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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1920

It has been remarked that there is no prince so bad whose favorites and ministers are not worse.—Burke.

Reforming the League

THE withdrawal of Senor Pueyrredon from the Argentine, Scandinavian and Canadian delegations have been hailed by those opposed to this league and those opposed to any league as the first step in the direction of its certain disintegration. This is sufficient proof, they declare, that it has failed as an agency for doing justice and keeping peace and has become merely a new instrument in the hands of European imperialism. Radical opinion has found the league impossible because it does not go far enough; the advocates of American isolation are against it because it goes too far.

Radicalism, however, is a state of mind which refuses to see any virtue in anything which does not coincide absolutely with its own preconceived standards of perfection. The advocacy of isolation is the product of a state of mind dominated by the hobgoblin of internationalism, which would see in every international agreement a menace to the sovereignty of America.

It is a characteristic of both these states of mind that while they recognize the fundamental desirability of guaranteeing international peace, they disparage the only existing agency for accomplishing that object and have no definite alternative plan.

Any association of nations which provides the opportunity for the representatives of forty-one nations to participate in the discussion and settlement of the problems of the world is at least a step in advance, if it is not a leap into perfection.

Without the league the voice of Sweden, of Argentina, of Canada, of South Africa would be faint and far away when Lloyd George, Leygues, and Giolitti meet in private conference.

In the assembly the voice of small nations is heard not only by the prime ministers of Britain, France and Italy but by the world. The necessity of defending their acts before the public opinion of the world is the most salutary influence that can be brought to bear on those statesmen who wield great power in the world's affairs.

Abandonment of the progress already made because it falls short of perfection is retrogression whatever the reasons by which its advocates endeavor to justify it.

The amendments advocated by the Argentine delegation involve questions of such far-reaching importance that it is not surprising that the league declined to act on them precipitately.

The proposal to elect the whole council by the assembly would destroy the present system of representation and give to the smallest state with the fewest interests at stake equal power with those whose interests are largest and whose powers are greatest.

This would be a change in the principle of representation equivalent to giving the smallest and least populous of our States representation in Congress equal to the largest and most populous.

It is in the assembly obviously that liberal opinion can wield its greatest influence, but the efforts of Lord Robert Cecil to limit the competency of the council and to secure greater powers to the assembly is more in line with "democratic transformation of the league" than the proposal of Senor Pueyrredon.

The suggestion that constituted states be admitted to the league has more in its favor than the first proposal, yet here the league is confronted with the certain opposition of France in the case of Germany and Jugo-Slavia and Greece in the case of Bulgaria who base their opposition on the ground that their former enemy states have not shown a disposition to fulfill their treaty obligations.

Pueyrredon's contention that unless the league includes every civilized nation, it is not a league of nations but a league of some nations, is unquestionably well founded. The admission of former enemy states must be accomplished if the league is to be an effective guaranty of peace, but the disinclination of the members to admit these states at this time does not mean by any means their perpetual exclusion.

Even the bitter antagonism of France must be overcome sooner or later by the pressure of the sentiment for the inclusion of Germany which has already manifested itself.

The inclusion of unrecognized states as members without a vote would saddle the league with the responsibilities of maintaining boundaries which have never been delimited.

The proposal that the international court should have compulsory jurisdiction is one which has received popular support at Geneva and sooner or later must be adopted as a most important agency for the prevention of war.

Americans generally would have been pleased had the league acted favorably on the proposal of the Canadian delegation which would eliminate Article X. In spite of the precedent established by the league in the case presented by M. Motta, it is obvious that the covenant would not suffer if the offending article were eliminated, and thereby the possibility of further interpretation would be definitely removed.

The action of the Canadians who have agreed that their amendment should receive the same treatment as the others, is more likely to result in its final adoption than the summary methods of the Argentine delegates. Meanwhile the precedent established in the case of Switzerland stands.

It is absurd to point to the failure of the league

at this session to act favorably on the proposed amendments as proof that any attempt to change the covenant is futile, that it has been rendered incapable of accomplishing the ends for which it was conceived and that those nations who seek changes have no alternative but to withdraw if they are already in and stay out if they have not joined the league.

No one who has followed impartially the work of the assembly during its first session can be unaware of the strong movement toward democratic expansion which has already begun, or unconscious of the force of moral pressure which has been operating to make the league an agent for the expression of the liberal sentiment of the world.

That force will grow and the opposition must weaken before the pressure of public opinion, but it will grow only through the participation of democratic forces in shaping the future policies of the league.

It will not grow if the ablest and most powerful exponents of a new era of international relationship refuse to enter the lists against the advocates of the old diplomacy or if they withdraw from the lists at the first reverse.

The old-fashioned West Virginia feudists must feel very small-timish when they look down on Mingo County.

A Project, Not a Policy

Industry and trade gets its "capital out of income." Governments get their income out of capital. Only the taxing power carries this right to make income equal expense. The business man has to regulate expense by income.

In large measure the object of a budget system is to apply this business rule to governmental affairs. It is an effort to regulate expense by income rather than to center the effort on making income match expense.

A British official once said it was easy to raise a cheer in the commons by preaching economy without specifying instances. But any specific application of the general rule instantly aroused a vigorous and combined opposition.

That fact is equally fact in Congress. It is no truer that platforms are made to carry elections than that economy is but a "policy and not a project," for popular consumption and not for application.

It was used in this last campaign to a frazzle. Not only the war waste, which was a safe cry because it is passed and beyond redemption, was used, but the continuing waste in an enormously burdensome civil list and a burdensome, unyielding, irresponsible, inefficient administrative organization.

The Republican party will have to make good to the last two factors. It is no longer ready to "fourflush" the public. The dear folks remember what they heard the weeks before November 2, and the promises made.

It will not be enough to cut the civil list here and there. It will have to be done wholesale to make good the pledges. It will not be enough to say taxes cannot be reduced and expenses cut to match income because of a Democratic inheritance.

Unless the Republican party organization was promising to the car without any intention of performing, it must cut expenses so materially as to match its claims.

The public understands what fixed charges should mean. It does not include under that head superfluous employes, nor duplications of service, nor disjointed where there should be correlated service. The party will be held to account.

One thing will be demanded of this Congress; the passage of the budget bill. Three other things will be demanded, not of this Congress but of the next: Reorganization of the departments to cut out duplication, to bring efficiency through coordination and to place immediate responsibility; wholesale reduction in the civil list, and the revision of the tax laws.

The first three of these will evidence an honest effort to redeem the pledge to measure expense by income and not vice versa as in the past. It will make possible that the last will be not only a simplification, but a revision down.

Unless the Overman law is repealed, Mr. Harding will have the power to reorganize the departments. He will also have this direct responsibility which quite properly rests with the executive.

Representative Reavis has introduced a resolution for a Congressional commission on departmental reorganization. He claims that by this means \$1,000,000 a day can be saved of the government's income.

This is specific. It shows what can be done. It is what was promised. It is what is demanded. Do it.

The Republican party must not lose its after-eclection sense that it is on trial. It is not given a deed, but a lease. It can be put out as easily as put in and the one primary factor specified in the lease was economy as a project and not merely as a policy.

Constantine is apparently sure of finding a fatted calf for his Christmas dinner.

Greek Isolation

Just as Greece recalls her King in defiance of allied opinion, Bulgaria is admitted to the vestibule of the league of nations along with Austria. This seems to foretell her admission to the Little Entente.

Bulgaria has not had a change of heart. But she probably has had a revival of common sense and prudence. Evidently her neighbors no longer consider her a menace to their safety and consider it better to have her in close union than as a floating breeding ground for intrigue.

This action solidifies the Balkan states as against inroads by Germany, or German uses. It shuts Bolshevism from advancing in that direction. It also isolates Greece, while by the treaty of Rapallo, it reaches through Jugo-Slavia to cordial relations with Italy.

The apparent willingness of France to come to agreement with the Turks further emphasizes the folly of the Greeks, as this can only be accomplished at the expense of Greece to whom the allies no longer owe support or further obligation.

Indeed the outlook is that Constantine returns to an expanded Greece, hedged about with influences anything rather than friendly. If he escapes disaster, if his own people do not turn against him as swiftly as they turned to him, he will have to use his well-known shiftness to better advantage than in the early period of the war.

A casserole of hummingbirds' tongues is a cheaper dinner than doe venison if the game authorities get wind of the banquet.

An enterprising wife kept up with her husband's doings by using an aeroplane.

Views of Visitors in Capitals

Interviews with Guests From All Parts of The United States.

Grand opera and the spoken drama are growing in popularity in this country, and particularly on the Pacific Coast, according to William H. Leahy, manager for Mme. Tetrazzini, at the New Willard.

Mr. Leahy, who has owned the famous Tivoli Opera House, in San Francisco since 1893, speaks with authority for the Pacific Coast, since he has been foremost among Westerners in the promotion of theatrical and musical productions in the city by the Golden Gate.

The Tivoli Opera House has been used as a motion picture theater for several years, but will soon be restored to lovers of grand opera, Mr. Leahy says.

"An evidence of the growing popularity of grand opera in San Francisco," said Mr. Leahy, "is shown in the recent performances given by Scotti in that city. Although the eight performances were given in the municipal auditorium, with practically makeshift facilities, the production brought \$92,000 per week.

WAR MEMORIAL HOUSE PLANNED FOR OPERA.

"When we can have such audiences in a structure that was never intended to house grand opera, it may easily be imagined what could be done with a regular opera house."

San Francisco plans the erection of a huge \$2,000,000 war memorial which may be used as a municipal opera house, Mr. Leahy said. It will be erected near the civic center. The building will be a combination of art school and an auditorium for the production of grand opera or in which symphony concerts may be given. It will be built around a central auditorium in which will be built the various veterans' organizations may meet.

The art school will be under the direction of the San Francisco Art Association, which is affiliated with the University of California. This removes its administration from all political influences, Mr. Leahy said.

San Francisco may ultimately become the center of the moving picture industry in California, Mr. Leahy believes. A concerted effort is being made by the general public, commercial organizations, and the press to attract moving picture producers to San Francisco and its environs. The daily papers are backing the movement and many of the large producers declare that they are anxious to move to Central California.

The station is obvious, Mr. Leahy explains. Practically all of the interesting places in Southern California have already been filmed so many times that the moving picture industry will soon be seeing the same scene, picture after picture. From its very nature, in the opinion of Mr. Leahy, the business of moving picture producing is a transient affair. New scenes are demanded by the public and the producers must get them.

San Francisco and the Bay region afford an infinite variety of settings for pictures. For Italian scenes there is the bay, pronounced by tourists the rival of the Bay of Naples. Mount Tamalpais, rising in the background, may well be compared to the view of Mt. Vesuvius. An ideal setting for Italian fishing scenes is Fisherman's Wharf, where the Italians, with their little fishing smacks, daily set out on their trips outside the Golden Gate.

NATURAL RICHES AFFORD SCENERY.

The Cliff House, the Seal Rocks, the Dutch windmills in Golden Gate Park, the park itself, all offer an endless variety of backgrounds. Across the bay in Berkeley is the Greek Theater, noted for the filming of Greek or classical scenes.

Below San Francisco, down the peninsula, are the palatial homes of the city's wealthiest citizens. These are French chateaus and Italian villas for other pictures. Mr. Leahy pointed out that several large companies are already erecting studios at San Mateo, about twenty miles below San Francisco. Other producers had signified their intention of coming farther up the Coast soon.

Mr. Leahy, who is accompanied by his wife, will return to New York with Mme. Tetrazzini Friday night.

Political Brawlings

By Labert St. Clair.

Alex Moore, whose wife is or was Lillian Russell, told me the other day that Lillian had really been a campaigner in the last campaign because she was smart enough to know just what she was doing before she started anything. It is a fact that she was the only way to get things done is not to be chairman of any kind of a committee, but just to give one's aid. Hence, she always refused to head committees but she always served as a worker. This is she able to get up her speeches, deliver them and pass on to something else without having the grief of a chairman's duties.

Although Miss Russell made a score or more of speeches, she never was heckled once during the campaign. Moore says he has a hard time convincing folk that he really is talking to Miss Russell when he calls her over a phone. One day in New York, he said, he told a telephone girl to call both Miss Russell in Pittsburgh and Col. Roosevelt, in Oyster Bay, for him, and the girl almost dropped dead. She never dreamed that there was anyone in the world who knew both Lillian and F. R. well enough to talk with them over a telephone.

Former Senator Morse Clapp, of Minnesota, has fallen on about seventy-five pounds and therein is a story for fat men and women. He bought sixty acres of timber land and an axe and in no time at all he had cut down all the trees around his place and hewed rolls and rolls of fat off himself. Now, without half trying, he can leap through one of his old collars when it is fastened on his shirt.

"This is a step towards civilization and greater liberty as it gives to every person the right to

IT WOULD BE A LITTLE EASIER TO OPEN THE CLOSET DOOR IF THEY'D QUIET DOWN A BIT.—By Darling.



Urges Abolition of War Draft Right Says Heart of People Opposes Wars

The favorable attention of President-elect Harding has given a treatise on the league of nations written by E. P. Newman, 4205 Eighth street northwest and forwarded to Marion, where "the best minds of the country" are fore-gathering with Senator Harding on the same subject. Young Newman has received a letter of acknowledgment and thanks from the distinguished recipient of his effort.

The text is as follows: "Humanity subject to the difficulties ordinarily incident to human life, has realized that in itself is often to be found its greatest peril.

"Ordained with a free will to do right or wrong it becomes necessary for us to protect ourselves against others and for others to protect themselves against us. We have therefore united to be better able to protect ourselves and compel the citizens of our nation to treat each other as they would have their fellow citizens treat them.

Might Include World.

"This principle might be extended to include a league of the world could be but one nation. "Will the frailties of nature permit the hearts of humanity to beat as one, free from local advantages and national prejudices, merged into a unit which nature itself has separated them from by nationalities?"

"If these irreconcilable impulses of humanity cannot be united into a unit which nature itself has separated them from by nationalities, will the frailties of nature permit the hearts of humanity to beat as one, free from local advantages and national prejudices, merged into a unit which nature itself has separated them from by nationalities?"

Mr. Leahy pointed out that several large companies are already erecting studios at San Mateo, about twenty miles below San Francisco. Other producers had signified their intention of coming farther up the Coast soon.

League Might Be Barrier.

"These conflicting interests curbed by the pressure of a league of nations would only be a barrier against which the stored grievances of the world would ultimately burst forth in the accumulated violence of the entire earth, as the world could be the only rival of that league which tried to govern it. Affecting the interest of all nations they would line up for or against it, making it possible for the entire world to be a battlefield.

"The magnitude of the world is too vital to be made the subject of experimental engagements. It is not to be tampered with as a toy, but should analyze the world as we find it with a view of eliminating the motives that cause these disasters.

"Believing in the Bible that there will be wars and rumors of wars, all we can do is to try to deter the continuance of them. "Let us try to make the best of our imperfection by applying the remedy where it is needed. We can do this without changing the world or entering into entangling alliances and creating big international positions demanding large salaries.

Wants Draft Ended.

"It is impossible to secure, as many volunteers as drafted men. This will diminish the size of wars. Let all nations agree to relinquish the right to conscript for the purpose of sending soldiers from their own soil and giving the regular soldiers the right to resign when ordered from their soil, or at any time after they have left, it, maintaining but small armies and navies, and inviting the investigation of the world as the evidence of their good faith in the performance of these conditions.

"They further agree that upon the breach of these, or the violation of any other national rights that may be alleged as the passing of time may require, that the other nations of the world will impose such commercial restraints on the offending nation as the nature of the case may require.

be the ultimate judge of his own life, when called upon to give this his highest right for the invasion of another's home.

"Will Prevent Big Armies. "It will prevent the wielding of humanity against other masses of humanity when the individuals who form these armies personally have no grievance against the other armies or individuals of the other armies.

"Under this check on autocracy and wider latitude of liberty humane standards would really flourish unwarped by national greed. The love for their fellow-man would be inculcated into their hearts by the knowledge of the truth, which must never be censored, as their patriotism would be increased if the truth justified war, and they would be deprived of the truth when it was most needed if it did not justify war.

"Through these guarantees they would never have their decisions hidden by conscription, their sentiments censored and these seeds of autocracy watered with the blood of their unconscious sacrifices.

"It would many in this civilized age of world volunteer to do a wrong by invading another nation at the risk of their lives when they individually could gain nothing?"

"This will prevent the greed of nations from prompting their rulers who personally make no sacrifices to record their names in history, and accomplish their wishes, by willingly demanding the lives and fortunes of their countrymen.

Would Better Wars.

"The fact that a nation could not depend on its citizens would deter it from invading a nation that could resort to conscription for the protection of its soil and in addition receive the external voluntary assistance of those who thought the cause was just enough to risk their lives to support it.

"Nature will not permit us to approach peace by this rule. If the wrong is to grave or the right so just as to draw the attention of

Oh, My Stars!

HOROSCOPE.

December 15, 1920.

Until late in the afternoon this day will not be lucky, according to astrology. In the morning Mars, Neptune and Uranus are all adverse. The sun rules beneficently after noon, which will help to clear the cause was just enough to risk their lives to support it.

As the year draws to a close, the prophecies of astrologers to the effect that the new era would be marked by many changes are more and more realized. There will be many adjustments to conditions that have altered all the old standards of life, but these will not be made without serious troubles.

It will be wise today to maintain a calm and equable state of mind. For Mars is in a place that makes quarrels and dissensions easy, since irritability and a false sense of justice are encouraged by the rule. Judgment should not be trusted at this time. Decisions, whether they be concerning love or business affairs, may not be trustworthy.

Individuals from their domestic spheres of life, their sincerity proved by offering their lives to support their views, it is then because the right is better than life.

"It was under the exercise of this privilege that our great nation was born. The great privilege must be preserved. Nothing could be more dangerous than to create a power that could deprive us of those rights dear to our life, so that the imperialist exposure of their malice of centuries would shape the ambitions of those oppressed to cherish the day when their inequities could summon that power which would lift its majestic head as a champion of justice and challenge those who prevented them from proving their sincerity by the highest test known to man, the volunteer system.

People Take Stand.

"When earthly gain is removed from them by the gates of death and, they, the judges of their own sacrifices, embrace this by giving all, as a humble tribute of their gratitude as to what is right, and face their God for their reward of his approval, then the powers of nations which are the people, become under the volunteer system their own masters, and not the mere tools of war.

"This will make wars so impractical that nations would settle their difficulties by mutual agreement.

"Our greatest rights are thereby protected to the highest degree consistent with the imperfection of our beings which must support their rights, by letting the nations endure clothed in all their original powers and principles so that they may carve their own destinies and, all eliminating our greatest evil, the motives which cause war.

Consentance to Rule.

"Reserving all the original rights of national defense, the hand of national destruction by the voice of the people as to what is just, aggrieved by no other tribunal than their own conscience, conservative in their own views, personally responsible for supporting them, they offer their lives as proof of their sincerity. In this we have done our best.

"What rule of any league would prove their sincerity at the price of their lives?"

"If you cannot fool all the people all the time, then at the hands of the people we may stay for our greatest justice. Do not tie their hands by conscription, distort their views by censoring the truth from their consideration, so that through this cloak of darkness they may be used as the tools of national ambition. Let them see that we should not kill our fellowman for his property, because the Creator who made us all did not make this world too small for us to live in.

Divided Over Name.

Trenton—Nothing even resembling harmony was reached by the Court of Errors the other day in regard to the pronunciation of the proper name D'Adame. Citing a case in which one D'Adame was the defendant, former Vice Chancellor Merritt Lane pronounced it as though it were spelled "Dadam."

Chancellor Walker called Mr. Lane's attention to another version of the pronunciation, as though the name was spelled "Dadame." Justice Swayze said he thought both the chancellor and Mr. Lane were in error, but he would not say which was right. He said he would be pronounced as though spelled "Dadam," the accent on the "dam."

"Well," said the chancellor, "Judge White, who wrote the opinion, pronounced the name 'Dadame.' "That's because Judge White is a Quaker and doesn't like to swear," replied Justice Swayze.

"In view of what Justice Swayze has said," replied the chancellor, "I would like to hear Judge White's pronunciation of Roger Bigod, who was one of the Justices of Magna Charta."—From the Philadelphia Record.

Persons whose birth date it is should attend to business calmly and with intense energy, for the stars promise success. Worry should be avoided. Children born on this day will be quick in mind and very active. In financial matters they are likely to prosper, but their chief weakness will be a tendency to worry over trifles.

Open Court Letters to The Herald

Views of Readers on Matters of National And Local Import.

STOP WRANGLING! GO TO WORK.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald: When our conscience becomes overburdened with kicks and grouches we hie us to the mall bag and cast them into its spacious receptacle. Ever since the signing of the armistice nations and individuals of all creation have been howling and whining for peace. The nations, Uncle Sam in particular, are inventing the most frightful instruments ever dreamed of for the annihilation of humans. Is this a means of obtaining peace?

Poland achieved a wonderful victory over Russia at a frightful sacrifice. Not content with this she bids fair to lose all trying to gobble a strip of land not large enough to park a tricycle. Ireland wants England to get off the grass; "Pussy-foot" Johnson went over to London and made England "dry," now England wants to hog all the waters. Japan wants all the ice and polar bears in Siberia, the Samoa, Philippines and Hawaiian Islands and would not object to California. Germany wants to dodge her war debt. Russia would like Greece to seal her borders and the great Greek would be enough Frenchmen left to form a corporal's guard. India seeks independence—Egypt has half and wants the balance.

By the time that France gets through licking her wounds there won't be enough Frenchmen left to form a corporal's guard. India seeks independence—Egypt has half and wants the balance.

John Bull out to the woodshed and whole him. In Italy there is a ferocious beast. The King has him by one horn and the labor party by the other, and d'Annunzio has the reins. Should the great Greek what a scattering of spaghetti would be! Should the rice crop fail in China many Satan's save the dragon!

Boys! listen to father: Drop all of these bickering, quibbling and warlike agitations. "Know-it-alls" and "I told you so's."

Be careful in the selection of your seeds; as ye sow so shall ye reap. Sow grain and you will not gather thistles. Get out your farm implements, put them in order, throw the oats to dobin, oil up the tractor, and when robin-red-breast greets you in the morning with his spring song, you hear your rooster crow you know you will have eggs for breakfast. At the dawn of seed time and harvest the sills of your garb will crack with a smile and your boy will wear a smile as broad as the great Pacific Ocean and it won't come off. And the frail, pitiful little hands of the starving kiddies will be filled and their cries for bread will change to joy.

JOHN W. JENKINS, Soldiers' Home, Washington, D. C.

RECKLESS DRIVERS.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald: As your paper has always been foremost in the current events and always takes interest in the movements to better the conditions of our city, I am going to try and explain to you the results of the safety first week as I saw them.

I am a motorman for the Washington Railway & Electric Co. working out of the Eckington car barn. I have been watching the drivers of the different concerns of the city and I thought that making public the names of concerns that hire reckless drivers might help to make them more strict with their drivers, help to prevent further accidents and better traffic conditions.

I find out that the drivers of mail wagons are among the worst in the city. They don't seem to care for any kind of law or rule. They speed, they drive by standing cars loading or unloading passengers at a fast gait, stop their machine on the street corners, while collecting mail from mail boxes and they could not stop if any danger should arise.

Next I find the colored drivers of the U. S. G. M. C. Department at Eckington place and Florida avenue very reckless, driving at high speed and cutting short corners all the time. They cut in and out of the line of traffic in front of fast moving cars at an alarming rate of speed.

The American Express Co. drivers are the worst in the downtown sections. They will stop and back into a curb without any warning whatsoever. They will leave their trucks standing nearly on the tracks, hold the cars for three and four minutes at a time, and then stick their tongues out and laugh at you because they have held you and are able to do so.

It would take too much space to tell the faults of all, but I am going to name the concerns who have attracted particular notice of whom I find to be the worst traffic violators:

The Velvet Kind Ice Cream Co.; The Marlow Coal Co.; The Palace Ice Co.; The American Ice Co.; Geo. Oyster's Milk Co.; The John Wilkins Coffee Co.; The National Biscuit Co.; The Union Transfer Co.; The Corby Bread Co.; The Goldenberg Co.

The drivers of these concerns I claim are reckless in running by cars, cutting short corners, stopping on crosswalks and driving across in front of fast moving cars. I am going to keep a further lookout and if there is no change in these drivers I will ask you to publish their names again.

If you care to publish this I thank you. A. WOODMAN.