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EDITORIAL

Just One Hullabaloo After Another.

A short time ago it was Hobson of Alabama; now it is Gardner of Massachusetts; and all the time it is Roosevelt. What has this country done that it should be thus afflicted? s. c.



Congress' First Duty.

How can we trust Congress to deal properly with the question of defense against an imaginary foreign enemy when it gives no thought to the destructive work of real enemies within the national borders? These enemies are the legalized privileges which deprive the people of the right to use of the country's resources, and subject them to despoliation at the hands of monopolies and trusts. The ravages of these enemies may be observed in the slums of cities and in the mining and agricultural districts. The victims are to be seen in the unemployed looking for work, in the underpaid, and in all the sufferers from vice, crime and misery due to poverty or the fear of it. Until Congress succeeds in driving out these enemies it has more important work on hand than that to which militarists would have it turn. And whenever it does effectively legislate against these domestic enemies all danger from foreign enemies will vanish.

S. D.



Ending of the Era of Good Feeling.

Clearly the era of good feeling, which was so marked in the early part of President Wilson's administration, has come to an end. Rarely, if ever, has a public man been accorded more cordial approval from all factions and parties, than was Mr. Wilson during the first year of his administration. So universal and so emphatic was this feeling throughout the country, that Congressmen and Senators, bent upon carrying out a different policy, were compelled by public opinion to abandon their own plans, and take up those of the President. Time and again his frank appeal to the people

won the support necessary to carry through his measures. But more remarkable even than this was the effect upon the opposition press, which was compelled by this same public opinion to give him more cordial support than is commonly given to any political opponent. A change, however, has come over the scene. Much of the present criticism of the opposition is lacking in that broad spirit of toleration that was so conspicuous two years ago. This may be due in large degree to the feeling on the part of the critics that the country as a whole has changed, and that the people are not now back of the President's policies as they have been, and therefore that it is safe for them to nag at him in a small, irritating way, as has been their custom with most other Presidents. Whatever the cause it is now quite evident that there is a disposition on the part of the opposition press to seize upon the little things, to ignore accomplishments, to magnify omissions, to minimize general policies, and to exaggerate the non-essential. The chief point of criticism, however, appears to be in regard to the President's stand on the military question, both as regards his policy toward Mexico, and the enlargement of the army and navy. There is a concerted campaign among the militarists throughout the country for the purpose of stampeding public opinion in favor of a great navy and a large army. This is the time for the citizen to keep his head, and not allow himself to be dragooned on account of the war scare into saddling himself with the burden of militarism.

S. C.

A Deserved Rebuff.

The right word at the right time is President Wilson's rejection in his message of the hysterical demand for bigger armaments. This demand is so senseless and so clearly depends for success upon the creation of unreasonable popular fear, that the calm discussion accorded it was far more than it deserved. No more time needed for important work should be wasted in Congress in discussion of senseless bugaboos. A sufficient answer to the whole militarist agitation is that while the task remains undone of freeing ourselves from economic oppression, there is no time available for considering anything so improbable as an unprovoked foreign attack.

S. D.

Secretary Garrison Needs Awakening.

It almost seems as though Secretary of War Garrison has never read or been told of the conduct of the militia in the coal fields of West Vir-

ginia, Colorado and other places. Had he been well posted as one in his position surely ought to be he would not have displayed such lamentable ignorance as is apparent in the following excerpts from his report to Congress:

No reasonable person in this country has the slightest shadow of fear of military despotism nor of any interference whatever by military force in the conduct of civil affairs.

It is a queer kind of "reasonable person" who does not fear something which he knows has actually happened under conditions almost certain to occur again. It seems unbelievable, yet Secretary Garrison leaves no other explanation of his words apparent than that he knows nothing whatever of the cause that led to interference by his own Department in affairs of Southern Colorado.

S. D.



A Way Out.

Admiral Fletcher testified that our navy was capable of defending the United States against any country except England; but he doubts if it could hold the Philippines as against Japan. A possible way out of this dilemma may be found in our own Declaration of Independence, which was drawn in support of governments "deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

S. C.



Roosevelt's Latest.

If there is any point at all to Roosevelt's latest criticism of the administration's Mexican policy it is that he wants the United States to forcibly intervene. To complain about conditions and to say that for these conditions the administration is responsible, is to say—even though Roosevelt lacks the courage to openly say it—that it is the administration's duty to change these conditions. And that means intervention. He would cure the horrors of war with more war. The more one listens to the outpourings of Roosevelt, the better opinion one must have of the statesmanship and services of President Wilson.



Yet in this same criticism Colonel Roosevelt unconsciously shows that intervention is not justified. Thus he says:

We may individually sympathize, as, for instance, I personally do, with the general purpose of the program for division of the lands among the Mexican cultivators, announced by Carranza, Villa and other revolutionary leaders; but this no more justified interference on our part than belief in the wisdom of the single tax for the United States by some for-