

SUGGESTS LEAGUE HEAD

March 19, 1860, just 59 years ago today, William Jennings Bryan was born. In commemoration of that event, his 59th birthday, The Journal avails itself of the occasion, an opportune time, to suggest an even higher 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 ideals for bringing about permanent peace, and he would do more than any one else that could be named to prevent war by words and deeds and his conception of the grave duties that would devolve upon him as the head of the league of nations to settle by arbitration the troubles arising between nations, troubles that threaten war.

The Journal believes his appointment or selection for this high honor would meet not only nation-wide but world-wide approval, for Mr. Bryan is known throughout the civilized

world, and he is universally popular. His popularity is not confined to parties, as was shown by the demonstration in his behalf in the republican convention at Chicago that nominated Taft, and as is shown him in every town and hamlet or wherever he goes. But it should be said in behalf of Mr. Bryan that he knows nothing about this suggestion, and it may not meet his approval; but The Journal knows his position on questions of this character, that while he is more concerned about the adoption of his ideals of government and for the

betterment of mankind than in official honors he would accept the honor as the head of the league if he could strengthen its power for the good of mankind and the achievement of its great purpose. He made clear his attitude many years ago toward public office. When asked if he would accept a third nomination, he said that the party owed him nothing, that he “has been amply recompensed for what he had done and what he has endeavored to do, and that he cannot claim a nomination as a reward.” The question, he argued, was one of availability, and

“the question that ought to weigh with the party is, whether the party can be strengthened and aided by his nomination more than any one else.” The conclusion to be drawn is clear that if he can strengthen and aid the league in the accomplishment of the grave and vital work for which it was created, “more than any one else,” he would accept the position if tendered him. What other distinguished American so well deserves the honor and should other than an American be placed at the head of the league?—Montgomery, Ala., Journal.



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