoline that would meet every practical requirement and yet allow maximum production. They deal with the problem on the basis of the best utilization of our petroleum resources, and the maintenance of reasonable prices to the consumer.

Drafted as they were by impartial Government experts, these United States Government gasoline specifications are today being generally considered as the most practical standard for gasoline. They insure an efficient and satisfactory gasoline and at the same time have due regard for the necessity of petroleum conservation.

The gasoline being furnished today is more powerful and gives greater mileage than the gasoline of ten years ago. Its use is made possible by the improvements in automobile engines and methods of carburization. To go back to the gasoline of ten years ago would be to accept a more highly volatile but less powerful gasoline giving less mileage. It would also result in decreasing the production and increasing the cost of gasoline.

All Red Crown gasoline now being supplied in the Pacific Coast states is refined to conform with the United States Government standard specifications. It has the full, uniform chain of boiling points necessary for full-powered, dependable gasoline: Low boiling points for easy starting, medium boiling points for quick, smooth acceleration, and high boiling points for power and mileage.

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### Events Elucidated.

Democracy and Illiterary. Secretary Lane continues to call attention to the alarming percentage of illiteracy in the country. And that percentage of illiteracy as inspection of the official figures will show—especially native illiteracy indicative of native legislative neglect—is almost in exact proportion to the size of the Democratic pluralities in the various states of the union. Now the federal government is called upon, by appropriations made from the revenues collected generally throughout the country, to remedy the deficiencies of Democratic states.

Does this look like peace? Appropriation bills introduced by the Lloyd-George government in parliament during the past few days call for expenditures for the army on ten times the scale prevailing before the war, and for the navy of five times the pre-war figure. Yet there are people in this country simple enough to suppose that this vast increase in armament means that the Cecil-Wilson covenant is expected by its authors to keep us out of war. That cry is as big a fake today as it was in 1916, as evidenced by the purpose of the European and Asiatic governments involved in it to vastly increase their armies and fleets. And it is proposed that this country shall be perpetually involved in the clashes growing out of these vast armaments.

The film in the film. In arguing for the virtues of the film drama as a public educator, before a committee of the New York legislature, Wm. A. Brady, the producer, read a letter from President Wilson thanking the moving picture interests for the propaganda they had offered to carry for his plan for a league of nations. That transaction, as a matter of fact, only called to public attention the menace involved in the use of the moving picture syndicate for the distribution of personal or partisan propaganda. People who pay admission to a movie theatre have a right to get something in return besides camouflaged propaganda which is being thrust in their faces to a nauseating extent at this time. Germany is the world's horrible example of the effects of concealed propaganda in the pulpits, schools and theatres. It is time for public sentiment to make itself felt against the perversion of these public institutions for hidden propaganda of one kind and another.

Some job this. Secretary Lane has accepted the presidency of an organization by classes and occupations which has for its purpose the hastening of the day when we shall have in this country a democracy both genuine and efficient. There is nothing inherently spurious or inefficient in the kind of democracy provided by our present form of government, so party Democracy must be meant. If there is any way to hasten the day when that shall become genuine and efficient everybody ought to be for it.—but Secretary Lane's sovietists have certainly tackled an awful job.

That's the big idea. A Paris cablegram of March 15th says that at a meeting of the British empire delegates to the peace conference it was agreed that in fixing future naval armaments the defensive needs of the British empire can be met only on the basis of the pre-war proportion of strength of the British and navy to that of other navies. That, of course, is the big idea, and it explains a good deal of the enthusiasm of many of our American hyphenates of the Cecil-Wilson league.

The vision in this case. Two colored soldiers wearing on their uniforms insignia showing decorations for bravery while overseas, George Archey and James Lewellyn, were fined \$20 and costs each at Norfolk, Va., last week for occupying seats in a section of a car reserved for white people. President Wilson told his Boston audience that when the American soldier fought in Europe it was with a vision. A vision of coming home and being fined in Woodrow Wilson's home state for riding in the end of a street car occupied by Caucasians, maybe.

### It Is Quite Characteristic

Democratic politicians in North Carolina announced that they have assurance that Congressman Webb, of that state, will be appointed federal judge under the Carlin ripper bill, passed by the last Congress, by which President Wilson is authorized to oust a score of federal officials and give their seats to deserving democrats. This procedure will do two things: It will double the cost of the federal court by putting two judges where there was one before, for the sitting judge is perfectly competent to remain on the bench and will insist on doing so, and it will put the people of a North Carolina congressional district to the unnecessary expense of a special congressional election. How characteristically Democratic the utter indifference to the waste of public money and the fealty to the spoils system involved in this transaction.

Isn't it queer that the very people who have been howling their heads off for twenty years because we have not cut the Philippine Islands adrift are now all het up with enthusiasm over the scheme to give the United States suzerainty over the Near East.

"Boots," was the immediate answer. "Wrong, you haven't listened to my directions."

"Socks," ventured another heedless one. "Wrong again, worse than ever," protested Shiels in exasperation.

"Please sir," then he paused. Perhaps he thought this answer might seem funny, but convinced that it was right, he gasped out recklessly, "corns!"

### Left It To Them.

A newly elected justice of the peace in Indiana delivered the following charge to a jury the other day:

"Gentlemen of the jury—Charging a jury is a new business to me, as this is my first case. You have heard all the evidence in the case as well as myself; you have also heard what the learned counsel have said. If you believe what the counsel for the plaintiff has said, your verdict will be for the plaintiff, but, if on the other hand, you believe what the defendant's counsel has told you, then you will give a verdict for the defendant. But if you are like me, and don't believe what either of them said, then I'll be damned if I know what you will do! Constable take charge of the jury."

more than satisfied."

### The Human Hyena.

"How easy it is to fling a coin to a beggar!" philosophically said Professor Paté. "Thus you purchase relief from the sympathetic feeling aroused by his misery, but love is withheld. If you really loved the beggar you would do more for him." "Possibly," returned J. Fuller Gloom. "At any rate I have taken your little lecture so much to heart that hereafter I expect to carry with me small cakes of soap instead of coins, and to each measly medicant who importunes me fling one cake, with the admonition that he wash his face therewith, so that on the morrow when I come by that way I can see how he looks and thus determine whether or not I can ever love him."

### A Future Hero.

Superintendent of Schools Shiels of Los Angeles, while endeavoring to teach a class of boys the composition of sentences, said to them: "If I ask you 'what have I in my hand?' you must not answer 'chalk,' but compose a complete sentence such as, 'You have a piece of chalk in your hands.' Now we will continue." "What have I on my feet?"

### COAXING YOU TO SMILE.

#### His First Words.

The nurse came in from a visit to the zoo, carrying the pride of the family—a young gentleman some 14 months old. It was at once apparent that something unusual had occurred. "Oh, ma'am," she said, "George spoke this afternoon for the first time."

"Really! what did he say?" "Why, I was showing him the animals, and he made me stop before the cage of monkeys, and he clapped his hands and said, 'Papa! Papa!'"

#### Paid Him Back

Mr. Jones loved his better half dearly, but was unfortunately more lavish in love than money.

Starting one day on a long business trip, he left Mrs. J. short of money, but promised to send a check, which needless to say, did not arrive. When the rent became due his wife telegraphed:

"Stoney broke. Landlord in the house. Wire me money."

Mr. J. answered.

"Am short myself. Will soon send check. A thousand kisses."

Exasperated, she wired back: "Don't bother about money. Gave landlord one of the kisses. He was

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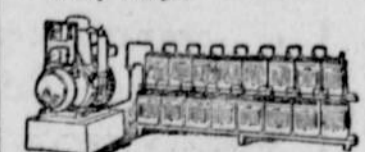
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