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NO EXCUSE FOR WASTE AFTER WAR

Public Should be Tolerant of Extravagance and Mistakes of War Days, However, Says Sullivan.

WILSON IS BLAMED

BY MARK SULLIVAN

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24.—Persons who want to arrive at a fair judgment about the shipping board exposures need to keep several distinctions in mind. The most important of these is the distinction between what happened during the war and what happened after the war ended.

For the things that happened during the war there is much excuse: For the failure to do things right after the war ended there is no excuse.

Martin Gillem who has been the most important of the witnesses so far, and who made the most damaging indictment of the shipping board, evidently had this distinction in mind. The great bulk of his criticism was directed at things that happened in connection with liquidating things after the war was over. Mr. Gillem, by the way, is himself an able business man, with a good knowledge of accounts, and a celtic temperament that expresses itself in exceptional force and frankness.

Keeping in mind this distinction between war conditions and post-war conditions, fair-minded persons will try to recall the state of mind we all had while the war was on and will be tolerant of the waste that happened then.

Must Be Tolerant.

At the moment the shipping board was getting under way the German submarines were sinking two ships while the allies were building one. The issue of the war literally hung on the building of ships. The perfect well justified cry "Get the ships at any cost" caused haste of the waste, extravagance, and mistakes that occurred under these conditions we ought all to be tolerant.

There is a rule of war which runs to the effect that "In peace money is to be put above time, but in war money counts nothing and time counts everything." This is a perfectly sound rule. Every business man and every engineer who came to the help of the war machine ad to learn this rule; he had to go through the process of reversing his former habit of mind and had to learn to dismiss all considerations of cost and focus his mind on the element of speed. That things done on this basis were costly and wasteful can be taken for granted. Whether they were most costly or more wasteful than they need have been is too fine a point to waste much time on now.

Waste After War.

But Mr. Gillem's charges are directed chiefly at mistakes and waste that occurred after the war ended. He directed his indictment at the failure of the administration to follow the methods of careful business at a time when these methods were entirely possible. Everything that is said about this period of the shipping board existed is justified and so far these things are proved they constitute a just and unescapable indictment, not merely against the administration, but against government ownership or government management of any kind of ordinary business whatever. Whether a different administration or a different political party would have done better is an academic question.

Everybody in Washington has been painfully aware that the business of the United States has not been very well run during the past two years.

President Away.

During the first of those years President Wilson spent seven months at Paris, and for the rest of the time had his mind on the league of nations to the exclusion of other issues. During the second of the two years he was ill. That things might have been managed better by a president who would have stayed at home and delegated the peace conference to his aides, or that such purely business matters as the shipping boards' affairs might have been managed better by a president whose temperament was more easily adjusted to business matters, goes without saying.

Also, some of President Wilson's best friends have thought, and at the expense of him, that he would have done better to resign at the moment his illness made it apparent that he could not again give a well man's strength to the nation's business. However, it will be for history now to balance President Wilson's achievements in the field of thought against his defects as an administrator.

Self-Seekers.

One other aspect of the shipping board revelations is less easy to be tolerant about. That is the activity of a few public officials and a few Democratic lawyers pursuing advantages for themselves or for their clients before the shipping board. That this has gone on has been suspected and deplored by most of us here in Washington.

All public men are solicited by their friends and business acquaintances to do this kind of thing. Public men with high personal standards try to avoid getting involved in this kind of practice, which is not the practice of law at all, but is the practice of trading upon personal relations. Several lawyers who formerly were office holders and gave up office to practice law have been active in this kind of thing. Some of them have already been mentioned in the investigation and others will be drawn in this week or later.

Violate Propriety.

There is nothing wrong in what they are charged with, but there is a violation of the highest personal standards of propriety. A lawyer who gets himself elected or appointed to high office stays in office for a brief period, and then makes capital out of his

HARDING STUDYING PRACTICAL WORKING OF PANAMA CANAL

(By Associated Press)
CRISTOBAL, Can Zone, Nov. 24.—Senator Warren G. Harding, United States president-elect, gave up golf and motorizing this morning to make a personal study of the practical working of the Panama canal. He planned to leave here at 8:30 o'clock on a government mine sweeper and looked forward to a leisurely journey through the waterway.

His trip was more than a sightseeing expedition. Stops were arranged at Gatun lock and at other points to permit close inspection of problems of canal maintenance and management, this inspection being one of the big reasons for Mr. Harding's trip to the canal zone.

Mr. Harding has taken a keen interest in the future of the canal and is known to believe it to be one of the outstanding national assets as regards foreign commerce. During the debate in congress relative to the canal, the problem of tolls for American ships received his particular attention, his strong conviction for free passage for American ships having been expressed many times both in congress and in his speeches during the last campaign.

Col. Chester Harding, governor of the canal zone accompanied him on the trip and tonight will be his host at a dinner at the Pacific terminal of the canal. The dinner will be followed by a public reception and the party will remain on the Pacific coast until Friday. Mr. Harding will attend a dinner given by President Porras of Panama at the palace Thursday night.

When he arrived here yesterday Mr. Harding found a program of entertainment prepared for him which would have given him little time for recreation. Officials of the canal zone and the republic of Panama submitted plans for a series of functions in his honor and the president-elect indicated he would accept as many invitations as practicable.

The steamer *Parismina* was welcomed into the harbor by a swarm of army airplanes and several submarines which met her three miles out and convoyed her to her dock. A large crowd cheered the president-elect and his wife, and a formal greeting was extended by Governor Harding, Brigadier Gen. Kennedy and Rear Admiral Johnson, commanders, respectively, of military and naval forces in the canal zone.

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 24.—President Harding will stop at Vera Cruz enroute to the United States from Panama unless unforeseen circumstances prevent, said a statement issued at the Mexican foreign office last night. The statement added that assurance had been given that Senator Albert B. Fall of New Mexico, would probably arrive here next Monday to attend the inauguration as president of Mexico of General Alvaro Obregon.

HIPPO VAUGHN HURT BY FATHER-IN-LAW

(By Associated Press)

KENOSHA, Wis., Nov. 24.—James "Hippo" Vaughn, a star pitcher with the Chicago Nationals and rated as one of the greatest left-handers in the major leagues, is in a hospital here today as the result of being stabbed by his father-in-law during a quarrel last night.

The stabbing was the result of a family quarrel, prompted by a divorce proceeding of the Vaughns. Mrs. Vaughn's case for separation was scheduled for hearing yesterday, but they had effected a reconciliation and were preparing to return to Chicago. As Vaughn was returning to his home he was met on the street by his father-in-law, Harry DeBolt, and an argument followed. DeBolt, according to the police, slashed at the big pitcher with a razor, cutting through his overcoat and cutting a slight wound in his abdomen.

**McCray Will Consider
Home Rule Legislation**

Warren T. McCray, governor elect, in a letter received here today, in reply to a request for his position on home rule for Indiana cities, said:

"I am in receipt of your favor of Nov. 20th, and replying to same would say, I will be very glad indeed to consider the matter of the commission of government for cities like Richmond."

"I am not prepared to say offhand just how I would view legislation of this kind, but can assure you I will give it my fullest consideration should the matter come before me."

"Very truly,"
Warren T. McCray."

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HOME RULE RESPONSIVE TO PEOPLE

Leads to Official Effort to Render Better Service—Develops Greater Capacity for Getting Things Done.

STUDY SHOWS WORTH

Editor's Note: Clarence B. Greene, director of the Dayton Bureau of Research, has prepared a series of articles on home rule for the Palladium. The second follows.

Many volumes have been published and hundreds of columns of newspaper space consumed in recording the testimony of students and officials as to the merits of commission-manager government in operation. There are, comparatively, only a few dissenting voices to the general conclusion that towns and cities which have adopted the plan have found it a vast improvement over the government which it supplanted.

Intimate study and observance of commission-manager government undeniably support the claim that it leads to official effort to render more and better service. In addition, it is more responsive to the demands of the people. Unquestionably, under the commission-manager system, there is a greater capacity for getting things done. The records of all commission-manager governed cities show a decided quickening of official activity immediately following the adoption of the plan. Students of government all over the country attest this fact.

Gives Better Rule.

There is not, however, the outward show of efficiency that all ardent advocates of the system claim for it, because it must be remembered, there is much of the routine in municipal administration. But its superiority to the old processes of government forces the absolute conclusion that where towns and cities are badly or inefficiently governed the people may obtain better government by adopting the commission-manager plan.

While one may find in some places a pronounced dissent from the claim that commission-manager government means better government, yet that opposition generally develops on the academic ground that because the commissioners are elected at large, and the manager appointed, the system deprives sections of the community of adequate representation on the legislative and administrative body.

Though the election of commissioners at large is a fundamental part of the plan, it is not a recent innovation, because some non-commission-manager governed cities have successfully employed the system.

Work For Whole City.

The advantages accruing from the plan of electing commissioners at large can best be expressed in the indisputable claim that it unifies the political organism by abolishing the ward system, and requires the commissioners to take care of the needs of all parts of the community. In other words, each commissioner works for the whole city, rather than for a particular section, as under the old councilmanic scheme.

Reports, substantiated by impartial investigation in many cities, indicate a distinct effort on the part of the commissioners to conduct municipal affairs along business lines. The plan also brings to the fore a greater number of men who feel responsible for getting results. It also eliminates the frequently too conspicuous and overburdened mayor, because responsibility and conspicuousness are shared. Further, it substitutes the single legislative mastership of the electorate for a mastership divided between a group of men who are determined to establish a record that will meet with the approval of the vast majority of the people. In other words, the plan emphasizes the desire of officials to render efficient and satisfactory legislative service. And this desire is prompted by the fact that the commissioners are adequately paid for their labors, through the effective administrative results secured by the manager.

Resolved that District 498 of the Beneficial Union, representing 150 men and women of Richmond, endorse the proposed Chamber of Commerce, if this organization is perfected on lines as published in the local newspapers.

District No. 498 further pledges its co-operation and support whenever possible.

It is further resolved that every member attend, if possible, the Community luncheon on Dec. 1.

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