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Whispers of Obstruction

American entry into the League of Nations was prevented, as the public is aware, by a coalition between the "irreconcilable" Senators and the rubber-stamp Wilson Senators.

Neither group was important in itself. The Republicans voted for ratification by a large majority.

But together the two groups were more than one-third and were able to interpose a veto.

In view of this record a dispatch in yesterday's World from Washington, written by Louis Seibold, who in times past has been used by Mr. Wilson as a transmitter, has interested "Friends," it said, "who have recently discussed international matters with Mr. Wilson, while not attempting to reflect his personal opinions, have come away with certain definite impressions."

The former President is opposed to participation by this country in the Council of the Allies, and, it would seem, is getting ready, if conditions are propitious, to obstruct the Harding-Hughes policy.

This reported attitude is of some consequence. The Borah-Johnson group of irreconcilables is not pleased with President Harding's action.

The members of the group are muttering. Should the Wilson hangers be able to muster a considerable part of the Democratic membership of the Senate they would go on the warpath.

As practical men they would doubtless be willing to become Mr. Wilson's political bedfellows again.

But obstruction will not be as easy as a year ago. Then many persons, blinded by partisanship, couldn't look at the facts calmly and see where was the impediment to ratification.

But they can hardly be fooled a second time in the same way. If Mr. Wilson makes common cause with Messrs. Borah and Johnson it will be difficult to cover up what the union means—namely, the aloofness and isolation of the United States.

Mr. Wilson is, of course, right. Mr. Seibold holds, that the participation of this country in the Allied Council differs from our unconditional entry into the Geneva league.

The League Council of Nine is one body and the Supreme Council of the Allies another. Both can scarcely be world boss at the same time. Indeed, the Geneva league council is already in many respects as if it were not; the Supreme Council of the Allies is exercising its most important functions—is making the real decisions.

A large number of Democratic newspapers have heartily approved the Harding-Hughes action, some of them hailing it as a first step to Geneva. Will they throw their ideas in reverse and follow the former President if he launches an obstructive campaign?

To-day at Morningside From many points of view the solemnities at Morningside will strongly appeal to the public. There are only a few places occupancy of which makes an incumbent per se a leader of the city's life, and headship of the episcopal diocese is one of them.

But there are special reasons why the installation of the present bishop challenges attention. By the side of the crucifer at the head of the procession will walk a standard bearer carrying the American flag, an appropriate reminder of the stalwart Americanism and loyalty of Dr. Manning, always exhibited by him, but most finely in the crisis of the World War. But it will be more than that. It will denote the complete separation of church and state, and at the same time their harmonious cooperation in the service of the people.

is distinguished and honorable. It would be invidious to make comparisons among them. But at least it may unhesitatingly be said that not one of them entered upon his office at a time or in circumstances more auspicious of possibilities of great service to God and man than does, to-day, the Right Reverend William T. Manning.

Climbing Down

Matters are turning out as expected. Germany is imitating the 'coon made famous by Davy Crockett and says: "Don't shoot! I'll climb down."

After a vast ado of words, sometimes to the effect she wouldn't and then again that she couldn't, she will accept and sign. In the language of military bulletins there is a retirement to a position prepared in advance.

The whole reparation proceeding is most strikingly and amusingly German.

Has Germany any idea of keeping her word? All will hope so. But no Jonah's gourd of faith has suddenly shot up. Germany will pay—if she has to; and as long as this is her spirit it is, of course, useless to talk of loosening the bonds that constrain her.

The Lusk Bills In a memorandum filed with his signature of the Lusk bills Governor Miller strongly resents the imputation that they muzzle freedom of thought by teachers. It is agreeable to note he bases his approval on other grounds and that he thus concedes the unwisdom of a censorship over ideas.

The Tribune, for reasons it has expressed, has opposed the Lusk bills. They came close to, even though they did not pass, the line which historic Americanism has drawn, and threw doubt, or seemed to throw doubt, on principles under which the country has waxed great.

Public action that even seemed to verge toward the creation of a new rule appeared of doubtful wisdom. No adequate necessity for anything favoring of innovation was manifest.

The Governor himself puts his finger on the questionable clause of the principal bill. It is agreed, we think, by all right-minded persons that those who advocate the destruction of the existing government by force have no place in the schools.

But the clause which limits the right to advocate a form of government other than the one we now have is another matter. Utopians the world has always had, and many great pedagogues have been of this type. Our form of government seems adapted to our needs, but there is nothing sacred about it.

Jefferson wanted the Constitution rewritten every generation.

Yet it is not strange that parents are sensitive to influences enveloping their children. It is a lamentable fact that many agitators who come into teaching forces are tricky. They pretend in words to be devoted to moral suasion, yet often steadily seek to insinuate the force doctrine. It is this insincerity that the Lusk laws are aimed at, rather than at honest inquiry and discussion.

As a matter of fact there is far more reason to fear that sneaking disloyalists will still infest the schools than that liberty will be invaded.

The Railroad Muddle Much good ought to come out of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee's investigation of the railroad muddle. Congress passed a law last year—the Esch-Cummins act—which for the first time recognized the obligations imposed on the government by its assumption of economic control of the roads.

The old one-sided policy of regulation in the shippers' interest, with no corresponding duty to provide revenue for the carriers and keep them solvent, going concerns, was moderated—and in theory, at least, abandoned.

The Esch-Cummins act directed the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix freight and passenger rates which would produce a fair return on the value of railroad properties. The commission raised rates last fall, but most of the roads have been losing money ever since.

The increase, coming at a time of business depression, accelerated the falling off of productive traffic. The higher rates have also irritated many classes of shippers. There is a growing demand for rate reduction, and the railroads themselves feel that they would be better off if they could be assured of a larger volume of business at lower rates.

The plight of the carriers and the embarrassments of the government are due primarily to the blunders of the Federal railroad administration. The Director General of Railroads pursued an eccentric, cart-before-the-horse policy. Instead of making war-time traffic pay for itself and produce a betterment surplus, he ran the carriers at a heavy loss and saddled the deficit on the Treasury.

He expanded costs of operation enormously, without making corresponding increases in rates. When the economic reaction came after the war the government should have been in a position to turn the roads back physically intact and in an improved financial condition and to give the public the immediate relief of rate reductions. Instead, it turned them back crippled and over-weighted with operating expenses, and was obliged to sanction big in-

creases in rates. To top off its mismanagement the Federal administration left the Treasury a deficit account, which has mounted now to \$1,200,000,000.

The Esch-Cummins law was an honest effort to repair some of the damage done by Mr. McAdoo and his successors. The Railroad Labor Board is finally moving to liquidate a part of the evil McAdoo legacy. The Senate committee faces the fact that railroad operating costs are excessive and that railroad income has fallen miserably below the fair return guaranteed by Congress.

The new policy embodied in the Esch-Cummins act is sound. The problem to-day is to remove the obstacles to its application which were created by unintelligent war management.

Preparedness Again

On May 4 last, referring to an editorial in The Tribune on the value of preparedness, The World ironically remarked that Germany, Russia and France had been prepared for war in 1914 and that "in consequence they have known nothing but peace and happiness."

"Preparedness," sarcastically said The World in conclusion, "is indeed the best insurance, and if there are careless people who have forgotten it, the thing to do is to explain to them simply and clearly the priceless benefits that Europe has reaped during the last seven years from preparedness for war."

Yet in its edition of Monday The World quoted General Pershing as follows: "It is my belief that if America had been adequately prepared our rights would never have been violated nor our safety threatened."

General Pershing is obviously misinformed. The World should take up the work of his education.

Eight-Hour Sailors

In the good old days of clipper ships, when the American flag was in every port, the merchant sailor, like the bluejacket of the navy, stood watch and watch at sea. And when off watch he always responded quickly, night or day, to the call, "All hands reef topsails!" in a squall.

He would turn out of a warm hammock and hustle up on deck, growling, perhaps, at the hard luck that robbed him of sleep and kept him aloft for hours in cold and rainy weather during his "watch below." But he took it as a part of the day's work. He did not play the baby act. He took pride in being the first man to the "weather earing" on the topsail yard. There were no walking delegates on board to enforce an eight-hour rate. And we had a merchant marine.

But how is it to-day? Let us cite a case. During the war the navy sent armed guards to Shipping Board vessels. The bluejacket slept at his gun. He never left it. His pay was a twenty-four-hour day. His pay \$30 a month. There was no "overtime" pay for him. His only union was the United States.

It was not so with the union sailor of the Shipping Board serving on the same ship. His pay was \$90 a month. His day was eight hours. Would he "reef topsails" during his watch below? Oh, no! The alarm of a submarine was given. The navy crew sprang to their guns. There was need of full speed, but the eight-hour sailor would not go below to force the fires and escape the enemy without double pay for overtime. There were cases where the navy sailor drove the ninety-dollar, eight-hour sailor below to his work at the muzzle of a revolver.

And again. The call for "abandon ship" was sounded. It was a drill practiced frequently to muster the crew at the boats with provisions, water and navigating instruments to prepare for an emergency. But the union sailor, off watch, attending this drill demanded double pay for overtime. He must be paid extra for taking the precautions necessary to save his own life.

Thus, times have changed. Under existing conditions when can the United States reasonably expect to have another merchant marine in competition with Japan, China, Portugal, Italy, England, France and Germany?

English-Speaking Voters If general public opinion tallies at all with that of the Citizens Union the amendment to the state constitution making ability to read and write English a condition precedent to the privilege of voting, required of citizens attaining majority, will be passed next fall. Members of the Citizens Union in a referendum were 10 to 1 for the restriction.

Any narrowing of the franchise in a democracy would be a step backward if a class of citizens, whether high, low or middle, were thereby ruled out of a share in the government. But it is not a hardship nor a task beyond the powers of any individual who could ever vote intelligently to learn our language. It is fair to require this overt expression of Americanism from all who desire to qualify as co-partners in the business of running the United States of America.

Of course, it does not follow that because you put an American tongue in a man's mouth he is forthwith transformed. But he is

likely to take a sincere proprietary interest in the welfare of his state and country if he understands the common speech.

An Experiment at Bryn Mawr The movement for university extension takes on a new phase with the inauguration of the Bryn Mawr summer school for women workers in industry. The school opens in June for a two months' session, with a group of seventy students drawn straight from the ranks of shop and factory workers.

Bryn Mawr is to lend a residence hall as well as lecture rooms, and the administration will be in charge of a joint committee composed of representatives of the college and representatives of women in industry. Scholarships covering all expenses will be supplied, some by trade unions and working girls' clubs and others through a special scholarship fund. The tutors, Bryn Mawr graduates, who will live in the hall with the students, are to see that they get not instruction only but a good time besides.

There is, of course, no idea of removing factory workers permanently from their old environment. On the contrary, the primary object of the school is to take young women who have already shown promise of leadership among their fellow workers and, by filling up some of the gaps in their previous education and giving them some knowledge of economic history and economic theory, to enable them to develop into more capable and more intelligent leaders than they would otherwise have become.

And what the students will learn will not be the only good. With due respect to Bryn Mawr, it may be remarked that instructors and tutors and graduates will be benefited by coming into contact with young women who have been educated by practical life and realize the value of definitely knowing some one thing.

"Shocking" Expenditure Ensign's Reply to Characterization of Army and Navy Upkeep To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In an editorial in The New York Times of May 3 entitled "Shocking All Around" the fact is pointed out that \$1,100,000,000 will be spent for the army and navy during the fiscal year of 1922. With reference to this fact the following statement is made: "Beyond all question it is shocking, it is monstrous, that we are to spend this great sum in preparing to kill off our fellow men."

Since when has the function of the armed force of the United States been to "kill off our fellow men"? The function of the army and navy has always been, is, and pray God, will continue to be, to defend the United States and to uphold its noble principles.

Let us substitute for the phrase "to kill off our fellow men" such words as properly describe the necessity for the existence of our national defense. The statement then becomes: "Beyond all question it is shocking, it is monstrous, that we are to spend this great sum to defend, if necessary, the United States from the tragic and humiliating experience of an enemy invasion; to make it certain that the United States, a nation 'conceived in liberty,' can retain that liberty; to make it possible for the United States to prevent, should that expediency again arise, the violation of justice and the disregard of righteousness. This is the absurd meaning of the assertion of The Times, not disguised by a phraseology which makes it presentable to the gullible or the unformed."

J. C. TEN EVYCK Jr. Ensign, United States Navy. Charleston, S. C., May 9, 1921.

The Word "Normalcy" To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In to-day's Tribune The Toronto Globe is quoted as saying that President Harding coined the word "normalcy." Not at all. The word is given in the Century dictionary as used in geometry—but rarely. However, mathematicians are not the only writers who use the word.

I came across it to-day in a book written in 1894, twenty-seven years ago—Benjamin Kidd's Social Evolution. In the chapter on Modern Socialism you will find this passage: "This is a fact which has not yet been fully realized by those progressive parties amongst us, who having for the most part accepted the ideas of the older school of economists as to the relationships of labour, capital, and the state, have obtained therefrom a false sense of the continued normalcy and rigidity of these relationships."

J. G. CARTER TROOP. New York, May 8, 1921.

Reviewing Stand Wastage To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In my long residence in New York City I have seen enough new lumber sawed up for reviewing stands to build a good sized suburban town. Don't you think that with a little planning and ingenuity a stand could be used over and over again by marking and numbering the parts to be assembled? Better still, have the skeleton of it in iron, and bolts and nuts would make its erection very easy. Anyway, let lumber be conserved and economy be practiced when possible.

A REVIEWER. New York, May 9, 1921.

A Flimsy Bulwark (From The Buffalo Express) The latest warlike plan credited to the Bolshevik government is an attack on Estonia. The weak and unrecognized Baltic states must be a temptation to Lenin. They have nothing to depend upon except the treaties which the Bolshevik government signed.

The Conning Tower

WHAT WE ARE SERIOUSLY ASKED TO BELIEVE

That an inter-tidal streak of slime Produced a Monad once on a time; That it merely chanced to happen so— With the consequence we all of us know:

Such a sabre-toothed tiger, lice of the pigeon, Homer and Shakespeare and the Christian Religion. Vanitas vanitatum, fiddle-de-dee— And so much for Truth with a capital T!

LEE WILSON DODD. Well, we have seen the Edison questionnaire, and to us it seems a fair test. It is possible that a man who could answer not a single question would be a genius; and it is possible that a man who could answer every question correctly would be a futile person. But neither of those things is likely.

An senility approaches, the infallibility of tests impresses us less. The only infallible tests are these: We'd never let a child of ours marry a person who incloses a pint envelope for the return of a gallon manuscript; and we never knew a man who wore buttoned half-shoes who amounted to a whoop in Gehenna.

Campus Memories Sir: You've set me thinking of my first day at school. When we arrived, all the children were planting kidney beans and there weren't enough for Helen and me. So we sat sniveling in our handkerchiefs (pinned to our respective shoulders by a safety pin).

Then came a song: I know a little lady, She's very small and sweet, And yet my heart is ly-ing Right at my darling's feet. She's very hard to play with, She's quiet as a mouse, And yet this little sweetheart Is queen of all the house. My dear, my dear little sweetie.

RUTH. Sir: None of the songs of school days aroused in my puerile heart greater loathing than the ritual which twice a week we were forced to employ when arrived the lady who instructed us in what was termed physical culture.

The door would open and this lady, large and efficient, always breathing from the diaphragm, and constantly discussing that organ, would enter the room. Good morning, good morning, dear scholars, she would carol. And we, getting to our feet as promptly as possible, would sing back.

Good morning, good morning, Miss Ives. Frequently, especially when she was not, apparently, in the best of temper, the musical salutation had to be repeated several times before she seemed satisfied of the hearty spontaneity of our welcome. In each case she would leave the room and return, repeating her line, Good morning, good morning, dear scholars, accompanied by a frigid and entirely callithetic smile.

R. R. W. Sir: The first day I went to school they sang this: O have you heard Geography sung? For if you've not 'tis on my tongue: All how the Earth in air that's hung, And covered with green little islands.

CHORUS: Oceans, Gulfs and Bays and Seas, Isthmuses, too; Straits, if you please. Great Archipelagos, too; and all these Are covered with green little islands. Theodosia Wright was fat, and the best singer. She always sang louder than anybody else on the chorus. She generally had to sit in a chair beside the teacher's desk because she didn't behave, and one day she stole the teacher's watch and hid it under her apron. I've lost track of Theodosia. Wonder whether she became a shop-lifter or went on the concert stage.

E. G. P. "She turned," says a New Orleans dispatch to the adored American, "and handed the weapon to a policeman, Corporal Michael Buckley, who stood about fifty feet away." Corporal Buckley, so L. W. L. E. thinks, must have had the long arm of the law.

The Secret of Our Art (From The Club Fellow) David Belasco was not idle even in his hours of recent illness. I am told that while in the grip of influenza (this sounds like an P. A. joke!) Mr. Belasco architected two additional seats on the floor space of his theater, thus enabling "Deburan" to play to capacity, plus, every night.

... the woman whom he had now finally determined should become his wife—From Dust, by Mr. and Mrs. Haldeman-Julius. What, Mr. Edison, is wrong with that?

Objection Sustained (From "The Life of Five Points," in The Best Short Stories of 1921.) Guy Sillman, full-blooded, dark and handsome, with high cheek bones like an Indian.

They are having a music trades convention in Chicago, and Dr. Frank E. Morton is exercised over the jazz peril. "Jazz," he says, "incites to idleness, revelry, dissipation, destruction, discord, and chaos. . . . Seldom do you hear 'Home, Sweet Home' sung now. With 'Home, Sweet Home' silenced, how itself tends to disappear." Tut! "Home, Sweet Home" is a standard, conservative song; most of the world's work, as the phrase runs, has been done by those who roamed mid pleasures and palaces, leaving the lonely thatched cottage fat.

Perhaps the rent protesters have done more to bring Mr. J. H. Payne's [Note to T. A. Edison: We didn't have to look that up] song into disfavor than the so-called jazz tunes and the cabarets have.

Besides, it is hard to go anywhere these days without hearing "The Home Again Blues." F. P. A.

DON'T SHOOT! VE TOT YOU VAS SHUST JOKING!

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Books By Heywood Brown

For many days now we have been agitated by seeing again and again in the advertising columns a notice which consisted simply of the word "Shame." Now the secret is out. To-day's paper goes further and admits "Shame" is the name of a new motion picture. That makes \$5 we win from F. P. A. He bet it was a breakfast food.

"It's great to be a bookseller these days," says Frank Shay in his latest pamphlet, but we find his enthusiasm less inspiring than that of the man in Carl Sandburg's poem who "was terribly glad to be selling fish."

The books which Shay picks-out for special recommendation to his customers are Sir Harry Johnston's The Man Who Did the Right Thing; William McClellan's An Ocean Tramp; Joseph Conrad's Notes on Life and Letters; They Went, by Norman Douglas; Knut Hamsun's Pan and Motherwise, and two books about the South Seas by Laurids Broun, a Dane, called Van Zanten's Happy Days and The Promised Isle. These are the volumes, we take it, which convince Frank Shay that it's great to be a bookseller.

Mr. Shay seeks to perpetuate one fiction, for he advertises They Went with "out-Cabells Cabell." They Went must wear a more ingenious disguise than Jurgen if there is any truth in this, for it seemed to us amusing, but mild enough to be a bed book for Mr. Sumner.

"I am somewhat depressed this morning," writes F. G. N., "and feel that there is something radically wrong with me. Will you, therefore, enlighten me in the same spirit in which I ask the following question? I am a lover of the theater and have been for twenty years or so—you and I are probably the same age. Lately I have been attacked by first nightitis and enjoy the alternating suffering and joy it entails. But I seem to have failed and would ask you to indicate some criterions whereby I may judge for myself the success or failure of a new play. I attended the late premiere of 'Two Little Girls in Blue' and last night that of 'Phoebe of Quality Street.' At both I found ample opportunity to laugh, particularly last night, when in common with the rest of the audience I was in a continual chuckle or loud laughter. Imagine my surprise to read in the criticisms following the production of these two plays that they were lacking in humor and 'dreadful and dreary.' What then is the foot rule by which I can in the future measure the results of a new play? Can a comedy be considered witty and entertaining only if it creates a veritable gale of mirth from the overture to the grand finale? Must I dislocate my vertebrae or produce aching muscles for a solid three hours before I can honestly say that I have enjoyed myself? Moreover, must I disregard the howls of joy made by my fellow auditors in gauging the merits of a new play? I am in a quandary and respectfully ask for advice."

We can only say that F. G. N. has our permission to dislocate his vertebrae.

In order to keep the record straight we want to point out that we did not speak of "Two Little Girls" as "dreadful and dreary." It has scant humor, to be sure, but the excellent dancing and the general spirit of the performance made it a lively entertainment. We did not even use the damning "d" about "Phoebe of Quality Street," but reserved them for the comedy methods of Shaun Glenville. However, we need not quibble about that. With the exception of one good waltz and a march with some swing to it, "Phoebe of Quality Street" is, in our opinion, dreadful and dreary, and no volume of laughter from other chests can make it any more amusing to us.

A Republican for Disarmament To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: A beginning must be made—propaganda started—with reference to disarmament. Senators Borah and Pomerene are right. Let us begin now. Ninety-five per cent of the government's expenses are for the destruction of human life, not the preservation of it.

I am not a Bolshevik nor a Socialist—just a straight Republican—but it seems to me that a little less money for the navy and a little appropriated for the betterment of humanity, to build the many homes needed throughout the land, or to help the farmers, who are in a bankrupt condition, might be a long step toward that peace that the world so sadly needs.

Women everywhere are in favor of disarmament, and it must not be forgotten that women's votes count now. F. E. ROGERS. New York, May 9, 1921.

Veterans' Preference Not a Sporting Proposition, Says "Infantry, A. E. F." To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Elbridge L. Adams is right in his letter on the veterans' preference amendment to the state constitution. It will do much to demoralize the civil service in the state. It is not a sporting proposition.

It is unjust in that it gives a preference, entirely regardless of fitness for public service, to all men born between 1886 and 1897 who wore a uniform anywhere. It may have been San Francisco, Hoboken, Paris, Tours, Chateau Thierry or the Argonne—the act makes no distinction.

Of course we all know that certain men between those ages were physically unfit or properly exempt from the draft. Men below and above the draft age volunteered, but their number was small and does not much affect the practical monopoly granted to those now between twenty-four and thirty-five. Our obligations as citizens were fully defined, and it is pure nonsense to claim that volunteering was the duty of everybody between eighteen and forty-five. That was a matter of conscience.

There is no logic or justice in a privilege granted without regard to fitness and which actually penalizes whole classes of our population. The situation was never so desperate that it was necessary to demoralize our police and fire departments in order to send able-bodied men in sufficient numbers to Europe. Now that the emergency is over we are proposing to run the risk of demoralization for a whim backed strongly by the American Legion.

For all our talk of democratic institutions the fact remains that a casteless public is largely at the mercy of compact minorities which are organized to insist on getting what they want. Legislators generally follow the line of least resistance. The argument for veterans' preference is plausible and sentimental. In this matter the defense of the public lies largely in its own hands. I will admit that defense is not easy.

The future usefulness of the Legion lies in its remaining a benevolent and patriotic association. It had the full support of the public when it took up the case of the disabled soldiers and when it made its highly successful answer to Von Mach's absurd Sins-Rhein-Deutschland-Go-Bragh meeting. There is nothing hyperbated about the American Legion. However, it is human, like all the rest of us. It is bound to make its mistakes.

INFANTRY, A. E. F. Albany, N. Y., May 9, 1921.

An Amendment in the Way To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: One of the amazing developments incident to enforcing the Volstead law is the cool proposition with obtain convictions by dispensing with trial by jury. This method would doubtless be effective, but how is it to be operated if the accused stands upon his rights under Article VI of the Amendments to the United States Constitution? This article is as follows: "In all criminal proceedings the accused shall enjoy the right of a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury . . . and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense."

WHAT NEXT? Yonkers, N. Y., May 9, 1921.