

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 19, NO. 10

Lincoln, Nebraska, October, 1919

Whole Number 726

Attention, Democrats

The campaign approaches: are you ready? Upon what issues will the battle be fought? Who can lead with greatest assurance of success? Please give The Commoner your opinion on these questions at once. These matters will be discussed in the next issue, and the opinion of the readers will throw light on the situation. The democratic party must remain the champion of the people: it is the hope of the nations. Will you help to win the next national election by helping to start the party right in the writing of the platform and in the selection of candidates? Talk with your neighbors and then write to The Commoner.

UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU.

W. J. BRYAN.

JOHN BARLEYCORN IS DEAD

By a vote of 231 to 70, the house of representatives adopted the conference report on the bill to enforce prohibition. The senate having previously adopted the report without roll call, the bill now goes to the President. The long drawn out fight is over. **THE SALOON GOES OUT FOREVER.** The liquor interests that used to dominate the nation and the several states were unable to muster **ONE-FOURTH** of the members on the final roll call. It is a wonderful triumph for the conscience of America.

"He has sounded out the trumpet that shall never call retreat!"

THE PRESIDENT IMPROVES

After several days of painful suspense, the public rejoices that the President is recovering from his recent breakdown. No man has ever borne a heavier load of care or borne it for a longer time. The strain was unparalleled. It is a wonder that he stood it for so long. His progress toward health is watched with keen satisfaction.

W. J. BRYAN.

KENTUCKY

Both parties in Kentucky have indorsed but every dry should vote and make the majority overwhelming. Take no chances.

THE PEOPLE MUST RULE

So far the commercial interests have generally been able to stifle state legislation aimed at the profiteer, but another election is near. The people should get busy **AT ONCE** and nominate men who can be relied upon. Even these men should be pledged **OPENLY** and **UNEQUIVOCALLY** to specific remedies for profiteering. The one imperative need is **MACHINERY** in state and city sufficient to compel inquiry. The merchants have courts; they have their remedy against their patrons, but the patrons have no remedy against the merchants. It is a one-sided situation; it **MUST BE CORRECTED.** The people have it in their power to correct it at the polls.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

[Abstract of speech delivered by Mr. Bryan at Washington, D. C., September 24th, 1919.]

Mr. Chairman:

Before taking up the treaty or the covenant of the League of Nations, I venture to express my gratification that we are about to abandon the old doctrine of conquest and enter upon a new era in which the taking of territory by force will not be permitted. Objection has been made that it will prevent the doing of things that we have commended in the past. All progress is a repudiation of the past. Our nation like other nations has taken territory by force of arms, as, for instance, in the war with Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah and part of Colorado were ceded to us as a part of the settlement, but shall we refuse to turn over a new leaf because we have in the past employed the old ways?

As late as 1898, in the war with Spain, we took Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands. Is that any reason why we should stand out against Article 10, which preserves for the future the integrity of nations large and small? And, speaking of the Philippines, it is interesting to note the change that has taken place in the opinions of those who favored the holding of the Philippines. Senator Lodge, for instance, made a speech on the 20th of June, 1900, as permanent chairman of the republican convention then being held in Philadelphia, in which he defended the holding of the Philippines. He stated: "We make no hypocritical pretense of being interested in the Philippines solely on account of others. While we regard the welfare of these people as a sacred trust, we regard the welfare of the American people first. We see our duty to ourselves as well as to others. We believe in trade expansion. By every legitimate means within the province of government and legislation we mean to stimulate the expansion of our trade and to open new markets. Greatest of all markets is China. Our trade there is growing by leaps and bounds. Manila, the prize war, gives us inestimable advantages in developing that trade."

It is the cornerstone of our eastern policy, and the brilliant diplomacy of John Hay in securing from all nations a guarantee of our treaty rights and of the open door in China rests upon it. We ask the American people if they will throw away these new markets and widening opportunities for trade and commerce by putting in power the democratic party, who seek, under cover of a newly discovered affection for the rights of man, to give up these islands in the East, and make Dewey's victory fruitless."

Senator Lodge spoke rather harshly of the doctrine of "the rights of man" at that time. He put our commercial interests above the welfare of the Filipinos. He did not even promise that the islands would be turned back, and 16 years later he voted against the Jones bill granting autonomous government and promising independence. As the President points out, he did not protest against taking of Shantung by the Germans; he did not protest the taking of other land from China by other nations. He has certainly travelled a long way, if he can judge by his criticism of the Shantung provision in the treaty, even though Japan promised to return the land to China. My answer to this criticism is that it is better for China to trust her case to the League of Nations than to risk the chaos that might follow if the treaty was not ratified by the United States, or even if long delay precluded ratification.

The first question to be decided in considering the League of Nations is whether it is **DESIRABLE** to prevent war. I take it for granted that few will answer in the negative. Then comes the question, is it **POSSIBLE** to prevent war? If not, then the promises held out by the league are futile; but a large majority of the world today believe that it is **POSSIBLE** to prevent war, and this is the real issue presented by the League of Nations. It is the doctrine of Christ against the teachings of Nietzsche. The latter regarded war not only necessary but desirable; Christianity holds out the hope of universal and perpetual peace.

If peace is desirable and possible it is fair to inquire whether the covenant of the League of Nations is calculated to bring peace. I believe it is. The investigation of all questions before war, with nine months time for deliberation, will in itself make war almost impossible. The President describes this provision as "the heart of the covenant" and calls attention to the fact that no senator has yet attacked this provision. It is taken from the 30 treaties that bind us to three-quarters of the world. The treaties were ratified by our senate without opposition. No objections were then made to the surrender, for one year, of our right to declare war, and no one then doubted the value of the treaties as a means of insuring peace.

The reduction of armaments is another long step toward peace and the abolition of secret

CONTENTS

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS
THE PEOPLE MUST RULE
OHIO, THE BATTLE-GROUND
TIME FOR ACTION
MAKE BONDS SECURE
HAVE THEY CHANGED?
PEACE AT HOME
A SPLENDID SUGGESTION
PRESIDENT TELLS WOMEN LEAGUE
WILL SAVE SONS FROM WARS
THE DUAL PLAN FOR OWNERSHIP AND
OPERATION OF RAILROADS
PRESIDENT ANSWERS QUESTIONS