

THE MAY 1 DEMONSTRATION

IN THE NEWS it appears that the labor of France will make a demonstration May 1, which, so far as employees of the postal service is concerned, will take form of 24 hours absence from work.

This method of political action has thus far gained little ground in America. It takes a very comprehensive and high type of organization, not yet achieved by workers on American soil.

The chief function of such demonstrations is to attract the attention of government to the demands of the workers in a vivid manner. Workers who otherwise might vote without consideration of labor demands are stimulated to take appropriate political action.

GOING AFTER IT

EVERY COMMUNITY has its men not afraid to tackle a new thing. These citizens, workmen, all of them, who propose to tackle the ice problem on the co-operative plan, with funds raised by private subscription, may not succeed, but they have courage.

Their plan is to put up plants, one in the East and the other in the West Side, with stations on vacant lots, each station in charge of a man, from which they expect to retail ice at 40 cents a hundred. That is to say, they would charge \$8 a ton for ice they would expect to manufacture for \$4.50 a ton.

PAYING FOR THE JOB

OF ALL PEOPLE in the world the Americans have the most to be grateful for with respect to their war bills. America gained victory with the minimum of losses; gets more for her money and her energy than anybody else gets. If multitudes were willing to buy bonds when the decision was suspended in the balance, how many more must be willing to buy them now. Optimism makes a better market than pessimism. America buys bonds to pay for the delivered goods of victory. It is an easy task, measured against the task of the Central Powers, who must pay for defeat a larger bill.

BOSS ORGANIZATION

THAT THE Republican party has a most unrepresentative type of organization in Bridgeport is proved by the removal of Ballard. County Commissioner Ballard represents the Fifth District, and the district apparently wants him. But the district has nothing to say. Ballard takes his appointment, in common with other district chairmen, from the top. There is local representation in name only. In true local representation the representative is named by the people he represents.

Members of the General Assembly are not named by the governor. The people name them. Members of Congress are not named by the president, the people of their localities name them.

Mr. Ballard's Fifth District friends threaten that in default of justice for him, they will name him district leader, and let who please name the chairman.

There is in this simple action the remedy of home rule for every district. The town chairman may name whom he pleases to be head of the district, but each district may independently name its own leader. The constrictive and injurious system of taking all leadership from the top has been in use for many years. Perhaps there is no real desire for freedom.

THOSE WHO RETURN TO EUROPE

THE TESTIMONY of income tax collectors is entirely to the proposition that many thousands of foreigners in this community are preparing to return to their homes in Europe. The proof is in the large number of men who pay a tax on their incomes for 1918 with the express purpose of getting passports; which cannot be obtained unless the applicant has his income tax receipt.

The home seeking group comprises many elements of many motives. Much property of the old world is waiting for new administrators; little farms, small mercantile concerns have passed into the control of new owners by descent; and these descendants often are among those who have come to America.

A more common motive is in the desire of the home going man to care for a mother, a wife or some other relative or dependent. Death took many Europeans, and disabled more. The foreign born in America have new burdens in their homelands.

More patent than either of the impelling forces already described, perhaps, is the motive of adventure; the desire to see what war has done to one's own native village, to one's own people, and to one's own home. Powerful indeed must be this feeling in the bosom of many a sturdy foreigner. To know what his feelings are, an American has only to inquire what his feelings would be in a like situation.

What will the future be? Will there be a turning tide, in which Europe will call its own again to its territories? Will the emigration be transitory, and a returning tide move toward America?

Much depends upon the nature of the governments to be established, and their capacity to carry on an orderly and intensive industry. The best guess for the moment seems to be that Europe will after a little time be a better place to live in than it used to be.

It is the law of immigration, that men stay where they are happy and satisfied.

Much depends upon Russia. If Russia shall finally set up a stable government, managed by the Russian people, there is a great and productive soil, near at hand for Europeans, to which they go, finding more than enough to support millions of additional population.

The rest of Europe is too thickly settled to support all of its people through an indefinite period. No form of government, however efficient, and no form of distribution, however equal, can make a square mile of land support more than a certain number of persons.

Through many a long age the surplus population of Europe must go to other parts of the globe, for need of land. In time the flow of immigration will be again to the United States. For the present the labor power of America will be materially diminished by the outgoing numbers. Business must be done on the theory of a labor famine. Especially will there be a scarcity of unskilled laborers.

MAKING A HERO

IN THESE days of real heroes the art of making fictitious heroes is somewhat decadent. The versatile Mr. King, who forgets little, remembers the process, and is giving it an interesting application in the case of Will N. Hays, a very pleasing, and nice gentleman from the middle of the country,

who has been elevated to the position of Chairman of the Republican National committee.

Mr. Hays is chiefly distinguished for his efforts to bring warring politicians into harmonious relations, and for his persistent, and not particularly good natured, assaults upon the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Neither by accomplishments, nor by intellectual power, is Mr. Hays a great man. He has never rendered any service of any kind which entitles him, when he visits Bridgeport, to be received as a distinguished non-partisan visitor. He is a politician, pure and simple.

His mission in Bridgeport is to aid in the construction of an organization which will destroy President Wilson. He is not entitled to, and should not receive the moral support, nor the material support, of those who believe in the President and his policies.

Mr. King's efforts to give a non-partisan turn to a purely partisan event, are well enough from his standpoint, but not to be encouraged by those who desire to support President Wilson, nor by those who desire the permanent peace of the world.

ADDRESSING THE NATIONS

PERHAPS THE most notable part of the reply of Premier Orlando is in this paragraph:

"The practice of addressing nations directly constitutes surely an innovation in international relations.

"I do not wish to complain but I wish to record it as a precedent, so that at my own time I may follow it, inasmuch as this new custom doubtless constitutes the granting to nations of larger participations in international questions, and, personally, I have always been of the opinion that such participation was the harbinger of a new order of things."

President Wilson, having come to a deadlock in the Peace Conference, in the matter of the purpose of Italy to have Fiume, addressed an open statement to the world, including the Italian people, proclaiming the facts and the justice of the case, as those things appeared to him.

This was in accordance with the professions of the President, so often uttered, against secret treaties and secret diplomacy.

The proclamation made it impossible for the Italians, or any other people, to misunderstand the position of America. It removed from their leaders any opportunity, and indeed any probability, that the true opinions of America will be misstated.

The significant paragraph from the reply of Orlando while designating the method of address to nations as an "innovation," a little later describes it as a "new custom" which grants to nations "larger participations" in international questions.

Personally Orlando has "always been of the opinion that such participation was the harbinger of a new order of things."

The old, secret diplomacy is moribund. The new, open diplomacy ushers in a new order of things, that order in which the peoples, the very individuals of the nations, will know what is going on in international affairs in time to intervene, if it shall seem that the activities of governments are not in accord with the will of those whom the governments represent.

It is indeed a new day, in which the world will not be plunged into war without knowing why it fights and what it is fighting for.

THE PROBLEM OF FIUME

AMONG THE most ancient rights is that of access to the sea. The right to innocent passage, as it was called in ancient times is based upon such fundamentals as the right of the human creature to preserve his life. The lawgivers, long before the day of Rome, had said that no man's boat should be stopped as it went up and down the river lawfully. Innocent passage included passage across the soil of another country to the sea.

It is quite a modern concept that great rivers may be closed at will to passage of traffic, and that countries remote from the sea may be forever shut off from it, by countries along the lateral.

If there is to be peace of the world there must be conditions by which the nations may live. It is essential that the new countries, carved from Austria-Hungary, shall have access to the Mediterranean, or they must slowly strangle for lack of those commodities which are necessary to the support of modern states. In default of such an outlet to the commerce of the world, they must struggle for it, fight for it at times. This is the law of self preservation, an unavoidable law. For neither men nor nations will consent to be cut off from the elements of healthy existence without a struggle.

That there was a private treaty between Great Britain and Italy is unfortunate; but it cannot govern a condition determined by a conquest, and determined by a conquest into which America threw the preponderance necessary to decide the victory.

The other nations receive, besides the boon of self preservation, the salvage of millions of their sons and billions of their treasure, much in a material way. France gets Alsace and Lorraine; obtains lost mines of iron and coal, more precious than gold. Gets the Rhine as a barrier between herself and Germany, a zone that will be stripped of means of offense.

Italy is extended to those mountain walls, her natural frontiers, and her age old barriers, and gets much else besides.

Great Britain obtains possessions, safety, a renewal of opportunity to be first, or among the first, in trade. All get great indemnities.

America gets nothing, asks nothing, except the opportunity to make the world sure for peace and safe for democracy. If America fails in either of these aspirations, the sons of the people have been sacrificed in vain.

Under the new order there should be none who lack access to the seas; to the great rivers that flow through and between countries. The Rhine and the Bosphorus should be internationalized.

A world of peace must be a world of live and let live. America is behind the President.

The great masses of the people of Italy, the great common people, and all of vision and foresight will assent to his necessary and reasonable demand that the new Republics shall have a road to the sea.

THE SUPREME OFFENSE

THE PEACE terms establish three classes of offenders, who are to be tried and punished.

In the first class, alone, solitary, separated is William II of Hohenzollern, formerly German emperor.

In the second class are all persons accused of violations

of the laws and customs of war.

In the third class, those guilty of criminal acts against the nations of one of the Allied and Associated Powers.

The Allied and Associated Powers, finding no existing laws, nor any existing tribunals to meet the case of William, follow the precedents of others wars and make a policy to fit the conditions. Using the power of the conquerors they establish a tribunal of five judges, one each from the United States of America, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan.

By this unique court William will be tried, not for an offense against criminal law, but "for a supreme offense against international morality and the sanctity of treaties."

This is a new order of accusation, which is possible only in an era, when the rights of the world are admitted, and its customs, ceasing to be merely such begin to take the form of supreme laws.

What then is the punishment that may be meted.

Those who committed offenses against the laws and customs of war will frequently be subjected to the penalty of death. The crimes with which they are charged have no high rank. They need no special tribunal. They may be punished according to usual methods of military tribunals, each culprit suffering the justice of a military court of the nation he offended. Since men no longer torture their fellow men, death is the extreme penalty that may be inflicted.

William is charged more gravely. He is accused of a supreme offense against the whole world, and against the solemn agreements of the world; an offense which has cost millions of lives and anguish untold.

He is not merely a murderer; or one who has broken some statute. A man may break a law and not outrage morality; all break laws who conduct righteous rebellions; and do not offend morality, but support it. William has not offended against law. He has committed a supreme offense against morality itself. He is indicted not under criminal law, but as the chief criminal of his times, whose offense surpasses a crime, as the world surpasses a village.

The tribunal (which is founded on policy, which is established by conquerors to fulfill the objects for which they conquered) is not bound by law, the law that is written upon the law books of individual nations.

Its decision may be given to support world morality, in such a way as to most completely warn other ambitious rulers, who may desire also to commit a supreme offense.

The death penalty alone can meet the case of William, if he is proven guilty of the charge against him.

A penalty less than death would involve the illogical condition of many lesser men punished with the penalty of death, for mere crimes; while a supreme offender against international morality, would suffer a lesser fate.

POOR THINKING

PETER GOLDEN, who is a speaker of much eloquence and a devoted Irish patriot, made a speech before the American Labor party, yesterday, in which he committed two errors, assisting in neither case the cause he represents. He repeated his mistake of attacking President Wilson. He made the assertion that if all the peoples of the world had done as Ireland did, and refused conscription, that no blood would have been shed in Europe; or that Europe would not have become a charnel house.

For this assertion there is absolutely no proof. No man can say what would have been the result if there had been no conscription in Europe, and all had depended upon volunteer armies.

The fighting spirit of man does not depend upon conscription. The Irish of the late rebellion were volunteers. Had the power of conscription been theirs they might have been successful, for they could have made an equal demand for the aid of all in sympathy with their cause.

The fallacy in this species of reasoning, in which Mr. Golden indulges himself, is twofold. It is futile to attempt to say of any past time, in which complex events occurred, what would have happened if some element in the intricate scheme had been different than it was.

It is futile to deal with facts and things that have a substantial and active existence, as if they had no existence. Germany had a powerful army. It had to be met and beaten, or Germany might have prevailed.

This too is a statement which attempts to say what the case would have been in the present, if some element in the past had been different. Neither is this statement subject to proof. Germany unopposed, might have met with internal revolution, or something might have intervened. But the proposition seems to be reasonable, that if Germany had been unopposed she would have conquered. She almost conquered in spite of opposition.

Since the rest of the world opposed, it desired to oppose effectively, and among other effective means, adopted conscription, which is a simple rule that requires all who share in the benefits of a government to fight for the support of the government.

Mr. Golden might as well say that men would suffocate if there were no air; or that they would drown if they fell into the ocean, as to say that there would have been no dead if their had been no conscription. There was conscription.

Mr. Golden might as well say there would be no murders if there were no knives. Men murder with many implements, and conduct wars without conscription.

This newspaper believes in the Irish cause. It has long supported every movement to secure Irish ideals. The Times-Farmer does not believe that the cause of Ireland is helped by attacks upon the American President, nor by footless attempts to deny the actual facts of life.

Woodrow Wilson is doing more today to secure the happiness and the liberties of the Irish people than any other living man. But he is not concerned alone with Irish liberties; he is concerned with the liberties of the world, with American liberties, with happiness, order, peace and safety for all mankind.

Those who attack him while he toils in this tremendous task do ill indeed. Many have joined to attack him. Some are selfish, some malicious, some jealous, and some sincere, but all are wrong.

Mr. Wilson needs, and should have the support of every true hearted man and woman.

VOTED RIGHT

BRIDGEPORT MAY congratulate itself that Senators Geo. B. Clark and F. A. Bartlett are among those who voted to give the presidential suffrage to women.

There was a time in the history of the United States when the question of votes for women was debatable. This time has passed. The question of right is long since determined. The state which withholds the right is putting a seal upon its compact with what is reactionary and outworn.

DESIRE TO OPEN SANITARIUM

State Tuberculosis Commission Sends Letter To Committee.

Hartford, April 29—The state tuberculosis commission today, in an effort to secure a sanitarium for children suffering from bone tuberculosis sent an open letter to the legislative committee on public health and safety telling it that its members were deceived last week when they were told that the tuberculosis commission had secured an option on other property than the old White Beach hotel at East Lyme and had agreed with East Lyme residents to accept another site. The commission asked the legislative committee to allow the opening of the proposed sanitarium at East Lyme and to correct the impression given by their report to the legislature which, if passed by the legislature week will kill all hope of the commission for relieving cases of bone tuberculosis till the next legislature meets in two years.

OFFICIAL ARMY REGISTER IS OUT

Gives Name, Rank and Precedence of Every Officer.

Washington, April 19—The official army register for 1919—the first issue of this periodical which gives the name, rank and precedence of each officer in the register and to appear since 1915—has just come from the printer. The publication of the issues of 1916 and 1917 was held up by the war department both because of the value of its contents to the enemy and because of the impossibility of gathering accurate data while the composition of the army was undergoing so great and rapid changes. The new issue, under the "permanent establishment" head, gives the names of Peyton C. March and John J. Pershing as heading the rank of general, and lists Hunter Liggett and Robert L. Bullard as the only two lieutenant generals. Leonard Wood heads the lists of permanent major generals which now includes 89 names. There are 202 brigadiers, 1,473 colonels and 1,467 lieutenant colonels. In all 1,847 officers are listed as in the regular army.

PARIS PAPERS DO NOT ENTHUSE

"Pertinax" Says "League Is Dead Before Birth."

Paris, April 29—The covenant of the League of Nations arouses little enthusiasm in the Paris press. Many of the principal newspapers abstain from comment altogether. L'Ouverture, which has always been a champion of the league and of President Wilson, says:

"Speaking generally, we are bound to say the pact of the League of Nations causes a certain amount of disappointment. Its 26 articles constitute really the statute of the League or governments to safeguard their territorial sovereignty, and are not a new charter of the law of nations which had been hoped for."

The newspaper thinks the resignation shown by Belgium, Japan and France must be due to promises or special guarantees which will be known, perhaps, "when diplomacy is no longer secret."

Writing in the Echo De Paris "Pertinax" spokesman of the Nationalists, declares that the League of Nations is dead before birth. He also refers to rumors of treaties being made between the Allied powers, remarking: "To reassure us, Premier Clemenceau and Foreign Minister Pichon allege they hold favorable alliances in their portfolios. Those parchments must be beautiful, complete and eloquent to justify such delicacy on the part of the French ministers."

All the newspapers point out that great concessions were made by France. Some of the journals even declare that these concessions amount to a surrender. As a whole, however, the press expresses the hope that later amendments will result in satisfying what are regarded as legitimate claims of France and the other countries, which as the Havas agency summary of the comment words it, "showed their moderation by abstaining from insisting yesterday upon an immediate vote" on the changes in the covenant which they were advocating.

IN CLASS ALL BY HIMSELF

Washington, April 29—One railroad employe in the United States is in a class all by himself. This was developed by a railroad administration statistical report showing employes divided into 63 classes, and giving the working time and wages of each class. Most classes contained tens or hundreds of thousands of workmen. "Class 65, express service employes," consisted of one man, hired by a southern road to carry special packages.

"Class 65, express employes," has a whole column of a statistical report devoted to this man, who has the further distinction of having had his wages cut 46 per cent. in the last year.

For panhandling at the railroad station James Cunningham, 881 Broad street, and Jefferson R. Bateman of Water street, were each sent to jail for 30 days by the city court yesterday. Cunningham admitted that he has been drunk for a week, but denied asking people for money. Bateman did not deny telling some people that he "could use two-bits."