

importance of doing everything possible to promote agricultural production along economic lines, to improve agricultural marketing and to make rural life more attractive and healthful; the need for a law regulating cold storage in such a way as to limit the time during which goods may be kept in storage, prescribing the method of disposing of them if kept beyond the permitted period and requiring goods released from storage in all cases to bear the date of their receipt. It would also be most serviceable if it were provided that all goods released from cold storage for interstate shipments have plainly marked upon each package the selling or market price at which they went into storage, in order that the purchaser might be able to learn what profits stood between him and the producer or the wholesale dealer. Indeed, it would be very serviceable to the public if all goods destined for interstate commerce were made to carry upon every packing case whose form made it possible a plain statement of the price at which they left the hands of the producer. I respectfully call your attention also to the recommendations of the message referred to with regard to a federal license for all corporations engaged in interstate commerce.

In brief, the immediate legislative need of the time is the removal of all obstacles to the realization of the best ambitions of our people in their several classes of employment and the strengthening of all instrumentalities by which difficulties are to be met and removed and justice dealt out, whether by law or by some form of mediation and conciliation. I do not feel it to be my privilege at present to suggest the detailed and particular methods by which these objects may be attained, but I have faith that the inquiries of your several committees will discover the way and the method.

In response to what I believe to be the impulse of sympathy and opinion through the United States, I earnestly suggest that the congress authorize the treasury of the United States to make to the struggling government of Armenia such a loan as was made to several of the allied governments during the war, and I would also suggest that it would be very desirable to provide in the legislation itself the expenditure of the money thus loaned should be under the supervision of a commission or at least a commissioner, from the United States, in order that revolutionary tendencies within Armenia, itself, might not be afforded by the loan a further tempting opportunity.

Allow me to call your attention to the fact that the people of the Philippine islands have succeeded in maintaining a stable government since the last action of the congress in their behalf and have thus fulfilled the condition set by the congress as precedent to a consideration of granting independence to the islands.

I respectfully submit that this condition precedent having been fulfilled, it is now our liberty and our duty to keep our promise to the people of those islands by granting them the independence which they so honorably covet. I have not so much laid before you a series of recommendations, gentlemen, as sought to utter a confession of faith, of the faith in which I was bred and which it is my solemn purpose to stand by until my last fighting days. I believe this to be the faith of America, the faith of the future, and of all the victories which await national action in the days to come, whether in America or elsewhere.

**NEXT!**

The following interview in the Chicago Tribune indicates that the congressmen are beginning to hear from their constituents:

"Washington, D. C., Nov. 23.—Republican members of the house ways and means committee will be unanimous in seeking the repeal of the excess profits tax.

"Representative Frear of Wisconsin, one of the Republicans on this committee who will have charge of the revision of the tax laws, declared today that he is not convinced that the excess profits tax has had any bad effects. Mr. Frear is strongly opposed to the sales tax urged in some quarters as a substitute for the excess profits tax.

"Representative Frear presented a minority report from the ways and means committee last spring in connection with the soldiers' bonus bill. He opposed the scheme favored by the majority of the Republicans on the committee for raising the money, although he supported bonus legislation.

"His attitude at that time and his present position in favor of the continuance of the ex-

**The Armenian Mandate**



*They're all against taking a mandate over Armenia—*



*But, gosh, just supposing oil was discovered in Armenia!*

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cess profits tax make it probable that Mr. Frear will furnish considerable trouble for the Republican organization leaders if they decide on a program which includes repeal of the excess profits tax.

"I have given considerable thought to the matter and I fail to see why the excess profits tax should be repealed," said Representative Frear. I am willing to be convinced on the subject, but I have some opinions of my own.

"It is my view that the excess profits tax is levied against those best able to bear the burden. It is not true, in my opinion, that it has been responsible for an increase in the cost of living. The fact that prices have been coming down is proof that a decline can come in spite of the excess profits tax.

"I am firmly against any consumption tax such as the tax on sales which has been urged as a substitute for the excess profits tax. I fail to see why a working man should pay as much of a tax on a shirt that he owns as a millionaire."

**"WETS" ARE DEAD**

Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 6.—Editor Commoner: "And it came to pass." Lo, the "dead" Commoner returns! The "Wet" candidate is the dead one now. The wet "Ovation" of the convention has petered out. 1924 will make more history! We can afford to wait.

CLINTON N. HOWARD.

The disadvantage to a political party that lies in having its control rest in the hands of representatives of the brewers may be accurately estimated by a look at the recent election returns from Nebraska. The Democratic candidate for president did not carry a single county, and the Democratic state ticket was high in but one county. In 1916 the Democrats carried the state by 41,000. In 1920 they lost it by 130,000.

**ENDORSES MR. BRYAN'S SUGGESTION**

Fullerton, Calif., Nov. 19, 1920.—W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: I have been constantly in touch with your position on all national matters, through your speeches and your paper, for about 20 years. During this time I have seen the sledge-hammer blows you have delivered in moulding public opinion, and in this way you have forced the Republicans to help to enact into law many of the things they fought until public opinion forced them to reverse their position. Then they always studiously avoided giving any credit to you. In fact, they claimed the credit for themselves.

Now a strange spell has come over the Los Angeles Times, and even that standpat Republican organ steps to the front of the platform and announced that Mr. Bryan is right. Wilson and Marshall should get out of the way and let Harding assume control at once. Can it be that the personal interest of the Times had anything to do with opening its eyes to the wisdom of your suggestion? Perish the thought. Sincerely, S. W. MCCOLLOCH.

(Editors Note—The editorial from the Los Angeles Times referred to above appears on another page of this issue.)

A lot of bragging is done by our publicists over the improvements in the methods of communication and the quickness with which one may exchange messages with another. Apparently, however, the packers and the retailers find the wires reported "busy" every time they call one another up.

The fact that business is reported to be unusually dull may account for the great increase in the number of robberies in the big cities. The gentlemen who were so busy profiteering during the war acquired habits that it will be extremely difficult to break on such short notice.