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I know no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effectual as their strict construction.—Grant.

The University of Peace.

THERE is no real occasion for surprise or discouragement that disarmament has been relegated to the side lines at this first meeting of the league of nations at Geneva. There is too much actual warfare being waged and too much of the spirit of war in the air to warrant the serious consideration of disarming. While some war, others can not throw away their weapons.

Peace must precede disarmament before it has any chance to follow it. For two years the world has been crying "peace, peace" to have only the returning echo of more strife. In fact it is not yet known what disarmament may be, can be or should be. The world war developed innumerable agencies which are equally adapted to both peace and war and quite as essential in the one field as the other.

Wireless carrying electric current has but to control direction to become a deadly missive. The submarine will quite surely become a merchantman. The airplane is now a passenger and mail carrier, and express agency. The airship is an air transport for persons and freight. Chemistry is an essential of industry; it is, too, the most deadly of munitions. Asphyxiating gases are its product. The warship may be concealed in the hull of the merchant ship.

Disarmament, then, when finally applied, may be rather an incentive than a preventive of war. It may induce to a rivalry in those duplex agencies for both peace and war in which inventive genius has the double objective. It may relegate itself to the field of economics as expressed in taxation where it indeed seems to be headed.

There is no reasonable doubt that following peace, armies will be greatly reduced and with them navies. The money so expended will be turned to the channels of industry and production. Purchasing power will be multiplied and prosperity follow. But even so, as nations grow prosperous, they grow greedy and as they grow greedy, they become belligerent with war preparedness steadily augmented by peace activities.

Neither is it possible or practical to restrict, let alone forbid, exploiting these war agencies that come so largely through peace activities. Asphyxiating gas that so nearly won the war for Germany, may be prohibited in war, but that, as is now known, will not stop its use should war come. And why should it?

As the late Alfred T. Mahan, then a naval captain, pointed out at the first Peace Conference at The Hague, the same objection made to gas, was made to firearms. It is clearly no more inhuman than the submarine, the depth bomb, the mine field, the mining of fortifications, the nonasphyxiating explosive shell or many other missiles. But beyond this, its discovery can not be prevented and once discovered, its use is inevitable should occasion arise.

The fact remains that economically desirable and inevitable as disarmament is, it will not prevent wars. War prevention can come only as do other reforms, through drawing nations together in constantly better mutual understanding; through the settlement of differences by agreement, arbitration and court action; through building up a repugnance to war with the spirit of international righteousness.

This also can be done only through such an agency as is already in operation in the league of nations. If Americans then are in fact opposed to war, if they want peace, they must become a part of the peace agency; they must matriculate in this university for peace and become a part of it, a perhaps almost dominating influence in it.

Not an Unmixed Evil.

A number of people, including some most admirable newspapers, are having a series of spasms, because Congress may be asked to pass a Sunday observance law. Nothing has hit them as yet, but they see something aimed their way.

The reformers ye shall always have with you. They are not an affliction, though frequently unwelcome. They are not even a necessary evil, but in the main a great blessing. Without them there would be no real progress, and though reformers, as raw material, are seldom practical, where they succeed it is quite inevitably through the application of their ideals by practical men.

Surely no one will be harmed through the insistence upon a more reverent and a less frivolous observance of the Sabbath day. Going to church is not a harmful occupation for a part of one day of the week. Being at home with one's family for one day in seven injures no man's health nor his morals.

Devoting a part of a day to one's children and avoiding for that day the flippant and trifling, the sensational and useless, will not lower self-respect nor undermine character. It will not weaken the national morale if all the people should devote their Sundays to what is worth while, to what has real value and to quietude rather than clamor.

Congress will not enact such a law. The bill may be introduced, but there will be no "Volstead" Sunday law. The agitation on its behalf, however, will do good, not harm, and those who sit in the seat of the scornful will do themselves no credit.

To remember the Sabbath day no longer makes necessary a return to the habits and customs of our Puritan ancestors. The Lord can be worshipped in the beauty of holiness without austerity or asceticism. Yet it is to the very rigidity of the faith of the men of those days, we of today owe our freedom of worship, our political liberties and our right to govern ourselves.

Certainly respect, if nothing more, is due them and their religion. Surely that which made them what they were and able to accomplish what they did, is worthy the serious thought and possibly reverence, of this iconoclastic period.

The iconoclast has accomplished nothing but destruction. To the men of great faith is due all that is worth while in the world, and while this may not be a "Christian nation" as some elaborately argue, it surely is not a heathen nation.

The appeal that still wins public confidence and approval, is that to the better nature, to higher ideals and to righteousness. It will be a sad day when it is otherwise. No "blue laws" will pass Congress, but the "blue law" agitation will not be a deterrent to the moral growth and strength of this people. Is it not possible it has come because of the need?

Infant Prodigies.

If a child is a prodigy should its parents swell up with pride or shrivel with dread? Some scientists hold that prodigies are candidates for asylums for the insane, that genius is akin to insanity.

Just now they are watching Samuel Rzeszewski, the 8-year-old Polish phenomenon who has defeated not only all the chess experts, but has, playing alone, beaten from 20 to 26 of them in as many simultaneous games. His name alone would seem to warrant their suspicion.

Naturally they recall Paul Morphy, another boy prodigy at chess, whose brain collapsed. Will young Rzeszewski be but another? Just how much strain can the immature human brain stand and not give way?

The ordinary man to whom the word "phrenology" has much the same significance as "Rzeszewski," just a string of letters so hung together as to mystify the uninitiated, regards prodigies as sideshow freaks. The story of geniuses indicates that it is as apt or more apt to fruit from seeming juvenile stupidity as from infantile precocity.

But beyond that, commonplace, everyday parents will marvel at the stupidity, which to them amounts to crime, of the parents of this young Pole who permit him to engage in these contests. They seem willing to exploit him for their own glory or financial gain or both, wholly ignoring the child's good or his child rights.

If this boy, apparently but a mental phenomenon, is not only used but abused as he has been, it will be a miracle if he does not either break, or degenerate into a mere machine of one operation. Certainly such a child should have a broader usefulness, a greater personal satisfaction for himself and a more attractive and stimulating outlook for his future years.

The youngster seems to operate at the chess boards automatically, but automatons are not really human even if they have human form. He seems to play his games without stress or strain, and with apparent indifference. But why not let him be just a boy? Why not find if his brain has not other cells? Why not discover if his one dominating ability cannot be developed and applied in other directions?

Chess may be a side study, a game, a mental test and a recreation even though strenuous. But it produces nothing in itself; its cultivation has no value to the world at large or to any community. Why then condemn a child to it alone, who might use this sort of uncanny ability in some field of real usefulness?

When Joseph Hodges Choate sat in Horace Mann's lap, it was because there was no more room in the Choate carriage, and Joseph was quite too small a boy to require a seat for himself. Dr. Choate, Joseph's father, was obligingly taking the noted reformer from Topsfield, Mass., where Mann had delivered a lecture, to Salem to pass the night. That was all long before Joseph Hodges Choate became a great American lawyer and Ambassador to St. James. It is one of the many interesting anecdotes in "Life of Joseph Hodges Choate," by E. S. Martin, which has just been published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

F. Scott Fitzgerald, author of "This Side of Paradise" and "Flappers and Philosophers" (both Scribner books), the young Princeton man whose meteoric success in literature, has aroused wide and prolonged discussion is a great-grandson of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Fishing Industry In Forward Step

New Joint Conference Is Distinct Advance Toward Unity.

THE recent formation of the joint conference council, comprising equal representation of the workmen and employers in the fishing industry of the Northeastern States, is not only of great intrinsic importance in itself, but it again marks the great spread of influence from the President's second industrial conference. The basic principles adopted under this agreement, and even the expressions and wording in many of its parts, show the complete acceptance of that report as a basis of true relationship. The agreement has been signed by the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company, of Gloucester; the Bay State Fishing Company, of Boston; the Frank C. Pearce Company, of Gloucester, on the employers' side, and on the workers' side by business agents of the Fishermen's Union of the Atlantic.

The opening paragraph is worth note by some of the Socialistic labor leaders, who have violently denounced the possibility of any community of interest between employer and employe:

"We recognize that the interests of workers and employers and of the consuming public are at many points fundamentally identical in the fishing industry. It is our earnest desire at all times to promote this community of interest, and to establish the control of labor relations in our industry on the permanent basis of co-operation and mutual understanding, with peaceful negotiations and sympathetic appeal to mutual adjustment of any difficulties that may arise, as the methods of dealing with each other."

The agreement sets forth these general principles to govern the labor policy for the industry:

"(1) All parties in the industry shall continuously strive to promote and maintain just and harmonious relations between employers and workers, based upon the principles of equity and sympathetic investigation of fact, recognizing that the prime essential in the co-operative control of labor relations by workers and employers is not the particular form of administration that may be set up, but the attitude of all parties concerned toward each other and toward any plan that may be adopted.

"(2) The industry recognizes the propriety and necessity of its workers receiving a reasonable living wage as a minimum, which wage shall be sufficient to provide for the necessities of life as well as for progressive standards of living; and it further recognizes that a proper relation between a guaranteed minimum amount of remuneration and a reasonable opportunity for earnings above that minimum should be maintained.

"(3) It is recognized that in all wage adjustments, after proper provision has been made for the principle of the minimum wage as set forth above, due recognition shall be given to the economic conditions of the industry.

"(4) Barring factors inherent in the nature of the industry and other uncontrollable conditions, continuity of employment and reasonable quality and degree of production consistent with full safeguards for the health and well-being of the workers and the general welfare of the industry, are essential.

"(5) Uniform and comprehensive methods of investigation and record on labor relations and related factors throughout the industry are prerequisite to any sound basis of fact for determining proper conditions throughout the industry.

"(6) All matters requiring adjustment shall be settled through regularly established channels of candid discussion and peaceful negotiation and adjustment, without resort to lockouts, strikes, boycotts, blacklist or other such method."

"These principles governing our labor policy are frankly predicated upon the right of both employers and workers to organize as they may wish in any lawful associations without discrimination, to bargain collectively when they desire, and to be represented by representatives of their own choosing in negotiations and adjustments with respect to terms and conditions of employment and work in the industry."

Particular questions pertaining to wages, conditions of work, and other terms of employment are left for special negotiation from time to time as occasion may warrant.

The chief machinery for administering these matters is composed of a joint conference council upon which there is equal representation of employers and workers. It is expressly stated that this joint conference council shall try to reach a settlement by common agreement and without resort to arbitration. The fundamental principle of the council, however, is to ascertain conditions and to adjust the question at issue before disagreements arise.

Provision is made for the choice, if occasion arises, of a board of final review, whose members in each case are to be mutually acceptable to all parties concerned, and whose decisions shall be final. This board makes possible final adjustment on any arbitrable matter which cannot be settled by mutual discussion, but it is to be employed only as a last resort.

The employers have established a bureau of labor relations charged with the duty of giving special attention to all matters of labor relations in order to promote the well-being of the workers and the employers, as well as the interest of the public in labor problems in the fishing industry. They have retained their executive council on labor relations, who negotiated the agreement, to direct these activities, as well as to deal with the unions on a friendly basis. The Fishermen's Union, on their side, have appointed a union committee on labor relations representing and financed by them, to promote their mutual interests with the employers.

Ancient Home of the Washington Family

Sulgrave Manor, England, Recently Restored by the Sulgrave Institution.

Would Enhance Friendly Relations

Peer Tells of Sulgrave Institution

Cecil William Norton, First Baron Rathcreedan, whose interesting article expresses the desire of the leaders of English thought for closer relations between America and England, has long been one of the powerful influences in British politics. His article reproduced below, is from an advance proof of the December issue of the Old Colony Magazine, official publication of the Old Colony Club.

By LORD RATHCREEDAN.

IN visiting America as the head of the delegation of the Sulgrave Institution, sent to participate in the ceremonies commemorative of the establishment of the first parliamentary institution on American soil and the celebration of the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, I have but given expression once more to the cause to which a large part of my active life has been devoted, the cause of international peace through international understanding.

The Sulgrave Institution grew out of a movement, initiated on both sides of the Atlantic some thirteen or fourteen years ago, having for its purpose the celebration with fitting ceremonies of the centennial of the signing of the treaty of Ghent, which marked the end of war between the United States and Great Britain in 1815. The onset of the great war, in which, more than a hundred years after they had fought each other as enemies, Americans and Britons fought side by side for the first time as allies, prevented the carrying out of the centennial plans in 1915. But the response in England as well as in America, to the suggestion of permanent organization and permanent memorials, not only to commemorate a hundred years of peace between the two great English-speaking nations, but to foster and keep alive the mutual friendship based upon our common ancestry, language and traditions, was such as to warrant those who had set the original plan on foot in continuing their activities. The result was the founding of the Sulgrave Institution, an international organization of English-speaking men and women, having affiliated with it some score of associations and organizations, the members of which are desirous of destroying the last vestiges of ill-feeling between the peoples of the two countries.

* * *

Derives Name From Manor.

This Institution derives its name from Sulgrave Manor, the English country house which was the home for generations of the Washington family from which your first President and leader of your armies in the Revolution of 1776 was descended. Sulgrave Manor has been bought by the Sulgrave Institution. It has been restored to its original condition and there have been assembled there many relics of the Washington family. It is the hope, in which I sincerely share, that to both Americans and Britons Sulgrave Manor may become such a shrine as Mount Vernon has been for many years to Americans especially, but also to us of England who understand that the great man who lies there was an Englishman, leading his fellow Englishmen in their revolt against such tyrannous abuses as no liberty-loving Englishman could tolerate, then or now.

* * *

We have never been taught, as I am told the children of America were actually taught in school until quite lately, to regard the two countries as enemies; for there has never been any enmity between the peoples of the two countries. Had George III not refused to be guided by the advice of his ministers, the abuses of which the American colonists complained so justly would have been remedied without resort to arms. The people of England never sanctioned war with the colonists, any more than they sanctioned the same monarch's treatment of the Irish question. The same George III whose attitude brought about the separation of America and England is primarily responsible for the hatred and distrust of England by the Irish people that is culminating in the condition of civil war that exists in Ireland today. Had the King accepted Pitt's solution of the Irish question there would be no more talk of separation in Ireland today than there is in Scotland.

* * *

Handled Irish Question Badly.

England has always handled the Irish question badly. As an Englishman I do not hesitate to say that the Irish people have been treated abominably. But as a Liberal I maintain that the governments that have dashed the cup of liberty from Ireland's lips time after time, when their hopes and aspirations seemed about to be fulfilled, were not truly representative of the English people. No more was the government that, during your civil war, almost committed the country to open support of the South, representative of the people of England. The feeling of antipathy in America engendered by the two wars between the two countries would have vanished, I am convinced, half a century ago, had it not been stirred afresh by the ill-advised attitude of the ministers of that day.

If I may judge from what I have seen and heard on this, my first visit to America, the work of the Sulgrave Institution will be an easier task than it would have been in those earlier days before America and the Mother Country had been drawn together again to make common cause against the enemy of all that our common heritage had given us. Everywhere we have been, from Plymouth to Jamestown and as far West as Buffalo, we have found the people of America full of love for England, proud of their English descent and traditions and eager to give expression to their friendship. You are like us at home, yet very unlike in many ways, which, I suppose, is attributable to your wonderful climate and your vast spaces that seem to have removed all sense of time and distance.

* * *

Amazed at Distances.

I hardly know what has been more amazing to me; the extraordinary distances you travel, often on ordinary affairs of business; the effect of spaciousness that is carried out even in your homes and domestic surroundings; or the surprising number of motor cars, of which everybody seems to own at least one, no matter what his position or station in life!

Apart from these geographical, physical and material differences I find Americans in the mass very like English people in the mass, and your collective way of looking at things much the same as ours in England. You are individualists, as we are. You have, as a people, much the same point of view in such matters as the nationalization of railways, mines and other industries. You have your labor problem, and it is similar in many respects to ours. In England, labor, at the close of the war, had won the respect of the British people to such an extent that it seemed as if labor troubles were a thing of the past. The leaders of labor, most of whom are my friends, still have the confidence of the public in a marked degree, but their followers have got out of hand; revolutionary ideas and the impatience of the hot-headed ones have brought about a period of turmoil and distrust and it is apparent that the labor question is not yet settled. And I am told that in America labor has gone much the same course since the end of the war. But America will settle the labor question, I am sure, as will England, in sound English fashion, for you have the same English spirit in you.

One of the purposes of the Sulgrave Institution is to bring about the exchange between the two countries of teachers, of journalists and others who are in a position to impart information. I am sure that this process, if sufficiently carried on, will bring about such an understanding of Americans by Englishmen and of the English by Americans, that no effort, from within or from without, to alienate the two nations that, together, must guide the destinies of the world, can ever succeed. For when nations understand each other they cannot be enemies.

Keeps Records Of Old South

Rowland at Work on Life Of Jefferson Davis, Southern Hero

By GEORGE PERRY MORRIS.

YOU may not have noticed walking about the streets of Washington of late a tall, angular, high-browed, intellectual person of the older Southern type, yet not excessively so. Interrogate him and you will discover that he is Dubar Rowland, who is at work on a life of Jefferson Davis that will be definitive. A native of Mississippi, educated in her schools and college, and, since 1893, a resident of that Commonwealth, he has done more for the preservation of the documents pertaining to the history of that State and the lower Mississippi Valley than any man, past or present. He conceived the plan for a State department of archives and history, and became the first director in 1902, which post he still holds. To him is due an elaborate study of the archives of England, France and Spain for documents dealing with the history of the lower South; and in the work of calendaring and transcribing these collections he has enlisted the support of many associations. He has edited invaluable collections of documents in the State of Mississippi archives, and he has published the official correspondence of William C. Claiborne. Therefore it is a practiced hand that is now at work on the life of the leader of the Confederacy.

Mr. Edison and the Psychology of Music.

Edison having both spent and secured a fortune in perfecting an instrument for recording music, which device has value, commercial and aesthetic, is not content to stop with this accomplishment. In making his machine he has become interested in music per se, as he never was before. So he has offered a prize of $500 to be awarded next June by experts chosen by the American Psychological Association. The competitors are to submit essays, theses, whatever you please to call them, that deal with music's as yet unanalyzed effects upon hearers. Mr. Edison wants to know how far musical compositions can be classified according to their psychological effects; to what the degree of difference in musical sensitiveness is due; how far moods are caused or modified by music; whether music has an effect on muscular activity and can be counted upon if used in industrial establishments to make less destructive the effect of routine factory operations. I would like to write a study of Mr. Edison's expansion of human interests since he became 50 years old. Applied science does not hold him with such Delilah-like bonds as she used to. He flirts with problems of ethics, aesthetics and religion much more than he used to.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice's Swan Song.

Some day possibly it will be known in more detail than at present just how Sir Cecil Spring-Rice viewed his last years of service as British Ambassador to the United States. Seldom has a diplomat been called upon to meet a more difficult test than he had to meet during the war with Germany, and the tragedy of his experience was that he was of too fine a nature and had too scrupulous a standard of manners, methods and ideals to play the game as it was being played by Count Bernstorff, Germany's representative. Some inkling of the spirit and culture of the man may be gathered from the collection of his poems just issued, and especially in one written about a month before he suddenly died in Canada and penned the last night he spent in the Embassy on Connecticut avenue. It deserves to be quoted:

I vow to thee, my country—all earthly things above—
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love,
The love that asks no question; the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago—
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know—
We may not count her armies; we may not see her king—
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering—
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are Peace.

WEARS OLD CLOTHES; MAKES MYSTERIOUS GIFTS

London—The mysterious man who left $2,500 at the London Orthopaedic Hospital, refusing his name, address and even a receipt, has been to other hospitals with an equal gift.

His clothes were so old and his appearance so unimpressive that the porter of an institution in Bloomsbury did not think it necessary to show him in to the secretary, as he requested, but let the clerk deal with him.

Putting down the $2,500, the benevolent visitor explained that he was growing old, had not many more years to live, and might as well get rid of his money this way as any other.

The secretary, when informed of the windfall, rang up a brother secretary and warned him against not welcoming with open arms a man in top boots and breeches, a coat green with age, and a cap (which was the philanthropist's costume).

"Thanks," came the reply over the telephone, "but he's been here." The porters of hospitals he has not as yet visited are said to have polished their manners toward men in old clothes more exquisitely even than usually.—Boston Globe.

LINES WORTH REMEMBERING.

A gentleman puts words into deed, and sorts what he says to the deed. He is broad and fair. The vulgar are biased and petty. A gentleman considers what is right. The vulgar man considers what will pay. A gentleman wishes to be slow to speak and quick to act. He helps the needy; he does not swell riches.—Confucius.