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“PEACE ON EARTH”

The following report of the peace banquet in Chicago is given in the Chicago Tribune of April 30th:

America and Europe—the United States and France by their respective spokesmen for the occasion—clasped hands over a worldwide peace program in which wars should be known only as the relics of a disappearing barbarism.

Prospects of strife with Mexico and Japan were ridiculed and “jingoes” were scored. Building of new battleships was deprecated as passion inflaming.

The occasion was a dinner by the Chicago Peace Society in the gold room of the Congress hotel and the chief guests and speakers were Baron d’Estournelles de Constant and Col. William Jennings Bryan to whom George E. Roberts, banker and former director of the mint, extended a greeting as the society’s first president.

Three hundred diners gathered to acclaim the cause and honor the guests, especial courtesies being accorded Baron de Constant because of his prominence in a sister republic, he being a senator of France, a member of the first and second Hague conferences, and a sitting member of the arbitration court of The Hague. The toastmaster was Leroy A. Goddard, now head of the organization. Jenkin Lloyd Jones offered the invocation.

Both the baron and Mr. Bryan avoided remarks that could be construed as political, although previous to the banquet the Nebraskan, thrice nominee of the democratic party for president, expressed himself optimistically regarding the outlook for the democrats. He declined to discuss candidates for president, but said that when the time is ripe he will give his views frankly regarding the qualifications of those who may be in the race.

Among those at the speakers’ table were Alfred L. Baker, Miss Sophronisba Breckinridge, Miss Jane Addams, Mrs. L. A. Goddard, Cyrus H. McCormick, Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, Richard C. Hall, Charles Henrotin, Mrs. W. E. Wilmarth and Bishop Samuel Fallows.

When Baron de Constant arose to speak, two carnations lay before him on the table, one red and one white. While he spoke his hand involuntarily clasped one of the flowers. He raised it to a level with his face and smiled. He had chosen the white carnation, the symbol of peace, and left the blood red flower on the table. The audience cheered again and again.

“I take this as a good omen for the best speech I ever made in my life on peace,” he said. The baron held the white flower in his hand throughout his address and often raised it to his lips. It was his standard, symbolical of the

cause for which he is contending, and he kept it as a symbol in his plea for peace.

“I have nearly accomplished now my long campaign around your great country,” said Baron de Constant, “and now I have come back to Chicago, where I delivered my first address ten years ago—my maiden speech, indeed—in America.

“I will never forget that. I was the guest of your Union League Club. You gave me my first encouragement. I said at that time that our mutual ancestors had discovered and created your country and together obtained your liberty. But this is not enough. We cannot be satisfied by enjoying their legacy—we have to do something more. We want to found peace for the generations to come.

“Peace is nothing of a dream now. It is a practical organization. Everybody understands that. American public opinion has been unanimous in supporting your government in its efforts to organize arbitration. All your public statesmen are strongly in favor of it—my friend Mr. William Jennings Bryan, as well as my friend Col. Roosevelt. We all admire what President Taft has done in that way. Look at the speeches delivered recently by the leaders of the British parliament in London to support his proposition.

“Arbitration now is the necessary coronation of modern progress. War is not only waste of blood and money, but paralysis of national work. War will at once stop all progress and cut your future in its roots. It is true chiefly of young countries having to face universal competition. You will be handicapped by nations who have no military expenditures and who can give all their force to productive work.

“I know what skeptical people object; they say that you may be attacked; yesterday it was by Mexico. I went there and found it was a bubble. Then, they said it would be by Japan. I went to California, to the states which are supposed to feel the danger. I found nothing but strong and unanimous encouragement to protest against this nonsense.

“These wars are indeed dreams, no sensible man can believe in them. We won’t allow the governments of the future to declare wars which could have been averted, as could have been nearly all the wars of the past as well in America as in Europe.

“We know now that most of these past wars have been useless. Victory is not all glory and profit. The victor himself has to pay for it; it leaves behind it suspicion, rancor, hatred; it obliges all nations to spend their treasures of time, of money, of young men for preparing a war which nobody wants; it obliges them to starve education, labor, agriculture, commerce, life indeed—for nothing.

“This ruinous and continual negative activity arises everywhere today, a general revolt. It is a direct appeal to revolution, and that is why I said so often: Militarism is the father of socialism.

“Nobody would ever speak of war if the people would know more of arbitration. They don’t know what The Hague organization is, how The Hague court has already settled several big cases, like the Dogger-Bank and the Casablanca conflicts. We have to teach them, to explain them.

“Public opinion is waiting for this new education of our times. They have to understand exactly what a treaty of arbitration means.

“Arthur Balfour said recently in London that it would be bad to make treaties for an opinion not prepared to execute them. He is right. He wants, as we do, arbitration with no deception; he wants, as we do, a good education of the people who have not only to wish arbitration treaties but to submit to these treaties.

“The signature of a treaty is a great thing; its execution is still better.

“Look at the admirable execution for nearly a century of your treaty with Great Britain concerning the disarmament of the Canadian frontier! It is not the letter only, it is the spirit of the two nations which have faithfully executed it that we admire.

“What we have to do now is to finish our work of education; it is to prepare the people all over the world for self-discipline, for the free acceptance of reason and justice for the settlement of their quarrels.”

“I am glad to participate in this banquet,” said Col. Bryan, “and join you in doing honor to the distinguished citizen of France—Baron d’Estournelles de Constant. He is the son of a nation whose history has been interwoven with our own and whose friendship has come down to us as a cherished heritage from revolutionary days.

“We are indebted to another great Frenchman for a conception which we are now working out. It was De Lesseps, who first undertook the uniting of the oceans at Panama.

“A gigantic vision is soon to be realized through the efforts of our country. When we congratulate ourselves that we are about to complete what the great Frenchman began we must not forget the credit due to the mind that was able to demonstrate the possibility of bringing the Pacific and Atlantic oceans together.

“Our guest, Baron de Constant, is one of the pioneers in an engineering scheme that surpasses in scope, in importance and in difficulty the dreams of De Lesseps—the union of nations in the bonds of peace, which is a grander conception than the marriage of the oceans.

“The Chagres river has been the great terror of those who have investigated the route across the isthmus, but this stream, even when its raging current is at its flood, is tame in comparison with the angry passions of the human heart that hurry nations into war.

“Only one excuse can be made for war—that man has not yet brought the brutal instincts under control of the reason and the heart.

“To despair of peace would be to despair of progress among men. Some have hoped to bring peace by an increase of armament, that the world might be frightened away from war or driven into peace by the weight of military burdens.

“We are glad to welcome any encouragement that may come from this source, but it ought not to require the exhaustion of nation to convince us that ruin of all concerned is the logical end of rivalry in the building of battleships.

“I am a believer in an entirely different theory. I fear the encouragement of the military spirit. I fear the building of battleships will inflame the passion for war rather than frighten us into peace.

“I believe that the road to peace lies rather in the culture of the spirit of peace and friendship. Love begets love. I have more faith in the power of good example than in the terror excited by thirteen-inch guns.”

Resolutions approving the action of the federated churches in their stand for the arbitration treaty between England and America were introduced by Bishop Samuel Fallows and unanimously passed.

SENATOR O’GORMAN

A dinner was recently given Senator O’Gorman of New York. Senator Stone of Missouri, who could not be present, wrote this letter:

“The democrats of the country are especially gratified that the democratic New York senator is so heartily in sympathy with the best thought of his party and is so able to uphold his convictions.”

Senator O’Gorman, in addressing the banqueters, said: “My election to represent New York in the United States senate came to me unsought. The acceptance of the high honor carried with it important responsibilities which I shall endeavor to discharge to the best of my capacity and energy.

“Today the people of the United States are looking hopefully to the democratic party for redress against economical and political conditions which weigh heavily upon them and which cannot be successfully defended. There is a growing and widespread public sentiment that the American consumer must be relieved from unjust and unnecessary tribute. New Jersey, Maine, Ohio, New York and other states have united in the general protest.”

It is plain that New York made no mistake when it exchanged Chauncey M. Depew for James A. O’Gorman.

GOOD SENTIMENT FOR DEMOCRATS, TOO
Theodore Roosevelt, at Spokane, Wash.: “There are in this country, in my party a number of men who call themselves republicans who really are not republicans in the American sense at all. Any man who puts property rights above human rights, any man who objects to genuine popular rule, any man who refuses justice because justice will interfere with the property of some great special interest, any such man, I don’t care how much he calls himself a republican, has no real kinship with Americans.”