

THE PRESIDENT ON LABOR DAY

Politicians Who Call Mr. Wilson Visionary Have Something to Ponder

SINCE the war began President Wilson has been addressing himself for the most part to accessible audiences in Europe to Foreign Offices, to the battlefields. Many of the things he has said have seemed remote from the immediate worries of the everyday citizen.

As a conception of national destiny, as a profession of faith in free government, Mr. Wilson's Labor Day address is so splendid that men will speak of it, in the familiar manner, as visionary.

What the President perceives in the America of the future is nothing less than the Happy Republic, man's greatest hope for this world, realized through the goodness, the intelligence and the sincerity of men themselves.

This is not remote. Plainly a reference to the autocratic tendency in America is linked with the indictment of the autocratic tendency in Europe.

There is a hint here for any special interests—how odd that term sounds now and how far away!—that are seeking a political vehicle for the future and there is even a broader hint for parties and politicians that hope to be the vehicle of special interests—of any sort.

Mr. Wilson is sure to be a power in the land until he dies. And his Labor Day address is reminiscent of some of the speeches of his first campaign in New Jersey.

And yet there are politicians still alive in New Jersey who will recall the deadly certainty with which the new Governor applied abstract theories. Jim Nugent and the one-time Senator Jim Smith are among those who paid with much of their happiness as well as their political lives because they were not accustomed to believe that idealism could work in government.

Could the President give a greater assurance of his faith in mass judgment by keeping his hands out of politics? What are his reasons for an interference in localized political campaigns? It may be unfair to ask questions like this.

Meanwhile, it is apparent that the President believes in miracles—and miracles sometimes happen for those who believe in them. They do not happen otherwise. Mr. Wilson is not mistaken in assuming that he has a growing audience capable of understanding his meanings.

That is the new America that the President has put his faith in. Today a lot of people will begin to rest up after their vacations.

EMOTION OR REASON? THE American Bar Association objects very properly to the tendency of every enthusiast in the field of legislation to press his pet issue as a "war measure."

RUBBER HEELS

A Socratic Dialogue

THE other afternoon we were circulating among the leafy avenues of Germantown in our modest and subterfuge fashion, when we came by chance upon the grounds of the Germantown Cricket Club.

LEANDER—I have been watching this game for some time, and I can make no sense out of it.

HOUSEHOLDERS may now buy four pounds of wheat flour for every pound of substitute. Let us hope that the order applies to restaurants which have been making pie crust of pasteboard and that we can get real pie in the near future.

THE FARMERS AT HOME THE Philadelphia County Fair, which opened at Byberry yesterday, hardly ranks above the agricultural fairs of other counties in the State.

A large part of this land is in the five northern wards, embracing 66.54 square miles of the total 129 square miles in the city; but this district contains less than one-tenth of the total population.

Senator Froelich has asked the Senate to appoint a commission to inquire into the extent of the drug habit and recommend the best method of regulating the sale of habit-forming drugs.

Prospective heirs will be interested to know that the new revenue bill plans to tax inheritances only once in five years. This means that when an estate passes twice within that period by the death of its owner it will escape the tax the second time.

Reading between the lines is supposed to be the way to learn many things that the author intended to leave to the insight of the reader. If the Kaiser is doing any reading between the Hindenburg and World lines he will learn many lessons now strongly hinted by the Author of the Universe.

THE events of the war—the Kaiser's peace intrigues on one hand and the new Allied activities in Picardy on the other—make clear definitions possible. The Germans are depending on push. The Allies are depending on push.

ARCTIC CURIOSITIES

THE skins of fauna, the withered specimens of flora, the charts of ocean currents, which Vilhjalmur Stefansson brings back from the North Frigid Zone will doubtless be placed in museums.

A Martian, new-lighted on this busy planet, is suggested by the return of Captain Stefansson. Exempt from even the remotest ripple of the struggle through which the same elements of humanity seek emancipation, he reports the discovery of Prince Patrick Island, whose population, befitting its temperature, is zero.

TOO INTERESTED EVEN TO REMEMBER THE TASTE

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HARRY ELKINS WIDENER

The Youngest of Great Book Collectors

(This tribute to Harry Elkins Widener, who was lost in the Titanic disaster, is reprinted, much abbreviated, from an article by A. Edward Newton, in the September Atlantic Monthly.)

Harry Elkins Widener was born and lived all his life in Philadelphia, yet to be best known in London and New York; to have been the eldest son of a rich man and the eldest grandson of one of the richest men in America.

Harry was a constant attendant at the auction rooms at Sotheby's in London; at Anderson's in New York or wherever else good books were going. He chanced to be in London when the first part of the Huth library was being disposed of, and he was anxious to get back to New York but that he attended the Hoe sale, where he hoped to secure some books.

Harry Elkins Widener was born in Philadelphia on January 3, 1858. He received his early education at the Hill School, from which he was graduated in 1903. He then entered Harvard University, where he remained four years, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1907.

His memory was most retentive. Once let him get a fact or a date imbedded in his mind, and it was there forever. He knew the name of every actor he had ever seen, and the part he had taken in the play last year and the year before.

IN A SCHOOL CHAPEL

THE clear young voices rise and soar: "Oh, pray, Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." Yet each boy's heart Harbors the hope that he may have a part in war—the roar of guns, the roll of drums—

Before this anthem peace he prays for comes. But in the quiet gallery above, Where eyes grown dim look down on those they love, The prayer for peace rings true; although in truth Worse things than death can come to eager youth.

The Origin of "Bolshevik" A pamphlet published some time ago Moscow by Doctor Charushin instructs us the origin of this word, alas! too familiar which it was wrongly believed had sprung up like a weed from the Russian chaos.

Fair Warning to Mr. Hoover A man in whom implicit confidence is justified says there will be a banner of buckwheat, so now if any food administrator tries to put rice or barley or rye in our breakfast cakes there will be blood in the face of the moon.—Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

What Do You Know? QUIZ 1. Who is a neoteric? 2. What are Secretaries of Commerce and Labor? 3. When was the Monroe Doctrine first promulgated?