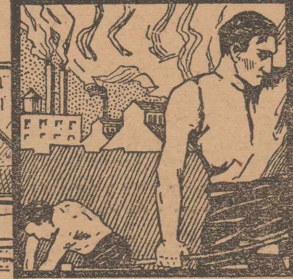
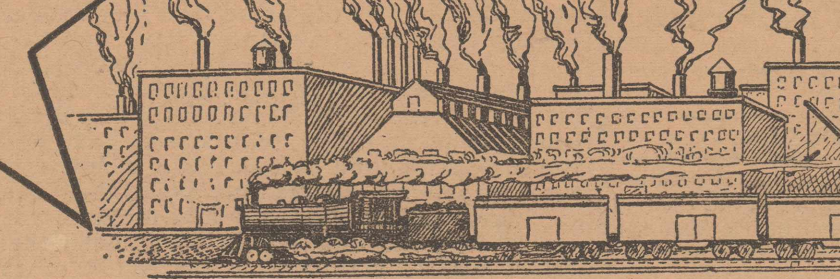


# The Ferguson Forum

Back to the Courtroom With the Political Lawyer



Back to the Pulpit With the Political Preacher

VOLUME I

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## BILLIONS TAKEN BY PROFITEERS, REPORT SHOWS

Amazing Figures Are Revealed in Treasury Department's Report on Profiteering—Unnatural Plunderers Reaped Rich Harvest in Food—Profit of 357 Per Cent Made on Coffins—One Canner Shows 1,047 Per Cent Gain.

Amazing profits in almost every branch of American industry were brought to light a few days ago when the treasury department completed its long waited report on profiteering. The report covers 31,500 corporations, the names of which are withheld. It was prepared in response to the Borah resolution, adopted by the senate after President Wilson, in his revenue address to congress on May 27, declared that there was "abundant fuel for the light" in the treasury department with regard to profiteering.

The treasury department takes the position that it would be a violation of existing law to make public the names of corporations and their earnings. The senate resolution is not sufficient to suspend the law; it would require a joint resolution, the treasury department holds.

Members of congress who have examined the report, regard it as a complete vindication of President Wilson's frank statement about profiteering. They also declare it affords more than ample justification for the 80 per cent war profits tax urged by Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo.

The most extraordinary profiteering revealed by the report was in foodstuffs. Producers of nearly all the common necessities of life were shown to have made enormously increased profits in 1917 over 1916, although their earnings in the latter year were in numerous cases far above the 100 per cent mark. Meat packers' profits were shown to have increased substantially. One large packer made 19 million dollars more in 1917 than in 1916.

In the iron and steel industry sensational profits were disclosed. In coal and oil profits mounted to unparalleled figures. Public utilities of virtually every character also came in for a liberal share of the increased prosperity.

The report which is made up of a huge mass of figures and statistics is herewith presented in summarized form:

Among the dairy concerns large increases of profits were shown. One company with \$600,000 capital made \$166,000 in 1917 against \$25,000 the year before. The small dairymen made the largest percentages of increased profits. One little concern with a capital of \$2,400 made \$11,059 as compared with \$4,000 for 1916.

Fisheries showed largely increased profits. The excess of the per cent of net income to capital stock for 1917 above the percentage for 1916 ranged all the way from zero to 164 per cent. There were very few zeros. Fruit and vegetable growing industries' profits increased considerably over those of 1916, although they were fairly adequate for that year. One concern's profits were 240 per cent more for 1917 than for 1916.

Concerns with small capitals showed the largest increases.

Grain Growing Not So Profitable. Wheat, corn and barley growing was not so profitable, according to the returns. Those that showed a percentage of increased profits usually showed losses for the year previous.

Industries grouped as "mixed farming" in New England, Middle Atlantic, Central and Southern states all made increased profits for the year, but in many cases they showed small profits or losses for 1916.

Stock breeding showed substantially increased profits in nearly all the concerns listed. The industry also showed large profits for the previous year. One concern's profits were 255 per cent more in 1917 than in 1916.

(Continued on Page Three.)

## WILLIE; WHEN, OH WHEN, WILL WE KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THE 77?

For the third time I, as a private citizen of Texas, demand that Hobby and his campaign managers obey the election laws and tell "BY WHOM SUPPLIED" was the \$77,000.00, which was used to hire all kinds of politicians, male and female, which was used to hire all kinds of newspapers to print all kinds of falsehoods to deceive the people into the mistake of electing Hobby governor.

Your political godfather, the Houston Post, is out in an editorial and says that this \$77,000 was given by good, unselfish and patriotic people. If this is so, why do you suppress their good names, when the law says you must tell? Are you ashamed of your backers?

Remember, it has not been sixty days since you were demanding that I tell where I obtained the \$156,000, though my loan was a private business transaction, affected by no law that required that I tell, while yours was a gift of \$77,000, which the law says you and your managers must tell under oath "BY WHOM SUPPLIED."

It may be that you have been busy. It may be that you have overlooked the law. If such is the case, it will be most fitting and appropriate when you get up before that new crowd of fall hats, high collars and long-tail coats at that noted state convention that will soon meet at Waco to hear that memorized oration which you are now preparing, to include in the same the names of these big-hearted, patriotic citizens, who, the Houston Post says, gave you the \$77,000. If you will only do this you will save yourself a lot of trouble and a lot of embarrassment to the democratic party which has to stand sponsor for you for two more years; yes, just two years. Wolfe has told as many as four friends already that he is a candidate two years hence and Earle Mayfield has said the same thing and Will Hogg is still as mad as Hades because you did not reappoint him on the University board.

If you promised the 77 crowd that you would not tell, just say so and stick to it, and then it will be a question between you and the law. As you were strongly supported by Senator Strickland and his ilk, who said "TO HELL WITH THE CONSTITUTION," possibly the law won't bother you much.

Now Willie, you owe this to your friends. They have already begun to talk. They are making some broad statements about you and your friends having a lot of Hobby booze down at Georgetown, that old Methodist stronghold, just about ten days after the election.

And what they said about you and the bath house escapade about the same time was something awful. Of course, I don't believe it. But I just mention it to show the necessity of your talking the Waco delegates into your confidence and telling them the names of those good friends, whom the law says you must tell, who supplied the \$77,000. You will then be a law and order governor.

Willie, where did you get the 77?

JAS. E. FERGUSON.

## LABOR'S DAY; SEPT. 2

"Labor"—a word to magnetize with, to startle, and to unfold great things—means different things to different people. It is what we bring to the great force, Labor, rather than what Labor brings to us, that puts the glow upon it and gives it the thrill. "Human ability put forth as a means to the production of goods," is an old explanation or definition of Labor, and it is about as good as any. "Labor," like its apostles and disciples, has grown, matured, advanced, and well nigh outstripped its two dear brothers, Economy and Capital.

These three brothers, each so necessary to the well-being and prosperity of the other, are our most sought, honored, courted, and applauded citizens. They represent the three grand divisions of success. They are the three great rocks in the weary land of strife and the shelter in the time of all storm, conflict, or unrest.

Who can say who is the greatest of these three, or who would dispense with one in order to elevate the other two? One is useless, in fact, its existence is impossible, without the other two. Many thousand years ago "Labor" was carried on exclusively by a system of slavery. Later this system was modified into what was known as Serfdom, which was still a certain kind of slavery. The Serfs were pledged to obey their lords, though they had certain rights and privileges which the lords were obliged to respect. Very slowly, through the centuries, this system gave way to what is termed "free labor," or the employing of people for fixed wages. England led in this, followed by the countries of western Europe. Russia was the last European country to fall in line with the European custom.

A secret society known as the "Knights of Labor" was organized in America in 1869. So many disputes occurred and so much ill-feeling prevailed among the members that a number, who at first were interested, left the organization to organize "The American Federation of Labor." Each trade organized its "union" or special society, and each of these "unions" became a part of the Federation. From the time of the first convention, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November, 1881, this Federation has grown until today it includes over two million members and more than one hundred unions.

It was in 1894 that congress recognized "Labor Day" as a universal holiday, falling on the first Monday in September, and it is now among our firmly established holidays. The objects of the observance of this day are very fine and far-reaching, and should bring about the best results. First, the various unions shall lay aside all differences, second, the employers are urged to meet with their employees to look into matters of interest to both. As a result of these two objects, industrial schools have been established through the country, boards of arbitration have been established to settle disputes between employer and employee, and many difficult, dangerous strikes have been prevented. The finest sanitary measures have resulted in the inspection of factories, mills, shops, etc., where men, women and children work.

There will always be matters in which differences of opinion will arise in regard to the ever recurring problems of the employer and the employed. Labor Day has proven to be one of the best, simplest, and the most practical means yet discovered to bring together and to keep together the three forces of American success, Labor, Capital and Economy.

### 50 New Damage Suits On File at El Paso

El Paso, Tex., Aug. 28.—Fifty damage suits have been filed since the district courts adjourned for the summer vacation, the petitioners asking for damages amounting to considerable more than a half million dollars. The causes for damage embrace nearly everything—damages for trespass, slander, failure to deliver telegrams and railroad accident.

### Ford Plants Offered to the Government

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 28.—The Ford Motor company has offered its thirty-one assembling and service plants in various parts of the country to the government. One of the eastern plants already has been accepted by the government, it was stated, and is being used in the production of gas masks.

### Aero and Munitions Directors Are Named

John D. Ryan has been appointed second assistant secretary of war and director of aeronautics, thus becoming head of the whole aeronautical section of the war department. First Assistant Secretary of War Benedict Crowell was made director of munitions by Secretary Baker, with complete authority to procure and furnish all munitions necessary for military operations.

## 112,000 HUNS IN ALLIES' CAGES SINCE JULY 1

Boche Lines Crumbling Under Resistless Pressure of American, French, British and Italian Troops—Old Hindenburg Line Is Crossed and Britons Recapture Vast Dumps and Supplies They Left Behind Last Spring.

Before the concerted, ceaseless battering of French, British and American troops the close of another week finds the lines of the Huns crumbling to pieces and the dispirited and disheartened soldiers of the kaiser admitting defeat.

Throughout the week there has been bloody and desperate fighting but the onward movement of the allies has not been checked. Roye has fallen, Bapaume is toppling to its fall and the lines of the allies at every point of the front of seventy-five miles have been advanced.

The number of prisoners taken by the allies since July 1st has passed the one hundred twelve thousand mark. In the same time the allies have taken from the Germans thirteen hundred cannon of field gun caliber and larger, General March said. Since Saturday the British, as a result of their persistent advance, have overrun the Hindenburg line a distance of one mile along a three mile front.

On fifty-five mile line from north of Scarpe to south of Roye, allied troops are pressing Germans steadily eastward.

The German retreat on the Somme battlefield has become precipitate. The French first and third armies are at no point losing contact with the enemy and are inflicting heavy losses on the retreating enemy.

With Americans on the Vesle, the situation along the Vesle is altering, although in a curious manner. American pressure is not increased and although American guns are never silent for long, they seldom are trained on lines in front of them, but rather on bridges over the Aisne.

Activity behind the German lines on the Aisne and Avre fronts has increased greatly since the French successes around Roye. In the region east of Roye the Germans seem to be preparing for eventual retirement.

Chaunies has been occupied by French troops, says an official statement.

German forces in southern Picardy are retreating over a wide front. After the capture of Roye by the French, the German front has crumbled and the lines which held back the French and British for two days is giving away. French are now on a line less than three miles from the Somme river and canal.

British and French gains are placing the Germans in a precarious position and, it is believed have forestalled plans of General Ludendorff to make a stand on the old Hindenburg line. The fall of Roye to troops of General Debeney will undoubtedly hasten German retirement between the Somme and Oise.

The British forces fighting east of Arras have reached the outskirts of Haucourt, Remy and Boiry Notre Dame, north of the Arras-Cambrai road.

The British have recaptured large dumps of ammunition which they left behind in their retreat last spring. Large quantities of German stores were also taken.

On the Ussuri front, north of Vladivostok, the bolsheviks have retreated six miles before general allied advance.

Enemy's allied forces have engaged bolshevik red guards and dispersed the bolshevik river flotilla. The allies have been generally successful in all engagements with the enemy.

The feud between the Bavarians and their northern ally breaks out behind the wire of the prisoners' cages. Officers argue with unusual freedom and show increasing affability. Those of higher rank especially express unusual admiration, as coming from a professional soldier, for Marshal Foch's strategy and for the execution of the British plan of attack.

At an early stage of the British drive Monday morning in the Scarpe river region Scottish troops reported the capture of three trenches of the Hindenburg system in their sector.

and two hours and ten minutes afterward the whole of it was in their hands. This lack of morale may be explained in some slight degree by the inclusion of several hundred Alsatians among the prisoners. One of these, who spoke perfect French, explained that he was content to be a prisoner.

"We fight and give fight," he said. "We each do the best we can for our country. Now for me it is over. I have a sister in Paris. I shall be glad to see Germany beaten and she knows it. She is short of ammunition and has used up all her men. Look at these rosy-cheeked boys of 17 and 18. Are these fit to be soldiers?"

"Go it, you Canadians," a captured officer cried. "Go right to Berlin that's the only way you can end this bloody war."

### Laundries in Camps to Cost \$5,754,990

Laundries are to be provided in all of the principal camps and cantonments. The average cost of each will be \$150,000. The expenditure of \$5,754,990 for this purpose has been authorized. The work will be done by the construction division.

Power to operate the laundries will be supplied by special power houses, which will be erected at the same time. The buildings in each of the larger camps will cost \$176,000, while \$130,688 is provided for each of the smaller camps.

Instructions have been issued to proceed with the work at the following camps: Johnston, Sevier, MacArthur, Las Casas, Devens, Gordon, Dodge, Grant, Pike, Taylor, Greene Hancock Shelby, Sheridan, Beauregard, Wadsworth, McClellan, Meigs, Mills, and Forts Wright and Terry.

## FEDERAL AID IS SOUGHT BY STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL TO RELIEVE DROUTH SUFFERERS

Austin, Tex., Aug. 28.—Again the eyes of the state administration and the state council of defense turn toward Washington as the source of relief for the drouth sufferers of Texas. At the meeting of the council of defense held Tuesday it was decided to send a delegation of fifteen to Washington to urge the appropriation of \$50,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, from the federal treasury for relief measures.

In the meantime it was agreed that an appeal for popular subscriptions be continued and funds be solicited from the people of Texas and elsewhere for immediate relief of suffering among the victims of the drouth.

The response of the federal government last spring to a similar appeal on behalf of the drouth sufferers was not favorable and there are no indications that Secretary McAdoo and Comptroller of the Currency Skelton William have changed their views in reference to granting federal aid under the circumstances.

The need of aid is urgent and thousands of victims are moving from the drouth stricken area searching for work in other parts of the state.

## 5343 Women Wage-Earners in San Antonio Paid From \$1.35 to \$83.36 Per Week

San Antonio, Tex., Aug. 28.—Exploiting pet theories and presenting hitherto unknown and unwelcome facts, the results of the survey which has been conducted for weeks by the girls' work committee of the War Camp Community Service were made known Tuesday morning before the committee at a meeting held in the Travis club.

After weeks of labor the committee, headed by Mrs. Floyd McGown and advised by Miss Lettie Brown of the War Camp Community Service, has made a survey of conditions among working girls employed by civilians and civilian concerns. The survey was as complete as possible and the total figures and general facts made known by individual workers amazed many and interested all.

Questions on salaries, age, working hours, recreational facilities and half a dozen other matters formed the questionnaire of the survey. It was found that 627 business houses and concerns, including professional men who employed only one stenographer, employed at present 5,343 girls and women at salaries which ranged from \$1.35 to \$83.36 per week. Of this number employed 961 were married and only 308 of them were soldiers' wives.

Believed Them in Majority. The last figure was a surprise to many, as the impression was general that soldiers' wives were greatly in the majority among employed women, the figures showed that less than one-tenth were wives of soldiers.

A general average of salaries for the various establishments was made, eliminating the very large and very small salaries named, that a fair average might be secured. It was found that girls employed in banks,

jewelry stores and photography shops (where a high degree of proficiency is necessary) had the highest average salaries, while the lowest general wage was that of girls employed as office girls by physicians, who pay, in most instances, it was learned, merely for the time of the girls and women, requiring nothing in the way of training.

Factories, stores, laundries and other reports were the suggestions made the employers themselves. These varied as much as the employers. Some showed an intelligent study of labor and living conditions, while others merely lifted their eyes to the high heavens and threw up their hands, figuratively speaking. Many, while not analyzing conditions, seemed to feel vaguely that more recreation was needed. This recommendation with a cry for higher wages everywhere from some and lower living expenses from others, predominated. Supervised physical exercise and recreation, educational classes and expansion or supervised boarding and rooming houses were suggested by others.

All these suggestions will be borne in mind by the committee in planning their constructive work, it was agreed at the meeting. For the present recreational and educational work only will be undertaken. What form it will take was not decided, that being left to future meetings, but clubs organized among the girls will probably form the basis.

That this educational and recreational program will be only the beginning, all agreed. Opinion was practically unanimous that the survey should form the basis for a legislative program. The women would back it at the next session of the state legislature.





