GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE W. M. BOLE, Editor O. S. WARDEN, Manager LEONARD G. DIEHL Business Manager

EDITORIAL PAGE

THE SARRE COAL BASIN.

The disposition made of the Sarre coal basin in the peace treaty is a good illustration of the practical difficulties of the peace commission met with in making a treaty of peace that would comply with the fourteen points on which the armistice was based. To give that country to France was distinctly and plainly a violation of one of these points, and not to give it to France was distinctly a violation of another of the fourteen points. The peace conference sought to give it to France and not to give it to France at one and the same time and nobody was satisfied with the compromise of course, both sides feeling they were cheated. However, we think our readers will agree that Germany has a little the best of the argument based on a strict compliance with the fourteen points agreed on at the time of the armistice as to be controlling factors in making the treaty. One of these points was in substance that peoples were not to be swapped about as compensation but that the principle of self determination was to govern in changing territorial boundaries. The wishes of the inhabitants of the country and their welfare was to be a determining factor in territorial changes. The people who live in the Sarre basin are Germans, no one disputes that. Presumably they prefer to remain under the political control of Germany, and very certainly they do not wish to be put under the control of France.

Another of the fourteen points said in substance that France and Belgium were entitled to reparation and restitution for the damage that Germany maliciously and systematically wrot in their territories while she held them for four years, up to the full extent of her ability to repay and restore. Under this one of the fourteen points France argued that the Sarre coal basin must come to France. Take the situation as the French saw it. France never had enough coal and what she had was not of the best quality. The coal deposits around Lens were her best bet for coking coal and pretty poor at that. The Germans while they held Lens deliberately and most thoroly destroyed the Lens coal mines. Many experts think they can never be economically worked again, all agree that it cannot be done for many years at best, and spending vast sums of money. This distruction of an economic factor in France was not done as a war measure. It was done coldly and deliberately planned as a means of crippling the industries of France after the war. It was a companion piece to the careful and systematic destruction of her manufacturing machinery in all lines where she competed with German manufactures, after such machines had been removed and incorporated in German manufacturing plants as would in any way strengthen the German plant facilities; that done all other machines were broken up with sledge hammers and shipped out of France as scrap iron. It was a bad business for Germany. They admit that they should pay for it as well as they can. One of the fourteen points says she must.

Now Germany has lots of coal. She is rich in coal but short on iron deposits. The best iron deposits Germany had before the war were in the province of Lorraine which she took from France in 1871. Right along side of these iron mines of Lorraine lies the Sarre coal basin full of fine coking coal, just what is needed to smelt the Lorraine iron ores. France demanded the Sarre coal basin as compensation for the destroyed Lens coal fields and in settlement of that portion of the malicious damage done her by Germany. It was, she said, the only way the Germans could make good that damage for admittedly she had not the means to settle all such bills of damage presented. The peace conference practically granted the French demand while on the surface appearing to deny a part of it. She gave France the property right to the coal mines in the Sarre basin while the political control of the country was to be vested in the league of nations for fifteen years after which a vote of the people as to their preference, in political government was to be taken and the league of nations was then to decide what to be done respecting the majority wish of the people as represented by the vote. The peace treaty doesn't even say the political control of the government in the Sarre coal basin will be restored to Germany if the people so vote after fifteen years. It says it will see what it will do about it in that event. We should say that the Germans are about right when they say that the treaty terms regarding the Sarre coal basin are not much different from the permanent alienation of German territory peopled by Germany people by force and against their will for the benefit of France, and the latter might as well seize it and annex it outright as the Germans did Alsace-Lorraine in 1871, and as they intended to do with other portions of France if they had won this war. Technically the peace conference can save its face and say that it has not violated the point about the self-determination of peoples because it has not decided the fate of the people of the Sarre coal basin permanently and will not do it until fifteen years from now, then after its wishes have been consulted, but actually they will be in the hands of France by that time whatever their wishes may be, because France needs the coal and does not want Germany to get it. With this coal and the Lorraine iron in French hands France will become a great iron producer again, and Germany will have to depend largely on imported iron ores tho she will still have plenty of coal.

REPEAL OF THE DAYLIGHT SAVING LAW.

Both house and senate voted by substantial majorities to repeal the daylight saving law after next fall and it will no doubt be so arranged. The matter came up in the form of a rider to a bill that now goes to conference, but when the bill is reported but it will no doubt contain this provision. The defeat of this daylight saving law is largely due to the opposition of the farmers to it, though some labor unions were opposed to it also for reasons that are hard to understand. Generally speaking the city folk liked it and the country people did not. It was a war measure justified on the ground that it saved artificial light and so lessened the number of men needed to provide electric light and gas light. It is also claimed that it materially reduced the number of industrial accidents and one would think that would recommend it to labor.

Speaking for ourselves we never regarded it as a measure of prime importance and if it places any handicap on the farmer we are quite willing to see the old style of time-keeping restored. We cannot quite understand the opposition of the farmers to it either. Generally speaking, they work from daylight to dark anyway though the eight-hour day of work is making some progress among the farm laborers.

As a matter of fact the farm laborers are in a position to demand about anything they want and get it. The supply is terribly short of the demand. Down in Kansas where a bumper wheat crop is getting near to harvest time the governor of the state has issued a Macedonian cry for harvest help. He wants 100,000 harvest hands to come to Kansas and help harvest the crop. Some time ago it was announced that the government employment bureau had made plans to get together a big traveling force of harvest hands who would go from one state to another to reap the harvests as they were needed. This is the only practical way to handle these temporary jobs. No one is going to Kansas for a temporary job in the harvest fields and then after a few weeks go back to where he came from because the temporary need for his services is over. But our information is that this flying wedge of harvest hands who were to travel from state to state under government supervision was never formed. It was one of the things that perished because the republican senators and anti-Wilson senators were too busy making asses of themselves to pass the appropriation bill for the government employment bureau. Perhaps if that were explained carefully to the Kansas farmers it might have some influence on their action at the next election. A good many of these birds of evil omen are roosting on the gate posts of the anti-Wilson senators these days and will be heard from when the ballots are counted a year from next November, we guess.

With the daylight saving law repealed and the country back on its old time schedule we suppose the farmers will be happier, but they will soon lose sight of this satisfaction if they can't have anyone to harvest their crops, and there seems considerable danger of that just now in many parts of the United States where the crops are reported heavy. Out here in Montana the farmer just now is worrying more over the question of whether he is going to have any crop to harvest than he is over whether he is going to be able to hire enough help to harvest it.

The Opinions of Others

WHERE PRIVATES ARE RARE BIRDS
(New York Telegraph)

They kill off a lot of generals by the shooting route down in Mexico. But that is better than killing the privates, because there are so many more generals to spare.

BARKING DOG NEVER BITES
(Charleston News and Courier)

The United States is keeping a close watch on Mexican financial legislation. However, Carranza seldom does the terrible things he says he's going to do.

EXCEPT ON PART OF G. O. P.
(Macon Telegraph)

Up to the hour of looping the loop, to press there had been no nation-wide demand for Mr. Burleson to announce as a candidate for the presidency.

E. M. IS A WISE OLD BIRD
(Indianapolis News)

House seems to have kept on friendly terms with everybody by keeping still, giving them a chance to believe he thot as they did.

WOULD PUT CUSS IN "DISCUSSION"
(Toledo Blade)

There is hope for the peace conference now, provided the wet and dry question isn't injected into the discussion.

IT SN'T NERVE HE LACKS
(Bosotn Transcript)

In his present attempt to defend his public record, Mr. Burleson shows that at least he is not afraid to tackle a big job.

WATER WAGON 'LL NEED STRAPS
(Washington Post)

The number of teetotalers in this country is rapidly increasing in spite of themselves.

THE MODERN NURSERY RHYME
(Detroit Free Press)

In some homes the version is, "Polly, put the kettle on, and we'll all make beer."

PARTICULAR ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS
(Cleveland Plain Dealer)

Joachim, youngest son of Wilhelm, wants to come to America and "settle quietly." It can't be done, Jo. The neighbors will get on to you and make you move.

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

PURSUING THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

Washington, D. C., June 17.—That the suffrage amendment will be ratified in time to permit every woman to cast her vote in the presidential elections of 1920, is the cheerful prediction of suffrage leaders. The suffrage workers are now scattering all over the United States to begin their campaign to capture three-fourths of the legislatures.

Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan have already set an encouraging example for the rest of the states by ratifying the amendment.

"There is every reason to believe that the rest will follow," said Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. Mrs. Catt is in that rare state of well-being induced by having persistently worked for something for forty-one years and finally won it. While she still thinks "it is a curious and inexplicable anomaly that the majority of the women of Europe should be voting before those of the United States," she believes that "all progressive people will unite and make an end to the long struggle for woman suffrage."

Her faith in the action of the legislatures is strengthened by the fact that, unlike the prohibition amendment, the suffrage amendment has no time limit. There is a clause in the prohibition amendment which states that it must be ratified within seven years. Altho it has been ratified, an attack is now being made upon its constitutionality, which, if stretched over a period of seven years, can defeat the amendment. The suffrage amendment, which bears no time clause whatsoever, can be turned down by a legislature one year, and two years later can come up again for consideration.

The chief problem at present is getting a legislature together so that it can vote upon the amendment. There is no uniformity about the meetings of state legislatures. Each has its own favorite period for convening, and this is going to make ratification a somewhat irregular process. The governor of a state has the privilege of calling a special session of the legislature, but governors cannot be relied upon to do this simply to ratify an amendment, because a special session is costly. The governor of Kansas has gotten around this by polling his legislators and asking them as a special favor to come to the state capitol and vote on the amendment at their own expense. Just how popular this suggestion will be remains to be seen.

The National American Woman Suffrage association and the national woman's party, which contains the more radical suffragists, including the White House "pickets," each has an organization in every state for the purpose of securing ratification. When a state ratifies this organization is withdrawn, but until then it works untiringly with all the best known methods of political propaganda, in addition to a few invented by the women.

Miss Maude Younger of the national woman's party, for example, intends to install her famous catalog system in various states. Miss Younger invented this system while lobbying for her organization in the capitol at Washington. It consists of a card index including every representative in congress, with the most important facts concerning him. His clubs, his church, his ambitions, his personal idiosyncracies, his diversions aversions are all carefully noted down on his card; so that, in an emergency, any suffragist can take this information and use it as the sesame to an interview. A story is told of one suffragist who tried for several months to get an interview with a certain senator, and was always refused. In desperation she consulted the "card index" for the last time. A new piece of information had been added, "Keeps a pack of hounds," she read. "Ah!" breathed the young lady. A few days later, she was seen by one of her companions deep in conversation with the elusive senator, in a corridor of the capital. "You may be right," the young lady was saying, "but I think his nose is too pointed, and his ears too flat." The same afternoon, the young lady returned to the suffrage headquarters, and placed another bit of information in the card index. "Is willing to vote for suffrage," is what she wrote.

By the same insidious methods, the suffragists intend to round up every recalcitrant state legislator and convert him to their cause. They are being assisted in this work by United States senators and representatives, who are using their influence to get the amendment ratified back home. Attention is called to the fact that any postponement of the ratification of the amendment is a waste of money. It will only delay the game, and necessitate the expenditure of a great deal more money by the suffrage organizations, which might otherwise be used in educational work. It is estimated that over a million dollars would have been saved if the suffrage amendment had passed the senate two years ago, to say nothing of the bother that would have been saved if the amendment could have been offered for ratification last year when forty-one legislatures were in session.

Fortunately, this year many special sessions of the state legislatures must be called anyway to consider problems of reconstruction, and the women will be able to take advantage of that. In the twenty-eight states (including Arkansas and Texas, having primary suffrage) where women have the vote, a quick ratification is expected. Last year, suffrage was defeated in a popular referendum in Texas, but the majority was very small—so small, in fact, that the friendliness of the Texas senators will offset it, in the opinion of the suffrage leaders. Texas is calling a special session of its legislature this month, and the issue will, therefore soon be decided.

Other states, in which regular and special sessions are already scheduled for this year or next, are Ohio, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, New Jersey, Maine, Iowa, Kentucky, South Carolina, Mississippi, Virginia and Maryland. While the suffragists are certainly not placing their hopes on the southern states, they point out that every state in the south has at some time or other cast a vote for suffrage in the United States senate. Even South Carolina and Mississippi, whose senators voted against the amendment recently, voted for it two years ago when it was defeated. Nevertheless, it is admitted that Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and the northern states of Massachusetts and Connecticut are doubtful. The suffragists assert they can get along without these states, however, and still have a wide margin.

Florida is a southern state which is extremely friendly to the suffrage cause, its governor even having gone as far as to endorse the picketing tactics at the White House. The Florida legislature also passed a resolution not long ago calling upon congress to pass the amendment. But the Florida state constitution provides that an election must intervene between the submission of an amendments and its ratification, so that ratification in this state will be delayed.

Maine is a hopeful state, owing to the fact that both of its senators voted for the amendment, and so is West Virginia. The suffragists also expect Ohio to ratify, altho suffrage was recently defeated by popular referendum in that state, thru, the women claim, the strong opposition of the liquor interests. Inasmuch as the liquor interests have always been the bitterest opponents to woman suffrage, the suffragists are inclined to crow over the prohibition amendment, which preceded their own triumph.

New Jersey, it is believed, will ratify. Its former governor, Edge, who has just taken his seat in the senate, is strongly in favor of suffrage. And the president's state could hardly refuse to back him up in his plea for the enfranchisement of women. New Hampshire is another state which can be counted upon with comparative certainty. The suffrage sentiment is so strong there that the lower house of the legislature passed a resolution calling upon the United States senators from New Hampshire to vote for the amendment.

TRAVELETTE

By NIKSAH.

SOCCO CHICAO

It means little market, but it is not a market at all; it is a street in the city of Tangier thru which flows a full and steady stream of the varied life of the Orient.

Everything that Tangier sends to Europe and everything that comes from Europe to Tangier passes thru the Socco Chicao. Most of the merchandise is on the backs of donkeys, almost invisible beneath their incredible burdens of boxes and bales and crates, so that the street sometimes looks like the wreckage of a warehouse borne along on a turbulent flood.

But the human elements in the crowd are far more interesting than the commercial ones. Here you see dark Moorish men in robes and slippers; women with their legs bare and their faces and necks veiled, thus reversing the formula of western modesty; and occasionally an Arab, mounted on his exquisite mare, with a spotless white burnoose falling about him in classic folds, and with the look in his eye that is bred by a hardy life and free—a look at once fearless, serene and alert.

There are Europeans in the crowd, too, but they are not half so attractive as the natives. The European faces are fat and heavy, their expressions worried and discontented. But the Moorish and Arab features are fine and ascetic, and have an untroubled look about them, which faintly stirs your envy. You realize that in this east, which has lagged so far behind in what is called civilization, there is none-the-less some secret of being at peace with life, which we of the Occident cannot understand.

Questions and Answers

Q. How can waves roll in from the sea without bringing any water? H. G. F.

A. When waves appear on the surface of water exactly the same thing is happening as when you lay a lead pencil flat and push it across a tablecloth. A wrinkle preceds it but the tablecloth does not move. In the case of the wave the wind is doing the pushing.

Q Where did the term "Old Glory" originate? A. B.

A. Betsy Ross, of Philadelphia, who was engaged by General Washington to make the first American flag, is said to have applied to it the term "Old Glory" which still survives.

Q. What language other than English do the "Pennsylvania Dutch" speak? H. J.

A. "Pennsylvania Dutch" is a patios supposed to be a corruption of South German. Early settlers in Pennsylvania were from the upper Rhine and this dialect has grown out of the language they spoke.

Q. What becomes of old bills returned to the treasury? H. F.

A. Notes and certificates are counted and cancelled by the redemption division of the treasury. They are then cut in half, the halves counted and finally destroyed in a macerator.

Q. How does New York City compare in size with other cities in the world. L. G.

A. New York City is now the second city in size in the world, with a population of over four and three-quarters millions.

Q. What was the cost of taking the 1910 census? A. L.

A. The total amount spent for taking the last census was $15,970,000 or 17c per capita.

EATS THOUSAND INSECTS DAY.

"A cliff swallow will eat a thousand flies, mosquitos, wheat midgets or beetles that injure fruit trees in a day and therefore are to be encouraged," says the American Forestry association of Washington, which is conducting the nationwide campaign among school children for birdhouse building.

"This bird is also known as the cave swallow, because it plasters its nest on the outside of a barn or other building up under the eaves. Colonies of several thousand will build their nests together on the side of a cliff. These nests shaped like a flattened guord or water bottle are made of bits of clay rolled into pellets and lined with straw or feathers. This bird winters in the tropics."

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THE COVENANTER LETTERS

THE AUTHORS:

William H. Taft, ex-President of the United States.
George W. Wickersham, formerly U. S. Attorney General.
A. Lawrence Lowell, President Harvard University.
Henry W. Taft, of the New York Bar.

THE PURPOSE:

To discuss and make clear the various articles of the Paris Covenant for a League of Nations, now awaiting ratification by the United States Senate.

ARTICLE III.

The Assembly.

This is the larger organ of the League, the one in which all the members are represented, by three delegates apiece if they please, so that if all the annex to the covenant should join the league, and each of them should send its full complement of three, the assembly would fill one hundred and thirty-five seats. Since statesmen and others in all lands have a strong desire to be of service in such occasions it is probable that the delegates present will not be much less than this, a number well fitted for debate, but not for confidential interchange of opinions on delicate matters.

Actual Functions Limited.

The assembly will, indeed, probably attract more popular attention than any other organ of the league; and yet its actual functions, which are to be found scattered thru various articles of the covenant, are extremely limited. Besides regulating its own procedure and appointing its committees, it is empowered to select the four smaller states to be represented on the council, to confirm the selection of the secretary general, to report upon disputes between nations referred to it by the council or by either of the disputants, to advise the reconsideration by members of the league of treaties that have become inapplicable and the consideration of international conditions endangering the peace of the world, and by a two-thirds vote to admit new members to the league. Except, therefore, for some definite powers relating to the organization and membership of the league, its authority in international affairs is confined to making a report in certain disputes, and giving some advice to the members.

What then is the meaning of the third clause of the article which provides that "the assembly may deal at its meetings with any matter within the sphere of action of the league, or affecting the peace of the world." Clearly this does not mean that it can deal only with the subjects to which its authority extends by the provisions of the covenant, for that would reduce its field of discussion to almost nothing. Nor, on the other hand, does it mean that the assembly can take action binding upon the members in all matters within the sphere of action of the league, because specific provisions are made for dealing with those matters, and the interpretation suggested would render all such provisions futile. The assembly would have power to overrule them all. Moreover, Article V declares that except where otherwise expressly provided decisions of the assembly council shall require the consent of all the members of the league represented at the meeting. But a unanimous decision of forty-five countries can never be attained where there is any serious difference of opinion, and where there is not it is needless. To authorize the assembly to take unanimous action on any subject they pleased would, therefore, be simply conferring a power that cannot be used.

Importance of Discussion.

In view of the other specific provisions of the covenant the intention of the clause is perfectly clear. It means that the assembly is authorized not to decide, but to discuss, all matters within the sphere of action of the league or that affect the peace of the world. In this it is the successor to the conferences at the Hague. Save for the very limited authority expressly vested in it the function of the assembly is discussion, and that is of immense importance. The mere fact that any nation, however small, can bring its grievances and its aspirations before a general body of representatives gathered from all the free, orderly and civilized peoples of the earth is of inestimable value. It is a fertile means of creating that enlightened public opinion on international questions which has been heralded as one of the chief objects of a league.

International distrust often arises from misunderstanding which can be removed by open conference; and points of contact are points of mutual comprehension. The influence of eternal public opinion may well tend to enlarge, and thus reduce what is had in excessive chauvinism without lessening healthy patriotic spirit.

An Inquest of the World.

Disraeli once said that parliament was the great inquest of the nation. The assembly of the league may well become the great inquest of the world; the body where plans for the betterment of mankind are advocated, and where codes of international law are prepared and debated.

It may be observed that altho each member of the league is entitled to send three representatives to the assembly the voting is by states. Some people have desired a great parliament of the peoples of the earth, but as yet that is utopian. The organization of the modern world is built upon nationality, and whatever a remote future may bring forth, at present peace and order, justice, progress and liberty must be based upon a concert of free nations.

And altho we are not a very good hand at reading faces, we have never seen a man taking the church collection who looked like he expected big things.

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