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WHAT WILL THE YEAR BRING FORTH?

It is commonplace to remark that never before have we had so many and so serious problems to solve. First in the thoughts of all of us is the treaty. Can we find a way not only to make peace but also to join our late allies, who are still our friends, in their efforts to maintain peace and to insure justice throughout the world? That is the greatest and most pressing matter before us, and it will undoubtedly be decided before another January.

The way in which we decide the question of our own relations to the outer world may help or hinder our allies in particular and the European peoples in general to deal with the numerous difficulties that beset them. A bare list of the questions that they are facing shows how appallingly great are the tasks that must be undertaken, some of them by the peoples concerned, some by the allies, in virture of the rights that victory in the field gave them, some by co-operation between the allies and the people immediately concerned. Those questions include Italy and the Adratic; Turkey; the Baltic States; the delimitation of frontiers; Shantung; Asia Minor; Schleswig. Every one of them is a puzzle for statesmen and diplomats. Not one can be settled without angry controversy while it is under discussion or without heartburning afterwards.

Again, what is to be the course of events in Russia? How are the fragile republics that have sprung up on the ruins of Austria-Hungary to maintain themselves, and how are they to conduct themselves toward one another? Will Germany have a monarchial reaction and restore the Kaiser, or will the allies take him in hand if they can get him, and try to punish him? And what of Ireland?

We have our own troubles. Labor is uneasy and demands higher wages because the cost of living is so great. It strikes to get more pay. Higher wages make higher prices for all the products of labor, and those high prices cause labor to protest again that it is getting too little. What is the remedy, and where shall we find it? Each condition is in turn cause and effect. The combined result is that we are short of many things, especially coal and steel. We have little sugar, though the deficiency is owing to other causes. The railways, which are now in a state of transition, find themselves face to face with many problems. Business men do not know what to do, for no man can enter confidently upon enterprises that both invite and repel.

One other great matter remains to be mentioned. We have to elect a President, a full House of Representatives and a third of the Senate, and that in itself, if we do it as carefully and as disinterestedly as we should, is enough to keep us busy.

The further fact that Wm. J. Bryan is again practically monopolizing the attention of the cartoonists is ample proof that "The Commoner" continues to be recognized as the foremost citizen of the world, does it not?

THE BIG ISSUE

Senator Lodge's attempt to put the blame of the defeat of the peace treaty by the Senate on President Wilson is a shameless and contemptible piece of insincerity and demagouery.

The President helped to make the treaty and stands on solid ground of honor and right and reason when he asks that the treaty, which embodies in the main the ends for which we entered the war and finished it at tremendous cost of precious blood and treasure, be ratified without changes which would nullify or impair it or would weaken our participation in its execution and in the operation of the League of Nations.

Senator Lodge has persistently worked to nullify the treaty by vital amendments, which were designed to weaken it so much and to reduce our participation to such a shadow that its influence would be destroyed. His reservations, in spirit and letter, take the soul and strength out of the peace covenant and make it a shell not worth the effort to carry out. They pust us in the attitude of cowardly evasion of obligations and responsibilities which other nations are willing cheerfully to assume and which we are bound in honor and conscience to share fully with them.

We do not indorse Mr. Bryan's attitude of unlimited compromise. He is moved in this by the dastard spirit of peace at any price which moved him to condone the cirmes of Germany in order to keep us out of war. The issue of the treaty and the covenant is too important to be shirked. Their content and meaning the too vital to the welfare of mankind and the peace and progress of all nations to be lightly twisted and garbled out of the definite great purpose for which they were framed.

We agree with Mr. Bryan that the treaty ought to be ratified at once and that it would a calamity to delay it until the next election forces the issue before the people, but we agree with Mr. Wilson that this must be done unless the treaty is ratified in a form acceptable to other signatory nations and in accord with the highest standard of honor and fidelity to our own ideals and obligations as a participant in the war and in the peace covenant to the end secret, selfish, diplomacy and aggressive wars. The issue must go to the people. There is ther way out.

e faced by many important s, some of which are freighted ssibilities of the greatest mo- Some touch the very founda- tions of our republican institutions, menace our prosperity and orderly progress and bear heavily upon the destiny of the republic, but none is more important than the peace treaty. It overshadows all others as the immediate issue which, without a righteous decision, is an obstacle to the solution of other vitally important problems. It bears upon the destiny of nations and the stability and progress of civilization. Its outcome will determine our place among the nations. It bears upon our own peace and prosperity and is yital to the orderly progress of democracy, of which America is the leader, and with the fate of which our free Government is inextricably bound.

The overshadowing importance of this issue was demonstrated by its weight in the minds of the leaders of both parties and in the minds of the people. It is a matter of profound regret that this question, which ought to have been disposed of months ago, still stands in the way of other vital questions—questions the settlement of which is necessary to our domestic peace, order and progress. But there it stands, and the President, in his unanswerable argument for its ratification, says it cannot be disposed of until it is disposed of in the right way.

If the Senate majority's partisan stupidity and stubbornness send the issue to the people, the responsibility for the delay in driving of a great program of democratic and humane advancement into the mire of politics will be fixed. It will rest upon those who blocked the advance from the lowest motives of personal prejudice and hatred and partisan advantage.

The delay of peace reconstruction and the thrusting aside of all other problems which press for solution, with the consequent suffering and danger, will not be laid upon the man who led us to victory in the war and tried to lead us into a covenant of justice, liberty and enduring peace. It will not be laid upon those who were willing to make a fair compromise.

It will be laid upon the Senators who stood in the way of peace—the men who are making the honor and faith and professions of our country a mockery and a reproach throughout the world.—Post-Dispatch.

San Francisco has been selected at the place, and June 28, 1920, as the date for the convening of the National Democratic convention to nominate the next President and Vive-President of the United States. Another precedent has been broken in recognizing the extreme west with this national gathering.

LET US HAVE PEACE

The artificial division of time invests the first day of January with sentiment; it serves to punctuate the periods of life, and halt the heedless progression of human thought. It is a day for taking stock of the morrow; whither are we voyaging and how the barometer? Let us confess that 1919 has been a great disappointment to the idealist and the optimist, to men of liberal thought and hopeful vision. When the armistice was signed near the end of 1918 and peace was promised at an early date, we looked to 1919 to redress the disordered balance of the world and to heal the hurts of the great conflict. We looked forward to a period of reconstruction in our country and of rehabilitation in those devastated by war. 1919 failed to fulfill its promise. Much of Europe remains distracted and unorganized, famine and pestilence stalk in the wake of the grim spectre of war, the Russian cesspool corrupts the air of three continents, the treaty of peace is not signed, the covenant of the League of Nations has been rejected, and even the nations that were allied in battle have so lost the guise of comradeship that they suspect each other almost as much as their unrepentant foe. It is a miserable ending to a black chapter in human history. Evidently a great mistake was made. The armistice came too soon. It were better to have continued the fighting long enough to have finished the task of conquering the Germans in battle and then treating them generously, instead of leaving the military task unfinished, so that it had to be supplemented, after the armistice, by an economic blockade and other reprisals. "The world has had a great fright," as Mr. Lloyd George said, and in its fright it took a number of precautions that reflected the distrust of mankind and the apprehensions of the allied nations so thoroughly as to undermine the foundations for peace. It would have been better, as we see it now, to have finished the war and foregone the demands for punitive justice; to have ended the economic blockade and abstained from penalizing unborn generations; to have made a generous gesture and allowed the enemy all the help he needed to regain a healthful natural life; to have called for the aid of all, conquered as well as conquerors, in a united effort to bring order out of chaos and economic stability out of internecine strife. The end of the year finds civilized mankind in a mean mood, suspicious, jealous, greedy, and quarrelsome. The message of Bethlehem sounds as foreign as Aramaic; a snarling as from the jungle gives a hideous undertone to current controversy. Only one remedy is evident, and that is to make an end of the existing warfare of mind by concluding a peace such as will hasten a restoration of international relations and thaw the frozen arteries of trade. We are not surprised that a body of men so sagacious as the New York Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution demanding peace, even if "it necessarily involved some sacrifice of long-cherished precedents and practices." They say: "We want it speedily; but we want an honorable peace. Many parts of Europe are in desperate plight. A peace in which we wrap ourselves in the robes of isolation and self-interest would be as dishonorable as further delay would have been in our decision to enter the War on April 6, 1917." It is folloy to continue talking, whether at Washington or elsewhere, while the complex organism of civilization is breaking to pieces. We have been warned, by Hoover and others, of an industrial collapse, at home and abroad, if international trade continues to suffer check by reason of delay in reconstructive work. The present condition of international exchange is eloquent to those who understand its meaning. You can smuggle against an embargo or a tariff, but not against an unfavorable rate of exchange; that kills business with other countries. The failure to conclude peace is not only withholding the essentials of reconstruction from the European peoples, but it is threatening increasingly to congest our production and aggravate the domestic difficulties arising from our recent state of war. The time has passed for sacrificing this great issue to the play of partisan politics; in the name of a common humanity and an enlightened national spirit, let us have peace!

Under the leadership of that 100-per cent American, Hon. Chas. M. Hay, the League for the Preservation of American Independence in St. Louis, which was becoming somewhat streaked and spotted with "yellow," has been sterilized. It is to be hoped that the process used will serve to add something to the harmony among Democrats in that city.

OUR BOLSHEVIST ENEMY

According to the most trustworthy accounts there is much less liberty in Russia under the Bolshevists than there was under the czars. Nominally opposed to government, the Bolshevists rule with a rod of iron stronger and more unyielding than was ever known before. Their government is not only more destructive of individual freedom than was that of the Romanoffs, but more cruel and deadly, the firing squad, for example, taking the place of former deportation to Siberia. In the summer of 1918, after only a few months of power, the Bolshevist authorities admitted some 13-000 ordered executions. This did no. include the vast number of assassinations or the immense mortality due to Bolshevist stagnation of industry. Recently the Bolshevist government made announcement of 14,000 "legal" executions in the first quarter of 1919.

Yet this travesty of government confesses its desire to carry its "blessings" into every foreign country and even has the impudence to hatch plans of world dominion. Secretary Lansing has submitted to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in Russia showing not only shocking misgovernment and wanton official cruelty in Russia itself, but admitted and even trumpeted plans of "international revolution" and the "overthrow" of the leading "robber governments," these including even "those countries in which democratic institutions are already established." Triumphant Bolshevism in Russia is shown to be merely the first step toward a great "International Republic of Soviet." Proof of this is submitted in quotations from newspapers as well as in extracts from Bolshevist official utterances. This document handed to the Senate Committee by our State Department is the best answer yet given to the question as to why American troops are in Siberia, showing as it does that the expanding Bolshevist power is the active enemy not only of European governments but of our American government.—Cape Girardeau Sun.

GARDNER EXPLAINS $60,000,000 BOND PLAN

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 13.—At a banquet given by the State Highway Board here tonight to employes of the department and various men prominently connected with plans for better highways in the State, Gov. Gardner explained the plan under which the State can issue $60,000,000 of bonds for road improvement purposes, and not only pay off the principal and interest within thirty years from the receipts into the road fund, but havet a surplus left of $5,000,000 for maintenance of the highways.

The Governor submitted a table which he had prepared and upon which he had spent several days of study. His plan proposes that the first bonds shall be issued in the sum of $5,000,000 in 1922, and followed by issues of $10,000,000 each in 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927, and $5,000,000, the last issued, in 1928. From 1923 to 1951 he estimates the total receipts into the road fund under the laws as they now exist at $102,500,000. In all, the State would pay out in principal and interest over the period of thirty years the sum of $97,500,000 and would have a balance of $5,000,000 left.

In making his estimates it appears that the Governor was very conservative, for he does not count upon any increase in resources to the fund after 1924, when the total receipts would be $3,450,000. Automobiles contribute the greatest amount of revenue to the road fund. In 1917 the receipts from automobile licenses were $617,942.50; in 1918 the total receipts from the same source were $1,394,752.19, and last year they were $1,725,076.70. This was an increase from 1917 of $1,107,134.20.

Col. Harry B. Hayes of St. Louis, who was on the program for a speech, could not attend. He was represented by Raymond Walsh. Among the invited guests who were present were: J. Frank Smith and J. M. Lowe of Kansas City; Col. Harvey of Monte Ne, Ark.; E. W. Stephens of Columbia; J. H. Dickbrader of Washington, Mo.; J. D. Clarkson, of St. Joseph; C. F. Adams, of Chillicothe; State Senator Frisby H. McCullough, of Knox county, and Representative J. C. Morgan of Putnam county, who were jointly the authors of the present highway laws.

THE REED DINNER

Editor The St. Louis Star: The shrewd politician again gets his hand in; at least some of the wise ones think they see that the Reed dinner has a significance not observed on the surface. It is pointed out that Senator Wilfley gave a Reed dinner not long ago, and then there was a Reed mass meeting at the Odeon, and then again a Reed-McCormick meeting at the Coliseum, not to speak of the various other testimonials of more private nature, and all of them more or less non-partisan. Why another one just as the campaign is opening for the nomination for president, senator and other offices?

A man with two eyes can read the meaning of it all. The National Democratic Convention is to meet in San Francisco June 28. The Missouri State Convention will soon be called to elect delegates to San Francisco. St. Louis and the various counties in Missouri will be called on within the next sixty days probably to elect delegates to this State convention, and there it will be determined whether Senator Reed or President Wilson has the backing of the Missouri democracy. This is the real issue, but around it is clustered a lot of minor issues.

Who will be the delegates to the San Francisco convention? Who will be the new national committeeman to succeed Edward F. Goltra? Will it be Goltra himself, or some other Democrat who is unequivocally with President Wilson? Or will it be one of the "Three Sams" whose names appear on the list of the Reed dinner committee? Or might it not be Maj. Harry B. Hawes, who is on the same list of the Reed dinner committee?

The split among the diners who are anxious to eat to the honor of the Senator is contributing to the gayety of the occasion, but they are all one in their characterization of the Senator's course as "courageous, independent and statesmanlike." Hawes, Simon and the "Three Sams" and all the Republicans and Democrats at the "non-partisan dinner" will be together on one issue—the first big thing to be done. It is dollars to doughnuts they will all be for sending Reed and as many of his followers as possible as delegates to the San Francisco convention.

This dinner is seen by the knowing ones as the first step to that end.

It will now be up to the people of the State to say whether they are with Reed or with the President.

Of course, the old-time political trick will be attempted, that is, to conciliate both sides and keep peace in the family. "Harmony" will be the watchword and under its magic spell the shrewd manipulators will do their work. This warning is now being given by some who think they foresee the result. It will be an interesting fight to watch. What we insist upon is that the issue be kept clear and the fight made on straight lines. Then we shall know whether Reed or Wilson controls the Democracy of Missouri. This is the real issue and the dinner is a pointer. W. D. VANDIVER.

CHINESE WOMEN STUDY HEALTH

Three Doctors Return From America to Begin Active Health Campaign Among Women.

ALL AGENCIES COMBINE.

American Y. W. C. A. Will Support Women's Part of Chinese Health Campaign as Part of World Service Program.

As a result of the Y. W. C. A. International Conference of Women Physicians, held during September and October, Chinese women are to have a far-reaching health program.

Dr. Ida Kahn, Dr. Li Bi-Cu and Dr. Dau, three of China's half hundred women physicians, who attended this

HIR IDA KAHN URGES CHINESE WOMEN TO WORK.

conference, are to take an active part in promoting this health program for women which will be the share of the Y. W. C. A. in the big health movement in China.

The funds for establishing these health centers, for demonstrations of how to care for babies, for health lectures for the women, for babies' dispensaries and for a general educational campaign, will be raised by the American Y. W. C. A. as part of its program of world service for women and girls in 1920.

Dr. Ida Kahn, in a recent appeal to modern Chinese women said, "Let our women of education in Peking and elsewhere gather themselves together to work for the schools, Red Cross and Y. W. C. A., and everything else which bespeaks the betterment of the country, instead of staying at home to play poker and 'sparrow,' and going out to attend endless dinners, tea parties and dances.

"Let us rally our forces and help the ship of state to move safely. One person cannot accomplish much, but one or two hundred millions of women can work wonders. Let us go back to a more Spartan-like simplicity of living and let us build up social service until every city in China is sanitary, every section of the town has its proper schools, and every child, whether boy or girl, is sent to such schools. True social service brings democracy in its train, and we who are citizens of a new republic can help to make it truly great by preaching and living democracy all the time. Why not learn to do our household duties, deeming it effeminate to be waited upon by maids and slave girls all the time?

"The status of women in China, while leaving much to be desired, still is quite hopeful when we consider that she is just emerging into the sisterhood of the nations. Our men can depend upon us to bear the burdens of the day, for nowhere is there a more industrious, diligent and persevering womanhood than in China."

Dr. Kahn is lecturing in this country on the needs of her fellow country women, in the interests of the Y. W. C. A. Educational Campaign which plans to acquaint people with all phases of Y. W. C. A. work in the United States, South America, China, Japan, India and Europe. This educational campaign will be followed by an active effort to raise the $3,000,000 needed for service for women throughout the world.

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SELF HELPING COMMUNITIES

The Indian at the party, served with viands from a sideboard, remarked:

"Too many people helping Indian. Indian will help himself."

And he proceeded to do so.

A great many Americans would find it easy to sympathize with the red man's point of view. As we look back, it is apparent that an outstanding fault of many past social service activities has been "too many people helping Indian", and not enough people helping Indian to help himself.

The average man and the average boy object to being fussed over. The experience of War Camp Community Service drove that fact hard upon the consciousness of the community workers whose business it was to minister to the comfort and recreational needs of the enlisted men. It was found that, given the tools, the opportunity and a touch of leadership, the uniformed men would go a long way in working out a satisfactory recreation programme. It was not that they did not need guidance. They did, and appreciated it. But they did not need and did not appreciate a condition in which there were "so many people helpang Indian" that Indian had no chance to help himself.

Social relations, having in the past been so largely dictated by whim, tradition or prejudice, are seldom logical unless consciously and intelligently readjusted. Then, too, there is always the parodoxical situation that the more people there are to know in any one place, the harder it is to know any of them.

One of the present day social phenomena is the extent to which the words "Community Service" have got into the current vocabulary. It would be going too far to characterize Community Service as a new idea. As the term is used nowadays, though, it could properly be said to stand for a new attitude. Community Service, peace-time outgrowth of War Camp Community Service, reaches the individual by organizing the community, by making community life a conscious activity.

It is impossible to establish community life by decree, just as it is impossible to establish friendship by compulsion. There are those who imagine that people can be gathered together, commanded to be sociable and left to their fate. Desirable community life is a growth. Moreover, there can be no community life where there is no community service. Unless community life is a growth, it is without roots, and exists as a superimposed structure. All of that throws us back to the starting point. It is the business of organized Community Service to see to it that there are not so many people helpine Indian that Indian has no chance to help himself. Organized Community Service can supply the stimulus, the opportunity and initial direction, but the community must stand by reason of its own strength.

NO SPLIT IN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, BRYAN DECLARES

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 10.—William Jennings Bryan advocated "free and open discussion where concessions may be asked and given" in the United States Senate in an effort to reach a compromise on the peace treaty, in an address at the Iroquois Club today.

Then "if no compromise can be reached we must acquiesce, for the present with the Republican majority," he said. He proposed that in that case enough Democratic votes be withdrawn to permit the Republicans a constitutional two-thirds vote by which the treaty and League of Nations covenant would be ratified with reservations and allow "the people to pass judgment" at the polls.

Mr. Bryan said there had been no "split" in the Democratic party and that such a conclusion should not be drawn from the addresses of himself and President Wilson at the Jackson Day banquet. "The President and I differ in method and not in purpose," he said.

"The President's letter read at Washington," continued Mr. Bryan, contained words open to construction that indicate to me that compromise is possible. The President did well at Paris. He did more there than we could expect any man to do."

FLIGHT OF BULLET QUICKER THAN SOUND

A bullet travels faster than sound, so that if a man is struck by a bullet and instantly killed at a distance, say of 1,000 yards, he is dead before the report of the rifle that fired the bullet could reach him.

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