

Colonel Roosevelt Hits League to Enforce Peace

[By a staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune.]

Washington, D. C. Jan. 23.—Col. Roosevelt took another firm stand at the League to Enforce Peace in a letter to Senator Borah of Idaho made public today. The colonel declared that the league, which Ex-President Taft is defending, is much worse than a league to enforce delay, as it is in reality "a league in the interest of wrong doers." The letter follows:

"My dear Senator Borah: I notice in the New York Sun a letter from Hamilton Holt, vice chairman of the League to Enforce Peace, in which he refers to some recent remarks both to you and myself.

"Mr. Holt takes exception to your recent statement in the senate. Your statement was absolutely justified, but it did not go nearly far enough, I desired in protesting against the action of the various gentlemen, including President Wilson, who are advocating a league to enforce peace, to assail them in their strongest position.

"Mr. Holt points out, apparently as a matter of pride, that the League to Enforce Peace has deliberately chosen a deceptive title, and that it has no more idea of enforcing peace than it has of enforcing righteousness, but only, to use his own words, intends to 'enforce delay.'

"The league does not propose to concern itself with the righteousness or unrighteousness of any action; it simply proposes that, when a wrong has been done, the wrongdoing nation and the wronged nation shall be forced to bring their case before some outside council and that the league shall go to war against whichever refuses to take this action; now, there are certain wrongs which no nation ought for one moment to discuss before taking action, and it is profoundly immoral for would-be philanthropists to decline to pass judgment in such case on the wrong and merely propose to take action against the nation which itself acts; for, of course, it is likely that in such a case it is the wronged nation which will act.

"Let me give a concrete case:

"If Germany should sink another Lusitania, or Mexico commit another massacre like that at Carrizal, and if the United States in such case seemed it her duty to take immediate action (as I for one would certainly advocate) the proposal of Mr. Holt and his associates is that the League to Enforce Peace should declare war, not against the wrongdoer, but against the wronged party. A more preposterous absurdity, a more wicked absurdity could hardly be devised. Mr. Holt admits that the title, 'The League to Enforce Peace,' is a flagrant misstatement of the purposes of the league. He says that it is only a league to enforce delay. But it is much worse than this. It is a league in the interests of wrongdoers, a league which expressly waives aside all considerations of justice and righteousness and proposes to make war on any deeply wronged and high spirited nation which acts immediately against the transgressor.

"Mr. Holt and his associates have adopted the proposal of Mr. Bryan's peace commission treaties, which likewise provided for talking over before outsiders all wrongs, including those to which no self-respecting

nation would for one moment submit. But Mr. Holt and his associates stand on a lower level than Mr. Bryan; for at least Mr. Bryan did not propose to go to war in the interest of brutal offenders against those wronged nations which instantly resented the wrongs.

"The position of Mr. Holt and his associates in these international proposals is precisely like that of an individual who in private life should demand that if a ruffian slapped the face of a decent citizen's wife and if the decent citizen promptly knocked the ruffian down, the peace league should, in the interest of the ruffian, attack the man who objected to having his wife's face slapped.

"Faithfully yours,
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

LIQUOR PEOPLE ON THE RUN

Every mail brings the newspaper offices an assortment of ready-to-print arguments showing why the liquor business should be encouraged and protected; how the consumption of liquor is benefiting the human race—increasing the length of life, and presumably bringing happiness and success and usefulness to all good boozers.

In the newspaper offices, too, this ready-to-print stuff goes to the waste basket with great promptness, for even the "personal liberty" advocates have sense enough to know that the public is no longer the gullible recipient of the arguments that once were accepted as truth and wisdom.

And as newspapers refuse to print the stuff, except such newspapers as are in the employ of liquor interests, the brewers and the distillers and the liquor distributors are becoming fearfully alarmed. They frantically argue that prohibition has increased the amount of liquor used in the country and frantically argue in the same breath against the passage of prohibitory laws. It is a humorous situation, for somehow there can be but little sympathy for the vultures who in their very assemblies talk about creating business by teaching boys to have an appetite for liquor.

But they will die hard, and it will take the earnest labor of every clean man and woman in the United States to bring about national action against the liquor traffic—Miami (Fla.) Metropolis.

THE SANITY OF BRYAN'S CONTENTION

Let the Bourbon wing of democracy beware—for verily the slightly victorious democratic party hath its own "stand-patters" as surely as the barely defeated party of Penrose and Lodge, Root and Smoot and Barnes. Albeit the dispassionate student of men and movements is free to admit that if the illustrious quintette named had been eliminated as a steering committee, together with that of the apostate "Father of Progressivism," who fought these self-same stand-pat leaders, four years ago, and accompanied with them in the last battle, the present rejoicing of democracy might now be expressing itself in a negative and plaintive tone.

All of which is respectfully submitted to our "forward-looking" president and the democratic stalwarts who supported him, all the way from Gotham to Indianapolis

and finally to the office of the hoary-headed Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky, U. S. A. ! ! !

Over against "Uncle Henri's" fun-making and yet irate "editorial" entitled "The Last Ditch," in which he charges certain republicans organs with showing death-bed repentance toward "the fake doctrine of prohibition," supporting his brilliant railery with the illuminating stand-pat declaration that "no democrat can be a prohibitionist," over against this antiquated folly we oppose the winning, progressive, humanitarian democracy of William J. Bryan.

Declaring his purpose to dedicate the next four years to an earnest effort to "make democracy dry," Mr. Bryan utters at once an epigram and an epic:

"When an issue arises it must be met, and the prohibition issue is here. Our party can not afford to take the immoral side of a moral issue. The democratic party can not afford to become the champion of the brewery, the distillery, and the saloon. The members of the party will not permit it to be buried in a drunkard's grave."

We do not defy—for younger years should not "defy" hairs grown gray in patriotic service—but in all deference we challenge Mr. Watterson to pick a flaw in the sanity of Mr. Bryan's contention, either from a democratic or a humanitarian standpoint.—Atlanta (Ga.) Golden Age.

ENFORCING PEACE

We are in receipt of a syndicated article in the interest of the League to Enforce Peace, written by Herbert S. Houston, treasurer of that organization, which article is copyrighted by the American Defense Publishing Company, Incorporated. We naturally wonder if the League to Enforce Peace and the militarists have united at last for the promotion of an international army and an international navy for the permanent establishment of a "morality based on bayonets."—Advocate of Peace.

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URGES CONTROL OF WIRELESS

A Washington dispatch, dated Jan. 2, says: An absolute government monopoly of radio communication as a measure of national safety was advocated today by Secretary Daniels in a letter to the Commerce and Marine committees of the senate and house, outlining the navy department's views on the pending radio control bill drafted by an interdepartmental conference.

"The bill covers the purchase of coastal stations only, that is only those used to communicate with ships, and by permitting the navy department to open all of its stations to commercial business would discourage the extension of any existing commercial systems or the organization of new systems."

The secretary wrote: "The department strongly recommends that the committee provide for the purchase of all stations used for commercial purposes. The value of existing stations is constantly increasing, and decisive action at this time will result in a saving of public funds."

PATENTS Watson E. Coleman, Patent Lawyer, Washington, D.C. Advice and books free. Rates reasonable. Highest references. Best services.

In December, 1916, THE MIDWEST LIFE issued \$321,000 of new insurance; in January, 1917, \$224,000, and from all the present indications, it will issue over \$200,000 in February of this year. This will make a total for the three months of \$750,000, or at the rate of \$3,000,000 of insurance a year. These are the three best months the company has ever experienced.

In January of 1917 the company paid its first matured endowment for the face amount of \$1,000. Heretofore all payments to living policyholders have been in the nature of cash surrender values, and the like.

On February 1st the company had \$8,937,000 of insurance in force, and by the end of the month it will reach the \$9,000,000 mark. The aim will be to have, at least, \$10,000,000 in force by the end of 1917, and assets of upwards of \$1,000,000.

The most important change made during the year 1916 was in the method of making real estate loans. Practically all the loans now made are on the amortized plan, and the loans extend over a period of 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. The company confines the making of its loans to the two states in which it is selling insurance, which are Kansas and Nebraska.

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