

## WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

### Bright Clippings from Wide-a-woke Contemporaries

#### WILSONISMS THAT "AIN'T."

Here are a few gems from Woodrow Wilson's "The New Freedom," a book composed of his 1912 campaign speeches. These gems sparkle with brilliance when you reflect on the conduct of the Wilson administration during the last few months:

Suppose you go to Washington and try to get at your government. You will always find that while you are politely listened to, the men really consulted are the men who have the biggest stake—the big bankers, the big manufacturers, the big masters of commerce, the heads of railroad corporations and of steamship corporations.

The Government of the United States at present is a foster-child of the special interests. It is not allowed to have a will of its own. It is told at every move: "Don't do that; you will interfere with our prosperity." And when we ask, "Where is our prosperity lodged?" a certain group of gentlemen say, "With us."

I don't want a smug lot of experts to sit behind closed doors in Washington and play Providence with me. There is a Providence to which I am perfectly willing to submit. But as for other men setting up as Providence over myself, I seriously object.

The Government of your country cannot be lodged in any special class. The policy of a great nation cannot be tied up with any particular set of interests.

Will President Wilson be kind enough to inform us who authorized his declaration of war, apart from the big interests?

#### LINCOLN—ON LABOR, WAR, REVOLUTION, AND INTERNATIONALISM.

"It is a quality of revolutions not to go by old lines or old laws; but to break up both, and make new ones." (Arraignment of President Polk for war against Mexico, U. S. House of Representatives, Jan. 12, 1848.)

"This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it." (First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.)

"With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name, liberty. And it follows that each of the things is by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names—liberty and tyranny." (Address at Baltimore, April 18, 1864.)

"Let them (the workingmen) beware of surrendering a political power which they already possess, and which, if surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement against such as they, and to fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost. (Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 3, 1861.)

"Certainly there is no contending against the will of God; but still there is some difficulty in ascertaining and applying it to particular cases. For instance, we will suppose the Rev. Dr. Ross has a slave named Sambo, and the question is, 'Is it the will of God that Sambo shall remain a slave, or be set free?'—The Almighty gives

no audible answer to the question, and his revelation, the Bible, gives none—or at most none but such as admits of a squabble as to its meaning; no one thinks of asking Sambo's opinion on it. So at last it comes to this, that Dr. Ross is to decide the question; and while he considers it, he sits in the shade, with gloves on his hands, and subsists on the bread that Sambo is earning in the burning sun. If he decides that God wills Sambo to continue a slave, he thereby retains his own comfortable position; but if he decides that God wills Sambo to be free, he thereby has to walk out of the shade, throw off his gloves, and delve for his own bread. Will Dr. Ross be actuated by the perfect impartiality which has ever been considered most favorable to correct decisions?" (Notes for Speeches, written about Oct. 1, 1858.)

"The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds." (Address to Committee the Workingmen's Association, March 21, 1864.)

Speaking of certain tendencies, Lincoln said:

"It is the effort to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above labor, in the structure of government. It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital; that nobody labors unless somebody else, owning capital, somehow by the use of it induces him to labor. . . . Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration." (Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 3, 1861.)

"Inasmuch as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things of right belong to those whose labor has produced them. But it has so happened, in all ages of the world, that some have labored, and other have without labor enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue. To secure each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any good government. . . . Upon this subject the habits of our whole species fall into three great classes—useful labor, useless labor, and idleness. Of these the first only is meritorious, and to it all the products of labor rightfully belong; but the two latter, while they exist, are heavy pensioners upon the first, robbing it of a large portion of its just rights." (Notes on Protection, about Dec. 1, 1847.)

"What constitutes the bulwark of our own liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling sea coasts, our army and our navy." (Quoted by Herndon in "Life.")

"Suppose you go to war, you cannot fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical old questions as to terms of intercourse are again upon you." (First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.)

#### AN APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT.

To Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D.C.

Sir.—We are grateful for your issuance of the Red, White and Blue Book, giving your version of the chain of events which drew us into the war with Germany. In return we beg to lay before the people and you a recital of this same chain of events as it ap-

pears to ourselves. On several occasions you have asked the people to counsel with you. We take you at your word.

The occurrences herein narrated constitute an assumption of autocratic power. Your claim of power was made on the ground that autocratic rule was necessary, first in order to protect the rights of Americans at sea, and later in order to wage a successful war. This plea has done more to strengthen the claims of autocracy abroad than any other single event or victory. Under the profession of a great democratic moral opposition, you have furnished to the upholders of monarchy their supreme argument. It is that according to your own actions, which have always spoken louder than words, a democracy is incapable of waging war for democracy; that a democracy must be converted into an autocracy in order to conduct itself with efficiency in war, or in neutrality. Already your course is cited in the Central Empires as proof that the monarchical form of government is the only safe course for a nation surrounded by foes; and that consequently when the foes are hereditary, a hereditary monarchy must combat them. Is this, Mr. President, "giving aid and comfort to the enemy?" We ask you!

But secondly, we could pass this over, were it evident upon the surface that actual democracy at home will be the result of these manoeuvres. Yet the net result of your activities thus far has been that beneath the cover of a flow of eloquence unparalleled in history there has been fastened upon the American people the rule of a hereditary financial master, the House of Morgan, which is even less intelligent and far less considerate of the rights of its subjects than either the House of Hohenzollern or the House of Hapsburg. You have also largely abrogated the functions of Congress and conferred them upon an irresponsible committee known as the Committee of National Defense, composed of hereditary junkers controlling the great commodities of Coal, Steel, Copper, Oil, and Land. Every move made by semi-responsible officers of the Government, such as the Federal Trade Commission and the Secretaries of War and the Navy, in the direction of ending the criminal extortions of these enemies of the people, have been defeated by them.

In these circumstances, those of us who are still Americans at heart as well as with the lungs, and who object to being Prussianized under the guise of defeating Prussianism, ask you seriously to consider your course. The American nation is not yet a subject province of Great Britain by its own volition, neither has it of its own will accepted the ideals of the German war-lovers. Yet both of these parts have been forced upon it. We have the reported word of Arthur James Balfour as authority for the first statement, and a systematic cultivation of hate by our army and our newspapers for the second.

It is questionable whether German Junkerdom with all its stupidity could be as insanely foolish as are the industrial overlords whom you have placed in supreme power over the nation.

It is possible, Mr. President, by threats such as you issued in your Flag Day speech, to overawe a part of the people for a part of the time. It is possible, by branding as a traitor every person who expresses an opinion differing from your own, and by characterizing as "false and undermining" all professions of loyalty to the Government which do not accept every opinion uttered by you as divinely inspired and as infallibly perfect, to influence a certain portion of the population. These things are possible, but they are not wise.

There is but one way in which this assumption of imperial power can be

## THE PRICE WE PAY

(Continued from page one.)

—Lo, the price you pay! Lo, the price your children will pay. Lo, the agony, the death, the blood, the unforgettable sorrow,—

—The price of your stupidity!

#### Socialism the Only Remedy

For this war—as everyone who thinks or knows anything will say, whenever truth telling becomes safe and possible again,—This war is to determine the question, whether the chambers of commerce of the allied nations or of the Central Empires have the superior right to exploit undeveloped countries.

It is to determine whether interest, dividends and profits, shall be paid to investors speaking German or to those speaking English and French.

Our entry into it was determined by the certainty that if the allies do not win, J. P. Morgan's loans to the allies will be repudiated, and those American investors who bit on his promises would be hooked.

Socialism would have settled that question; it would determine that to every producer shall be given all the value of what he produces; so that nothing would be left over for exploiters and investors.

With that great question settled there would be no cause for war.

Until the question of surplus profits is settled that way, wars will continue; each war being the prelude to a still vaster and greater outburst of hell;

Until the world becomes weary of paying the stupendous price for its own folly;

Until those who are sent out to maim and murder one another for the profit of bankers and investors determine to have and to hold what they have fought for;

Until money is no more sacred than human blood;

Until human life refuses to sacrifice itself for private gain;

Until by the explosion of millions of tons of dynamite, the stupidity of the human race is blown away, and Socialism is known for what it is, the salvation of the human race;

Until then—YOU WILL KEEP ON PAYING THE PRICE!

justified; and that it, having made use of it to restore the American land to the American people, to resign with it this power into their hands. Restore to us the coal, iron, oil, water power, and forests. Restore to us the land; restore to us the railroads; restore to us the control of the great corporations; restore to us democratized the whole fabric of our industrial order that we may be freed indeed.

We have not forgotten that the claim of immunity from criticism during war, when made by any government, has resulted invariably in the persistent stirring up of war in order to perpetuate such immunity. That claim we are therefore unable to grant, without repudiating the idea of government of the people, by the people and for the people.

We lay before you these facts; and ask your judgment thereupon. Meanwhile, we place before the people a recital of events since March, 1916, and ask also for their judgment thereupon. For the people are the supreme power, in time of war as in time of peace; and in appealing to them we venture to remind you that we are not your servants, but that you are ours, according to your most solemn oath and covenant when you entered upon your office.—American Socialist.

"If one class is going to be better off than another, then surely it should be the class that does the work."—Philip Snowden, M.P.