

# Albany Daily Democrat

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and  
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TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1919

### GERMANY IN THE LEAGUE

The evident change of front on the part of the allied representatives at Paris with regard to admitting Germany to the League of Nations will probably have the approval of thoughtful Americans.

There is no sympathy with the arrogant spirit shown by Germany in submitting, along with her other claims, a demand for immediate admittance to the League. But there is growing recognition of the fact that Germany was given some reason to expect membership, or at least guarantees of membership after proper

conditions had been met. More important still, it is recognized, as one allied diplomat says, that "we can deal with Germany better when inside than outside the League. Outside she would be able to go her own way, and would probably try to organize a rival federation, aiming at a new balance of power. Inside, she must conform to the same obligations as the allies."

It may therefore seem best to admit Germany, when once a working League is formed, provided she undergoes a fitting discipline and gives a sufficient guarantee of fulfilling her war obligations before she is received on anything like an equality with the other powers.

Samuel Gompers and Premier Clemenceau are two men who make up in courage what they lack in beauty. When they met in Paris, Clemenceau kissed Gompers; and Gompers was game enough to return the salute.

## LEARN FEW FACTS

Writer Criticizes Modern Teaching of History.

Important Happenings Recorded Without the Events Leading Up to Them Being Set Forth—Makes Heads Spin.

Take English history as it is taught in an English school. We begin with Celtic Britain. Enter Caesar and a Roman host. From where? We never learn. H. G. Wells writes in the Saturday Evening Post. Who is this Caesar and why did he come? Why did he go? Why did the Romans not come again for the better part of a century? Evidently something much more important was going on elsewhere.

A little way on in the story certain Angles, Jutes and Saxons rush in—as inexplicably. Whence? Why? Later come the Danes. The history of England has the effect of something going on upon a doormat in a passage outside a room full of events, with several other doors. The door opens, the Norman kings rush out of the room, conquer the country hastily, say something about some novelty of which we have learned nothing hitherto, the Crusades, and exit to room again.

From which presently King Richard returns dejected. He has been fighting the Saracens. Who are the Saracens? We never learn. What becomes of them? We are never told. So it goes on. The broad back of history is turned to England throughout. Its face and hands are hidden, and we make what we can of the wriggling of its heels.

The American story is still more incomprehensible. An innocent continent is suddenly founded by Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch and British, who proceed at once to pick up the thread of various conflicts—initiated elsewhere. Someone called the pope is seen to be dividing the new continent among the European powers. Colonies are formed. What are colonies? These colonies, in what is apparently a strenuous attempt to simplify history, break off from their unknown countries of origin. A stream of immigration begins from west and east. The American mind establishes a sort of intellectual Monroe doctrine and declares that America has no past, only a future. From which sublime dream it is presently roused to find something of unknown origin called European imperialism wrecking the world. What is this imperialism? How did it begin?

The teaching of history in most other countries is after the same fashion. Everywhere the teachers present more or less similar histories of passages and doormats. Great events—the Crusades, the Reformation, the industrial revolution—come in with a bang and go out with a slam, leaving no clew, leaving our poor heads spinning. Is it any wonder if history falls back for a little human touch upon childish anecdotes about Alfred and the cakes, the peerless beauty of Mary Queen of Scots, and King Charles and his spaniels?

### Daily Market Report

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