

## Graceful Retreat

Voting to ratify the Colombian treaty yesterday meant a severe intellectual and moral strain for many Republican senators. They had to approve what they had vehemently and virtuously condemned four years ago. And they had to find arguments for their change of front. This was in some ways harder than the change itself. It was necessary to make a nice discrimination between what was vicious and abhorrent when urged by President Wilson and what is wise and patriotic when the same thing is advocated by President Harding. There was also the question of party consistency to be got round. All told, it was a good example of the art of graceful political retreat, well worth study by those interested in the grand tactics.

Senator Lodge was, of course, the chief commander who fell back as triumphantly as the German General Staff to positions prepared in advance. What he had really prepared in advance was the report against the treaty which he wrote in 1917. It is a terrible document to be read to his face today—as it was read repeatedly by Senator Johnson and others. The Washington correspondents say that he fled from the Senate chamber when the most damaging extracts from his own report were produced. But that was only a part of his able retreat along the whole line.

It certainly would seem that Mr. Lodge had in 1917 occupied ground from which he could not withdraw his troops without exposing them to destruction. He had delivered himself against the Colombian treaty with great moral earnestness. "Any friendship," he said, "which is bought is worthless." This is especially the case when it is "under threats which, when successful, breed contempt in the mind of the seller, and a sense of bitter dislike and humiliation in that of the buyer." And the Massachusetts senator made short work of the plea that the payment of \$25,000,000 to Colombia would be anything but a plea of guilty. "No other construction can or will be placed by the world on our action." "We cannot afford to answer a blackmail demand." But a masterly leader to the rear like Mr. Lodge had little difficulty in getting away from all this. He invited the Senate and the country to look at "the larger aspects of the question." All of these could not be seen four years ago. There were considerations of "international amity" to be dwelt upon today; there was the matter of trade, to which we could not be blind, and had senators duly weighed the vital necessity of oil and were they aware that Colombia contained vast and unexploited deposits to which Americans held claims and concessions only waiting on the ratification of the treaty? Moreover, Colombia was the "only South American state which has both an Atlantic and a Pacific coast, and on those coasts are good harbors capable of large development." Thus with drums beating and flags flying did Senator Lodge conduct his victorious retreat.

It was a fine manoeuvre, and practice in it may prove of great advantage to the Republican senators later. When the time comes for them to "engage under the existing treaty"—that is, to ratify in some form the treaty of Versailles—they may profit by the skill which they have acquired in reversing themselves on the Colombian treaty. Senator Lodge will then feel no embarrassment whatever in coming forward as the administration leader backward. He will be ready for the "large" view of the Versailles treaty, too, and for the long look ahead. He will illustrate perfectly Franklin's definition of the reasonable man as one who can always find reasons for what he wants to do.

All this is apart from the true causes of satisfaction that the Colombian treaty is finally ratified. It disposes of an unsettled question which had no pity for the repose of his nation. It puts the United States level with its opportunities and its duties in South America as they exist today, without regard to what they may have been in 1903. The personal bitterness and the partisan animosities of the hour will soon fade away, and before long all Americans will be thinking of the ratification of the Colombian treaty—and foreign nations will so think of it—as a signal act of good-will and justice.—New York Times.

### NO WONDER THE FARMER KICKS, SOMETIMES

Up in Minnesota a farmer killed a fat cow. The hide weighed 31 pounds which he sent to Minneapolis for sale. He received 2½ cents a

pound, or a total of 77 cents for it. The freight was 59 cents and the drayage 25 cents to the buyers warehouse. By return mail the purchaser sent the farmer a bill for 7 cents, the difference between the price of the hide and the freight and drayage. In other words, the farmer would have been 7 cents ahead, if he had taken the hide out behind the barn and buried it.—Circleville, Ohio, Democrat and Watchman.

### MEAT RETAILERS LABELED WORST OF PROFITEERS

Washington, D. C., special correspondent to the Chicago Tribune, under date of May 5, says: The national live stock exchange declared war today on the retail meat dealers.

Everett C. Brown of Chicago, president of the exchange, appearing before the house agriculture committee in opposition to packer legislation, characterized the meat retailers as "the greatest profiteers this country has ever known." He urged the committee to desist trying to regulate the packers and to concentrate efforts on breaking up the profiteering by the retail dealer.

Mr. Brown furnished the committee with a resume of a survey which he made recently of retail prices in Chicago. These prices, he declared, often showed a jump of 100 per cent from the wholesaler to the consumer.

"I read nothing in the proposed legislation that tries to control what every boy in this room knows to be the greatest profiteers—not only during the war but at the present time—that this country has ever known," said Mr. Brown. "Why does not congress try to control these people who by their retail butchers' associations in the large distributing cities have a closer organization than any of the big trade union organizations in America?"

"A recent survey of wholesale and retail meat prices in Chicago disclosed startling comparisons. Only last week I checked up on prices in two shops located directly across the street from each other.

"Meat obtained from the same packer was being sold in one shop at from 10 to 18 cents a pound more than the same brand and cuts were bringing across the street. In another shop I found a popular brand of sausage retailing at the same price it was bringing during the period of high prices of last fall and winter, although I happen to know that the maker of the sausage has reduced his price to less than the pre-war basis.

"I was offered lard of a well known brand at exactly two and one-half times the price that brand was wholesaling for on that day. Bacon costing wholesale 30 to 35 cents was offered at 55 to 65 cents a pound, the buyer paying for full weight and no trimmings deducted. Hams which were wholesaling at 28½ to 32 cents were being sold at prices of 50 to 65 cents for center slices."

### BATTLE SEEN IN SENATE ON NAVY DISARMAMENT

A Washington dispatch, dated May 5, says: A fight for naval disarmament proposals at an early date in the Senate in opposition to the administration program was accepted as a foregone conclusion today.

The naval appropriation bill was to be reported from the committee today stripped of all such features at the request of President Harding because of the international situation, but both Senators Borah (Rep., Idaho) and Pomerene, (Dem., Ohio), announced that they would fight from the floor for a disarmament conference of Great Britain, Japan and the United States.

The bill is expected to come up for debate next week after disposal of the emergency tariff and anti-dumping measures.

In opposing any such conference at this time, President Harding has made clear that he stands ready to urge an international agreement limiting armaments at the first practical moment. The Borah proposals, however, would urge him to call a conference of the three powers here to discuss a reduction in naval programs and Senator Pomerene would delay the building program for six months pending efforts to gain the assent of Great Britain and Japan to join in conference.

The appropriation bill to be reported in the Senate carries \$100,000,000 more than was voted by the House, and is practically identical with the measure which failed of passage in the Senate last March.

The principal increase is for a personnel 20,000 greater than the 100,000 provided for by the House, for enlarged aviation programs, development of fleet bases on the Pacific coast and for speeding up capital ship construction.

### DON'T MURDER FAITH

"I regard the belief in God as fundamental," said William Jennings Bryan in his powerful lecture last night.

The great commoner declares that the prevalence of Darwinism is undermining Christian training. The Darwinism theory it will be held by universities is rather a non-essential. They do lay stress however upon evolution. But Mr. Bryan's new crusade takes modern education along these lines scathingly to task. It will not be denied that he is now in a work for which he will be more lastingly loved than for anything he has yet done, and he has achieved some great things.

A discussion of the Darwinism theory aside, certainly religion in any form must be conceded even by the coldest non-sentimentalist to be the very life channels of civilization. If you murder faith you mangle civilization.

Without a lively interest in the higher things, in the spiritual if you please, to most of the human family life would no longer matter.

Take the churches out of the world and you take away the sweetest and most sustaining prop of society. Take away a belief of immortality and you tear the heart from the mother hopes to join again somewhere her little children and their father. Rob the hope of that great solace and grief can never again be gilded into joy, for there is no other power to promise the good that must triumph over evil.

It is not difficult to see that if the fostering flag of religious hope fell from the hands of the masses, society would be at an end. Take the man finding it hard to get on and who knows no strength but the physical and tell him that there is not a better world to come, all restraint falls from him and there will be a viciousness in the way he will snarl, "Well I'm going to get mine." Banks and businesses could not get iron and granite enough to keep out the fury.

There are infinitely more sorrows than pleasures in life. Say to the average man that death ends all, and suicides will be more frequent than divorces. If the murderer feels that to be hanged means simply a matter of going to bed for an eternal sleep, then crime has no stay at that end. Take prayer away from the trusting child, and from the loving lips of the pious, and all that fills the home with warmth and the heart with happiness vanishes.

It has influenced sculptors, painters, musicians and poets. It has inspired orators and actors. It has made sympathy a divinity and made love more the source of living. Brother is breathed from above. Brute is bred from below. And yet it strangely seizes the humble lowly more than it does the higher ups.

So whatever part Darwinism plays, Mr. Bryan in the main is right and will be generally applauded. It is a hearkening back to the old reliable religion. Any man who knows the world knows that now more than ever, civilization stunned by the war needs the chastening, vivifying spirit of religion. Any man who has a comprehension of economics knows that until social conditions confer a better measure of equal and exact justice, if for no other reason religion as we know it must be pressed to our soul.

Every individual to his own way of thinking; that is God given freedom; that is a principle to be preserved, but at this stage of human advancement it is religion that holds the light as progress passes on.—Bloomington, Ill., Bulletin.

### A CHANGED BRYAN

The other day William J. Bryan said: I'm just a political gardener watering flowers wherever I think it will do the most good." This expression indicates that with age Mr. Bryan is becoming mellowed and looks on life with kinder feelings than when he traveled the country preaching his "cross of gold." It denotes the man who finds things in pretty good shape with only a touch needed here and there, a drop of water placed on a drooping plant, but the garden in fair condition. The agitator, the crusader, could hardly drop into such a form of expression, but one who had come to the conclusion that the world is a rather good place in which to live, that most people are pretty decent and want to do the right thing, might put it thus. Of course his reference to water is not inappropriate. He has long been devoted to water and in many cases uses it when others wouldn't, if he does not take grape juice. He is firm on morals. Bryan is no longer feared as a disturber except by those who oppose the principle of prohibition.—Pittsburgh Gazette Times.

Youth is the opportunity to do something and to become somebody.—T. T. Munger.