

The Evening Herald

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EDITOR

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1919

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The following very pointed and clearly expressed article on the all-absorbing question of the League of Nations was submitted to the Herald for publication, and it is certainly deserving of all the publicity we can give it.

Noting some brief discussions of the proposed League of Nations in recent issues of your paper has filled me with an ambition to enter the arena of debate, and I hand you a brief discussion of the subject that may possibly merit space.

Quoting from a recent work by that eminent modern writer on constitutional law, David Jayne Hill:

It would be tedious to examine or even to review the numerous schemes that have been proposed for insuring peace and harmony among the nations. Almost without exception they have assumed that the basis of reorganization is exclusively political, and that there must therefore be instituted what is equivalent to a super-state, a new sovereignty set above the national state as this is set above its constitutional members. For this purpose it has been considered by many necessary to establish not only an international legislature and an international judiciary, but also an international executive in command of armies and navies, or at least controlling such an armed force as would constitute an effective international police, but generally without any clear notion of what its extent would be. It is advisable to dismiss at the outset such a futility as this super-state would be. A universal world state, or this description would imply the sudden annihilation of all the national characteristics that differentiate, for example, Turkey from Switzerland, or France from the German empire. The proposal to federate such disparate political units would invoke prompt resistance on every hand. Only approximately identical types of government are eligible for any real international organization, which, in order to constitute an organism, must be composed of mutually adaptable organs. In brief, the component parts must be expressions of a common life. The attempt to unite other than such like political entities to enforce peace would result in generating new causes of war. The attempt has already been made, and ended in dismal failure. (The reference is to the "Holy Alliance.") Great Britain and France could not enter that alliance which had for its object to secure tranquility by crushing out all movements toward national independence and constitutional development. We are brought, therefore, boldly to dismiss the pretension that a general international government is either possible or desirable. Such an organization would of necessity include both great and small states, empires and democracies, powers with unsatisfied world-wide ambitions and petty sovereignties just emerging from semi-barbarism, and among them aspirants to nationality, virtually on the ragged edge of statehood, yet claiming the right to possess an equal voice in an international body, but in reality the mere vassals or protectorates of great powers.

Now, Mr. Editor, and under article 10 of this proposed constitution for a League of Nations, the United States, in common with the other signatories, would be under a binding obligation to guarantee the territorial integrity and the political independence of every member of the League. That means, if it means anything, that we guarantee the independence and boundaries as settled by the treaty-making congress now in session, of every nation and would-be nation on earth. Something of a job, if the history of the world, and especially the European part of it, furnishes a reliable example upon which to base a conclusion. It may be necessary, and the Lord alone knows just how soon, again, in the interest of humanity and civilization, for the United States to bind itself in an alliance with Great Britain and France for the protection of the great undefined and undefinable principle of democ-

cracy, and the protection, primarily, of those three democratic countries, in which is really and actually anchored the present and ultimate hopes, aspirations and ambitions of democratic humanity, and the Saxon race. Isn't it consistent with our past and our future aspirations as a nation; as the leading republic of the world, to consider such a possibility and to so maintain our status quo as a free and independent nation that we could, unhampered by any world entanglements, enter a temporary alliance for that purpose? It is safe to say that a large majority of the American people favor some international arrangement, some combination of the leading republics, perhaps, that will guarantee security against predatory wars, wars for the satisfying of imperialistic ambitions. The American people would be willing for the United States as a government to assume obligations necessary to the consummation of some such arrangement. But it must not be assumed that, because of that disposition, they are willing to abandon their national policies or to sacrifice their national interests on the altar of common humanity as represented by the benighted nationalities of Europe. Neither must the assumption be indulged that they concede the necessity of so doing in order to place the United States in a position to do its part in the movement for maintaining universal peace. It is willing, I repeat, to do this, to enter into an experiment with that object in view, notwithstanding history and profound study of the subject hold out but little, if any, hope of ultimate success. President Wilson, in his course and advocacy of this proposed League of Nations idea and the proposed constitution therefor, is and has been flying right in the face of his oft-repeated assertion that "there is no way of judging the future except by assessing the past." History is the duly authenticated assessment roll of the past; let its teachings be heeded.

The proposal that the foremost republic of the world, owing as it does, its success and progress to principles and policies that today, now, and always have been foreign to nine-tenths of the governments and peoples of the European continent, shall enter a league or partnership with them under a constitution framed by one of them without consultation with any constituted or authorized representatives of the United States, for that purpose, is preposterous. It presents a situation well calculated to arouse the patriotism of this country. If there ever was, or ever will be, need for the application of the much heralded principle of "open covenants, openly arrived at," it surely presents itself in connection with this proposed constitution for a League of Nations.

Consider for a moment the magnitude of the proposition; consider for a moment the possible consequences into which such a partnership might lead a great peaceful nation. If it was "a great responsibility to lead this great peaceful nation into war," what must be said of the responsibility—assumed—of leading this great peaceful nation into what may prove to be a dozen different wars, growing out of such a partnership? Consider, if you please, as one of the possible consequences of this proposed partnership, the elimination of the differentiation that has so long and to such signal advantage to ourselves and to the world at large, a marked and distinguished these United States as a nation; as a national example, if you please, of the beneficent consequences flowing therefrom to humanity in the abstract and to it in its relation, specifically, to con-

stitutional government, by the practical application of the foundation principles upon which it was founded. Then I will ask you to turn to your history of the building of the Declaration of Independence; of the formation of the Federation, and the drafting and adoption of the Constitution of the United States, and to discover, if you can, any record of uttered inhibition, any hint or suggestion that the people or their representatives should refrain from discussion, during their formation, of the momentous issues involved in those documents. Why, is it not common practice, even in the business world, in matter pertaining to transactions between a public utility, for example, and a user of its product, that the contract—after being authorized, drawn up and submitted by able legal talent—is subjected to the minutest scrutiny by the parties and their legal representatives, to the end that every interest and right of the respective parties may be safeguarded and protected?

Should any less circumspection be observed and exercised by the people and their legally constituted representatives of this proposed constitution for a League of Nations to guarantee the peace and tranquility of the universe? Why should the representatives of the people be characterized as men with pigmy minds for asserting their constitutional privilege of ignoring, in toto, and at once, the imposed restraint on discussion of this proposed constitution for a League of Nations of which it was contemplated, in Europe, to make this nation a party? And that, too, in face of the fact that the proposed constitution was one of three drafts by three foreign nations. Doesn't the situation in Europe as it is developing right now, from day to day, accentuate the necessity for caution on the part of the United States in proceeding with any proposition aside from concluding a prompt peace with Germany? A. L. LEAVITT.

Life insurance companies have paid \$110,000,000 on account of influenza. Heed the warning and get a low cost policy from Chilcote & Smith. 1-tf

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"UNEXPECTED PLACES"

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"THIS WAY OUT"

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"FATTY'S WILD NIGHT"

FRIDAY

Matinee and Evening
The Lee Kids in
"SWAT THE SPY"

Commencing Tuesday, March 25th, a daily matinee will be given. Doors open at 2 o'clock. Show starts at 2:30.

MR. HARRY BOREL
Musical Director

PERSONAL..

N. Conrad is a county seat visitor from Fort Klamath.

T. W. Pheneger is a county seat visitor today from Chiloquin.

Dot Wright is registered at the Hotel Hall from Weed, California.

City Health Officer Dr. A. A. Soule went to Dorris today on matters of business.

Ed Cummins came in yesterday afternoon from Straw for a short business visit.

Mrs. George H. Curry was a passenger on the train this morning for Sacramento.

Max Little is a county seat visitor today from Antelope. He is stopping at the Hotel Hall.

Mrs. Ella Davis left today for Shasta County where she expects to make a short visit.

Guy Merrill came in from the Merrill district yesterday afternoon on matters of business.

Mrs. E. W. Gowen left this morning for San Francisco for a visit with friends and relatives.

David Edler, David Breen and Dan Sheehan are in town today on matters of business from Merrill.

Mrs. M. S. West who has been visiting in San Francisco for the last ten days returned on the train last evening.

Matinee every day at the Liberty. 2:30 p. m. 25-5t

HOUSTON'S

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HOUSTON'S
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Select Pictures Corporation Presents
ALICE BRADY
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—TODAY—
Triangle Presents
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS
—In—
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Admission 10 & 15 cents Matinee 2:30. Evenings 7:30 & 9.

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524 Main Street

INDIAN BISHOP TO CONVENTION

Miss Ruth Drake arrived last evening from Los Angeles for a visit in this city. She is staying at the White Pelican Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Len Evans, and Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Andrews came in yesterday from Chiloquin. They are guests at the Hotel Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Moore, and Miss Elizabeth McCurdy left on the train this morning for Oakland, where they expect to spend a month on a vacation visit.

W. J. Carlyle, who formerly operated a ranch on the old Fort Klamath road in this county has arrived from Grants Pass for a visit with his niece Mrs. C. E. Huffman.

Mrs. G. A. Krause, A. H. Collier, and A. H. Epperson left this morning for Portland on matters of business connected with the approaching Victory Loan Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hanff, who have been visiting for the past month with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. Jacobs of the Main section, left this morning for their home at Stanton, Nebraska.

Mrs. H. D. Mortenson, who has been spending the winter months in California points has returned from her extended vacation in the south where Mr. Mortenson has spent as much of the time as he could take from his business.

County Judge, R. H. Bunnell and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Burrell Short, and Attorney Chas. F. Stone were passengers this morning for Medford where they will attend a hearing of the J. M. Dougan action against the County Court.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Sauve of Duluth, Minnesota who have been here visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Andrews at Chiloquin for a few days, left this morning for Portland on their return trip. Mrs. Sauve is a sister of Mrs. Andrews. The visitors were greatly pleased with Klamath County.

See Charles S. Hood, Klamath Agency, the real estate agent. He will write your contracts and other legal papers. 12-tf

Our Repair Department

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