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What the Editors Say

The anarchist who shot Premier Clemenceau has been tried and condemned to death without delay. We have always felt that if the punishment of the kaiser had been left to France it would have been attended to promptly and in a business-like way.—Telephone Register.

If the allied countries are not able to settle such a minor question as that of disposing of foreign surrendered ships without resorting to destruction by sinking them, then let us not talk about a league of nations we would pity such a proposition, where weighty international questions would come up for settlement.—Banks Herald.

Things do not change much in 25 years, as we are reminded by an item in the quarter-century ago department of the Oregonian which relates that President Cleveland was much disgusted with Oregon Democrats. It is not exactly a secret that the present Democratic executive does not let the light of his favor shine indiscriminately over the representatives of the great unterrified in the Beaver state, and as for the leader, Senator Chamberlain, we have been told how the devil regards holy water.—Independent.

At last the peace league commission has awakened a realization that the government of the United States is not an autocracy; that the president can propose treaties, but the Constitution endows the senate with the right and duty to dispose. We are advised by the Associated Press correspondent at Paris that the amendments proposed by Senator Lodge will at least be considered, and that the text of the speeches of Senators Lodge and Knox and the main points of the recent debate between Senator Lodge and Dr. Lowell are being gone over. President Wilson will do well to heed the growing demand in this country for sensible, strengthening amendment of the proposed league covenant. On this side of the water the force of the demand for revision has been publicly acknowledged by former President Taft and William Jennings Bryan, two men who pioneered the movement for a world league of peace. There is no great difference between Taft, Bryan and Lowell, on the one hand, and Senator's Lodge Knox and McCormick on the other hand, regarding the nature of the needed amendment.—Spokesman Review.

Plans Mighty Air Fleet.

Great Britain is planning for a mighty air fleet, to supplement her already formidable naval forces and furnish additional safeguards against possible foes. The estimate which has been prepared by British military authorities calls for appropriations totaling one third of a billion dollars for the military air service. The program provides for a maintenance of 102 air squadrons for national defense, and to carry the service to Egypt, to India—in fact, to all parts of the British Empire, thus to keep Britain at the forefront of aerial development.

Evidently Great Britain is not trusting to the impotence of foes or the signing of peace agreements, but plans to be prepared in future for any kind of emergency. She has learned the value of aerial strength and intends to make good use of this lesson. Germany is to be compelled to give up her air fleet, and in the treaty of peace will be prohibited from the operation or production of military airships. But England nevertheless intends to be on her guard, and to be fully prepared for any kind of eventuality.

This nation should not neglect this same lesson, which was given point by the experiences of the recent war. The waters that isolate the United States from other great powers are wider than the English channel or the North Sea, but nevertheless the defensive program of this country cannot be regarded as adequate unless it includes a strong and effective air service. The needs of Great Britain in this respect are no greater than our own. In fact America should permit no other nation to surpass her in aerial development, and especially as activity along this line will mean commercial advantage and improved public service, at the same time that military needs are being cared for.—Observer.

The Labor Unrest in Great Britain.

An industrial development in Great Britain has significance which may prove to be permanent significance. It consists in the secession of organized labor from its leaders.

The leaders have risen from unionism into political activity and public life, becoming war workers and social servants. The led have fallen to the rear, are misled by agitators who four years ago were unknown and break away from the unions.

This break has plunged Belfast, Glasgow and London into industrial ferment. While 65 of the old leaders of British labor are members of parliament and their party is the second in size and ability, the masses of the unionists have, for the time at least, in effect ceased to be members of the unions.

The demands of the strikers would be pathetic if they were not ridiculous. Some demand to be paid for

eating time as well as working time. Others want pay for time spent in going to-and-fro between home and shop. Others insist on full pay for unemployed workers, or an increase of 30 per cent in pay and on a work day of only six hours. It would all be opera-bouffe, if it were not tragedy.

The struggle is that of labor against labor and it imperils unionism. The structure of the federation of unions is strained.—Spokesman Review.

The House of House.

It begins to transpire that the reserved and often mysterious Colonel House has a kindly and helpful nature. How else can one account for the presence of him at the Hotel Crillon in Paris, of son-in-law, brother-in-law, sister and son-in-law's two law partners?

Young Gordon Auchincloss must have discovered this trait shortly after he wedded the colonel's daughter in September, 1912, for in 1913 he secured appointment as assistant United States attorney for the southern district of New York. Thereafter his distinction was further assured by appointment of other federal posts, and in 1916 he was made assistant treasurer of the democratic national committee. He is now assistant to the counselor of the department of state, and as such is, of course, indispensable in Paris. Gordon has reached the mature age of 33.

Gordon's two partners, now in the peace commission retinue from America, are Frank L. Warrin Jr. and David Hunter Miller. How they have distinguished themselves is not disclosed by Who's Who, for that complete and impartial volume does not mention them. Probably partnership with Colonel House's son-in-law is distinction enough.

Dr. S. E. Meses, brother-in-law, is also serving his country in some important capacity at the Hotel Crillon. Inference as to what it may be is denied us by a similar oversight of Who's Who. But perhaps there is inference enough in the brother-in-law's title. The health of statesmen must be guarded.

Thus it is established that Colonel House recognizes the good qualities of his relatives and those associated with him. He does not selfishly confine the profit and enjoyment of their virtues to himself, but readily shares them with the whole world. He does not selfishly confine the profit and enjoyment of their virtues to himself, but readily shares them with the whole world. The house of House is at the disposal of his country and of humanity.—Oregonian.

Defying American Opinion.

It was the Kaiser who said he would "stand for no nonsense from the Americans." There is now another executive in Europe who seems to take about that attitude toward the other branches of the American government, and toward the American people themselves, in his representations to the delegates of European and Asiatic nations to the Paris peace conference. If these foreign diplomats want to go through the motions of negotiating an agreement with a self-appointed colleague who breathes defiance of the United States Senate, that is their affair. But this is a matter in which Paris proposed but the United States Senate and the American people make final disposition so far as their participation in the agreement is concerned. It is possible, of course, that the cunning diplomatic agents of Europe and Asiatic powers are deliberately plotting to overthrow any plan for international co-operation to prevent future wars, by denying to the American Senate and the American people the right to suggest amendments to the treaty. It is easier to believe this than to accept the theory that they defy American opinion and American prerogative as defined in the American constitution, or that they are in that total ignorance of the state public opinion in this country which describes all opposition to the Cecil-Wilson covenant all demands for its amendment, as partisan and insincere. The people of the United States fought for their independence twice; they will not refuse to talk and vote for it now.

Topic For Thought.

Lesson! While a large lumber concern at Bellingham was dismissing five hundred employes for lack of labor, trainloads of lumber, duty free were going through the town from Canada, filling orders for customers in the United States.

Free trade! Free imports, from Canada, at good profits, are now coming in at the rate of eight million a month, all without even paying a war tax on bills of lading of three per cent each, which we have to pay in order to handle our own products on our own markets.

Canada levies a tariff on all American manufacturers of lumber of 7 1/2 to 42 1/2 per cent, thus completely shutting out our lumber, while hers comes in free.—Leslie's Weekly.

For Sale or Trade.

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