



J. B.—Hi say, Bill, that's one of the best bloomin' peace plans you ever suggested.  
—From the Nashville Tennessean.

## Read History a Bit

(Johnstown Democrat.)

If you are narrow and mean and bigoted and prejudiced and proud of it don't read history. If you are stupidly partisan and proud of it don't read history. If you are inclined to bunco people and proud of your ability in that line don't read history.

If you are busy manufacturing a "business depression" to suit your own selfish ends; if you are howling calamity in order to boost the aims of some outcast political machine forget the past and its lessons.

A good dose of history has cooled off many a hot head. History serves the cause of the philosopher, but it is the dismay of the imposter because the lessons of history rise up and swat the arguments even of the clever imposter.

We read here and there that this great nation of ours is on the slide; that it is without a future; that only disaster awaits us. There are hints that the nation cannot recover from the blows that have been dealt it.

But wait a moment. Let us leaf back a few pages in our newspaper files. Let us read a little history, if you please.

Here's an interesting headline. The story goes on to tell that more than 2,000 men march to the city hall at Detroit and demand work. The date is January 28, 1908.

Here's another item worth looking over. The Chicago federation of labor estimates the total number of unemployed men at 100,000 and issues a warning to all craftsmen to keep away from the city. The date is February 11, 1908.

The further one looks the worse the story becomes. Let us peruse this story. It tells how 100,000 men march through the streets of New York singing the Marsellaise and other songs; how the speakers preach revolution and demand work; how a bomb is thrown at the police by anarchists. The date is March 28, 1908.

Come a little nearer home. The labor unions in the Kensington district, Philadelphia, say that there are 50,000 idle men reported by the

union leaders. The date is February 10, 1908.

A few days later there is a riot in Philadelphia. A band of 1,000 foreigners, mostly women, march toward the Philadelphia city hall to present a demand for work. There is a riot. Three policemen are shot, fourteen of the marching host are arrested and hundreds beaten by the mounted cops. The date is February 20, 1908.

Do you imagine the roll has been called yet? Far from it. Another item estimates the number of men actually in want at one million and a half. This is March 20, 1908.

But it is not necessary to pause. There are other items. We are dealing with a real depression—not just a depression caused by democratic politics. Here's the news from the cities as the wire tells it:

Chicago—Bulgarians numbering 700 appealed to city and county authorities for aid for deportation to their own country. April 8, 1908.

Buffalo—Five hundred men besieged office of superintendent of poor for food. Four men taken to hospital suffering from starvation. January 20, 1908.

Camden, N. J.—Riot follows application of 1,000 men for 400 jobs advertised by the Joseph Campbell Co. August 10, 1908.

Denver—More than 200 Bulgarians petition governor for employment, or aid to return to Bulgaria. March 20, 1908.

Granite City, Mo.—Fifty men kneel before various churches pleading for work. One man killed himself because he failed to obtain work. April 25, 1908.

Detroit—More than 2,000 men march to city hall to solicit work of mayor. January 28, 1908.

New York—School children numbering 5,000 mob the restaurant of Adolph Lorber to obtain free meals offered by Mr. Lorber. February 13, 1908.

Philadelphia—Loan of \$9,000,000 to provide funds for public works asked by the city for unemployed. Race riot followed demonstration of

unemployed demanding work. Italians attacked by men of other nationalities.

New York—Government urged by central federated labor union to let contracts for subway to furnish work for 500,000 men unemployed. March 15, 1908.

San Francisco—Organized unemployed league formed. Demands the issuance of \$23,000,000 in bonds to aid unemployed. January 28, 1908.

Toledo—One thousand Hungarians march through the rain to receive a loaf of bread each. March 23, 1908.

Such is a part of the story of the winter that followed the panic of 1907. Democratic policies to blame? Not a bit of it. Republicans had been in power for eleven years. Democratic president to blame? Not a bit of it. Theodore Roosevelt was in the White House. Democratic congress to blame? Not a bit of it. The country was safely standpat. Democratic tariff law to blame? Not a bit of it. The law of Dingley still prevailed.

Explain the panic of 1907 as you will. Say it was a bankers' panic. Say it was a result of a "psychological condition." It was a condition that prevailed under a republican president and at a time when republican legislation framed to foster prosperity were stall upon the statute books. If the democrats are panic makers they are not expert at their line. They have not yet been able to duplicate the winter of 1908. As a matter of fact, history shows that the Tory press forgets a lot when it assails the new tariff laws and the new currency law as panic breeders. While they are organizing a "business depression" the standpat politicians should stage a few bread riots just to give a realistic touch to their show.

### ENDORSES DEMOCRATIC PROGRAM

"The democratic congress will stand better in the public estimation by far if it makes the most of its opportunity to carry out the administration program, while it has the power. If it turns tail and runs in a condition of terror because opponents are trying to frighten it from its task by crying business depression, so much the worse for it. The Republican hopes that congress will remain in session until the democratic policy for the further regulation of monopoly is worked out in the form of law; and the conservation bills should be included in the program. If it takes all summer, let it be all summer.

"There is nothing novel or unexpected in the legislation which has passed the house and which is now pending in the senate. As much as the tariff law and the income tax it was clearly foreshadowed by the presidential campaign in 1912. Scarcely any subject was more prominent in the campaign discussion than that of the trusts. All parties professed a purpose to destroy private monopoly; they differed in their methods. How thoroughly committed they all were appeared in the fact that the democratic bills recently passed by the house, exposed to criticism as they were from various viewpoints, received republican and progressive votes. The trade commission bill was favored in principle in the republican and progressive platforms; and the railroad securities bill has virtually no party opposition in the country today. If there is anything in election returns, even the labor sections of the Clayton bill were overwhelmingly approved and demanded by the voters in 1912.

"In a broad way, the bills embody the present consensus of public opinion. The bulk of the people want private monopoly destroyed; but they are not ready, because they are not convinced, to accept the so-

cialistic solution of the problem. There is sure to be agitation of this issue for years to come, and business must put up with it for the simple reason that we are necessarily in for a period of more or less experimentation in determining the correct relations between government and all enterprises having monopolistic tendencies. The utterly artificial, the palpably forced, the viciously immoral and flagrantly unfair methods used to establish so many of the great monopolistic industrial combinations in the past have left an immense number of citizens still wedded to their old faith in competition; and their demand is that before we go toward socialism another inch the competitive principle shall have as fair and thorough a tryout as law and government can give to it. The pending bills attempt to meet that demand.

"If business men, big and little, would see in the situation no rest from agitation so long as great bodies of voters remain unconvinced one way or the other, by the teaching of experience, they would join in demanding the enactment of the pending measures at the earliest possible moment consistent with careful and unequivocal legislation. But the legislation should be pushed through without their aid, if their opposition is implacable. Let us have something done. Postponement can bring no relief from political warfare over the trust question, but the actual inauguration of a definite policy in practice must bring results in a few years which would enlighten the people and guide them toward a solution that should be fairly permanent.

"The complaint that this kind of lawmaking will disturb business is doubtless true. But business is already disturbed. It has been disturbed for years. The panic of 1907 and the ensuing severe depression in trade under President Roosevelt were more disturbing developments than one often sees. President Taft was bitterly reproached by the so-called big interests for disturbing business by his suits for the dissolution of trusts. The Roosevelt and Taft administrations never got beyond lawsuits. What we want now is a distinct trial, under laws as favorable as possible to the test, of the competitive principle in large business operations; and with such laws provided immediately, the country could settle down for three years of genuine rest from further legislation along these lines. For this administration would not reopen the question, having accomplished its task, while no political changes as the result of next autumn elections could make more legislation possible in the next congress.

"The second half of the Wilson administration should be a period of freedom from legislative "harassment" of business such as we have not experienced in years, in case the president is permitted to carry through his program at this session. By the time the presidential campaign of 1916 had opened, the people would have learned enough by experience of the democratic tariff law, the democratic income tax, the democratic bank and currency law, the democratic laws for the regulation of monopoly, to form something besides a snap judgment concerning them, and it must be to the verdict of 1916, rather than the verdict of 1914, that the administration itself must appeal if a fairly mature and intelligent opinion of its work is to be recorded."—Springfield Republican.

Our idea of a competent wife is one who makes her husband toe the mark, foot the bills, hop over her thumb, quake at the knees, hold his tongue, wash his neck, shut his mouth, wipe off his chin and hand her bouquets.—Dallas News.