

Current Comment

EDITORIAL ESTIMATES OF DR. WILEY

One of the most striking results of the effort to remove Dr. Wiley has been the unanimity and vigor with which the daily newspapers of the country have denounced the attacks of his enemies. Almost without exception, the press has recognized that the charges preferred against him were largely technical and were trumped up simply to afford a pretext for his removal. The influences of the interests concerned in this attack have been clearly recognized. The Providence (R. I.) *Evening Tribune* says:

That there is a conspiracy to oust Dr. Wiley is indisputable. It has made itself visible for a long time past, both outside and inside the Department of Agriculture. It has been carried on with venomous persistence by those poisoners of the stomachs of the people whom he has hunted down and exposed, those manufacturers of fraudulent foods and compounders of misbranded drugs who hope to slide back into their old enormously profitable evil practices when Dr. Wiley is out of office. It is they who have uncovered this technical offense on his part and the animus and purpose of the charges they make against him are entirely clear.

The Burlington (Vt.) *News* is particularly outspoken:

The plunderers and poisoners of the people are determined to get Wiley out of their way so that they can go on unrestricted in making money out of poisons. Dr. Wiley has done a remarkable work in his fight against food and drink poisons. He practically alone was responsible for the rigid law against placing any deleterious substance in the foods and drinks of the people.

The Wheeling (W. Va.) *Intelligence* recognizes the animus behind the attack:

Dr. Wiley's efforts have driven adulterators and food poisoners out of business. This is a great and splendid work. Naturally a man engaged in such a work will arouse antagonism and his enemies will discredit him if possible.

The Buffalo (N. Y.) *Enquirer* endorses Dr. Wiley as the protector of the people:

Pure food and drug laws amount to nothing without a man of the stamp of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, to enforce them. Dr. Wiley has done much to reduce the sale of adulterated foods and drugs. That work has been good for the consumer, although it has seriously interfered with the business of the adulterators. The latter naturally do not like Dr. Wiley. The former love him and will not quickly forgive unfair treatment of him. . . . The people will stand by themselves if they stand by Wiley. He is the man who has made the goods match the label. He is protecting the people from fraud, much of it worse than the fraud which merely cheats the purchaser out of money. The enmity he has aroused is his glory. The hatred of crooked manufacturers is proof of his efficiency.

The Providence (R. I.) *Journal* says:

Popular judgment is not infallible, to be sure. It is too often based on mistaken premises. But it is a sound instinct which leads both Congress and the people to believe that the present situation has been brought about, in the last analysis, by resentment over Dr. Wiley's services in behalf of public health.

The above are samples of the editorial comments from all over the country. They show plainly that neither the press nor the people are disposed to tolerate the dismissal

of a faithful and valuable public servant on a trumped-up, technical charge. They recognize the influences which, secretly and underhandedly, have been at work for years for the overthrow of the one man who stood between the dishonest manufacturer and the public. It is impossible to believe that the president will approve the findings of Attorney-General Wickersham, since, whatever may be the nature of the technical offense charged, it must be fully evident to President Taft that the great American public will not for a moment approve of the removal on a mere technicality of an honest official who stands in the public eye as the champion of the pure food law and the protector of the people's rights.

NEW PRESERVING MEDIUM

What promises to be of useful application for museums and demonstration purposes is a solution invented by Wickerschener, of the Berlin Zoologic Museum, for fixing and preserving plants and animals in their natural colors. The solution is prepared by dissolving in 3 liters of boiling water 100 grams of alum, 25 of sodium chlorid, 12 of potassium nitrate, 60 of potassium carbonate, and 10 of arsenious acid. To this 1,200 c.c. of glycerin and 300 c.c. of methyl alcohol are added. Objects preserved in this liquid are said to retain their form, color and suppleness to a remarkable degree. Even after a considerable lapse of time muscle tissue retains its fresh appearance, and can be cut as in the fresh state, and ligaments remain perfectly pliable, permitting the demonstration of movements as in life. This solution differs materially from the Kaiserling fluid, although both contain potassium salts. The composition of Kaiserling's fluid is: potassium nitrate, 10; potassium acetate, 30; liquor formaldehydi, 750; distilled water to make 1,000.

THE CHOLERA SITUATION

Notwithstanding the somewhat alarming headlines in the newspapers, regarding the presence of Asiatic cholera in the United States, there is no cause for alarm. In the first place, those in charge of the quarantine stations are thoroughly alive to their responsibility, and, consequently, there is little fear of many cases coming to this country. In addition to the usual methods for preventing those suffering with infectious diseases from landing in this country, the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service has made additional regulations for the present conditions, in that all steerage passengers arriving from ports that are likely to be infected with cholera are subjected to bacteriologic examination and detention until such examination proves that they are not cholera bacillus carriers. The period of observation has also been extended from five to ten days. It should be remembered, further, that medical science has so advanced that even though the epidemic did obtain a foothold in this country, it could easily be controlled, and the individual cases managed much better than would have been the case twenty-five years ago. To repeat, there is no cause whatever for alarm.