

## Another Insidious Lobby

[From the Johnstown, Pa., Democrat.]

In 1913, soon after taking office, President Wilson electrified the country and started a stampede out of Washington, when he charged that the capital was infested by an "insidious lobby," which he was determined to smoke out. The hegira which followed this presidential warning left Washington hotel men to mourn the good old times. There was never before such a hustling to get out of the City of Magnificent Distances.

But the "insidious lobby" of 1913 was a negligible force in comparison with the more insidious lobby which now infests the capital. The lobby which challenged presidential attention in 1913 and which fled before the scourge which the White house brought into view was frankly selfish. It made few if any pretensions of patriotism. It was not saving the country. It was not buttressing our shores against a threatened invasion. It was not particularly anxious about the flag. It was troubling itself little with the Yellow Peril or the German bogey. It was there merely to get all that was to be had for the railroads, for steel, for sugar, or glass, for ship yards, for powder mills, for gun factories, for lumber and for all the other pets of privilege which republicanism had been nurturing for so many years.

The word from the White house gave this lobby a great shock and occasioned unconcealed alarm in many quarters, but it was highly effective. The hotel business in Washington was never as poor as it was in 1913 and 1914. But it must be improving now.

For there is another and an infinitely more dangerous lobby infesting the capital of the nation today. It is a purely "patriotic" lobby, a lobby which has wrapped the flag about it, a lobby profoundly concerned over the welfare of the nation and the perpetuity of our sacred institutions, a lobby which is in deadly fear of some imaginary foe, a lobby that thinks in terms of air ships, submarines, dreadnaughts, 16-inch guns, torpedoes, shells, a huge standing army and a navy greater than a Hobson ever dared to propose.

Even the railroads when carrying forward their successful campaign to force the government to permit an increase of freight rates flooded the mails with no such a deluge of literature as that which the preparedness lobby is today disseminating. Never before in the history of the country has an equal activity in any behalf been witnessed. Evidently this lobby is richly endowed. It is magnificently organized. It is splendidly equipped. And it is carrying forward its work with a thoroughness and with an indifference to the cost which may well challenge the curious interest of the American people who are being asked to approve of vast expenditures on the "national defenses," the implication being that our shores are menaced by some powerful oppressor.

The ramifications of this lobby are widespread. Scores of leagues, societies, clubs and associations have been formed to push particular phases of the general campaign. There are national security leagues, national rifle associations, national aereo clubs and national organizations of various sorts designed to arouse the country to some impending peril and to bring it to a realizing sense of what is expected of it in the way of funds for buying battle-ships, cruisers, dreadnaughts, submarines, destroyers, air craft, powder, war material, and equipment

and for the increase of army and navy to a war footing in a time of profound peace. Schools, churches, political organizations, the magazine and newspaper press, chautauquas, the lyceum, every thing which contributes to the molding of public opinion, is being utilized by this lobby as far as possible in spreading the gospel of preparedness and in dragging popular sentiment into an acceptance of the fantastic notion that preparation for war is a guaranty of peace.

The president might well turn his attention to this lobby. The one driven by him from Washington two years ago was praiseworthy by comparison. There was little false pretense in that "insidious" aggregation which haunted the halls of congress and besieged the departments of government in pursuit of favors. But the lobby of which the Army and Navy league, the National Security league, the National Rifle association, the National Aereo club of America and scores of similar organizations are the visible expressions, is of the very essence of false pretense. It is greed masquerading in the vestments of patriotism. It is militarism cloaked in the garb of peace. It is selfish ambition posing as disinterested public spirit. It is imperialism of the sordid sort whose democratic habiliments do not conceal the iron hand or the two-edged sword. That it should indefinitely pursue its sinister work unchallenged seems unthinkable. The president and congress should both call it to account and force a revelation of the secret springs of action and the secret sources of supply. And the country will be much disappointed should the president and congress fail to turn on the light.

### ACT NOW, TIME FOR TALK PAST, COLONEL AVERS

A special dispatch to the Chicago Tribune, dated New York, Aug. 21, says: Col. Theodore Roosevelt today broke the silence he has maintained about this country's international relations with Germany since the sinking of the Lusitania. Referring to the destruction of the Arabic, Col. Roosevelt said it would be a fresh sacrifice of American honor and interests for the administration merely to dismiss Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, and sever diplomatic relations with Germany. The colonel's statement reiterates more forcibly his previous utterances on the subject, maintaining that the time for words passed long ago.

#### Hopes Administration Will Act.

"I see it suggested in the papers," Col. Roosevelt said, "that the German answer to our last note, which is the sinking of the Arabic by a German submarine and the consequent murder of American citizens, will be adequately met by the administration dismissing Von Bernstorff and severing diplomatic relations with Germany. I earnestly hope the administration will not take this view, for to do so would be a fresh sacrifice of American honor and interests. The president's note to Germany in February was an excellent note if only it had been lived up to. But every subsequent note has represented nothing but weakness and timidity on our part, and the sinking of the Lusitania and of the Arabic, the attacks on the Gulfport and the Falaba, and all the similar incidents that have occurred represent arrogant answers which this weakness has inspired.

#### Time for Words Is Past

"Germany will care nothing for the mere severance of diplomatic re-

lations. The time for words on the part of this nation has long passed. It is inconceivable to American citizens who claim to be inheritors of the traditions of Washington and Lincoln that our governmental representatives shall not see that the time for deeds has come. What has just occurred is a fresh and lamentable proof of the unwisdom of our people in not having insisted upon the beginning of active military preparedness thirteen months ago."

### GARRISON RAPS COLONEL

A press dispatch from Washington, D. C., dated Aug. 27, says: Secretary of War Garrison made public today Maj. Gen. Wood's reply to the secretary's telegram of yesterday directing that no repetition be permitted of the incident at the Plattsburg camp precipitated by former President Roosevelt's speech to the men in training there.

"Your telegram received and policy laid down will be rigidly adhered to," Gen. Wood telegraphed.

"I have just read Mr. Roosevelt's statement," Secretary Garrison said today. "I see he blames the whole thing on me. He takes the position that it is notorious that he has the habit of making indiscreet speeches, and that it therefore was my duty to find out if he intended to go to Plattsburg and, if so, to head him off and save him from himself.

"Well, maybe that's so, but it is a rather large order. He is a very active man, and I am a very busy one, and it's going to be a pretty hard job for me to keep an eye on him all the time. The colonel's attitude about himself reminds me of the story of the Maine farmer who was on his way to the railroad station one morning when he met a friend.

"Where are you going?" said the friend. The farmer replied: 'I'm going down to Bangor to get drunk—and, great Lord, how I do dread it.'"

#### Bryan Has Word to Say

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 27.—William J. Bryan had this to say today regarding the developments growing out of ex-President Roosevelt's speech at Plattsburg, N. Y., military training camp:

"I am glad to notice Secretary Garrison is disposed to restrict the camps to the work for which they were established. During the last two weeks they seem to have served more as a platform for jingoes to talk from than for instruction in the art of war."

### CONCERNING THE COLONEL

Secretary Garrison is unfair, and the newspapers which are "panning" Mr. Roosevelt for his violent speech at Plattsburg are forgetting the unwritten law which makes T. R. a licensed libertine in language.

True, his partisan language at Plattsburg was in the worst possible taste. Considering the semi-official character of that gathering and the wholly official position of General Wood, Mr. Roosevelt practically was a guest of the government of the United States—and he berated his host with all the sound and fury he could muster.

What of it? Roosevelt and good taste never have been on speaking terms with each other, and he is under the physical necessity of berating something. The Journal knows of no object better able to withstand his explosions than the administration of President Wilson.

There are just two things to do with Roosevelt. One is to gag him—which would be a cruel and unusual punishment, expressly forbidden by the constitution of the United States. The other is to let him rant. He is no common creature, to be hedged in by such petty things as facts and fair-play. He is the greatest travel-

ing show on earth, he is the man who struck Billy Patterson, the raging roarer of the roundup, the dauntless daredevil who tied knots in the tail of the clawing catawampus and sent the frightful beast racing toward the far horizon, yelling at every jump.

What has such a hero to do with the rules of conduct that govern mere gentlemanly mollycoddles? Let him rave.—Chicago Journal.

### MR. BRYAN

The presence in the city of William Jennings Bryan on his first visit since his resignation from the cabinet brings to mind the numerous adverse comments which we have heard since the rather startling announcement that the great Commoner had decided to leave the post at Washington. These comments have been as varied in form as are the temperaments which conceived them, and it seems that in every case they can be traced to some motive far from the broad attitude which should be the foundation of everyone's public utterances. We are all of us so human that most of our opinions, when we are startled, are made up from some selfish or unreasonable prejudice having its origin in the past, and we are prone as humans to let these prejudices govern our present feelings.

Going back over the views heard in regard to the resignation of Mr. Bryan we can trace with undeniable sureness the motive behind those who appeared against him. Some say he killed himself politically. This should be a fair indication then that those who have said in the past that he was seeking office were wrong, for he would not kill himself politically if he was seeking an office. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Bryan is so absolutely governed by principle that for twenty years he has not given a thought to the political results of any stand he has taken, often causing his advisors much concern. Many of the other adverse comments are traceable to the efforts of the interests to discredit him. These ideas have been formed in the minds of his present critics when they did not know it by reading newspaper articles prepared in the press bureaus of the interests.

Since 1896 an unfair, villifying and desperate warfare has been waged against Mr. Bryan. He has been a valiant soldier in the cause of the common people. Great men are always misunderstood. There will come a time, however, when the name of Bryan will be hailed with the glad acclaim of a united and contented people who have learned finally what he has meant to them.—Kearney (Neb.) Times.

### WEALTH AND BOOZE

The liquor cranks are excited because the anti-booze agitation threatens "properties valued in the aggregate at perhaps \$2,000,000,000." It may comfort them to reflect that this "perhaps" total of theirs is almost exactly one-ninety-fourth of the estimated wealth of the United States. But it causes an altogether disproportionate part of the total crime, disease, suffering, and waste with which our country is afflicted. The rest of us pay mighty heavy taxes in all these ways to keep up their "values." Booze wealth is the most selfish, tyrannous, and wooden-headed form of property known to our civilization, and it ought to be possible to scale its fraction down (and out) with perfect safety and great gain. Why should a minor interest be a major nuisance?—Collier's

We don't know who invented the submarine, but Jonah was the first to become familiar with one.—Columbia State.