

## Editor Takes a Trip; Omaha to Denver

Do you know what "a tray lunch" is? I mean on a railroad train.

Well, let me tell you that it is one of the luxuries of modern travel on the up-to-the-minute Union Pacific System. I don't know what other roads have inaugurated this convenience, and the Union Pacific has had it in operation only a few months. It will not be long, however, before other railroads will put the same plan into effect.

I have called it "one of the luxuries of modern travel." You will agree with me that this is a statement of sober fact, if you will only recall some of your traveling experiences.

Have you ever been "as hungry as a wolf"—and isn't it astonishing how hungry, voraciously hungry, one gets to be riding on a railroad train?

Do you remember that feeling of relief and of joyous anticipation when the brakeman, or porter drawled out: "Po-oh-du-unk next station; ten minutes for re-ee-freshments."

You and your fellow passengers—male passengers chiefly—the women in traveling, never seem to be as hungry as men—hustled off the train and made a Marathon hike for the lunch counter, generally some distance from your car. Nearly out of breath you ordered:

"Doughnuts and coffee" or "sandwich and coffee."

You said to the fellow next to you, "Say, Jones, this sandwich is great, but gee whizz! this coffee is hot."

Jones replied, "These doughnuts are O. K., but I've got to let this blame coffee cool a little before I can swallow it; wonder why they make it so deuced hot, when a fellow's got such little time?"

"All aboard," shouts the conductor. "Say, man, that's the shortest ten minutes I ever saw."

You desperately struggled to gulp down a little more coffee and still munching on the undevoured portion of sandwich or doughnut, you rushed back to your train and spent several precious minutes trying to figure out by what system that railroad computes time, when its trains stop "ten minutes (?) for lunch" at Podunk.

Have you ever had this experience? Well, then, you'll agree with me that the "off the tray lunch" is not merely a convenience, but one of the luxuries of modern travel.

### What the Tray Lunch Is.

After you have had ample time to go into the diner and get your meal there, if you prefer it, announcement of the fact having been previously made by means of a printed notice giving prices of viands to be served, two waiters from the dining car pass through the train bearing trays from which you can buy a cup of coffee, sandwiches of various kinds, doughnuts, rolls or pie. You buy what you want right "OFF THE TRAY." You have ample time to drink your coffee and eat your sandwich or pie, without being in mortal fear that you will miss your train.

It was in connection with this "off the tray lunch" that I had an interesting conversation with a German-American, not, however, a member of the German-American alliance, about the opportunities of employment for our people. He asked me a question, which gave me a good chance to give him the enlightenment he sought.

I'll tell you all about it in the next issue.

## PRESIDENT WILSON AND THE NEGRO

We clip the following from the New York Sun, in which the Sun gives an excerpt of President Wilson's short address to the American Federation of Labor:

### Closing Rifts in Body Public.

To the 400 members of the American Federation of Labor who called on him at the White House on Saturday, President Wilson said:

"Nothing alarms America so much as rifts, divisions the drifting apart of elements among her people, and the thing we ought all to strive for is to close up every rift, and the only way to do it, so far as I can see, is to establish justice not only, but justice with a heart in it, justice with a pulse in it, justice with sympathy in it."

This sentiment must have been accepted by the Federation as an endorsement and approval of their recent action in favor of the unionization of Negroes in the South, a departure from the historic policy of unionism that has attracted much attention. The rift, divisions, drifting apart, of black Americans and white Americans has been the cause of grave forebodings among thoughtful men for years, the drawing together of black Americans and white Americans of which the new attitude of the Federation is evidence as a matter of profound significance.

It is to be assumed that Mr. Wilson's contribution to the movement will take the form of an acceleration of justice, social, legal and moral, for the Negro; and in certain sections of the country if the Negro can get justice he will be rejoiced to accept it, even though it lack heart and pulse and sympathy.

In view of the fact that the American Federation of Labor, whom the president was then addressing, was organizing Negro unions in the South the Sun thinks that the president had in mind the good of the Negro. The Independent hopes that he did. We do not forget that Mr. Wilson is the president of all the people, not a part; he can not be the white man's president and not be the Negro's and while the Independent is not a member of the Democratic Party, it believes there are good men in that party as well as in the Republican Party, and we trust that after more than three years and a half of experience as president of this great nation, the vision of the president has broadened and that he feels that he should be the president of the Negro as well as anybody else. That is all the Negro asks for; a square deal because they are American citizens.

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