

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

FRANK FREYTAG Editor and Publisher

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SUCH GHOOLS OPPOSE THE LEAGUE

Those fellows who seek to carry favor with the pro-German or other anti-Wilson men—and who hope thereby to further their own personal political interests—may proceed through their foolish desire to feel that they have a shadow of reason for opposing the league of nations...

First of course, among the multitudes who have been gathering a golden harvest for the last few years and they do not like to see it end. The 100 points for example, advanced profits of \$36,000,000 in a single year. It would require a most robust faith in human goodness to expect the controlling interests of that firm to impose a league of nations whose avowed object is to prevent wars and reduce armaments.

Next, the desire to military supplies. A number of divisions could be made here that it is hardly necessary to pursue. The persons who made fortunes in supplying the officers of our army will not be so easily satisfied. Before the war they were making \$100,000 a year. Now they are making \$1,000,000 a year.

Then, the desire to government contracts on the "war time" plan are likewise staunch opponents of the league, and for easy understood reasons. Dealers who had large stocks manufactured or purchased at pre-war rates and were able to mark up prices to war standards are quite anxious to see what business President Wilson has to conduct over a league in Paris.

Also, the night expert men who have been drawing 17 per cent dividends per year on steel common stock, particularly paragon, at from \$25 to \$50 per share, to take the same view. But the expectation would be met only in part. The big fellows in the steel business are sufficiently shrewd to see that they had better exploit the markets of peace and reconstruction rather than those of war. The profits must be low for a time, but they are much more certain.

Next, soldiers who see their service as being that the league of nations can be established. Every member of a soldier's league is apt to check on his part of the fact. It is those who made proper out of war without sharing war's dangers who are furious about the league—and by their opposition, give the league the strongest possible endorsement.

WE ARE OUR BROTHERS' KEEPERS. It is highly probable that a number of amendments may yet have to be made to the draft of the league of nations, but rather than have the peace conference dissolve without having any league whatsoever, mankind would be accepting the first draft of any other draft even if it were ten thousand times more faulty than it is.

Suppose the anti-Wilson senators should succeed in killing the league of nations? What then? Each nation would simply return to frenzied building of armaments. The war menace would be at the forefront of the world's mind. Philip Gibbs, the most level-headed of all war correspondents, declares that if the league of nations is not formed, Bolshevism will overrun and rule the whole earth. The common people throughout Europe, particularly the millions of soldiers who have suffered all the horrors of war, feel very bitterly and positively that their rulers and statesmen in the past have betrayed them. He states from vast experience and intercourse in the warring nations that if the ruling classes cannot now evolve a better world order, the people will rise and remorselessly sweep them all aside. The opportunity to draw the nations together is here now. If lost, it may not soon

return. The fate of mankind hangs in the balance. Public provincialism and politics are at the bottom of most of the opposition in this country to the league of nations. The objection to the league usually runs like this: "We are without Britain's navy, or other such, our own men are the finest soldiers on earth. We are not asking anything from Europe. Europe writes us virtually to give up our sovereignty, our right to deal as we wish with Latin America, to regulate our immigration, even to fix our tariffs. We British, French, Italy and Japan could have their own way every time. No let Europe manage her own affairs. We can look after ourselves."

This war was brought on largely because of Germany's pride. There is real danger that America may now start to swagger. We are beginning to feel that we are equals of the world. We can look after ourselves; let others do the same. During the war we were mighty glad to have the allied navies protect our shores and to work hand-in-hand with the allied armies to defeat their enemy and ours. Now that we feel safe, we are inclined to become haughty, arrogant, overbearing and indifferent to Europe's troubles. In short, most critics of the league now deny that we are our brother's keeper.

Were other nations to take a like attitude, the peace conference would end disastrously. Every nation must give and take if any agreement is to be reached, just as the individual states had to give and take when they arranged to form the United States.

LOYD GEORGE AND "WILD MEN"

Lloyd George, the leader of the British empire and who is a power next to my own Wilson in the peace negotiations, is a man who big and broad enough to submerge his own feelings for the future happiness of all mankind, has risen to a post of eminence seldom reached by man. The part he has taken in adjusting the affairs of the world since the negotiations began has made him one of the prime factors, and he is entitled to the hearing of the world. Those American critics of Wilson who would tear him down are referred to the following extract from a speech made by George last week, in the course of which he said:

"When this kind of disease is carried to the point of seeking alliance between great allies whose unity is essential for the peace of the world, when an attempt is made to make France distrust Great Britain, France to hate America, and America to dislike France and Italy, not even that kind of disease is justification for so black a crime against humanity."

A black crime against humanity? It is a phrase that comes to us with no particular force of American politics. Coming thus, gentle reader, whether you be republican or democrat, doesn't it appeal to you as having a sound basis of justification? It is Lloyd George, not Woodrow Wilson, who pleads that at this time, when the world is still full of perils for all countries, those who are trying to do their best to avert those perils be let alone. Is it not a timely plea?

It is Lloyd George, not Woodrow Wilson, who depicts so convincingly the tremendous difficulties under which the peace conference have labored and who complains that "stones were clattering on the roof and wild men were screaming through the skylight" while enormous issues depended upon them which required calm deliberations. It is Lloyd George, not Woodrow Wilson, who tells you it is not true that the United States and Europe have been at variance, and that the incorporation of the league of nations into the peace treaty has not wasted time but saved it. It is he who warns you that nothing can save the world but keeping the nations that won the war together, and that President Wilson has dealt sympathetically and understandingly with the peculiar problems of our European associates in the war.

It is Lloyd George who gives the solemn assurance that the league of nations is "the great experiment upon which the whole peace of the world hangs." There are some Americans who may have grown weary of reading Woodrow Wilson's speeches, who deem him a leader they cannot follow, an adviser who is unsafe, a representative whom they spurn. Whether for partisan or other reasons, they may have turned thumbs down on him. Let them, then, read the speech of Lloyd George, and do it, as it deserves to be read, with fair and open mind. Lloyd George, like Wilson, is fighting with his back to the wall, assailed by British enemies as powerful and implacable as are the American enemies of Wilson. Sometimes we see better at a distance. Sometimes we can judge more wisely differences in some other household. If we cannot find in Wilson's cool courage and devotion and steady statesmanship something to admire, something to win sympathy as well as confidence, perhaps we can find it in Lloyd George.

If we cannot, then the future is indeed dark. For upon the wisdom and courage of those two men, more than any others, hangs the hope of the world. They are at the helm. They cannot be displaced or repudiated without disaster, irreparable and without remorse. Shall we, forgetting the moment of the crisis, our differences and differences, join to hold up their hands? Or shall great multitudes, driven by this passion or that, strive to strike down their arms?

unanimously the following plank in their state platform: "We pledge the party to a program of economy and efficiency in this state. We condemn the democratic party which has been in control of the legislature since 1909, for its waste of public funds and its inefficient administration of state affairs. Under its administration covering a period of eight years, the burdens of taxation placed upon us for state purposes have increased from \$1,257,237.31 in 1907, under republican control, to \$9,694,189.04 in 1917, under democratic control."

THE GOOD LOGIC OF TUCKER

"We are decidedly in favor of the sentiment that is gaining ground everywhere, to go back to the 'old time.' When God Almighty, at the beginning of time, sent forth the fiat 'let there be light,' he set in motion the forces of the universe, and established habits and customs of both man and beast. The rolling cycles have made but slight changes in us, and the world has moved according to the Divine plan, so far as the rock-making of time was concerned, until a bunch of fellows, who never did go to work anyway, until after the real workers of the world had performed a good half day's labor, came along and turned the clock ahead an hour, so they could get out in the middle of the afternoon to play 'golf.' It didn't hurt the fellows in Washington who went to his office at ten or eleven or twelve o'clock, but how about the thousands who have to report promptly when the whistle blows at seven or eight o'clock? Many of them will require two hours or more to perform their usual home duties and make the trip to their working places. And what can you consistently say about daylight saving to the farmer? And how will you convince his stock, in whose nature has been implanted the eternal hunger at stated intervals, that 'feeding time' has been changed? and how will you convey to the old speckled hen the information that she is all wrong in her calculations as to when she should gather her little brood about her and tuck them in for the night? Verily, she knoweth that the rising of the sun and the going down thereof has been immutably fixed by He who wields the scepter of time, rather than by the individual who turns the clock forward and backward at his own sweet will, and sends the birds of the farming orb of day before him as he would his golf ball. Truly, we are a great people, but we allow some folks to make awful fools of us at times."—Prairie County Gazette.

Editor Tucker speaks from the card when he indited the above, and its truth is fast being demonstrated each day by the big manufacturing and packing plants and in many rural communities where the regulation is a dead letter or where these institutions and communities have served notice that they no longer will follow a regulation that has served the purpose for which it was made, and is no longer a necessity. Measures made to fit war conditions are not needed after the roar of the guns have ceased.

AS SENSIBLE AS SOME OTHERS

Some of the people of this country in their mad desire to achieve publicity and get into the center of the public spotlight can evolve ideas for propagation which border perilously near the bounds which cover nonsense. One of the latest of these is the plan proposed by the president general of the D. A. B. for the Americanization of the country which is decidedly the most comprehensive yet proposed. She would not only bar foreign languages, but apparently foreign food and foreign clothes as well. "What kind of an American soul," she asked, "can dwell in the bosom of a man who habitually patronizes a London tailor? What kind of an American can be nurtured on a diet of sauerkraut and limburger cheese? What kind of American sentiments can be voiced by one whose breath reeks of garlic?"

If London tailors are to be taboo, by the same token there must be no patronage of Paris modistes. Can a fair American heart beat as loyally under a Rue de la Paix frock? The "daughters" may well ponder on the heroic nature of the sacrifice they will be required to make. But the great test of perfect Americanization will come in the limitation of diet to native food products. Can a conscientiously loyal American ever eat a table d'hôte meal? There can, of course, be no French sauces, no French dressing for salads, but in its place the sugar-and-vinegar concoction of the grandmothers, Camembert and Roquefort cheese from Orange county no doubt will be allowable. What shall be the rule about tea?

But are pork and beans and codfish to breed a more patriotic race? Is sauerkraut to connote treason but corned beef and cabbage to be the sign of unquestioned loyalty? The ideal of a perfect Americanization is laudable, but it is possible to make it too pure for human nature's daily food.

AS TO REPUBLICAN "ECONOMY"

Just now about all that we can hear from the standpatners and GOP reformers is an insistent wail of "Democratic extravagance," and proposed "economy." Well—let us see about that. Just a little distance to the west and bordering on our own state is Nebraska. The legislature of that state, which legislative body is overwhelmingly republican, adjourned last week after a long session. Last year the Republicans of Nebraska in state convention adopted

being added. Half of the ships that clear from United States ports are American. That is an entirely new situation in regard to foreign commerce. A great part of this tonnage is manufactured goods, and it supplies work to hundreds of thousands. There is no serious complaint about the unemployed, though unemployment is noted in a few sections. The outlook is for work for all and that means prosperity.

MISSOURI SOLONS DAWDLE

A practice that is the disgrace of the country is the dawdling of the legislative bodies—congress included as well as the state bodies. For three or four months such bodies dawdle along and then attempt to do the business of the whole session in less than a week. That is the regular annual performance of congress and all the state legislatures. Congress is even worse than the legislatures. When the most important legislation was pending—legislation that should have been enacted weeks before and was not openly opposed by any party—La Follette and others took advantage of the situation to talk for hours, saying nothing that was of value to any party or to the people, for the express purpose of compelling the president to call an extra session and prevent him from going to Paris to complete the treaty for a league of nations. It was the smallest kind of snail politics.

The Missouri legislature is following the dilatory program and trying to crowd into the last few days the whole amount of work that should have been done in the many weeks when the members lazed along doing practically nothing, except laying plans for future political contests.

DAYLIGHT IS DAWNING

The future is bright for St. Joseph. The business has grown until it must move off of Felix street. There is plenty of room on Eighth street for development of additional retail territory. Our city administration should at once improve Eighth street and complete the widening of Mesquite between Sixth and Eighth streets. It condemned part of the Crowthers & Rogers property more than two years ago, but has never appropriated the money. The city can and should complete this improvement.

JOHN TOWNSEND

St. Joseph has had many merchants—and it will have many more—but it never has had, and never will have, a merchant who stood higher in the estimation of the people of an entire community—it never had, nor ever will have, a man who was a better citizen—it never had, nor never will have, a man who did more for his people and who said less about what he did—it never had, nor never will have, a man who will be as sadly missed or as deeply mourned as John Townsend.

Twenty-four thousand dressed chickens which had been held in cold storage too long at Kansas City and were thereby not fit for food were seized by United States marshals Tuesday—and all over this section the people are paying all sorts of prices for chickens—while the food profiteer allows them to go to waste in order that the prices may be kept up. There USED to be a real method for successfully "handling" the profiteer locks.

The statutes give no county court the right to dictate appointments as deputies, neither can any county court interfere with a deputy who was appointed prior to the incumbency of the court—and county highway engineer Meyer knows that—and that is why he is sitting tight—and will continue so to do—for he is right.

PROSPERITY IS ON INCREASE

Ask any St. Joseph business man and he will tell you that never before has he experienced such good business as at the present time, and never has been more prosperous. This is not only the case here, but it is the condition all over the United States. In this connection it can be stated that every economist of note is expressing the opinion that the prospect for business expansion was never better and they point as an indication to the great expansion of overseas traffic. There are newspapers in New York that make a specialty of shipping news and a glance over the columns of those papers shows that American ships are now sailing over routes that have been abandoned for fifty years and even over new routes, ships are constantly clearing for China, Australia, New Zealand, the South East Indies, and there are now regular lines to South America, Great Britain, and to Canada and Mexico.

It is announced by the shipping authorities that the American merchant fleet now comprises one-fifth of all the sea going tonnage of the world, while new ships are constantly

hood and the next day take it back and print another. Twenty-nine new veterinarians were sent out from the St. Joseph Veterinary College Tuesday night to do their bit in the world. The St. Joseph Veterinary College under the able management of Dr. R. C. Moore is now one of the best in the entire country.

Also If that "expect war correspondent"

Frank H. Simonds, whose every guess throughout the war was wrong, would cease his tirades (or people would not read his vapors) there would be far less uneasiness among the people than there is now.

The telegraph announces that banker Flack of Kansas has been released on parole after serving but a short part of his time for robbing his community. The people of Kansas should now furnish him with the funds to start another bank or two.

The festive hold-up artist is getting in his work in lavish profusion these days—as witness the Armour, Easton and Hempie jobs. If the work does not soon stop there may be found strange figures hanging on trees some of these spring mornings.

Possibly when the farmers of this county go before the republican end of the county court in future to ask what is their right, they will remove their shoes, crawl before the court on their hands and knees and say "please."

The Republican part of the county court has "stopped" Bob George's pay, but the stoppage will melt away as the mist before a summer sun when a circuit court handles the matter—and George will get his pay just the same.

How do you democratic farmers who voted for republican county judges feel now, after you went before those judges whom you helped to elect, with your modest—and righteous petition?

Those anti-Clark exponents will do well to remember that Republican Representative Mondell is the man who paid for and sent out Speaker Clark's anti-conscription speech—to injure the great Missourian.

In the death of Louis Strebeck St. Joseph loses one among the last of its most excellent foreign born citizens—a man who was the friend of all, and who was beloved by every person who knew him.

The Greek citizens of St. Joseph are doing their full duty in the Victory campaign. They are in many instances showing more real patriotism than many Americans.

Chairman King of the Victory Loan committee needs that money to put this city and county over the top—and you are certainly going to do your part—and give it to him.

Mayor Whitsell in his annual message is highly optimistic as to St. Joseph's future—and he will do his part in making good with his optimism.

Take a walk down the retail streets, and then say that St. Joseph's merchants have not the neatest and prettiest displays of spring goods—if you dare.

Mayor Whitsell now has an official family of his own selection—and should be able to make things hum in future.

A Kansas farm agent has found an alfalfa ringworm. Kansas always was noted for "freaks"—and personal advertising.

And now enterprising Maryville, not to be in the back seat, has had a case of "sleeping sickness."

Would Make Mike Turn Over. Senator Reed and Borah, his republican running mate, attacked the president and the League of Nations at St. Joseph Monday night. Shades of Mike Moran. We'll bet the old "war horse" kicked the lid off of his box at the thought of such an unholy spectacle being witnessed within the sacred precincts of Buchanan county. —Matte County Gazette.

One That Made Good

It is told that one of Gallatin's bootleggers has made good. He collected several hundred dollars from booze vendors to buy supplies with and forgot to return with the money or goods. He is supposed to be in Kansas by this time. Judge Everman may send him an invitation to return here.—Gallatin Democrat.

Could Do Good Work Here

Nobody wants to hurry the Peace Conference of course, but when it does get through, would the American delegates be interested in a little conference with some of the profiteers here at home, with a view to making peace with them, or getting up a league or something?—Kansas City Times.

Let Him Grow Whiskers First

A movement is on foot to nominate Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt for vice president on the next National Republican ticket. Why not wait till the boy's whiskers grow, and he finds out what he is politically. Strikes us we have had enough of the Roosevelt family to last for a while yet.—Boonville Advertiser.

Not Because Simonds Says So

"Wilson has failed." So we are told and it must be so, seeing that Simonds has said as much. But just wait a moment—meeting is never over until they sing and no game is out until it is played out. When the results are announced it will be discovered that "Wilson has failed" just like Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln failed. The wish is often father to the thought, but this time both wish and its father will be found far afield when the curtain goes up on the Peace Conference.—Coles County Ruelster.

Soaks It to the British

Private Fred Auten, who returned last January from France and who is now stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, visited friends in this city over Sunday. He says most of the boys overseas are mighty anxious to get home. He came over on the George Washington, the vessel that carried the presidential party, and along with him were some two thousand other American soldiers. They were given the best of fare and enjoyed the trip immensely, coming across in eight days. He went across on a British transport and says the boys were given rotten service, the menu being hard tack, fish and lach rabbit, the British being paid so much for conveying them across and apparently wanted to make the most of it. The fare was so poor and so poorly gotten up that he lived mostly on apples bought of the "butcher" while making the trip.—Hopkins Journal.

The True Facts in the Case

The bald statement that there were an aggregate of \$500,000 of debts left over from the 1917-18 biennial period, is only a half-truth—never a fair statement. The impression is sought to be made that because of an empty treasury that amount of the state's obligations could not be paid. What are the facts? Only \$120,497.15 of the deficiency that make up the eight hundred thousand dollar total is chargeable to 1917-18, and this is all that could have been paid had there been ten million dollars in the treasury December, 1918. Of the remainder, \$2,944.30 was chargeable to 1915-16 deficiencies; \$291 were accounts not approved by departments; \$285,483 were appropriations 1917-18 exhausted, and \$284,747.92 for which no appropriation were made in 1917-18. So the fact of the business is that the real deficit of the Gardner administration for 1917-18 was only \$120,497.15—the smallest in the history of the state for many years. And the further prediction that there is to be a huge deficit at the end of this biennial period is only a wish of the political desire of those seeking a "busted" treasury issue. The Gardner business administration has taken care of more than two millions of debts inherited from previous administrations and at the same time it has paid its way in cash and will continue to do so. If the general assembly gives it money to meet all the appropriations, they will be met; if not, they will be trimmed—there will be no default.—Coles County Ruelster.

Should Take Plenty With Him

The French aviator who is to make a trans-Atlantic flight will do it in five legs, Paris dispatches say. It would be wise, too, to provide as many arms and other breakable parts.—Kansas City Post.

You'll Win the Bet

Let you the gods pop that the big life insurance companies do not make any undue efforts to "write up" those three thousand booze hounds Uncle Sam expects to send into the hills at the festive moonshiner at the beginning of the big drought on July 1st.—DeKalb Tribune.

Kept Still Till Out of Texas

Ex-Senator Joe Bailey says he has

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying