

Alliance With France Unnecessary

Now that the proposed Treaty of Alliance with France is before the senate the country is prepared to consider and pass upon it. Believing that the treaty should be rejected by the senate I submit the following objections:

First: It is unnecessary. In his message presenting the treaty to the senate the President says: "It is believed that the treaty of peace with Germany itself provides adequate protection to France against aggression from her recent enemy on the east". If that is true it is not worth while to deviate from our course in the past and set a dangerous precedent for the future merely because "the years immediately ahead of us contain many incalculable possibilities". The possibilities of injury to us are more difficult to calculate than the possibilities of harm to France.

Second: The proposed alliance is a reflection upon the League of Nations and discredits it in advance. It proclaims to the world a lack of faith in the sufficiency of the League of Nations. We cannot afford to destroy confidence in that which we present as a cure for war.

Third: The proposed alliance forms a league within a league, the very thing which the President only a few months ago denounced as objectionable to the American people. It would create jealousies and enmities that would menace the very existence of the league. We cannot afford to risk the very effect of such an alliance on the league. And it must be remembered that France opposed the league and would be pleased if the alliance destroyed the league, while the United States would be greatly disappointed and humiliated before the world if the alliance wrought the overthrow of the League of Nations.

Fourth: The United States cannot afford to be "unequally yoked together" with a nation which does not have our point of view and has not yet caught the vision of the new era. France relies upon the sword and only desires a combination of powers strong enough to maintain peace by terrorism. We cannot afford to surrender our moral prestige, forfeit our position of independence and descend to her level. For more than a century we have protected the republics of Central and South America from European aggression and we have not demanded compensation in money or concessions. Under Mr. Cleveland's administration we were willing to go to war with Great Britain to protect the boundary line between Venezuela and a British possession. In 1898 we did go to war with Spain to aid Cuba to secure her independence, and when that independence was secured we hauled down our flag in order that the flag of a Cuban republic might be raised in its place. We went into the world war in order to make democracy safe everywhere and when the war was over we asked for no recompense except the satisfaction of seeing the world benefited. Our reward is sufficient if the late war can be made the last war to redden the earth with blood.

The President went to France, realizing that he must fight a single-handed battle against the selfish demands of other nations, and he made a great fight. Considering the difficulties he had to overcome it is astonishing that he secured as good a treaty as he did. Having rendered the world a great and disinterested service we must maintain our independence and be in position to throw our influence on the side of justice in any controversy that may arise and thus make the League of Nations a power for the promotion of peace.

Fifth: The proposed alliance is to remain in force until the council of the league shall agree that the provisions of the covenant of the league affords sufficient protection to France. In other words, the proposed alliance not only discredits the league but puts the termination of the alliance in the hands of a council in which foreign nations have control. We cannot afford to surrender the right to decide when this special protection of France shall cease. It is an abdication of sovereignty of which our nation cannot think of being guilty. In the League of Nations the council advises when and what force the nation shall employ but, as the President plainly points out, each nation reserves the right to decide whether it follow the advice and employ military force. In the proposed alliance with

- THE ROLL OF HONOR
- List of States That Have Ratified the National Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment
- 1—WISCONSIN, June 10, 1919.
 - 2—ILLINOIS, June 10, 1919.
 - 3—MICHIGAN, June 10, 1919.
 - 4—KANSAS, June 16, 1919.
 - 6—NEW YORK, June 16, 1919.
 - 7—PENNSYLVANIA, June 24, 1919.
 - 8—MASSACHUSETTS, June 25, 1919.
 - 9—TEXAS, June 28, 1919.
 - 10—IOWA, July 2, 1919.
 - 11—MISSOURI, July 3, 1919.
 - 12—ARKANSAS, July 28, 1919.
 - 13—MONTANA, July 30, 1919.
 - 14—NEBRASKA, August 2, 1919.

France no such right is reserved. We not only pledge the employment of force before the League of Nations can make any investigation but we permit the council of the League of Nations to decide how long we must continue to pledge our army and navy to the protection of a nation whose conduct we are powerless to control.

Sixth: We cannot afford to transfer to another government the right to decide WHEN this nation shall go to war. We now know what modern warfare is and it is more necessary than ever before to keep the war-making power in the hands of our own people. France does not pay us a very high compliment when she will not trust us to decide the question when the time for action arrives. In spite of the service that we have rendered to her she demands that we shall tie our hands and permit a French assembly to decide when American blood shall flow and American billions be spent.

The advocates of the proposed alliance have argued that congress will still retain the right to declare war, but that right is merely nominal—a shadow—if a declaration of war is pledged in advance.

Congress must be as free to say NO as to say YES if it is to retain its constitutional authority to decide the question of peace or war. If it is pledged in advance to a declaration of war whenever France demands it it cannot exercise its right to decide against war without declaring the treaty to be a scrap of paper.

The word "unprovoked" (it is an "unprovoked" attack that we promised to repel) is no protection to us because no time is allowed for investigation. We must act at once and investigate afterwards.

What the world needs is the cultivation of the spirit that DESIRES peace and WILLINGNESS to have peace on the basis of brotherhood. This spirit will not be encouraged by the formation of alliances for war—they have been the fruitful cause of war in the past and invite a reliance upon force instead of friendship. This nation is teaching the doctrine of brotherhood and in giving to the world the plan of the League of Nations it has embodied the spirit of brotherhood in the machinery that is to furnish a substitute for war. Its actions will belie its words if it encourages France to reject the only hope of world peace—the doctrine of brotherhood proclaimed by Him at whose coming the angels sang: "On earth peace, good will toward men."
W. J. BRYAN.

THE FIGHT ON WILLIAMS

The fight on Comptroller Williams is a credit to him; it is the best proof possible that he has done his duty to the public. Some republican senators may be partisan enough to vote against him because he is a democrat, but there will be enough fair-minded republicans to insure his confirmation. He is the best comptroller the nation has had in a generation. His official record proves this.

THEY MAY BE SORRY

By the time the republicans dispose of the League of Nations, the labor question, the railroad problem and the profiteer, they may be sorry they are in control of congress. Being in control they have to show their hand in constructive legislation—last year they could spend their time finding fault.

The Social Evil

The "wets" profess to be greatly worried lest the "morals squad" will turn its attention to tobacco. This is mere affectation. They know that the next evil to be attacked is the SOCIAL EVIL, the side partner of the saloon. The battle is more than half won when the saloon is banished, for drink has brought a multitude of men and women to sin and death. Below will be found an Associated Press dispatch of January 12, giving an appeal made by Surgeon General Blue to the churches on this subject:

"The government of the United States is asking the churches of the country to take an active part in meeting a great national emergency.

"The war made it necessary for the nation to face frankly and courageously the menace of the venereal diseases. Now the war is over and the period of demobilization has begun, drastic measures must be taken to prevent, during this period, those conditions in civilian life which made these diseases the greatest cause of disability in the army.

"In the army and navy a program of law enforcement, medical measures, education and provision for wholesome recreation was adopted. This program brought results. The venereal rate was lowered below that of any army or any nation in the history of the modern world.

"Now that the war is over the cities and towns, through which the soldiers and sailors will go, and to which they will return, upon demobilization, must be made as safe as the camps from which they have come. The fight against this menace to our national vitality and to our homes must be vigorously continued.

"It is the social responsibility of the communities, of which the churches of every denomination are a part, to continue the work carried on in time of war that the world may be made safe, not only for democracy but for posterity."

What answer will the liquor interests make to this new attack on "personal liberty?"
W. J. BRYAN.

AN IMPORTANT RESERVATION

In speaking of our nation's right to decide for itself whether it will employ force, the President says:

"The covenant of the League of Nations provides for military action for the protection of its members only upon advice of the council of the league—advice given, it is to be presumed, only upon deliberation and acted upon by each of the governments of the member states only if its own judgment justifies such action."

This ought to be a sufficient answer to those who contend that the League of Nations compels us to turn our army and navy over to the league council.

The President's interpretation given officially before ratification is binding and ought to remove all fear. The republican senators can now accept the League of Nations and ratify the treaty.
W. J. BRYAN.

CIVILIZATION



—New York Evening Telegram.