

are net totals, after the deduction of the war tax on business profits. Be it noted further, in connection with these total profits, that there is a Dominion Order-in-Council which declares that the maximum profits of all flour milling shall be 25 cents per barrel, and, that among the many figures set forth in the balance sheet of these companies there are no figures of the number of barrels of flour made. Nor, in the statements made by the heads of these companies, in "explanation" of balance sheets so enormously satisfactory to the shareholders, is there even the remotest reference made to such a thing as a flour barrel. Should not the Dominion government make public a statement of the barrels of flour manufactured by each of these mills?

Surely these great accumulations of profits are placing the big milling companies in a position of such strength that in the future they will not find themselves under the necessity of opposing reciprocity with the United States, as they did in 1911. Surely the people of this country may now begin to expect that in the future, when there will certainly be need of free access for Canadian wheat to the market in the south, the big milling companies will not again unrighteously use their power to grind the faces of the people of this country.

Should not the Minister of Finance give some attention to such inordinately large profits as are being made by these and other corporations? Of course, there should not be unreasonable taxation of business profits such as would have a paralyzing effect upon business enterprises. But the overgrown profits which certain of these corporations are making recall the ancient legend of King Midas, who had the power of turning into gold everything he touched. Out of such large profits a greater share should be siphoned into the Dominion treasury.

The Views of Henry Ford

Henry Ford, in his campaign in Michigan for the Republican nomination as candidate for the United States Senate, which he did not obtain, disclosed himself as a man who believes in carrying into the work of legislation the principle of equal rights and opportunities for all, and special privileges for none. Holding such convictions, he is a determined opponent of protectionism, against which he declares himself with no uncertain sound.

"The men who want a high protective tariff," he says, "are the ones who are trying to get away with poor quality goods, or to make a larger profit than they are entitled to." Thus he exposes high protectionism as the thing it is, beneath the disguises in which, in every land, it clothes itself, parading as Patriotism, National Policy and the like.

"Nobody should be allowed to hold more land than he can profitably use," says Henry Ford. "I do not believe that anyone should be permitted to hold land out of use." And in regard to public ownership of the railroads his views are no less clear-cut and decided. "I do not believe," he says, "that the people are going to be willing to let the railroads go back, after the war, into the hands of the crowd that were running them for their own benefit."

Mr. Ford's summing up of his convictions and principles well deserves repetition from a recent issue of The Guide:—

Whatever will open up greater opportunities for comfortable, happy living for the ordinary man, and teach him and his family how to make the best use of those opportunities, is the proper function of the government. It should not be any part of the government's concern to help men make great profits, or to enable men to live and grow rich without serving humanity.

The more these ideas prevail, the nearer will be the approach to the true realization of the ideals for which the present world-struggle is being waged against military autocracy.

Departmental Purchasing

The suggestion appears in the newspapers in the form of news from Ottawa, possibly as a feeler of public opinion, that the War Purchasing Commission should have its powers extended, so as to have charge of the purchases of the government departments. It is a suggestion carrying with it an assumption which, at first glance, is rather shattering to the fundamental principle of representative government; in that it proposes to take a part of the public business, involving the spending of public money, out of the hands of the ministers responsible for it to the elected representatives of the people in parliament.

But would not such a purchasing body fit into our system of government just as the Civil Service Commission fits into it? Like the Civil Service Commission, it would have

to be, of course, ultimately subject to parliament, which would create it, and could abolish it. Such a body would, by relieving the ministers of a burden of minor departmental business, give them more time and more mental energy to devote to things of greater importance.

The suggested improvement would be in accordance with the practice of all large business concerns. Unified control of departmental purchasing would cut out the waste due to overlapping and the lack of co-ordination; it should also result in the cutting out of patronage and of the possibility of graft. But, in order to secure this greatly-to-be-desired consummation, it would be essential to cut out politics in the appointments to the Commission. If it were to be made a resting-place for worn-out party horses, the last state of departmental purchasing would probably be worse than the first.

The terms of two members of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada expire shortly. Why is it that among the Commissioners constituting this body neither the farmers of Canada nor the labor interests have a representative? Surely the men who provide most of the freight the railways carry and the men who do the actual work of operating the railways are entitled to representation on the board.

The end of the war is not near enough yet to relax our war efforts in the slightest degree. Germany is still making a vigorous fight and still trying to divide the Allies in order to escape the inevitable unconditional surrender. No other termination will make the world safe for democracy.

The big problem after the war is to take care of our 400,000 soldiers who will be returning to us, to find other employment for 300,000 workers now engaged in war work, and to raise sufficient revenues to meet our national obligations. Now is the time to prepare for this gigantic task. If left till the war is over it will result only in a disastrous muddle.

The authorities announce that the cost of living eased away in September. Did anybody notice it?

How much profit is a corporation morally entitled to? Will some corporation please answer?



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