

World League Is Party Issue, Borah Insists

Senator Declares President Wilson Made It So When He Called in Democratic Leaders to Discuss It

Opposes Lodge's Position

Says if Republicans Fail to Act They Must Give Way to Organization That Will

Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, May 25.—Senator Borah, principal opponent in the Senate of the league of nations, said today that the league is a party issue, having been made so by the President, and that the Republican party, if it fails to take a stand on the question, must give place to a party that will.

In stamping the league as a party issue, Senator Borah took direct issue with Senator Lodge, leader of his party in the Senate. During the Senate's last league of nations debate Senator Lodge declared that the league is not a party question, and added, in response to questions, that it never had been mentioned at any Republican conference.

"Only yesterday," he said, "in speaking to the state chairmen of all states of the Union of the Republican party, I distinctly stated that I could not discuss with them the league of nations, because I did not regard it as a party question, and never have."

Letter to Kansas

Senator Borah's opinion was given in a letter to D. E. Dunne, an official of the Sedgwick Republican Club of Wichita, Kan., who had called to his attention resolutions passed by the club denouncing the league.

"A political party which would fail to take a stand upon a question which involves the honor and the independence of our republic would be fit for the derision and contempt of all patriotic men," said the Senator in his letter.

"Those who urge that this is not a matter for party action shut their eyes to facts and close their minds to the things which are transpiring about us. It is already a party matter. The second night before the President left the second time for a foreign capital he called his party organization into consultation. One need not speculate as to what took place. The able and faithful chairman of the Democratic party hastened from the White House to the first public rostrum and announced the position of the party and denounced all who opposed the league as doing so for party reasons.

Party Issue Ever Since
"It was then and there made, and ever since has been, a party issue, so far as the Democratic party is concerned. Do you know of any newspaper recognized as a party organ that is not advocating it, and advocating it along party lines? They were all for the first draft, because it was perfect, and they are all for the second draft because, as they say, it has been greatly improved. But whatever the draft be, they are for it, and for party reasons.

"It is true that there are thousands of loyal Democrats who place their country above their party and are not for it. These men will never be for the party again while it stands for this treacherous scheme. They are entitled to the commendation of their countrymen. But having left a party because it is for the league, will they take refuge with a party which would have no policy in regard to it?"

"But vastly more important is this: Can a political party survive the miserable rôle of having no word to utter, as a party, to its millions of supporters when the most vital problem ever presented to our people is up for consideration? What is a political party for—to steal into office upon passing incidents, and by reason of temporary blunders, and leave the great questions which involve the honor of our country and the tranquillity and the happiness of our people as a whole to go unnoticed?"

Position of the Masses

"The great mass of the people are not members of a political party for the leaves and fishes, haunted with an eager appetite for the fish pots. They are there because it furnishes them the method, and the only method, under our form of government, of effectuating their wishes and their purposes in regard to the questions which touch most nearly the welfare of their government and the prosperity and power of the nation. The greater the problem, therefore, the more searching it reaches for the fundamental principles of government, and the more quickly and boldly should political organizations speak forth. It must take a position in such a controversy."

Mr. Borah pointed to the example of the Whig party. It died of "pure political fright," he said, "when it remained silent in order to preserve unity and enjoy the honey while the question of slavery was beginning to stir the American people.

"What the organization of the party did not have the courage to do, its voters, with many splendid acquisitions, did do, under another name."

The old Federal party committed political suicide, he said, when at the height of its power it struck at the rights of the press and at free speech.

Must Take Position

"No political party," the Senator went on, "can live in a government controlled by its moral forces and public opinion and dedicated to liberty which refuses to take a position upon the great problems of national existence, or which strikes at the fundamental guarantees of personal liberty.

"We have before us the question of whether we shall keep ourselves free from entangling alliances with European powers, and whether we shall keep the Western Continent free from the intrigues and conspiracies of the Old World; whether we shall determine for ourselves and upon our own sense of justice and righteousness when we shall send our people to war

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or whether we shall delegate that power to a tribunal composed almost entirely of foreigners; whether we shall keep our young men at home free from the sacrifices of war until our own sense of duty and our own loyalty to country demand otherwise, or whether we shall send them to the northern shambles of Asia or to perform the menial service of police dogs in Europe under the orders of a 'council' controlled by those who are in nowise responsible to the American people.

Who Shall Control?

"In short, the question is whether this country will continue to be under the control and domination of those who live in it, sons and daughters of those who made it free, or whether it will be dominated and vexed and embarrassed by those who owe no allegiance to the flag and have no love for our institutions.

"If these questions are not for party action and party declaration, pray what could be? And the Republican party, the party which was organized to destroy human slavery and preserve the Union, is the party above all which should be vigilant to protect the untrammelled independence and the unchallenged sovereignty of this nation.

"I hope to see, and I expect to see, the Republican party take a firm, open, uncompromising position upon all these questions. I hope to see it enter upon the task without hesitancy or faltering, to restore the American republic to the American people, to re-establish a free press, free speech and the right of free assembly, to reject once and for all the disloyal doctrine that the American Constitution can be subordinated to a pact with foreign powers. It cannot be true to its traditions and loyal to its best days and do otherwise. If it fails to do so, some other political party will take up the task."

Reds Ask Truce For Discussion Of Peace Terms

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shewiki are destroying their superfluous ammunition supplies, preparatory to retreat southward.

Truce Offer Reported Rejected

Helsingfors dispatches declare that the Bolshevik demand for an armistice from Admiral Kolchak has been refused. This, coupled with the reports of anti-Bolshevik advances upon Petrograd from the north and west, as well as Kolchak's successes along the Trans-Siberian and General Denikine's advances from the Don district toward the Volga, is regarded in conference circles as proof that the Bolshevik

ministers Lenine and Trotzky are facing the worst crisis the Bolshevik government has encountered.

Morris's Trip Discussed

The trip to Omsk of Ira Nelson Morris, the American Minister to Sweden, is causing much discussion in the French press, which is speculating as to whether the United States will reach a decision on Russia affairs until Mr. Morris's report is received. Apparently the United States is the only one of the great powers that has not yet reached a conclusion with respect to the Omsk government.

New York Tribune Special Cable Service

PARIS, May 25.—President Wilson's supporters here now believe that even if the President does not agree that America shall join in recognition of the Kolchak government in Russia he will not object to recognition by the Allies and to the giving of assistance which will enable the anti-Bolshevik forces to overthrow the Lenine-Trotzky régime.

TOKIO, May 25 (By The Associated Press).—It is understood it has been officially suggested that the recognition of the powers of Admiral Kolchak's Omsk government shall be on the condition that the government satisfies all treaties and arrangements entered into by Russia prior to the Bolshevik revolution.

In business circles here the belief is expressed that loans could be made to the Siberian government, with the gold mines and possibly the Trans-Siberian Railway as security.

U. S. Suffers First Losses in Siberia

Three Americans Hurt in Pursuit of Band That Attacked Train

VLADIVOSTOK, May 25 (By The Associated Press).—The first casualties in the American Expeditionary Force in Siberia were experienced May 21, when three Americans were slightly wounded. They were pursuing through the hills Bolsheviks who had attacked a running train guarded by Americans, forty miles northeast of Vladivostok, near Shkotova, at the head of Ussuri Bay, in the maritime province. The

province is seething with disorder and revolt against the authority of Admiral Kolchak.

The attack occurred on the route to the Suchan mines, on the section of the railroad under American protection. When the train was fired upon the Americans gave three hours' chase, firing wherever they saw the Bolsheviks. Additional American troops have been dispatched to the Suchan district. Reports from Kolchak government sources say the organized bands of Bolsheviks number 10,000. The Americans are operating in extreme wet and foggy weather, but are "carrying on" magnificently.

Major General William B. Graves, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, returned to Vladivostok May 22, after an inspection of the Suchan district. The attack on the train is considered an overt act, in view of the proclamation of General Graves that no faction should interfere with the operation of the railroad.

The Bolsheviks are believed to have been testing the attitude of the Americans. The promptness with which the Americans inflicted punishment on the Bolsheviks has cheered the Kolchak government, which expects an active campaign by them. General Graves, however, says the American policy has not been changed, and that the American troops are merely protecting the railroad from all who interfere with the transport of supplies and passengers.

Trains guarded by Japanese in the adjoining sector of the Ussuri line also are reported to have been attacked. An entire trainload of arms and ammunition is reported to have been captured.

Let's Ask German Aid Against the Bolsheviks

Want Berlin Troops to Stay on Riga Front; American Food Supplies Are Needed

LIBAU, Friday, May 23.—The Lett government has requested the German government to permit German troops to remain in Lettland, as the Lett Landwehr is unable to hold the front alone against the Bolsheviks.

The main portions of Riga were captured after fierce fighting, but the struggle is still proceeding in the eastern part of the city. Many Bolshevik commissaries fell into the hands of the Lett Landwehr. All political prisoners were released.

The German troops maintained contact with the Landwehr throughout the heavy fighting. The fighting front now runs from Riga to Bausk and across the Eckau-Mitau railway.

The American Food Commission has sent 400 tons of flour to Riga, and itself is proceeding to Riga to-day.

German Note Denies Full Blame for War

Rantzen Says Material Damage Done Was Work of Allies as Well as the Teutons

PARIS, May 25 (By The Associated Press).—Count von Brockdorff-Rantzen's thirteenth note to the Allied Council was delivered this morning. It is a rejoinder to the council's reply to the German note regarding responsibilities.

Count von Brockdorff-Rantzen insists that Germany's only responsibility is for the violation of Belgian neutrality, which it is ready to make reparation for, and declares that all the powers were responsible for the war and that the material damage done was the work of the Allied armies, as well as the Germans.

General Count Max Montgelas and Professor Weber, members of the German peace delegation, left for Berlin to-night. Before their departure they approved the reply to be made to the peace conference on the provisions of the treaty dealing with the demand

for punishment of the former Emperor and financial arrangements. Herr Dietrich, another delegate, also left for Berlin.

Austrians Urge "Big 4" To Hurry Peace Terms

COPENHAGEN, May 25.—Dr. Karl Renner, Austrian Chancellor and head of the German-Austrian peace delegation, has addressed a note to Premier Clemenceau complaining at the delay of the peace conference in submitting the peace terms, which he says "is arousing grave anxiety regarding the maintenance of peace and order in our fatherland."

The note also calls attention to the expense of keeping the delegation abroad and appeals to the peace conference to open negotiations as speedily as possible.

Germans Begin Effort to Grab French Market

Hardware Is Being Sent In Wholesale, Some of It Disguised, Other Openly Having Teutonic Trademark

PARIS, May 25.—While each day sees the French franc falling in value in relation to dollars and pounds sterling, some fears are now expressed that

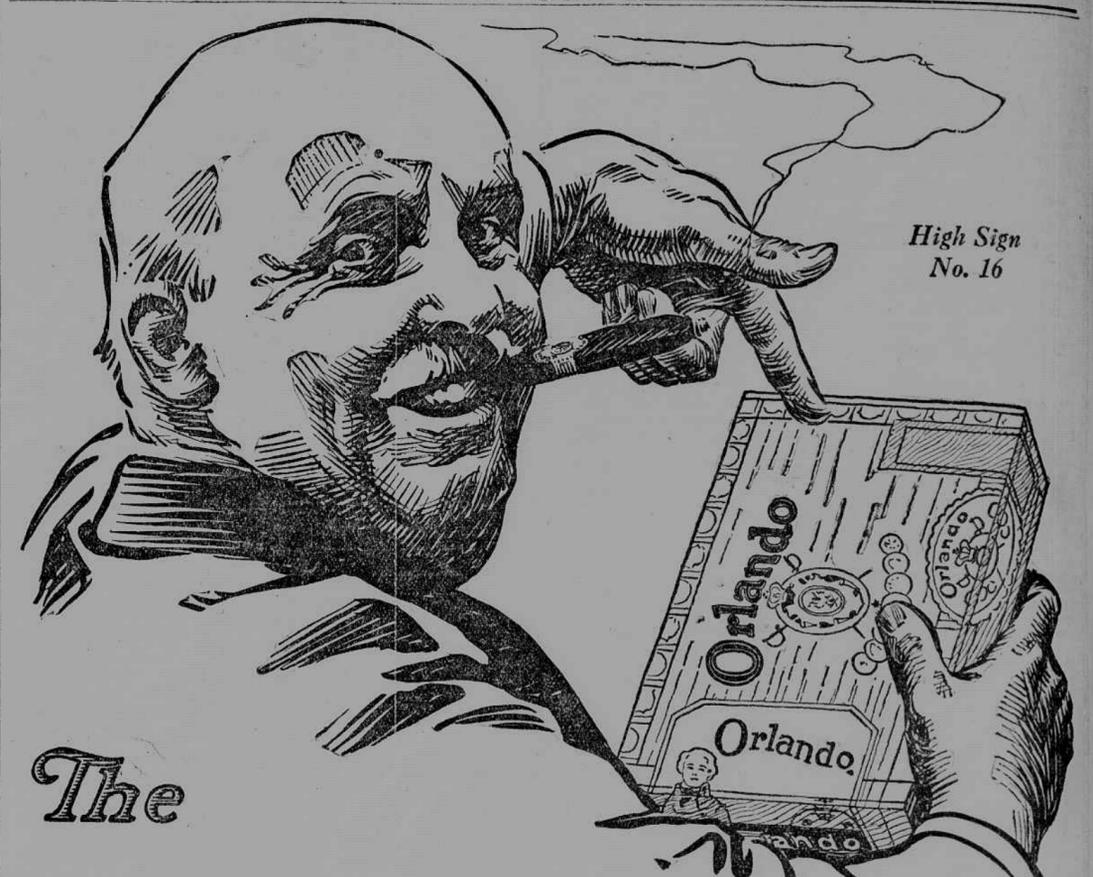
German commercial invasion of France already has begun. Thus the "Matin" this morning points out that while 100 francs may be exchanged for 208 francs' worth of goods in Germany to-day, the same sum is good in Great Britain for only 73, and but 67 in the United States.

The result is, says the paper, that German razors, scissors and hardware are being sent wholesale into France, some shipments disguised but others openly bearing the German trademarks.

The "Matin" argues that the falling mark exchange is working to the advantage of Germany, but inquiry in financial circles failed to give any support to this view. Advantage, it is pointed out, can accrue to Germany only while she is clearing out old stocks, but will promptly disappear when she comes to buy raw materials. American experts here say German stocks are inconsiderable, and that her

sales cannot reach a point where they will affect the economic situation. The steady decline of the franc, however, is admitted to be the most serious indication of France's financial plight, and experts agree with the "Matin," which asks whether the French government has an economic policy.

"Has the government, in decreasing the free importation of raw materials thought to assure to French buyers credits in allied markets? For if it has not the decree will only help to raise the dollar and the pound sterling." Students of the French situation point out the ultimate need of stringent taxation, but are certain that the government first proposing it will lose power. They ask, when will the mass of the French people realize that what ever they get from Germany must be insufficient to obviate their great financial sacrifices and set themselves courageously to face the facts?



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