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PHONE 96

ALBAN, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 25

## THE WEST END PROBLEM

The presentation of a petition by residents of the southwestern part of the city for the construction of a trunk sewer from Fourteenth Street to the river is getting a start towards the settlement of a problem that has long been vexations to the people who live in the inundated portion of Albany. Long have they suffered, winter after winter having to chase their woodpiles around in their basements or cart ruined goods stored there and caught by the sudden backing up of the water in the present inadequate drain.

The construction of a sewer may be the right thing or it may not. That is up to the council to decide. But surely some course should be taken to provide relief for the people west of Ferry Street, two or three times each winter are annoyed with the backing up of two or three feet of water in their basements.

Such relief would increase property values and would insure the construction of many badly needed houses in that part of Albany.

## MARION COUNTY BLOCKERS

Down in Marion County a group of men calling themselves a taxpayers league are attempting to put the skids under the millage bill which will provide relief and sustenance for the three big educational institutions of Oregon. All are well-to-do and the insignificant little \$1.26 per thousand which they would be taxed would never be felt by any of them. But leave it to Marion county to knock anything which does not directly show some benefit to that county.

The wise people of the state will not permit their educational institutions to suffer for lack of support. The millage bill will carry on May 21.

Have you registered yet?

## INTERPRETING A RESERVATION

If the Senate reconsiders its rejection of the peace treaty and ratifies it with the reservations agreed on, and if the President accepts it in that shape, there will be one very im-

portant question to determine immediately. That is, the meaning of the Lodge-Borah reservation to Article X. As it stands, nobody seems to know what it prohibits and what it permits.

The original Article X itself is short and definite. It says: "The members of the League undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled."

The only dubious thing about this wording is that it is not quite definite as to whether the member nations are obliged to follow the Council's "advice" in any particular case. President Wilson has explained that there is a "purely moral" obligation.

The reservation is as follows: "The United States assumes no obligations to preserve the territorial integrity or political independence of any other country by the employment of its military or naval forces, its resources or any form of economic discrimination, or to interfere in any way in controversies between nations, including all controversies relating to territorial integrity or political independence, of any other country by the employment of its military or naval forces, its resources or any form of economic discrimination, or to interfere in any way in controversies between nations, including all controversies relating to territorial integrity or political independence, whether members of the League or not, under the provisions of Article X, or to employ the military or naval forces of the United States, under any article of the treaty for any purpose, unless in any particular case the Congress, which under the Constitution has the sole power to declare war or authorize the employment of the military or naval forces of the United States, shall in the exercise of full liberty of action, by act or joint resolution, so provide."

After reading this sentence carefully half a dozen times, the intelligent reader will probably remain in doubt as to whether it means:

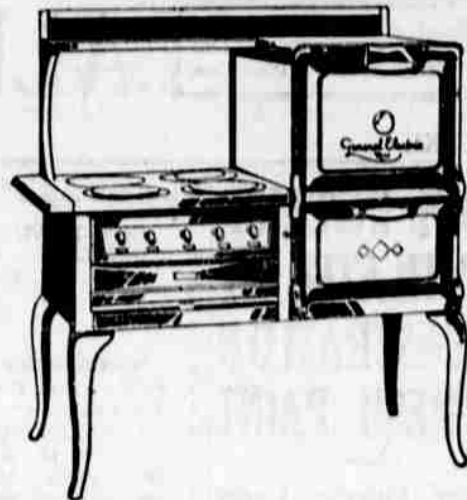
First, that the representatives of the United States in the Council and Assembly of the League are not obliged to take any part in international controversies regarding territory or independence, either in voting on them or in discussing them;

Or, second, that they are not permitted to do so without express instructions from Congress;

Or, third, that the United States cannot be committed to armed intervention in such controversies without the express action of Congress.

If the first interpretation is correct, there is no apparent use in joining the League at all, for America's hands would be tied to start with. If the second is correct, there is still the question of executive prerogative—whether Congress is not intruding on the constitutional functions of the President, as conductor of foreign negotiations. The third is merely a new statement of a right which everybody acknowledges belongs to Congress—the right to declare war.

If this reservation is to become operative, surely there ought to be an official opinion on it from the Supreme Court before the President undertakes to apply it.



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