

Scraps of Paper.

The House of Commons has voted that trade preference to territory in Great Britain as a mandatory under the league of nations, calls for reciprocal concessions British trade. We have been told of the league of nations was to prevent trade discriminations. But have become so accustomed to benefit the exact opposite of the that we would be surprised by other policy.

Three cheers for our peerless for, the beef trust," cries the New World, the country's chief democratic organ. Didn't know who the peerless leader of the d. o. p. but in view of the state of the trust's health after six years of complete control of the country by party which promised to pulverize all the plutocrats, the World has bubbly named them.

President Wilson told Europe when went to the peace conference that league of nations plan must be accepted because of the united voice America demanded it, and now he is the American Senate that the United States must adopt it because will break the heart of the rest of world if we do not. This is like Crockett's coon trap, it catches coming and going.

A delegation of negroes from Abyssinia, laden with solid ivory gifts, President, got a two hours audience at the White House the other day. That is just a hundred and thirty more minutes than a delegation of negroes from Mississippi or North Carolina could get for the discussion of self-determination of people in some parts of the U. S. A.

A few days after Joseph Daniels made a speech at the Methodist tenary at Columbus telling us of the statesmanship of President Wilson had ended wars for all time ushered in the age of peace on earth, good will to men, he let the tract for a battleship which is to cost twenty-three million dollars and be completed in 1923.

President Wilson says: "No peace last, or ought to last, which does not recognize and accept the principle that governments derive all their powers from the consent of the governed." Yet the Paris treaty, which transfers 38,000,000 unwilling Chinese to the sovereignty of man, means, we are told, "guaranteed peace."

A lecturer at the Chautauqua in the other night advocated "one torch and one party for all." Just the Record reporter was leaving the tent, he heard a woman say, "I for this one church and one partyiness, but for me it must be the Methodist church and the Republican party."

Maps and orders found on three zeppelins attacked and downed in the North Sea in August, 1918, indicated they were bound for New York bomb that city, according to a report by flight Lieut. John Perkins, of the royal air force, who lived at Kingston, Ont., from overseas. He says he was with the squad which shot down the Zeppelins.

The United States induced China to declare war against Germany. Naturally China holds the United States responsible for the loss of Shantung through the action of the

idealistic peace conference at Paris. The popular name of the league in China is: "The League of Thieves." The United States has lost through the course of President Wilson in this matter, the good will of China which was the heritage of the Hay policy. It is up to the Senate to prove to China and to the world that this nation does not propose to party to the partition of republican China for the benefit of imperialistic and militaristic Japan, even with the prospective presidency of the league of nations for six years at \$200,000 a year in the offering of a salve for conscience.

"I for my part, do not want to belong to a nation, I believe that I do not belong to a nation, that needs to be taken care of by guardians, I want to belong to a nation, and I am proud that I do belong to a nation, that knows how to take care of itself."—From Woodrow Wilson's "New Freedom."

Why a nation which is getting out of the peace treaty vast accessions of territory, like France, Great Britain, Italy, and Japan, might be willing to commit such a bit of international grand larceny as that of Shantung, can be understood. Why a nation that wanted nothing at the peace conference, and got it, should be willing to participate in the thievery is puzzling to all those who occasionally get their eyes on the ground.

Governor Bicket, of North Carolina, haranguing the Baptist Assembly at Wilmington, N. C., in behalf of the administration plan for a league of nations, said that the only reason Senator Lodge opposed it was it was not his baby, that if it had been his baby he would have carried it all over the country and exhibited it proudly. Well, one thing that could have been said about such a baby, a North Carolina subscriber suggests, is that it would have been a made-in-America product of known parentage.

Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi objects to "rank partisanship" in the consideration of the Cecil-Wilson covenant. Coming from the representative of a state in which partisanship has by force, fraud and legal trickery overthrown a republican form of government, and where an expression of opinion by a Republican exposes him to persecution and proscription,—a state in which only three per cent of the population votes and yet is instructing the world in the principles of "democracy"—this dislike for partisanship deserves a place in a comic supplement instead of in the Congressional Record.

Because President Grant spent a few weeks vacation at Long Beach for the benefit of his impaired health in 1876, a Democratic House of Representatives passed a resolution demanding to know by what constitutional authority he assumed to perform executive functions away from the seat of government. Now a democratic president goes to Europe every few weeks and there is a clamor of praise from the Democratic side of the House because at last we have a president who works on both sides of the Atlantic! From which it may be inferred that the Democratic idea of presidential duty varies with the politics of the administration.

Senator Ashurst told the Tammany society on the Fourth of July that he didn't altogether like the league of nations, but he was going to shut his eyes, hold his nose and

swallow it whole like a good little Democrat. "The league of nations furnishes the chart by which you can avoid secret alliances," continued the Senator; "President Wilson knew that." The constitution of the United States, for which the Democratic politicians of the present day have no respect, furnishes the chart by which secret alliances are prevented so far as this country is concerned. It provides much to the disgust of President Wilson and his henchmen, that in the making of treaties the President must have the advice and the consent of the Senate. Once adopted, however, the league of nations destroys the force of this provision, because the representative of the executive in the league of nations will attend to the treaty making business and the senatorial prerogative will be destroyed entirely. The covenant of the league of nations opens the way to secret diplomacy by private agents of the executive, which the American Constitution attempted to close forever.

The Cost of Food.

(From Harvey's Weekly.)

When we think of the cost of food, we think first of all the cost of beef. But the cost of beef we are told, is conditioned upon the price of pork. Now the price of pork, according to Mr. Armour, is largely determined by the price of corn, upon which the porkers—saving the razor-back variety—are fed. Now corn is at a top-notch price partly because of the higher wages of farm hands, but still more because of the sympathy between it and wheat, which is, after all, the real basis upon which food values are determined.

And the government, says Armour, is responsible for the high cost of wheat, because it has guaranteed \$2.26 a bushel for it; to make which guarantee good, Congress has appropriated a billion dollars of the people's money.

So then we have the taxpayers of the country paying a billion dollars to keep up the high cost of living! What was it that Lewis Carroll had the mob in Sylvie and Bruno cry? "Less bread! More taxes!"

Meantime, without in the least desecrating Mr. Armour's diagnosis, which is no doubt largely true, it will be well to consider also the relationship between the high prices of food and all commodities, and inflation of the currency. For it is a well known principle that an inflated currency means a depreciated currency, and a depreciated currency means high prices.

We are still of course, normally on a perfectly sound gold basis. Yet our circulating medium is inflated—or, let us say, expanded—to an extent unprecedented in our history. Down to 1881, with the single exception of 1865, when it was \$20.58, our per capita circulation never rose as high as \$20. From 1881 to 1903 it ranged from \$21.44 to \$29.42; never reaching \$30. From 1904 to 1916 it ranged from \$30.77 to \$39.29; never reaching \$40.00. In 1917 it was \$45.74; and in 1918 it was \$50.81.

This expansion of the currency has proceeded pari passu with increase in the cost of living. Thus reckoning the "index number" of the cost of commodities at par, or 100, in 1913, the year before the war, but a year when inflation had already begun to a marked degree, we find that back in 1905, before inflation was greatly marked, it was only 84, while in 1918, with inflation at full blast, it was 195.



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