

THE OBSERVER

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DELAY PEACE TREATIES

Word comes from Washington that President Taft will not ask immediate action upon the general arbitration treaties negotiated with Great Britain and France. It is assumed that his action is dictated by the attitude of the senate, which has been in open opposition to the approval of the peace conventions unless amended to meet the views of some of the senators.

Mr. Taft may not have given any attention to the political side in making the decision to delay action on the peace treaties. He may hold the opinion that delay will develop such a strong public sentiment in their favor that they will be adopted without amendment.

But this is a political year and there is always the possibility that political

considerations enter every decision that is made by the executive or congress. After such an advanced stand on the peace conventions, Mr. Taft could not consistently permit a modification of the provisions. If he did so, it would admit that the treaties as approved by him are defective and it would be an acknowledgement that the criticisms of Theodore Roosevelt are well based. Mr. Taft cannot afford to allow the impression that either the utterances of Mr. Roosevelt or the attitude of the senate have changed his mind as to the practicability and efficiency of the peace treaties.

It is recognized there is a sharp division between the views of the president and Mr. Roosevelt on the peace conventions. The latter has denounced the peace treaties as shams, hypocritical and silly, because they cannot possibly mean what they say because they are loosely worded, because their use of words creates confusion, and because they delegate to outsiders, possibly foreigners, the exercise of the vital power of determining matters involving our national honor and national policies and interests. President Taft holds an opposite view and contends that the treaties as prepared prevent any discussion of such vital national questions as the Monroe doctrine, or immigration, or others relating to internal affairs.

In delaying action by the senate on the treaties, the affair has resolved itself into a contest between President Taft and Mr. Roosevelt for the support of public opinion to the views expressed by each. Unquestionably, the senate leans toward the ideas of the former president else it would not have insisted on amendments to the conventions. Whether the weight of public opinion is with President Taft in his contentions for their adoption or behind Mr. Roosevelt in his opposition cannot be assured until there is a more general sentiment manifested one way or the other.

Cuba has decided to obey the teacher this time, but it is awfully hard to stay in school down in that warm climate.

The Manchu government in China demands 10,000,000 taels, which will necessitate the sacrificing of many queues.

There are so many ways of getting killed, these days, it is a wonder anyone lives to a ripe old age.

The colonel says he will curtail his speech-making to the "lowest possible limit." Saving himself?

The ox-eyed blonde may disappear, but the peroxide blonde evidently has come to stay.

Perhaps T. R. is learning the sign language.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY. January 31.

- 1573—Ben Jonson, noted English dramatist, born. Died August 6, 1637.
1606—Guy Fawkes executed for his participation in the "gunpowder plot."
1752—Gouverneur Morris, member of the Continental Congress and United States senator from New

- York, born. Died Nov. 16, 1816.
1781—Gen. Greene took command of the American army in the south.
1812—John Randolph Tucker, an officer in the Mexican war, the civil war and the war for South American independence, born in Alexandria, Va. Died Jan. 29, 1880.
1846—Milwaukee incorporated as a city.
1874—Sir Garnet Wolseley defeated the Ashantees in a severe conflict near Coomassie.
1880—British training ship Atalanta left the Bermudas with a crew of nearly 300, and was never heard from again.
1891—Jean L. E. Meissonier, famous French painter, died. Born in 1811.
1892—Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon, noted pulpit orator, died. Born June 19, 1834.
1898—Great strike of engineers in England ended, after nearly 30 weeks' idleness.
1911—Congress selected San Francisco as the site for the proposed Panama exposition.

"THIS IS MY 40TH BIRTHDAY."

John A. Widstoe. John Andreas Widstoe, who is president of the International Dry Farming congress and a physiological chemist of wide reputation, was born in the island of Frouen, Norway, on January 31, 1872. As a youth he was brought to America by his parents, who settled in Utah. He graduated from Brigham Young college and later spent several years in study at Harvard university and at the University of Göttingen. After completing his education he returned to Utah and began his career as professor of chemistry in the State Agricultural college of which institution he is now the president. Dr. Widstoe's work as an educator and his writings on chemistry have won him wide recognition in scientific circles and he has been honored with membership in some of the leading chemical societies of Europe as well as the similar organizations in America.

- Congratulations to:—
George W. Perkins, financier, 50 years old today.
Nathan Straus, eminent New York merchant and philanthropist, 64 years old today.
Zane Grey, prominent among the younger American novelists, 37 years old today.
Theodore William Richards, professor of chemistry at Harvard university 44 years old today.
Charles L. Bartlett, representative in congress from the Sixth Georgia district, 59 years old today.
John McLauch Hamilton, Philadelphia artist who was commissioned by King George to paint the coronation, 59 years old today.

A COMMUNICATION.

La Grande, Oregon, Jan. 29.—To the Editor of Observer:—In your editorial referring to my communication about the socialist propaganda, you say I was defending present day socialism and, that as such defender, I should explain to the people where socialism ceases and where anarchy begins. In the first place I was only defending the right of free speech applicable to all people alike, and in the second place I was not defending the dynamiter, the red flag, the murderer, or any other lawless element as you suggest in your editorial entitled, "Socialism and Anarchy."

Now, as to the question you have set me to explain to the people as stated above. The anarchy that Col. C. E. S. Wood of Portland claims to believe in is an ideal condition of society wherein there is no restraint. Everybody knows his rights and the rights of his neighbors, and will defend his neighbor before he will himself. It is a condition of complete self government, and the most absolute liberty. It is somewhat on the plan of Gaston and Alphonso's gyrations in the funny papers, but to be more serious, it is founded on the doctrine of Jesus Christ, viz:—"Love your neighbor as yourself," "overcome evil with good," "be good to them that despitefully use you," "agree with thine adversary quickly," "if ye love them only who love you, what better are ye than the Pharisees, do not even they do the same?" "But I say unto you, love your enemies," and "when smitten on the one cheek turn the other also," and added to these are the golden rule and many other precepts that make up the ideals of Christianity. We know how far people fall short of living up to these ideals in religion, and if applied to the political relations of men it is

hardly conceivable how they can be attained. But the anarchy you refer to is riot and disorder, dynamite and carnage which often occur under any form of government. The ideal anarchy can only be predicated on the actions of perfect people so we will have to dismiss that phase of the question.

In part your position is tenable, because socialism as a scientific and philosophical system is the complete antithesis of capitalism. They are as diametrically opposed to each other as are despotism and democracy, and viewing them in this light it is plain to be seen why Miss Wood does not honor the constitution of the United States. Socialism is either a problem for the centuries to unravel or else it will come by a complete upheaval and a re-organization of our social system. The expedient of taking over the public utilities and the means of production and distribution and paying for them in interest bearing bonds merely shifts the burden into another form, and strictly according to philosophical socialism would be merely another form of capitalism. For instance take a case in point: The estate of Marshall Field is invested in bonds, which means that his heirs living and yet to be born will have the power to levy a perpetual tax against millions of our race yet unborn. This destroys the principles that all men are created equal, and have an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Is it strange that democracies formulate a lot of meaningless and high sounding phrases and then proceed to destroy them. But after all this may be nature's plan, because everything must be equalized and disease and death are as natural as health and life. But aside from petty squabbles there is such a thing as the development and growth of a people and their institutions. This growth can be traced from meadieval times, or in fact from antiquity, and the different stages of development are clearly marked. We had not reached the culminating climax in governmental theory and constitutional law when we founded the constitution of the United States. Of course, it is admitted that the theory of socialism is idealistic the same as the idealism of Christianity, and it may never be attained. If it could be attained the ultimate would be reached and all incentive would be gone. Struggle between opposites seems to be the order of existence, reaching for the ultimate that can never be attained. Now, these being facts, whether they are admitted or not, leads us up to this conclusion: That there is growth and development in human society, that there is always a balancing of forces, that there are compromises made between extreme elements.

Socialism is unfortunate in the quality of its leadership, in what is called "political action," but it has the best thought of the world among its writers and theorists. It may founder on the same rock as Populism, because its leaders are apt to become hungry for the spoils and emoluments of office, and in their eagerness they will swap and trade and fuse with other party bosses. Then, of course, will follow disbanding and dividing on national party lines. The same old story but there appears to be a comradeship in this new movement, a desire to sacrifice self for the good of the cause. It appeals to the lowly and in many cases to the ignorant man. And, why? That is the question. Simply because they get no relief from the old line politicians of either party. It is pretty well understood that the government at Washington is controlled by what is known as the Third house, and that an alien ruler is in complete command. Millions of our people are becoming convinced that our government has been taken away from us.

All people should live within the law, and free public discussion should be encouraged and not suppressed. There are lots of things we learn by the underground route that should be publicly proclaimed.

You claim the soap box orator and the red flag disciple ought to be sup-

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pressed. This would not do any good. In one way it would help their cause as every cause in the world has been boosted by persecution. These soap box orators hold the same relation to the world wide thought of the age as the foam of the ocean holds to the action of the mighty deep. The world will not stand still in its social development because of established customs, creeds of orthodoxy, or fixed and immutable laws or constitutions. Free discussion is what we have left of our rights, and we will have to hold that at all hazards, and I think the American people will hold it to the last ditch even if every other right is taken away from them. I hope I have answered your question as to what socialism is and the distinction between it and anarchy, and also the essential elements between these systems and the republican form of government under which we are supposed to be living now. After all, the only question with me was the right of free discussion, especially of public questions.

J. B. STODDARD.

CONTRARY CROCKERY.

Dishes Do Play Queer Pranks at Times, as Though Bewitched.

Housewives, think twice before scolding your maids. You know crockery is often said to be bewitched, and veritably this is so.

The best tea service will smash itself to a cup and saucer. Then, the last of their line, they linger on through stress and storm as if bearing a charmed life. Your special set of flowered jugs will all rush to their fates with maddening tendencies to suicide, except one. That hangs on its hook, cracked, but still alive to mock you with memory of its fair sisters. Notice, too, the everyday dinner service with the dark blue border and the gilt edge. It flourishes like the proverbial bay tree. But the very first time you bring out your best set, purchased by painstaking thrift, the soup tureen hurls madly to the ground. "How dreadfully careless of you, Mary Anne!" you exclaim fretfully. But it isn't the little maid at all. It's witchcraft.

But a much more weird and wonderful proof of sorcery at work in crockery occurred the other day. An ordinary china jug suddenly refused to hold water. It leaked badly. Banished to the kitchen shelf, it stood for months. Unexpectedly one day it was taken down and used by a stranger and behaved in a perfectly exemplary manner. Explain it by anything else than witchcraft if you can.—London Ladies' World.

The Seckel Pear.

The Seckel pear is one of the sweetest and daintiest fruits that grow. As another describes it, "The flesh is melting, juicy and most exquisitely and delicately flavored." That is just what it is. And the tree on which this pear grows is beautiful and vigorous, which indicates that nature has a great fondness for it. The pear is named after a Mr. Seckel of Philadelphia, on whose estate in 1817 the Seckel pear started on its happy career. Some one writing in 1847 said, "The parent tree still lives about three miles from Philadelphia."—Pittsburgh Press.

Too Suggestive.

"The health officer advised me to ask every man with whom we had domestic dealings if he was careful to cool the water he used in his business."

"Yes." "Well, I asked the milkman first. And what do you think? He got mad and wanted to lick me."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Paroled Men Make Good. Walla Walla, Jan. 31.—The assertion that 80 1/2 per cent of the convicts of the state penitentiary "made good" when paroled, was made to visiting sheriff's convention today by Warden Reed.

Will Take Potatoes to Texas. William Neiberger and Tom Peach leave this week for Texas with a shipment of potatoes for the Texas markets. They plan to take a shipment of five carloads, and will be gone long enough to dispose of them at the destination.

Buehler Affair up Again. Chicago, Jan. 31.—Charged with contributing to the delinquency of Violet Buehler, aged 15, who left her home in Chicago and went to New York for him, Charles McClain, a waiter, is held under \$2,000 bonds to answer before the grand jury.

Arcade Theatre

"MEXICAN AS IT IS SPOKEN" MELIES A comedy that is out of the ordinary, interesting and lively.

"THE REPORTER" PATHE No dull moments in this picture, interesting and well acted.

"CRAB INDUSTRY" LUBIN A splendid educational picture which tells the story of the canned crab.

"A WOMAN SCORNED" BIOGRAPH A remarkably strong dramatic picture.

"RIGHT OR WRONG" MELIES The heart says he is, but according to the rules of warfare as understood by all nations he is not.

"AN ACTOR IN A NEW ROLE" LUBIN A cleverly acted comedy, bright and full of life.

Laura Green Willis, in clever song productions.

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