

## THE ANNUAL ECLIPSE



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**Sailor Son's Infrequent Visits.**  
D. A. D. Parker of Concordia, Kan., received a visit one night from his son, Lieutenant Commander C. F. Parker, being the second visit in the last 25 years. At the age of twelve years this son went to sea. For some years before the war he was sailing on the Pacific and has been captain of the ship *Rose City*. Last summer he was transferred from the Pacific to the Atlantic and became captain of the *West Mount*. Just recently he was again transferred to the Pacific ocean and made commander in the naval reserve.

**Ran Literal Blind Pig.**  
John Brandon is charged by the police of Springfield, Ill., with literally operating a blind pig. When arrested for illegally dispensing alcoholic stimulants the authorities confiscated a large quantity of spirituous liquors in a pig pen in the rear of Brandon's home.

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## "FREEDOM CAN COME ONLY THROUGH LAW"

A Professor of Law at Harvard University Gives His Views on Ratification

One of the striking facts about the international history of the past several hundred years is the clocklike regularity with which at the beginning of each century cataclysmic world wars have broken out and threatened the onward march of civilization, in spite of the contrary desires of the great mass of the world's people. At the beginning of the seventeenth century it was the bloody Thirty Years' War which devastated Europe like a plague; at the beginning of the eighteenth century it was the long struggle between Louis XIV and the Allied States of Europe; at the beginning of the nineteenth century it was the far-reaching Napoleonic Wars which swept Europe like a consuming fire. At the conclusion of every one of these wrackings was the statement of an exhausted Europe, sincerely anxious to guarantee and secure the future peace of the world, concluded epoch-making treaties, by which the map of Europe was substantially remade, in the full belief that the formula had at last been found for a permanent and enduring peace. Yet each peace proved as transitory as the one which preceded it; and at the beginning of the twentieth century we have found ourselves once again plunged, quite against the wishes of the great majority of mankind, into a cataclysmic struggle, recalling all the savagery of the Thirty Years' War three centuries before.

Cause and effect are changeless and eternal; can any one who reads history truly doubt but that if we conclude a peace today, no different in substance or structure from the

Peace of Munster of 1648, the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713, or the Treaty of Vienna of 1815, it will be only a question of time till we are once again engulfed in an even more terrible world war than that through which we have just passed? If the Treaty of 1919 does no more than to rearrange boundaries and impose indemnities, if it allows the continuation of the old international lawlessness, and fails to organize international society into an ordered community of states, there can be no mistaking the fact that all the agony of the past four years will have been largely in vain; for as surely as night follows day, within a measurable period of time we shall have to face the same agony again.

International lawlessness may have suited well enough at a time when states were in fact self-sufficing and insulated units. But that time has passed. Whether we like it or no, internationalism has come in fact. Since the Industrial Revolution some great nations have transformed themselves from agricultural into great industrial communities; the very existence of these nations depends upon the uninterrupted international exchange of their manufactured goods for raw products and foodstuffs. If England were cut off from international intercourse today she would starve inside of a few months. Morally and psychologically, no less than economically, nations have ceased to be isolated units. The national Prussian theory of the State, and the Prussian belief that might is a force of more practical value than right, has borne its international fruitage in the wreckage of homes all around the world. The Bolshevism of Russia is the vital concern of America on the opposite hemisphere. Dependency and interplay of nation upon nation constitutes an actual internationalism that will not be denied; and if we will have our law accord with the existing facts which have temporarily outdistanced it, we must develop in our law as real an internationalism. Otherwise, our international law will be and can be only futile theory, with no power to control actual conduct; for no law which is out of

accord with existing facts can prove a real factor in human development. If therefore there is to be such a thing in the future as international law, there must be some legal organization of international society; in some form or other there must be a League of Nations.

Paradoxical as it may seem, freedom can come only through law. The absolute individual freedom which the anarchist dreams of in a society without government is in fact a logical impossibility; because the removal of all restraint by the social organization could only mean that the liberty of each would be put at the mercy of every other individual who cared to rob, or plunder or wreck another's home. It is only by curbing the anti-social and criminal impulses of all that each member of the community can attain that security and freedom from intolerable interference which makes possible freedom of action and liberty of life.

This self-evident principle is clearly true of international, no less than of national life. If within the family of nations there is no method of restraining or keeping in check the criminal state, if every nation is free to follow its unbridled and chauvinistic ambitions, no people can be free to follow its own chosen destiny and desires. Under the system of international lawlessness which has prevailed in the past there has been in fact no real freedom or national independence. Prussia complained that she dare not disarm because she feared the French war of revanche; France was forced against her will to adopt a burdensome system of military conscription because of Prussia's army. Nations which wanted peace were compelled to build huge navies and burden their populations with heavy taxes in preparation for war. No nation was master even within its own house. The increase in the military budget of a neighbor state forced an increase in the home budget, quite apart from home desires. A Balkan quarrel in which America on the other side of the world had little interest finally resulted in forcing peace-loving America into the sacrifice of countless of her men and of her money, to gain—what? No land, no treasure, no economic privileges. To gain freedom alone—freedom to work out a nation's own destiny unimpeded by the sinister designs and selfish ambitions of other peoples. There is only one way in which such freedom can be obtained. Only through some international organization of society to suppress and curb the unjust and oppressive aggression of large states upon small or of combinations of the criminally minded upon the law abiding—only thus can national freedom and liberty ever come.

FRANCIS BOWES SAYRE,  
Assistant Professor of Law,  
Harvard University.

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