

The Wilson Administration is Primarily Constructive

(Carl Vrooman in The Arkansas Gazette.)

The following is, in part, the address delivered by Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture, before the convention of the Arkansas Bankers' Association in Little Rock this week:

"We are frequently asked, 'What is the attitude of the department of agriculture toward business?' Some people seem to think we are gunning for the business man, that we are trying to tie him up with useless restrictions and regulations that throttle initiative. This is very far from being the case. The policy of the department of agriculture is that of the entire Wilson administration. That policy has been and is primarily constructive, and only secondarily critical, regulative and punitive. At no time has it been iconoclastic or destructive. In attempting to bring the practice of the business world up to a higher standard, it has in no case 'run amuck.' It has in no instance shown the slightest vindictiveness or desire to impose punishment for other than reformatory purposes. It has invoked the principle of the 'indeterminate sentence' and the 'suspended sentence' wherever possible. It has done everything in its power to recognize and to regenerate the business world, and has done nothing to disorganize or disrupt it. It has used the surgeon's knife as sparingly as skillfully.

Greatest Accomplishment of Years

"The greatest single piece of legis-

MEAL-TIME CONSCIENCE

What Do the Children Drink?

There are times when mother or father feeds the youngsters something that they know children should not have. Perhaps it is some rich dessert but more often it is tea or coffee.

It is better to have some delicious, hot food-drink that you can take yourself and feed to your children, conscious that it will help and strengthen, but never hurt them.

A Yorkstate lady says: "I used coffee many years in spite of the conviction that it injured my nervous system and produced my nervous headaches. While visiting a friend I was served with Postum and I determined to get a package and try it myself. The result was all that could be desired—a delicious, finely flavored, richly colored beverage. Since I quit coffee, Postum has worked wonders for me.

"My husband, who had suffered from kidney trouble when drinking coffee, quit the coffee and took up Postum with me and since drinking Postum he has felt stronger and better, with no indication of kidney trouble.

"You may be sure I find it a great comfort to have a warm drink at meals that I can give my children, with a clear conscience that it will help and not hurt them as coffee or tea would."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Postum comes in two forms:

Postum Cereal—the original form—must be well boiled. 15c and 25c pkgs.

Instant Postum—a soluble powder dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water, and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. 30c and 50c tins.

Both forms are equally delicious and cost about the same per cup.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.

—sold by Grocers.

lation to the credit of the Wilson administration, or of any other administration during the lifetime of any one now living, was the law creating the federal reserve banking system. This measure visited no retribution upon the heads of those who had piled up immense fortunes by the unjustifiable, though not actually illegal, financial methods so widely in vogue before the Wilson regime. It put a stop to these unfair and unjust practices, not by prohibitory enactments backed up by the imposition of heavy legal penalties, but by inaugurating a better system for controlling the credit facilities of the country. The result has been that when the recent world war burst upon us, even before the federal reserve system had gone into effect, the business men of the country—republican as well as democratic—looked to the future smilingly and confidently, knowing that under this new banking system no panic could seriously disturb our finances, so long as crops were good and business was conducted along sound and legitimate lines.

"As a concrete and highly significant illustration of the beneficial effect the federal reserve system has had on finance and business in this country, take the matter of the rate of interest. Ordinarily when business is booming, interest rates are high, and ordinarily when interest rates are low business is depressed and stagnant. But as a result of our federal reserve system today we see the extraordinary phenomenon of an unexampled business prosperity and a low rate of interest. It is perhaps needless to say that this is an ideal situation for both business men and farmers.

The Federal Trade Commission

"The creation of the federal trade commission was another great constructive step, and was conceived in the same spirit as the federal reserve banking law. It has resorted to no inquisitorial measures; it is looking for no heads to break with a 'big stick'; it is attempting to administer no noxious doses of physic to reluctant and squirming business men. Its function is that of the skilled physician and surgeon of the business world, who does everything in his power to give sound advice as to hygiene, sanitation and intelligent methods of living and working, who co-operates actively in creating a healthful business environment for all, and who only resorts to the medicine of regulatory control, or the surgical operation of a legal prosecution as a last resort.

"In the agricultural department not more than 20 per cent of our work is regulatory and punitive; the other 80 per cent being constructive and of distinct value to every legitimate interest that intimately or remotely is connected with the agricultural life of the country. While in the other departments the proportions may not be the same, the same general fact is true of practically all of them except the department of labor, which is the department of our government the largest proportion of whose expenditures go for regulatory work. But the department of labor has very little to do with the business man. Three-quarters of its expenditures go to the work of regulating immigration into this country.

For the Honest Business Man

"Moreover, even the regulatory work of the department of agricul-

ture, and of the entire Wilson administration, is carried on as much in the interest of the normal and legitimate business man as it is in the interest of the general public. For example, the department of agriculture some time ago discovered that certain large grain dealers in different terminal elevator cities were adulterating oats with anywhere from 7 to 33 1-3 per cent of barley screenings, and adding two or three per cent of water as well. As a result dealers who would not stoop to these practices were being driven out of business. The department promptly and decisively put a stop to such methods, and as a result, self-respecting grain dealers who had been forced to stop dealing in oats are again able to handle them at a reasonable profit.

"This sort of regulative, restrictive and punitive work, which is typical of what is and has for the last three years been going on in every department of the government, is fast making it possible for honest business men to do business without fear of unfair competition on the part of unscrupulous competitors. I take it that there is no function of government that is more important than this, and that there is no activity of government that ought to be and is looked upon with greater favor by the business world. If not, it would be a sad commentary on the business world.

To Redress Wrongs of Weak

"The truth of the matter is that at present the vast and mighty machinery of government is being utilized not only to redress the wrongs of the weak, not only to protect the health, happiness and prosperity of the individual citizen who is unable to protect himself, but it is being employed to encourage and help our commercial and industrial leaders as well, so long as their methods are legitimate, honest and not contrary to public welfare. It believes that the strong can be strong permanently only on condition that their strength is founded upon right and justice, and that the strong are sources of national power and prosperity, and of social and economic advancement, provided they are imbued with the social rather than the anti-social spirit.

"This being the case, the most important thing for the business men of our country to do is to pay less attention to the paid agitators and walking delegates of the world of high finance, who are constantly striving to stir them up with the cry that they are being 'regulated out of business,' 'tied hand and foot,' 'throttled by restrictions,' etc., when there is not a syllable of truth in the contention. The three-quarters or nine-tenths of the business men of the country who are on the square and who are anxious to build up a healthy industrial and commercial fabric in this country can do it only one way, and that is by getting behind the governmental authorities who are working for the same end, and giving them their wholehearted and energetic support in this great forward movement. The thing that is perhaps more needed than anything else in the business world today is that the honest business man, the man who is doing a legitimate business, should disassociate himself from the parasitic and corrupt elements in the business world. If this can be done, we can, upon this continent, build up the greatest commercial and industrial organization the world has ever seen.

Correcting Mistakes of the Past

"For the past three years the Wilson administration has been working

day and night trying to undo the mistakes of the past, and to put business, commerce and industry on a sound and healthy basis, a basis that will give justice to the worker and the consumer, as well as to capital and managerial skill. If this effort proves successful, America at a stride will become the dominant industrial and financial force on our planet. The world-war which is now raging on three continents leaves us the only great world power devoted to the arts of peace and able to do business in a neutral and friendly way with all the warring nations.

"Once we have settled our industrial and social problems at home, broad and peaceful paths to power stretch out before us in bewildering and alluring profusion. This is one of those historic crises in the life of our nation when its moral fiber is to be tested to the uttermost, when it has but to measure up to a fair degree of intelligence and a reasonable moral attitude, in order to have placed in its hands the scepter of the moral and material leadership of the world."

THE BETHLEHEM STEEL SQUEAL

For years, twenty-nine, the president of the Bethlehem Steel company says—the armor making concerns have been stealing from the government by overcharging the naval department for armor plate. This much President Grace of the Bethlehem concern admitted in his letter to congress offering to cut the cost of armor plate \$30 a ton.

During all those years the grip of the armor makers on the representatives of the people was great enough to permit the overcharge.

Recently, however, the people began thinking about "taking the private profit out of preparedness," and then they began talking about it and writing letters to their servants in congress demanding that it be done!

The result of this agitation against profit in war traffic was the Tillman bill appropriating \$11,000,000 for a government armor factory.

The armor ring threatened to go right out of the business and not sell Uncle Sam a single penny's worth of armor plate.

That didn't have the desired result, for the senate went right on and passed the Tillman bill.

It is now in the house.

Threats not having the desired effect, the Bethlehem Steel company now comes forward with a letter to congress offering a \$30 reduction on each ton of armor the government will buy during the next five years, provided the government doesn't build its own factory.

Mr. Grace says that \$395 per ton is as cheap as any concern, his or the government's could manufacture armor plate. That may be true. But even so, that is no reason why it should be accepted. If the armor makers should now agree to sell their product to the government at less than cost, the offer should be turned down, for any such temporary price reduction has in view the killing of the Tillman bill.

And the killing of that bill means that the hold of the armor ring upon the American purse will be tighter than ever—and more exacting than ever—after the five years are up.

They couldn't defeat the Tillman bill with threats.

Shall we let them do it with sugar-coated promises? —Omaha News.

ONE GOOD FEATURE

"Do you think the income tax is a good thing?"

"As an economic measure, I am not prepared to say. But I do know that it stopped a lot of bragging."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.