

HARDING GLAD AMERICANS ARE A FREE PEOPLE

(Continued From Last Week)

"This is proposing no new thing. This country is already a member of such a society—The Hague Tribunal—which, unlike the League of Versailles, is still functioning, and within a few weeks will resume its committee sessions under the chairmanship of an American representative.

"In that body we have the framework of a really effective instrumentality of enduring peace. The fact that the tribunal did not prevent the great war is, of course, manifest, but the cause of the failure is no less apparent. Germany, already secretly determined upon a ruthless invasion, was able to prevent the adoption of measures which might have proved effectual. The condition now is wholly different. Not only Germany, but the entire world has profited to the extent of an awful lesson, the impression of which cannot be erased from the human mind for generations to come. The horrors of war and the eagerness for peace have become universal. What once seemed at The Hague to be a mere academic discussion, has become a positive outstanding need of facing terrifying actualities. This makes vastly easier the task of strengthening The Hague Tribunal as to render its just decrees either acceptable or enforceable. It is not uncommon for the advocates of the League of Versailles to contrast unfavorably The Hague Tribunal upon the ground that the tribunal 'lacks teeth.' Very well, let's put teeth into it. If in the failed League of Versailles there can be found machinery which the tribunal can use properly and advantageously, by all means let it be appropriated. I would even go further, I would take and combine all that is good and excise all that is bad from both organizations. This statement is broad enough to include the suggestion that if the League, which has heretofore riveted our considerations and apprehensions, has been so entwined and interwoven into the peace of Europe, that its good must be preserved in order to stabilize the peace of that continent, then it can be amended or revised so that we may still have a remnant of world aspirations in 1918 build into the world's highest conception of helpful cooperation in the ultimate realization.

"I believe humanity would welcome the creation of an international association for conference and a world court whose verdicts upon justifiable questions this country in common with all nations would be both willing and able to uphold. The decision of such a court or the recommendations of such a conference could be accepted without sacrificing on our part or asking any other power to sacrifice one iota of its nationality.

"The Democratic nominee has spoken about America abandoning her associates in war and deserting the allied nations in establishing the League of Versailles. I do not think it longer necessary to challenge that statement or pass further opinion upon the unfortunate league. It has already been abandoned by Europe, which had gone so far as to accept it by formal agreement in treaty. On this subject, we are fully informed at first hand. Only the other day the British Premier said unreservedly that the essential cooperation of America might involve some change at any rate in the form of the covenant, and he added, with characteristic outspokenness, 'It is quite possible it might be a change for the better.'

"Listen further to the wise and far-seeing former British Ambassador, who was not permitted to present his credentials to our executive.

"As long," said Viscount Gray, hardly a month ago, 'as long as the richest, most powerful, the greatest both for population and territory, of the civilized countries of the world stands outside the League, the League will be unable to fulfill its destiny.' To put it in quite plain terms, the Americans must be told that if they will only join the League they can practically name their own terms. Undoubtedly that is the fact. I ask, is there any good reason why we should not avail ourselves of this privilege? I do not mean in any arrogant or selfish way, but simply as a matter of fairness and right to our own people. Surely it is becoming and a duty as well to safeguard our own people, since it is we who are the main contributors, while asking nothing for ourselves except to participate in a contribution to the promotion of world peace.

"Viscount Gray continues, 'The Americans should be intrusted with the task of drafting a reconstruction scheme.' Then he suggests further that 'a committee of the Senate—we must never forget the Senate's rights and duties in regard to foreign affairs being reinforced by the members of the House of Representatives, and also by nominees of the President, and supreme court—could draw up suggestions for the reconstruction of the League, which would be consonant with the feelings not of one, but of all parties in America.'

"Frankly I value that suggestion very highly, because it is proffered obviously in a helpful and friendly spirit and reveals an important Old World opinion on the necessity of amendment, revision or reconstruction. It comprehends substantially what I would pre-

pose to do if elected, President. I don't mean precisely that. It would be clearly unwise to undertake specific suggestions or to attempt to pass upon suggestions now. What is in my mind is the wisdom of calling into real conference the ablest and most experienced minds of this country, from whatever walks of life they may be derived, and without regard to party affiliation, to formulate a definite practical plan along the lines already indicated for the consideration of the controlling foreign powers.

"The objection, strongly uttered in some quarters, that this course would involve the reconvening of the entire convention, may be regarded as a very slight one. The acceptance of our proposals by the new principal nations would undoubtedly be followed promptly by the acceptance on the part of the minor members of the alliance.

"There would be no material delay. One can not disregard the leadership or have any doubt about the influence of the principal allied and associated powers. Insofar as I could do so, without disregarding the properties, I should give very earnest and practically undivided attention to this very vital subject from the day of my election and I should ask others to do likewise as a matter of public and patriotic duty. Indeed, I should hope to have behind me, after the decision on the national referendum we are soon to have, a country wholly united in earnest endeavor to achieve a true solution of this problem upon which the future civilization so largely depends.

"I have already announced that I shall urge prompt passage of the resolution, vetoed by the President, declaring at an end the preposterous condition of technical war when we are actually at peace. Simultaneously I shall naturally advise the resumption by the Congress of its exceptional powers, which have been vested by war legislation in the executive. I have no expectation whatever of fixing it necessary or advisable to negotiate a separate peace with Germany.

"In view of the simple fact that the allied powers with whom we were associated in the war have already formally concluded their peace, the passage of the peace resolution by Congress would merely give formal recognition to an obvious fact.

"Let us take stock for a moment of America in the world, sea, and of America at home. The end of the war found our selfishness emphasized to all mankind and the garlands of world leadership were bestowed from every direction. We had only to follow the path of America, rejoicing in the inheritance which led to our eminence, to rivet the gaze of all peoples to our standards of national righteousness and our conception of international justice. Moreover, the world was ready to give us its confidence. It was the

beckoning opportunity of the centuries, not for the glorification of the new world republic, but for America to hold every outpost of advancing civilization and invite all nations to join the further advance to heights dreamed of, but never approached before. But force of example was flung aside for force of armed alliance. We neglected our readjustments and restorations at home and the cruel sacrifice of millions of lives and billions of treasure left us and the world groping in uncertainty and anxiety instead of revealing us in the sunlight of a new day, with lines formed ready for the onward march of peace and all its triumphs.

"Mindful of our splendid example and renewing every obligation of association in war, I want America to be the rock of security at home, resolute in righteousness and unalterable in security and supremacy of the law. Let us be done with wiggling and wobbling. Steady, America. Let us assure good fortune to all. We may maintain our eminence as a great people at home and resume our high place in the estimate of the world. Our moral leadership was lost when 'ambition' sought to superimpose a reactionary theory of discredited autocracy upon the progressive principle of living, glowing Democracy. My chief aspiration, my countrymen, if clothed with power, will be to retain that lost leadership not for myself, not even for my party, though honoring and trusting it as I do, but for my country, the country that I love from the bottom of my heart and with every fiber of my being above all else in the world."

MEMORIAL BENCH

BERKELEY, Cal., Sept. 27.—The \$2,000 fund presented to the University of California by the 1920 graduating class will be used to erect a memorial bench in honor of students of the institution who lost their lives in the great war, university authorities have decided.

During a fancy dress ball given in a prominent hotel in Dublin the other night a large number of armed and masked men entered the ballroom and compelled a number of ladies to return to their homes on the grounds that they were insufficiently clad.

The Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide, ruler of the duchy of Luxembourg until the victory of the allies put an end to her ambitious pro-German dreams, is about to enter a convent and take the veil. She will become a sister of the Order of St. Theresa, at Modena, Italy.

LOW INTEREST BILL WOULD RUIN STATE

"No more radical measure was ever on the ballot in Oregon than the proposed bill to limit interest rates in Oregon to 5 per cent. Its result would be ruin for the state from impairment of credit and dearth of money to loan both from local capital and outside capital. In effect this proposed bill prohibits charging a rate of interest in excess of 5 per cent," said a local man who is well posted on financial matters in Oregon.

"Four per cent would be the legal rate. Just why anyone with the mental capacity to reason can support a law so absolutely pernicious in its character is beyond our understanding," he continued. "However, the voters in Oregon are called upon, from time to time, to sit down on such misguided souls as the authors of this proposed bill and these voters can be depended upon to do so in this instance.

"In the event this bill should become a law it would have the effect of destroying the borrowing power of every individual, corporation and industry in this state," he added. "It is reasonable to suppose that every loan now outstanding would be called when it becomes due for it is utterly foolish to believe that anyone will loan money in Oregon at 5 per cent when 6, 7 and 8 per cent is easily obtainable in every other state in the union, with the result of a general paralysis of every line of activity in this state."

Let every individual think it over. If you are denied the privilege of borrowing money for your needs, if every one of your friends and neighbors were in the same boat, if the industries in Oregon are compelled to close down for lack of funds to carry on their business, Oregon would be compelled to set her clock back 700 years.

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