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AUGUST 13, 1919.

THAT RAILROAD OWNERSHIP PLAN.

While all the old antipathies to government ownership of the railroads come up in perfect order with reference to the federalizing plan presented by the railroad brotherhoods, still there are some aspects of it which are distinctly appealing. Or, rather, would be, if human nature were not so confounded human. The trouble with the Sims bill, as the measure before congress is termed—and the Plumb plan outside of congress,—that instead of nationalizing, it politicalizes, possibly about the best that can ever be done with it under a democracy with opposing autocracies—the autocracy of wealth and the autocracy of labor,—bidding for control.

Foremost among the good things provided for in the bill, and there are several of them, is the principle of regional operation of the railroads as a unified system. This harmonizes with the modern conception of railroad transportation as one great industry, which might gain much from genuine centralization and coordination. Whatever benefits have resulted from federal control during war-time—and there have been some—have resulted chiefly from efforts in this direction.

Some brand-new principles are involved. One of them is the building of extensions at the expense of the communities benefited, in proportion to the benefit. Under public ownership, where no contribution could go undeservedly into private hands, such a plan might be wise and acceptable.

There is much to be said, too, for a rate-adjustment plan which would not only raise rates to cover fixed charges and operating costs, but would lower rates automatically with the growth of surplus beyond a definite amount.

It might be admitted also that the proposal to let employees share in the division of surplus and in the shaping of policies and administrative methods deserves at least respectful consideration. Such ideas do not seem so radical today as they did before the war. Many private employers are granting these privileges voluntarily, but—

Against these obvious or possible merits must be set some serious objections:

1. That the financing of a federal ownership plan would require the pledging of the government's credit for many billions of dollars at a time when other large financing must be done, and this would interfere with the nation's business revival;
2. That under government ownership the progressive development of railroad facilities would depend on congressional appropriations; and experience does not suggest that such appropriations would be made wisely and promptly, in anticipation of the nation's needs;
3. That government operation is seldom as efficient as private operation can be made because individual initiative is lacking and bureaucratic methods prevail;
4. That political methods would almost certainly have weight in the selection of men for leading official positions; and thus the service would deteriorate;
5. That fares and freight rates might be higher than under private operation;
6. That the addition of 2,000,000 men to the public service would make a total body of 2,500,000 government employees, who might easily exercise a controlling influence on national politics.

And the last above, promises more of a menace than all the others. Every congressional and every presidential campaign would witness a fight between the railroad brotherhoods and the railroad owners for control of the government members of the operating board. It would be "politics," and politics all the time, a thing that we need to be getting away from, rather than accumulating more of.

Indeed, no! There should be no such partnerships entered into by Uncle Sam. If we are to have government ownership, let us have it, the same as with the post office, the parcel post, and other government activities. Recent experience with the railroad men, after the favors that have been shown them in years past, turning against the government as they have, refusing to operate under its mandates, and proceeding to strike contrary to the directions of their organization officers, proves them to be undependable for partnership purposes.

Uncle Sam wants no partnership arrangements with any gang of men who, when they cannot have everything their own way, as in the recent wage investigations, proceed to try to force their own way by "walking out" and tying the business up. The brotherhood men have ruined a lot of public faith in them by their conduct.

THE PACKERS' CONGRESSMEN AND HERBERT HOOVER.

There is a certain quiveriness to it that the men who have been holding back and blocking the way for legislation that would tend to reduce the high cost of living, are the same men who, during the war, were constantly seeking to harass Food Administrator Hoover and Fuel Administrator Garfield, with investigations. Evidently they were inter-

fering somewhat with the rising costs of the necessities of life despite the way many of us were made to feel, that, because of the embarrassments that came to us, these administrations were really operating against us instead of for us. Then came the armistice, and Administrators Garfield and Hoover soon gave up their posts.

The way the profiteers have taken advantage of the removal of that control, now, however, seems to justify their war-time activities. Where war prices might have gone to without them we dare hardly attempt to guess, and now we have the prospect of their being brought back—or someone in their stead. We were even told in those days, yes, by certain members of congress, including Rep. Mondell, now majority leader, that Hoover was a henchman and employee of the packers, and operating in their interests. One may therefore anticipate that Rep. Mondell, from the manner in which he has sought to sidetrack legislation affecting the packers, will welcome Hoover's return, but he it Hoover or who ever it is, someone seems almost a necessity.

Mr. Hoover no doubt knows more about the production, distribution and value of food than anybody else in the world. This is generally agreed. He proved his ability as head of the Belgian relief commission, as food administrator for the allied powers. He has had unequalled experience.

Recently he resigned his international job because he believed he was not needed any longer, and wanted to attend to his private affairs, which had been neglected for several years. It is likely that Mr. Hoover would heed another call, as he heeded previous calls, if it were made plain that the nation needed him.

Certainly the nation needs somebody with the native ability, acquired knowledge and delegated authority to handle the present food situation. All sorts of public authorities, from president and congress down to the mayors and councils of small towns, are trying to do something to move food-stuffs more smoothly and economically from producer to consumer, to eliminate extortion and waste and reduce the cost of living. Most of those concerned are running around in circles and getting into each others' way.

The present situation is as critical as that which existed during the war. Why should not congress, or the president with the consent of congress, appoint some big man to coordinate and centralize the work? If there is any other man available who can do it better than Mr. Hoover, let that man be put in charge. If not, why not stop fooling around and get Hoover on the job again? The war-time charges against him are disproved by the conduct of the very men who made those charges; the profiteers and their agents.

The public knows Hoover and has confidence in him. Consumers are accustomed to taking his advice and accepting his word for things. Dealers have a wholesome respect for him. If he were to say that cheaper living is possible, and propose means of attaining it, his word would carry weight. The mere announcement of his appointment to the job would help to quiet the dangerous unrest among industrial workers.

Of course the cost of living isn't any higher here than it is abroad, but here is where most of the food and other necessities are produced, and they ought to be cheaper.

There must be something wrong with grown-ups. Do you hear any of the kids around the neighborhood complaining about the heat?

Other Editors Than Ours

ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT.

(London Times.)

It is evident to onlookers in Washington that the chief end of the republicans in congress is to harass, and if possible also to embarrass President Wilson. For months the republican leaders have busied themselves day and night attacking or planning to attack the president. More than a year ago a conference, at which Col. Theodore Roosevelt was present, was held here with a view to finding a way to break the hold the president has on the people. Many congressmen took part in that political pow-wow, and it was agreed that they should devote their time and wits to the task of discrediting the president. This program was put into effect, and Mr. Roosevelt started the onslaught, but it made no lasting impression; his articles were read but they did not make a deep impression.

The next move on the part of those chosen to depreciate the president was the republican filibuster in the senate in the last days of the 45th congress. It was believed that the defeat of the big supply bills would force the president to return to Washington, and remain away from the peace conference, or call an extra session of congress. The machinery of the government continued to operate despite this effort to impede it, but many men and women who served the government were inconvenienced for lack of sufficient supplies.

The republican leaders timed the passage of the railroad bill, providing \$750,000,000 for the payment of the carriers so that it would be difficult for the president to sign it by July 1. But that scheme failed, and the bill was signed in mid-ocean. A messenger was transferred from an eastbound to a west bound boat, and the president's signature was appended in ample time.

Other big appropriation bills, all of which could have been passed last session, had it not been for the filibuster, were rushed through the last day of the fiscal year, to embarrass the president. Thus far the president and his associates in the administration have defeated all attempts of the republican leaders of congress to hurt the public by their plots to belittle the president.

AN OLD MAN'S LAMENT.

(Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.)

The more one reads of Henry Watterson's "Looking Backward," the greater grows the regret that he did not write his reminiscences before he became soured upon the world and began to look upon mankind through a glass darkly. The republic is going to the demitition bow-wow. Everything politically that is, is wrong. Posing as a democrat he has been unfortunate in not having found any leader to suit since Tilden—and Tilden was his buddy. Cleveland was impossible, a little uncouth, rather ignorant, altogether bad—especially after his marriage. Wilson has been a wretch ever since. He smiled away that little conspiracy of the two "colons"—Watterson and Harvey, concocted over the cocktails at the Manhattan club, to run the country through the Princeton professor. 'Tis a rather sad story of an old man who can only pity his party leaders for not taking his dictation. One despises Harvey; for Watterson there can only be pity. Neglected and unappreciated though he may have been, his party has reached the greatest heights of achievement since he was born under the leadership of the Wilson he dislikes. He should have closed his career with his "To hell with the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns."

More Truth Than Poetry
By James J. Montague

THE LOST OPPORTUNITY.

Hotels now propose to add 10 per cent. for the waiter's tip, to checks for meals.—News Item.

I've often wished I had the nerve
To look a waiter in the eye
And in a chilly tone observe:
"The soup was cold; the bread was dry;
The meat was tough; the butter strong;
The plates were soiled; the fish was bad;
In fact, the whole darn meal was wrong;
You get no tip from me, my lad!"

I learned this little speech by heart
And with anticipation grim
I yearned to see the waiter start
When I delivered it to him.
I often say: "I'll do it now,
I'll teach him not to be so flip."
But when he brings my change, somehow,
I always wilt, and leave the tip.

I've had hot soup spilled down my neck,
I've found fresh flies in the soufflé,
My garments have been made a wreck
By gravy trickling from a tray.
'Tet though these incidents have made
Me fairly moan with discontent,
With craven soul I've always paid
The customary ten per cent.

And now I'll never have the chance
However badly I may dine,
To view the servitor askance,
And crush him with that speech of mine.
No utterance that passed my lips
The waiter's haughty soul could vex,
And he is sure to get his tips.
For now they put 'em on the checks!
(Copyright, 1919).

The Tower of Babel

By Bill Armstrong

Abe Frank is back from his Montana ranch. Abe tells us confidentially that he came back a month earlier than he expected, as he hated to have to wait so long before The Tower arrived.

Fred Dennis is using copies of The Tower to paper a room at Indian lake.

Several house wives have also informed us that Towers are very fine for placing on shelves.

A Tower, clipped out carefully and pinned at each end, can be placed over an incandescent lamp to very good advantage, making an excellent lamp shade for reading purposes.

And, it is said, two or three Towers can be placed back to back and pinned together in much the same way as for the lamp shade, and utilized to splendid advantage as a funnel in pouring home made beer from kettles into bottles. (Note: We will be glad to furnish a few Towers for this purpose if the parties receiving the same invite us down to visit them in three weeks or so.)

Towers can also be placed back to back, as suggested in the above paragraph, clipped in the shape of a half moon, and used for eyeshades for draw poker games or African golf. (Note: If the editor is notified in due season, he will be glad to deliver a limited number of Towers for this purpose anywhere in the city. A nominal charge will be made for deliveries as far away as Mishawaka or Niles.)

It has been suggested on a number of different occasions that a Tower, which has been carefully clipped from the editorial page of The News-Times, can also be used advantageously as a towel for the face, hands or neck, but unless your face, hand or neck be exceptionally rough, particularly your neck, a towel will suit the purpose much better.

Towers are very fine to place under carpets or rugs and they are nice to stuff in 'punctures' in an emergency. But so far as reading purposes is concerned, we would strongly advise against The Tower.

George Dimel, who is preparing to embark in the shoe business again locally, has an unique method of handling salesmen, who come into his place of business hoping and praying that they can sell him something. George lets them place up and down his store until they are all out of breath, their feet are smoking and their shoes are ruined, then he turns in and tries to sell them a pair of new shoes.

Speaking of shoes, Jim Mogie has come out in violent opposition to the Haul-Me-Home club. Jim charges

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INTERURBAN DAY

59th Annual August Blanket Sale



Buying Blankets shortly in advance of the season is profitable to our customers because of the actual saving over present values and doubly so over the prices to come.

Then, too, you have the use of blankets from the very beginning of the colder season.

Or, you may reserve the August Sale Price by paying a small deposit and we will hold them for you until winter.

August Sale of Furs

Furs, like Blankets, are best bought in August. Advance Styles—Selection from a larger assortment—and lower prices—are the strong arguments.

Wyman's Annual August Fur Sale lasts the balance of this month—and the values there are worth your seeing them.



Interurban Day Specials

Small Toy Wagon 45c

Small wagons with rack sides—painted red and yellow.

Character Doll 59c

9½ inch doll dressed in pink or blue. Special Thursday only 59c.

Underwear

Ladies' Princess May Union Suits, flesh and white tints, band or shell top, tight or lace knee. Special Thursday only 79c and 89c.

Rag Rug

Hit and Miss Rag Rug, 25x30 inches, 98c.

Handkerchiefs

Ladies' White Hemstitched Handkerchiefs with embroidered corners. Special Thursday at 8c.
Men's White Hemstitched Handkerchiefs with corded border. Special Thursday at 19c.

Toilet Specials

Colgate's Monad Violet Talcum Powder. Special Thursday 14c.
De La Clair Face Powder. Special 39c.
San Remo Baby Castile Soap. Special Thursday 3 for 25c.
Lenox Laundry Soap (not more than 20 to a customer), bar 5c.

Visit our new Daylight Basement for Toys, Dolls and Luggage

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