No Entangling Alliance

Little attention is being paid to the proposed alliance between the United States, Great Britain and France, which would seem to indicate that it has few friends.

Great Britain and France both have colonies and their colonial policies are likely to provoke conflicts if they can rely on our army and navy to back up their claims. Great Britain and France also have commercial schemes that may involve them in controversies in which we have no interest, especially if they can use American blood and treasure to extend their trade.

France in the beginning opposed a League of Nations and favored an alliance which would profit her at our expense. She now wants us to stand back of her although we are without any power to compel her to pursue a policy of peace. She will be less inclined to stir up a quarrel with Germany if she has to rely upon her own army to settle it.

The League of Nations is sufficient for her protection so long as she observes its rules—why discredit the League of Nations by forming a small league within a league?

If at any time our nation feels it her duty to go to the assistance of Great Britain or France she can do so, but it will be better to leave the declaration of war to our congress than to delegate to either Great Britain or France authority to declare war for us.

The people favor the League of Nations because it is a step toward peace: they oppose an alliance with any nation because it is a step toward war. W. J. BRYAN.

GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF MEAT PRICES

On another page will be found an extract from the report of the department of agriculture recommending federal supervision of the meat business. This is not only wise but badly needed. Meat is a necessity of life, or so considered by a large percentage of the people. The control of the business has gradually gravitated into the hands of a few big packing houses that are able to fix wholesale prices and terms and conditions.

But supervision of wholesale prices is not sufficient. The retail dealers have in some cases been guilty of extortion and the public must be protected. The nation, state and municipality should, each in its own sphere, protect the consumer from extortion.

THE WAY FORWARD

The sinking of the surrendered ships was an outrage. While it saved the Allies the embarrassment of dividing or disposing of them, it was an act of bad faith of which the perpetrators will some day be ashamed. The sooner the German government abandons the military idea, gets rid of its jingoes and turns to the cultivation of international good will the sooner will it find a welome among the nations.

RAILROADS IN POLITICS

Some advocates of private ownership of railroads profess to be afraid of governmental use of the railroads in politics. They do not object to the activity of railroad magnates, in politics—that we have seen in every part of the country and will see again. The railroads cannot keep out of politics as long as they remain in private hands.

THE SCHEME UNFOLDS

The republican plan to turn the country over to the railroads gradually unfolds. When the people see how completely their rights and interests are ignored and how carefully all the railroad demands are complied with they will understand the activity of the republican organization during the last campaign.

The United States is the greatest moral force in the world. As a member of the League of Nations our nation should be free to throw its influence on the side of justice in every controversy that may arise between other nations; it will forfeit that freedom if it enters into an alliance with France or any other nation.

THE ROLL OR HONOR

List of States That Have Ratified the National Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment

1—WISCONSIN, June 10, 1919.
2—ILLINOIS, June 10, 1919.
3—MICHIGAN, June 10, 1919.
4—KANSAS, June 16, 1919.
5—OHIO, June 16, 1919.
6—NEW YORK, June 16, 1919.
7—PENNSYLVANIA, June 24, 1919.
8—MASSACHUSETTS, June 25, 1919.
9—TEXAS, June 28, 1919.
10—IOWA, July 2, 1919.
11—MISSOURI, July 3, 1919.

SUGGESTING CANDIDATES

Elkhart, Ind., June 9, 1919.

To the Editor of The Commoner:

Isn't it time to be seriously considering who will lead our party in the great campaign of 1920, for all that America has been fighting for will be crystallized in the platform and in the candidate when they go before the people next year? It is certain that our party will be victorious if we are true to ourselves and shall be the party of the progressive movement, the party of the new liberalism, that we may carry into effect and make possible the new era of civilization which is dawning for mankind.

The republicans have reverted to Lodge, Borah & Company and it appears that the leadership will stay in their hands. The rising tide of revolution in their ranks has been quickly and dexterously subdued. Our leader, therefore, must reflect in his personality the progressive thought of the day, not only of our country, but of the world. He must stand firm for the established law and must have a record for fearless enforcement of the laws.

A large number of democrats with whom I have talked favor Joseph W. Folk, who represents in his record the qualifications mentioned above. It is true he was defeated for senator for Missouri last fall in the general republican upheaval, but there is an old saying, "We love a man for the enemies he makes", and an analysis of the returns in Missouri will give testimony of this saying in this instance. He was governor of Missouri for four years and the democrats of Missouri overwhelmingly nominated him last year for the United States senate.

To summarize, our leader must incorporate in his personality the following points:

A record for enforcement of the law, particularly the liquor law. Here Governor Folk was a fearless pioneer.

A record as a fighter of graft. Here again Governor Folk was one of the early and courageous leaders.

A record which demonstrates an understanding of our greatest domestic question, transportation. Governor Folk was for five years counsel of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

A record which qualifies him as one who has a thorough understanding of international law and international questions. Governor Folk was for several years solicitor for the state department.

A record which proves him to be an exponent of the new thought. Governor Folk's speeches and leadership show him to be one of the fathers of the progressive movement.

A record which demonstrates him to be a true interpreter of the spirit and the policies of our great President. Governor Folk's record accounts completely with this point. He has been the President's unfaltering supporter in his every step forward.

A man who possesses these qualifications will win. Governor Folk comprehends in his life and career every one of them. At this time it is absolutely necessary to know what our candidate will do when elected. We know what Governor Folk will do in the future by his record in the past. JACKSON-BRYAN DEMOCRAT.

The word "unprovoked" in the proposed alliance with France is no protection to us. The word describes a conclusion which can only be reached by thorough investigation. It took several years to find out whether this last war was unprovoked.

Ireland's Just Demand

Ireland's demand for the right of self-determination is just.

Her people are racially as distinct from the English as the Bohemians and Hungarians are from the Austrians. If we accept the principle in one case we cannot consistently reject it in the other.

Great Britain will be stronger with Ireland free. A part of Great Britain's strength is now employed holding Ireland in subjugation. The Irish should be friendly neighbors instead of unwilling subjects.

If there is any doubt as to Ireland's desire for independence it can be ascertained at an election. If there is any part of Ireland that prefers to remain under the British flag let it, by the same principle of self-determination, remain. A hostile section would give an Irish republic as much trouble as Ireland has given Great Britain.

Peace is not only desirable but possible. Let the people have what they want. If Ireland wants semi-independence like Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, let her have it; if she wants complete independence—as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa could have if they demanded it—let her have that.

Of course, there would be a protesting minority in the counties joining the republic and in the counties, if any, remaining with Great Britain, but the rights of the minority could be protected. The republic could buy at its actual value all the property of any who wanted to move and sell to those desiring to remain. In like manner, any county refusing to join the republic could buy out any part of its citizens who desired to become citizens of the republic.

Justice promotes peace; it is, in fact, essential to permanent peace. Now would seem an opportune time to bring peace to Ireland by doing justice to her people. W. J. BRYAN.

The governor of Nebraska has issued a call for a special session of the legislature for the latter part of July for the purpose of ratifying the national constitutional suffrage amendment. It will receive a practically unanimous vote in each house. Nebraska was a little bit slow in getting into the prohibitory ratification column, due entirely to the subserviency of a few party leaders to the old brewery machine, but she will be up among the first dozen in the suffrage list. Nebraska has been the breeding ground for many splendid political ideas and policies, and an appeal to her progressive citizens never fails.

The President's argument in favor of the League of Nations cannot be answered. The sooner the treaty is ratified the better for those who have been opposing it.

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL TO MEN"

God of the nations, near and far,
Ruler of all mankind;
Bless thou thy people as they strive
The paths of peace to find.

The clash of arms still shakes the sky,
King battles still with king;
Wild through the frighted air of night
The bloody tocsins ring.

But clearer far the friendly speech
Of scientists and seers,
The wise debate of statesmen and
The shouts of pioneers.

And stronger far the clasped hands
Of labor's teeming throngs,
Who in a hundred tongues repeat
Their common creeds and songs.

From shore to shore the peoples call
In loud and sweet acclaim,
The gloom of land and sea is lit
With Pentacostal flame.

O Father from the curse of war
We pray thee give release
And speed, O speed thy blessed day
Of justice, love and peace.

—John Haynes Holmes.