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PRESIDENT WILSON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

for governmental construction of Alaskan railroads was made; and the bill for exempting American ships from Panama Canal tolls, which would have strained several treaties, was repealed. Later, the Administration negotiated for the purchase of the Danish West Indies, to further protect the Canal, and strengthened agricultural development by providing capital at fair rates under the Farm Loan Act. One of the most popular bills which the Democratic Congress passed was the Child Labor Law.

All the real difficulties, however, lay in the foreign relation question. When President Wilson did not, on several occasions, break with Germany; when he refused to recognize Huerta, and helped out him because the partial control of Mexico had been obtained with the view of personal gain; and when he recognized Carranza and handled the recent border situation as he believed best,—there was no lack of shouters to condemn. But the fact remains, even if these same shouters have offered theoretical remedies, that Mr. Wilson's system worked. However much political advertisements claim loss of American prestige, it is certain that Germany has abated her favorite amusement, and that the turbulent element in Mexico no longer forages in the United States. Preparedness has sprung up, along with an industrial prosperity of which less than one per cent. is due to the manufacture of military supplies and accessories.

The labor situation, unfortunately, could not be managed in such diplomatic fashion. When the great railroad strike was pending, the eight hour bill was obviously rushed through by compulsion. A rational observer, however, cannot but believe that the law was made in order that the question might properly be fought out before a court while the nation would suffer no crippling blow from the force-loving brotherhoods.

President Wilson's first term is now closing. Whether the country will see fit to give him a second depends on the people's degree of satisfaction with his performance of tasks, which everyone knows were herculean; and their willingness to risk a chance in a well-balanced, unified administration which, backed by four years' experience, has international relations and internal affairs well in hand.

POLITICAL CAREER OF CHARLES EVANS HUGHES

(Continued from page 1)

the operations of the Consolidated Gas Company. In a few months, says an interviewer, "New York was treated to such an entertainment as it had never known." Thanks to Mr. Hughes' fame as an investigator, he sprang at once into prominence as a political possibility. Pressure of duty forbade his accepting the nomination for Mayor, but a year later he was able to run for the governorship of the state on the Republican nomination. It is common knowledge that the Convention did not make its choice willingly; but, as Hughes alone could defeat Hearst, it submitted to having its days of bossism ended,—and so they were. With Mr. Hughes' entry into office, the politicians made their exit; and thenceforth he recognized no unofficial authority other than his own views of right and wrong. He stood firm for the principles of conscience, and, curiously enough, recommended during his term of office nearly all of the admittedly beneficial measures which the Democratic administration has passed in the last four years, notably the protection of child labor.

It is quite natural that a large number of Mr. Hughes' claims for election to the Presidency should be based on the errors and shortcomings of the Democratic term: and there are plenty of items for his contention. He sees plainly the vagueness of the revised anti-trust regulations; he calls attention to the fact that the Reserve Act is not yet in actual operation, but that it was the Vreeland Act of the Republicans which averted panic in 1914; and he is a strong advocate of the protection of American industries until they are strongly established.

His chief desire, however, is that any action undertaken be handled fairly and efficiently. He does not recognize the right of the United States to interfere in the affairs of its small neighbors any more than in great countries,—to eject a Huerta any more than to attempt to dethrone a Hapsburg; nor does he believe in disguising his action as reparation of an insult to the flag.

Judging from his record as governor, it is doubtful whether Mr. Hughes would have permitted such obvious favor-appropriations as the one for a twenty million dollar nitrate plant "somewhere in the South." Nor would he have been coerced into signing the eight hour railroad bill with even one pen, to say nothing of four; for Mr. Hughes' has an American's abhorrence of compulsion. With regard to European affairs, it is difficult to say authoritatively exactly what he would have done; but it is not difficult to conceive that the situation would have been handled fully as discreetly as it was. We do know that the Department of State would have been efficiently organized from the first, instead of becoming a bureau for the repayment of party debts—an easy mark for the sarcasm of cartoonists and paragraphers.

By far the most telling recommendation, however, is that Mr. Hughes would gather around him in office the most prominent of American statesmen,—a group of men which seems to be perceptibly superior to any that the opposing party has to offer: and foreign governments would be quick to realize, from contact and from past experience, that there was in control a master mind, working with an administration which was not to be trifled with.

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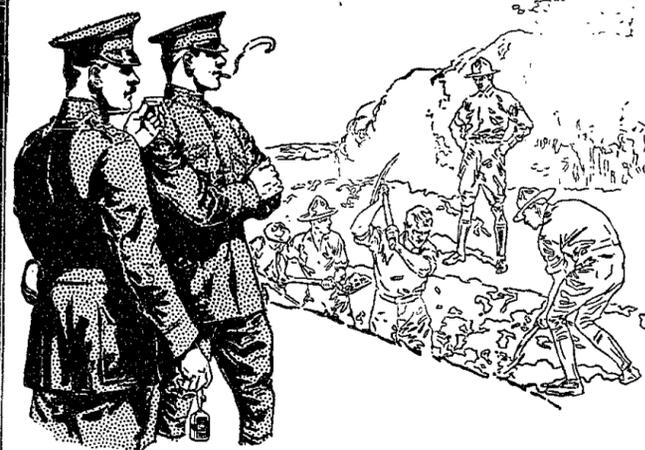
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