

# East Oregonian

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### THEY ARE PLEDGED TO THE LEAGUE

THE Harding plan about trying to work up some sort of an association of nations for peace if the irreconcilable candidate is elected is a bogus proposition for three reasons.

1—All the great allied and neutral nations now in the league, 40 in number, are obligated by article 20 of the covenant not to go into any association that conflicts with the League of Nations. This has been shown by Bainbridge Colby, secretary of state.

2—Those nations just mentioned would not want to go into a Harding league if they were free to do so because they know it would be a waste of time.

3—An association such as Harding proposes, consisting of a court without force behind it, even if attainable, would be a cruel farce—just like the Hague tribunal was. No nation could afford to cease its military or naval growth under such an association. For preserving peace, a Harding league would be good only when skies are blue. In a time of trouble it would be a rope of sand, a house without nails, a policeman without a gun. A world court, without organized power behind it and a practical provision for using that power when needed, cannot preserve peace any more than can the courts of Oregon enforce the laws of this state without a governor, sheriffs, police and militia to sustain the law when necessary to employ force. That is obvious.

The view taken by some partisans that if Harding is elected the United States will in some manner crawl into the league anyway is equally ridiculous. Harding has flatly and publicly stated that he seeks rejection of the league, not reservations. Johnson, Borah and six million pro-German voters are squarely behind him on that proposition. If Harding is elected this contingent will say and they will be justified in saying that the people of America have repudiated the League of Nations and do not want to join.

The only chance for America's entrance into the league consists in the election of Governor Cox. If Cox is elected it will be a pro-league victory. It will be a mandate from the people that the senate ratify the treaty with such reservations as may seem needed to make the American position clear. The senate would heed that mandate because senators are politicians and for the further reason that most of the senators at heart are favorable to that very course.

The great issue in the presidential election is so clear that the election of Governor Cox seems inevitable. The talk of a Harding triumph is based nine-tenths on propaganda work financed from the most colossal campaign fund in history and from party serving newspapers that are flagrantly opposing their own convictions.

### ABOUT PRICE REDUCTIONS

LIVING costs are coming down. From one end of the country to the other come stories of price declines. Sugar has dropped until it is now but little more than half the exorbitant price charged some months ago. Clothing prices also are being reduced. It is not reasonable to expect too much along this line this fall because merchants are stocked with high priced goods. Nevertheless the downward trend is apparent and if the law of supply and demand is allowed to prevail the process will continue until a fair basis is reached.

Eastern manufacturers see the drift and are taking precautions against it. The American Woolen Company boldly shut down 50 of its mills for the purpose of curtailing production to keep up the price of manufactured wool and to reduce the cost of raw wool. That same combine and similar groups of eastern manufacturers will in the event of a Harding victory be appealing for a high tariff to keep up prices and doubtless they will get it. A high tariff is of benefit to big manufacturers, but it works badly for the consumer and for agricultural regions like the west. The western farmer is not a tariff beneficiary. He is a tariff victim. It means higher prices for what he buys and his wheat must be sold on a basis of the export market. The wool-grower is in a slightly different category, yet many contend the grower has benefited little by a tariff. The eastern manufacturer generally sees to it that foreign raw wool is not shut out. His game is to depress the price of the raw product and obtain protection for the manufactured product.

There are many who look for even higher prices on manufactured goods if Harding is chosen and has a high tariff congress behind him. It is certain that Lodge and his New England followers will not be idle.

### WHO IS RUNNING THIS COUNTRY?

GOVERNOR Cox has properly taken notice of the threat that the senate will not ratify the treaty even if the people vote for it by electing Cox and Roosevelt on November 2.

If the senate feels that way it is time to learn who is running this country—the senate or the people. Is this a republic or have we a dictatorship by the oligarchy led by Henry Cabot Lodge? The boast that some senators will try to defy the popular will if the referendum vote favors the treaty is a bit of arrogance the nation cannot tolerate.

Oregon once had a legislature that was not going to elect George E. Chamberlain as senator after the people had chosen him under the provisions of the primary law. But the legislature changed its mind and the senators who talk so insolently will do likewise if Cox is elected.

Some people warmly commend the League of Nations but say they will vote against it because they do not like some of President Wilson's methods. With equal logic they could argue for abolishing the ten commandments on the ground that Moses wore a beard.

We Call Your Attention to Our "Ad" on PAGE 3— Which Will Prove Interesting.