

The President on Canal Tolls

The following address was delivered by President Wilson at a joint session of the two houses of congress, March 5, 1914:
Gentlemen of The Congress:

I have come to you upon an errand which can be very briefly performed, but I beg that you will not measure its importance by the number of sentences in which I state it. No communication I have addressed to the congress carried with it graver or more far-reaching implications as to the interest of the country, and I come now to speak upon a matter with regard to which I am charged in a peculiar degree, by the constitution itself, with personal responsibility.

I have come to ask you for the repeal of that provision of the Panama canal act of August 24, 1912, which exempts vessels engaged in the coastwise trade of the United States from payment of tolls, and to urge upon you the justice, the wisdom, and the large policy of such a repeal with the utmost earnestness of which I am capable.

In my own judgment, very fully considered and maturely formed, that exemption constitutes a mistaken economic policy from every point of view, and is, moreover, in plain contravention of the treaty with Great Britain concerning the canal concluded on November 18, 1901. But I

have not come to urge upon you my personal views. I have come to state to you a fact and a situation. Whatever may be our own differences of opinion concerning this much debated measure, its meaning is not debated outside the United States. Everywhere else the language of the treaty is given but one interpretation, and that interpretation precludes the exemption I am asking you to repeal. We consented to the treaty; its language we accepted, if we did not originate it; and we are too big, too powerful, too self-respecting a nation to interpret with a too strained or refined reading the words of our own promises just because we have power enough to give us leave to read them as we please. The large thing to do is the only thing we can afford to do, a voluntary withdrawal from a position everywhere questioned and misunderstood. We ought to reverse our action without raising the question whether we were right or wrong, and so once more deserve our reputation for generosity and for the redemption of every obligation without quibble or hesitation.

I ask this of you in support of the foreign policy of the administration. I shall not know how to deal with other matters of even greater delicacy and nearer consequence if you do not grant it to me in ungrudging measure.

SENATOR GORE AND HIS VINDICATION

We reproduce on another page extracts from articles and editorials which appeared in several leading journals that indicate the light in which public opinion has viewed the vindication of Senator Gore. The verdict and vindication were both speedy and splendid. It took the jury less than three minutes to exonerate the senator and to cast a merited rebuke upon his accusers. No one who knew Senator Gore personally ever credited the charges against him. He has been compelled it is true to pass through a fiery ordeal and yet the trial has its compensation. It afforded him an opportunity to vindicate his good name and to demonstrate the falsity of the charges against him as well as the malignity of those who had preferred them.

The whole matter seems to be but the evil fruit of the evil tree of disappointment and revenge. It will be remembered that J. F. McMurray had contracts with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians which would have netted him between three and four million dollars. Senator Gore defeated those contracts. The evidence showed frequent conferences in McMurray's room in Washington between McMurray and the several members of the conspiracy against Senator Gore. The other members of the conspiracy were all disappointed seekers after federal appointments. Senator Gore had refused to indorse them on the ground of their unfitness. Their conduct has abundantly justified his judgment as to their unfitness.

Overtures were made from time to time on behalf of one of his accusers or another to compromise the matter for a consideration or an office. Senator Gore steadfastly refused to purchase peace at the price of honor and his refusal was expressed in the following courageous telegram under date of July 12th to Hon. M. M. Bonner, Oklahoma City, Okla.

"Could neither treat nor retreat. Could entertain no proposition of settlement or compromise."

There may be those who would have capitulated, who would have bargained for peace, who would have avoided publicity by a dishonorable compromise. It was the part of honor to spurn the offer. The swift verdict proves that there is wisdom as well as merit in a steadfast devotion to public duty. The general rejoicing over the vindication proves that those who have duties to perform and dangers to dare may rely upon an enlightened public conscience to sustain them in a warfare against wrong doing and wrong doers.

Senator Gore, who is one of the mainstays of the administration, will now probably have no opposition for reelection and should have none.

W. J. BRYAN.

Sixteen years after it happened, a dispute has arisen between Admiral Dewey and Admiral von Diederichs over what occurred between them in Manila bay. The German admiral says Dewey lost his head on that occasion. Funny nobody ever noticed it before.

A STALWART FIGURE GONE

The death of Henry M. Teller, former cabinet member and senator from Colorado, removes one of the stalwart figures of American political history. The strength of his character and the quality of his statesmanship was such that, during his long and eventful career, his service could not be confined to the boundaries of his chosen state, but lent its power and influence in shaping the history of the whole country. The following well deserved tribute to Senator Teller appeared in the Denver News:

"Whether in the senate of the United States, in the cabinet or in the councils of the commonwealth he had helped to build well and wisely, Henry Moore Teller was a commanding and respected figure. No voice was more potent than his in deliberations affecting the national weal where political partisanship was not involved. No counsel was sought after more frequently. His quality of statesmanship was broad and comprehensive. His spirit was the American spirit, his creed the Declaration of Independence, his faith the legacy the fathers have bequeathed in the republic. Neither expediency nor hypocrisy played controlling part in his life. He believed in freedom for Cuba and the Philippines with the same zest and unwavering honesty that he had for the autonomy of every state in the union. He loved freedom for all, black and white, because it was freedom and because, too, freedom for man or people as he believed comes from God's right hand to uplift and prosper in every clime under the sun. His name will not be found in the roster of the opportunists, but history will accord him high place beside those who have pleaded and striven and struggled for the best they could forge for the republic—the men in national leadership who by common consent are unmistakably earnest, who are not tied down irrevocably by the traditions of party, and who do not fear to break new ground when humanity and patriotism demand the sacrifice.

"Senator Teller filled a big space in the history of the United States. It is perhaps too early yet to properly estimate the value of his services. All the policies he inspired and helped to develop have not reached their full fruition. But many of them are fundamentals of the national government, and insofar as they have found voice in practice have been of signal advantage to the people. What his political affiliations were is of little moment. It is or should be enough for us of Colorado to know that in Henry M. Teller statesmanship was amply endowed, diplomacy had a sincere and conservative exponent, and the United States an able and uncompromising patriot.

"A pillar has fallen from the national temple. His own and beloved Colorado, to which he dedicated with lavish will his greatest strength of devotional service, will continue to mourn for him. Through all the vicissitudes of public life his first thought was for the people among whom he had grown as neighbor and counselor and for the commonwealth he had seen develop from

a territory of settlements into an imperial state of cities and towns. As kindly as the years had dealt with him, so did he deal through all of them with this people, whose confidence he had received as a sacred heritage and never once betrayed."

BILLY SUNDAY

To call the Reverend William A. Sunday "Billy" is not a discourtesy but an evidence of affection. It was the name by which he was known when he was a baseball player, and he has not found it necessary to maintain his dignity by frowning upon a familiarity which his genial nature invites. Like Sam Jones, he is the recipient of praise and abuse—of praise from those whose hearts have felt the influence of his powerful appeals, of criticism from those who have not come into contact with him or are ignorant of the effective service he has rendered to the cause of righteousness. It is said that he is dramatic—well, life has its dramatic moments, and nature does not always speak in whispers. The thunder, the lightning, the earthquake and the hurricane, as well as the meadow brook, the evening zephyr and the glowing sunset, give us glimpses of nature.

Sunday should not be condemned because he does not follow the beaten oratorical path. No two speakers are alike if they are worth comparing; no speaker can successfully imitate another speaker, and he will not want to unless he is more interested in his manner than in his message. Some ministers have complained that Sunday is unconventional. But what of that if the Lord gives him souls for his hire? The preacher who finds fault with Sunday should, before complaining, be sure that he can offer in support of his kind of preaching a longer list of names of persons who have been converted. If your neighbor tells you that he has no use for Billy Sunday, take him to one of Sunday's meetings and let him sit spellbound, as thousands do nightly, and listen to his presentation of the Gospel. One experience will convince him that a man who can be instrumental in the regeneration of human hearts and in strengthening his hearers to a better life is not laboring in vain.

Every agency for evil, every manipulator of the man-traps, every conspirator against the purity of youth or the virtue of manhood or womanhood—all these will instinctively protest against Sunday's entrance into their town. Is that not enough to assure the well-meaning man on which side of the scales his influence should be cast? Billy Sunday knows the average man, and he reaches him. He has felt the salvation which he preaches, and he is thus able to bring a knowledge of it to those who need it. He is a power for good wherever he goes.

W. J. BRYAN.

Senator Beveridge insists that there is no such a political animal as a progressive republican, and insists that a man who claims to be one is not progressive enough to be a progressive and not republican enough to be a real republican. A commission composed of those republicans who had so much trouble defining the various kinds of democrats they said they found in the political field a few years ago might be called as confessed experts in sheep and goat herding.

THE LAST WORD

(In compliance with public opinion, the Morgan firm has retired from a number of directorates in great trusts of the country.—News Item.)

When the voice of the people speaks loud enough
The deafest of magnates can hear;
The proudest of bankers is cowed enough
When the thunderbolts crash in his ear,
And the Masters of Money grow humble,
Their arrogance dwindles from sight,
When they hark to the menacing rumble
As the people speak out in their might!

When the voice of the people speaks loud enough
It's only a fool who's defiant;
It's only a blind man who's proud enough
To think he can conquer the giant—
The giant so slow in the waking,
So mighty when once under way,
That wise men, with knees that are quaking,
Give heed to his voice—and obey!

The people have labored and plowed enough,
They are restless and weary of strain—
When the voice of the people speaks loud enough
The Will of the people shall reign!

—Berton Braley, in Milwaukee News.