

THE BADGE OF FRAUD

Mr. VanVorhis Comments on the Too Prevalent Practice of Manufacturing Statistics for Purposes of Concealment

Editor Independent: Concealment has always been regarded as a badge of fraud. It is a rare occurrence that it is not evidence of evil intention. There is something inherently wrong about any purpose that will not bear the broad light of complete disclosure. Deception is the plan of an enemy; rarely that of a friend. It is the method of self-seeking; seldom of self-sacrifice. It is not often that ignorance serves a good purpose. It does not frequently occur that the effort to keep people in ignorance has an honest object. Want of information is the ambuscade from which deception makes its attack; it never can be the instrument, the method, or the purpose of truth and honesty. Truth requires no assistance from falsehood, and honesty is never promoted by deception. Motives are never made pure by devices for concealment, nor is the public welfare advanced by schemes to prevent the people from acquiring information. Want of knowledge is the only soil in which humbugs will grow; in no other can schemes for public plunder and individual despoilation be germinated and cultivated with success. The man who is interested in a business that succeeds best when the people know least about it will seek to enrich the soil that produces his kind of crops. The man who regards public plunder as a lawful purpose, and individual despoilation as a legitimate business enterprise, will naturally resort to every possible device to keep information from interfering with his plans. Knowledge is like a flood to his soil and destroys his crops. The man who desires to profit by the ignorance of others does not want his intended victims enlightened.

There are in this country today not a few pursuits in which men are engaged—pursuits that, by too many people, are regarded as legitimate business—that have no possible basis upon which success can be predicated or expected except concealment, deception and falsehood; no possible grounds of any reasonable hope of profit except as the result of want of information.

It is an awful fact with which we are brought face to face, but the truth must be faced; the fact that there are in this country many men in high standing in business, and in social circles, with whom concealment, deception and falsehood are every-day methods of business, and whose business would be ruined in a day if the cloak of concealment was removed and the truth fully known.

It is appalling to contemplate, but sooner or later it will have to be considered; that there are men in high places who have not heretofore, and will not hereafter, hesitate to use, when personal or party interests may be advanced thereby, the opportunities given them by public confidence to deceive and mislead the very people who have trusted them.

We have taken great pride in asserting that our American institutions have their principal safeguard in the intelligence of our people; but in the business affairs of our country we are acting as if oblivious to the fact that, in the highest places and in the most important departments of our government, influences are at work, the whole tendency and purpose of which is to undermine this bulwark of our freedom. The very possibility that such influences may find their way into our executive departments, or be admitted to the floors of the house and senate of the American congress, is alarming. The thought that our executive and legislative departments may be used, by influences that depend upon concealment for success, to throw obstacles in the way of the public acquiring information about matters that most nearly concern them is calculated to give every patriotic American a chill of apprehension. When it is realized that it is not only a possibility but a fact that both the executive and the legislative departments are, through reports and legislative enactments, being used to conceal what the public ought to know, how can alarm and apprehension fail to be changed into consternation? It can no longer be disguised that the reports of the departments, particularly of the treasury department, are not constructed for the purpose of imparting exact information, but to conceal facts that are regarded as detrimental to the great financial, corporate and party interests. Upon the floors of the house and the senate are men, who, as the opportunity occurs, are using their places and their votes to

advance personal interests; who are devising, and seeking to put in operation, schemes to prevent public information; whose conduct in the performance of their legislative duties differs in no wise from what it would be expected to be on a board of trade, or in a "bucket shop," where the markets are manipulated for personal gain; where gambling in the necessities of life is regarded as business, and the winnings are called profits.

We deceive ourselves if we refuse to recognize that there are now on the floors of both house and senate men with whom personal and party interests are first, and public business and national welfare are second; if, indeed, public business and national welfare have any place at all in their minds as a motive for their conduct in the discharge of the duties they have sworn to faithfully perform. Some are there, not by the freely expressed will of the constituency they pretend to represent, but by the will of the financial and corporate influences they really represent, expressed through various methods of most heartless coercion, or by the most audacious and shameless bribery and corruption. The holders of large credits, and the great corporations that in combination have acquired so large a control over the business of the country, have their representatives in both houses, and it begins to look as if they constituted a majority. The evidence of their presence, and of the power of the influences behind them, is so plain that the fact is now generally recognized by all who take interest enough in public affairs to observe current events. So powerful, self-confident and audacious have these twin influences become, that those who are accused of being their instruments feel so secure that they no longer deny it. It is a matter that is too plain for controversy that representatives in both houses are using opportunities offered them by the positions they occupy to advance their own interests, and the interests of personal and party friends, by the enactment of laws intended to benefit the holders of credits, or that are intended to advance the interests of corporations by which they are employed, or in which they are otherwise directly or indirectly interested.

A large part of the business of the country has passed into the hands of, and is controlled by, corporations, the very existence of which is a public grant, the very life of which is a gift and evidence of public favor. The growth and success of these business monsters have depended in large degree upon the fact that the people have had very little information concerning their objects and their methods.

These combinations of creditors and corporate influences have been for years, and are now, resorting to every possible device to prevent the people of this country, who have made them what they are and given them all they possess, from acquiring any information concerning their organizations or their methods of business. Not only have they sought to conceal their true character and purposes, but they have sought, for the purposes of gain, to mislead public thought, corrupt the public mind, and debauch public morals. There is a pretense that they are required to make reports. But the reports that are made are marvels of ingenuity for what they do not contain, being devised more with a view to concealment than for giving information. Not only is there concealment, but every avenue of public information is filled with false statements and false pretenses so monstrous that the father of lies is likely to give up the contest in disgust.

No possible opportunity is lost in or out of congress to make it difficult for our people, who are being robbed, to learn anything about how the robbery is being effected. The effort goes even beyond this; to the not altogether unsuccessful attempt to make those who are being despoiled of their products and their property believe that their misfortunes are the results of unavoidable and inevitable business conditions resulting from natural laws over which no human wisdom and power can have control.

These organizations that deal in credits, and are necessarily out of business when the nation and its people are out of debt, or organizations that are permitted to operate privileges and utilities that are public property, were created by law because it was expected that a public benefit would be derived from them. That, at least, was the professed purpose. It is not to be denied that, to a certain extent and in certain ways, the public has derived, at least from some of them, a benefit; but a benefit small and limited in extent to what it ought to be. It is this limited benefit—limited in amount, and limited with reference to the classes

to whom it is permitted—that is used as a cover under which to inaugurate, perpetuate and extend schemes for the deception and robbery of the nation, of industry, and of commerce.

Under the cover of premeditated concealment, professed benefits, false reports and false pretenses, much of the work of these organizations has been done. The business of these institutions is our business, and the time has come when public interest and public safety alike demand that more should be known about them; that they should be compelled to disclose their doings to the minutest detail, or else go out of existence.

The warning of the great-hearted Lincoln comes to our memory like a voice from the tomb. The remarkable foresight of his clear intellect filled his patriotic heart with gloom and foreboding. How little the American people then realized that which he saw in the movement of events, and which is now being fulfilled before our eyes! His words of warning ought to be read from every pulpit, morning and evening; taught to the children in school; graven upon every monument, and blazoned on every wall; should stand at the head of every newspaper in the land, and be committed to memory by every American man and woman until, like a great signal of danger, it shall fill the eyes, and, like a great cry of alarm, fill the ears of this whole nation, and attract the attention of all civilization. Read over and over again his words, and ponder well their meaning—

"As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption will follow. The money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by playing on the prejudices of the people, until all wealth is concentrated in a few hands, and the republic is destroyed. Before God, I fear more for my country now than when in the midst of the war."

In these few words history and prophecy are mingled. "Corporations have been enthroned." Was it not true? "An era of corruption will follow." Has it not come to pass?

Out of the necessities of the nation engaged in war for its existence sprang corporations and financial combinations in great numbers and almost limitless power. They hung over the American congress, over fields and shops, over industry and commerce, over our navy upon the seas, and over our armies in camp and field like vultures over a battle field, and with insatiable maw and gluttonous greed feasted upon the necessities and misfortunes of the nation and its people. Would to God our people could have seen then what Lincoln saw; that, even before the close of the war, financial combinations and corporations had come into the occupancy of the places of power. Looking into the future, he saw the results that must come, and said, "Corruption will follow." Looking backward, we are compelled to see the results that have come, and are compelled to say, corruption has followed. It is everywhere; so bold that it hardly wears a mask, or seeks to hide its head. Taught by history, in the wisdom of that teaching he was able to anticipate the future. "The money power of this country will endeavor to prolong its reign." The holders of power rarely relinquish it without a struggle. With the money power on the throne, that it would seek to remain was a natural conclusion. That it was and is on the throne of power is apparent to any one who is not wilfully blind to passing events; that it has prolonged its reign from the time of Lincoln until now; and that the endeavor to still further prolong it is still going on, with as much earnestness as ever before, is demonstrated every day of the year.

The reign of these malevolent influences and powers has been prolonged in the way and by the means that Lincoln said it would be—"By playing on the prejudices of the people." In this play, concealment, deception and falsehood have occupied prominent places. Government statistics have been manipulated; reports, public and corporate, have been constructed to conceal facts; schools have been prostituted to the perversion of history; colleges have been created, and chairs in colleges endowed, that the scientific brain might be put in chains and compelled to furnish sophistries to mislead and deceive; and the press has been induced by pecuniary rewards and personal preferments to become a party to the tremendous game of concealment, and falsehoods are promulgated and the truth suppressed or perverted. That which Lincoln feared is going on with a rapidity that it is questionable if even he anticipated. All wealth is being concentrated in a few hands.

FLAVIUS J. VAN VORHIS.
Indianapolis, Ind.

For over sixty years Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used by mothers for their children while teething. Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

Don't Pay Double.
We'll sell you a better hatcher for the money than any other incubator concern on earth. New improved regulator, that can't get out of order. Big book—500 illustrations free.
SURE HATCH INCUBATOR CO.,
Clay Center, Neb., or Columbus, Ohio.

TRY IT FIRST FOR 30 DAYS
That's the way we sell the **ROYAL INCUBATOR**. The best self-regulating, automatic incubator in the world. It works perfectly. If not satisfactory in every way send it back. Cost free.
ROYAL INCUBATOR CO.,
Dept. 33, Des Moines, Iowa.

HONEST TREES Honest in Quality and Price. We pay freight. Grafted Apples 4c each; Budded Cherries 10c each; Budded Peaches 4c each; good varieties; Concord Grapes \$2 per 100; 1000 Ash \$1; Best H. Locust, Russian Mulberry, etc. See prices, high quality, Cash on free.
Galbraith Nurseries, Box 35, Fairbury, Nebraska.

Plumbing and Heating
Estimates Furnished
J. C. COX
1332 O Street Lincoln, Nebraska.

CATTLE
HOGS
SHEEP
Live Stock Commission
Nye & Buchanan Co.,
SOUTH OMAHA, NEBRASKA.
Best possible service in all departments. Write or wire us for markets or other information.
Long distance Telephone 2305

To make cows pay, use sharples cream separator
Book "Business Dairying" & Cat. 270 free W. Chester, Pa

Members of Legislature Will Find
The Hotel Walton
1516 O STREET.
the best and most convenient low priced house in the city. Rates \$1 per day and up.

The Handy Pocket Account Book

Containing four parts each convenient for pocket use.
Part I consists of simple, yet comprehensive instructions with plain examples and illustrations for keeping private accounts in book-keeping form.
Part II consists of business forms, as notes, receipts, etc., interest, rules and many others, and useful tables.
Part III shows how to write good letters, with forms, (printed matter above, 32 pages.)
Part IV, 64 blank pages ruled for Dr. and Cr. heavy paper on which to keep accounts.
Size 6x3 1/2 inches firmly bound with pocket and flap. Price 50c post paid, 1 and 2 stamps accepted. Agents can return books unsold. Money refunded. Address F. O. JOHNSON, Publisher, Marion, Iowa.

WANTED—FAITHFUL PERSON TO TRAVEL for well established house in a few counties calling on retail merchants and agents. Local territory. Salary \$1024 a year and expenses payable \$10.00 a week in cash and expenses advanced. Position permanent. Business successful and rushing. Standard House, 334 Dearborn St., Chicago.

PIANO Do You Want a Genuine Bargain
Hundreds of Upright Pianos returned from renting to be disposed of at once. They include Steinways, Knabes, Fischlers, Steclands and other well known makes. Many cannot be distinguished from new ones, yet all are offered at a great discount. Uprights as low as \$100. Also beautiful New Uprights at \$125, \$135, \$150 and \$165. A fine instrument at \$250. Fully equal to many \$350 pianos. Monthly payments accepted. Freight only about \$5. Write for list and particulars. You make a great saving. Pianos warranted as represented. Illustrated Piano Book Free.
FROM
LYON & HEALY
100 Adams St., CHICAGO.
World's largest music house; sells Everything known in Music.

Don't Set Hens the Same Old Way, and let lice kill them on the nest. **Tiffany's Sure Death Lice Powder** will kill all vermin and your hen will bring her brood off free from lice. Tiffany's Paragon Lice Killer "Liquid," guaranteed to kill all lice and mites. Instantly kills lice on colts, calves, and hogs. By using our **Sprayer** a very little goes a great way. Penetrates all cracks. Sprays bottom of house for spider lice. It's a powerful disinfectant. \$1 per gal. can; 65c 1/2 gal. One gallon and Sprayer, \$1.50. Can get it free where no agents by a little work for us. **THE TIFFANY CO.,** Lincoln, Neb.