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Topics of Interest.

St. Louis Times: "Mr. Cummings' keynote speech at San Francisco was false in its key. His rehearsal of achievements of the first administration contain outright falsehoods and intentionally misleading statements fully as bad, yet his worst distortions were in discussing the league of nations. He took direct issue with Mr. Bryan and Senator Walsh who contend that the 20 Democratic senators who supported the co-called Lodge reservations were not nullifying the treaty but seeking to make it effective, with proper safeguards of American rights, Constitution and institutions. His charge that a Republican majority of one in the Senate was responsible for the treaty's defeat, does not square with the votes on vital reservations. Only 20 Democratic senators believed the reservations were nullifying. They obeyed Mr. Wilson's orders."

Pittsburgh Dispatch: "Brittishers who are criticizing their government for failure to impress upon the league of nations the necessity for a constructive course in harmony with the pledges made for the child of Versailles, are only exposing the pitiable weakness of the promised benefits of extracting the slightest benefits to the world. Popular command to have the league of nations prove its fiber by intervening between national ambitions and the stability of what remains of Europe do not seem to have taken into consideration that the league is composed practically of England, France, and Italy, with no authority, and that each is pursuing the course best adapted to promote its own interests. They are no doubt willing to function in the name of the league of nations if the league will give reasonable assurances that each will get what it desires, which is different from what its allies want. But how can that be possible?"

Chicago News: "Propheying backward has considerable possibilities of rhetorical embellishment, but is without great value as a help to progressive action. To prognosticate solemnly things long ago refuted in the dust of the past is at best no more than a decorative operation. A

year and a half of war and a year and a half of peace have abandoned to grateful desuetude much of Mr. Wilson's oracular utterance. But the historian now leading the Democratic party by virtue of his high office is not aware of it. As he was before the nation's entrance into the war, he is nearly two years behind the development of world opinion. From the rear platform of progress he views only the horizon of the past."

Detroit Free Press: "The only natural conclusion is that the Democrats are deeply distrustful of the titular leader of their party, Mr. Wilson rules them up to a certain point because he has a strategic advantage over them, and because he possesses a machine of Federal office holders whom he controls. But the leaders of the party are not in his confidence and he does not possess their confidence or regard."

New York Telegram: "Had we followed Mr. Wilson's self-determined lead and accepted his league covenant, uncrossed as to a 'U' and undotted as to an 'I,' just where should we have been at this present? Our American independence surrendered, this year's Fourth of July would have found us under the authority of a group of foreign politicians, one of them alone having a six-to-one voting power preponderance over us. We should have found ourselves in an entangling alliance with what shows encouraging promise of being another world war, with Asia instead of Europe the scene of conflict. Of course the Armenian mandate would have been ours, and many thousands of American young men, in the army and navy, would be now lined up to slaughter and be slaughtered in a Turco-Bolshevik, GenGIS Khan, Tartar war, the objective of which would be to establish British, French, Italian and Greek authority over vast Eastern territories. There are other correspondingly rich rewards of Wilsonian diplomacy which might have been ours if we had obeyed the imperious Wilson command to swallow the league and stop talking, but perhaps these two may be sufficient for immediate contemplation in free America."

Washington Post: "Fair-minded Americans of all parties should do their best to discourage the tendency

to resort to dishonest and coarsely abusive tactics in the national campaign that is now beginning. It is to be regretted that overzealous men and newspapers should take a quick descent into falsehood and billingsgate in the belief that they are aiding their candidate and defeating the political enemy. Their efforts are worse than worthless, for they injure their own champion's cause and inspire sympathy for the individual they attack. This applies to Democrats, Republicans and all other partisans alike. Few issues have ever risen in the United States, which have so deeply stirred the people as that which involves the league of nations proposal. Too many men and newspapers have heated themselves unduly regarding it, and have indulged in language which was neither becoming to them nor helpful to their cause. The long struggle in the Senate aroused intense feeling on both sides. It is not fair to say that all the accusations of unworthy motives and all the personal abuse uttered throughout the debates are now unsavory memories, and are seen to have had no influence whatever in deciding the issue? The sting of malice remains, and there is bitterness in some hearts, but the issue must still be met and determined on its merit, without regard to persons or motives."

Waterbury (Conn.) Republican: "Samuel W. McCall, former governor of Massachusetts, has made a statement concerning the Republican nominee, Senator Harding, that contains a valuable distinction. The statement being put out about Mr. Harding does not give the correct opinion of the man. I know him. I have spoken with him and I have read some of his important speeches very carefully. He is a man of large mold and while he is a man not made up of angles, and is, therefore, easy to work with, in my opinion he is not a man who will be easy to work. He will not be under the control of any clique. He will act on broad, general ideas and will act on his own responsibility. There is nothing narrow about him. He is bound to run well and will make a first-class President. The significant distinction to which we allude is found in the words: 'While he is a man not made

up of angles and is, therefore, easy to work with, in my opinion he is not a man who will be easy to work.' This is putting in epigrammatic and colloquial language something that needs to be kept in mind in view of Democratic attacks charging Senator Harding with being a plastic in the hands of the Republican old guard. A man may be round but he may be hard. Hardness does not necessarily mean angularity. We have a man of sharp, obtrusive angles in the White House now. It will be a relief to get there a man with fewer or no angles and we need not fear that he will not have a mind of his own because he lacks angles."

St. Louis Times: "There seems to be a popular delusion that James M. Cox is a great vote getter. He was elected governor of Ohio in 1912, after two terms in Congress from the Third District. But anybody running on the Democratic ticket that year would have been elected, the Republicans casting 272,500 and Progressives 277,903 in the gubernatorial contest. But in 1914 Mr. Cox was defeated by a vote of 524,625 to 493,367, or over 31,000, with the Progressives still voting 60,971. He won again in 1916, but by a margin of only 5,199, compared with a margin of 35,522 plurality for Senator Pomerene and an 89,503 plurality for President Wilson. In 1918 owing to wet and dry question, Gov. Willis, who got the nomination over the protest of Hamilton county was defeated, losing the election in that one county. Gov. Cox received 486,403 and Willis got 474,459. Cox was 114,000 under Wilson two years before, while Willis' vote was less than that of Hughes by 40,400. Mr. Cox has been a fortunate candidate. There is no indication of his superior vote-getting power. He has merely been the recipient of political windfalls."

The administration office holders who let the war profiteers rob the government and the war profiteers who did the robbing naturally do not want any talk about how things were put over on the United States Treasury during the war, but why anyone else would want to stop investigation and criticism of that colossal piece of incompetency and jobbery is not at all clear.

What the Editors Say.

Going to feed cherries to the Tillamookers, was what a couple of financiers started out to do Monday. One was 25 and the other 70. They had a truck load of Willamette valley cherries—Lamberts, Bings, Royal Annes and Black Royal Annes, and they were intending to get 15 or 16 cents a pound from the rich dairymen for the delicious fruit. It's nice to have rich dairymen, and that they're rich is fine for the cherry traders.—Willamette Times.

If men will raise more hogs and cattle there will be more meat and cheaper prices. If men will put in full time in the shops and factories there will be more clothing and the price will be cheaper; if men and women will buy only the things they need and not so many of the things their vanity merely craves there will be fewer profiteers and fewer opportunities to fleece the public. The profiteers have thrived because men and women have been willing to pay almost any price asked for the foolish things they did not need.—Telephone Register.

Mr. Gompers designates the award of the railway wage board as a sop thrown to the workers, but to raise the millions involved in the sop every pound of freight hauled must be taxed and the cost of living to every man, woman and child in the United States, including the men whose pay is increased, will be raised another notch. The award is simply another episode in the race between costs, and had it been more to Mr. Gompers' taste would have only meant that living costs would have gone even higher. First wages are raised and as a consequence cost of production or haulage increases until they wipe out wage betterment, and another wage increase and further enhanced cost follows. The process is endless and resembles a cat chasing its own tail. If instead of endless increase we had boards which figured out equalization and determined how conditions could be brought to already high pay instead of making conditions worse there might be a rift in the cloud, but it appears that chasing around the endless circle was preferred and in the end the railway employe will be no better off than he was before he got his raise while a considerable number of other people will be a little further in the hole.—Independent.

Why Cities Grow.

A natural human desire to elude the divine mandate, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," has always been the seat of many of our earthly troubles. As interpreted to mean the kind of perspiration that accompanies tilling the soil, it may account for so many abandoned farms and the swarming emigration of the agricultural population to the cities—where, indeed, the sweating doesn't stop, but is in thousands of instances greatly stayed.

On the farm physical exertion well-nigh reaches its maximum. Stripped for the struggle with nature, reduced to the merest remnant of clothing, the gladiatorial combat is carried on. There are no fat farmers, unless they have become "landed proprietors" and have delegated all violence of labor to other hands. It is the cry from Macedonia now that the hired man is no longer to be hired; and all the racking toil of the farm descends upon one hapless pair of shoulders; no one is to be had for love or money to share it.

The rendering of the soil into nature's hands again is quite accountable. And when the rewards of easier employments in the city are so great, even partial dependence on a sense of conscientious self-sacrifice is not to be expected.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Washington Leads States.

Washington leads the United States in the number of standard boys' and girls' clubs, according to a recent report received by F. L. Audrain, Washington state club leader, from the national leader at Washington, D. C. Washington has 479 standard clubs, South Dakota comes next with 468 and the nearest to rival either of these is Kansas with 299. "A standard club," says Mr. Audrain, "is one that has a membership of at least five boys or girls working on the same project, with a local club leader in charge, and having an organization with the necessary officers as prescribed in a club constitution, together with a definite program of work for the year."

We Live Long.

Despite jazz music, the strains of presidential elections and rising living costs, Americans are close to becoming the longest lived race, reports to the vital statistics bureau indicate. The national death rate has taken a big tumble, according to the figures. Plural births are occurring in greater numbers than ever before. Approximately 30,000 twins are born per year. Births for 1920 are expected to total more than 2,000,000. Census reports show that nearly 4,000 persons can be found any time, who claim to be 100 years old or more, while the number past 90 is well over 30,000. Incidentally, more women live to be 100 than men.

Franklin Roosevelt's chief claim on fame is that he bears the name of a man Democratic leaders wore their vocabularies out denouncing while he was alive, but next comes the significant fact that he is first assistant to Josephus Daniels, who has been editing the Navy department for the past few years.

The biggest single factor in the high cost of living is the high cost of government, and the frightfully high cost of government is a legacy of Wilsonism.

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