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THE PROBE

Edited by H. W. Noren—Subscriptions: Locally by Carrier, 50c; By Mail, \$1.00.
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NOTICE.

News and advertisements must be left at NOREN'S not later than 5:30 p. m. Thursdays in order to appear the following Monday.

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Mrs. Forry and her daughter, Miss Pauline Forry, were visiting Mrs. John Bashiest, Montiero St., ten days, and returned to their home, at York, Pa., Dec. 19th. They enjoyed their visit very much, as did also their hostess. men is a closed book.

COMMENTS BY NOREN

Rich people don't give charity. They receive it.

Any government whose laws sanction private appropriation of ground rent can not be a just government, for it is founded on injustice. All its activities whether in themselves good or bad will only accentuate that injustice. Foolish is the patter about finding a basis for "just" relations between tenant and land owner. It is like finding a basis for deciding how much of the stolen booty a burglar should in "justice" be permitted to retain, for the time and labor spent in stealing it.

NAVAL PROGRAM.

I take it for granted that the Congress will carry out the naval program which was undertaken before we entered the war. The secretary of the Navy has submitted to your committees for authorization that part of the program which covers the building plans of the next three years. These plans have been prepared along the lines and in accordance with the policy

which the Congress established, not under the exceptional conditions of the war, but with the intention of adhering to a definite method of development for the navy... I earnestly recommend the uninterrupted pursuit of that policy... It would clearly be unwise for us to attempt to adjust our programs to a future world policy as yet undetermined.

—From President Wilson's speech to Congress.

I have often said that the bitterest opposition to disarmament will come from the United States. One can not consistently conclude from this statement of the President that he desires disarmament. He does not even let the thought intrude that the war may have changed the world view about the international armament race. Apparently he is for once consistent, with his view of two years ago that we should have the largest navy in the world. Anyhow the President treats the war, in so far as it relates to our naval policy, as an incident that has in no way effected that policy. Our naval policy now, after the war, should be to "carry out the naval program which was undertaken before we entered the war."

The President has "friends" who do not hesitate to say that his naval policy recommendation was a hint to England—that it was indeed a bluff. How those who consider the President the leading statesman of the world can compare him to one who holds the losing hand at a poker game, I do not pretend to understand. To me the explanation seems much simpler. To continue the international race for naval armaments is a perfectly intelligent plan for making the world safe for war.

Now since Mr. Frank P. Walsh has resigned from the War Labor Board we hope he will take time to straighten things out among his friends in Missouri.

I have before me, the American issue, an anti-saloon paper. Under a large heading "Appeal of Hon. Frank P. Walsh," it prints on the first page a letter bearing the signature of Mr. Walsh. It is a fervent appeal to vote for the Prohibition amendment. The paper states that Mr. Walsh is vice-chairman of the Citizen's Dry Alliance.

In the same issue on the front page and parallel with Mr. Walsh's letter, appears an article under an equally

large heading reading, "The Single Tax and other Obnoxious Amendments," the first paragraph of the article reads as follows:

"Single tax is again on the constitutional amendment ballot... It was placed there by the direct effort of the liquor forces of the state for the express purpose of defeating the Prohibition amendment. Their argument is that many voters in their anxiety to defeat single tax will vote "NO" on everything and thus carry down to defeat Prohibition and some other meritorious amendments."

And here is the last paragraph:
"Down with the Hun and let every 100 per cent American voter either shoot or give up the gun!"

The liquor men are not angels, that's sure, but I will take chances with the whiskey ring, if there is any, in preference to the nest of liars that edit the American issue. It might be well for Mr. Walsh, who was President of the Missouri organization pushing the Single Tax amendment, to decide who is entitled to use his name, those who are for Single Tax or those who are against it. To be president of the singletaxers and vice-chairman of rabid anti-singletaxers is somewhat inconsistent.

A certain New York wholesale house bought some German toys before or during the early part of the war. They were unable to get them over then and the shipment was landed only recently. Although they had paid for the toys they courted notoriety by "patriotically" refusing the shipment.

The profiteering conduct of this house reminds me of the story of the traveling salesman and the overcoat. The house was to pay the salesman's expenses. Needing an overcoat the salesman bought one and put the price in the expense account. The house was lenient and paid it but told him he must never again charge clothes to the expense account. Next Fall he again bought an overcoat and charged it to the expense account. But this time he added a quarter to each item of such expenses as the house allowed until the price of the overcoat was covered. Seeing the list of items the boss complimented the salesman for rendering a legitimate account with no charge for overcoat in it. Being possessed with more wit

Weekly Price List

PAY NO MORE

Store opens at 8, closes at 6
Except Saturdays

Boy's Leather Belts	25c
Rif, washes and dyes.....	10c
Gift upholstering tacks, box.....	10c
Curling tongs	10c
Carpet Tacks, all sizes.....	5c
No. 2 Tacks for window shades, per box	5c
Iron Holders	15c
Men's Garters	25c, 35c and 50c
Paint Brushes	10c to 50c
"Close Fit" cap shape Hair Nets, black, dark brown, light brown, medium brown and blond, 15c; two Nets for	
"Close Fit" Hair Nets in grey, each	25c
Fringe Hair Nets, sometimes call- ed straight; made in France, of genuine hair: full size, 38x40, 10c; three Nets for.....	25c
Ingram's Perfumes	89c
Ingram's Talcum Powder.....	25c
Ingram's Milkweed Cream.....	50c
Ingram's Zedenta Tooth Paste.....	25c
Ingram's Therapeutic Shaving Cream	50c
Ingram's Face Powder.....	25c and 50c
Sewing Machine Belts, long enough for all makes of machines, 30c and	25c
Box Writing Papers, Tablets, Inks, Envelopes, Pens and Pencils, Glue and Mucilage.	
Can Openers	15c
Scissors.....	25c to 50c
Bees Wax	4c
Longcloth	30c
Shoe Polishes, 10c, 13c and.....	25c
Boys' Knee Pants, 60c to.....	\$2.25
Window Shades	75c
Bias Seam Binding, lawn and cambric, black and white, all sizes, 12 yards.....	15c
Ric Rac, all sizes	10c to 19c
O'Cedar Oil	25c and 50c
Boys' Blouses, goods that will wash; each	\$1.00
Pee-Chee White Shoe Cleaner.....	25c
Wax Tapers, box	5c
Gas Mantles, 15c and	10c
Bungalow Aprons	79c to \$2.50
Fancy Aprons	15c, 33 and 69c
O. N. T. Machine Thread, black and white, sizes, 8 to 100, spool 6c	
Electric Curlers, 2 for	10c
Snap fasteners	5c
Hooks and Eyes	5c
Gas Globes, Upright and Inverted	15c
Lingerie Tape, white, pink, Blue	10c
Kleinert's Dress Shields	25c
Middy Lacers	5c
Thimbles (silver), all sizes	5c

WAXED LUNCH PAPER	
20-Sheet Roll, 12x15, 5c, 6 for 25c	
Patent Leather Belts, black, red and white	50c and 25c
U. San. Fine Crepe Toilet Paper, 10c per roll; 3 rolls for 25c	
Avelva toilet paper, 2 rolls.....	25c
Linen Corset Lacers, 5 yds. long.....	10c
Needles for all makes of machines, a package of two needles for.....	5c
Nye's Sewing Machine Oil, bottle.....	10c
Diamond Dye	10c
Peroxide	10c
Vaseline	7c
All colors of Crepe Papers.....	10c
Bromo Seltzer,	10c and 20c
Silk Thread, all colors, 50 yards only, 8c; two spools for.....	15c
Black and White, 100 yards only.....	15c
Meritas brand, white Oil Cloth, 1 1/4 yard wide, highest grade, yard	55c
Hump Hair Pins, all sizes.....	5c and 10c
Canton Flannel	39c
Flannelette, white	35c
Flannelette, Pink and White and Blue and White, yard.....	35c
Grey, extra fine grade, yard.....	45c
Boys' heavy Stockings....., fast black; 59c value, pair.....	43c
Girls' fine mercerized Stockings; 59c value, pair	45c
Celluloid Knitting Needles, pair.....	25c
Steel Knitting Needles, 5c each; a set of five for.....	22c
P. K., extra value, yard.....	48c
Silk Hose, black, full fashioned, will wear, pair	\$2.00
Dark brown Silk Hose.....	\$1.25

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Infant's Knit Bands, with-
out sleeves, wool plated,
mercerized finish, the
kind you have always
bought, all sizes.....50c
Same as above, in all
pure Australian Wool, all
sizes 75c |

Fold Over Shirts,
sleeves, Merino, mer-
cerized finish, sizes one
to six (up to 4 years);
this Shirt is 60% wool,
an unusually large per-
centage at this price,
per garment.....95c
Same as ab. e in all
pure Australian Wool
(up to 3 years).....\$1.50



Knit Shirts, button
front, sleeves, Merino,
mercerized finish, 60%
wool; sizes, infants to
6 years 85c || Same as above, all pure Australian Wool, silk finish, up to 6 years | \$1.25 |

Tissue Paper (white) 9 sheets,
12x24 5c |

20 sheets, 20x30	15c
"Curvex" Brass Curtain Rods.....	35c
Pure White Cotton Baling, 1/2-lb bat.....	18c
Flannel: Pure all wool Saxony yarn flannel, 33 inches wide, yards	\$1.09
Silk Scarfs for Ladies.....	50c
Ladies' pure Linen Handkerchiefs, 30c and	50c
Ladies' Cotton Handkerchiefs.....	25c
Boys' Gloves, Jersey.....	25c
Girls and Boys Gloves, knit.....	50c
Fancy Caps and Hockey Caps 23c to	\$2.00
Ladies' Handbags and Purses, \$1.19 to	\$3.00
Infants' Mittens, white, pink and blue	25c and 29c
Boudoir Caps.....	29c to 75c
Ladies' Dressing Combs.....	25c to \$1.50

All sizes of Children's Fleece Lined Underwear.

NOREN'S

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than honesty the salesman told the boss, "You don't see the overcoat but it's there."

Early last Spring the house, who dumped the German toys, took orders for cashmere hosiery. Ordinarily "cashmere" means from 60 to 90% wool. Due to the war everything went and profiteering became money-mad men's steady occupation.

So when the "cashmere" hosiery arrived the wool had shrunk from 90% to 18% and the cotton had risen from 10% to 82%. But the price remained the same. The price concealed the cost of those German toys. You could not see the toys, but they were there in the price. When you hear some one shout patriotism—watch him, or he'll charge it to you.

Bishop Canevin made a curious slip at the Irish meeting at the Lyceum Theatre, December 15. In an other-wise masterly speech, the Bishop stated Ireland was larger in area and population than Switzerland, Belgium, Norway or Sweden. Only in the case of Switzerland did his statement hold good. Belgium, while smaller in area than Ireland, has a population two and a half million larger. Norway's population is smaller but in area it is about four times the size of Ireland. Sweden has a million people more than Ireland and its area is about 173,000 square miles to Ireland's 32,000. In other words five Irelands could be placed in Sweden and enough territory would remain to give room to Switzerland.

Just as we got settled down to be Bolsheviks they spring Spartacus on us.

Extracts from Judge Mayer's remarks in imposing prison sentence on Roger N. Baldwin, a conscientious objector:

Federal Court in New York.

"A Republic can last only so long as its laws are obeyed. The freest discussion is permitted, and should be invited in the processes that lead up to the enactment of a statute. There should be the freest opportunity of discussion as to the methods of the administration of the statutes."

Here the judge conveniently, and probably unconsciously, ignores the fact that Republics, and other governments, too, for that matter, are destroyed by enactment of laws, not by their violation. Perfectly good citizens are violating laws every day. Such laws are known as "dead letters." Some such laws are enforced now and then for purposes of persecution and graft. Such a law is the well known "blue law" of Pennsylvania. Every so often this law will be enforced against keepers of small stores for selling on Sundays. In the aggregate, large sums are thus legally and shamefully stolen from the poor. The blue law is never enforced against corporations that violate it every Sunday. The grafting politicians would be deprived of an easy source of income if all storekeepers obeyed the law.

It is true that Judge Mayer can not go back of the conscription law, but must act in accordance with it. But he assumes that Mr. Baldwin defies the will of the people, whereas it is the conscription law that defies the will of the people. We have had three tests which prove my assertions. No man could have been elected in 1916 had he advocated conscription. In so far as war and peace entered as an issue the peace side won. When Congress voted war it became on the face of things, congress and law against the people.

The next test was conscription itself. This measure became necessary because the people failed to support the war. In the questionnaires the great majority claimed exemption.

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Not only was it necessary to ignore the claims of conscientious objectors but it became necessary to visit long term prison sentences upon men whose conscience forbade them to become supporters of the war. It was again a clear-cut issue of law vs. the people.

The third test came in the last election when the party who had passed and enforced these laws was repudiated by the people.

Therefore in sentencing Mr. Baldwin our good judge was not, as he seems to think, sentencing Mr. Baldwin in the name of the people. The Judge was sentencing the people and meteing out the punishment to their true spokesman, under power of a law the people had three times repudiated.

The Czar's government was not overthrown because the Russian people did not comply with the decrees of the Czar. If became necessary to overthrow it because his decrees violated the will of the people.

Six months ago we heard not a little talk about suspending the congressional elections as a war measure. If a time ever arrives when such procedure will come to pass, making the people powerless to unseat their unfaithful servants, then has arrived the necessity for another American revolution.

Is it well to pay large salaries to a few men so they can give their valuable time to invent schemes to take care of those who pay them their salaries? Here for instance is Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane. He is a valuable man. He is valuable to himself, he gets a lot of our money. He gets somewhat more than eight thousand dollars a year. Ever know a shoemaker to get that much? Or a shirt maker? Suppose all the shoemakers and all the shirtmakers died all of a sudden. You'd be in a dickens of a fix, wouldn't you? If in such dilemma you paid Mr. Secretary Lane sixteen thousand a year he couldn't make you either a shirt or a pair of shoes. But if all the secretaries in the world departed hence, nobody would miss them. And that illustrates what a lot of good secretaries do, at eight thousand dollars a year. Good friends will say I am belittling Mr. Lane. That I am heaping ridicule upon a great and good man.

Well, I will show by his own words how great and good he is. If Lane is so great and good he should for the good of the rest of us resign his position so that it might be filled. Yes, filled, by a man with vision enough to see that digging a few ditches in the desert for the benefit of a few landlords won't satisfy the land-hunger of a hundred million people.

Says Mr. Lane:

"At the end of the war we shall receive back from France several million men who will have gained a larger view of the world. Some will want to

step back into their old positions and trades. Others will have a desire developed in them for a larger and more independent life. It is not good for the nation that we should have these men unoccupied on their return. They would demoralize the labor market and quickly become demoralized themselves."

Mr. Lane thinks of men as herders think of sheep. Unless these men who "have gained a larger view of the world" be taken charge of by politicians, they will be unoccupied, "demoralize the labor market and quickly become demoralized themselves."

If men are rendered helpless and demoralized by gaining a "larger view of the world," it would have been better to let them stay at home with their mothers. What does Mr. Lane mean by a "labor market?" Is that a market where the products of labor is bought and sold or is it a market where laborers are bought and sold? The first is a products market, and the second is slavery, Mr. Lane. The products market surely is demoralized now, due to fakesmen at Washington and elsewhere who tax labor products and exempt land monopoly. If the coterie of politicians of which Mr. Lane is such a conspicuous member, will reverse the process the demoralization of the products market will instantly cease. If there is a labor market where laborers are bought and sold we don't want to moralize it; we want to wipe it off the earth.

Being so solicitous for the homecoming soldier what does Mr. Lane propose for him? Well, Mr. Lane's considerate proposal is so absolutely silly and unjust that it is almost a sin to repeat it. But in short this is it. That the soldier turns farmer under a forty years mortgage on land so worthless that the present owners refuse to use it.

In the words of Mr. Lane:

"There are millions of acres of undeveloped lands which can be made available for our homecoming soldiers."

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in general there are three classes of these lands: arid lands in the West, cut-over lands—lands that have been logged and the stumps left standing—in the Northwest, lake States and the South and swamplands in the Middle West and the South."

That's some prospect for the soldiers. The government shall inveigle young men into paying for and developing land that the land grafters have been unable to sell or give away to anybody else.

The soldiers shall make the desert bloom so that millionaire landlords can afford private green-houses in the cities.

The soldiers shall remove the stumps to further enrich the landlords who stole the trees.

The soldiers shall drain the swamps so that swamp land owners can drain wine casks.

What excuse is there for this outrageous proposal? None whatever. There is no shortage of land anywhere not even in New York, Pittsburgh or Chicago. We have more vacant land in Allegheny county than all the homecoming Allegheny county soldiers could cultivate if they all turned farmers.

"We will pay him wages, and out of his wages he can save enough to meet the first installment on the home he has helped to build. We should give him some training in modern agriculture and should certainly give him direction; that is, not turn him loose on a piece of wild land to get along as best he may. He should have forty years in which to pay back his debt, with interest; then to have the home for his own, for himself and his children."

"We" will pay him wages, says Mr. Lane. What does he mean by that? Well, it works out this way. You and I will be taxed, taxed, taxed. And, out of these taxes Lane and other officials will without our consent pay these farmer-soldiers' wages so that they in turn can pay the land sharks for the worthless land they were fooled into buying and developing.

What a prospect. Forty years in debt because he fought for freedom. And all for the benefit of land grafters. That then is the prize Mr. Lane holds out to the finest manhood of this richest of all nations. To condemn this manhood to cultivate the wilderness under a mortgage. To build their own homes by their own labor and spend forty years paying land grafters for the privilege. Have all statesmen gone crazy? Does official salaries rob them of their reason? It would seem high time to have house cleaning at Washington. It is time to cultivate the government that this incompetent administration has made a waste. It is time to stop this arrant nonsense of Lane and others that serves no purpose but to entrench

monopoly and feed the spirit of Bolshevism. And Mr. Lane is not the worst but the best of President Wilson's official family, Baker, Burleson, Billy Wilson and the rest haven't given any indication that they know land exists. Their vision of life does not extend beyond the treasury whence the money comes, that they spend. To

them the relation between land and

Judge—Officer, what was this man doing when you arrested him?

Officer—He was telling a crowd, "He who takes to the sword shall perish with the sword."

Judge—Twenty years in the Leavenworth penitentiary.

In the Spirit of Christ or Nero?

The Conscientious Objectors
(Reprinted from The Nation.)

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: I enclose part of a letter from a conscientious objector in the Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks, in the hope that through the columns of the Nation you may be able to give it publicity and perhaps induce the Administration to put an end to this frightful situation.

Among those who are confined in the Barracks are an ordained minister, two University of Wisconsin graduates, one of whom is also a college professor and the other also a graduate of the Columbia Law School; a student at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a newspaper reporter. The remainder of the men, so far as I can identify them, are Mennonites, Quakers, orthodox Jews, or members of a religious sect from Benton Harbor, Michigan, known as the Israelites, or more familiarly as the "Holy Rollers."

Chapin H. Hoskins.
Chicago, November 13.

"In the 'hole,' a dungeon in the sub-basement, the men are fed only bread and water, and are handcuffed to their cell doors for nine or more hours a day. During the first week they stand with their hands crossed at their breasts, during the second week they hang by their wrists. The 'screws' (sentries) are brutal. I have gone down with food from the mess hall several times to observe them. The air reeks with curses. I have not heard these fellows suggest anything nearer a human reaction than a bestial laugh at some lewd tale. It follows that these men handle the prisoners with little gentleness. X has been beaten periodically. I saw him dragged by the collar, choking, across the rough floor of the corridors and the barber shop into the bath. One sentry knocked him down upon the cement floor, another undressed him with such brutality that he screamed with pain and three of them forced him into the shower and scrubbed him with coarse soap. The Russians from Riley came out of confinement yesterday, wan and staggering. They have gone to work. Both are religious objectors. Some of the Russians now in confine-

ment have gone through the worst experiences in jail which the worst of Czars had to offer. They said that there they were permitted to cook their own food and were let alone. They swear that their life there was easy in comparison to this.

"Fellows who came from Camp Sherman last week declined to don prison garb. Two of them persisted. They were beaten into submission and the clothes were forced on them. For a time one of them wore his bundle around his neck, refusing to touch it, but he, too, was forcibly dressed. It is said that a captain witnessed the original beating and that he turned his back and walked off without interceding. The sentries to whom he left the job dragged the boys to the bathroom and treated them to X's experience, scrubbing the flesh of one of them with the ubiquitous galvanic soap and a coarse scrubbing brush. The water was so cold that the rest of us spent scarcely three minutes under it and retreated. Let these conscientious objectors were held under it for nearly fifteen minutes. Corporal Hunter is being tried for beating up two Russians—Holy Jumpers from Texas—for their refusal to salute and work. He administered one of his pummellings in the office of the executive officer, who himself had to stop the struggle, but he is being tried because his specific act was not authorized. (He has since been suspended for having taken action without authority.) The 'hole' treatment is known by every one in all its details and is accepted by the authorities."

MRS. WILSON IN PARIS.
(From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.)

The women were elegantly gowned and the men wore evening dress.

Mrs. Wilson was handsomely gowned in blue and silver brocade embroidered in brilliants. Her bodice was of blue silk, shaped decollette, with brilliants closely embroidered across the front. With it she wore a girdle of silver cloth, which also was richly embroidered with brilliants.

The guests were pleased to observe that Mrs. Wilson had selected a gown after a French model, although it was made in America. It was easily recognized as being a Jenny model.