

**THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS**

(Continued from first page.)

I come from a family of Democrats of the most violent sort. They would vote for anybody the Democratic Party put up. At least they have voted for Bryan, and I think this justifies me in saying they would vote for anybody. So you see it is sort of natural for me to be a Democrat, for it runs in the blood. But I have reached the end of the road.

The greatest issue before the American people at this moment is not the League of Nations, but the deadlock which exists between the President and the Senate. Before the League of Nations can be properly disposed of the President and the Senate will have to get on speaking terms. What is responsible for this brawl between the Chief Executive and the law-making body of this Nation? Just this:

Our Constitution provides that: "The President shall have power, by and with the ADVICE and CONSENT of the Senate, to make treaties." The League of Nations is nothing more or less than a treaty.

In the Senate there is a Committee known as the Foreign Relations Committee. Under the rules of the Senate the proposition known as the League of Nations must come before this Committee before it can be acted upon by the Senate. The Foreign Relations Committee is comprised of some of the ablest men in public life, men who have had years of experience in matters bearing upon international law and our relations with the rest of the world.

Before the League of Nations comes operative it must be passed by the Senate.

What happens. The President sails off to France on his first visit. Does he consult with the Senate? No. Does he confer with the Foreign Relations Committee? No. Does he take any members of the Foreign Relations Committee with him? No.

Gentle Reader, if you were a member of the United States Senate, do you think this would please you? If you were a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, how do you think you would like it? Not much, unless you are a weakling and a saphead.

The selection of those who accompanied the President was a slap at the Republican Party, and his failure to consult and advise with the Senate was a slap at Congress. Whether it was intentional, or temperamental, makes no difference. The fact remains:

After acquiring the habit of eating off gold plates, and mingling with Kings, Queens and Princes, the President returns with the constitution of the League of Nations in his pocket.

We are advised that on his arrival in Boston a speech will be made of the utmost significance. Let us here remember that the President had sent us a wireless with the request that discussion be dispensed with until his arrival. He would tell us all about it when he got here.

Well, our President delivered his heralded speech in Boston. He uttered not one word in practical defense of the proposed covenant. His speech consisted of generalities and sweet dreams about a world without war. In effect he argued that if we adopted the League of Nations everything would be sweet and lovely. If not everything would go to the devil.

The tolerant and long suffering public were then treated to a sensational dispatch which emanated from the White House, that the world at large would be enlightened. At last! At last! The President had invited this same Foreign Relations Committee to dinner and would there submit himself to a rigid cross-examination. But, alas! we did not know then, but know now, that a verbatim report of what was said was to be withheld from the Press, and the Public.

Until the President arrived every member of Congress, both Republican and Democratic, confidently expected an extra session of Congress, which must be called by the President. Without the slightest warning, or previous intimation, the President announced that he would not call an extra session, and that the Country could blame certain Senators for it.

And then the Senators, like the rest of us, being human, retaliated. They filibustered, and hindered important measures being passed. They may have thought the President would give in, but Lord, they didn't know him,—but that is not important. That such urgent bills as the Railroad Administration Bill did not pass, is the fault of the Senate. That the Congress is not NOW legislating is the fault of the President.

Once again the American people hoped to hear something specific from the President with reference to the League. He was to appear on Tuesday night, March 4th, in New York.

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and there make another speech.

I challenge a successful contradiction of the statement that the President, in his New York speech, made not one single definite and constructive statement in support of the provisions of the constitution of this proposed covenant. As in Boston we were treated to a discourse on generalities, theories, high-sounding phrases, and the like.

Here is a sample:

"I have tried once and again, my fellow-citizens, to say to little circles of friends or to larger bodies what seems to be the real hope of the peoples of Europe, and I tell you frankly I have not been able to do so, because when the thought tries to crowd itself into speech, profound emotion of the thing is too much; speech will not carry. I have felt the tragedy of the hope of those suffering people."

Ye Gods! This is nothing more or less than sentimental nonsense. In other words this League is such a damned emotional affair, it cannot be described. If the President could but wade through his emotion, perhaps he could get down to brass tacks and talk turkey. Imagine, if you can, Abraham Lincoln talking this way to a patient and waiting public about such a far-reaching and drastic document as the League of Nations. Lincoln had plenty of sentiment, but he knew when to display it.

And so the President has left us again. We are without a Congress; we are without a policy; we are without a President. We are without Colonel House, but for that we ought to be thankful. We are drifting God knows where.

The President is not a good mixer. He thinks, works and acts alone, and in consequence is very unyielding. In short, he is an autocrat. His chief advisor is Colonel House, and Colonel House is silent. Colonel House is not exactly deaf and dumb, but he doesn't talk. He, like the illustrious Burlison, the Postmaster General, hails from far away Texas. No one knew much about either of them until the President brought them forth.

The President is unwilling, or unable, to surround himself with big men. The inefficiency of his Cabinet is an amazing miscarriage of judgment. Leslie M. Garetson was the one able man of the whole crowd. But he got out because he saw what Germany was up to and wanted the President to get ready, but his plans went by the wayside. We only entered the war after we had become the laughing stock of the world.

Every time I hear some well-meaning, but mis-informed, gent brag about how we saved civilization, I feel like hiring a hall and presenting a mass of documentary evidence to show that hundreds of thousands of lives could have been saved had we not been too proud to fight; after Germany had murdered our women and children by the sinking of the Lusitania, thereby disregarding the solemn pledges of international law.

It may be that the United States should be a party to the League of Nations. It may be the time has come for us to turn our backs on Washington's Farewell Address, and throw the Monroe Doctrine into the scrap-heap. It may be we should cross the Atlantic and engage ourselves in the mad passions of Europe, which have raged for more than three centuries. It may be we should walk arm and arm with the same England we had to fight and lick to be free, and with whom we have been on the verge of war more than once since. But in the meanwhile, my friends, don't resent the cries of those patriots who say unto you, "America First!"

And while we are considering this League of Nations let us reflect upon the words of Woodrow Wilson. The following words were uttered by him in Washington on May 6, 1914, at the unveiling of the Barry monument:

"There are just as vital things stirring now that concern the existence of the Nation as were stirring then, and every man who heartily stands in this presence should examine himself and see whether he has the full conception of what it means that AMERICA SHOULD LIVE HER OWN LIFE. Washington saw it when he wrote his Farewell Address. It was not merely because of passing and transient circumstances that Washington said we must keep FROM ENTANGLING ALLIANCES. We cannot form alliances with those who are not going our way; and in our might and majesty and in the confidence and definiteness of our own purpose, WE NEED NOT AND WE SHOULD NOT FORM ALLIANCES WITH ANY NATION IN THE WORLD. Those who are right, those who study their consciences in determining their policies, THOSE WHO HOLD THEIR HONOR HIGHER THAN THEIR ADVANTAGE, DO NOT NEED ALLIANCES.

"When we go out from this presence we ought to take this idea with us that we, too, are devoted to the purpose of enabling America TO LIVE HER OWN LIFE, to be the justest, the most progressive, the most honorable, the most enlightened nation in the world."

And once again, my friends of Cecil county, let us reflect upon a more recent utterance of the same Woodrow Wilson. On January 6, 1916, President Wilson uttered these words to the Pan-American Congress in Washington:

"The Monroe Doctrine was proclaimed by the United States on her own authority. It always has been maintained, AND ALWAYS WILL BE MAINTAINED UPON HER OWN RESPONSIBILITY."

Was the President misinformed when he uttered these words, or is he misinformed now? If he was right then he is wrong now. If he is wrong now he was right then. If he could once spend his emotion perhaps he could explain a reversal of these inexorable words. It is always proper for us to change our views, but when it comes to a right-about-face of principles affecting the universe, that is something else. In that event the American people are entitled to, and should demand, something more than sweet-scented generalities, a silent Colonel House, and a rubber-stamp Cabinet.



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