

The Commoner

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Ratify the League of Nations. Defeat the proposed alliance. The League will promote peace—the alliance leads to war.

Close the Door

Congress has it in its power to close the door against the saloon by a resolution extending statutory prohibition to January 16th, 1920, when constitutional prohibition begins. It is not certain when demobilization will be completed, and the wets are so eager for the saloons to be reopened that they will bring all the pressure possible to hasten the discharge of the soldiers.

The government ought not to act under coercion; it should be permitted to proceed with demobilization with an eye single to the country's interests. Why not end the agony of the liquor interests by immediately burying the corpse?

The country is now saloonless, and every day that the sale of liquor is suspended, the greater will be the harm done by the reopening of drinking places. The people have spoken; forty-five states out of forty-eight have endorsed constitutional prohibition as a permanent policy of the country. There is no turning back. Why dally with the subject longer? Congress can end the suspense, and should do so immediately. The senate by a vote of five to one refused to consider the repeal of war prohibition. The prohibition majority in the house is greater than it was when the amendment was submitted, and it was then more than two to one. Congress should act immediately and settle the question for all time.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE SENATE WILL RATIFY

The League of Nations is a substitute for war—it furnishes machinery for peace. It is no longer necessary for nations to resort to force—the league provides an easier method of settling international disputes. The senate will ratify; it cannot ignore the overwhelming sentiment of the people.

One more than one-third of the senate can reject a treaty, but it takes a majority of the voters to determine the policy of the nation.

If, by any chance, the senate fails to ratify, the question will be settled at the next election and there will be no doubt of the result. More

than one-half of the women will vote in 1920—probably all of them—and they will treat the god of war as they did the rum god. The treaty will be ratified—the sooner the better.

W. J. BRYAN.

Profiteering

To the Governors who intend calling Special Sessions of the Legislature:

Have you a state trade commission, similar to in power and authority to the national trade commission? If not, you should have. The masses should not be left to the mercy of the commercial classes with no power to protect themselves from exploitation. This is a mild and legitimate remedy—if a mild remedy is not provided a harsher remedy may be demanded later. The higher the dam the greater the danger when it is washed away.

And have your cities power to create local trade commissions? If not, they should have. There should be a remedy for every wrong and the trade commission, with ample power to investigate and publish the facts, will furnish a real remedy.

Every state and every municipality should have a trade commission—no time should be lost in creating them where they have not already been provided.

W. J. BRYAN.

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A Destroying Force

An alliance with France is defended on the ground that it is necessary for her protection. The League of Nations gives France the same protection it does other nations. A league within the league would not only discredit the league and proclaim our lack of faith in it, but it would be a destructive force. It would disintegrate the League of Nations and disappoint the hopes it has aroused. France might not mourn for she was opposed to the league from the beginning, but America would mourn and the whole world would suffer. The President announced at Manchester that our country was not interested in a league unless it included the whole world. He was right THEN and the people have not changed. That sentiment ought to cause the defeat of the proposed alliance by an overwhelming majority.

Ratify the League of Nations. Defeat the proposed ALLIANCE. Consistency requires that those who favor the league should oppose the alliance. They represent opposite policies.

W. J. BRYAN.

A PEACE MONUMENT

Why do not Germany and France follow the example of Argentina and Chile and put "a Christ in the Andes" on the boundary between the two nations? Nothing but the spirit of Christ will preserve peace.

THE ARMY REDUCED

The senate and house have agreed to leave the army at 325,000 for awhile. That is coming down toward normal. It will be reduced still more by the time the next army bill is considered.

LEAVE IT TO THE CHURCHES

Some of the churches use fermented wine for sacramental purposes and they should not be hampered with needless restrictions. It is safe to throw the responsibility on the church authorities; they are more interested than the general public in preventing an abuse of the privilege.

W. J. BRYAN.