

Today

For President Coolidge. And Those That Chose Him. Heavy Responsibility. Superstition Comes to Life. By ARTHUR BRISBANE.

that fly, not the product of American war graft, would make this country safe. An enemy fleet of such machines, coming across the Pacific or the Atlantic, would set this country back 100 years, close the stock exchange, knock prices to nothing, cause not merely a crushing income tax, but savage capital confiscation.

Desperate loss, caused by war suddenly breaking loose in the sky above our heads, is the one thing, the only thing that could cause revolution in this country.

Those that control big capital and through it this nation, should see this danger. It is possible to push mean economy too far.

All of the above is respectfully submitted to President Coolidge, for whom it is written. This nation is unprepared now. If it is taken by surprise in the world's first great air war, the results will be disastrous to the nation and doubly disastrous to all responsible.

Upon President Coolidge the responsibility rests, with all its weight. He is head of the army and navy, he is responsible for the men employed as secretaries of the army and navy.

Ignorant creatures that have been predicting the end of the world offer a valuable opportunity to analyze the superstitious human mind of the dark ages. It is as though some dinosaur should come to life and present himself for study to the Academy of Science in Paris.

The brute selfishness of superstition says "I'll save myself, never mind the family," is the superstition that made the early Puritans believe that heaven would be made more blissful by the sight of miserable creatures roasting in hell.

The same superstition and selfishness made the rich man of long ago leave his fortune to religion, hoping to purchase personal salvation through Divine power.

Today's rich man, outside of the deeply superstitious class, leaves his money to colleges, hospitals, sciences, to help others. The idea that Divine Providence accepts cash bribes is dying out.

General Mitchell has rendered a service to his country by his fearless and truthful statement on conditions in the air service—or rather, the United States' lack of air service and air defense.

Such a soldier as Mitchell, after risking his life constantly in the big war, flying year after year in machines of all kinds, many of them dangerous, would not be deterred from duty.

Mr. Weeks, it is to be hoped, will have too much common sense and common decency to punish Mitchell for a course that the whole nation approved. And if Secretary Weeks should make a mistake that would degrade and injure the entire administration, you may rely upon it that the president would intervene, effectively.

This nation needs to know the truth, which is that we rank fifth in air defense among the world's nations, and that air defense is the defense needed for this nation, above all other nations. It is the only defense that could protect our cities from destruction and our country from humiliation and disaster, in case of war.

Russia, so deeply despised by our prosperity, secured in one single order, placed in western Europe, five times as many fighting airplanes as this country has all told.

And Japan, tied up by secret treaty with Russia and China, is manufacturing 500 war planes every month, 25 times as many, each month, as the United States possesses all told.

President Coolidge, not Mr. Weeks, or Mr. Wilbur, is the man interested in this situation, so disgraceful to the nation's common sense, so dangerous to national security. Mr. Coolidge would bear the entire responsibility if this nation should be caught unprepared.

He has the power to act. At his demand, congress will supply the money necessary. And at his order Secretary Weeks will applaud instead of muzzling any army officer with brains enough to understand the importance of air defense.

This country is totally unprepared for war. It is bitterly hated in Europe, and all but drooping fools know it. It is hated even more bitterly in Asia, for there hatreds are more intense.

To destroy a dozen United States cities, the biggest in the world, is a task that could be accomplished easily. Such destruction would change this nation's attitude toward the world. The job could be done from Asia, with Russia's de-lighting co-operation. Bolshevism has an account to settle with us.

Europe need not start the thing, merely look on, regretful, but inactive, but such a setback as air attack might inflict on this nation in three weeks would put us at the mercy of Europe's supplies of aircraft, and everything else. In real war here, at home, we could not rely on our grafting patriots that, in the last war spent a billion or so of public money on machines that played no part in war, while our fliers borrowed French and English machines to fight for western Europe.

A successful attack on the United States would settle that European debt question. It would be worth ten thousand millions of dollars to the debt-ridden nation over there. Or, assuming that many of them will never pay anyhow, it would clear their books and save their honor—next in value to cash.

A few million dollars worth of fighting airplanes, real machines

The Daily Cross Word Puzzle

By RICHARD H. TINGLEY

- Horizontal.
- 1. The faculty of understanding.
 - 4. Like.
 - 5. Horse power (abbr.).
 - 7. Self-examination.
 - 13. A first century emperor of Rome.
 - 14. Guided.
 - 15. A river in Italy.
 - 16. Part of the verb "to smite."
 - 18. Comparative degree of bad.
 - 20. Employed.
 - 21. To encourage.
 - 22. A male deer.
 - 23. Bright.
 - 24. Myself.
 - 25. 550.
 - 26. Ten-cent pieces.
 - 28. Transgression of the moral law.
 - 31. Minute orifices on the skin.
- Vertical.
- 1. A body of land connecting two larger bodies.
 - 2. A slow gallop.
 - 3. In need of a drink.
 - 4. Small, busy insects.

The solution will appear tomorrow. Solution of yesterday's puzzle.

GLORIA EMPATHY ARUN PARTL ASELGLIPSE FA TISHOAT MOP YTCHWINPIEJ S OAT SJOV XLOWLETJO JLOOEYEFER JOONATE MEJA ALP INRE RAG ID POTTEKY DO ACAT OSEEU WELLAS RENNET

New Catholic Church to Be Built at Beatrice
Beatrice, Feb. 9.—Plans are about complete for the construction of a Catholic church at Seventh and High streets to cost approximately \$80,000. It is said that the contract will be let within the next few days and that active operations will be started early in the spring.

School Head Re-Elected.
Broken Bow, Feb. 9.—The Broken Bow school board elected Superintendent A. E. Fisher for another year at an increase in salary. Miss Sarah Margaret Heitler also was re-elected for the coming year as principal of the high school.

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Wilson Despised Job Seekers; Listened to Advice of Friends, Then Acted as He Thought Best

By CHARLES L. SWEM.
Confidential Secretary and Stenographer to Woodrow Wilson During His Eight Years in the White House.

CHAPTER III.

Mr. Wilson was not a politician. His way might have been easier had he been able or willing to make some concession to politics, but it was contrary to his nature to be a cunning politician, a back-slapting, friend-making, wholly partisan man of party ties and friendships. His conception of party lines and party uses strongly marked him out from the politician.

Rarely did he speak of party organization, but almost invariably of party principles. Whatever he undertook he was always to a cause or a principle, because he could speak in no other terms. His influence upon the events of his administration was the influence of the historian who found himself, instead of chronicling events gone by, able to mould the history of his time to his touch, to suit his own design.

Mr. Wilson's theory of patronage kept him in hot water with his party lieutenants.

"There may be some self-respecting statesmen in this country when we get rid of this demoralizing patronage," he once said. "As long as that is here it will corrupt everything at its source."

Pitfalls of Appointments.

He accepted the responsibility of office keenly aware of the pitfalls in appointments. In one of his histories he had condemned the administration of Andrew Jackson for having demoralized American politics by introducing the spoils system; he was himself an ardent champion of the merit system and the civil service; and throughout his two administrations he was at loggerheads with congress over his theory of appointment.

He was not unmindful of party duty or personal necessity; most of his appointments were partisan, but few of his major appointments to office can be classed as politically partisan. His attitude toward appointments was distinctly personal. It was not so important to him whether a man called himself a democrat or a republican as the man believed as he did.

At his time to time with his party discipline. He consciously sought to strengthen party morals by the time-honored means of patronage, but it was at best a half-hearted attempt. The fact that a man was a democrat did not necessarily recommend him; he had to be the kind of democrat the president was or he stood no better chance of appointment than the candidate of opposite persuasion.

Scrutinized Appointments.

In the first years of his administration he personally scrutinized practically every appointment to which he gave his sanction and rigidly required that the candidate measure up to his own standards, but the whole thing was too petty a business for one of his temperament.

There were few appointments that did not degenerate sooner or later into a personal or party squabble, his whole time and energy seemed to be engaged in settling disputes between the senate on the one hand and his party lieutenants on the other; he saw the vitality of the support upon which he counted to put through his program being eaten away by petty strife; and then came the war to demand not only the best of his time, but also of his thought.

Eagerly he turned most of his patronage problems over to those of his advisers who were better able to settle them than he ever was—from a political standpoint. If they were not always moved by the same high principle that actuated him in his personal appointments, at least party harmony was saved and he was free to give his attention to the more vital problems growing out of the war.

Picked Aids Personally.

The more personal of his appointments he naturally never allowed to leave his hands; the major appointments of his administration, of the men with whom he would come personally in contact, he always culled as his own special prerogative, making them for the most part without advice or party consideration, but upon personal knowledge.

There was scarcely a man whom he personally knew and respected that he did not at one time or another attempt to draw into government service.

Men like Colonel House, Cleveland H. Dodge and Dean Fine of Princeton could have had any government office at his disposal; indeed, time and again he approached them with an offer of some important post. These men he knew as men of high principle, and to them and those like them he invariably turned when he had an important post to fill.

His very first appointment to office was an indication of his whole policy of merit and honesty. In his first campaign the religious issue had been unusually prominent, chiefly because of the religious faith of his secretary, Mr. Wilson was a Presbyterian; his secretary was Catholic. Throughout

the campaign, and particularly when the election of November established Mr. Wilson as the next president, letters arrived at the governor's office by the thousands protesting against the appointment of Mr. Tumulty—letters which it may be noted in passing, his secretary placed at his chief's disposal without comment.

When it came time for the president-elect to name his secretary he seriously considered the merits of those individuals for the office—Newton D. Baker, Dudley Field Malone and Mr. Tumulty. Newton D. Baker, then, I believe, mayor of Cleveland, appealed to him as a man of his own intellect; Dudley Field Malone's claims rested upon friendship and his already brilliant career; but in Mr. Tumulty the governor had found a loyalty and a peculiar capacity for the position that he could not afford to lose as president. So little significance did he attach to the campaign of protest that he made his first official act in anticipation of his new duties—the elevation of Mr. Tumulty to the post of secretary to the president—an appointment that time proved abundantly justified. Mr. Tumulty became a complement to Mr. Wilson. What Mr. Wilson lacked in the "common touch" Mr. Tumulty supplied, oftentimes bridging the huge gap between the president and the public.

Opposed to "Influence."

As a rule, Mr. Wilson adhered closely to the principle of merit in all his appointments. Notably few appointments of his can justly be charged to expediency. Certainly he was over-scrupulous in these matters that touched him personally. He was diligent to the point of injustice in discharging anyone claiming relationship to him from accepting public office in all cases refusing to say so much as a word in their behalf.

He entertained a deep-seated prejudice against the use of "influence" in seeking appointment. Except in a bare half-dozen instances, where he reluctantly yielded a needy friend to secure a minor clerical position, he declined, sometimes with an impulsive rebuke, to lend the use of his name or influence to aid an applicant to enter the government service.

So conspicuous was his feeling on the subject that it was regarded as axiomatic in the executive office that no self-constituted applicant for office, especially one with an array of "influence" behind him, would ever receive appointment. A flood of telegrams or letters arriving at the executive office, whether spontaneous or obviously inspired, advocating the appointment of a man to office, was actually a certain assurance that the candidate would not receive the appointment.

He grew progressively sick of the whole patronage question, of endorsements and the "so-called courtesy of the senate" as he termed it, and looked with suspicion upon all campaigns of endorsement.

(Copyright, 1925.)

To be continued tomorrow.

WALTHER LEAGUE TO HOLD BANQUET
Rev. H. Erk, Lutheran student pastor at the University of Nebraska, will be guest of honor and principal speaker at a banquet of the Associated Walther Leagues of Omaha at the Y. W. C. A. Wednesday.

Two Fined at Beatrice for Driving Unlicensed Cars
Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 9.—"Nick" Huston and Theodore Kipt were arrested for driving their cars without 1925 licenses. They pleaded guilty when they faced County Judge Messner in county court and were fined \$5 and costs each.

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