

The Watchman and Soutron

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THE GOAL OF COAL

As the approaching crisis in the coal industry looms larger on the horizon, the presentation of facts about the industry is bound to divide itself into one-sided discussions showing the position of operators, of miners and, now and then, even of the public. If the whole truth were fully presented in every case the public might arrive at a definite and helpful solution. As it is, however, there is much confusion and inevitable beclouding of issues. The recent Graphic Number of the Survey, on its editorial page, gives a useful summary of the things about this situation in which the public will interest itself, if it is wise. The public ought to find the answer to such questions as: "What stands in the way of the facts? What are the immediate causes of the annual shortage and high prices in coal? What are the calls which the coal owners state? What are the calls of the miners? How would an engineer characterize the industry?"

The answers to those questions would go a long way toward clearing up the partisan mists surrounding the controversy. After all, as the Survey says: "The goal of the industry is a steady supply of coal to the consumer at a reasonable price; regular work and an adequate annual income to the miners; a proper return to management in a well organized industry and the safeguarding of coal for future generations." Surely such a goal is not permanently unattainable! Yet the nation will have to do some hard thinking and generous re-adjusting of more fundamental matters than temporary wage scales or operators' profits.

AFRAID OF CONGRESS.

Theodore H. Price, editor of Commerce and Finance, quotes the head of a big commercial house in New York City as saying, a short time ago, that the business future looks bright enough, if the lawmakers at Washington "would only let business alone to work out its own salvation." According to his view, business expected nothing actively helpful from congress, but would be well satisfied if congress would only refrain from doing harm to the natural process of economic reconstruction. He referred with special disapproval to bonus and tariff legislation. This attitude seems to be pretty general. It shows at least a creditable and self-respecting spirit of optimism among the business men of the country. It hardly speaks so well for congress, when the benefits expected from that body are put negatively. It shows, too, a remarkable change in the business world's tariff views. That aspect of criticism is especially pertinent just now, with the bonus problem temporarily shelved and congress taking up the tariff for definite action. Business men, according to precedent, should now be down at Washington eagerly clamoring for higher protection on their goods. There is actually very little of that. Most manufacturers and merchants seem frankly worried, lest congress do too much for them in that regard. They realize how the war has changed conditions and upset old tariff standards. They fear the loss of still more export trade if imports are unduly discouraged. Business appears to have learned more from the war than congress has.

TURKEY CODDLED AGAIN.

The latest arrangement made for Turkey naturally fills Americans with disgust. The foreign ministers of the allies, acting as a supreme council to determine the affairs of the Near East, have decided that the way to settle the Turkish question is to give back to Turkey nearly all the forfeited possessions that she cares much about. Accordingly Turkey is to be restored to Constantinople—

the world-prize that was to be internationalized — and guaranteed possession of most of Asia Minor. Worse than that, Turkey is to keep her title to Armenia, although her technical rights of massacre and extermination are expected to be limited somewhat by the exercise of a League of Nations protectorate. Worse still, if possible, is the restoration to Turkey of her European hinterland as far back as Adrianople with the wresting of a strip of territory from Bulgaria for that purpose. So fades the western world's dream of freedom from the Turks, of Armenia free to work out its own salvation and of the consignment of an uncivilizable Asiatic race to the distant and limited region where it belongs. Policy as usual has interfered with morality and justice. France, for her own exploitation of the Near East, wants to conciliate the Turks. Italy, through jealousy, helps the Turks to hurt Greece. Great Britain feels obliged to go easy with the Turks in order to keep her Mohammedans in India from revolt. It is the same old game of diplomatic duplicity that the European powers have played with Turkey for 500 years, and the only thing that has kept Turkish power for evil alive until the present day. And America, however indignant, can have nothing to say, because America is keeping out of European affairs.

FRENCH RESERVATIONS

The sigh of relief heaved by the American public as the arms conference treaties emerge from the Senate may possibly be premature. Ratification by the other powers is not yet an accomplished fact. They have been waiting, apparently, to see what the United States would do. They have realized that if the treaties failed in the Senate, there would be no use in their acting; or them at all, and also that any material reservations made by the Senate might change their own attitude toward the treaties. It appears now that there will be no difficulty abroad except possibly in France. Great Britain seems satisfied, and can make the treaties effective by a mere "order in privy council." Japan likewise can ratify by action of her small and exclusive council of peers, and is expected to do so. In France, however, the treaties have to be passed on by a legislative chamber corresponding to our Senate, and the French deputies are in a truculent mood as regards America and international affairs in general. Talking their cue from American attempts to attach reservations to the Versailles treaty, and from the Brandegee reservation to the present four-power Pacific treaty, French leaders are threatening to assert the same right in giving their "advice and consent." Some of them threaten not only reservations but amendments, which would require reference back to the other powers for acceptance. So a change comes over the spirit of treaty-making. It is not so simple a thing as it used to be, when any government could make an agreement with another government and depend on its going through without interference. On the whole this is a good thing, but there are dangers in it. "Open diplomacy," admirable in theory and spirit, may yet become so open and easily obstructed that it can't accomplish anything.

BUSINESS MUST SERVE

It is common enough to find politicians "putting the people first," or pretending to do it. Here is a business man, and a very successful one, preaching that policy. In an article in "System," he is quoted as saying: "Success in manufacture is based solely on ability to serve the consumer to his liking." Wherefore he asks himself, "Am I able to make what the people want better than anyone else?" And having made it, "What price can the consumer afford to pay?" "A truly prosperous time," continues Mr. Ford, "in one when the largest number of people are getting all they can eat and wear and are in every sense of the word comfortable. The function of the manufacturer is to contribute to this comfort. "We are too much concerned with bankers' conception of business. The banker always puts the money side first. But business prospers only as it serves. "Good business—large consumption—depends on prices going down. It's impossible to saturate a market except by having the price of what one sells above the price the people in the market can pay." Some business men will say this is a fine conception of business, but

one impossible in general practice. Yet is it? Mr. Ford remarks that his car is selling for one-third of what it did 18 years ago, "but we pay higher prices for material and have a better product."

Is Henry Ford the only American manufacturer who can do that? Not at all. American industry as a whole shows exactly the same tendency. Mr. Ford has merely been quicker than others in recognizing the facts, and bolder in applying them.

TEXAN TELLS OF COTTON CAMPAIGN

J. D. Coghlan, a Farmer, Will Tell South Carolinians About Cooperation. Columbia, April 1.—J. D. Coghlan, a farmer, of Ennis, Texas, arrived in Columbia today and Monday will begin a speaking tour in behalf of the cooperative marketing of cotton. He has come to South Carolina at the request of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association to tell of the operations of the Texas Cotton Cooperative Association, of which he is a member. Mr. Coghlan begins his tour Monday morning at Timmonsville, where he speaks at 10:30 o'clock. Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock he speaks at Hartsville. Tuesday morning at 10:30 o'clock he speaks at Mullins and Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Dillon. Wednesday he goes to Union county, speaking at Jonesville Wednesday night. Thursday he will spend in Spartanburg county and Friday and Saturday in Laurens county. "I am just a dirt farmer," said Mr. Coghlan today, "and make no pretense at oratory. I am delighted however, at the opportunity to come to South Carolina and tell the farmers of this state just what cooperative marketing of cotton has already meant for Texas and what I believe it will mean for the cotton belt when an organization has been perfected in each state, as will be the case before the 1922 crop is gathered. "I grew 100 bales of cotton last year and it was all turned over to the Texas association. Under the cooperative plan it has been sold at an average of three cents a pound more than cotton of the same grade and staple has brought from the buyers on the streets of my home town. I am glad to be able to say to the farmers of South Carolina that cooperative marketing of cotton is proving a great success in Texas and I know it will prove a great success in this state." Speaking of how the new method of financing helped him, Mr. Coghlan said: "I drew 60 per cent of the value of my cotton, or about \$50 per bale, when I turned my cotton over to the association. With this \$50 per bale I liquidated at my bank. That slackened the horse around my neck and it sure felt good. In a short time I went back to the bank and asked if my remaining 40 per cent equity was sufficient collateral and the bank's answer was an emphatic 'sure,' therefore I can draw full value of my cotton and at the same time my cotton is sold on the high peaks and not as distressed cotton. "On the street in Texas the grade has always been too low, and staple is a word hardly known. This year I was astonished when I got returns from the association and found that half of my cotton was one and one-sixteenth staple. I have sold cotton for forty years in Texas but this is the first time I ever knew I had so valuable a staple. The least average premium for my staple is 2 3/4 cents. "More than \$2,000,000 were advanced to the Texas cotton growers through the Texas association during the past season. These loans were all made under the cooperative cotton marketing plan which is to be followed in South Carolina."

The coming week will be one of great activity in the campaign in South Carolina, officials of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association said last night. In addition to the meetings scheduled for Mr. Coghlan over the state, Dr. Lee Davis Lodge, president of Limestone College, speaks Monday morning at 11 o'clock at Union, and Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer, makes four speeches on Friday and Saturday. Friday morning Dr. Poe speaks at Rock Hill; Friday afternoon at York; Saturday morning at Anderson, and Saturday afternoon at Greenwood. Telegraphic reports of sign-ups were received at the association headquarters from almost every county in the state today, it was said.

Polish Give Transportation For Russian Sufferers. Warsaw, March 14.—All relief foodstuffs and supplies going to Russia through Poland will henceforth be transferred at a reduction of 50 per cent of the regular charge. The Polish Ministry of Railways has organized a special food train to carry Russian wheat from Rumania to the Russian frontier, the Rumanian stock having provided sufficient to handle the provisions destined for the Russian famine regions.

Norfolk, Va., April 3.—The young woman's body washed up on the beach at Ocean View yesterday was identified as Mrs. Ruth Mercer. The authorities are mystified as to how she met her death. Her husband has been heard from, but his mother believes he has shipped at Baltimore for a trip around the world.

Senator Lodge may now take a squint down the muzzle end of a reservation. —Dallas News.

To-day's Best Jokes and Stories

A government of groups, by groups and for groups.

The American understanding of the four-power treaty permits standing from under.

If Ananias had lived, it would be rather amusing to hear him talk about his golf score.

The war at least taught us to speak of individual races and states, instead of "Them Europeans."

Dante lived too early. Think of the price he might have received for the motion picture rights.

It is all right to take pride in our merchant marine, but apparently we shall have to put something else in.

The atmosphere of culture at a ladies' tea could be improved by opening the windows to let the smoke out.

It isn't altogether love that blinds a man to the fact that his wife looks seedy in last year's spring suit.

Considering the record, our guess is that the political fences congressmen are anxious about are defenses.

There appears to be a concerted effort to give the Lion's tail something in the nature of a permanent twist.

Automobiles wouldn't be dangerous if the horse-power of the engine was proportioned to the horse sense of the driver.

The best way to keep time from hanging heavy on your hands is to put some callouses on 'em.

Living in the country has a humanizing effect. In the city you don't know your neighbors well enough to gossip about them.

After visiting an automobile show, we know just how the fish feels when he observes a nice fat worm dangling in the water.

A tooth brush is a great convenience; and then, it is nice to have something on the place the neighbors won't try to borrow.

It's a little late, but it occurs to us that the nations might have saved money by giving the soldiers a bonus not to fight.

After close observation we conclude that the minimum on which a family of five can live is the sum the provider happens to earn.

Adam had his little troubles, but he never had to estimate his spending money and wonder how long his wife's relatives meant to stay.

O. Liberty, what rotten hootch the country buys in thy name.

We warn infant republics to avoid paternal government. See America nursed.

The "nameless p'chos" in the air of Spring isn't nameless now. It's yearning for new ties.

Too many patriots claim to be supporters of the government when they are merely holding it up.

Backbone won't get you any where, however, if the knot at the top of it is made of the same material.

Modesty is a virtue, doubtless, but the man who blows his own horn usually is able to raise the wind.

When a college professor can't think up a queer theory, he can always get a little publicity by telling how wicked the students are.

The chief weakness of reformers is their disposition to think everything enjoyable a little wicked.

The massacre of Armenians could be stopped if any nation thought her hands clean enough to tackle the job.

The promise of little change in the styles would indicate that nothing new will be pulled off this season.

Beating swords into plowshares is all right, but domestic peace requires using golf clubs as rug beaters.

Human vanity is a funny thing, and the man who beats his debts really thinks he is superior to a common thief.

As we understand it, the principal charge against Prohibition is that it makes it so difficult to get anything to drink.

How a jazz-ridden world longs for the old days when there was no noise in the dining room except the gentle gurgle of the soup eaters.

"Here lies the hatchet" would seem more convincing if nations did not point to the Far East and say: "There lies our future."

The honeymoon is over when she begins to intimate that parking space in the kitchen is worth considerably more than his company.

Seldom Travel But Often Migrate

"Invited to Russia and exempted from taxes and military service because they could farm, then banished because some of them established a communistic colony; obeying the laws of many lands but refusing to take part in making or enforcing them; frowning upon science, buttons, life insurance and tobacco — such are various branches of the Mennonites, whose exodus from Canada to Mexico adds another chapter in the centuries-old anabasis of this quaint and goodly people.

"While geographers are studying human migrations on the basis of economic determinism, here is a considerable group who defy any such charting, and move about solely on the basis of the best opportunity to follow their religious beliefs," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C. headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

South Dakota Their "Promised Land" "From Holland to Germany, thence to Moravia, Hungary, Rumania and into Russia — so runs the earlier course of Mennonite wanderings. From the steppes of Crimea and the treeless banks of the Molochna to Bonhomme County in South Dakota was not too long a trail for the most home-staying people in the world — so long as they are not disturbed. They seldom travel individually. Just before the war a trip to Washington was offered as an agricultural prize to twelve young men of Lancaster County, Pa., one of the oldest American Mennonite strongholds, and of the twelve winners not one had been outside his own county before!

"Now about 1500 Mennonites are reported to be leaving Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada, for Durango, Mexico, and the productive loss their going will mean is only slightly indicated by the estimate that they will take along with them some \$15,000,000 worth of goods, farm implements and cash. Schooling Begins at Three Years "Compulsory education requirements, including the teaching of English, which could easily be adjusted by a more compromising people, caused the migration from Canada. In some branches of their church every Mennonite child must begin his schooling when he is three years old. From that time until he is six the Bible and the Mennonite catechism are used for his instruction. After three years he takes up the "Three R's," but in the more orthodox branches of the church all science, as such, is frowned upon. In farming, the Mennonites are efficient and practical scientists. European countries have profited by their example, and to their western Pennsylvania owes much of its prosperity.

"There are various gradations of policy among the various groups, such as the Hutterians, the Amish, the Wislar, the Defenseless and other branches. All hold against taking oaths and to non-resistance, which led to their exemption from the draft without any such stigma as attached to many types of "conscientious objectors." Their likeness to the Quakers led William Penn to invite them to his colony where they first established themselves at Lancaster, spreading thence to Germantown, Berks, and later into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Have Quaint Dialect "In 'Tillie,' Mrs. Fiske disclosed some of the peculiarities of custom and dialect of the Pennsylvania Mennonites. Their adherence to teaching German in schools is not so much that they love that language as because they fear translation would detract from the literal import of their founders' works. Their detachment from the world is shown by their curious use of English. A caller at a Lancaster home rang the bell many times without answer. Finally a woman appeared at the door to apologize, "Oh, did you bell? It didn't make." The women wear poke bonnets, resembling those of the Dunkers. Men, women and children avoid colors, jewels or any grace of dress that might be taken for vanity. Women follow literally St. Paul's injunction about keeping their heads covered in church. Life insurance and organized charity are frowned upon. They have organized an unincorporated company which all Mennonites may join. This company reimburses the loser of property by fire or storm, and assesses its members at the end of each year to cover these payments. No salaries are paid to ministers. Washing of feet is practiced in connection with communion services.

Ban Those Who Disobey "One important branch of the church, the Amish Mennonites, insist literally on the 'ban,' that is the complete ostracism of members who have been suspended from the church. The 'Old Order Amish' sect lays emphasis on simplicity in dress, and requires its members to

fasten their clothes with hooks and eyes instead of with buttons. "Most rigid of all the groups, however, is the Bruderhof, or Hutterian Brethren, dating back to Jacob Huter, a martyr of the 16th century, who insisted upon a complete communal organization of congregations. It was this group that had to leave Russia about the time of our Civil War for evolving a communism which anticipated that of the Soviet government in many respects. Today they are settled along the James River, in South Dakota, declining to cast a vote or hold office or patronize a store. They forewear dancing, play-going, and tobacco. They are of German descent, came here directly from southern Russia, and form a law abiding, prosperous, self sufficient community.

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In those days there were many so-called temperance societies ranging from the Washingtonians who practiced total abstinence to the "Reformers" who were content with the middle-of-the-road folks who permitted the use, judiciously, of a little beer, cider, wine and other light drinks. Rum, gin and whiskey were barred while brandy was only for use at the sick bed.

In 1843 with a population of 6,000 the Washingtonians had a membership of 2,000. By a crusade the number of open drinking places were reduced from 63 to 31. The small children were enrolled in the "cold water army" and the parades were of great interest. There were temperance revivals in places of worship and public speakers from abroad kept up the enthusiasm.

The Washingtonians believed in moral suasion. Two newspapers published in those days and found recently told graphically of the crusades. One of these said that Elder Swan was

Waukegan, Ill., April 3.—A venire has been summoned and witnesses subpoenaed for the opening of the trial of Governor Len Small, who is charged with conspiracy to embezzle state funds. New York, April 3.—Agitated because she had learned that her mother had heard of her plight, Olivia M. P. Stone resumed the stand here today in her trial for the murder of Ellis Guy Kinkead, former corporation counsel of Cincinnati. Some people could say what they think and still be quiet.

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"There are more than 50,000 Mennonites in the United States. Their communities are to be found in odd corners of the world where they may follow the simple teachings of their founder, Menno Simons, a Dutch reformer, born the year that Columbus discovered America."

Columbia, April 3.—Persons paying their 1921 taxes late, under the resolutions of the recent legislature, which authorized postponement of taxes, will not have the right to vote in certain elections of this year, according to the opinion of the attorney general's office. The opinion of the attorney general was expressed in a letter written unofficially to Cornelius Ott, of Spartanburg, attorney for parties interested in a school trustee election in Spartanburg county, and while it was not an official opinion, it expressed the legal view of the situation as taken by the state's attorney. At the same time, the attorney general's office stated that the matter of the legality of a vote by a person who postponed paying his taxes under recent legislation would have to be settled by the courts.

The attorney general takes the position that the resolution of the legislature, which provided that late payment of taxes would not disqualify an elector, is contrary to the constitution, and he quotes court rulings to substantiate his contention. "The constitution provides that as a qualification for voting all taxes for the year must be paid by December 31, or the elector cannot have the right to vote in any election for six months thereafter.