

## An Ideal for Workers

[Remarks of Hon. William C. Redfield, secretary of commerce, in the assembly hall of the Commonwealth Steel Co., Granite City, Illinois, Tuesday noon, January 23, 1915.]

My friends, Mr. Howard:

Yes, I remember very well \$3 a week, and of getting paid once every three months. It looked very big when I got it, but by the end of the next three months there wasn't much left. I was later promoted to \$6 a week, and then was fired because I was too expensive. (Laughter.) That was the only time I was ever fired and I remember it very vividly.

I went through a big shop not a great while ago with the president of the company. It was a great big shop and the president went along down the benches where the vise hands were working, behind the line of lathes, and putting his hand on a man's shoulder he said, "John, how is your wife?" John turned around and said, "She's pretty well, thank you, Mr. ———." Then we went on, and I was just far enough behind to hear John say to Jim next to him, "My God, does he care?" It was a good deal of a surprise to John to know that a head of a great company thought enough of John to care how his wife was when she was sick, and to think to ask about it.

I want to tell you a little story that has never been told out loud in this country before. I went across the Pacific ocean about three years ago, and on the ship was a Japanese naval officer, a man whom I came to know very well indeed, and he told me this story. He was in the great fight at Tsushima, where Admiral Togo's fleet destroyed what was left of the Russian navy. After the battle was over, my friend's ship was one of those that was sent off to chase four Russian vessels which had gotten away. In the morning they saw, a good way off, some four steamers and they knew those were the Russian ships. When they got quite near them the Russian ships sent up some flags. The captain of the Japanese cruiser did not understand what the signal meant. He got out his signal book. It was not there. He called his executive officer. Again they examined the signal book. It was not there. He called down from the bridge of the ship to my friend, who was gunnery lieutenant, and said to him in Japanese, "Gunnery, come up. You have been in England and America. Perhaps you can read this signal." He was soon upon the bridge and with his glasses looked at the ships. He said, "Yes, yes, that is the signal for surrender. Let me look at your signal book." He opened the book and the leaf had been torn out! That Japanese ship was not able to give the signal of surrender during that war!

Now it is that spirit which is in you. It is that spirit with which the American workman's heart, transfused through his fingers into honest work, that is making our country great, gentlemen. It is that which has carried us against many disadvantages all around the world so that the product of American shops are everywhere sold. It is that fact that made it possible for me to say to a man in eastern Java, "You ought to have here for sale such and such an American article. It is well made by honorable men and by honorable workmen." For, my friends, there are seven days of worship in this world, not merely on Sunday when the priest or the minister may lead a service, but six days in the week when men at honest toil, with clear heads and sound hearts and skilful fingers do work they worship. I wish we would get that gospel of industry deep into the heart of every one of us, that work, honorably done, with the spirit of service, is that in which a man writes his character into that which leaves his hands. So that out of a shop that which goes well made, of good material, honorably worked at with skilful labor, is what the men in the shop and at the head made it. It represents them. It is what they are, the product of their character as well as of their toil. So that you are daily speaking through what you make to other men of what you are, and that is the fine and the dignified and the high gospel of labor, thank God.

It is a privilege to meet you face to face. I wish I had the time and opportunity to meet you hand to hand. It has long been my privilege, for nearly 30 long years, to be in the shop. I know the atmosphere of the hammer and the forge, and the furnace and the belt, a lot better than I do

the atmosphere of Washington, and plainly, I like it a lot better, for here in our shops where we work is wrought out the productive side of life. I get tired often of the men who talk, and love to meet the men that do, and I thank you for the privilege of coming face to face with men that show that they are doing things in this life. I thank you very much. (Applause.)

### DR. BLANCO OF URUGUAY

Diplomatic society at Washington has been honored by the presence of a distinguished visitor from Uruguay—Doctor Juan Carlos Blanco, secretary of the interior of that country. He came to return the visit which Secretary Root paid to his country and also to represent Uruguay at the Pan-American exposition. He belongs to an illustrious Uruguay family, and, though but thirty-four years of age, has achieved great prominence in the public life of his nation.

At a dinner given to him by the secretary of state, upon his arrival, Doctor Blanco said:

#### DR. BLANCO'S ADDRESS

"Mr. Secretary of State:

"His Excellency the president of the oriental republic of Uruguay has directed me to present to Your Excellency the greetings of the nation and to reiterate personally to the American government the expressions of friendship and admiration which the people of Uruguay so profoundly feel for the United States.

"Uruguay considers the United States a disinterested supporter of peace and international justice, and believes that the most sincere wishes of your nation are to see the American continent free of internal dissensions and united in sentiments of progress and prosperity and protected against possible external attacks by the Monroe Doctrine, which today is a dogma throughout the continent.

"It is not to be forgotten that every citizen of this continent has, not mentioning the duty to his country, also deep obligations toward the American continent and must contribute to the work of prosperity in common. The horrors of the present European war tell us more than ever the incomparable happiness of peace. And they teach us more than ever that peace must be maintained in America and rest on reciprocal confidence and benevolence.

"Uruguay considers Your Excellency a foremost and most advanced factor of international peace and justice. The relations between both countries are becoming more and more intimate and cordial. The American government has taken several initiatives which will make imperishable the names of her enlightened statesmen. A treaty between our countries has just been agreed upon at the suggestion of the United States, which is a very important step made toward the peace of the American continent.

"Uruguay is proud to collaborate in this work and looks for new customs adjustments and conventions dealing with the naturalization of citizens and other reciprocal facilities and advantages which would make America one sole country of entire democracy and freedom.

"Allow me, gentlemen, to raise my cup in honor to His Excellency William Jennings Bryan, the illustrious secretary of state and eminent citizen, whose civicism and patriotism constitute an example for the citizens of the American continent."

An address of welcome was delivered by Senator Root and brief speeches were made by Secretary McAdoo, Minister de Pena of Uruguay, Congressman Linthicum, representing the majority of the foreign affairs committee of the house; Ambassador Naon of Argentine; Congressman Alney representing the minority of the foreign affairs committee of the house; and Minister Calderon of Bolivia.

In concluding the program, Mr. Bryan said:

"Dr. Blanco: You have listened to the words of welcome—we are all delighted to have you among us. I can not add anything of value to the felicitous addresses to which you have listened but I can congratulate you and your country upon the age in which we live. Uruguay is not large in population or in area, but size and numbers do not count now as they once did. In ancient times, when 'might made right,' nations must be strong if they would live—the weak were absorbed by the powerful—but the day has come in the western hemisphere when differences are to be settled by reason, rather than by the sword, and when a nation's claim for prominence must rest upon her ideals and upon the service which she renders. The prize is now to the nation which can hold highest the torch of light

and liberty, and the smallest nation need not fear to enter into this honorable contest.

"And just a word more. The nations of this hemisphere are bound together by the strongest of ties. They not only have a unity of ideals, but they are neighbors and must remain so. It is necessary to their happiness, therefore, that, having to live together, they shall live together in amity and in friendship.

"I ask you all, therefore, to rise and join me in the sentiment—'The nations of the Western Hemisphere—what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.'"

### A STRONG STATEMENT

Gov. Charles S. Hamlin of the federal reserve board makes a strong statement in a Chicago address when he says that the establishment of the new banking system at its outset rescued the country from the "most ominous condition in its history." Is it too strong a statement?

We know what the situation was for some weeks after the outbreak of the war. We know what it is now or since the opening of the federal reserve system. The war caught us under the old banking system, with gold reserves scattered and subject to the hoarding instincts of thousands of individual banks. It inflicted upon us conditions which great domestic panics had brought in the past. It imposed upon us, besides, an immense liquidation of stocks and bonds held abroad whose immediate settlement in gold was demanded. Our foreign exchanges ran up to unheard-of figures, and a virtual and disorderly moratorium on maturing indebtedness to Europe sprang up as a last effort to save the gold standard.

Even this might not have availed but for the oncoming establishment of the federal reserve system so happily provided beforehand. It came, and with it a new-born confidence. Mobilization of gold reserves took the place of their scattered hoarding, concerted control dislodged a banking and individual scramble without control, goods began to move out instead of gold, the foreign exchanges began to fall until they are now below the gold-import point.

What the new system has done in overcoming an unparalleled emergency is established beyond dispute. What it may yet do for the permanent commercial upbuilding of the nation we get an inkling of in the provision of a wide market for business paper through bank acceptances.

Mr. Hamlin's statement was none too strong. It was perhaps not strong enough.—New York World.

### THE BUSINESS PROSPECT

Philadelphia may not be progressive in everything, but note that her city government has sold five million four per cent bonds "over the counter," or direct to the investor, without any intervening banker, in less than seven hours. This not only illustrates the correct method of selling bonds, but is a little hint also of the capital waiting for investment. Most of the sale was for \$500 and \$1,000 to men and women standing in line.

There is one slogan going about just now, "Made in America." An excellent slogan. There is another, "Buy it now." That also is sound. The best judges predict a rapid improvement in conditions. They are beginning already. Conditions are very favorable in our fortunate country. The sensible and helpful thing is to jump right in.—Harper's Weekly.

An editorial admirer of Senator Root, expressing his regret over the retirement of the New Yorker to private life, said he was moved to do so by his lack of belief in the intelligence of the people—meaning thereby that they did not know enough to re-elect him. While cheerfully admitting Mr. Root's intellectual solidity, it might be added that a man who holds such opinions of the electorate is hardly the best man to represent it.

Presidential primaries were pushed into the background by more pressing legislation during the short session of congress, but there is still time to inaugurate a reform that will put the big bosses out of politics as effectively as direct primaries elsewhere have eliminated the little bosses.

Mr. Roosevelt continues to express a poor opinion of the Wilson administration. In fact it is becoming increasingly difficult to discover anything anywhere that meets with Mr. Roosevelt's approval.