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"POLITICS AND SENATE"

The peace treaty, league covenant and all, was so expeditiously approved by the British House of Commons that an inquiry is warranted into the question why there is so little opposition to unqualified acceptance of the work of the Paris conference in all countries but our own. Even the British labor party, which has a sizable block of votes in the Commons, did not hold up the treaty a single day; and the labor party has been more critical of the treaty as a whole than any other section of public opinion.

It is a puzzle, no less.

If one-quarter is true of what critics of the covenant allege in this country, why are the British so unmoved?

Their national independence is as much menaced as our own by a "supergovernment."

Article 10 hits them as much as it does us.

The British Dominions—Canada, Australia and New Zealand—are as much concerned in Oriental immigration as our Pacific Coast States are.

The British empire, now that both Germany and Russia are destroyed as military and naval powers, has quite as little need of a league of nations for selfish reasons as the United States has; it is pre-eminently competent to protect itself and no one can name a power that desires to attack it.

Britain, furthermore, has no pride of authorship in the League of Nations; for it was conceived in America and no British statesman took the lead in securing its incorporation in the treaty.

France will ratify the treaty as it stands, beyond a doubt, for Clemenceau has just received a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies.

Would anyone dare to assert that the French Chamber is not jealous of French sovereignty and independence as against "super-government," that the French people are indifferent to such dangers to their repose as are alleged to exist in article 10?

Neutral countries, also, are displaying the same curious indifference as Britain and France to the sinister menace of the league to their national sovereignty and national interests, for they are voting to join it.

Argentina and Switzerland have both determined to risk their future with the league.

If in no other country the fight against the league finds the least parallel in intensity to the fight in the United States Senate, what conclusion must be drawn?

We are precluded from thinking that the United States alone understands its own interests and is always ready to safeguard them. It is nonsense to suppose that America alone is genuinely menaced in some way by the League of Nations; for there must be features in the covenant that threaten some other power if it contains features that seriously threaten us.

An exhaustive explanation of the singular phenomenon need not be attempted; suffice it to offer one reason for it—a reason that derives from our constitutional history as naturally as vapors rise from a meadow on a summer morning.

A writer in the Springfield Republican well says: "That reason is summed up in three words—politics and Senate."

The constitutional clause enabling a minority, consisting of one more than one-third of the Senators voting, to kill a treaty gives the Senate more power over such a transaction than any other legislative body on earth, and at the same time affords an unparalleled opportunity for the exploitation of party politics.

Our history reminds us that never has a peace settlement gone through the Senate without facing an intense opposition. There was no Senate in 1783 when the treaty of peace with England was ratified, but Jay's treaty in Washington's administration encountered fierce obstruction. The treaty of Ghent, which ended the war of 1812-1814, was savagely assailed. The first treaty of peace with Mexico in 1848 was rejected absolutely and the second one was amended before being ratified. In 1899 the treaty of peace with Spain was very nearly defeated owing to the strong opposition to the acquisition of the Philippine islands, which immediately became a party issue, just as the acquisition of territory from Mexico in 1848 had changed the whole aspect of our politics.

The exceptional power of the Senate to veto treaties by a minority vote has not always worked badly in practice, but it has always carried a grave menace to the country's interests because of the field it opens to politicians to exploit the partisan hatred usually latent in the party opposition to an administration. In the present case, a clear demonstration of this menace is seen in the magnifying of American criticism of the league covenant, while in no other country does an anti-league campaign exist.

"Foreign exchange was strengthened considerably by hope that some stabilization would soon be established. The restoration of Europe and the future of our foreign trade must largely depend upon some such successful action, and it is fortunate that the problem is to be left to private initiative rather than to Government enterprise." The quotation is from the current weekly financial letter of Henry Clews, the Wall Street authority. It is indeed fortunate that the PROBLEM IS TO BE LEFT TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, if it can be handled in that way. And Mr. Clews knows, if any one does. He reports also: "An interesting feature is the frequent offers of new foreign issues at this center. A number of neutral countries and a few of the belligerents have put out loans varying from \$25,000,000 to \$50,000,000 which were taken with surprising promptness." The United States is surely living up to her new responsibility as the banker nation of the world. It is a novel experience for the financiers of this country to be able to make great foreign loans, and to be looking to the handling of four billions of dollars of credits, which Europe will need in the next twelve months, in order to purchase the bare necessities of life and the actual needs of her reconstruction work in this country in the next twelve months. Our country is going some, and growing amazingly into the leading nation in every material way.

Anyway, on the race question, and all other questions, let us in Oregon remain safe and sane.

The per capita circulation of money in the United States has risen to \$54.28, against \$50.86 at this time

last year. Have you got your \$54.28 in your pocket?

So much is made by some newspapers of Mr. Ford's educational defects that a neighboring paragrapher is led to say that apparently no can-



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didate for the national senate will be tolerated in future unless he has an M. A. degree and is a recognized proficient in history, political economy, the arts and literature.

Ku-Klux Klan forming again in the south. It is capable of a lot of harm in doing the good intended.

American banks are to loan Belgium \$100,000,000. The Belgians are industrious and thrifty and the loan will be repaid with interest, and it will help that country wonderfully in reconstruction work.

The chaffing of General Pershing at Cambridge when he got his honorary degree was in accordance with British undergraduate tradition. Whether or not Americans take university education seriously enough, they take the ceremonies seriously, and desire to make them occasions of great dignity. The vice-chancellor of Cambridge who presided at the ceremony in Cambridge, was a visitor to this country last year, and one of the things he has noted in his article about American universities is the sobriety of the occasion on which degrees are awarded. In contrast with the scene at Cambridge or Oxford, where the public orator is interrupted by jocular comments from the assembled undergraduates, and the recipients themselves must stand a good deal of ogled-natured chaffing.

THE "HARDBOILED" SMITHS.

From at least one congressional investigation into the conduct of the war only good should come. That is the inquiry into cruelties sometimes practiced on enlisted men in our army's prisons in France. The people at home are just beginning to hear of Lieut. "Hardboiled" Smith, who is destined to symbolize the cruelties of the prison system before they were corrected by the military authorities. "Hardboiled" Smith was notoriously diabolical figure throughout the American army overseas, and he was court-martialed and punished scarcely soon enough to prevent some of our soldiers from turning anarchists because of their brutal treatment after arrests for petty offenses.

The high command in France is justly to be credited with correcting faults in the military prison system, but why should such brutes be selected in the first place for places of power and responsibility in handling military offenders? The draft will never be popular in the future, whatever the emergency, if abuses of this character cannot be eliminated from army discipline.

FULL OF PRUNES.

The efforts of Capt. James Handley to induce congress to pass his measure establishing the apple as the national fruit of America are not to go without contest.

For a time, indeed, the apple seemed to be the favorite and have the best of the argument. It was raised in more states of the union than any other fruit and in that respect appeared to have the edge on its rivals. But when Champ Clark and Joe Cannon admitted that a man could take a bushel of apples and a coffee mill and go down into his own cellar and squeeze out a beverage that could be persuaded to carry an alcoholic kick of 22 per cent, the danger signal went up.

According to Ethelinda Boneright the nation might as well add a cork-screw to its coat of arms.

How could the world be made safe for democracy when the country set its pomological standards by a cider mill?

The reaction was prompt. It is now proposed to circulate petitions in every county seat in the southwest calling upon Congressman Randall to lead a army of 400,000 men on the capital to demand that the wholesome and appealing prune shall forthwith be designated as the national emblem. Such an army could not fail to impress congress—especially if they were all voters. Imagine 400,000 marching men, singing but determined, and have them fall upon the national capital at one fell swoop! Some impact, what?

Also, it is proposed to raise a million dollar propaganda fund at once. The prune army will have to be uniformed. A commission of movie queens has already been enlisted to design the uniform and a number of colored drawings have already been submitted. The favorite is of a

FUTURE DATES.

August 14, 15, and 16—Elks state convention at Klamath Falls.
September 22-27—Fifty-eighth Oregon state fair.

prune shade with a chapeau or cowl shaped like a noble specimen of this delicious fruit.

In this way every marcher would resemble a human prune and the whole effect would be distinctly impressive.

Likewise a prize will be offered for the national anthem of the prune. Some of the country's ablest bards may be enlisted and the greatest composers will be asked to collaborate with the music.

At a late hour today it was reported that George Mendelssohn Cohan was already at work on this labor of infinite joy. The theme and the purpose are certainly inspiring.

President Wilson is a shrewd politician as well as a skilled statesman, and it is possible that he may beat congress to it by issuing a proclamation creating the prune as the national fruit. It is conceded that this would be a master stroke and, should his genius achieve it, no combination could be devised to defeat his triumphant re-election for a third term. The friends of the succulent prune are everywhere.

They are to be found in the seats of the mighty as well as in the drab environment of the meek and lowly. In the mansions of the upper ten as well as the boarding-houses of the lower million the prune has a definite place. Its course is as fixed as Arcturus and Aldebaran.

Once the champions of the prune are definitely aroused the pretenses of the apple will be sneered into oblivion—where belongs any hellish creation capable of carrying an 8-per cent kick. The friends of the prune will have no trouble in placing the responsibility for the fall of man. When Representative Randall—full of his subject—leads his vanguard in the capital, the prune will win.

And, as usual, California will hold the spotlight. This year's prune crop in the state will exceed 250,000,000 pounds, for which the growers will receive an average price of 15 cents a pound. The state will therefore receive \$30,000,000 and in return will supply every man, woman and child in America with two pounds of delicious prunes. How much sweeter is this than to gain wealth by putting damnation in the cup!

The above is from the Los Angeles Times of a few days ago.

It ought to be explained that the Times is poking fun at Congressman Randall who hails from Los Angeles, partly because he was elected the first time on the Prohibition ticket—and the next time, too—though he was endorsed by all the other parties.

The Statesman copies the above article for another reason, principally. It is this: The California prune growers are preparing a great advertising campaign, for California prunes. They will claim that the California prune is sun-kissed and all that sort of thing, and that it is sweet and requires little or no sugar, and is therefore economical, etc., etc.

That campaign will make Oregon prune growers sit up and take notice.

But the California prune ought not to be spoken of in the same breath with the Oregon prune.

The Oregon prune does need sugar because it is a tart prune.

But that is what the best trade

DINING CHAIRS SALE

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Ever see such harvest weather?

Fact is, the harvest fields are excellent summer resorts.

A man of that name phones to the Bits for Breakfast grind that all the hardboiled people in France did not hear the popular cognomen of Smith. There were others.

Chicago's black belt, seven miles square, is under martial law. The doughboys will see to it that no yellow blacks or whites see red any more.

If politics could be taken out of the contest, the treaty would be ratified "in a holy minute." But the combination is surcharged with politics, and could not help being so, under all the conditions.

As this paragrapher has said before, the expansion of the local building and loan association would cut the mustard. Make it about eleven times as big as it is now, and there

will be plenty of houses built. And that can be done, too, and with profit to all concerned.

"The scarcity of dwelling places for rent in Salem will grow worse and worse before it gets better. Some way will have to be devised for the construction of more houses.

You Need Not Travel

It is safe to say that as many persons have secured relief from hay fever and asthma at home by taking Foley's Honey and Tar as have been benefited by going to health resorts. It heals and soothes the choking, "stuffed-up" sensation. Good for all coughs, colds and croup. Contains no opiates. J. C. Perry.

British moving picture film producers are seeking government protection from a threatened American "invasion" particularly deploring alleged plans of American producers to make their own films in England and show them in their own theatres, to be built there. But it isn't as if the British public didn't already have a means of dealing with the American pictures. It can take them or leave them.

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