

You have asked me to talk to you about this being the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country. Of course as I remember that, when it was a practice skit upon the old Remington typewriter of my youth, it ran "now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party." But I agree with you that now is the time to first think of our country. It is passing through a crisis. Dissatisfaction is astir. Men's souls are tried and weary. Their mind's enflamed against established things. Changes are evident and inevitable. Sober and thoughtful persons will seek a change for the better, substituting the present unsubstantial for a more substantial and permanent base. It is unthinkable that a great people should allow a great government to disintegrate because of a lack of substantial effort and constructive thought. There are too many fingers in the pie. Too many minds never agree upon any theory, good or bad. A group of sober and thoughtful citizens, a small group, can accomplish more good by an earnest endeavor, than a great host disinterestedly casting a thoughtless vote.

We have too many laws and regulations. Our personal and business efforts are circumscribed to a degree by regulations that play into the hands of the crafty, the selfish and insincere rather than the better characters of the land. We depend upon the laws too much in both moral and business life. There are many things that are not susceptible to regulation by law and when attempted bring the law into contempt. Morals, thrift and industry cannot be legislated into our lives, those are matters for education, training at mother's knee, in the school room and the church.

Not only do these multitude of laws engender disregard but they bring expense. We are paying more for government than government is worth to us.

We are too much taken up with established orders. The revolutionary fathers would have never wrested freedom from the English king had the matter been left to the business element of the times. They were practically all Tories, those who were satisfied to continue the established order of things. Content to continue in the established order and hope for favors from the Crown. The rabble won that war, the rabble gave us that freedom we sought. When times grow too bad the rabble has always rose up. Thinking minds may preach, but the rabble, when once aroused, knows only action. Yet the business world is much more capable of bringing repose out of chaos if it would just forget its greed and selfishness for a while and lend its best thoughts to constructive thought and effort. The business mind is timid. It fears a change, and fearing, listlessly waits until an adjustment comes without its aid or assistance.

What we need in this country is more judgment and less sentimentalism. More serious thought and less emotion. The business world has come to depend upon the laws rather than upon the moral responsibility of its members. The business world thought its insistence has brought into the business fabric these multitude of laws we have that are surely undermining the government and the business life. There should be a repeal of about nine tenths of all laws. Government itself needs but few laws for its best interest, and these of a penal nature to protect society against the degenerate and criminal mind. Yet through the insistence of business, seeking an advantage, a multitude of laws have been visited upon us that are slowly destroying the government and the business life.

If I had my way about the matter I would make the father of the household the absolute law of the home and make HIM responsible to the state for the career of that household. That was the law of the old Roman empire and so long as it lasted the empire lasted, and when it was changed the great fabric of government began to disintegrate. That change contributed more to the downfall of Rome than any one other factor, whatever the writers may say about it.

We have grown to care too much for money rather than the things of life worth while. We strive to garner money and forget that it is at best but a representative of real wealth. We are greedy and insincere. We devote our entire time seeking to build up a fortune when it can bring nothing more than anxiety and care. If we spent the spare time unnecessary to our every day business improving the mind and studying the conditions and affairs of humanity, what an improvement would soon be noticeable. We are becoming criminally minded just because we attach so much consideration to the dollar. He who steals in sufficiently large amounts from the unprotected is looked upon as an important character in the nation or the community. We admire him for his money, however ill-gotten may be the gains. This has and is making us criminal minded. Men are not held in check by the laws laid down to do that thing, but they are, after all, held in check because of their desire to stand well in the estimation of their fellow man. And so, when we disregard the means employed, and only look to the financial result, we encourage our people to employ whatever means may be at hand, whether it be good or bad. There is but little respect left in our moral sense for the honor that used to be. The law and our foolish esteem for money has undermined our moral minds. There has got to be a turning back; our laws should be few and impartially enforced. In such case a punishment would reflect discredit and leave a stigma upon a name, and men would shun the same. But now men are imprisoned for so many flimsy pretexts in the law, that men have grown to disregard the fact of their outlawry. This tends to engender a respect for the violator, rather than the reverse. It should not be.

In our social strata we are fast losing the old time friend. Men's friendship has ceased to be what it was. Undependable, selfish and insincere. Such a condition has a surprising bad effect upon the coming generations. The home is lax and the unparalleled example of eighty per cent of the crime of the country being committed by children less than twenty two years of age is an indignant of the parenthood of this country.

But nothing hurts a community, nothing hurts society, so much as our fool friends, the casual friend;

A fool friend always knows every mean thing that is being said about you, and gives it speed by, gossiping the fact from mouth to ear. He is a sewer of slander, bad news and unpleasant tidings concerning what he denominates his friend.

He has no scruples about believing every thing bad about you, and may in an apparently innocent way add to the story.

He always knows your faults and where you are losing, and where some other is making gains upon you.

He tells you of the good luck of your enemies and is filled with stupid candor.

He never suspects anything good upon your side and is continually begging pardon and making excuses for his friendship.

He is continually searching his mind for an excuse to desert his friend. If you are victorious, he is always in evidence; if in defeat or misfortune, he is missing.

He regards your reputation as common prey for the vultures of the gossip chamber, and takes a sad pleasure in your misfortunes. The bearer of bad news regarding a friend finds responsive ears, and the first reaction is of satisfaction.

He generally talks for you in some matter and then bets the other way, he is so friendly you cannot kick him, and so hypocritical you cannot place him.

One true friend is worth a hundred wellwishers, and should be bound to you " by hoops of steel." It is true friendship that makes for better communities, for better society and for better thought.

We have too much pretention and too little sincerity. Society and the state is suffering from this more than anything else. We try to outdo the neighbor and by such pretention engender in our souls a spitefulness and degeneracy that is undermining our moral fabric.

We seek the superficial and the artificial in pleasure, when the great sky and the trees and the birds, the meadows and the plants and the very joy of living, is life itself. Our friends should be our greatest enjoyment, wholesome and good. And we should exact goodness in our friendships and give it in return. We get out of life just what we put into it. If suspicion and secret malice, we reap that harvest.

The present condition of our country has been brought about in a great measure by our individual waywardness. We shall each contribute most to a substantial recovery of national affairs by putting our own house in order. When every one has done that thing then the smoke will again hang over Pittsburg and the hum of the spindles will be heard in Lowell, the song of the picker will be heard in the cotton fields and the throb of the great engines in the oil fields. It is the individual that must make the recovery, you must help yourself, others cannot and should not fight your battles. And in the individual recovery the country will again be on a pleasant and industrious footing. There is too much charity and too much talk of charity. Three years have gone by and those who seek charity have done nothing for themselves. Necessity alone will drive them to the proper initiative, a constant coddling will make a nation of beggars.