

Placing the Blame

The World-Herald (Omaha) displays more wisdom in its news columns than it does on the editorial page. A recent issue contains the following dispatch from Washington:

"Washington, D. C., Aug. 1.—Does Europe face an engulfing war such as she has just emerged from—or will the Polish crisis blow over?"

"Authorities here on European affairs fear that no such good fortune will come. They believe that instead of 'blowing over' the Polish affair may develop into a second world war, bringing as its awful consequences a union between Russian sovietism and the German people, and all the ruin that a militant, alliance between those insidious forces would be expected to bring.

"Washington is worried as it has not been since the dark days of early 1917—not that we would have to take a hand in the conflict at an early date, or that we ever would have to do so.

"What is to blame for this condition?"

"Washington knows the answer full well. It was the failure of the allied nations to clinch the victory earned with arms by a quickly consummated peace. And this nation, Washington admits, was the only nation which held back and refused to ratify the peace treaty. It was this that gave heart to Germany, it was this that made it impossible for England and France and Italy to deal firmly with Russia, and it was this that made small nations of Europe hopeful for the dawn of a new era, realize that no such era will come until the great liberty-loving nation, the greatest democracy of the world, came whole-heartedly into the agreement to promote world peace.

"Ratification of the peace treaty a year ago by the United States would have created a vastly different situation in Europe. Without question it would have spared that continent vast embarrassments which have come upon it in the year of indecision by the United States. The ideals of peace that obtained then—ideals founded wholly upon the American conception of international relations—have been shattered abroad as it has been seen that partisans in our own country were assailing them. For what chance had the doctrine of unselfish world peace, when the means to produce it was being attacked savagely at the very fountain head?"

"In other words, so Washington sees the fight made in America against the league of nations, which was destined to bring world peace, encouraged the foes of that league abroad, and made it possible for them to sow the seeds of discontent upon which the present crisis is founded. Ratification of the peace treaty, when it was submitted to this nation, would have prevented this, so Washington officials firmly believe, and they are more chagrined than by any merely partisan consideration that this is the case. Nor are they alone chagrined—they are fearful lest out of it will come another war into which we must inevitably be drawn and which may have an outcome so horrible that not even the staunchest soul dare contemplate it now."

On March 19, 1920, 34 Republican senators and 23 Democratic senators voted (or were paired) in favor of RATIFICATION with reservations that they accepted, but Senator Hitchcock and 19 other Democrats joined with 19 IRRECONCILABLE enemies of the treaty and DEFEATED RATIFICATION. Who is responsible for our nation's failure to enter the League of Nations and for the wars that may follow—the 57 senators (34 Republicans and 23 Democrats) who tried to ratify or the 39 senators (24 Democrats and 15 Republicans) who prevented ratification? Did Senator Hitchcock and his 19 colleagues act on their own judgment or did they follow the President's instructions?

W. J. BRYAN.

DRYS LOSE FRIEND

The Associated Press dispatches of August 1 carried the shocking news of the death of J. Frank Hanly, former governor of Indiana and candidate for president on the Prohibition ticket in 1916, who was killed when an automobile which was carrying him to a speaking appointment was struck by a train near Dennison, Ohio. Governor Hanly consecrated his great ability and rare talent to the fight against the saloon

at a time when it required faith and courage to do so. He rendered a service of incalculable value to his country and contributed in a large measure to the securing of national prohibition. His ripe experience and increasing prestige made him a power in the larger fight for world prohibition. His tragic and untimely death is a grievous loss to our cause. I share the sorrow that overwhelms his family and friends.

W. J. BRYAN.

IT WILL COME BACK

"My heart is in the grave with our cause, and I must pause until it comes back to me," said Mr. Bryan on the nomination of Gov. Cox, in emulation of the great orator, Mark Antony, speaking over the open coffin of the murdered Caesar.

Mr. Bryan would have made a great Shakespearean actor, particularly in the historical plays where he might have secured heavy oratorical roles after his heart. It is clear that he has perused to some purpose the purple patches of Antony's oration, though his rendering does not follow it as closely as a Shakespearean student might have desired. For our part, we are certain that Mr. Bryan can make a better speech than the actual Antony ever made or heard in this world.

Mr. Bryan's case is not half so desperate as he likes to believe. His convention record is that of having won an important victory, and having lost one fight that may not turn out to be a loss at all.

He won on the question of reservations, which was the biggest single issue put up to the Democracy at San Francisco. He lost on his effort to get a plank stating the party's attitude on liquor, but this does not mean that the party is going wet. The record of the Democratic nominee on the other hand would indicate that he is a man to enforce the laws of the land whether they are to his own or anybody else's liking.

The Commoner should compare his own showing with that of the present occupant of the White House, who lost out both on the platform and on the nominee. The convention simply refused to follow its minority leaders, fearing that it might be led into the wilderness, and of the two such leaders Mr. Bryan ought to extract the more comfort out of the situation.—Memphis, Tenn., News-Scimitar.

FROM A CALIFORNIA FRIEND

The following letter was sent to Mr. Bryan by W. W. Ferrier, editor and manager of "The Pacific," published in the interests of the Congregational church of the Pacific coast:

Berkeley, July 4, 1920.—The Hon. William Jennings Bryan, San Francisco, Cal. My Dear Mr. Bryan: Admiring and rejoicing over the stand you have taken in the Democratic national convention and recalling your attitude on many other questions having to do in recent years with the welfare of mankind, I enclose two stanzas of poetry which come to mind and link themselves up with you:

Where are you going, Great-Heart?
"To lift Today above the Past;
To make Tomorrow sure and fast;
To nail God's colors to the mast."
Then God go with you Great-Heart!

Where are you going, Great-Heart?
"To cleanse the earth of noisome things,
To draw from life its poison-stings,
To give free play to Freedom's wings."
Then God go with you, Great-Heart!
God go with you, Great-Heart!

A HOME OF PROHIBITION LEADERS

"In addition to the things mentioned by The Journal as reasons why the prohibitionists should feel at home in Lincoln," writes an old time dry citizen, "you should have mentioned the fact that some of the great heroes of the movement have lived in this city. John B. Finch really started the Nebraska temperance wave from Lincoln forty years ago. W. E. Johnson, now known around the world as 'Pussyfoot' lived here as a young man. Hon. Charles H. Randall of California once lived here. Perhaps the man now most feared and dreaded by the wets is W. J. Bryan, who has been a citizen of Lincoln during his entire political career. As you say, the prohibitionists ought to feel entirely at home in this community."—Nebraska State Journal.

Which Plank Has Teeth?

Below will be found the platform promise of the Democratic, Republican, and Prohibition parties against profiteering. Which one has teeth in it?

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM PLEDGE

"The simple truth is that the high cost of living can only be remedied by increased production, strict governmental economy and a relentless pursuit of those taking advantage of post-war conditions and are demanding and receiving outrageous profits.

"We pledge the Democratic party to a policy of strict economy in governmental expenditures and to the enactment and enforcement of such legislation as may be required to bring profiteers before the bar of criminal justice."

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM PLEDGE

"But as the political party that throughout its history has stood for honest money and sound finance, we pledge ourselves to earnest and consistent attack upon the high cost of living by vigorous avoidance of further inflation in our government borrowing, by courageous but intelligent deflation of overexpanded credit and currency, by encouragement and heightened production of goods and services, by prevention of unreasonable profits, by exercise of public economy and stimulation of private thrift, and by revision of war imposed taxes unsuited to peacetime economy.

"We condemn the Democratic administration for failure impartially to enforce the anti-profiteering laws enacted by the Republican congress."

PROHIBITION PLATFORM PLEDGE

"The prohibition party pledges the nation to rid it of the profiteer and to close the door against his return. It will endeavor to eliminate all unnecessary middlemen by the encouragement of organizations among producers that will bring those who sell and those who use nearer together. It will enact and enforce laws that will effectively prevent excessive charges by such middlemen as are necessary. To this end it will demand legislation subjecting to the penalties of the criminal law all corporate officers and employers who give or carry out instructions that result in extortion; it will make it unlawful for anyone engaged in interstate commerce to make the sale of one article dependent upon the purchase of another article and it will require dealers to disclose to customers the difference between cost price and selling price or limit the profit that can be legally charged as the rate of interest is now limited.

THE HERO OF SAN FRANCISCO

Gangs of eastern wets went to San Francisco convention with full determination to insert a wet plank in the Democratic national platform at all hazards.

With consummate skill, they laid their plans to forestall the possibilities of failure and to insure success.

The well laid plans of the wets struck a snag of large dimensions at San Francisco. William Jennings Bryan, the champion of the American home, was there.

In a speech of great eloquence and power, Mr. Bryan pleaded for civic righteousness, political sobriety and for safety of American boys and girls with the result that the wet plank was defeated in a subsequent vote by a majority of more than two to one. Mr. Bryan's speech was greeted with a tremendous demonstration of approval lasting 23 minutes. Notwithstanding this, the delegates defeated Mr. Bryan's dry plank. Persuasion of the truth is one thing and political expediency is quite another.

It is probably true had it not been for Mr. Bryan's presence in the convention, the wet hordes would have accomplished their purpose. To have thwarted such a desperate, well-oiled attempt, is in itself a conspicuous achievement. There is nothing more magnificent in American history than Mr. Bryan's stand against tremendous odds in this Democratic convention.

All honor to William Jennings Bryan, hero, patriot, champion of American boys and girls and Christian statesman! His lance has never been lowered before any foe of civic righteousness.—American Issue.