

Punish the Profiteers

The profiteer should be exposed and punished. This is a duty the government owes itself.

Every manufacturer, every contractor who had to do with war contracts should have his accounts thoroughly examined and if it appears that he has swindled the government his indictment, trial and conviction should follow. If this investigation cannot be made within the period not covered by the statute of limitations the statute of limitations should be extended.

It should be made known that no man can defraud the government and escape behind technicality; that so long as he lives he will be under the shadow of exposure, disgrace and punishment.

It should be understood that no influence can protect him, no refuge or immunity be given him.

To discover and punish every person who has grafted on the government or profited is an obligation owing to the 50,000 American dead sleeping in France.

It is an obligation to the thousands of wounded soldiers.

It is an obligation to the hundreds of thousands of American youths who shouldered arms.

It is an obligation to the fathers and mothers of these soldiers living and dead.

It is an obligation to the millions of American people who made sacrifice to sustain American arms.

When the land was seething and surging with the struggle and sacrifice of war was no time for men to conspire and scheme for easy profits. They had no right in that hour of travail to deliberately coin dividends out of the blood of wounded and dying American soldiers. If they are shameless enough to have done it, they should be sought out by the government and made to pay the penalty that their traitorous conduct so richly merits.

The plundering profiteer is a skulker of the lowest and most vicious type.—Oregon Journal.

A NEW STANDARD OF VALUE

Prof. Irving Fisher, of Yale university, is on a quest for an ideal dollar, one that will not fluctuate to such an extent as gold has done in the past few years. "The gold dollar," he says, "is now fixed in weight and is therefore variable in purchasing power. What we need is a gold dollar fixed in purchasing power and therefore variable in gold." To bring about this laudable purpose is not so easy as to make such a glib saying. Like all other plans for a "composite" or really stable dollar, we should first have to have an official tabulation of current prices for certain staple commodities and their average from time to time. The scheme is not unlike that favored by the populists of the early nineties. They proposed to have money issued against the products of the soil held in sub-treasuries. The plan was not as visionary as then dubbed. If a man who had a dollar could always buy the same proportion of certain fundamental foods and metals, we might have a less fluctuating standard of value.

Up to 1873 our country was on a bimetallic standard. The ratio between gold and silver was fixed at 16 to 1. In that year silver was practically demonetized. Great Britain and the principal countries of the world had gone on a gold

JOHNSON ON PROFITEERING

In discussing methods of curbing the profiteers, Senator Ed. S. Johnson of South Dakota suggests the following: "We are already limiting the bankers' profit and no one ever stops to question the authority of the government to do this," he said. "Why can't we do the same thing in other lines of business? We did it to the bankers because everybody was against the big money lender and now the same feeling is growing against the dealers in food and clothing. No one can complain that the banker is injured because he is limited to reasonable interest and no business man could object to being limited to a fair profit on his wares."

basis. From 1873 to 1896 the discoveries of silver and its increased production, in connection with its demonetization, had increased the rates between silver and gold to 30 to 1. The bimetalists were, therefore, faced with a difficult situation. It was not believed that the remonetization of silver would restore the former ratio. The democrats of 1896, under Mr. Bryan, contended that we needed a larger circulating medium; that debts were growing harder to pay through the increasing value of gold, and that the remedy was to make money of silver again. They were defeated, but a remarkable thing occurred. Very soon after the discoveries of gold in the Klondyke and in South Africa gave the world almost as much additional money metal as it would have obtained through the use of silver. Now silver and gold are almost at the old ratio of 16 to 1. At the same time through the increase in paper money, credit, bond issues, higher wages, the cost of the war and many other causes, prices have gone skyward.

But unquestionably the situation offers an opportunity to establish bimetalism or a currency based not only on the precious metals, but perhaps on many standard articles of value.—Chattanooga News.

A NEW DANIEL

A Washington special to The New York Times, dated August 25, says: State Department officials are interested in a statement by General Salvador Alvarado, one of Carranza's strongest supporters, Governor of Yucatan, in the Heraldo of Mexico City, which he recently established to be the mouthpiece of the Carranza government, and which has been highly commended by the government and by Ambassador Bonillas as being the newspaper that would tell the truth about Mexico.

This statement, which Alvarado calls "the balance sheet of the revolution", criticises the Mexican authorities, declaring that not the least of the evils that beset the government is the fact that jailbirds released by the revolution are now wearing the insignia of Generals of divisions. He adds:

"The great social movement which the revolution was supposed to inaugurate has degenerated into the satisfying of the lowest passions of men of the most questionable character, crooks who, instead of being made governors of states and put at the head of military operations, should be behind the bars of prisons."

The statement, received here today, is divided into sections, and reads, in part, as follows:

"Pacification.—The pacification of the country has been impossible because of the lack of appreciation of their duties by the chiefs of operations, a deficient military organization, and abuses of their authority by the military chiefs.

"Delayed Weeding-Out Process.—In spite of the establishment of constitutional government the weeding-out process of the worst elements of the revolution has not been carried out. The dregs of society, released from jails by the revolutionists, have been permitted to remain in the government and the army, and some of them are wearing the insignia of generals of divisions.

"The Constitution of 1917.—Although the constitution contains certain praiseworthy provisions, a careful and scientific regulation will be necessary if it is not to be a total failure. Articles 27 and 123 especially need regulation and interpretation, which call for ability in en-

acting the laws contemplated by the constitution thus far not shown by the legislature.

"Administration of Justice.—The administration of justice has never had a good name in Mexico, but it cannot be more prostituted than it is at the present time. A wave of immorality, open and cynical, involves every act of the court.

"The Petroleum Problem.—This is easy of settlement. Genuine national interests are not incompatible with satisfying the legitimate demands of the owners and lessees of oil lands.

"Banking.—The progress of the country cannot continue without the existence of banks. The prevailing economic instability and unrest will not disappear until the banking question has been solved.

"Moral Disintegration.—The most alarming symptom is that public opinion no longer reacts when it hears of cases of bribery, graft, corruption, and thefts of all kinds. It seems as if a wave of immorality has taken possession of everybody and everything in Mexico. This state of affairs has been caused by the fact that the dregs of society are now at large and holding high places in the councils of the nation.

"Urgency of Settling Problems.—There is no time to be lost. Any fresh incident may let loose the storm that has been so long hanging over us. The conviction exists abroad that we are and will continue to be a nuisance. On the other hand, if we can settle our affairs, millions of men and millions of dollars will flow into our country. But let us not do so in any haste, nor be actuated by fear, but as a sacred obligation. If we are unjustly attacked let us not give ourselves up to useless tears like hysterical women; if we have not acquired the virtues to make us a strong people let us pay for the sins of our ancestors without useless lamentations."

General Alvarado concludes his statement with an appeal to President Carranza to support honestly and sincerely the formation of a political party which he has not done heretofore. He also appeals to General Obregon and Pablo Gonzales to settle their difference and to work together for the public welfare.

PRESBYTERIAN COUNSELLORS' RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AT THE LAST PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY BY MR. BRYAN

Resolved, that this general assembly hereby instructs its executive commission to take under consideration the desirability of the selection by the assembly of a limited number of ministers of approved experience and ability to serve as counsellors or pastors at large, in order that through these leaders the message of the church may be presented with greater effect.

2. That these counsellors or pastors at large shall not exercise either administrative or executive authority but render service similar to that performed by our moderators in their tour of the church, and such other service as the assembly may appoint.

3. That the executive commission be instructed to report on this matter at the assembly of 1920 with such recommendations as to plan, if any, as it may deem wise.

Enthusiastic gentlemen who have embarked in the business of making the entire world dry say that it will cost 35 millions. Before getting all heated over this sum and wondering how it could be expended, we might recall that a year ago we were enthusiastically spending that much every day in support of the war. If it was worth that much per day to make the world safe for democracy to walk through it ought to be worth that much per job to enable it to walk straight.

Milk producers are getting 5 1/2 and 6 cents a quart for their product from the wholesalers who retail it through wagons for 14 cents a quart. If 133 1-3 per cent gross profit can be defended on any ground, we hope the man capable of putting up any argument on the proposition will also explain why so many farmers are selling their dairy cows and no town dairy has gone out of business in a decade for the reason that the farmers are quitting dairying.

Sometimes it is difficult to repress a temptation. One of the reporters who was covering a recent food investigation in which it was how wholesalers were making from 25 per cent up on their investment wrote it robbers' profit instead of jobbers' profit, and it took him five minutes to decide that he had better not depend on the compositor or proof-reader to catch the error.



U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM, ABOUT 1909
—Washington Star.