

**The Sun**  
AND NEW YORK PRESS.  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1919.  
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Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association, Inc., 100 Nassau Street, New York, N. Y.  
President, Frank A. Munsey, 150 Nassau St., New York.  
Vice-President, Edwin W. Washburn, 150 Nassau St., New York.  
Treasurer, Wm. T. Dewart, 150 Nassau St., New York.  
All checks, money orders, etc., to be made payable to The Sun.

London office, 40-43 Fleet Street.  
Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodiere, at Rue des Capucines.  
Washington office, Munsey Building.  
Brooklyn office, Room 202, East 4th Building, 500 Washington Street.

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TELEPHONE, BERKMAN 2200.

**Senator Reed's Brilliant Argument Against the Wilson League.**

It is not often we find a man in Congress with the courage and with the fine sense of duty in sufficient measure to impel him to raise his voice in protest against a piece of legislation or a treaty when doing so involves him in a break with his party and a break with the Administration for which his party is responsible.

The big man alone can do this; the little man, the weak man, the man who plays politics in season and out, can never do it. So when a man, a United States Senator and a Democrat, comes out against the President's scheme for a League of Nations in the bitter and forceful arraignment that characterized Senator Reed's great speech in the Senate on Saturday we know that in him we have a public servant who answers true to his conscience and who has the courage to do as strong men do—to do right as he sees the right, and to do it with all the vigor and passion of his virile nature.

This is Senator REED as we see him, as we understand him; and whether right or wrong in his conclusions concerning the Wilson League Covenant he stands out boldly as a man of convictions and courage—the kind of convictions and courage that command admiration.

Senator REED's speech was a powerful and convincing argument—the argument of a forceful, clear thinking lawyer. It was couched more in the method of the advocate than in the form of an oration, and as such ably supplemented the great speech of Senator BORAH of the day before.

With these two vigorous speeches against any covenant that would involve us in European and Far Eastern quarrels and that would rob us of that priceless independence which we so dearly won from England by the valor of our arms—the Borah speech from the Republican side of the chamber, the Reed speech from the Democratic side of the chamber—we may safely feel that the protest against Mr. Wilson's altruistic dream is ably and powerfully launched.

But this protest must not stop here. It must be followed up by organization. A campaign of education should be started at once that will turn the calcium light on this perilous and dangerous thing that threatens our liberty and our freedom of action as an independent nation. Any agreement that would make for the elimination of wars could not fall of a tremendous appeal to the people of America at this time, at the close of the most disastrous conflict known to the world. And in this fact lies the subtle danger of the Wilson scheme. On its face it is compelling to a degree, but it does not stand the test of sound reasoning. It is a covenant that plays directly into the hands of England, because England with her colonies would command the situation through her larger number of votes in the executive council. Why surrender our independence to England—to England, the other nation of Europe and to the Far East? This is a question that calls for mighty serious thought.

**Ship Talk, But No Figures.**

Mr. HURLEY, the chairman of the Shipping Board, carries on his enthusiasm for a great American merchant marine. He said in Chicago the other day:

"There are some who are inclined to be discouraged, but we are not particularly alarmed. We are interested in having ships built as opportunity affords.

"The American flag must fly over every American ship whether that ship is owned by the Government or by corporations or by individuals.

Chairman HURLEY has yet to announce how the ships, after the Government has built them, are to be operated so they may compete successfully with the vessels of other nations. He talks about "a thoroughly democratic exchange of views to lay the basis of the necessary legislation."

No exchange of views that we can imagine will alter the facts about the merchant marine. It costs twice as much to build a ship in an American yard as it costs in certain foreign

yards. It costs twice or three times as much to man an American ship as some foreign shipowners have to pay. If the Government built the ships and sold them to American operators at half the cost of their construction there would still be the problem of the seamen's pay.

Does Mr. HURLEY believe that American shippers would pay double freights for the happiness of knowing that their goods sailed under the American flag?

**One Group of Us in the Bryanized Diplomatic Service.**

If during his stay in the United States the President should find an hour to devote to the older form of relations between the United States and other nations—and particularly the little nations of the Western Hemisphere—he might do well to give that hour to a reading of the speeches delivered in the House of Representatives on January 21 and 22 by the Hon. JOHN JACOB ROGERS of Massachusetts. These may be had from Mr. ROGERS in pamphlet form. They concern themselves with the diplomatic and consular service of the United States. In brief, they renew the effort that has been made for years, in Congress and out, to bring about a merit system in the State Department and particularly to procure the advancement of experienced secretaries to ministries.

The idea, as Mr. ROGERS remarked, is not revolutionary. In administrations other than the present, through the wisdom of the President or his Secretary of State, there has been some sort of merit system, although it depended upon the intelligence and conscience of the chief executive rather than upon written law. To quote from one of the six Rogers speeches:

"When President WILSON was inaugurated in 1913 there were forty-one United States Ambassadors and Ministers. With respect to previous diplomatic experience these were classified as follows: One had been Ambassador at a previous post; 5 had been promoted from Minister to Ambassador; 4 had been Ministers at a previous post; 14 had been secretaries in the diplomatic service; 3 had been consuls; 1 had been both secretary and consul; 13 had been appointed without previous diplomatic experience. Combining these we see that 10 had been Ambassadors or Ministers at a previous post; 18 were service men, promoted from secretary or consul; and only 13, less than one-third, were appointed without diplomatic experience.

"What has been the history of the last six years? Four of the forty-one are still in the service. Fifty-one men have been appointed Ambassador or Minister since March, 1913. Only two of the fifty-one so appointed have been secretaries, or, indeed, had had previous diplomatic experience of any kind. One of the two service men was appointed to Colombia and the other to Hayti. Neither post would be regarded as a prize.

"Many of the new men appointed have been entirely creditable. But when we look over the appointments to the Latin American republics, mostly under the régime of Secretary BAYAN, we cannot fail to be startled at the complete lack of consideration given to merit, ability, or useful experience."

Except in one case Mr. ROGERS is not specific concerning the personnel of the men chosen by Secretary BAYAN to represent the United States in the republics to the south of us. It is interesting, therefore, to take a group of these appointees and observe whether the Massachusetts Representative is justified in a phrase, used later in his speech, designating these Ministers as "party hacks and political hangers on." There are in Central America six republics, and to each of these the United States sends an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary whose salary is \$10,000 a year. It will be generally agreed that, considering the relatively light social obligations of our representatives in Central America, \$10,000 a year is not mean pay; and that many a man of considerable diplomatic experience and ability would be glad to have such a post. Let us take the Central American group, from north to south, and note the choices made by Mr. BAYAN in 1913 and 1914 for places where this country should be represented by men of tact, intelligence and at least some diplomatic experience.

Guatemala—WILLIAM HAYNES LEVY of Carrollton, Miss., aged 69; a former minister who retired from his clerical labors in 1905 to study and farm.

Honduras—T. SAMBOLA JONES of Baton Rouge, La.; lawyer; according to "Who's Who," "has addressed most of the legislatures of the South" and "was one of the three organizers of the Louisiana Chautauqua in 1888."

Salvador—BOAZ W. LONG of New Mexico; was in the commission business from 1890 to 1913 in San Francisco, Chicago and Mexico City; became chief of the Latin American division of the State Department two months after Mr. BAYAN entered the Cabinet, and was made Minister in August, 1914.

Nicaragua—BENJAMIN L. JEFFERSON of Denver, Col.; a native of Georgia, a dentist, and in 1896 a Democratic Presidential elector from Colorado.

Costa Rica—EDWARD J. HALE of Fayetteville, N. C.; a newspaper editor before the civil war; a Confederate soldier in that conflict; American consul at Manchester from 1885 to 1889; a writer, according to "Who's Who," on "historical, political, scientific and economic topics."

Panama—WILLIAM JENNINGS PRICE of Lancaster, Ky.; lawyer; a Democratic Presidential elector from Kentucky in 1900 and an alternate delegate at large to the Democratic National Convention of 1908.

The only one of these gentlemen

mentioned specifically by Representative ROGERS is the Minister to Costa Rica, Mr. HALE, who is reported to have drawn his pay during two years which he spent at home; and Mr. ROGERS spoke gently of him, for Minister HALE will be an octogenarian come Christmas:

"I do not know this Mr. HALE of North Carolina, but I do know that he is in his eightieth year. He was born in 1839, and so far as I am informed, he is perfectly well satisfied to stay on indefinitely in North Carolina. He finds the climate of North Carolina much more salubrious than that of San Jose, Costa Rica. I do not want you to think that it is necessary for his protection or pleasure that this House should take action that would send him back to Costa Rica. Mr. HALE was one of the hosts of gentlemen whom Mr. BAYAN selected as Ministers in 1913 and inflicted upon the Latin American republics. So far as I know, he is a thoroughly estimable gentleman. But he is not a diplomat, and never was a diplomat. I question whether he was ever capable of handling adequately the affairs of state in an exceedingly difficult post such as that of Costa Rica."

Representative POT, from whose State Mr. HALE comes, took Mr. ROGERS to task for saying that Mr. HALE was not a diplomat, and Mr. ROGERS was quick to amend his speech by saying that Mr. HALE had been consul at Manchester in President CLEVELAND's first term. If Mr. ROGERS had taken the trouble to look over the biographies of the other Ministers Plenipotentiary named by BAYAN for service in Central America he would have seen that in respect of diplomatic experience Mr. HALE shines; for none of the others seems to have had anything to do with State Department affairs until Mr. BAYAN adopted him. Two of the six were lawyers, one was a retired minister, one a dentist, one a commission merchant and one a writer. What were their peculiar qualifications for the delicate missions to which Mr. BAYAN had them appointed? One was an organizer of a Chautauqua. Two were Presidential electors in years when Mr. BAYAN ran for the Presidency. One was an alternate delegate to a Bryan convention. Four came from the solid South and two from the solid West. Isn't it evident that such men are born diplomats?

Mr. BAYAN has gone from the State Department, but his works live after him, probably not to the joy of the experienced ROBERT LANSING. That worthy man would be justified in laying before the President a copy of the Rogers speeches on reform in the diplomatic service.

**Coffee, the Anomaly.**

The price of coffee was one of the food freaks of war, and it is again a freak of peace. When all the world was yelling for food and when the prices of everything else went up so fast that the housewife had to use new arithmetic every time she went to market, coffee was the gentle friend of the afflicted purse. Your rolls cost twice as much as in 1914, but the soothing beverage that went with them stayed at the old price. People who knew the secret of dulling the appetite with coffee taken upon rising, managed to eat economical breakfasts. The poor home scientist, however, that coffee is food and that five cups of it may be consumed daily by a healthy human adult without evil results, bought coffee and stayed away from steak. Good coffee in bulk could be had, even in the fashionable stores, for twenty cents a pound.

But, oh, the sadness of peace! That very coffee, five pounds for a dollar, now costs thirty-five cents a pound. Europe, cut off for three or four years from the joys of the brown bean, has gone in for a debauch. The Germans and Austrians, greater coffee drinkers than ourselves, hasten to discard the dried leaves that they have been brewing since the war put up a barrier between them and South America. The law of supply and demand is operating on the docks at Rio and Sao Paulo. Instead of a visible supply of two and a half million bags in Brazil, only a million can be seen.

But do not despair. After Europe has filled its canisters the price may fall back a bit. Meanwhile our friends the South Americans are getting a whack at the markets of the world. The high price of Brazilian coffee—the kind you get when you ask for "Mocha and Java"—will result in a stimulation of the coffee industry in our own, for the time being, little island of Porto Rico. Maybe the kiting of coffee will make a large number of converts to Porto Rican coffee, which is mighty stout stuff.

**Backsliding Detroit.**

Since April 30, 1918, nations have rejoiced over the dryness of Detroit. Even in its gayest resorts, hotels, restaurants, cabarets, no stimulating beverage keyed jangling nerves, moistened the merely thirsty, except, of course, such as was poured into teacups from vinegar cruets, sauce bottles, coffee urns and like innocent appearing containers toward which trembling hands reached hopefully when waters winked.

Now, alas! a virtuous world is saddened by the news from the industrial metropolis by the blue waters of the Detroit River, itself no wetter than the abandoned city whose wayward feet it laves.

Three hundred thousand bottles of booze—hateful world!—reached reviving rioters within a few short hours after the State Supreme Court lifted the Ohio border line barrage. Wholesale prices dropped from \$72 to \$45 a case. Hotels and cafes made no attempt to prevent customers from placing their liquor on tables. Rum

pickets in flooded trenches threw down their arms and hiked to even wetter precincts. Detroit rocked with joy.

What can assuage the grief of the East over this backsliding of the West?

**Oil Struck in England.**

The despatch from England which announces the discovery of an apparently large streak of oil on the estate of the Duke of Devonshire at Chertfield adds the opinion of an expert that there is more oil in England than in Pennsylvania. Of course the first American petroleum State is no longer first in production; she has been slowly going down hill, and the 7,502,000 barrels produced in 1916 looked small when compared with the 107,000,000 barrels of Oklahoma and the 90,000,000 barrels which were drawn from California's innards. Texas, Illinois and Louisiana are far ahead of Pennsylvania as oil States, and even Kansas, West Virginia and Ohio have passed her out.

Withal, a production of petroleum as large as Pennsylvania's would be a godsend to Great Britain. To meet her wants in 1918 that island imported \$100,000,000 worth of petroleum and its products. To find any considerable fraction of her oil needs in her own lands would be a great piece of economic fortune. England has had some oil from her own colonies, but the production in Canada is comparatively small, and India, which produces about as much crude oil as Pennsylvania, is a long way off.

To strike oil now would be a lucky thing for England in more ways than one. Ships are scarce, and the production of oil at home would release cargo space for other freights. Britain, with all her coal, has had mine troubles far worse than America's since the war began. A third part is the fact that the discovery comes at a time when crude oil is supplanting coal as fuel. From now on no part of the oil well's yield will be a waste or a worry.

That there should be large petroleum deposits in England is not strange. The geological systems which tend to its creation are not only in Devonshire but in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Shropshire and Sussex. Some oil was found in Derbyshire as long ago as 1847, when JAMES YOUNG, the Scottish chemist, patented the first process for the manufacture of paraffin. Yet nobody had believed until recently, after American drillers had sunk wells in English soil, that petroleum was there in large quantities. Perhaps England is going to have a Coal Oil Army.

**Workers Want the Extra Hour of Daylight.**

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The effort to repeal the daylight saving law through the aid of the agricultural and cultural appropriation bill is an attempt to steal our hour of daylight which was given us by the passage of the bill last year, and which, though a war measure, should be continued for all time, as it is a great benefit to all.

Congress adjourns on March 4. Only not too prostrate a supplicant will secure the consideration of the House and the Senate during the next ten days, and unless there is an immediate widespread and concerted opposition to the repeal of the present law, favorable action on the bill, as introduced and recommended by the Committee on Agriculture, is quite possible. If the great majority of the workers of the country are to be deprived of the benefits of the law, which met with such universal approval last year, it would seem to be nothing less than a calamity.

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**From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.**

"What, in your opinion, is the greatest principle of the American Government?" Judge Vaughan asked Jose Rodriguez, a candidate for citizenship papers, this morning. "President Wilson," Jose replied.

**A White House Beginning.**

New, considering that dinner. That is given to a group? Is it just a start toward getting All the nation in the soup?

**DAYLIGHT SAVING.**

Protests From City Dwellers Against the Law's Repeal.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The opposition to the present daylight saving law seems to emanate from farmers' associations and perhaps from a few isolated sources where private interests have been injured by a change in the hours of daylight.

The effectiveness of the farmers' work can hardly be materially altered by the change that was made last year, although there is no doubt that in the case of those who conduct truck farms and dairies close to large cities and bring their produce to market in the early morning the fact that the sun rises one hour later by the clock than was formerly the case may cause some slight inconvenience. To a great majority of our population, however, the hour of daylight saved proved a great boon last summer.

Not only did the change result in the conservation of fuel, but the added hour of sunshine meant improved health and increased efficiency to millions of workers.

European countries tried the experiment before we did, and found it altogether successful, so that the changed hours are to continue, according to the information we receive, indefinitely, even though hostilities have ceased. If we do not follow Europe's lead, we will suffer in a commercial way by reason of the added difference during the summer between our time and that of London and Paris. A difference of five hours in the time between New York and London permits under normal telegraphic conditions the exchange of cable correspondence in a single day; a difference of six hours between the two cities makes this practically unfeasible.

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**FIRST IN THE CRUSADE.**

Recognition Due Americans Who Fought Under Foreign Flags.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—If W. Starr makes the admirable suggestion in his letter of February 13 that if any of our fighting men deserve recognition, none so fully deserve it as do those who in this world war took service under other flags than their own, because the Stars and Stripes was not yet unfurled. Of course the thought has been in the minds of thousands who sent those first of our crusaders forth, and of those other thousands who envied and tried to join them.

Such recognition must surely be given. We are not an unintelligent or an ungrateful people.

There is an experience that no other American troops knew. They went to the hardest sort of battle. When our divisions stormed through the German defenses in the summer and fall of 1918 they had little fighting, they suffered heavy loss; but they would be the first to declare that hard as was the task assigned them, that of the men who fought through the three dreadful years before was harder still.

Those met an enemy superior on land and in the air, very superior in artillery, in machine guns and in tactical training. On them were tested out by Germany those diabolic weapons of surprise, forbidden to the use of armies by the Hague Convention. And last, but not least, they fought in armies under divided command.

Those first men of ours fought then, with long odds against them; with their backs to the last wall. Where Frenchmen and Englishmen, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and Africans were dying for the cause of civilization, these, our very first and very brave, hurried forth to their part. They were not too proud to be the first to see the President of the United States persuade them that with the cause of the world war they were not concerned. He might promise to keep them out of war if they stayed at home, but they felt that they couldn't look their children in the face if they allowed any man so to drag their country into the war.

Recognition these men should get and will get. All over our land one clear voice has rung out, the voice of Theodore Roosevelt. Day in, day out, whether men could hear or forbear, it cried: "This man's perdition be as fire when for the truth he ought to die."

They heard, they believed, they went, and going accomplished more than they knew, for they led their country and they dragged their country's Administration into the war.

Of course they must have recognition. But surely that recognition should be a national one. No voluntary recognition, however generous, is fitting.

They led a nation, and a national recognition is due them.

Now comes the hitch. Till a new Congress meets there is not the ghost of a chance that anything will be done. It is only simple truth to say that the Administration, wholly dominated by the President, has followed with a spitefulness quite extraordinary in its reach and in its aims, every step that would differ with or offend him. In Congress-to-day the Administration's will is law.

Soon as the newly elected Congress meets we may look for action. And the fine devotion of our knights errant shall receive that worldwide recognition which every honest and every patriotic American knows none deserve quite as much as they.

**A HINT FROM THE SOUTH.**

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Would it not be possible for Northern legislators to "play horse" with the prohibition amendment to the national Constitution in the manner in which Southern legislatures drew the teeth of the "tar baby" amendments to that venerable document?

When they wished to shoe the black man away from the ballot box they simply barred him off by a vigorous literacy test, and then lifted the bars to all the illiterate whites by providing that the literacy test should not apply in the case of voters whose ancestors were entitled to the suffrage before the date of the enactment of the "tar baby" amendment.

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**MANN BITTER OVER IMPENDING DEFEAT**

Leaders Expect, However, Harmony at Republican Conference Thursday.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Harmony at the Republican conference next Thursday, when a Republican Speaker will be elected for the first time in ten years, apparently is expected by all party leaders in the House with the possible exception of Representative James R. Mann (Ill.), the present minority leader.

**'REVENGE' TALKED ABOUT**

Backers of Gillett for Speaker-ship Have No Intention of Hitting Back.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Harmony at the Republican conference next Thursday, when a Republican Speaker will be elected for the first time in ten years, apparently is expected by all party leaders in the House with the possible exception of Representative James R. Mann (Ill.), the present minority leader.

While representatives of all factions in the Speaker-ship contest—including the leader in Mr. Mann's own movement—are making it clear that the contest ends with the Speaker-ship Mr. Mann has taken occasion several times to indicate clearly his personal resentment against the apparently successful opposition to his candidacy since the election of Representative Gillett seemed assured.

Those who have talked to the Illinois member since Ohio and Indiana, and most of Pennsylvania, were ordered by Representative Gillett (Mass.) say he characterizes his impending defeat as "an outrage" and his vitriolic attacks on National Chairman Hays and Senators Lodge and Penrose for alleged interference in behalf of Gillett threaten to disturb a harmony which all leaders believe to be absolutely essential to a successful legislative program in the next Congress.

**Threat of Revenge.**

The threat of revenge has crept into discussion of the possibility of the election of the House in the last two or three days in a final attempt to solidify behind Mr. Mann all members who might support Mr. Gillett. A perfectly obvious attempt has been made to pin the vote on the Gillett following. So far as can be ascertained this has had no effect on the strength of the Massachusetts member.

It can be said authoritatively, moreover, that the leaders who have supported Mr. Gillett have no intention of seeking revenge nor have they contracted any political debts the payment of which should jeopardize party harmony.

The election of a Speaker-ship will go to the now ranking Republican on that committee is not at all probable, but changes will be made purely on the basis of the merits of the various candidates and as a result of trades for strength. And this rule in the interest of harmony probably will be applied in only a few of the more important chairmanships by the effect of the movement of erstwhile supporters of Mr. Mann in all probability quite as often as otherwise.

In a statement given to the press today Representative Martin B. Madden (Ill.), manager of the Mann campaign, takes virtually the identical position as to harmonious organization that has been offered from the start by the Gillett interest, although Mr. Madden drags in the word "revenge," only to repudiate that suggestion.

**Statement by Madden.**

His statement follows: "I hope and believe I speak for all Republicans in the House when I say that I shall do everything both now and after the election to secure the best of every Republican member of the House (feel the importance and necessity of entering upon the important problems that confront the country) and the best of every purpose which has for its object the promotion of the nation's welfare."

"This is no time for politics. There