

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1919

Sentimentality In Government

There is no very good place for sentimentality, principally because it lacks anything to encourage belief in the sincerity of those who indulge in it. About the worst place for this misapplication of emotion and affectation is in the officials of the government of a country that is dealing with other people who are not so indulging themselves.

No one can consider all that has been said and done in the matter of the adjustment of the relations of America with the countries that were associated with us in war without seeing that a lot of the talk has arisen out of a sentimental notion of our position. We have talked idealism and unselfishness until we are a little intoxicated with the sound of our own sweet words and have come to think that we are a nation set apart, destined to reform mankind.

The American was wont to be a person of sound common sense, practical and using good judgment. We seldom donned our rose-tinted spectacles, never except when we wished to deceive ourselves a little, knowing all the time just what we were doing. But we are in danger of losing those qualifications that have brought us to be one of the great powers of the world, that have made America stand for honesty, achievement and progressiveness all over the world.

There are times and occasions for sentiment, even sentimentality, but when the nation is seeking a way to durable and just peace, when we are trying to establish our relations with a world that we cannot know very well, trying to look into the future and to guess the secrets there hid, is not one of the times. We need to employ every bit of sound common sense, to speak in the clearest possible terms, to tell the truth to ourselves, to each other and to the rest of the world. It is folly to look to high-sounding phrases for guidance, wicked to refuse to recognize the truth and to tell it.

Getting Down To Business

There is satisfaction in the fact that the recess which Congress voted for itself has been foregone in order that important legislation may be taken care of. Whatever suggests that the members of the federal law-making body are going to devote themselves to the solution of those difficult questions that are besetting the country is encouraging. It presents a possibility that there will be found relief from the hard conditions under which the great mass of the people of all the world have lived during the war and since the coming of that measure of peace that now exists.

A further ray of promise that something is to be done is beginning to appear with the decision of the government to dispose of the food supplies that have been left in the stores of the war department. This lends weight to the evident intention of the president and Congress to admit that there must be found a way through the economic conditions that exist, in the willingness of Congress to stick at the job of providing for the readjustment that we must have, despite the intensity of the heat in Washington and the natural desire of men whose interests lie in the hands

of the voting public to go home to try out the sentiment of their constituents.

A measure of patience is necessary and an honest desire of the authorities to solve the riddle of finding the end of the circle that has been described by the policy that has prevailed of passing on the increase in cost of everything, adding a little by way of good measure in each step of the progress of all materials from the hand of the producer to the hand of the consumer. Given these two virtues on the part of the whole people the tangled web that we have woven will be readily resolved. Lacking the desire to co-operate on the part of the producer, the distributor, and all who are needlessly contributing to the general distress, there must be compulsion, and compulsion

can come only through pressure from the government. It is useless to talk of other method. It looks now as if that pressure were to be applied and the patience of the consuming public rewarded.

Correction

In last week's Talk it was accidentally stated that the increase in Winnetka's population between six and twenty-one during the past year, was two per cent. As a matter of fact, the actual increase was twenty-seven per cent.

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N. J. FELLOWS

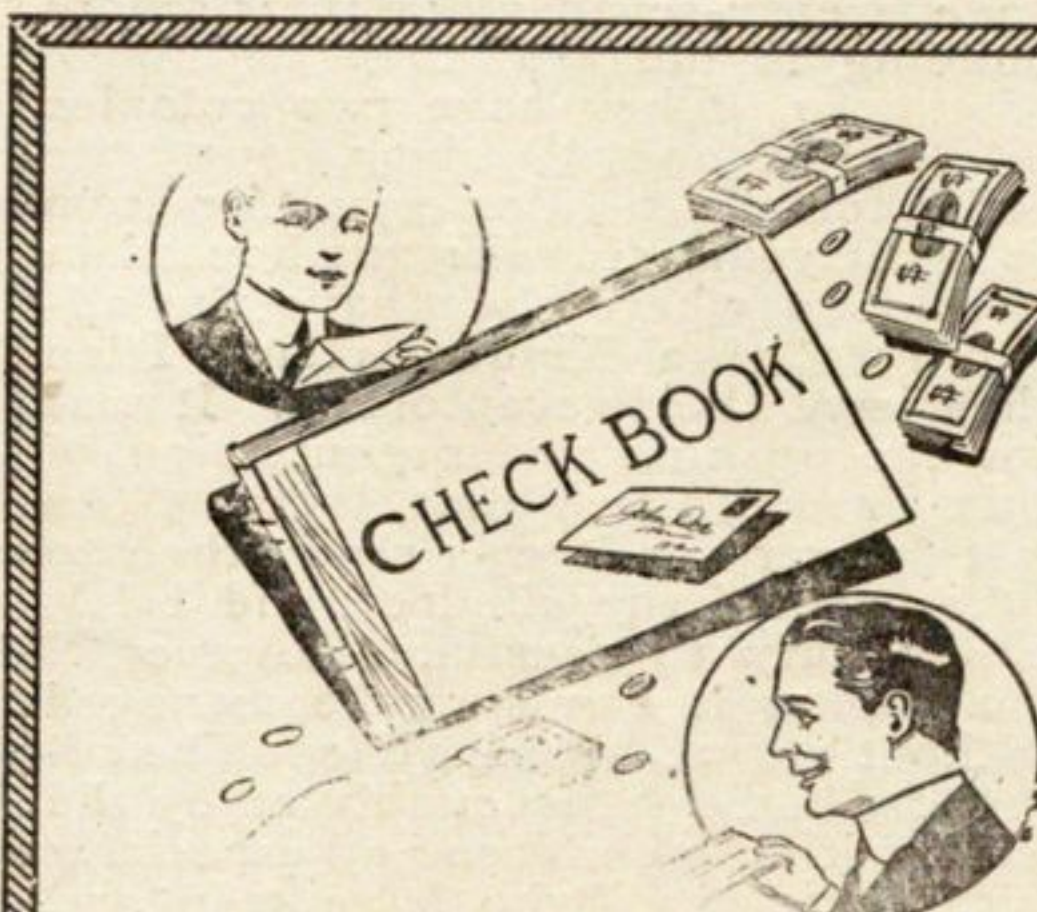
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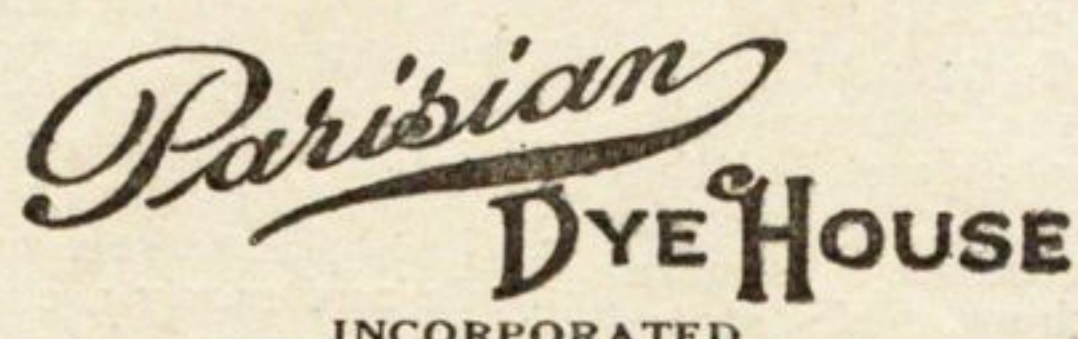
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