

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 19, NO. 5

Lincoln, Nebraska, May, 1919

Whole Number 721

Welcome, World Peace

The Allies have submitted to the German representatives the terms of the treaty. As the readers of *The Commoner* have learned these terms from the daily papers it is not necessary to reprint them. They are harsh but just. The military party of Germany was permitted to take charge of the government and direct its policy; it plunged the world into the bloodiest war in all history, and in moments of success it gave the Allies an intimation of what terms it would have imposed had been victorious. The treaty forced upon Russia is a sufficient illustration of the militarists' idea of justice. The burden put upon Germany, heavy as it is, is much less than the burden of debt which she has imposed upon the Allies and SMALL compared with the total cost of the war, in so far as the cost can be measured by dollars. If the German government accepts the terms in good faith and proceeds to carry them out the world will enter upon a new era — an era of peace which may never be broken.

The League of Nations gives the world what it has never had before, namely, machinery for peace — machinery which provides a substitute for war. The United States furnished the plan when it entered into thirty treaties providing for investigation of ALL-disputes before a resort to war. This plan is the foundation upon which the League of Nations is built. Disarmament and the abolition of secret treaties were added to compulsory investigation, and these three make war almost impossible.

Welcome, World Peace!

W. J. BRYAN.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEXT

If, as it is expected, the woman suffrage amendment is submitted when congress convenes, the governors in the states friendly to the amendment should call special sessions so that the amendment can be ratified before 1920. We need woman's conscience in politics even more than women need the ballot.

GIVE HIM HIS JOB

The receptions to returning soldiers are enthusiastic, as they should be — no welcome can be too cordial, but what of re-employment? What shall it profit if he whip the whole world and lose his place among his country's producers?

League of Nations, Yes; Anglo-French-American Alliance, No

The morning papers of May 10 contain the following announcement given out from the White House:

"Happily there is no mystery or privacy about what I have promised the government here. I have promised to propose to the senate a supplement in which we shall agree, subject to the approval of the council of the League of Nations, to come immediately to the assistance of France

the certainty of recurring wars to the prospect of settling all future disputes by reason.

But entering into an ALLIANCE with ANY European country is an entirely different matter.

The press dispatches have reported that the President would lay the proposed alliance treaty before the senate WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION, and leave it to the judgment of the senate. Let us hope that he will not ask for, or advise, ratification; but whether he asks for ratification or not THE ALLIANCE TREATY SHOULD BE REJECTED. It is a reflection on the good faith of the League of Nations and an argument against its value. It draws us into European disputes and compels us to put our army and navy at the disposal of Great Britain and France without giving us any authority to prevent the acts that may lead to war. If France is ever attacked we can decide at the time whether the attack is unprovoked, and whether we should go to her rescue. We will have as much sense then as we have now and more light.

The wranglings at the conference showed that our nation was the only one that was fighting unselfishly for world betterment — we spent over one hundred thousand lives and billions of money, and we asked neither land nor indemnity. We cannot afford to be yoked up with nations whose commercial and territorial ambitions make it impossible for them to share our altruistic views. No entangling alliances should be made with the empires of the old world.

The proposed alliance treaty should be rejected by a majority so decisive that Europe will understand that we reserve the right to decide war questions when wars come, and that we will not surrender the constitutional right of congress to declare war. If we want a referendum on war we will submit the questions to our own people and not to the parliaments or assemblies of the other countries.

W. J. BRYAN.

GROWTH OF AN IDEA

It is interesting to note the growth of an idea. In February 1905 *The Commoner* suggested a peace plan; viz., INVESTIGATION OF ALL DISPUTES BEFORE RESORT TO WAR. In 1916 the plan was indorsed by a peace congress in London. A little later President Taft used a part of it in two peace treaties that failed of ratification. In January 1913 it was approved by President-elect Wilson. Between August 8, 1913, and June 9, 1915, it was embodied in thirty treaties with nations containing three-quarters of the population of the globe. In 1919 it is made the chief corner-stone of the League of Nations. It proves anew the power of truth to triumph over all opposition. W. J. BRYAN.



The paperweights which Mr. Bryan, while Secretary of State, had made and presented to each of thirty diplomats who signed with him treaties for investigation in all cases. The miniature plowshares were made of steel and nickel-plated. The steel was composed of melted swords; this explains the inscription—"They shall beat their swords into plowshares."

in case of unprovoked attack by Germany, thus merely hastening the action to which we should be bound by the covenant of the League of Nations."

The League of Nations furnishes machinery for peace and should be ratified at once. To reject the League of Nations would be to choose

CONTENTS

WELCOME, WORLD PEACE
LEAGUE OF NATIONS, YES; ANGLO-FRENCH-AMERICAN ALLIANCE, NO
LABOR'S VICTORY
THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS DENOUNCES PRIMARY APPEAL
NOT A FAIR TRIAL
LEAGUE OF NATIONS COVENANT GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP VS. PRIVATE MONOPOLY
SUMMARY OF THE PEACE TREATY
APPLIED CHRISTIANITY