

A RECORD WITHOUT A PARALLEL

The old world had seven wonders; in the United States the political world has eleven wonders. The record made by the present administration in the matter of domestic reform is without parallel in the history of our government. A democratic president, supported by a democratic senate and a democratic house, has given the country eleven splendid remedial measures.

First—The tariff law now upon the statute books is the best enacted within a half century. It is written upon the theory that a tariff law should be so framed as to raise revenue and not upon the theory of giving protection for protection's sake. It has lessened the power of the tariff baron to exact tribute from the public.

Second—The income tax provision, while a part of the general revenue law, deserves to be considered upon its own merits. It was made possible by the adoption of the income tax amendment to the federal constitution, secured after a fight of more than fifteen years, made under democratic leadership. The income tax in the law of 1913 transferred nearly one hundred millions from consumption to incomes, thus relieving the masses from the injustice that republican tariff laws had put upon them, an injustice which would still continue if the republicans had remained in power.

Third—The currency law is the greatest piece of constructive legislation the generation has seen. It brings to the commercial world a relief sorely needed. It breaks Wall street's despotic hold upon the business of the nation and the political tyranny exercised by the masters of high finance.

Fourth—The rural credits law is a fitting companion of the currency law. It gives to the agricultural world the same sort of relief that the currency law brings to the commercial world. It gives conclusive proof of the breadth and comprehensiveness of democratic plans—justice to all in every walk of life.

Fifth—The anti-trust law, written upon the theory that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable, is the first step towards the release of the country from the great combinations of capital that had assumed to control productions and fix prices. It not only gives a measure of relief from trust extortion, but it includes a provision which protects the working men from "government by injunction."

Sixth—The act creating a trade commission,

exercising over big industrial corporations powers similar to those exercised over the railroads by the interstate commerce commission, puts the federal government in a position, first, to secure information, and, second, to use that information for the protection of legitimate business against the encroachments of corporations attempting a monopoly.

Seventh—The shipping bill is another step in advance, and a long step. Its purpose is to protect international trade along existing trade routes and to lay out new lines of travel for the extension of American commerce. It took a two-years' fight to overcome the influence of the shipping trust, but the fight has at last been won, and the government is now in a position to use a merchant marine of its own to safeguard the interests of the American shipper.

Eighth—The child labor law has come in response to the growing demand for social betterment. The fact that such a law was necessary is a sad commentary upon the heartlessness of man—that he should become so money-mad as to be willing to increase his profits by the stunting of the bodies and the dwarfing of the minds of minors. The democratic party deserves great credit for adding this law to its extraordinary record of great accomplishments.

Ninth—The President's prompt action has given to the employees engaged in interstate commerce an eight-hour day. Again the President has taken the side of the common man and won. The railroads overstate the cost of complying with the eight-hour law. They delay freight trains at divisions in order to get bigger loads and longer trains. This is an expense to the shippers as well as an injustice to the train men. They can, when it becomes necessary, get the trains in on time, and thus give the employees time for rest and recuperation—time to enjoy home and prepare for the responsibilities of citizenship. The President has acted courageously, and the country will approve.

Tenth—The Philippine bill, while dealing with an international matter, is domestic in that it not only announces a national policy, but also promises to safeguard domestic politics from the disturbing influence of colonial questions. Eighteen years ago when imperialism first raised its head, the democrats in the senate were quick to strike at it with the Bacon resolution, which declared against a colonial policy and gave the Filipinos a promise of ultimate independence. Every platform

written by the democratic party of the nation since that time has repeated this pledge and now, to the honor of the nation and to the credit of the democratic party, the platform pledge has been fulfilled and the promise of ultimate independence given. Our nation has thus shown itself able to resist the temptation before which monarchies have fallen, namely the temptation to exercise power in violation of the principles of self-government.

Eleventh—The list of this administration's accomplishments can not fairly be concluded without reference to the thirty peace treaties, negotiated during the first two years of the administration, with nations exercising authority over 1,300,000,000 of people, or three-fourths of the world. In addition to the thirty nations which have signed treaties, three others with a combined population of more than 100,000,000 have endorsed the principle embodied in the treaty plan, so that today there are less than five nations with any considerable population which have declined to approve of this plan, and three of these have been prevented by controversies still unsettled.

These thirty treaties contain three provisions new to treaty making. First—They cover ALL QUESTIONS OF EVERY KIND AND CHARACTER and provide that such disputes, when they defy diplomatic settlement, shall be submitted to an international tribunal for investigation and report. Second—A YEAR'S TIME shall be allowed for investigation and report, during which there shall be no resort to force. Third—The parties RESERVE THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT ACTION at the conclusion of the investigation. It is believed that these provisions will, by insuring time for anger to subside, provide opportunity for questions of fact to be separated from questions of honor, and a chance for the peace forces of the world to operate, make war between the contracting parties a remote possibility. These treaties not only give this nation primacy in the matter of world peace, but they insure a peace at home which will enable our nation to work out its domestic problems and set an example worthy of emulation by the rest of the world.

When before did any party, in so short a time, present and complete so remarkable a program for the advancement of a nation's welfare? Is it possible that a party which has thus justified public confidence can be rebuked by the people to whose interests it has dedicated itself?

W. J. BRYAN.

Bring Out the Rural Vote

As every new crop brings out some new insect pest for which a remedy must be sought, so every new reform develops unforeseen abuses or evils that need to be corrected. The primary system, correct in principle and necessary for the protection of politics from the boss, has given to the cities a greater relative influence than they formerly exerted in the making of nominations. The reason for this is obvious. It is easier for the town voter than for the country voter to exercise the right of suffrage. The former is near his polling place and can vote without loss of time and regardless of weather. Not so with the country voter. He is at a disadvantage whether the weather be good or bad. If it is good, his time is valuable and it is a pecuniary loss to leave his work for the time necessary to make the trip to the polling place and return. If the weather is bad, it may be difficult for him to get there at all. Voting, therefore, puts a tax upon the rural voter which the city voter does not have to bear.

No one would think of imposing an unequal tax on the voters if it were specifically stated in dollars or cents. For instance, a law compelling a farmer to pay a dollar for the privilege of voting while only twenty-five cents was required of the city voter, would not be tolerated for a moment. And yet the actual effect of the present system is to compel a larger pecuniary sacrifice of the rural voter. This ought to be corrected. Why not employ the rural carrier plan for the collection of votes? If the federal government

can afford to carry a postal card miles into the country, the state ought to be able to afford to collect a ballot. If the federal government can afford to carry the mail to farmers every day, the state can certainly afford to collect ballots two or three times a year. Some remedy should be applied at once. If any other plan is better, let it be adopted, but rural delivery has proven such a success that it would seem worth while to try the idea in the collection of votes.

W. J. BRYAN.

CONGRESSMAN JONES OF VIRGINIA

Congressman Jones, of Virginia, deserves great credit for his part in the passage of the measure promising ultimate independence to the Filipinos. The final success of the measure is largely due to the intelligence and perseverance with which he pressed the Philippine bill. His congressional record is a long and honorable one; he is a reformer—among the foremost in his party, but it is no disparagement of his other public work to say that the Philippine measure is the crowning glory of his life. Congratulations to Congressman Jones. He deserves the gratitude of Filipinos and Americans alike.

GREAT RECORD OF CONGRESS

The present democratic congress—both house and senate—shares with the President the honor of making a record equalled only by the record of the last democratic congress. If ever a legislative body earned a popular endorsement the democratic senate and the democratic house have.

Wonder if those railroad presidents left Washington with the idea in their heads that Wilson really has a single track mind?

THE STRIKE ISSUE

Mr. Hughes seems inclined to make an issue out of the strike. He did not express himself on the subject until after the strike was called off—during the critical days covered by the controversy HE KEPT STILL, but as soon as the President acted he criticized the course taken. Well, let him make what capital he can. He will find that the railroad magnates are not as powerful in the nation at large as they are in New York. The eight hour day has come to stay and Mr. Hughes, as usual, gets on the wrong side of the issue.

THE "INVESTIGATION" EXCUSE

Mr. Hughes objects to the eight-hour law on the ground that it was passed "without investigation." That was the reason he gave for vetoing the two-cent passenger fare bill—and THE INVESTIGATION IS STILL GOING ON. So it would have been with the eight-hour law if the republican party had been in power.

SENATE LEADER KERN

Mr. Kern, the leader of the democratic majority in the senate, has done splendid work during the present congress. His services are invaluable to the party. The democrats of Indiana should see to it that he is re-elected by an overwhelming majority.

SPEAKER CLARK

Speaker Clark has still further added to his fame as a leader and a presiding officer during the present session of congress. It would be a reflection on the people of his district to doubt his return by an increased majority.