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TAFT OUTLINES LEAGUE PLAN

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MANY ARE CONFUSED BY PRESENT DEBATE

Danger That People Will Lose Sight of Basic Principles During Discussion of Complicated Details and Technicalities.

(By ex-President William H. Taft.)

The plan for a League of Nations is based on a few simple principles, which are not hard to understand when lifted out of the morass of technical discussion and freed from legal and diplomatic language. As the one authority best able to present these points without partisan bias, ex-President Taft has been asked to put the league idea into a few plain words for the benefit of millions of Americans who desire a better understanding of the plan but find themselves confused by the debate in the United States Senate. In response to this request he has written the following article.

Purpose of the League.

The chief purpose of the League of Nations is to keep the world in a state of peace. Another way of expressing it is to say that the league is designed to prevent wars.

We have just finished the greatest, which is to say the most horrible, of all conflicts between nations. We have won a glorious victory. But that victory will be wasted unless this war has made the nations ready to put aside their differences and cooperate to end war forever.

It is not enough, however, to provide for the prevention of wars and the settlement of disputes after they have arisen. We must foresee causes of trouble and remove them before they have reached an acute stage. Hence there must be provision for frequent consultations of members of the league for exchange of information, for agreement on common policies and for the gradual formation of rules of international law which at present are uncertain and incomplete.

The representatives of the great free nations which won the war have met at Paris and, after long consultation, have drawn an agreement which they believe will accomplish these ends. At the very least it will set in motion great changes which will result in universal benefit to all mankind. This agreement is called the Covenant of the League of Nations and it is a part of the peace treaty.

There will be no league worth talking about, however, unless the United States is a member. The decision as to whether the United States shall join rests with our Senate. The Senators, chosen by the people, will in the end vote as the people desire. For this reason the people themselves will decide whether or not the United States will join the league. In this question every citizen should have a voice. He or she can express opinion either by writing direct to Senators, by letters to the newspapers, by speeches in his lodge or local union or in conversation with friends.

Methods of Maintaining Peace.

Since the prime object of the League of Nations is to preserve peace—and to reap the benefits of peace—let us see how the league will operate to accomplish that purpose.

In the first place it will seek to remove the main causes of war. By the formation of an international court it will create a means for the peaceful settlement of disputes between nations. Then it will seek to compel the nations to make use of this court. This is nothing more nor less than an application of the rules and customs governing private individuals in civilized communities to the relations between nations.

Secondly, the League will seek to remove a great temptation to war by the general agreement to reduce the size of armies and navies. This will halt the race for military and naval supremacy which was largely responsible for the war just ended. The amount of armament any nation may maintain will be strictly defined. Thus it will be impossible for one country to overwhelm its neighbor by unexpected attack. In the way that Germany crushed Belgium and would have crushed France had not the other democratic nations gone to her aid. The idea is that each country may keep

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MIGHT BE "PUSSY'S" COUSIN

Though Civet Cat Makes Its Home in the Open, and is Larger Than House Pet.

Ever meet a bassarisk? No, not a basilisk; that is something different. A bassarisk is a cacomistle.

But the animal is better known as the "civet cat"—though why so called nobody knows, inasmuch as it is not a civet and not a cat.

It is a strange little creature, related to the raccoon, with a very long bushy tail ringed in black and white. Sometimes it is called a "ring-tailed cat" and sometimes a "cat squirrel"—the latter designation bestowed on account of its squirrel-like habit of climbing trees and nesting in hollow branches.

Like a cat, it catches rats, mice and small birds. It is about 16 inches long, not counting the tail, which measures another 16 inches. In color it is brownish gray. It is a night prowler, like a cat, and often makes its home in outbuildings and deserted ranch houses.

The civet cat ranges from Mexico and Texas to California and as far north as southern Oregon. Occasionally it is kept in captivity, making an attractive and interesting pet.

PATRIOTS GET POOR REWARD

British Soldiers Who Won High Distinction Have a Right to Complain of Ingratitude.

Attention has been directed to the hard case of men who won distinction in the great war, and seem to have been forgotten, by two dramatic incidents. One is the public statement by Sir Douglas Haig that a demobilized officer who won the V. C., D. S. O., and M. C., is at present trudging the streets of London in search of work. The other is the announcement that Mr. Arthur Richings has rejoined the Cardiff police force as an ordinary constable, notwithstanding the fact that he has just relinquished the army rank of lieutenant colonel.

The latter's record is an astounding one. He was promoted second lieutenant on the field, and his subsequent promotions were astonishingly rapid. Mentioned in dispatches three times, he wears six wound stripes, the Mons Star, the Croix de Guerre (with palms), the Military Cross, and is also a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Perhaps one may be pardoned for questioning whether there is not something wrong with an army administration which allows a man with an active service record like that to disappear into the decent obscurity of a police constable's tunic.—Montreal Family Herald.

Bird Dresses in Spanish Style.

In his distinguishing black on the forehead and yellow on the throat, the Maryland yellow-throat is one of the most beautifully marked of any member of his tribe and gives an appearance of Spanish grandeur, says the American Forestry association of Washington. There is no mistaking the song of this bird, and it is rendered in a variety of ways which make it sound like any one of the following: "Which-is-it? which-is-it?" or "What-a-pity, what-a-pity;" or "Which-way-air? which-way-air?" or "I-beseech-you, I-beseech-you;" or "Witchery, witchery, witchery." The bird is particularly fond of thickets by the side of running water.

A Food Luxury.

Large jars of baked clay were used by the ancient Romans as cages for dormice.

Why dormice? To eat, of course. Dormice were esteemed a great delicacy by epicures in those days, and were kept in the jars while being fattened for the table.

If a theater party was in contemplation after dining—meaning a visit to the amphitheater or circus—the host, it may be supposed, had already bought the tickets. But they were not of pasteboard, with coupons. They were made of baked clay and stamped with letters or numbers referring to the position of the seat.

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