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A DO NOTHING CONGRESS.

As the weeks drift by and we approach the day for adjournment of congress the question comes insistently, is no constructive work to be done? The senate seems to have turned itself wholly into a grand jury, investigating everything its publicity hunters can think of. Only the president is keeping his mind on the real job in hand. So important is the legislation before congress and so wholly without reason is its present neglect that President Coolidge has been called upon to summon conferences of senate and house leaders to remind them of the purpose of their election to office. Congress has played fast and loose with the problem of the farmers of the country.

While the senate particularly has been running amuck the president has done what he can to relieve the farm situation. He has secured the co-operation of large financial resources in the organization of a special loan corporation to help the bank situation in the northwest. He has advanced the tariff on wheat, the advance to go into effect April 12. Free traders who have shouted with glee at the temporary set back in wheat prices have overlooked the fact that the value of this action is in the long pull of the year round market, not upon temporary flurries. He has sought to relieve the one crop situation in the northwest through the passage of the Norbeck bill, but congress was so set upon partisanship that it refused to grant the relief which the passage of this bill would have afforded.

At this time it is well to recall the urgings of President Coolidge in his message to congress last December. It has been nearly four months now since he urged:

"No complicated scheme of relief, no plan for government fixing of prices, no resort to public treasury, will be of any permanent value in establishing agriculture. Simple and direct methods put into operation by the farmer himself are the only real sources for restoration."

He argued that the farmer must be immediately helped by a reduction in national and local taxation. Also that a reorganization of the freight rate structure was necessary, to lighten the burden of transportation costs. Then he went on in another paragraph:

"Diversification is necessary. Those farmers who raise their living on their land are not greatly in distress. Such loans as are wisely needed to assist in buying stock and other materials to start in this direction should be financed through a government agency as a temporary and emergency expedient."

Congress has paid little if any heed to the president's appeal for the farmer. Instead of following the suggestions made, and trying to do something in a practical way for the relief of agriculture, time has been given almost exclusively to the manufacture of political medicine. Wide and general search has been made for scandal to unloose, for sensations to explode, for mud to throw. Hour after hour, day after day, the senate halls have reverberated as the anti-administration orators have verbally assailed all within their reach with invective and abuse. Farmers have been forgotten, agriculture, industry in general, is over-shadowed by the needs of politics.

Never in American history has such an exhibition been given. Fraud should be exposed. Corruption should be denounced. Incompetency and dishonesty should be exposed. The pursuit and uncovering of evil is always in order. But it should not be made the entire order of business. The public applauds the condemnation of the oil and other scandals, but a much better feeling would exist if something else were being done in a substantial way to lighten burdens and improve conditions.

When congress met in December, it was presented with a definite program for the revision of the revenue bill that taxes might be lowered. The president and the secretary of treasury recommended that action be taken in time to relieve the payment on the 1923 tax. From December until March, the house delayed action, and then finally passed a bill for which a veto was anticipated, because it did not meet the government requirements. A deficit was assured if the measure became a law. Then the wise and sapient senators on the democratic side accused the president of playing politics, because he did not earlier plead for the reduction in the tax rate. The bill still hangs fire in the senate.

The president's recommendations for relief from transportation costs remain unheeded. His request for help to the farmer has produced only bills that are doomed in advance, because they will not meet the needs of agriculture, and contemplate only those things the president said ought to be avoided. Surely congress so far is condemned by its own acts.

Now the president has called the leaders into conference and has in private urged upon them the necessity for getting busy. It is not so much a question of whether the legislation can be put into shape that an adjournment may be taken in June before the convention. It is how to take up the lost motion and regain the ground lost. Time wasted in speechifying and shotgun inquiries into clothes-line, back fence gossip, can not be replaced. So far the man in the White House is the only one who has shown any real concern about the farmer. It is high time the others at the Capitol got busy and did something besides talk big.

Senator Borah's recent warning seems to have fallen upon deaf ears. His warning, however, was full of meaning—the people will in the end judge congress by what it has accomplished as the national legislature, not by what it has done as a grand jury.

FARMERS ARE NOT RADICALS.

An epithet that is commonly applied to voters nowadays, and especially to the farmers, who do not accept "standpat" policies is "radical." Nothing could be farther from the fact. Farmers, and particularly those of the middle west, are still bravely facing a serious situation. They have been threatened with utter ruin, and have been told that only through their own efforts can they win the way back to a solid footing.

These men are considering their own problems, and earnestly striving to avert disaster. If they do not accept the dictum that comes from the east, especially from the editorial sanctums of Manhattan, they should not be condemned. They realize that their state is due to a maladjustment of economic conditions, and they seek to remedy it by such reasonable means as are within their reach.

Eastern editors should keep in mind that the disparity between what the farmer has to sell and what he has to buy is such in time may pauperize the entire agricultural industry. Just now it appears temporary, but it will become permanent if it is not changed. Farmers have seen aid given the railroads, the manufacturers and exporters. Now that the farmer comes forward and asks for a little attention, he is dubbed a "radical," and by those to whose relief he has made the most liberal contributions.

The western farmer is busy with his own troubles, and they are quite enough to occupy him. If he does not cast his vote according to a program prepared along the Atlantic seaboard, it is because he is not satisfied that is the road to take. It is a mistake, however, to regard him as wanting to smash things, for he knows as well as anyone that his own future is wrapped up with that of the whole land. He knows that he will prosper only when all prosper, and he is sane enough to want to share in the prosperity that others are now enjoying. Willing to work, anxious to pay his own debts, determined to win out, the farmer righteously resents being called a "radical."

BUSINESS IS BETTER, THANK YOU.

While the congressional inquisitors are putting on the rack almost everybody they can lay their hands on, making a political holiday for those who want to hurrah, business as usual is the slogan. From the Department of Labor comes a report of greater activity in industry. A survey made in February, just reported on, covered 52 selected industries, and these show an increase of 6.7 per cent increase in pay roll, 5.4 per cent increase in capital earnings, and 1.2 per cent increase in number of persons employed.

More men and women are at work. Their wages are greater. Their consumptive power is enhanced. Another very significant factor is that in February imports amounted to a total of \$335,000,000, and exports mounted to \$367,000,000, a trade balance in our favor for the month of \$32,000,000. Followed through for a year, this produces an export total of \$4,404,000,000 and a total of imports amounting to \$4,020,000,000, with a favorable trade balance of \$384,000,000. These figures ought to reassure those who are now demanding that foreign markets be opened to Americans. We seem to be enjoying about all that could be offered, short of an absolute monopoly.

Marginal speculation in stocks, grains and similar commodities is at a low ebb. Demand for material, especially the metals, is on the increase, another sign of reviving activity due to increased consumption. Nowhere is there a sign that warrants the pessimism usually accompanying a presidential year. The divorce between business and politics may not be complete, but the separation is wider than a great many imagine.

NEW AMERICAN CARDINALS.

Elevation at the same consistorial meeting of two American prelates to the high office of cardinal is a noteworthy event in the annals of even so important an institution as the Roman Catholic church. By this act the church has increased the number of its princes in the United States to four, Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, who was elevated in 1911; Cardinal Daugherty of Philadelphia, elevated in 1921, and Cardinals Hayes and Mundelein, just now given the red hat. This recognition by the pope and his counselors of the increasing importance of the United States can not help but be gratifying to the churchmen.

Pius XI, in his allocution at the consistory, paid a glowing tribute to the generosity of the people of the United States, as exhibited in the various efforts to relieve distress and suffering throughout the world. It was in his remarks that Providence has placed some brothers in a position where they can help others, and his expression of gratitude that the works of charity are carried on, that the pope said:

"We feel, however, that something would be wanting in this expression of gratitude if special mention were not made of the position and part which the United States of America took and maintained in this concourse of charity."

Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, as seats of the four cardinals, will take on new significance in the government of the church on this continent. Cardinal Begin of Quebec and Cardinal Calvacanti of Rio de Janeiro are the other princes of the church in the western world.

It is not strange that democratic candidates are building their hopes of success on investigations, rumors and scandals. Democracy always chirks up when doubt and disaster are rife. It was born in the caves of Adullam.

Mr. Rohrer's chief trouble did not lay in enforcing the prohibitory law. It lay in the inability of any red-blooded man to get along peacefully with the suspicious and nagging elements within the ultra-reform ranks.

Homespun Verse
—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

BE PATIENT.

If you have a good position and a modest little cot, Don't go seeking something better, and lose everything you've got.

There are always finer places in our dreams than where we dwell, But it's true that going to them leaves a solemn tale to tell.

We imagine there are splendid opportunities within The Remote, if we have courage to go thenceward and begin; But our hopes are often futile, and our plans are often vain.

And our loss is vastly greater than our lurid dream of gain.

If we're patient and insistent, keep our courage and we will profit by our efforts and go forward step by step. Even though we do not swiftly to the hunted zenith climb, We will reach our destination in the wayward course of Time.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of March, 1924.
W. H. QUIVKY, Notary Public.
(Seal)

What of America?

By EDWIN G. PINKHAM.

Why the Federal Powers Have Grown and Those of the States Declined

A feeble executive implies a feeble execution of the government; a feeble execution is but another phrase for a bad execution; and a government ill executed, whatever it may be in theory, must be in practice, a bad government.—Alexander Hamilton, "The Federalist," No. LXX.

THE leaders of the early federalist party were men of high patriotism, exceptional ability, and pure characters, but it has been said of them that they were terribly afraid lest the country should not be sufficiently governed.

This question of how much government is enough never has been settled to the satisfaction of everybody. It still is debated and probably always will be. We have seen that Jeffersonian republicans held on this point and where the Hamiltonian federalists stood. We now have to trace the results of the successive compromises to which their respective theories have been subjected, and to see where they have led us in practice.

The first thing that must be plain to us on the slightest examination of our political history is that the federal power has steadily grown, while that of the states has greatly declined. If the federal as opposed to the national theory had retained its original force, this condition would be regarded as a desirable result. But it is true that local government, in theory, is more likely to be under the control of the governed than that which governs them from a distance. But it has been a steadily revealed weakness of the original theory of the state government that they neglect or refuse to exercise their powers. We know that if a man does not use or exercise his arm it will in time lose its muscular power and become useless to him. It is so with the functions of government. Power has passed from the states, and been assumed by the federal government, because the states have failed to exercise it, and the people have been forced to turn more and more to the government at Washington.

Now, under our system it is apparent that laws in the states ought to be as nearly as possible enacted especially laws relating to business and industry. This was recognized in the constitutional convention, and it was provided that congress should have power to enact such laws if the states failed to have so much national legislation. But their governments are not equal in this respect. Some may provide necessary legislation while others refuse to do so, and this makes for inequality and injustice in an age when the powers of industry no longer are confined to the states where they originate, but are dispersed to markets in all the states.

Let us take an example of an inequality of law resulting from conflicting state legislation. It is clearly within the competency of states to make laws regulating child labor. The necessity for such regulation is recognized. It is demanded by the public welfare. Some of the states have made such regulations, but others have refused to do so, with the result that citizens engaged in the manufacture of articles of interstate commerce in those states which have adopted such regulations are put upon an unfair competition with manufacturers in the states that have refused to enact such laws. In effect, the states that enact remedial legislation penalize themselves.

When such conditions arise, and they have been of constant recurrence in the great commercial and industrial development of the present generation, the people have had to seek the relief of national legislation. Every such extension of federal power necessarily expands the federal machinery of government, and gives occasion for the cry that its functions and cost are becoming burdensome and vexatious. But if it is true, it is so only because local

governments in the United States have failed in their responsibilities. If the increasing power of the federal government is an evil, if centralization of government in Washington is a danger, then the people of the states have invited them by allowing their local governments to fall into their present condition.

The state legislatures in America have abdicated their functions. With some notable exceptions they no longer enjoy public confidence or prestige. Their members are ill paid, unrepresentative of the best in ability or character in their states and the reason of the influences through which they are chosen are unresponsive to the public's needs. Legislative sessions in the states are too likely to be the battles of the private interests that control votes through lobbyists and the political brokers whom we call bosses. Public measures receive little consideration. In most state legislatures, for example, the militia is shamefully neglected. Education is neglected. Unequal tax laws are passed by reason of the political advantage enjoyed by the representatives of special interests. The principle of representation carried to excess and capitalized by political forces produces types of legislators easily controlled by interests that specialize in that business. These interests, unscrupulous in their methods, are concerned for the public welfare, and are not for their own ends, and it is those that labor with state legislatures that get what they want from them.

These are the causes, we will find, that have brought about the centralization of government in Washington and its desecration in the states. The loss of vigorous and efficient local government to the people must be deplored, but if the trend is in that direction, if government is becoming more and more centralized in Washington, then the safeguard must be to watch the government at Washington and hold it strictly responsible.

The fear of centralization that haunted Jefferson was based on its threat to local government. Local government he thought of as the protector of the people's liberties. But in the evolution of our system it is the federal power that has become the people's protector while their local government, by its breakdown and inefficiency, has become the danger to their liberties. Whatever else a government may be it must be responsible. If the federal power has assumed responsibility where the states have declined it, the people know at least what power to hold to account. (Copyright, Kansas City Star.)

Abe Martin

Th' saloons has been gone a long time, so if prohibition has got anything as nifty as th' ole time bartender, it's time he wuz showin' up. Some folks even run in debt t' pay their respects.

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Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Only contributions of 200 words and less will be given preference.

Astronomy, a Speculative Science.

Gilbon, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In last Sunday's Bee it is stated that the students at Creighton college have discontinued the study of astronomy. Also that the planet Mars, being nearly 50,000,000 miles further from the sun than we are, receives only about half the amount of sunlight and heat that we receive. Were that the case and the planets received their heat by radiation from the sun, which increases to Mars' orbit, i. e., Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, from 100 to 1,200 times larger than our planet, would be locked in eternal rigidity and, of course, uninhabitable. The two inner planets, between us and the sun, would be uninhabitable on account of the intense heat. So in our Sun's family of eight major planets, our little earth would be the only one that would be suitable for animal or vegetable life. So all these vast worlds would have no life in nature's economy except to shed a faint, twinkling light for the sole benefit of the inhabitants of our little world. But let us look at a few facts.

The surface of Mars shows regular markings, supposed to be canals and vegetation bordering such canals, and the white caps at the poles undoubtedly snow and ice, which increases to some 25 degrees when winter conditions prevail at either pole, and nearly, or quite disappear during the summer solstice, would indicate that the climate on Mars is about the same as prevails on our earth.

Now it would be absolutely impossible for the sun (no matter how) to transmit heat by radiation to us through 53,000,000 miles of interplanetary space and get it to us in a heated condition while the temperature of space is 273 degrees below zero.

The writer's home receives light, heat and power from an electric power plant 15 miles away, sent by a cold dynamo over a cold wire, and we receive approximately the same degree of heat, etc., as homes near the power plant. To prove that the sun's heat comes to us electrically, and not by radiation, take any convex lens, a four-inch reading glass will do, and throw a focus from the sun on any light combustible and it will be on fire at once. Now try your lens by throwing a focus from an electric arc light, as used in movie picture shows and you get the same results as with the sun. Now try your lens with a fire or lamp light produced by combustion, no matter how hot, and your focus will be cold. Proving that the rays from the sun are transmitted electrically and are converted into light on reaching our atmosphere, and heat, when it meets the resistance of the earth; so that each planet probably receives approximately about the same degree of light, heat and power that we do.

Teach the students demonstrable facts and they will doubtless be glad to study this very interesting branch of science. To get light and heat to our planet by radiation would require that every cubic foot of a cube in space around the sun of 156,000,000 miles in diameter must be kept continually up to the same degree of light and heat that we receive, and all tending to waste except the infinitesimal amount that Mercury, Venus, our earth and our moon could make use of. Aviators tell us that both light and heat decrease very rapidly as they rise above the earth's surface.

ELLIOTT LOOMIS.

Praises Coolidge Stand.

Auburn, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Your editorial, "Crawling Things in Washington," is very fine and opportune. Whenever the

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—Chas. Fisher.

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When Elmer gets upon the job enforcing prohibition. It is presumed that he will have a most ideal condition. For Elmer says he knows the way to dam the flood of liquor. And will refuse attempts of all with officers to dicker. But let all that be as it may, when Elmer does the prowling. Then at the man who's on the job friend Elmer won't be howling.

He knows just how to do the job, as he has often told us. And if we've expressed a doubt, he quick began to scold us. No one has yet been found to suit, as Elmer T. would wish it. Till he was picked, and now it's up to Elmer T. to do it. One thing is sure, he'll do his best, and we all wish him luck.

But if he fails we wonder who he'll try to pass the buck to.

The senatorial investigations may not have amounted to a whole lot as yet, but one good thing has been accomplished, as we view it. When William J. Burns left the witness stand he was no longer the million dollar detective, but just a plain "bull" with nothing left to a voice and a presence.

Ever and anon we are in receipt of poems from aspiring versifiers with the request that we pass judgment thereon. We decline ability to pass upon poetry, and point to the daily effusions at the head of this department as evidence of our inability to either write or judge it. We trust this will be a sufficient explanation to friends who may be wondering a bit about it.

At luncheon at a prominent club, seated at a table near one at which is foregathered Judge J. J. Sullivan, Judge Ben Baker and Fred Wright, together with several other legal luminaries. Unable to catch the drift of the conversation, but it was worth listening to if that trio were at their best.

The charter for the We Demand Our Coffee with the Meal club is now open. Send your initiation fee and the first year's dues, one good cigar, together with your name to this department. As soon as we have a sufficient number of cigars on hand we will begin the campaign to have a Law Passed.

No, Imogene; the Corn Exchange National is not a place where you deliver your corn in a sack and take it back home in a jug.

"A Good Place to Eat" is a sign that does not intrigue us. We know a lot of good places to fish where there are no fish.

It is barely possible that we will have to enact a law to compel the managers of theatrical attractions to give the people what they want.

We are unacquainted with the new game of Mah Jong, but we are satisfied in our own mind that it holds no such satisfaction as filling an abdominal straight at the psychological moment.

Mother—"Why did you and Harold stand in the hall so long last night?"
Daughter—"It was so awfully dark that we just couldn't find Harold's hat."

WILL M. MAUPIN.

"worth while" people of these United States will listen to the gossip and insinuations of such people as Gaston B. Means and Roxie Stinson who brazenly acknowledge their taking part in all these nefarious doings and who have "no shame" character and consequently no shame. I think it is time to call a halt.

They would say of our Savior, "We got Him. We found Him down by a well, talking to a woman of the underworld."

Can we afford to encourage the gossip and blackmailer who seek to reduce all people of good character and high standing? Never! Deliver us from the scandal monger. One of the first things Jesus said to his disciples was, "Judge not lest ye be also judged, for with what measure ye meet, it shall be measured to you again." I am a Roosevelt republican but voted for Wilson the last time he ran. I greatly admire Coolidge. I believe the sensible, right minded people realize that he is firm and dependable and will honestly stand as a rock for the enforcement of law and order, and practical help for the farmer, and that will help all of us. Keep up the good work for clean politics.

T. R. LACKEY.

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