

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1919

An Issue For 1920

Less conspicuous even than possible candidates for the presidency in 1920 are issues upon which a fight could be staged and won. The present rate of progress in the matter of the treaty of peace and the league of nations suggests that that may be kept green for a sufficient period to serve as an issue, but it is scarcely likely that public opinion in the United States will permit such a course. Our own future, as that of our allies, depends upon the action taken by the United States congress in the matter of ratification and something must be done, loath as are the legislators to commit themselves to any definite action.

But an issue for the 1920 campaign has actually been handed to the Republican party, an issue that can be kept alive by judicious treatment for the year that must pass before it can be made useful as a popular slogan. By their demands for government ownership the railway brotherhoods have presented this gift to the Republican party.

In the conference that is now going on and in the discussion that will take place in Congress when the president makes his recommendation to the legislators, the demand of the railroad union that the railroads be taken over permanently by the government will be thoroughly considered, with what result we are yet to see. It is more than possible that the administration has not arrived at the point of seeing failure in the attempts of the government to operate the transportation systems and will recommend acquiescence in the demands of the railroad employees. It would be in accord with the policy that was adopted with the Adamson bill, the policy of permitting the interests of the public to come secondary to the interests of the railroad employees.

In the adoption of the slogan, "Take the railroads out of politics," the Republican party will have an issue that will appeal to the majority of people in the United States. We have tried government ownership in the post office in normal times and we know that such things as economy and efficiency have no part in the management of postal affairs. Opportunity for reward of political service and the use of the office as a means of securing votes are recognized as legitimate functions in the conduct of the post office business.

We have tried government operation of the transportation systems during the period of the war, and we have seen service reduced, rates advanced, responsibility of those who are employed to perform the work of the offices resting lightly upon them. We have been patient during the period of the war. But we are growing weary of the situation and ready to stand behind a movement to restore the railroads to their former condition of efficiency and to insist upon the right of the majority of the people of the United States to decide questions that concern the public comfort and welfare.

The Remedy

Conditions following the war in the several countries are different, of course, but there are certain points that they all hold in common. Everywhere there is industrial unrest and constant complaint about the

high cost of the necessities of life. These are the things to be expected, for they come out of human nature, and human nature is the same the world over.

There is a great difference in the way that the different countries are going about the solution of the problem. Everybody in America knows the round-about route by which we are approaching the adjustment of living conditions. Everybody knows how much there is of talk and how little there is of performance, for it is the American way, the plan that operates in every department of our life. People seem to think that investigation and prosecution are necessarily one and the same thing, that discovery of illegal activities in one quarter will mean an easing up of evil conditions in all quarters. And so it seems that it should, had we not past experiences to counsel a not too implicit faith in what is being done here.

In France they are attacking the living problem by sticking on the job, a course designed to go so straight to the heart of the trouble that one wonders it was ever thought of as a remedy. Apparently France, in her distress, has eliminated the Circumlocution office from her departments of government.

In England conditions are much as they are here, strikes and lockouts, interruption of production and all the conditions that serve to increase the very evils against which they are aimed. England has, however, gone one step beyond the United States in the appointment of a Food Controller, through whom some measure of equality of distribution of food is maintained. But the remedy for the conditions do not lie in that quarter, except for the moment. This the Controller himself sees. The cure, according to his judgment, and he knows the facts as nearly as they can be known, lies in speeding up production. "We can never get back to normal," he says, "until everybody goes to work producing the materials that are so needed. The old law of supply and demand is operative today as always. We must increase the supply of food materials, of manufactured articles, of all the things that the nation demands for normal, peace time life."

And this is pretty near the truth for every people now struggling with food problems and the excessive cost of living.

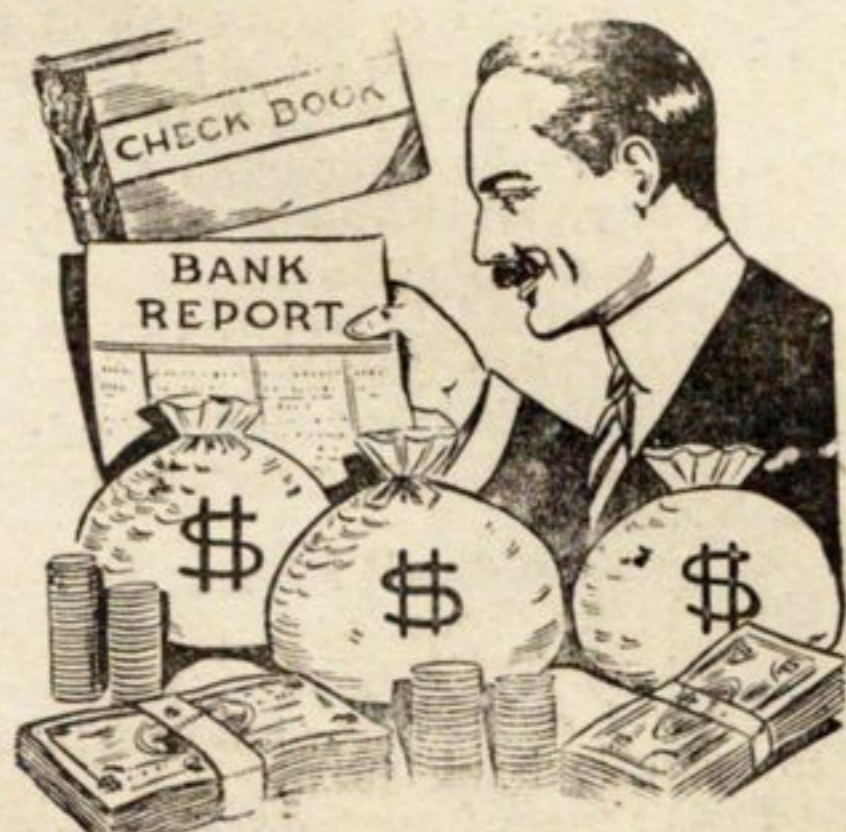
Why Go To College?

The interesting contrast between the income of the college professor and the street railway motorman which has been drawn in a cartoon in the Yale Review has been making the rounds of the press. It is just the kind of contrast that pleases the public mind.

Query is at once raised, "Why go to college?" If a man can earn more operating the motor of a street car than in directing the trend of thought for the rising generation, why not take the easy way and spend one's life at the task that makes no demand upon the intellect, doing work that is limited in its hours, that implies no responsibility to maintain a

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social position, that leaves sixteen hours of the day to be devoted to rest and recreation? Why toil under the midnight lamp? Why seek to overcome that capacity of the "human mind to refuse to accept a new idea?" Life is measured by two standards, what we put in and what we take out. The man who puts into his life activities the intelligence with which the Creator endowed him reaps his reward in his sense of having contributed to the advance of civilization. The man who takes out of life the joys that attend a well stored mind of the intellect and the spirit rather than in the things of the body has his reward in the inner source of pleasure that is denied him that lacks that capacity.

It is education that makes the difference, not income. The motor man with an income double that of the college professor is yet vastly more limited in opportunity for finding pleasure in life and of giving service, the only two purposes that make life worth while. This is the answer to "Why go to college?"

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DOROTHY GISH in "NUGGET NELL"

EXTRA PATHE NEWS
EXTRA, CHRISTIE COMEDY

Wed. and Thurs., Aug. 20 and 21
Evenings 7:30 and 9:00
ALL STAR CAST

"The Thirteenth Chair"

EXTRA, HAROLD LLOYD
SCREAM

EXTRA TRAVEL

Fri. and Sat., Aug. 22 and 23
Evenings 7:00, 8:20 and 9:30
Matinee, Saturday 3:30

FRANK KEENAN in "TODD OF THE TIMES"

EXTRA PATHE NEWS

COMING

Chas. Ray in "Bill Henry"
Enid Bennett in "A Virtuous Thief"
Elsie Ferguson in "Society Exile"

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