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"THE WORLD'S BEST HOPE"

"It may seem Utopian at this moment to suggest a union of civilized nations in order to put a controlling force behind the maintenance of peace and international order, but it is through the aspirations for perfection, through the searches for Utopias, that the real advances have been made. At all events, it is along this path that we must travel if we are to attain in any measure to the end we all desire of peace upon earth."

The above are the words of Senator Lodge, spoken at Union College in 1915.

They were a fine rebuke to men of little faith.

The same Senator Lodge said in the course of his oration in the upper branch of Congress on Tuesday of last week.

"Call me selfish, if you will, conservative, or reactionary, but an American I have remained all my life. I can never be anything else but an American, and I must think of the United States first."

No one has disputed Senator Lodge's Americanism.

But the people of this country are justified in appealing from Lodge the politician of 1919 to Lodge the statesman of 1915.

In his oration of last week he declared that the United States is the "world's best hope."

But the time has come to convert hopes into some measure of reality.

The United States is no longer an infant Moses cradled in the bulrushes; it no longer serves mankind sufficiently by merely continuing to exist.

Every white cross above the graves of our dead soldiers in France protests against such a reactionary ideal.

"Nations must unite as men unite to preserve peace and order," said Lodge in 1915.

He added, in 1915, that the great nations must be so united as to be able to say to any single country, "You must not go to war."

Was he any less an American then than now?

The time to urge that this nation hold aloof from foreign entanglements was in 1915, when the President of the United States was doing his best to keep our country out of the great war—if there ever was such a time.

Does it square with the fine American ideals which Senator Lodge was upholding in 1915 to refuse now to help amend the damages done by the great war—and to safeguard the world in so far as it can be safeguarded against future wars?

Can we decently pull out after tearing down the old order of things and refuse to lend a hand in shaping the new and better order?

If the new is not to be better than the old the danger is that it will be worse.

Last November the United States was truly and without qualification the "world's best hope."

It had been since our first ship load of soldiers braved the menace of the German submarines; since Chateau Thierry; since the fourteen points were proclaimed.

But hardly was the ink dry upon the armistice agreement when the Lodges and the Borahs and the Reeds in the United States Senate began to notify every greedy and reactionary imperialist in Europe that the high ideals for which our men had fought and suffered and died were camouflage; piffle; poppycock; gudgeon-bait.

This, too, when the victors needed sorely the solid influence of this great and disinterested nation to save them from their worse selves.

It is not the spirit of the wreckers in the Senate which can preserve the United States as the "world's best hope."

Senator McNary and his group offer the only apparent early solution—the only way out of the pitiable situation into which our country has been piloted by the wreckers.

To be the "world's best hope," the United States must be the world's present help.

The difference between a buccar and a profiteer is that the buccar is dead.

They are telling about a dairyma who is specializing on his butter-milk because of the kick in his cow. But he lives in New Jersey, not in Oregon.

Exra Mundy, 86 years of age and a Republican, aspires to the Governorship of New Jersey. Well, a much younger man than he became

governor of that state and afterwards was elected president. He was a Democrat, too. You have a good chance, Exra.

The administration would like to have a couple of million dollars for probing the profiteers. There goes the endless chain again. Profiteering in pursuing the profiteers.

Prices of grapes are as high in California as ever; and in some cases higher. That completes the list. Prohibition has not done a single thing to the country in the way of damage that its enemies said it would.

The War Department took 150 miles of motion-picture films and 50,000 stills during the late unpleasantness. We always said this was as awful war and now we have the photographs to prove it—Exchange.

Si (gh) beria is in for a good many of its first syllable yet; but it is potentially a great country. It is the great undeveloped two-thirds of what was Russia before that country turned yellow.

The great pile of Russian gold, which has been at Omek, has been moved further east, to Irkutsk. The cables say it is believed that the Japs will not allow the Bolsheviks to get that far east. Trust the Japs. If there is any danger of the hairy hu-

man hyenas getting their claws onto that great gold hoard, no doubt the Japs will keep it going east, even to Yokohama. They would know what to do with it. They could use it.

Any whisker-chinned advocate of slime and Bolshevism can get a following. There's always someone more ignorant than the other fellow. This may be unbelievable, but it's true.—Exchange.

"To your tents, O Israel!" is a slogan four thousand years old or more. The people of Salem will have to adopt it, if there is not a way found soon to provide more substantial dwelling places. And there are worse dwelling places than tents at that, as the boys who were dough-bats can testify.

Reprinted from the Russian Bolshevik. Extra! Mr. Honest Mann awake this morning and discovered that his house had not been bombed during the night. He ate his breakfast, feeling no effect from poisoned coffee, walked calmly to his work without getting murdered by a thug. He went about his daily business without being robbed once. At 5 o'clock he went home and, at last accounts, was helping his wife put the children to bed.—Exchange.

THE ONLY WAY OUT

The following is the opening paragraph of the current weekly financial letter of Henry Clews, the Wall Street authority:

"This country is passing through one of the great, if not the greatest, crises in its history. Though far distant from the seat of war, and much less injured than any of the combatants, we are feeling the economic results almost as sharply as they. The very fact that we suffered less means that we must help more; hence in the work of reconstruction our burdens are actually much heavier than we had ever expected them to be. We have not only been obliged to feed Europe more freely than usual with our spare grain and meat; but now that peace is here we are also called upon to suddenly furnish immense quantities of cotton, copper, petroleum and steel products, in order to fill up the void created by five years of intense destruction. Europe's demands are not easy to measure. In addition to those just mentioned we have been called upon to provide ships, coal, credit and many other things formerly obtained from other sources. Such exceptional demands forced high prices in every direction, and the urgency of these requirements enables labor to insist upon higher and higher wages. Domestic extravagance is also an important element in high prices. Whether these movements have reached their climax or not depends upon how far the demand has been met. When buyers cease striving for goods, because either satisfied or exhausted, then the advance will surely end and dullness ensue until demand receives fresh stimulus from new inquiries or lower prices. As long as these conditions last, it is useless to expect industrial stability. Return to the normal will require many months of large production and hard work. The Federal Reserve Board wisely said that the only cure for the present crisis is 'work and save.' This applies to all classes of workers, those of small and head alike."

FREIGHT RATES AND LIVING COSTS

Some newspapers are making much at present of the effect that increased railway wages have on rates and thus on the cost of living. At the same time, it happens, spokesmen for the railroad corporations, hopeful of the return of the railroads with higher rates, are presenting very good evidence to prove that increased freight rates have been a very small factor in the higher living costs.

An official of the Pennsylvania has just shown that the increase in the freight rate on a pound of prunes from the Pacific coast amount to a fraction of a cent so small that no dealer could legitimately collect it from the public.

And one of the companies, in a recent report to stockholders, shows that while the cost of a pound of dressed beef at New York arose 175 mills between 1910 and 1919, the freight rate on the pound of beef in-

creased 2.4 mills, or 1.4 per cent of the total increase. Other commodities are cited, and the report states this conclusion:

"No coin is small enough to represent any of these increases in cost but if the dealer should add one copper cent in each case to the 1910 price, to reimburse him for the increased cost of his commodity due to increased freight rates he would grossly overcharge the purchaser in every case."

The results would, of course, be somewhat different with commodities of great weight, ordinarily sold in heavy units, such as grain, coal and flour. But costs affecting these can also be readily reduced to statistics.

With the average foodstuffs the wholesaler presumably can add a computable freight charge to the price at which he sells them to the retailer—if only five cents per 100 pounds. This he can do because he sells a sufficient quantity to translate the increased cost into units of currency. But the retailer, when selling in small quantities, cannot divide the cost because a cent is the smallest amount he can reckon, and he must either charge an additional cent or add the total charge to the general costs of doing business.

IN FAIRNESS

The friends of the league of nations will not concede support for one moment to the assertion of Congressman Heflin that German money is back of the propaganda to defeat the league of nations in this country.

There has been too much of this bugaboo about German money in America and it has been blamed for everything from the drought to the boll weevil. It is still possible for a man to be against the league covenant without being subsidized with Prussian marks. But his judgment and foresight are surely very faulty.

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Up in the air mostly.

The punitive expedition in Mexico.

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If they will put the steam roller to work in Washington, and get the league of nations to functioning, the United States will be given the machinery of Mexico, and then the whole world will be behind our work of putting that country in order. Mexico can pay for the work and have money left; and it will be the best investment she ever made.

They are "pouring" down at the big paper mill in the making—pouring concrete for the south wall. In another week, when the structure gets up to the surface, a showing will begin to be made that will look good to every Salemite.

The big warehouse building is about ready to move. The contractor is short of rollers, but they are being provided.

Bolshevism will never make much headway in the world until it shaves.

Now that a match factory has been started in Manchuria we may expect more light in the Far East.

A man who leaves his business behind when he goes away from his office doesn't always drop his golf when he leaves the links.

A Detroit man stopped smoking and drinking on his eightieth birthday and he is now 113 years old. He quit in the nick of time.

And now the papers are talking about prominent women "bobbing" their hair. What unpardonable slang when speaking of prominent women! They should say that so-

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