

BRITISH DOMINIONS WANT FREE LEAGUE

Domination by European
Powers to Be Blocked.

EVIL THUS FAR AVERTED

Canada, Australia and South Africa
Prepared to Oppose London if
Need Should Appear.

BY LINCOLN EYRE.

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GENEVA, Dec. 16.—(Special Cable.)—That the assembly's foremost function is to prevent the domination of the league of nations by any particular group of states, and that thus far it has succeeded in averting this evil, is the opinion firmly held and frequently expressed by the British overseas dominions.

In talks with all the dominion envoys, and particularly with their outstanding spokesmen, Newton W. Rowell, Canada; Senator Edward D. Miller, Australia; and Lord Robert Cecil, South Africa, I gather that the "colonials" are determined to brook no European domination of league affairs, as they have shown themselves ready, if need be, to oppose the wishes of Great Britain herself.

No Longer World League.
"It is obvious that important conferences must be held in Europe, preferably in Geneva, because the secretariat is located here, and could not pretend to go journeying all over the world," Mr. Rowell observed to me.

"I think I also made plain to this assembly that Canada, and doubtless other distant countries, too, cannot afford to spare their representative men for long periods several times a year. Yet if they do not send men of the highest caliber, men who can speak with authority, they cannot hold their own against the statesmen of Europe. The result is the league is no longer a world league, but purely a European body, and to this we of the new world will never consent."

Not in Fear of Europe.
"I do not mean that we scorn of fear European statecraft, although certainly the war taught us its shortcomings; nor do I imply that Europe is deliberately scheming to get the league under its domination. It is simply that in the nature of things European governments, being close at hand, will exert influence on the league more easily than we who are far away. The only immediate means of avoiding this is to have conferences as few as possible and to call them not at regular intervals but when the necessity arises."

"Where the league's technical branches are concerned let us beware lest we set up a machine so ponderous it will fall of its own weight. Once organization is created, its inherent tendency is to demonstrate its usefulness in every possible way. Where its immediate tasks are insufficient to justify its existence it will reach out after new ones, and then arrive dangerous possibilities of international interference in strictly national concerns."

"For instance, we have already witnessed attempts to deprive countries possessing raw materials of the right to dispose of them as they see fit. The movement which Canada opposed as strongly, in my opinion, as the United States of America would have opposed it had she been represented at Geneva."

Domination Will Co-operate.
"We of the dominion want to co-operate with other countries to make the league live to achieve the great results for humanity we expect of it, but we will not permit Great Britain or any other nation or group of nations to run the league, of which we are members, as they see fit."

Senator Miller heartily echoed his Canadian colleague's opposition to the two measures tending to give Europe a paramount position in the league. "There are bound to be geographical groupings of nations," he observed, "and those groups which are closer to the center of activity are likely to wield greater power than those far away. European hegemony over the league would be fatal to Australia, and I believe all the other British dominions, have always demanded, and will continue to demand, full voices in the doing of any international association of which they are members. Nothing that interferes with our rights to participate fully in our league enterprises will meet our approval. Great Britain is well aware of this and has shown it by the spirit of collaboration and consultation she has manifested in her dealings with the dominions."

"Dominion Bloc" Is Denied.

"There is no dominion bloc at Geneva, and probably never will be. We agree when it is to our common interest to do so, and not otherwise. I challenge any unbiased person to discover in the assembly the slightest sign of the realization of that fear so frequently formulated in America that Great Britain would control six votes in the league because the dominions would always follow her lead. In many things we have not accepted the United Kingdom's viewpoint. In others the dominions have not agreed among themselves."

Lord Robert Cecil said that South Africa had consistently demonstrated her resolve to pursue the end best for the league's welfare quite independently of other considerations. "While he hesitated to second Mr. Rowell's anxiety lest too frequent meetings of international technical organizations should bring about European domination of the league's affairs, Lord Robert entirely concurred with the sentiment that every precaution should be taken to avoid so dangerous a result. "I think this assembly has already shown," he added, "that every nation is free to act and does act in accordance with the dictates of its own conscience."

SECRETARIES TO MEET

AUTOMOBILE LEGISLATION TO
BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION.

State Officials Plan Gathering in
Portland for Purpose of
Formulating Measures.

SALISBURY, Dec. 16.—(Special.)—A meeting of the secretaries of state of Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho will be held in Portland December 21, to consider proposed measures having for their purpose adoption of uniform regulations for automobiles and other motor vehicles engaged in interstate traffic.

The conference was called today by Sam A. Koser, secretary of state of

Oregon, after he had received a telegram from the secretary of state of California to effect that he would have a representative present to participate in the discussions.

Arthur O. Jones, secretary of state of Idaho, also will be in attendance at the conference as will J. Grant Hinkle, secretary of the state of Washington, and Sam A. Koser, secretary of state of Oregon. Field deputies employed by the Oregon motor vehicle department also will be invited to attend the conference and suggest any measures they may deem necessary in handling the fast increasing traffic.

A telegram was sent to Montana last night urging the secretary of state there to attend the conference, but nothing had been heard from that official late today. Any measures that may be drafted by the secretaries of state looking toward better regulation of the automobile traffic will be submitted to the legislatures of the four northwestern states at their biennial sessions next month.

Rate Appeal Indorsed.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 16.—(Special.)—Indorsement of the appeal made by Governor Davis to the interstate commerce commission and E. E. Calvin, vice-president and general manager of the Union Pacific, to secure a return to the 1918 freight rates for Idaho, has been given by the chamber of commerce of Boise. The Idaho Automotive Trades association also fell in line. The Kiwanis club of this city also indorsed the act, together with a large number of other organizations.

Idaho Second in National Guard.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 16.—(Special.)—Idaho stands second in enlisted strength in the national guard, according to Adjutant-General Patch of the war department. Wyoming stands first. Idaho's percentage is 74. Troop D of the state cavalry has been recognized. It is located at Blackfoot. Troop C of Grace has also been recognized.

Schools Plan Two-Week Vacation.

KELSO, Wash., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—Kelso's schools will close Friday afternoon for a two-week Christmas vacation for teachers and pupils. School work will be resumed Monday morning, January 3. Mid-year examinations will come the latter part of January.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

VIVIANI CHEERED BY LEAGUE ASSEMBLY

Retort to Swiss for Justice
Brings Ovation.

WAR SACRIFICE RECALLED

Lively Clash Feature of Debate
Over Admission to League of
Former Enemy Nations.

GENEVA, Dec. 16.—M. Viviani, representing France at the league of nations assembly, was greeted with an ovation yesterday following his response to the plea of M. Motta of Switzerland, for admission to the league, as a matter of justice, of former enemy states, together with the United States and Russia.

"My distinguished colleague spoke of justice," cried M. Viviani. "We also, believe in justice, and if we had not gone to the front to fight and shed our blood for it and for the liberty of the world we would none of us be in Geneva tonight."

In his reference to the United States, which was followed closely by the entire assembly, M. Viviani said: "All will agree that the United States must eventually join the league of nations. We appeal to the United States. We appealed before and the United States came into battle, and in their disinterested attitude raised the standard of right."

America's Delay Regretted.

"Their great president came over the sea to draw up the covenant of the league and it is regrettable that discussions with which we have nothing to do should for the moment have delayed her entry. We will give the United States any explanations which she may desire to enable her to come in. The United States has repre-

sented force in the cause of right and all her history shows it."

With respect to the entry of Germany, M. Viviani said: "As for Germany, she has only to qualify herself for admission. Article one of the covenant is quite clear on that point. When Germany has given the effective guarantees of her intentions to meet her international obligations, then let her come here and speak for herself."

Lord Robert Cecil agreed with M. Viviani that an applicant for admission must fulfill its treaty obligations and give effective guarantees. It was because he found that Austria had complied with those conditions that he hoped the assembly would admit her unanimously.

Norwegian Delegate Hopeful.

Dr. Nansen, Norway, said that while he rendered homage to the eloquence of M. Viviani and the principles he expressed, he dared nevertheless, to hope that in spite of those principles, the assembly would soon be able to admit Germany.

"The league must be universal, but it is necessary to clarify the situation. We also are waiting for America. We are ready for all conciliations, but nevertheless, America, after the grand role she played in the war, is absent from the place which is due to her great history for reasons that escape us."

"As for Russia," exclaimed M. Viviani, "we want neither tyranny from on high nor tyranny from below."

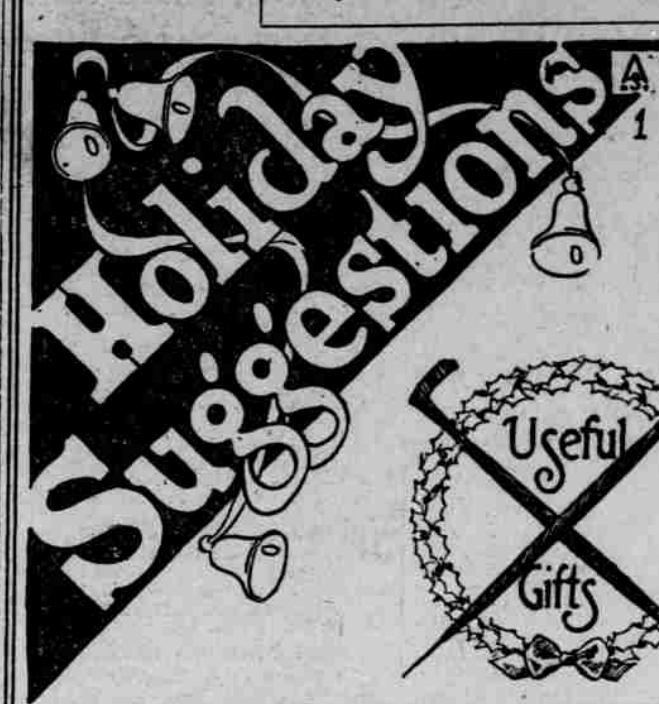
Women Seek Postmastership.

ALBANY, N.Y., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—Two women and one man participated in a civil service examination in the federal building here yesterday for the selection of a postmaster at Jefferson. Mr. George Mason, the present postmaster at Jefferson, resigned recently and this examination was held for a candidate to fill the vacancy. The applicants taking the examination were Mrs. Edna R. Shumaker, Mrs. Ruth E. Snodgrass and John J. Moritz.

School Recommendations Made.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—A. C. Roberts, president of the Centralia Normal school, met Monday with the state board of higher curricula, which made its final recommendations for courses of study to be given in the Centralia school next year. These recommendations will be presented to Governor Hart.

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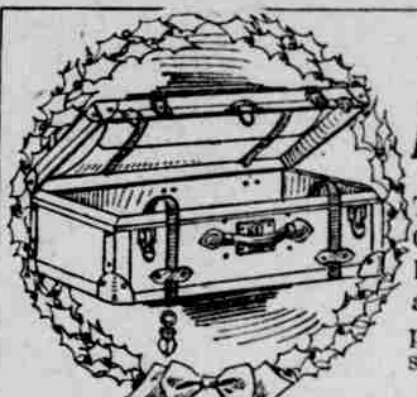
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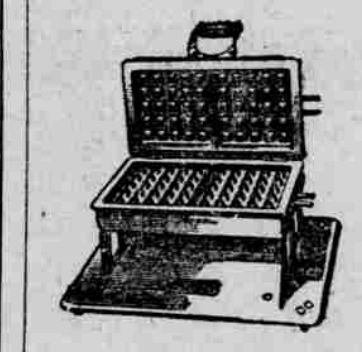
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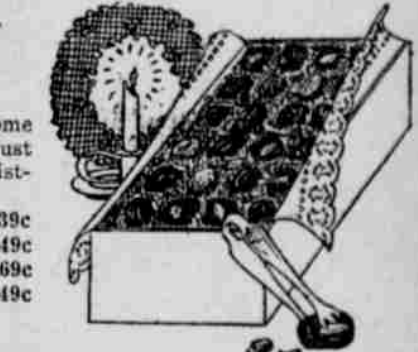


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