The Commoner

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APRIL, 1919

SUGGESTS LEAGUE HEAD

March 19, 1860, just 59 years ago oday, William Jennings Bryan was In commemoration of that venf, his 59th birthday, The Journal vails itself of the occasion, an opportune time, to suggest an even ligher honor than those already conferred upon the Nebraskan, if that be possible, by his party and his people-that he be made the head of the league of nations, the president of not one nation, but many nations - of all peoples of all nations, of all the world.

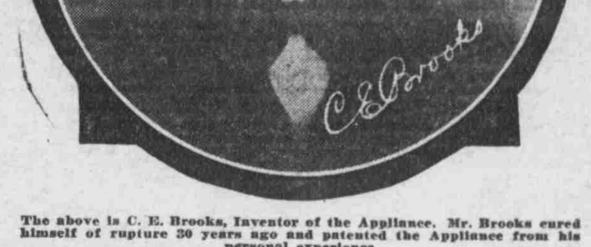
That an American should have the honor will be generally admitted by all the nations concerned, and as Mr. Wilson is at present president of the greatest country and the greatest people on earth, and is being urged for another term, he is not available, and would not, and should not accept it though tendered him. Then, with Mr. Wilson out of the way, many eyes might turn to former President Taft, but he is also candidate for president, if not avowed a candidate. in an acceptable mood, and the same objection can be made to him as to Mr. Wilson.

Then in looking around for a man who would reflect credit upon this country and make of the league of nations one of power and practically. sure of accomplishing the purposes for which it is formed, the eyes of the country naturally turn to Mr. Bryan.

He has been honored as no other American, given three nominations by his party for the presidency, the highest office within the gift of the people, and, although he has been defeated on each occasion, he has been greater in defeat than in victory.

In his first campaign he received more votes than any candidate of either party in previous elections even more than Cleveland in either of his campaigns, when he was elected, and more than Mr. Wilson in his first campaign.

The Journal believes Mr. Bryan is the man of the hour. The man best qualified for the head of the league by virtue of his long and consistent attitude on the peace of the world; and his many other qualifications, not the least of which is his ability to control men in a crisis, notably at Baltimore, when Mr. Wilson was nominated, and nations are but a collection of individuals. But Mr. Bryan has best described the man who should have this honor, though it was written before a league of nations was thought possible or a possible solution of the problem. Here is what he says: "What the world needs is not a despot to fix terms upon which the rest shall live; its great need is that these nations shall be brought together in a spirit of friendship and fellowship that they may co-operate in working out the destiny of Europe. If this nation has any influence, that influence must be exerted to bring the warring nations together and not to encourage them in false hopes that a permanent peace can be built on force or fear." The foregoing gives Mr. Bryan's world, and he is universally popular. betterment of mankind than in "the question that ought to weigh head of the league of nations to he goes. settle by arbitration the troubles th t threaten war. The Journal believes his appoint- meet his approval; but The Journal recompensed for what he had done What other distinguished Amerworld-wide approval, for Mr. Bryan concerned about the adoption of his tion as a reward." The question, he placed at the head of the league?is known throughout the civilized ideals of government and for the argued, was one of availability, and Montgomery, Ala., Journal.



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ideals for bringing about permanent His popularity is not confined to par- official honors he would accept the with the party is, whether the party peace and honor as the head of the league if can be strengthened and aided by his Deace, and he would do more than ties, as was shown by the demonstra-any one else their power for the nomination more than any one else " any one else that could be named to tion in his behalf in the republican he could strengthen its power for the nomination more than any one else." prevent war by words and deeds and convention at Chicago that nom- good of mankind and the achieve- The conclusion to be drawn is his concention words and deeds and convention at Chicago that nom- ment of its great purpose. He made clear that if he can strengthen and his conception of the grave duties inated Taft, and as is shown him in ment of its great purpose. He made clear that if he can strengthen and that would don't the grave duties inated Taft, and as is shown him in ment of its great purpose. He made clear that if he can strengthen and that would devolve upon him as the every town and hamlet or wherever clear his attitude many years ago aid the league in the accomplishment toward public office. When asked if of the grave and vital work for

about this suggestion, and it may not nothing, that he "has been amply position if tendered him.

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toward public office. When asked if of the grave and vital work for But it should be said in behalf of he would accept a third nomination, which it was created, "more than arising between nations, troubles Mr. Bryan that he knows nothing he said that the party owed him any one else," he would accept the

ment or selection for this high honor knows his position on questions of and what he has endeavored to do, ican so well deserves the honor and would meet not his high honor knows his position on questions of and that he cannot claim a nomina- should other than an American he would meet not only nation-wide but this character, that while he is more and that he cannot claim a nomina- should other than an American be world-wide and only nation-wide but this character, that while he is more big tion as a reward." The question, he placed at the head of the league?