

The tour of Clemenceau in America has succeeded in bringing the whole question of the treaty of Versailles into public discussion.

Not that the war-time premier of France has made any criticism of his handiwork, but his eagerness to secure the assistance of the United States for its drastic enforcement has given the subject new importance.

America has received the "Tiger" hospitably and attentively, but none the less critically. His suggestion of a military agreement by which the United States and Great Britain would come to the defense of France if Germany balked at fulfilling the complete terms of the treaty have aroused misgivings and encouraged caution.

The fact of its coming at a time when the lack of harmony between the allies is particularly in evidence at the Lausanne conference is warning enough. America cannot with safety to itself make an alliance with any European power.

It is the world that is sick—and one of the great sources of infection is to be found in the treaty of Versailles. There is in every country a growing demand for revision of this pact.

It appears inevitable that a readjustment of terms must be made, not for the benefit of the German people alone, but for the sake of all Europe and, indeed, of the whole world.

Though Clemenceau mentions nothing of it, there is a respectable section of French opinion which opposes the hard bargain he drove at the peace table. The Paris paper, Le Matin, for instance, recently published statements from a long list of French men of letters who had served with the colors, and who were almost unanimous in their opposition to the treaty. One of these made the point that any peace agreement that allowed or gave excuse to France to maintain 800,000 men under arms three years after the armistice was a crime against the French nation. Another spoke of it as "an excellent basis for future wars."

The impossibility of meeting the terms of the treaty of Versailles has just resulted in the downfall of another German cabinet. The impossibility of enforcing the terms has resulted likewise in France with the overthrow of one cabinet after another. Threats of invasion from France and the uneasy fear by the French of a Germany goaded into a war of revenge have kept Europe in constant turmoil. The French government, though determined to collect the last cent of reparations from Germany, has nevertheless been unwilling to allow its weakened foe to rise to a strength that would permit of payment.

There appears to have been something fatuous about the inflation of German currency, but without doubt any aid toward stabilization would be welcomed there. This is not the old imperialism, but a new republic, and a people chastened by defeat. A spirit of mutual aid can be counted on to accomplish more with them than can any show of military force.

"The main problem in Europe is not Russia, but Germany," Eduard Benes, premier of Czechoslovakia is quoted as saying recently. "If Germany were helped towards readjustment, Europe would really be helping itself." From the vantage point of an independent state in Central Europe he observes that the trouble is that there has not been advanced any definite constructive program for the rebuilding of Europe. Genoa and all the other conferences have failed to dispel doubt and raise confidence or even to establish harmony between the allies. His words are worth quoting at more length:

"When these powers agree among themselves, they will finally have to take the first step in the direction of a definite understanding with regard to reparations. When that question is definitely and reasonably settled, there would be a real basis for Germany to start along new economic lines. That would also form a basis for an international loan, and the stabilization of the German currency, which would surely have an immediate and most beneficial effect everywhere and would hasten the re-establishment of peace and order in Europe."

Europe can never be restored to normal conditions until Germany is enabled to stabilize its affairs. Both for the sake of civilization and for the peace of the world the treaty of Versailles should be revised. If some logical arrangement for a world conference to rewrite the terms in view of national and international requirements is made, the United States should go with a willing heart participant.

The United States, which has lent \$11,000,000,000 to European nations, in addition to several billions more lent to private interests there, has a great financial stake in the outcome. A Europe unable to compose its differences, moderate its hatreds and forego the unlimited satisfaction of greed and revenge can not be helped from outside, and furthermore constitutes a menace to America. At this time, and under these conditions, the first step in world rehabilitation appears to call for revision of the Versailles treaty.

REVIVING THE OLD DANCES

Are the graceful minuet, the lively quadrille, the rhythmic waltz and the poetic schottische to supplant the jiggling one-step, the sensuous bunny-bug and the awkward fox-trot? There are indications that such is the case, and the return would be doubly welcomed by people who really like to dance but have no patience with the ungraceful and too often rickety dances of today.

The demand for a return of the old-time dances is not coming from old fogies; it is coming from people who love good music and demand grace, not mere agility, in dancing. About the only thing that will retard the return of these old-time dances is the fact that it really takes brains to learn them, a commodity that need not be exercised to any great extent in acquiring the art of modern dancing. Then, too, it would require some real musical ability on the part of the orchestra members to furnish the necessary music. It really requires very little skill to batter a tambourine, pound a wooden shell, ring a set of cymbals and lead a blatant saxophone, thus furnishing all the "music" necessary for a modern dance.

It is, indeed, a far cry from the nights of the "Blue Danube" waltzes to the blatant "blue" of the modern dance. But, thank goodness, there is hope that the distance may be covered before grace and skill are entirely forgotten by people who enjoy the dance.

IMPORTANT TO THE CENTRAL WEST.

The central west is deeply interested in the outcome of the controversy between the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific over the control of the Central Pacific. It is much more than a mere railroad fight; in it is bound up much that may be glorious in the development of the country from the Missouri river to the foothills of the Rocky mountains.

And of especial interest is this controversy to northwestern Nebraska. Union Pacific control of the Central Pacific would hasten the extension of the Union Pacific's North Platte Valley line now extending from North Platte to Yoder, Wyo., to a junction with the main line at Medicine Bow, Wyo. This Medicine Bow extension would open up a wonderful territory, eliminate some heavy grades, and bring to Omaha's door a vast volume of business. It would hasten the development of a territory rich in agricultural and mineral resources and at the same time afford a measure of relief in the matter of transportation charges. With the vast traffic now diverted to the southern route, coming eastward over the Union Pacific, vast improvement in equipment would have to be made, and the Medicine Bow cut-off would be imperative.

There is every indication that with reviving business and greater stability, there is due a great development of railroad properties in the west and northwest. The first real railroad extension in the west during the last ten years was the Union Pacific's extension of its North Platte valley line from Gering to Yoder, Wyo. That the management's ultimate aim on this extension is Medicine Bow is unquestioned.

The Burlington is evidently thinking seriously again of a line from O'Neill to Theford, Neb., thus securing a direct connection between Minneapolis and Denver and opening up a big new territory in Nebraska. The Burlington has by no means abandoned its Kearney-Bridgeport cut-off, and the Union Pacific has completed surveys for a branch line from Yoder, Wyo., or Lyman, Neb., to Cheyenne.

When building conditions permit of railroad extensions, very naturally the central west will come in for the lion's share. The first step towards that end, and one that would be of incalculable benefit to the central west, would be the control of the Central Pacific by the Union Pacific, and these two systems, originally built as one great system, should never have been divorced.

HISTORIC ECHOES AT LAUSANNE.

Determination not to admit the Russian delegates to full participation in the deliberations at Lausanne brings up pictures of what has happened at other international conferences. The Congress of Berlin, where Otto von Bismarck presided over the bargain counter, for example, or the Congress of Paris.

At Paris, in 1856, the neutrality of the Dardanelles, the Bosphorus and the Black sea was agreed upon. These waterways were to be free to all the nations of the world, and none, not even Russia or Turkey, was allowed to maintain ships of war on the Black sea. Russia is blamed for the violation of this treaty, because of interference in the internal affairs of Turkey, which had been given a place in the Concert of Europe. In 1877 the Treaty of San Stefano was wrested from Turkey by Russia, and Bulgaria was set up as a guardian of the straits. England and Austria objected, and the Congress of Berlin in 1878 took from Russia all it had won in war. England gained from this congress Cyprus and Austria got Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Russians nothing.

Russia still yearned for the warm water port. Denied an outlet to the Mediterranean, a push was made across Asia to the Pacific. Vladivostok was not the port sought, and attention was turned to Port Arthur. Alternative to this was an outlet on the Persian gulf. Japan checked the one, England and Germany united to thwart the other, and when the World War came on Russian commerce went in and out of seaports, ice-locked through a considerable portion of each year, or under permission of a rival.

England is now reported as endorsing the American demand for the open door in the near east. This certainly should include the freedom of the straits. In the mandatory tendered the United States was included the neutral zone surrounding the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. Some arrangement of this sort will have to come out of Lausanne, if peace is to be set up, and the settlement will have to take due notice of Russia's rights.

On this score it should be remembered that the Soviets can not be held to responsibility unless granted rights; recognition may be withheld until the Russians accept their responsibilities, but when that is done then all the privileges and powers of a nation belong to them. One of these, sought with eagerness by imperial Russia, and no less vital to soviet Russia, is a seaport that is available twelve months in the year.

Archbishop Glennon, at St. Louis, has just seen a motion picture for the first time. It did not alter his previous opinion, that they are not to be associated with education, save in a limited degree, and that they are not great forces for moral uplift.

What a story of mother love and mother faith is that of Mrs. Glinksky, who dreams of her son as an innocent and persecuted boy, though all the world knows him as a criminal.

Michigan adds another senator of positive and advanced ideas to the growing group in the upper house of congress. Pretty soon you won't know the place.

Stating Our Position

Announcement made by our representative at Lausanne that the United States will, whenever necessary, state its position relative to matters under debate comes as a surprise. Accompanied as it is by a specific example of the position to be taken by the United States, embodied in the announcement that our policy is opposed to secret treaties and agreements, especially to those providing for notes of special economic influence in Turkey, it appears to have a very special kind of importance. Is it a step in the direction of active American participation in international affairs and particularly in the matters which affect the Turkish adjustment?

It is too soon to judge as yet from the relatively fragmentary announcements precisely how far the broad construction may be assigned to the statements of the American representative at Lausanne. He may be promptly quoted by commissions, councils or read, which would be the point of view of the United States. Or he may find it necessary to interpose from time to time with a view to making our ideas definitely understood, should the latter prove to be the case. It may easily be that we will become a tool, if only a special one, in the hands of the American representative at Lausanne. It is not, however, a step which we can not see as being in the direction of a discussion of our own interests, but of a discussion of our own interests in relation to the Turkish adjustment.

More power and courage, therefore, to President Harding and his administration. Let us hope that from all their busy programs steadily forward and upward we may see the American strength steadily growing and our influence steadily increasing.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from other newspapers—

Contempt for Law.

From the Washington Star. President Harding and the members of his cabinet are reported to be gravely concerned over the contempt for law which is evidenced by violations of the Volstead act and the serenity with which the average "good citizen" contemplates these violations. The president and his advisers believe that this disregard of law is undermining the moral fiber of the American people and is one of the very roots of the republic. No serious has the situation become that it is resolved that some drastic action must be taken to bring the people to their senses and the law violators to book.

It is not at all a question of whether the Volstead act is a good law or not. The 18th amendment was written into the Constitution by the will of the American people, and is as much a part of the organic law of the land as any other section. The Volstead law was enacted by congress in discharge of the duty imposed upon it by the Constitution, and only congress can amend or repeal it. So long as it remains on the statute books it is the duty of the executive to enforce it, and of the courts to respect its provisions. Criminals disregard laws of which they do not approve, and it is this that makes the government must be succeeded by one law and flesh of another. It is just as definitely a crime to violate the Volstead act as it is to violate any other law.

A free government is supposed to be a government of laws, deriving its authority from the people and based on their respect for law and willingness to abide by it. If this respect for law and willingness to abide by law are destroyed, the foundations of free government are destroyed. Then free government must be succeeded by despotism, backed by armed might, or by mob rule, which is anarchy.

Every American worthy of the name should be proud of the history of his country in their hearts, will support the president in his determination that an end must be made to the lawless and anarchic conditions. Scores of thousands of men have died because they loved America and were resolved that its institutions should not be destroyed. Yet hundreds of thousands seem thoughtlessly willing today to destroy them for the sake of obtaining bootleg booze.

The Immigration Problem.

From the Charleston News and Courier. We do not believe that the people of the country in general want to see immigration pouring into the United States in thousands at this time. A plentiful supply of cheap labor might help certain industries just now, but only yesterday we were in the midst of a serious unemployment crisis. There are other considerations, moreover, more important than those of a purely industrial nature. We have not been able to absorb and properly assimilate the foreigners we now have, and until we have done this, or until we are able to do it, we had better not add new hundreds of thousands to the number of the assimilated.

Favors a Small Legislature.

From the Aberdeen American News. Here is an unexpected convert to the idea of a single law-making body to legislate for the state instead of the expensive house and senate usually maintained. Senator Norris of Nebraska says that he intends to vote himself after his retirement from the senate to work for a unicameral legislature in his state.

He means by this that he favors that radical change in the state government and for the sake of better times in Nebraska he will work for reorganization of the legislature into a single body of comparatively small number of men who would be paid salaries as judges are paid and their terms would be at the call of the state. He would have this legislature nonpartisan and so exalted before the people that responsibility for its acts would always be placed directly upon the right parties.

The Farmer's Wife.

From the Los Angeles Times. Of some 200 farmers' wives who were asked the question what kind of husbands they wanted for their daughters, the most common answer was: "I want a man who is a farmer." The girls themselves were not quite so unanimous. Some of them would rather marry Bill Farnsworth or Charlie Chaplin. But, in view of the trend of the times, it is surprising that so many of the mothers would still stick to the farm. They are still the belief that the lad brought up in the open and accustomed to ranch life makes the best and most enduring husband. Possibly there is something in it.

LAND OF LONG AGO.

When our thoughts grow sad and morbid, And we magnify our woe, There's a place we seek for ease— 'Tis the Land of Long Ago.

Here our fancy roams wildly, Only joys do we recall, As we ponder up the vistas, Where no shadow shadows fall.

In this land we dwell enchanted, 'Midst the pleasures of the past, While the future comes and goes, On those days too good to last.

Thus when sadness overtakes us, And the clouds have drab and low, There's a better world to see— 'Tis the Land of Long Ago.

THEOPHORE J. VENNE, Chicago, Ill.

In Jest and Verse

Byplays and Comments on Events That Are Passing

RESTLESSNESS.

There is a curse upon me—and I can not settle down— The town calls for the city—the city from the town. The joy of things grows brittle, the warmth of love grows cold. The things I have are faded—the words I hear are old.

And just beyond the cresting hill, or just across the street There is a newer lover—there is a soul more sweet: My work is play a little while—and then it starts to irk; My play delights a day or two—and then it's dull as work.

And the mouth that feeds me kisses will annoy me after while, And I shall want to wander, to find a newer smile, O, sometimes when the gypsy lure is at its worst in me— And all I love is hateful, and I'm lonely as can be— It's nice to think that, waiting when the tides of life go by, Is a still bed and a smooth bed, to give me peace for aye!

—Dorothy Dow.

HOPE ON, HOPE EVER.

Every night I count the days Until tomorrow, when my gaze May see among the clever maze Of Linotype, one of my assays. Night and day I seek some smart Staff to use in quipish art. And brain fatigue I count not vain If I but reach the Line again.

—Hope Deferred.

Cher Jeanne.

Sir: And now comes news of the old days, not just that incomprehensible longing to live again our cherished memories, not just that poignant nostalgia that assails one for a glimpse of the Dream City at night, but at last, after four years of dreaming, we waited, wet and dreary, for our train to carry us back to that distant rear which in our souls dripped with red.

THE VESTAL.

I am a singing vestal, I wait I keep till death, Watching the fires of Beauty, Fanning them with my breath. These are the flames of wonder Leaping upon my altar. Dusk on a grayling river; Lights in the rain that fall; Moon with a misty pallor; Night with a white red fire in it; Wind in the dark and distance; Ghost of a kiss with a tear in it; Vainly the earthborn, blinded, Beckon me from my duty— I am a singing vestal. Watching the fires of Beauty!

—Deirdre.

Oh, let me have the pork chops R. H. L.

The Limit. There's always room for a good man if he's just looking for an apartment—Life.

Need of Moral Leadership.

St. Edward, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee:—The industrial conflict, accompanied by all its trouble, reminds us that the old morality that has always retarded the progress of the world, namely selfishness, is preying upon us again. Everyone is following his own nose and as long as he gets his living according to the style he is accustomed to and wants, he doesn't worry about his next door neighbor, all the show of kindheartedness to the contrary notwithstanding.

The present conflict, called as it is between capital and labor, is only a repetition of what most wars are. The leaders, who possess the inside and real facts of the situation, and are made of more than ordinary intelligence, are playing for their own jobs and their subordinates, like sheep, can only blindly follow.

To make matters worse, the criminally minded of both sides make trouble and destroy lives and property for which their cowards always have and always will pay for.

The average citizen cannot discuss intelligently the situation as it is. He does not believe that either side in the controversy is entirely right, but the man on the outside does feel that he is being made the goat along with the belligerents.

The thinking man knows that prices in some lines are above the present economic level, through the domination of some interest or organization. The country is in a state of being the brunt of it and paying the bill.

Prices have not fallen to the pre-war level, neither does the thinking man demand or see any reason why they should, but some lines have borne a big decline and others have not and are apparently unwilling to take their share of the drop, through a subconscious idea that they never had, until the late war, received their fair share of the earnings of society.

This country has a vast majority of common hard working people who have a vision of some better position and more wealth ahead, although only the few attain it, but with the great ahead of him the climber very often tramples upon his coworkers as the prize comes into view.

Government officials, generally, have not been able to successfully settle the differences arising. The fear of loss of votes and friendships too often renders them unfit to make a conscientious decision, and lack of power on the other hand would often make them powerless to enforce it if they did.

Public opinion is turning against the buck passer and is looking for and will uphold the leader who can and will put self aside and say: "This is the right way, we who are in a position to know, know that it is the right way and it must be done this way."

E. S. L.

"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

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Advertisement for James Morton & Son Company, announcing price reductions on Gifford Wood & Company's ice tools.

Advertisement for American Security Company, promoting new business buildings and offering prime securities.

Advertisement for The Omaha Bee, including subscription information and details about the newspaper's circulation and content.