

Staining Their Own Record

(From the New York World.)
President Wilson is a historian as well as a statesman, and he kept the record of history straight in the Selah interview for the World when he declared that the spokesmen of the republican party "accord me too much credit for the conception of the league of nations project." "While I am glad," the president continued, "to assume the responsibility for the part I have played in promoting it, the honor of discovering its merits and appreciating its values cannot justly be given to me."

The president called attention to the fact that William McKinley "advocated a league of nations more than 15 years before I became impressed with its tremendous importance and seized upon it as providing the greatest insurance ever devised against war." He mentioned other republicans who had ardently championed it, and he might have called the roll indefinitely.

The league of nations was quite as much a republican policy as a democratic policy up to the time that President Wilson went to Paris to write it into the peace treaty. Roosevelt, as well as McKinley, championed it. Senator Lodge, in his commencement day address at Union college in June, 1915, had defined exactly the kind of league that the peace conference produced.

"The great nations must be so united as to be able to say to any single country, 'You must not go to war; and they can only say that effectively when the country desiring war knows that the force which the united nations place behind peace is irresistible.'"

When the republicans talked about a league of nations they talked of it in the terms of a league that was capable of enforcing peace. Mr. Taft became president of an association to advocate that kind of a league, and a majority of its most distinguished members were republicans.

No republican began to worry about the league of nations as a super-state, or to worry about the surrender of sovereignty, to talk about reservations which would leave the United States without obligations or responsibilities, until the order suddenly came, and the republican senators, under the leadership of Senator Lodge, realized that the credit for a real league of nations would naturally go to President Wilson. Then a partisan conspiracy was organized to defeat or mutilate any kind of treaty that the president brought back from Paris. Had it been Blinn Root instead of Woodrow Wilson who was responsible for the adoption of the league of nations at Versailles, Lodge and the other senate republicans would have been its most vociferous advocates.

The president is right when he says that the republican party is repudiating something that has been championed by its most important leaders. It is doing so only under the pressure of reactionary politicians who are entrenched in the senate and are in control of the party organization. The movement to keep the United States out of the league of nations did not originate with the republican voters but with the republican politicians who were determined to discredit the president of the United States and rebuke the European governments for associating with him in the making of peace. In order to accuse any popular sentiment at all against the league it has been necessary for these politicians to go into partnership with the Sinn Fein, the pro-Germans, the bolshevik sympathizers and with every group of radicals who are trying to reorganize the world on a fantastic theory of their own.

It is not President Wilson but the

republican leaders who have made a partisan issue of the league, and in doing so they have soiled and stained some of the fairest pages in the republican statesmanship of the last 20 years.

Deficiencies of Pupils Not Fault of Teachers, Claim

Salt Lake City.—Insufficiency, not inefficiency, in dealing with pupils not gifted with academic ability is the great fault of America's public school system, Will C. Wood, California state superintendent of public instruction, declared in an address at the National Education association convention here.

Defense of the school system against its critics was voiced by Mr. Wood. Criticism, he declared, came from businessmen, who said some school graduates could not read and write, from manufacturers, who charged boys lack sense of responsibility, and even from the universities, which alleged high school graduates lack general intelligence.

"It is a broad indictment and I make no sweeping denial," Mr. Wood said. "I would declare, however, that the school cannot be held responsible for all the shortcomings and frailties of human nature. We are attempting to educate all the children and a considerable portion are not endowed with minds capable of academic development. The school can develop brains but cannot supply them."

Mr. Wood's declared his answer would be an unequivocal "No" to the question "Are the schools a failure considered in the light of their relation to our national life?" One reason he gave for his belief was that the school was "the great and fundamental reason for the success of the American people for it kept open a pathway of opportunity for all the children of common folk." Another reason, he said, was, that ninety percent of our wartime soldiers, who turned their idle to victory, were products of the schools.

"A nation that can turn from peace to war so successfully in seventeen months, as we did, cannot be said to have a failing school system."

In a raid on an Astoria lodging house police and federal officers seized 47 quarts of home brew beer and 56 packages of hops. One man and three women were placed under arrest.

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Freight Traffic Developments In 'Frisko Numerous

San Francisco.—Freight steamer service around the world, the invasion of the trans-Pacific trade by 400,000 tons of shipping board vessels operated by private concerns, new lines to Europe, a regular cargo route via the Panama canal to Baltimore, additional freight steamers to the west coast of South America and the delivery of Pacific Coast products direct by water to the River Plate by a line circling South America are among the freight traffic developments of the port of San Francisco since the war.

Although Japanese and Chinese lines are the only ones who have added greatly to their passenger service to the Far East as yet, American concerns expect to make tourist travel on the Pacific more popular than ever before when the United States 535-foot liners now under construction for the Pacific Mail and the Robert Dollar Company also reach nearly halfway around the globe with their feeder service of five vessels which deliver cargo from the trans-Pacific carriers to the East Indies, Straits Settlements and India itself.

The increased buying power of Japan, China and other countries in the Far East is pointed to by shipping men as one of the main reasons for the growth of steamship traffic out of San Francisco. Machinery, canned goods, and various manufactured products are in greater demand than ever before, requiring more tonnage than ever was thought of before the war.

In its turn the Far East is sending vegetable oils in enormous quantities to this country, and vegetable oil tanks are an important feature of the San Francisco waterfront facilities. Increased sugar productions in the Hawaiian islands and the rapid growth of the pineapple industry are attributed as reasons for more ships being placed on the San Francisco-Honolulu run.

The "round-the-world" service from San Francisco operated by the Pacific Mail, was begun with three regulars within the last year. The

Pacific Mail and the Robert Dollar Company also reach nearly halfway around the globe with their feeder service of five vessels which deliver cargo from the trans-Pacific carriers to the East Indies, Straits Settlements and India itself. Struthers and Dixon, a part of the Green Star Steamship Corporation, are new extensive operators in the Far East, having eight shipping board freighters working out of San Francisco. The Robert Dollar Company has five, while the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the China Mail, owned by Japanese and Chinese capital, have four and three passenger-and-freight steamers respectively. Two other Japanese concerns, Mitsui and the Trans-Oceanic company, operate occasional tramp steamers in the trans-Pacific trade.

Seattle Flooded With Worthless Russian Money

Seattle, Wash.—Seattle is flooded with Russian money, according to Dr. Alexander Kohanowski, secretary of the Russian consulate here who says he is daily called upon after an appropriate value on thousands of bits of Russian paper money.

"One man came here with 20,000 rubles and asked me how much they were worth," said the secretary. "His rubles were supposed to be the original Russian rubles of the old imperial government. But I showed him the difference between his paper and the

original. The imitation Russian rubles are lighter in color but otherwise exactly the same as the original. I wouldn't venture to say his 20,000 rubles were worth more than the paper they were printed on.

"The value of rubles in Siberia varies in the different parts of the country. In Vladivostok 500 rubles are equivalent to one American dollar. But in some parts of Siberia for one American dollar one may get as high as 35,000 rubles.

"The cost in rubles for one suit of clothes in Russian is 60,000 while one must pay 800 rubles for one pound of fresh meat. A small loaf of bread costs 250 rubles.

"Under these circumstances it would be difficult to determine the value of Russian rubles in Seattle. A person with a million rubles in Seattle would be worth \$2000 in Vladivostok and \$28.50 in other parts of Siberia. To dress an average family in Siberia would make a million rubles look small, indeed."

The Linn county threshmen's convention will be held at Albany, July 13, to establish a uniform charge for threshing and fixing wages for the season.

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Water Baseball Game To Be Played At Del Monte Soon

Del Monte, Cal.—A water baseball game will be staged at Del Monte on July 17 and 18 between teams from the Olympic club of San Francisco and from Del Monte. Water baseball was introduced in the Roman Plunge at Del Monte last year and furnished exciting competition.

The game is played with seven men on a side, a pitcher, catcher, three basemen and two outfielders. A water polo ball is used with a short stout bat. The rules are the same as in baseball.

Interest is added to the pastime in that the basemen must be on their guard to watch for the swimmers as they often dive under and reach the bases as the runners on a baseball field slide to bases.

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