

Some Splendid Recommendations

Senator Kenyon, chairman of the committee on Education and Labor of the United States senate, submitted the following excellent recommendations:

"While the committee was not under the resolution asked to suggest remedies, it feels it would fall short of its duty if it did not make some suggestions to congress along remedial lines. Some of the suggestions are not directly involved in the steel strike, but they come to the minds of the committee from the evidence that they have taken and conditions they have observed.

"First. That a board or commission somewhat similar to the War Labor Board should be established. This board to have power of compulsory investigation; to have large power in mediation and conciliation and recommendations; not to the extent of compulsory arbitration, but before this board controversies could be heard, investigations made, and decisions rendered. That pending said investigation and decision no strike should be declared provided no employees are discharged for taking part in the controversy and provided further that all opportunity for the employer to take advantage of the delay has been removed; that the principle of collective bargaining and an 8-hour day should be considered by said board, and recommendations made to labor and industry in relation thereto; that the board should be in the nature of a federal industrial commission, seeking at all times not only to settle pending disputes but to help bring about a more harmonious condition between employer and employee. A just decision of said board would be indorsed by the public and public sentiment is powerful enough to enforce the findings of such a commission. There is good sense enough among the great body of the American people to bring about an adjustment of these difficulties. The great body of the American people believe in a liberal industrial system, in living wages for men employed in industry; wages that will permit them to raise their families according to the standards of American life and to enjoy recreation from hard, grinding toil; but the American people have no patience and will have none with any leadership that seeks to accomplish its purposes by barbarous methods of freezing or starving the American people. They do not propose to freeze and they do not propose to be starved, and they do not propose that a few men in this country shall have the power to bring about such condition of affairs. On the other hand, they are as much opposed to an autocracy of capital. Capital must be reasonable likewise. The employer must recognize that there is a new spirit in the world; that labor is not content to be merely a hewer of wood and a drawer of water, and that labor is fighting for a status in industrial life, and it is not concerned merely with wages.

"Why can not capital and labor co-operate and establish between themselves the doctrine of the square deal; cease to be suspicious of one another, join together and act together for the good of each other and for the well-being of the public at large? It is the hope of the world that military warfare has ceased. Have we not reason also to hope and insist that industrial warfare may cease? It can not without a spirit of mutual co-operation between capital and labor.

"Second. That an Americanization bill be passed by the congress which will provide for the effective education and Americanization of the illiterate foreigners and native illiterates in this country. A bill of this kind has already been reported out of this committee and your committee urges an early adoption of the same by congress.

"Third. It is observable in the strike districts that the men who own their homes are more contented and more interested in the affairs of the country. One real antidote for unrest in this country is home ownership. It is difficult to plant the seeds of the revolution in the minds of those who own their own homes. The work of the steel companies in building homes has been most commendable. It is to be hoped that such work will be enlarged and carried on by them. It would not be out of place to suggest that it would be most commendable for the steel companies to use some of their large profits in extending the work of home building. The

question of aid and encouragement in the work of assisting townspeople of small means in securing their own homes in some such way as the farmer has been aided under the federal farm loan act is worthy the serious consideration of congress.

"Fourth. There should be a change in our naturalization laws which will require the naturalization and some education of all foreigners, at least to the extent of speaking the American language; that they should acquire such knowledge within a period of five years after they arrive, with proper limitations upon further immigration, giving to those already here a certain period of time in which to become naturalized, and if this is not done then deportation should follow.

"Fifth. An effective law should be passed dealing with anarchists, revolutionists, and all who would destroy the American government. There are too many Americans who love their country and are willing to give their life for it and who intend that all the doors of American opportunity shall remain open for the children of today and the children of tomorrow to permit a few thousand anarchists, revolutionists, and I. W. W.'s to keep on with their nefarious propaganda to destroy the government.

"The views here expressed fairly represent the conclusions arrived at by the committee. We present the report to the senate with the hope that out of it may come some remedial legislation, and, if not, with the belief that good must come out of an investigation of this character where the light of publicity has been turned upon the entire transaction. We have tried to go to the bottom of the causes of this strike. We have heard both sides impartially, and proceeded without fear and without favor, solely with a determination to arrive at the truth." (The report was signed by Senators William S. Kenyon, Thomas Sterling, Lawrence C. Phipps, Kenneth McKellar and David I. Walsh.)

"WARE YOU GET ZAT STUFF?"

(From the Chicago Tribune.)

With reference to the proposed alliance with France for the defense of France President Wilson said that we are under a debt to France which never can be paid. General Pershing, the popular story goes, stood before the monument and said: "Lafayette, we are here." Alfred Capus, editor of Figaro, says that the United States is a laggard in duty.

We say: "For the love of Mike!" France fought Great Britain in our revolutionary war to deprive her hereditary enemy of its greatest colonial possession—and did it. A Bourbon king made war on a German who sat on the English throne to split his empire in two and did it.

Generous Frenchmen, liberty loving Frenchmen, such as Lafayette were among the instruments used for this, but the effective instrument was a monarchically controlled army and navy which did the bidding of empire for the pay of empire.

It does not hurt the United States any to accept the imperial work of a French king with gratitude and not to look too closely at the facts, but it will hurt to grovel in complete denial of the facts. So much for the debt to Lafayette.

If France could have had any assurance in 1914 that she would have, as the result of war, what she now has she would have declared war on Germany. There nearly was a war over Algieras when Germany threatened to block French imperial progress in North Africa. France and Germany have been in imperial conflict since the year one. We seem to forget that when the Franco-Prussian war began Napoleon III, was the dreaded military despot of Europe and that Great Britain greeted his overthrow with diplomatic and popular relief. A danger had been removed from Europe.

France did not want the war with Germany in 1914 because the French feared the outcome and hated the struggle. Germany did want it because the Germans were confident as to the outcome and invited the struggle. If the French had been confident they would have welcomed it.

They wanted Alsace back. They have it. They wanted the Germans pushed back of the Rhine. They have them there. They wanted to make Germany pay indemnities. The Germans will pay. They wanted the Saar basin. They have it. They wanted a free hand in North Africa. They have it. The Germans for the time being are where Frenchmen want them to be and where they have fought for centuries to keep them and hold them.

For these results the French would have

fought any war at any time. They are on top of the pile again in continental Europe and they will overcome their prudent thrift enough to raise larger families they probably will stay on top for another century.

At the moment when these benefits were dispensed illusions the United States began the greatest movement of troops overseas that the world ever knew. If the hundreds of thousands sent had not been enough, millions and millions would have followed them. Germany was licked from April 6, 1917.

The United States did this for its own safety. It preferred to fight a war in France rather than fight one on the ocean or in the United States. It knew it had to fight Germany and wisely preferred to fight with allies rather than fight alone. It was a bit of rare American wisdom.

We got what we went after. That was protection from what would have been a certain German menace. In getting what we wanted we were directly instrumental in giving Europe more than she dreamed she could get.

We supplied the men, which France did not have. France supplied equipment, which our men did not have. The United States gave lives. France gave our soldiers guns.

France fills American imagination and affection. We like Frenchmen much better than we like Englishmen, but we ask nothing whatever of France or of any other part of the world and we owe France nothing and owe the world nothing.

Our most conservative statesmen now are merely trying to hang onto things which America has. No one is trying to get anything. The United States is the only competent nation among the victors which is merely struggling to retain what it had before it made sacrifices.

With profound respect and much admiration for France, we must inquire: "Ware you get zat stuff?"

THIRD TERM INADVISABLE

(From the New York World.)

Although the democratic state convention of South Dakota by a unanimous vote has indorsed President Wilson for a third term, its action must be construed merely as a compliment to the greatest statesman of his generation. It cannot be accepted as a serious expression of opinion in regard to the democratic candidate for president in 1920.

The World does not believe that President Wilson, in any circumstances, would consider a renomination; nor could any sincere friend of the president desire that his splendid career should end in such an anti-climax; for an anti-climax it would be, even if he were renominated, even if he were re-elected.

Mr. Wilson has already wrecked his health and impoverished his vitality in the service of his country, a service which has given to the United States the highest prestige that it has ever attained, and which will remain as a monument to his statesmanship throughout the centuries, in spite of the efforts of a debased partisanship to deface and destroy it. Whatever comes out of the remaining fifteen months of his term of office, the record is made.

Great pressure will be exerted on the president to become a candidate again in 1920. Every democratic office-seeker will be eager to capitalize Mr. Wilson's name and fame to his own advantage; but this is a matter on which the chief magistrate cannot afford to yield, whatever arguments may be presented to him.

From the point of view of the public welfare, the renomination of the president could not fail to be a mistake. All the new and pressing public questions growing out of the war which ought to be decided at the next election would be submerged. No matter how the campaign began, it would end as a conflict over the third term. That would be the one dominating issue, and everything else would be forgotten, to the hopeless confusion of government for the next four years.

Woodrow Wilson needs no third-term nomination. He needs no vindication. His two administrations mark a new era in American government and his place in history is secure. Let the record stand.

Only fifteen of the ninety-six members of the United States senate are against any ratification of the treaty of peace or the league or nations, while eighty voted at one time or another for some sort of a ratification. Gentlemen who have been insisting that the great solvent for political unrest is minority representation would do well to pause and help out first on majority representation.