

# Locating the Blame for Delays

directly through the use of the government cash or the government's credit. The American farmer is sturdy, independent, and self-reliant. He is not in the condition of serfdom or semi-serfdom in which some of the European peoples were for whom government aid was extended in some form or other, commencing, especially, about the beginning of the last century. He is not in the condition that many of the Irish farmers have been in for whom encouragement and aid have been furnished through the land purchase act. As a matter of fact, the American farmers are more prosperous than any other farming class in the world and they have become increasingly prosperous. As a class they are certainly as prosperous as any other great section of the people; as prosperous as the American domestic servant class, the clerks, the merchants, the teachers, and the mechanics, not to mention others. It is requisite that the government, so far as geographic and physical conditions permit, extend its machinery for the benefit of the agricultural classes as effectually as it does for any other class, and this the government has attempted and is attempting to do.

It is the judgment of the best students of economic conditions here that there is needed to supplement existing agencies a proper land mortgage banking system operating only through private funds, just as other banking institutions operate, and this judgment is shared by the leaders of economic thought abroad.

The students recognize the desirability of another piece of legislation which may properly be had at the hands of the several states, namely, legislation authorizing and encouraging local personal cooperative credit associations. Some states have already taken steps in this direction and others are contemplating taking them. The department of agriculture has made earnest investigations in this field and should soon be in position to offer valuable suggestions as to the need and operations of such associations.

Aid to any class in the way of government money or government credit would run counter to the fundamental principles of the democracy, and subsidies of any kind are not in accord with the best thinking and the best interests of democratic government and do not seem to be called for in this instance.

It will be recalled that when the republicans were in control at Washington they talked a great deal of their friendship for the doctrine of conservation of the water power of the nation. Yet the democratic congress is the only one that seriously considered a bill which will make it possible for private capital to develop these water powers, while at the same time preserving to the government the right at the end of fifty years to take them over at a fair and just appraisalment.

Campaigning promises to be expensive for the republicans this fall. This is due to the fact that they must employ two sets of speakers, one to prove to the producers that they are getting less for what they have to sell under the new tariff law and the other to prove to the consumers that the cost of living has not been reduced thereunder.

At least no one will accuse Senator Thompson of Kansas of lacking in bravery. He has introduced a bill intended to restrict the cigaret evil in the District of Columbia, where, under the influence of free and easy continental ways, the paper pipe is to be found in the mouths of boys and women to an alarming extent.

### NEBRASKA DEMOCRATS

The Nebraska democratic state convention will meet at Columbus, July 28. The action of this convention will largely affect the result of the election in November. Nebraska is a progressive state and undoubtedly a large majority of the voters of Nebraska are in complete accord with the splendid record of the Wilson administration. A vigorous endorsement of the results and aims of the national administration and the election of men as members and officers of the democratic state committee who typify what the Wilson administration stands for in the public eye and who are known to be in full accord with the national progressive democracy will do much towards bringing about a great democratic victory in Nebraska this fall.

It is evident from the tone of the republican press that an attack is to be made on the democratic party for not having enacted legislation on all the subjects covered by the platform. For fear that some democrats may be misled by these attacks, it is worth while to point out the real reason for delay. The president has been diligent in season and out of season; he has kept the members of congress together in continuous sessions ever since he entered upon the duties of the office. Surely no blame can be attached to him for he has kept the hopper full of remedial legislation. The fault has been with the millstones—the two houses of congress—which must concur in legislation. And the fault has not been with the house of representatives either, because that body has promptly passed the measures recommended by the president; there has not been the slightest discord between the president and the house. Even where, as in the case of the tolls bill, a few democrats opposed the measure action has been prompt.

It is in the senate that the delay has occurred and here the fault does not rest upon the majority—it is to be found in the rule which permits unlimited debate. This rule may have been good enough in its time, when the senate was small and when the number of measures demanding attention was few. But times have changed. In the beginning there were thirteen states with twenty-six senators; now there are forty-eight states with ninety-six senators. In the beginning congress had three millions of people to legislate for; now there are ninety millions—thirty times as many as in 1776. There

is no doubt that the time is near at hand when the senate rule will be changed so as to permit the majority to rule, and to rule within a reasonable time, but when the attempt is made to change the rule, there will be debate on the new rule and it will be conducted under the rule allowing unlimited debate. It has been impossible to take up the change in the rule without suspending, for an indefinite time, all hope of legislation.

This rule is not a democratic rule nor is it a republican rule; it is simply an ancient rule that has outlived its usefulness. Upon it must rest the blame for the fact that congress will adjourn with some of the platform pledges yet to be carried out. This fact should be known and democrats should be in position to answer the arguments which republicans are making. The rule which now obstructs legislation under a democratic administration existed under a republican administration, but it worked no such hardship then as it does now because the republican party was not urging remedial legislation. The rule allowing unlimited debate is harmless when there are no reform bills pending; but such a rule is a real injury to the country when the people have voted for reforms and when the party in power is honestly attempting, as it now is, to redeem the pledges made. At this time the rule giving unlimited debate operates in the interest of the minority because by means of the rule the minority can slow down the processes of reform and decrease the number of remedial measures which it is possible to pass. It might be well for the voters to let their senators know what they think of a rule that obstructs the carrying out of the will of the people deliberately expressed at the polls. W. J. BRYAN.

### ALCOHOL IS DOOMED

A press dispatch from Russia brings the interesting news that the czar has issued an order driving intoxicating liquor out of the Russian army. The following is the text of the dispatch:

"Emperor Nicholas has just promulgated a general order dealing with the drink evil in his army. Its provisions are of the most drastic character, and as such will doubtless commend themselves to Secretary Josephus Daniels of the United States navy. Vodka is forbidden to the men at all times, and the czar directs that the most stringent measures shall be taken to prevent them from buying it. No soldier, if he is known to be inclined to drink, is to be allowed to receive money from home, without special permission from his commanding officer.

"Officers of every rank are forbidden to drink spirits in camp, on maneuvers, or while on any kind of duty, and those in high command are ordered by the emperor to discourage as much as possible the drinking of alcohol, and to set an example in the matter of total abstinence to their subordinates. All cases of drunkenness, either among officers or men, are to be dealt with in the most severe manner possible. Medical officers of the army are to deliver periodical lectures to officers and men on the harmful effects of alcohol.

"Commanders of regiments are instructed to do their best to improve the mess life of the officers under their orders, and to foster the introduction of games, the addition of libraries to the mess quarters, and to arrange for facilities for the study of foreign languages. In the same way, the company officers are required to endeavor to improve the lot of the rank and file by devising and organizing games and sports, which will keep them out of doors, wholesomely occupied during their free time. Soldiers known to be addicted to drink are to be the subject of special solicitude by the regimental officers, chaplains, and surgeons.

"This is the first occasion on which any such general order has ever been issued to the Russian troops. But the emperor has been led to issue it by the necessity of adding to the efficiency of his huge army. Field Marshal Lord Kitchener demonstrated in his various Soudan campaigns, culminating in the crushing of the Dervish Mahdi at Omdurman in 1898, the military advantages of total abstinence from alcohol when on active service, and since then there has been a disposition on the part of the military authorities in all countries to discourage the use of alcohol among officers and men, modern methods of warfare and arms of precision demanding

an extremely level head and steady hand, rather than reckless gallantry, prompted by what is popularly known as 'Dutch courage.'"

What have the defenders of booze to say in answer to this very conclusive evidence of the evil of alcoholic drinks?

If the soldier must give up alcohol because it interferes with his efficiency, why should not the civilian promote his efficiency by giving it up? And if it is demonstrated that alcohol is an evil, and only an evil; if it is proven that it lessens the productive value of the citizen, who will say that the nation should look upon this great evil with indifference merely because a few people want to grow rich out of a drink that is destructive? Why should we condemn opium, morphine and cocaine if we are to worship at the shrine of whiskey and beer?

Secretary Daniels need not fear that his policy of excluding intoxicants from the navy will be condemned by the American people. In putting a ban upon alcoholic drinks in the navy he is showing the same wisdom that characterizes Emperor William and the czar in the efforts they are making in behalf of total abstinence. W. J. BRYAN.

When you hear the republican and progressive orators attack the democratic tariff law on the stump this year, just remember that the platforms of both these organizations also promised tariff reform. No more effective way in which to halt the flow of eloquence on the part of any of these gentlemen can be found than to ask them to specify just what reductions they would say should have been made. The democratic law was a serious, well-balanced effort to accomplish an end that nine out of ten voters have favored for years. It really reduced the tariff, and that is what is bothering the opposition critics.

John Lind is apparently having a great deal of difficulty in satisfying his critics. At first they were much aggrieved because he wouldn't talk and now they are accusing him of having talked too much. Nothing that partisan malice may conjure up will conceal the fact that Mr. Lind executed an important and delicate mission in an able and statesmanlike manner.

Mr. Rockefeller has added some more millions to his endowment of the institute for medical research, and it now possesses twelve and a half millions for the work. Mr. Rockefeller has evidently made up his mind that no germ shall escape him either.