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Will It Be Anything More Than Another Hague Tribunal?

The drafted Constitution of the proposed international society or league to maintain peace on earth was made public yesterday after having been read by its author, or sponsor, President WILSON, to the Peace Conference without action by that body.

The President is sailing to-day from Brest for a brief visit to the seat of the Government of the United States. He brings with him this long awaited document to invite, we suppose, the advice and consent of the Senate concerning its adoption by the United States. The draft of the new World Constitution, as it is somewhat grandiloquently styled in the despatches, comprises about all that has been done in a practical way by the Peace Conference since President WILSON departed from this country ten or eleven weeks ago to attend in person to the details of the conclusion of peace with the beaten enemy Powers with which we have been at war.

It is to be said in the first place that every right minded man or woman in this republic would hail with joy and support with eagerness any workable plan for the prevention of the horrors of war not involving the surrender of that which to the American heart is dearer and more desirable even than world peace itself, namely, our unimpaired national sovereignty, our complete independence of supergovernment of any sort, our freedom of initiative in all matters affecting our national interests, our right to consider America first.

It is evident now that when President WILSON carried over to Paris the phrase "a League of Nations," he carried something which was at that time no more than a mere phrase. In his departing address to Congress he communicated nothing definite or specific about his plan for a league of nations, for the quite sufficient reason that he had no plan other than to obtain all he could for peace as negotiations and intercourse developed the attitude of the representatives of the other great Powers. His own attitude was tentative; his enterprise pure opportunism. The same waiting policy has marked all his public utterances in Europe on the subject. We have had till now nothing but generalities because until now President WILSON has not known what he could accomplish for the cause of peace in the way of practical agencies and safeguards.

The text of the proposed covenant and constitution now enables us to measure his success or failure in making that which was entirely ideal and verbal practical and effective.

The first thing to be noted is the abandonment of the idea of a standing international police, composed of military and naval forces contributed by the members of the league and subject to the command of a supernational executive or council or tribunal for the enforcement of supernational decrees or judgments. Weeks ago THE SUN pointed out that the employment of our troops or warships in this way would require an amendment to the Federal Constitution, because that instrument provides the only method by which the United States can constitutionally engage in war with another nation. Some eminent friends of peace enforcement, including ex-President TAFT, the president of the League to Enforce Peace, have taken issue with this newspaper on that subject, holding that systematic participation by our army and navy in an international policing of the world would not necessarily be unconstitutional; but as President WILSON's conversations and negotiations have proceeded in Europe he seems to have recognized more and more clearly the constitutional objection to the world police idea; and latterly he has even been reported as using this objection as an argument against the French plan of peace enforcement by the maintenance of a strong international police.

Now, the most singular thing about the plan presented yesterday to the Peace Conference and by that body tabled for further consideration is that while it ingeniously and successfully avoids the constitutional objection just referred to, that is, with regard to the absolute control of Congress over the beginning of war by this Government, it deliberately encounters constitutional objections equally fatal in other respects.

The full discussion of this aspect of the League proposal would require columns of space. Perhaps we can illustrate what we mean by a few conspicuous examples.

1. Article 8, which relates to a programme of disarmament, provides that an international and supernational body styled "the Executive Council" shall "determine for the consideration and action of the several Governments what military equipment and armament is fair and reasonable." "These limits," the League Constitution continues, "when adopted shall not be exceeded without the permission of the Executive Council." But the Constitution of the United States, which is still in force in this respect, vests in the Congress of the United States the power to raise and support armies, the power to provide and maintain a navy, the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces. These powers are granted exclusively to Congress. Congress cannot constitutionally divest itself of them. Without an amendment of the Constitution the President and the Senate, the Government's treaty makers, can no more engage Congress to go to the Executive Council of a League of Nations for instruction as to the reasonable size of our armament and for permission, on the advice of the permanent commission established by Article 9, to extend our armament when occasion requires such extension, than they can snatch from Congress the war initiative and lodge it in an international organization abroad.

2. Article 12 engages the members of the League not to go to war without submitting the war quarrel either to arbitration or to the Executive Council for inquiry, and then waiting three months after an award or a decision is rendered. This is an attempt to apply the principle of assuagement by delay that distinguished the Bryan treaties. It would be neither more nor less efficacious than such a system of treaties. But Article 12 goes further and engages every signatory not even to resort to war against another member of the league when that other member of the league complies with the award of the arbitrators or the recommendation of the Executive Council. The Constitution of the United States contains no provision which enables Congress to divest itself of its exclusive and inalienable power to declare war.

3. The same general remark seems to us to apply to the provisions attempting to enforce the League's decisions by economic pressure or retribution by tariff. Of course there can be no constitutional objection to the moral boycott; that needs no legislation when individual public opinion can be summoned to its support. But not less distinctly than does the Constitution vest in Congress the war declaring power, that instrument provides that all bills for raising revenue—and bills for raising revenue are the agents of economic pressure—shall originate in the House of Representatives; not merely in the Congress, but in the House of Representatives. It appears too plain to require argument that the removal to the Executive Council of an international organization of the initiative now belonging to the House of Representatives cannot be affected by a mere treaty without an amendment of the Constitution.

4. An even more striking illustration of the invasion of constitutional strongholds may be found in Article 23. Therein it is provided, amazing as the statement may seem, that if this nation becomes a member of the League it can make no valid treaty or international engagement of any sort without registering the same with the Secretary General of the League. "No such treaty or international engagement," says Article 23, "shall be binding until so registered." However desirable such a project may be in the interest of open diplomacy, the fact remains that it adds another process to the processes described in the Constitution of the United States and cannot become a matter of constitutional compact until the Constitution is so amended as to permit its introduction.

These are a few of the features of the proposed Constitution of the League of Nations which will engage the serious attention of even the most hopeful friends of the general measure when it comes before the Senate for ratification. They will doubtless be discussed more fully and in entire candor and friendliness as opportunity occurs.

Meanwhile the question foremost in the mind of THE SUN, as it must be in the minds of all friends of peace and all well wishers of any practical scheme of war prevention, is whether after the elimination of provisions requiring a constitutional amendment before they can be effective, the remainder of the plan which the President is to bring back from France will differ greatly from that which was hailed at The Hague a dozen years ago with such sincere satisfaction as the golden gateway to a new era of world peace and brotherhood.

The Rumanian Revolts.

The reports of revolts and uprisings against the Government in Rumania might well be taken with a reservation until they receive official confirmation. The reports have come from Vienna and Budapest, which in the past were centres for the circulation of news unfavorable to the Rumanian nation and Government.

The statement that the insurrection is general and that it extends throughout the whole country is especially open to question. There is undoubtedly a hard struggle in Rumania to restore normal economic and governmental conditions. In their occupation of the country the armies of the Central Powers were severe in their exactions. They drew so heavily upon the grain resources of the country that they left the people impoverished. In the efforts of Berlin to centre all the financial interests of Rumania in Germany the financial system of the country was completely destroyed. The Bratiano Government has so far been unable to restore former conditions or to relieve the stress upon the national treasury caused by the heavy issue of Rumanian money made during the German and Austrian military occupation.

This economic and financial distress has been used by the Socialists to their advantage. At the same time it has made the spread of the Bolshevik propaganda more easy, and it is Bolshevism that the patriotic Rumanians have most feared. The agents of Moscow, despite their great activity, have in the past made little progress except in Bucharest. The Rumanians are an agricultural people and rural dwellers, and the peasant class as a whole has been particularly bitter in its opposition to Bolshevism. There is thus reason to doubt that the present revolt has spread beyond the capital or the one or two industrial towns of the country.

The Rumanian peasant beyond a question has grievances, but the whole tendency of the Government has been to remedy these by a readjustment of property values and the breaking up of great landed estates. As he is a hard headed fellow, it is safe to believe that the Rumanian will trust his own Government for reform rather than the agents of Bolshevism, which he has been valiantly fighting.

The Greatest Race in History.

With confidence now the country can look for the first real attempt at an oversea flight as the principal sporting event of early 1919 summer. Commander TOWERS, U. S. N., has been "ordered" to take charge of plans and assemble material and personnel for such an undertaking, and an order to a United States naval officer, as history so far has been written, has never been ignored.

The navy, it appears, has something in its locker in the way of a seaplane which navy experts are confident can make the flight. It is intimated that this hurry up order has been issued because of the navy's eagerness to make the flight before the hustling British navy has snatched the honor.

American bettors are too sensible to bet on sympathy, yet our guess is that the odds will be on the Yankees.

An Ambitious Project to Develop New York Harbor.

The negotiations now in progress between representatives of the States of New York and New Jersey for the formation of a supreme body to develop the harbor facilities on an orderly, coherent and modern plan are of the utmost consequence to every resident of the metropolitan district and to the owners, employees and patrons of every industrial and commercial enterprise that ships or receives foodstuffs, raw materials and finished products through the port of New York.

Already the two States within whose jurisdiction the waters lie are engaged under treaty agreement to a certain degree of cooperation, but this bond is insufficient for the needs of the present and will be utterly inadequate for the necessities of the future. If the port of New York, which naturally includes all the tidal waters from a point beyond Newark to Montauk Point, is to be brought to the plane of efficiency required to handle the freight coming to it overland and overseas, the job cannot be done piecemeal, or to satisfy rival local interests, or to injure the industries or the trade of one settlement to obtain an advantage for another settlement.

The scheme now under consideration provides for the erection of a corporation owned and controlled by the States of New York and New Jersey which shall have full authority to buy, lease, erect and administer port works, such as piers, warehouses, and marginal railroads, to own land and to control and direct the movement of shipping in the most approved and economical way. This corporation would have power to issue bonds secured by the property owned by it, and not based on the credit of the States, and generally to perform the functions of a municipal body in building up the gateway of America.

This plan is ambitious, and the details of it must be worked out with the greatest care for the preservation of existing port works. New York city, for example, has an enormous investment in piers and their auxiliary establishments. These are self-supporting, and against them bonds have been issued in large sums. These values must be maintained; so, too, must the value of investments made by other communities and by individuals.

But the future greatness of the port of New York is illimitable in its possibilities. The trade that already seeks to make use of its facilities exceeds its capacity. The difficulty is to handle the traffic, not to obtain traffic to handle. The establishments now in use will not lack patronage; the problem is to find room for all the patrons that want to come here. To furnish sufficient establishments essential to the growth of the port an effective direction and guidance is necessary, and that can be provided through a corporation such as is now under contemplation.

Only two years ago an effort was made to divide the port of New York by obtaining advantages in railroad rates for New Jersey cities and towns. This movement failed because the authorities recognized the vital need for centralization. The same principle applies in the creation of a powerful port authority, and when it is formed the task of fitting this magnificent harbor for the future it should have will go steadily forward.

Women's Gowns in Politics.

The protest of the club women of New York against what they describe as "indecent" evening gowns has been made in the form of an appeal to the designers of women's clothing to refrain from the production of extreme models, and to women not to wear them. This subject has received attention in England, where it is asserted that "many persons attending jazz dances lately have been astonished by some of the costumes displayed, and others shocked at fancy dress dances by the scantiness of attire, especially by the ladies who wore only highly colored pajamas."

From the resolution adopted by the protestants in this city, it does not appear that the costumes worn at fancy dress dances are regarded as less modest than some of those worn at conventional parties; in fact an interesting point of the complaint is that it appears to be directed not against an occasional daring display, but to the ordinary habit of expensively clothed women. The London agitation is also concerned with smoking by women, which is said to have become much more common than it was before the war, and with an alleged increase in drinking, attributed to the use of cigarettes. These subjects have not yet received widespread serious attention here.

A potential consequence of these agitations that cannot be overlooked is their emergence from the field of social discussion into the realm of politics. In England and in the United States the votes of women must be reckoned with; the matters which interest women voters must be taken into account by politicians in writing platforms and in selecting candidates for office. A serious campaign for the reform of feminine dress, based on moral grounds and vigorously supported by determined women, might easily develop, directly or indirectly, into a political issue of importance. The suggestion may at this moment seem fantastic, but if a sufficient number of women make up their minds to regulate the dress and the smoking habits of their sex, the reaction to their efforts will be felt at polling places as surely as it will be at the dressmaker's and the tobacco shop.

If all the men and women whose distress Doctor GREAVEN has relieved in the thirty-three years he has been removing cinders from people's eyes, and binding up smashed fingers, and mixing potent headache cures, and telling what car to take to get to Pineapple street, would gather in front of Perry's drug store and give three cheers for him, the sound would deafen Dr. GREAVEN and everybody else within a hundred miles of Park Row and the Brooklyn Bridge; and if the good nature and kindly spirit and intelligence Dr. GREAVEN has extended in the third of a century he has been curing the ills of wayfarers and setting them straight on the geography of this town and telling them there was no charge for his services could be bestowed on the Bolsheviki, there wouldn't be any Russian problem. It behooves everybody to be mighty careful with those pesky paper matches now, because Dr. GREAVEN has quit and will no longer be available to bind up burned hands in carron oil; and we hope he will enjoy his retirement as much as he has always seemed to enjoy his years of active life.

That "condensed kick" is an idle dream is the declaration of the chemical sharps; and those who based fond hopes on whiskey pellets, beer pills and champagne capsules must despair to learn that scientists consider it impossible to concentrate the element that gives life to liquor. In many resorts on Broadway it has been reluctantly decided that science is a flivver.

In the Teutonic protest against Italy's claim to sixty-four works of art in possession of the Austrians history once more repeats itself. One of the decrees of the Congress of Vienna concerned the return by France to Italy of a number of masterpieces NAPOLEON had accumulated in his Italian campaigns. The world of art awaits a decision on the question of title to paintings which really belong to the whole human race.

It will gratify loyal Americans to learn that the writ of habeas corpus cannot be twisted into a writ to throw protection around assailants of American liberties.

There is a panic in Hamburg, the result of depredations by bands of thieves operating throughout the city.—*Despatch from Amsterdam.*

The report is plainly incomplete, as it does not allege that the robbers are American soldiers.

Why They Hurried.

Henry of Navarre told them to follow his plume.

"But will Baker let you keep the helmet after the war?" we asked.

TRADE BRIEFS.

The first motor car made its appearance in Greece in 1894. From 1912 to 1916 the number increased rapidly. There were 218 in 1914, 329 in 1915 and 487 in 1916.

An official in Rumania reports that now is the time to solicit business in that country, but he says it is necessary that the bankers of America, England and France should establish the value of the Rumanian leu.

According to figures given out by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of New Zealand, business in general has enjoyed an exceptionally prosperous year, with the results that the imports for the first nine months of 1918 were valued at $88,728,739 and the exports $109,045,661, with a stock of the products in cold storage and warehouses awaiting shipment valued at $72,-997,500.

Business men of Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide have formed a company with $48,665 paid up capital for the purpose of developing an aerial route for mail and passenger service between Australia and London.

USE THAT FODDER HERE.

Need in America for Cattle Feed It Is Proposed to Send to Europe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was interested in the editorial article in THE SUN recently in which the writer reflected doubts as to the advisability of our economizing fodder in order to ship it abroad.

Last month I spent several days in Muskogee, Okla., and attended a sale of thoroughbred cattle which received interest from cattle breeders from all sections of the country, many of whom are men of large affairs and necessarily students of the industry.

One man stated that he was the owner of about a hundred polled Angus cattle, all registered stock, and several hundred shorthorns. His ranch is located in Oklahoma, where they had a drought last year which was very injurious to both hay and corn as well as to pasturage. The result is that his cattle went into the winter in very poor condition, and he is obliged to borrow several thousand dollars in order to procure food to feed during the winter, as he could not sell in their present condition without a great sacrifice. Corn was costing him $1.80 a bushel and hay about $20 a ton.

These breeders, and more especially the feeders, have worked out to a mathematical nicety exactly how much meat will result from a given number of bushels of corn, and from the little figuring that I did it was very evident that even though the growers receive the present high prices for their cattle and hogs there is really very little profit in it.

In the evidence before the investigating committee at Washington last week it was stated that the farmers receive a profit of about $50 a head on steers. This may be true, but I doubt whether many of the farmers take into consideration the interest on the value of their land. Some of the growers claim that it requires ten acres of land to support a steer, that is making due allowances for that part of the land which is required to produce hay and corn to carry them over the winter months; this, in addition to the pasturage land required.

The man to whom I have referred stated that his land was worth about $150 an acre. For the sake of argument, suppose it requires only five acres instead of ten. The interest alone on five acres worth $150 an acre at 6 per cent. would be $45 a year and, remember, it takes more than one year to put a steer on the market.

In many sections of Oklahoma and Texas, and in fact over the entire arid region where cattle range, it requires very much more land for each steer than in such States as Iowa. In this arid region the cattle producers do not pretend to fatten their cattle, merely selling them to the feeders.

Your article indicates there has been a saving of 220,000 tons of fodder, which can be sent to European neutrals in the form of an oil cake meal. As an economic proposition, would it not be very much better to use this fodder to fatten our own cattle, as it would save many millions of dollars in the matter of transportation alone, as the ratio between fodder and meat is probably around 12 to 1.

Again were this fodder used in this country it would undoubtedly reduce the cost of producing meat materially, and, perhaps, put it in the reach of many people who at present are not able to have meat on their tables, as had been the custom previous to the war.

It would appear there is very little hope for a very great reduction in the price of meat in this country. The ratio of cattle to population is steadily decreasing and the value of land steadily increasing.

If instead of continually attacking the packers and listening to the Heneys and demagogues Congress would examine the facts they should soon realize that if we are to have cheaper meat in this country the cattle must be grown in countries where the land values are very much lower than they are in the United States. It is only a question of time until we must look to the Latin countries for our meat and many other commodities that are now getting beyond the reach of the consuming public.

JOHN EBEN BLEEKMAN.

NEW YORK, February 14.

MORE LIGHT WANTED.

A Complaint of Dark Streets From Washington Heights.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The city seems to be economizing on street lights in some parts of Washington Heights, and Inwood, just above the Heights. On some of the streets and avenues there are not sufficient lights. And yet the police wonder why of late there have been a number of holdups in the section.

It would not entail much expense to install enough lights to give pedestrians a feeling of security: but the matter of expense should not be considered. In these days of high rents and high taxes residents of these streets have a right to demand the fullest protection that the city can give them, for they are paying for all conveniences they get.

W. H.

NEW YORK, February 14.

PROHIBITION IN FLORIDA.

There the Curse on Adam's Apple Has Reached Its Juice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The curse on Adam's apple has reached its juice in this State. The farmer cannot give us any more of his good old fashioned vinegar, because he cannot first make the cider. Physicians' prescriptions cannot be put up with sufficient care to escape the penalties imposed by the prohibition laws. I think they will make us all "too good to be true."

Christians must "watch their steps" and Billy Sunday, or communion tables will be surrounded by jail birds.

E. C. BENEDICT.

BEN ECHO, COCOANUT GROVE, Fla., February 10.

They Defend the United States.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The American people should thank God that we have in Congress a few such men as Dies of Texas, Lodge of Massachusetts, Johnson of California, Harding of Ohio, Knox of Pennsylvania.

There are a few others who have the courage to lift their voices in defence of our Constitution and country.

NEW JERSEY FARMER.

RED BANK, February 14.

Lincoln's Birthday Dinners.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Medole is right in his letter printed in THE SUN: the Jersey City Republicans were the beginners of the practice of celebrating Lincoln's Birthday by a banquet. I remember it well. I have spoken at two of their celebrations, and hope to be invited again.

ELIJAH R. KENNEDY.

BROOKLYN, February 14.

MAKING CITIZENS BY THE MILLION.

A Project That Requires Study From Many Viewpoints.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* With regard to the proposal of Raymond F. Crist to induce by hard work the 10,-000,000 aliens in the United States to become citizens, such action may look theoretically desirable, but prove practically a harmful solution of this problem.

Assuming that the millions of aliens have been residing more than five years here and are qualified to become citizens, will it be advantageous thus to endow with the vote so many foreigners, whose ideas at best are not thoroughly American and who are easily led by wily demagogues? As long as they cannot vote they cannot have any influence in our elections and in making our laws.

Endowed with the vote, not thoroughly attached to the principles or conversant with the history of American Government, they may have the power to cast the decisive votes at Presidential elections and as to members of Congress.

Every crafty politician will cater to them, and the quality of our Presidents, Senators and Representatives will surely suffer. As aliens, if industrious and law abiding, they will by their work create wealth for the nation and a competency for themselves; they will spend a large part of their earnings and thus support American industries and stores, but will not have a voice as to our laws. Aliens who have been here five years or longer and who took interest in American affairs have become and are becoming citizens without any formal propaganda.

Those who have not made an effort to identify themselves with American history, laws and aspirations are better non-citizens of the republic than citizens. By simply passing the necessary examination before a judge and obtaining the certificate as American citizens they do not become citizens in thought and mind and ought not to have the priceless gift of the vote.

I speak above of the law abiding and industrious aliens who may be valuable to American prosperity but not desirable citizens. The objectionable small minority should surely not obtain the citizenship, and they would probably be the first to be reached by the propaganda. As long as they are not citizens, but aliens, Congress can by law force them to leave the United States, where they are not welcome. Once citizens, such action will be practically impossible. Let us be careful in making new citizens. Let us allow emigrants to come over, to lead a law abiding, industrious life, obtain our protection to make an honest and good living, and as they prosper add to the prosperity of the nation. But let only those become citizens who are imbued with American ideals and who are anxious to become citizens by their own volition, aspirations and desire.

K. G.

NEW YORK, February 14.

OUR WAR BONDS.

Should We in Self-defence Tax Germany to Pay Them?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A statement is reported to have been made to a committee of Congress at a recent hearing by an Admiral of the American navy that Germany would be ready again in thirty years for war and recommending the enlargement of our navy as an essential item of preparation.

The $25,000,000,000 or more of Government bonds that have been made necessary by the acts of Germany which compelled us to enter the great war will impose a great burden of interest alone upon the people and industries of this country and will place upon our products an overhead charge which must be a serious consideration, as it will have to be paid by all consumers and will enter into the cost of products which we must sell against the competition of some foreign countries in our efforts to secure markets outside our own country for our merchandise to keep our people employed.

Under these and many other conditions is it possible that this country proposes to demand no compensation from the Central Powers to meet the interest on these bonds and to pay the principal when due?

If Germany will be prepared for another war in thirty or fifty years she will find us still staggering under this terrible financial load and at a consequent disadvantage. In other words we are making the Central Powers a present of $25,000,000,000 with interest and to the same extent handicapping ourselves both in finance, taxes and overhead costs in competition. Besides the increased cost to consumers by reason of a tax added to the cost of the articles purchased, why should we assume these hardships and relieve the Central Powers of them and enable them to recover more quickly and resume aggression to reclaim what they will now be called upon to surrender and pay?

If they can get ready for another war in thirty years, they can well afford to pay the interest and principal of our war bonds and so further delay their aggression and add to their cost of production the overhead and relieve us from it, and thereby make it possible for us to find markets for our goods throughout the world and give employment to all our people, and by taking off our overhead pay better wages and reduce the cost to our consumers in addition to relieving them of the tax for principal and interest.

I may be wrong, but it seems quite clear to me. I wonder how many of the people of this country are willing to pay this price for the Central Powers and how many think the Central Powers should pay this debt which they caused to be created.

CHARLES REYNOLDS.

PATERSON, N. J., February 14.

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1920.

Mayor Ole Hanson of Seattle Nominated, if Eligible.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Ole Hanson has proved himself a good Mayor on a business man's platform in Seattle. Provided he is eligible, perhaps he would make a good candidate for President in 1920.

FRANK LYMAN.

NEW YORK, February 14.

The Nomination Seconded.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I beg leave to nominate for President of the United States of America, Ole Hanson of Seattle in the State of Washington.

EDWIN W. SANBORN.

NEW YORK, February 14.

Platform: The Better Ole.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I note that "Mayor Hanson did his duty." "The Better 'Ole," eh?

FRANK A. EGAN.

NEW YORK, February 14.

DEFEAT THREATENS PORT DEVELOPMENT

Proposal for New York-New Jersey Commission Has Serious Opposition.

DELEGATES MEET TO-DAY

Govs. Smith and Edge Will Devise Means of Overcoming Criticism.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, Feb. 14.—Defeat of the proposal to have the States of New York and New Jersey unite on a plan for the comprehensive development of the port of New York by a commission of six men to be known as the New York Port Authority seems certain unless delegations from the two States, which meet to-morrow morning in the New York Chamber of Commerce rooms, are able to devise a means of meeting criticisms.

Gov. Smith and Gov. Edge will be at the head of the delegations, which will include Lieut.-Gov. Walker and legislative leaders of both parties. Many of the New York legislators have voiced opposition to the proposal for port development, fearing that the tremendous powers that would be vested in the port authority might be misused.

When the New York delegation left Albany it was generally understood that the scheme hung in the balance. There was a suggestion that Gov. Smith, Lieut.-Gov. Walker, Attorney-General Newton, Speaker Sweet of the Assembly, Senator J. Henry Walters, President pro tem. of the Senate, and the other legislators who will represent New York State have a meeting before they get together with the New Jersey commission in order to agree upon some programme of definite action by this State.

What Treaty Provides.

The proposed treaty between the States of New York and New Jersey provides for the creation of the port authority of six men, three from New Jersey and three from New York, at least two of whom shall be residents of New York city. They are to serve for terms of six years and under Article 4 of the proposed treaty would have the following powers: "The port authority shall constitute a body, both corporate and politic, with full power and authority to purchase, acquire, construct, lease and operate any terminal or transportation facility within said district, and to make charges and establish rates or tolls for the use thereof; and for any of such purposes to take, own, hold, lease and operate real or personal property; to borrow money and secure the same by bonds or by mortgage upon any property held or to be held by it; but nothing herein contained shall effect the present legal title to any property now vested in or held by either State or by any municipality, city, county, village, township or private individual or corporation, nor affect any bonded indebtedness of such State, municipality or other body, individual or corporate."

Another provision is that "no grant of land within the port of New York now owned by either State or in which it has any titular interest shall hereafter be made without the approval of the Port Authority."

Senators and Assemblymen generally, and especially those from Greater New York, fear that evils would creep into the exercise of such broad powers by the Port Authority. They point out that no limit can be fixed by the treaty to the amount of bonds the Port Authority might issue and turn over to a corporation for its property. Once the Port Authority is created as proposed neither State would have further power over it, except to make appropriations for the expenses of the Port Authority until such time as it became self-sustaining.

Much Opposition Shown.

One of the leaders, who did not want his name used, admitted that much opposition to the treaty plan had become manifest during the past week. He said: "The Legislatures of both States must understand that in constituting this Port Authority we are setting up a monster with tremendous powers. There seems no way of checking the proposed authority, so we will have to go into it with our eyes open. It is a question of either giving six men this unparalleled power or of dropping the plan entirely. I have not been able to discover any halfway measure."

A matter to be determined is the extent of what is to be called the port of New York. Some want it to go up the river as far as Yonkers and out on Long Island to take in Jamaica Bay. Others want the whole of the Long Island shore taken in. Still others are for a more limited harbor.

Another question that promises to cause long discussion is that of the power given to the Port Authority by Article 17 to make "suitable orders, rules and regulations for the improvement of navigation and commerce of the district. This is construed to mean power over the movement of trains on shore as well as vessels navigating the waters of the bay.

HOME RULE BILL INTRODUCED.

Socialist Would Forbid the Use of Troops to Suppress Strikes.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, Feb. 14.—Assemblyman Clarence Welsh of Albany introduced to-day the proposed constitutional amendment providing for home rule for cities which was prepared by the joint conference of representatives of the State Conference of Mayors, the Citizens Union, the City Club of New York and the Municipal Government Association.

Walter T. Arndt of the Citizens Union says the measure proposes the minimum requirements of practicable and workable home rule.

Assemblyman Claessens, Socialist, proposed a bill prohibiting the State police from assisting in the suppression of strikes, walkouts or other industrial disputes and prohibiting any State officer from directing or employing the State militia, National Guard or State police for the suppression of such disputes.

At the time the State police was formed labor unions opposed it on the ground that it would be used in industrial disputes, but such situations never have arisen.

DINING CAR CHEF FINED.

Cheated Government With Fake Meal Tickets.

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—Harold N. Smith of New York was fined $100 in the Federal court to-day after he had pleaded guilty to defrauding the Government by means of counterfeit meal tickets used on dining cars on trains between Boston and New York. Smith, a chef, was one of thirty-two men rounded up charged with dining car frauds by which the Government lost nearly $30,000.

Opposed to Mackrell Motor Bill.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, Feb. 14.—Magistrate W. Bruce Cobb of New York has wired to Secretary of State Hugo that he does not favor the bill introduced by Senator John J. Mackrell of Troy creating a State motor vehicle department. The State Automobile Association also denies favoring the bill.

The Sun Calendar

THE WEATHER.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.
Standard Time.
Sun rises......6:51 A M Sun sets......5:30 P M
Moon rises......6:25 P M

Eastern New York—Rain in central and south, rain or snow in north portion to-day; to-morrow local rains or snows and colder; moderate shifting winds.

New Jersey, rain to-day; colder and probably fair, except snow in northwest portion to-morrow; moderate shifting winds.

Northern New England, snow to-day and probably to-morrow; moderate winds, mostly north, except strong northeast to-day on the east Maine coast.

Southern New England, rain to-day; local rains or snows and colder to-morrow; fresh shifting winds on the coast.

Western New York, snow or rain to-day; colder in west portion; local snows, colder in east portion to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—While pressure is still abnormally low east of the Mississippi River, the disturbance is gradually losing its intensity, and there are three distinct centres to-night between lower Michigan and the East. General rains and snows continue from the Missouri Valley eastward, mainly snow in the upper lake region, the upper Mississippi and Missouri valleys. In the south Atlantic States the weather has cleared, and it was fair in the West except in the north Pacific States. It is considerably colder in the central valleys, while in the lake region and the Atlantic States temperatures remain high for the season. In the West there was little change. There will be snow Saturday in the Ohio Valley, Tennessee, the upper lake and west lower lake region, rain in the middle Atlantic States and rains and snows in New England and local snows will continue Sunday from the lake region eastward. The weather will be fair Saturday and Sunday in the South and on Monday in the south portion of the middle Atlantic districts. It will be colder Saturday in the lake region, the Ohio Valley, Tennessee and the South, and colder Sunday in the lower lake region, the middle Atlantic States and New England.

Observations at United States Weather Bureau stations taken at 8 P. M. yesterday, seventy-fifth meridian time:

Stations.	Temperature Last 24 hrs. High.	Low.	Barometer.	Rainfall Last 24 hrs.	Weather.
Abilene	64	38	30.10	..	Clear
Albany	38	32	29.28	.36	Cloudy
Atlantic City	46	46	29.30	1.04	Clear
Baltimore	58	46	29.26	.56	Rain
Bismarck	14	10	30.30	.06	Snow
Boston	46	40	29.36	.66	Rain
Buffalo	48	36	29.32	.42	Cloudy
Charleston	66	56	29.80	.14	Clear
Chicago	40	28	29.20	.14	Rain
Cincinnati	42	36	29.38	..	Rain
Cleveland	48	40	29.24	.01	Rain
Detroit	44	28	29.30	.24	Rain
Galveston	60	62	30.04	..	Clear
Helena	36	22	30.14	..	Clear
Jacksonville	68	58	29.76	.42	Clear
Kansas City	30	26	29.73	.18	Snow
Los Angeles	62	50	30.08	..	Cloudy
Milwaukee	28	24	29.78	.74	Snow
New Orleans	64	52	29.86	..	Clear
Oklahoma City	34	22	30.04	.10	Clear
Philadelphia	60	44	29.32	.78	Rain
Pittsburg	52	40	29.40	.14	Cloudy
Portland, Me.	36	28	29.50	.14	Rain
Portland, Ore.	48	44	29.94	.14	Rain
Salt Lake City	38	26	30.18	..	Cloudy
San Antonio	64	44	30.08	..	Clear
San Francisco	56	50	30.10	.82	Cloudy
San Diego	62	48	30.12	..	Cloudy
St. Louis	38	36	29.44	.16	Snow
Washington	60	46	29.33	.28	Rain

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS.

	8 A. M.	8 P. M.
Barometer	29.47	29.71
Humidity	96	97
Wind—direction	E.	N. E.
Wind—velocity	18	8
Weather	Rain	Cloudy
Precipitation	.68	.21

The temperature in this city yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

8 A. M.	42	1 P. M.	43	6 P. M.	41
9 A. M.	41	2 P. M.	43	7 P. M.	39
10 A. M.	41	3 P. M.	43	8 P. M.	41
11 A. M.	42	4 P. M.	44	9 P. M.	41
12 M.	43	5 P. M.	45	10 P. M.	40

	1919.	1918.		1919.	1918.
9 A. M.	41	40	6 P. M.	42	41
12 M.	42	42	9 P. M.	41	41
3 P. M.	43	42	12 Mid.	40	44

Highest temperature, 46, at 4:50 P. M.
Lowest temperature, 37, at 3:30 A. M.
Average temperature, 42.

EVENTS TO-DAY.

Dinner of the Fossils in honor of their fellow member, James M. Beck, Fraunces Tavern, corner Broad and Pearl streets, 6:30 P. M.

Welcome home concert in honor of Col. William Hayward and the 171 medal winning soldiers of the Old Fifteenth Regiment by the Clef Club Singing Orchestra of Bonbon Buddies, Carnegie Hall, 8 P. M.

Lecture on "Dutch Painting," by Philip L. Hale, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 4 P. M.

Twenty-fourth annual dinner of the Steuben County Society, Republican Club, West Fortieth street, 7 P. M.

Samuel S. Koenig, chairman of the New York county Republican committee, will give a ball to the Republican State officials and the men and women Assembly district leaders, Palm Garden, 8 P. M.

Victory banquet, twenty-fifth anniversary New York city chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Sherman Square Hotel, 7 P. M.

Meeting of the Osteopathic Society of the City of New York, Murray Hill Hotel, 8:15 P. M.

Lecture by Dr. L. A. Shoudy on "The Injured Body and Its Treatment," Safety Institute of America, Metropolitan Building, 11 A. M.

Eighteenth annual dinner of the New York Society of Accountants, Shanley's, 117 West Forty-second street, 7 P. M.

Miss Evangeline Booth will make an address on "Feeding Doughboys at the Front," under the auspices of the League for Political Education, Carnegie Hall, 11 A. M.

Dinner in honor of Francis Burton Harrison, Governor-General of the Philippines, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 7 P. M.

Children's Museum, Brooklyn, lecture by A. B. Gallup on "Animal Airplanes," 3:30 P. M.

Lecture by Prof. William B. Guthrie on "America and Her Neighbors," 197 East Broadway, 8 P. M.

Lecture by E. L. Wertheim on "Fat Heads and Lean Heads," West Side Y. M. C. A., 8 P. M.

Philharmonic Society, Carnegie Hall, 2:30 P. M.; concert by Clef Club Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, 8:15 P. M.; Friends of Music, Aeolian Hall, 3 P. M.; Irish concert, Aeolian Hall, 8:15 P. M.

The Bronx Congress, which has headquarters at 914 Prospect avenue, will hold its annual ball and entertainment in the Hotel Majestic on Saturday evening.

In the People's House, 7 East Fifteenth street, Scott Nearing will speak at 11 A. M. on "The Present Crisis."

Tea is served for men in uniform and their women relatives and friends at Headquarters Hostess House, Y. W. C. A., 135 East Fifty-second street, from 4 to 5:30 P. M.

League of Free Nations, luncheon, Commodore Hotel, 1 P. M.

Real Estate Board, dinner, ballroom, Commodore Hotel, 7 P. M.

Dr. William Starr Myers will continue his popular current history reviews, Opera House, 10:30 A. M.; Symphony Society of New York, Walter Damrosch conductor, Opera House, 3 P. M.

St. Mary's Alumnae, bridge, Waldorf-Astoria, 2 P. M.

Dr. George Earle Raiguel, lecture, Waldorf-Astoria, 11 A. M.

Maritime Association of the Port of New York, dinner, Waldorf-Astoria, 7 P. M.

Pekingese Club of America, meeting, Waldorf-Astoria, 2 P. M.

The Manoo Club, dance, Waldorf-Astoria, 8 P. M.

Suffolk County Society, dinner, Hotel McAlpin, 7 P. M.

Wayne County Society of Pennsylvania, dinner, Hotel McAlpin, 7 P. M.

Erie Railroad Claim Agents, meeting and dinner, Hotel McAlpin, 6 P. M.

St. Elizabeth College Club, meeting, Hotel McAlpin, 10 A. M.

PUBLIC LECTURES TO-NIGHT.

MANHATTAN.

"Do We Really Mean the Quest of Opportunity?" by Dr. Robert M. [illegible], Cooper Institute, Eighth street and [illegible] avenue.

"The Ethnography of [illegible]," by Lindley M. Keasbey, Ph. D., Hamilton Grange, 505 West 145th street.

"The Creative Genius of Modern Russian Drama," by Frederick [illegible], Y. M. C. A., Harlem, 5 West 125th street.

WOULD CHECK UNEMPLOYMENT

Senator Kenyon Proposes Industrial Relations Commission.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Prevention of unemployment is the [illegible] of a bill introduced to-day by Senator Kenyon (Iowa) providing for the establishment of a Federal industrial relations commission. The measure was referred to the Labor Committee.

The commission would be composed of one representative each of employers and employees, an economist and an expert in labor administration.