

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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*I pledge allegiance to my flag and
the Republic for which it stands, one
Nation, indivisible, with liberty and
justice for all.*

U. S. THE LEADING NATION

The government of the United States has never sought greatness nor leadership among the nations of the world. She has simply gone along for about some 143 years, developing her own resources and nevertheless several rebuffs from the old world nations, has worked out the problem of self government, or government by the people, and has made it a success.

Monarchies from the absolute to that of the most limited forms have proven failures. European nations, which believed in hereditary dynasties to rule, have failed and those nations are now looking to the young giant of the west for guidance. And there is a reason why the United States should at the present time be looked up to as a leader. No other government of the world has made the progress in civilization that we have in the years of our national life. No other government has advanced in population and wealth, in invention, in education and in the real development of manhood that we have made. We have demonstrated that our people are capable of self government.

Now European nations, from whence sprung American blood, are coming to us to learn the science of the divine right of the people, not kings, to rule.

In the war with Spain the United States demonstrated that she was truly altruistic. When it was thought that Cuba was capable of self government all semblance of our power was withdrawn therefrom. The withdrawal being premature, the island was again occupied by United States authority and again withdrawn. Now Cuba seems to have learned the science of self government and is progressing onward and upward. Our control of the Philippine islands is now but nominal. The Philippines are progressing rapidly and will soon be capable of conducting their own government.

European nations see this. The peoples of those countries have discarded monarchy and ask us to teach them our methods.

President Wilson has evolved a method, imperfect though it may be, by which these nations may take up the science of self government. The main proposition involves the rule of the majority of the people of the respective nations. His fourteen propositions may have been crude but they were the basis of what brought the world's greatest war to a close. Could a greater

work for humanity on earth have been accomplished than this?

Strange as it may seem, we have a few politicians who would defeat the president's efforts. For personal or partisan reasons they would defeat the effort to bring to an end wars between nations. A few small American congressmen rear back behind Washington's admonition, "No entangling alliances with foreign nations," and refuse to help in the greatest boon for humanity ever evolved.

President Wilson is not working for popularity. He cares nothing for the future of the democratic or republican parties. He is not a candidate for office; but he is working for the world of humanity. He wants to do away with the curse and devastation of war.

Whatever may be the result of the attempt to form the league of nations, President Woodrow Wilson will go down in history as a man who attempted to help world humanity. The league may be imperfect; it may lack much to accomplish the end which its framers desired, but it is a starter to overcome war, the curse of mankind.

President Wilson has been criticized severely by his political enemies for leaving the capital to bring about an agreement among nations by which or through which wars will cease. If he can accomplish this end he will have done a work for humanity which cannot be measured; he will have accomplished a work which future generations will appreciate at its true value.

The men who for political reasons would defeat his efforts, are too contemptible for consideration.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

It is difficult to understand the animus which is behind the opposition to the formation of the league of nations. Senator Borah of Idaho, who is rated as being the leading spokesman, cannot be accused of non-patriotism yet his attitude of opposition to this great advance of civilization, points in that direction.

It is not claimed that the proposed league will mark the end of war between nations, but it is claimed that such wars would become improbable because of their almost certainty of failure.

The war just closed has cost the nations involved more than 10,000,000 of lives and \$200,000,000,000 in treasure. Now if a mutual agreement between nations will make such disasters to humanity very improbable thereafter, is it not worth striving for? Indeed, there is great room to question the patriotism of the man or men who oppose the movement.

Ex-President Taft is, undoubtedly, a man of as great attainment legally and politically, as is Senator Borah. Mr. Taft is using his best endeavors to promote the league and Mr. Borah is trying to defeat it. Mr. Taft places patriotism and the welfare of humanity first and partisanship second, while Mr. Borah places partisanship first. Mr. Taft proves his splendid Americanism by his actions; Mr. Borah proves that he is just a republican.

Senator Borah, press dispatches say, will undertake a speaking tour, following closely the itinerary of the ex president. The purpose is to counteract the effect of Mr. Taft's speeches.

The Tribune believes that a vast majority of the American people, irrespective of party, favor the organization of the league. They do not expect that all of President Wilson's ideals nor those of any other man will be incorporated in the league constitution, for to effect such an organization probably each signatory nation must concede something. It is also very probable that

additions and subtractions to the international constitution now being constructed will be made. The conditions of the future cannot be forecast with certainty. But the great point gained for humanity is that the start has been made and the man or men who are endeavoring to bring about the league's defeat are shouldering a tremendous responsibility.

Six years ago the republican party went down to defeat because of a division of ideals between the party leaders. The rule or ruin plans of Mr. Taft, Mr. Roosevelt and others wrought disaster. Senator Borah and others are now driving the entering wedge, which means another split and probable defeat. The people will not stand for any plans or ideals which have for their purpose the defeat of the ending of wars between nations. They will not tolerate the idea that the sacrifices they have made and the empty chair about the family circle shall have been made in vain.

American Isolation Gone

Opposition to the league of nations at the White House conference is founded on the false assumption that the United States is still isolated from other nations and can remain isolated. The first breach in our wall of isolation was made when we made war on Spain and annexed the Philippines; another breach was made when our army participated with those of other powers in the expedition to Peking, and the wall was torn down completely when Germany forced us into war by an attack on our independence and by an attempt to form a league to despoil us of part of our territory.

Those persons who insist on isolation cling to an exploded theory. It is a condition, not a theory, which confronts us. We are no longer isolated and we should attempt a return to a position of isolation at our peril. We cannot avoid alliances, for Germany no sooner dragged us into the war than we found ourselves in alliance with a score of nations. It is now proposed that we join a league of all nations as a means of avoiding future wars and future entangling alliances. The league will not entangle us in the sense intended by George Washington when he gave his historic warning; it would keep us free from them, free to pursue our own aims and to work for realization of our national ideals with the world for a field. Alliances which entangle are those which are formed with one or two other nations to fight for each other's selfish ends as well as for mutual defense. Without a league and our isolation gone, we might be driven perforce into such an alliance for the sake of our own security. We should need it sadly if we were to relapse into our old condition of unpreparedness.

The league would be a society for mutual insurance of its members against war. We cannot get fire insurance without paying the premium, and we cannot get insurance against war without making some sacrifice and assuming some obligations. We get an ample equivalent in the security derived from corresponding sacrifices made and obligations assumed by other members. The plea that by joining the league and by permitting it to decide the extent of our armaments we should make a dangerous sacrifice of our national independence, is that of an alarmist. Every treaty by which we concede certain points to the other party limits our independence, but is recognized as a mutual advantage. Our armaments are limited by the agreement not to fortify the Canadian boundary, but it does not impair our independence noticeably; it saves us much money and

it has contributed to increased commerce and friendship with a neighbor. Like sacrifices are well worth making, when all other nations join in the agreement.

Those who dwell on what the United States would give up and on the duties which it would incur should remember that other nations would do likewise. They would have a voice in matters affecting us, but we should have a voice in their affairs. Still, all activities of the league would be restricted to certain defined laws and principles and modes of procedure of which this nation has long been the champion. Other nations are not only willing but anxious to adopt the plans which we put forward before the war, and they have a right to expect that we shall stand by our own proposal.

It was the United States, through President Wilson, which added the league of nations and the self-determination of the peoples to the aims for which the allies fought. If they had won without our intervention, the victorious allies would have been free to form a league, to gratify their greatest ambitions, to impose the severest terms on Germany, and to partition Turkey and the German colonies among them. When this nation intervened, they gave up this prospect and revised their aims to conform with ours. From their viewpoint this was no small sacrifice, made not only in consideration of our aid in making war, but of our aid in securing peace by forming a league. It is obligatory on us to realize their hopes.

Some express alarm at the possibility that the league may appoint the United States mandatory for Armenia or some other country. What would they have? Leave the Armenians—the remnant of them—to be massacred by the Turks and then to cause another war; or have the Americans guide them in establishing an independent state and protect them from the Turks until they are strong enough to stand alone? We made this nation mandatory for Cuba, and that has been no great burden, while it has greatly promoted the prosperity of both Cuba and the United States. Why not do as much for Armenia? We have been sending missionaries and spending money for the Armenians for many years, but were unable to save them from the Turks. If by sending administrators and a small body of troops we can not only save them but save the world and probably ourselves from another war, should we hang back and say it is no affair of ours?

This is a matter of too great moment for us to let our decision be influenced by the personality or the politics of its sponsor, or by the question whether the particular plan adopted at Paris is of American or British or South African origin. The sole question is: Will it help to secure the peace and freedom of the United States and of the world at large? Mr. Taft, the foremost champion of a league in this country and a leader of the party opposed to Mr. Wilson, says it will, and his opinion should carry weight, for he has talked with the rulers and statesmen of many nations and was at the head of our government for four years, and therefore knows world politics. The plan is not perfect, but it is the best possible at this time, and the alternative is a league of European nations with their colonies and Japan or no league. That is not an inviting prospect, for it forecasts another such war as that just ended, and one in which we could not escape being involved.—Portland Oregonian.

Scio has three growing industries: Our condensery, the Scio Logging and Lumber company and the Scio Milling company. The Tribune will have something to say about these three industries later on.

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Trains

Woodburn-Springfield Branch
WEST SCIO

North 7:55 a.m.
South 5:09 p.m.

Corvallis & Eastern
MUNKERS

To Albany 8:11 a.m.
To Detroit 1:44 p.m.
Motor service discontinued.

Mortgage Loans Negotiated Notary Public

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Attorney at Law

Office on Sherman St Lebanon, Ore.

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and 12:45 p.m. for Munkers

Riley Shelton

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and Notary Public

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