

The Ford International Weekly  
**THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT**

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**Let Us Have Peace!**

IT MAY be that Senator Borah is right in declaring that the Treaty of Versailles without the League of Nations is "a militaristic document." Senator Williams may not be far from accurate in his characterization of the new treaties as "an ignominious and inglorious postscript to American war history." But all this is crying over spilt milk.

Congress and the country face pressing tasks in connection with the economic rehabilitation of America and the world. The people are a thousand times more concerned at this time with the tremendously vital issues to be decided in the immediate future by the Disarmament Conference, than with party politics or the revision of history.

Let us honor the fallen, succor the needy, cheer the brave—but for heaven's sake let us get on!

**A Costly Port for Business**

THE movement for a lakes-to-ocean waterway via the St. Lawrence River should be helped by recent revelations as to the use New York makes of her virtual monopoly as a seaport. In the Meyer committee hearings, it has been brought out that profiteering and graft implicating both city officials and steamship companies have been practiced on a colossal scale in the matter of pier leases. Over and over it is shown that Tammany officials have been enriched through connection with firms favored in the original letting of the piers that they might sublease them at an advance of 100 per cent or more.

That New York is a very costly port to do business in has long been known to shippers and that plain "graft" has had much to do with this costliness has been more than suspected. But even to taxpayers hardened to exposures of this sort the recent testimony in regard to the cost of policing the piers given by Major George W. Knight, formerly in charge of Army Traffic Service in New York, caused a rude shock of utter amazement. He testified that the cost of pier policing alone was \$30,660,000 in 1917; \$33,850,000 in 1918; \$41,610,000 in 1919; \$35,850,000 in 1920. This year, he said, basing his estimate on the number of men employed and the prevailing wage, it will be a little less, but only "on account of the slump in tonnage."

The municipal police department budget allowance this year is \$28,349,407, so it has cost the Federal Government and private interests much more to guard the piers than it does to police the entire city. War emergencies may account for some of this stupendous expenditure, but the burden was actually increased after the armistice. And this burden, of course, is imposed on New York commerce, and the country's commerce passing through that sea-gate, on top of the actual and very considerable loss from thefts and fires, as well as the scandalous profiteering in pier leases.

One curiously illuminating item in this policing cost is, despite the fact that dodging and circumventing the desperate and cunning New York wharf rat is rather a man-sized job for its danger, difficulty and exposure, many veterans of the city police department, pensioned for age and disability, are engaged in it, drawing half-pay from the city and whole-pay from private employers!

**The Bombed Battleships**

IT IS going to be hard to convince people who have no interest in steel production or armament manufacture or in perpetuating the provocation to war (and naval or military promotions) which big navies really constitute, that the day of the dreadnought has not ended in view of the sinking of the battleship Alabama

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in the bombing tests off Tangier Island. Aviation enthusiasts declare that their most hopeful predictions have been confirmed, pointing out this latest demonstration of the deadliness of the airplane as a weapon of attack.

The flying men, despite the limited means at their disposal, have practically proved to a certainty that they can sink any warship afloat. In fact, the conclusion is now inevitable that the heaviest armor-clad vessel is at the airman's mercy when he rains high explosives upon it.

In the case of the sinking of the *Osfriesland*, it will be remembered that the naval experts tried to throw cold water on the value of the experiments made off Hampton Roads. They protested that the bombing airplanes were favored by conditions wholly unlike those prevailing in war time, when a battleship might do some shooting on its own account. There may be some reason in this; but it can no longer be denied that armor-clads are extremely vulnerable to overhead attack.

Within the last few months, boys who had never before tried to sink naval vessels, and working against the mossbacks, succeeded in sinking every sort of craft at which they had a chance. Our new super-dreadnoughts cost \$40,000,000 each and the airship that sunk the *Osfriesland* cost \$23,000. The bigger the battleship the easier it is for an airplane to sink her. We could build 1,800 airplanes for what the Massachusetts will cost. In war, perhaps ten of these airplanes and 20 men would be lost in sinking a battleship with probably 2,000 men—a battleship that took three years to build sunk in a few minutes.

What use is a battleship, anyhow? This is one big question that the Disarmament Conference will have to take into account.

**Miracles Do Happen**

MORE than ordinary food for cogitation is offered by the marvelous recovery of the Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Poling, associate president of the United Christian Endeavor Societies of the World, whose back was broken in an automobile accident near Worcester, Massachusetts, some three months ago. He is now able to walk about and on the road to complete recovery, although at the time of the smash in which he was hurt it was at first thought that he had been killed and later that his injuries would cripple him permanently.

More than that, it is related, on the authority of eyewitnesses, that he was virtually called back from death to life by his wife who, despite the protests of bystanders, flung herself beside what seemed the lifeless corpse of her husband and for 15 minutes kept calling on him to come back, bending her entire thought to the work of reviving him, until at last she was rewarded by the fluttering shut of the opened eyelids and the sighing of the unconscious man.

"The hair on the back of my hand is miracle enough for me," said Walt Whitman, "and a mouse is miracle enough to stagger quintillions of infidels." It is all very well for the cynical and sophisticated to insist that miracles are impossible; but facts speak louder than opinions. Despite his compulsory recantation, Galileo could declare that the world did move.

**STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.**

Of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT, The Ford International Weekly, published weekly at Dearborn, Michigan, for October 1, 1921, State of Michigan, County of Wayne, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Fred L. Black, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in Section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are:

Publisher, The Dearborn Publishing Company, Dearborn, Michigan; Editor, W. J. Cameron, Dearborn, Michigan; Managing Editor, W. J. Cameron, Dearborn, Michigan; Business Manager, Fred L. Black, Dearborn, Michigan.

2. That the owners holding more than one per cent of the stock are:  
 The Ford Motor Company of Delaware, Henry Ford, Dearborn, Michigan; C. J. Ford, Dearborn, Michigan; E. B. Ford, Dearborn, Michigan.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

FRED L. BLACK,  
 Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1921.  
 [SEAL]

J. EMMET HALL,  
 (My Commission expires September 29, 1924.)

**"It Must Succeed!"**

THIS, according to H. Wickham Steed, editor of the *London Times* and Lord Northcliffe's right hand man, is the slogan that the powerful Northcliffe press has adopted in regard to the Disarmament Conference. In a *World* interview, Mr. Steed went on to say that the calling of the conference is "the most important initiative ever taken by any government in the history of mankind." This is one reason why it must succeed. The American and British peoples must make it succeed because "it is so vital to humanity the world over that its failure would mean world disaster."

As to how the English speaking peoples shall score the tremendous victory for humanity which an agreement for the limitation of armaments would mean, Mr. Steed is luminously specific. Quoting a speech by Lord Northcliffe at Vancouver in which he said, "We must disarm our minds before we can reduce our fleets," the great British editor declared: "If the British and the American delegates approach the conference with a sense of concordant good will, without prejudice or prepossessions, taking care to know all the facts, ready to consider them dispassionately and ready to give each other the benefit of any doubt that may arise, it will succeed."

Voicing the belief that President Harding and Secretary Hughes are already animated by this essential spirit and that delegates from other nations must respond to the influence of the favorable position in which it places the United States, Mr. Steed voiced the tremendously encouraging impression gathered in the course of his American tour that "even in quarters which consider themselves anti-British" in California, in the West and Middle West, as well as in the East, "there is a keen intuitive feeling that if the conference succeeds it will be because the representatives of the English-speaking peoples trust and support each other from the beginning to the end." In England, the masses of the people, he affirmed, are animated by the same feeling.

That this broadmindedness shall be expanded and emphasized on both sides of the Atlantic is therefore of the utmost importance.

**New Use for Poets**

THE University of Michigan is this year offering a novel attraction to its students. They will enjoy the advantages of personal contact with a real live poet. President Burton "believing that university students should get something immeasurably greater and more valuable out of a college course than all that textbooks and lectures offer," has arranged to have Robert Frost, the New England "poet of the common life," accept a fellowship in poetry with a salary of \$5,000.

The arrangement is an ideal one for Frost. He will not have to conduct any lectures or classes; just living in Ann Arbor according to his own fancy in perfect freedom and shedding upon the students, so to speak, the light of his countenance and the inspiration of his splendid personality. He will not even have to fulfill an equivalent of the English poet laureate's function of celebrating academic glories and traditions on occasion. In President Burton's own words: "the poet will simply be a lovable human being, unhampered and unharrassed." And the popular "Prexy" foresees "how this freedom from worry and routine duties will tend to inspire him to do his greatest work." That was also probably the idea of giving the laureate a butt of malmsey.

We live in a utilitarian age. The utilization as by-products of what used to be considered waste is one of its marked features. An old-fashioned notion regarded the poet as fulfilling his chief end in life when he wrote poetry; but hereafter all the sweetness and light, the grace and beauty generated in the process will not be left to be distilled out of his writings by chance readers or partial critics contemporary or posthumous. It will fall on freshman and sophomore, junior and senior, alike, as he mingles with the boys and the co-eds while they meander in academic shades. New luster will be taken on by gridiron and baseball diamond. Lyric grace will deck the campus and "exams" will take on true epic qualities.

We remember, of course, that both Longfellow and Lowell did much of their best work while acquitting themselves of the duties of Harvard professorships. What a fine thing it would have been for Robert Burns if this new sort of fellowship had been his at Edinburgh! Yet there is the awful example of Thomas Bailey Aldrich who, in mid-career, was freed by the bequest of an admirer from any care about pleasing publishers or public—and who wrote never another line worthy of his genius! Still the experiment is one that will be watched with interest.