

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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Not Peace At Any Price.

The American people have made it pretty evident that they expect reduced armaments, therefore reduced taxes, as a speedy result of the International Conference at Washington. Nearly every senator and congressman who has returned from a vacation 'back home' reports the cry for economy and peace. Leslie's it self has voiced this cry. The public is justified in its freely expressed demand for tax curtailment.

But here's the rub. The rules of international conference are those of a poker game. The spokesmen of each nation 'sit in' with certain cards in their hands which in the final show-down determine the price that nation pays for the advantages it gains. We may all fervently wish it were otherwise, but it is not, and we must face the facts.

Our strongest card in the present instance is our undoubted ability to stand a program of competitive armament better than any other nation. Failure to reach an agreement for the curtailment of military expenditure will mean a more acute calamity to the people of Great Britain and Japan than to our own. Their concessions, therefore, should be in proportion. But if public clamor in this country is too insistent, their spokesmen can use it as a club to strike a more advantageous bargain with us, and we may be sure they will push every advantage of the sort to the utmost.

It is clearly the part of patriotism, therefore, to put our fate in the hands of our spokesmen with the understanding that we want peace, but not peace at any price. Was it not Marshal Foch who said: 'Remember always, the enemy is more exhausted than yourself'? We have no enemies, but in this friendly game of disarmament we must still watch the other fellow's bluff.—Leslie's Weekly.

Law or Anarchy? Heaven or Hell?

There is no question that a certain number of average good citizens don't like prohibition. But as the country press—much more than the city press—has pointed out, that is no longer the question. The question is:

DO WE BELIEVE IN LAW? Because, if American laws generally are to be scorned and flouted as this new constitutional law is being flouted, it will be good night to

this nation as a home of the free. Liberty Enlightening the World will have to move on. Just plain anarchy will follow. Some of our 'best' citizens who are buying and selling liquor today—secretly, of course—defend themselves among friends on the ground that the 18th amendment is not law because it has never been voted on. If they were really intelligent men they would know that not one of the previous 17 amendments to the Constitution was voted on at the polls either.

But the 18th amendment actually WAS VOTED ON. This is a country where the laws are made by representatives who are elected by the people. The representatives in the legislatures of 45 of our 48 States ratified the 18th amendment and made it a part of the Constitution of the United States. Can anybody even faintly imagine that the legislators of 45 of the 48 States deliberately voted for prohibition, knowing that the majority of their constituents at home were not for prohibition?

In the 48 states there were 1,511 senators (state) and 4,671 representatives (state), a total of 6,182 voted on the 18th amendment. Here's how they voted: To ratify prohibition, 5,030. Against, 1,147.

This is what they would have us believe: a majority of 3,883 in a total of 5,030 representatives and senators sat in their seats and voted for prohibition, thus voting in defiance of their constituents and also in defiance of all the distillers, brewers and saloon interests in the whole land.

Not much!

Slat's Diary.

By ROSS FARQUHAR

Friday—the teacher ast Jane what was the feminine of lord in the langwidge class & she replied & sed it was Goddess. which only shows that bewty and branes dussent allways travel together. But she wasent enny wirse than Ted was when she ast him to name sum of the winks of Scott & he sed Ivanhoe & Emulshun.

Saturday—me & Jake & Ted is praktising for the movys. we fall off of the shed roof & hang ourselfs only the sholders sted of the neck & see how hard we can hit each uther without hollering & getting mad. I got I black eye & a brused shin bone & tore a peace off my ear. except for that I wasent hurt.

Sunday—had the preacher for dinner. and chicken to. he sed to pa that ma was a good conversashunist & pa sed she ought to be as practice makes perfect. ma did not heer him say it so we had a pritty good dinner only it spoilt a game of horse shews between me & pa in the afternoon.

Monday—they is a new kid in are room today which stutters whenever he tawks. other times he is all right, but I gess we wont try enny spoofing on him for he is tall & cross eyed & ways about a 100 lbs.

Tuesday—ma ast pa whose funer-

al they was having today & he sed it was John Elmore's ant. me sed Why is she dead & pa sed Why they flet she was. We was going to have pop corn & diddent after supper tonite. so it was all his fault to.

Wednesday—I heer lots of fokes tawking about wimmen sufferage or sum thing in polatix but it seems to me they are not suffering very much but are enjoying there self a grate cal. ma a speshully.

Thursday—us kids went a wall nutting tonite & it was dark when we was coming home & I was all out of breth. pa ast me did we pass the grave yard & I sed we sure did pass it & we was a passing it mitey fast to. the rest of the kids was all a grade & I had to stnick with them.

The Plain Truth.

The United States National Bank of Portland in summing up the industrial situation in its Business Digest says:

While it is true that most of our basic materials can hardly be produced at a profit; it is also true that products produced from these materials are so expensive that the consumer cannot or will not buy. Further deflation is necessary. Production and distribution costs must come down to a degree commensurate with the reduction of the cost of raw materials. Wages and transportation are two of the important factors which need revision. Wages in many lines have been reduced as far as is practical until the cost of living drops further, but in other lines there must be a downward turn, notably in building lines and in railroading. A willingness on the part of labor officials to urge their men to accept work at a wage proportionate to the value of what they produce, would start a building program which would absorb the unemployed.

Railroad Strike.

Let us face the worst, get it over with as soon as possible and find out where we are with reference to organized attempts to hold up the people of the United States.

In 1916 the railroad unions dictat-

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ed to President, Congress and country. War was impending, so the dictation was endorsed.

Since then dictation has been threatened repeatedly, but the issues were compromised. So successful have been the threats that the unions and a large prortion of their members feel that is the one way for them to get what they want. To humor them again, in the face of their deliberately announced intent to force the decisions of the Railway Wage Board to be disregarded, is to court ultimate disaster.

"No compromise" should be the watchword, now that it is shown that compromises are futile. The unions repeatedly have been given nearly

all they demanded, and given it because they accompanied their demands with threats. The country has bowed before this tyrannous power long enough.

A strike of the dimensions threatened is a fearful thing to contemplate. It is one form of war. But the country has yielded to these threats long enough. Better have it over with. Then the people of this country will know whether they must forever bow to any great aggregation which threatens, or whether a government by law can be upheld.

The price must be paid sooner or later. Better pay it soon. The country and the employes will suffer less.

—Oregon Voter.

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