

Borah on Reduction of Armaments

On another page will be found Senator Borah's resolution looking toward the reduction of navies by the United States, Great Britain and Japan. It is sound in principle and well worded; it should be adopted at once. If congress will suggest such a conference the President will doubtless concur and extend the invitation immediately. His recent refusal to send delegates to the League conference on disarmament was based solely on the fact that we are not members of the League. It did not indicate any personal objection to disarmament: on the contrary, he is known to favor disarmament, as every one must who is interested in world peace.

The demand for reduction is imperative: delay is dangerous. The leading nations are increasing their appropriations for both army and navy. This is especially true in Great Britain, France, Japan and the United States. In this country the army cost 99 millions in 1914 (before the war) and the navy 140 millions. This year the army costs 419 millions and the navy 437 millions. But this increase in six years, astounding as it is, is surpassed by the estimates for next year which call for 814 millions for the army and 692 millions for the navy. Rivalry, if continued, would mean the absolute bankruptcy of the nations participating. But it can not continue. It will be stopped in Europe by revolution if not by legislation: in this country it will be stopped by the common sense of the people acting through congress. Senator Borah is right and ought to have the unanimous support of the Senate and House, regardless of party. Disarmament will doubtless be a part of the plan of the association of nations as it was of the league of nations: we can not begin disarmament too soon.

W. J. BRYAN.

LET THE MAJORITY RATIFY

Congressman Ayres of the Wichita (Kas.) district has introduced the following resolution:

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution providing a majority of the United States Senate may ratify a treaty.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

"ARTICLE—

"That the President shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided a majority of the Senators present concur."

It should be submitted at once and ratified. Mr. Ayres has attacked the REAL cause of the delay that has kept us out of the League.

LET US HOPE

The Columbus Citizen says:

"Pre-war prices for lard and meats of all kinds were quoted to the board of administration Tuesday for the January supply for state institutions. Lard was quoted at 13 cents, a decline of 6 cents a pound over the December prices, hams were 5 cents cheaper, being quoted at 21 cents; bacon at 20 cents was 4 cents a pound lower, and dressed beef at \$10.37 a hundred pounds was 2 cents cheaper. The new prices mean a saving of several thousand dollars to the state."

Now that the farmer is SELLING his meat at pre-war prices let us hope that he may be able to BUY what he needs at pre-war rates.

OHIO'S PROGRESSIVE DRY RECORD

1914—Wet Majority	84,152
1915—Wet Majority	55,408
1917—Wet Majority	1,137
1918—Dry Majority	25,759
1919—Dry Majority	41,853
1920—Dry Majority	290,141

It seems to be generally agreed that the millenium will have arrived when the retailers who marked up their goods as the markets rose will set cheerfully about marking them down as the market falls—but it should be added that there are no signs that the millenium is close at hand.

HARDING AND BRYAN IN CONSULTATION

What an anomaly William Jennings Bryan has become in American politics, or, for that matter, in world politics; what a unique figure. Who has been so often or so repeatedly rejected from a partisan standpoint? Who has found it so difficult to gain office by election? Yet who has more distinctly stamped his personality on the drift of events?

It has been said of several Americans that they were too great for the presidency. It may be too early for that to be said of Bryan, yet it would not be surprising to find him ranked with Webster, Calhoun and Clay, in this particular, at some future day.

Since his appearance on the national stage in 1896 he has fathered many reforms. Most of them have found a more or less definite expression in our political views.

Scarcely one but what was received with smiles, if not ridicule, at the outset, yet how many of the Bryan suggestions are we not following out right now?

Under such circumstances, is it surprising that he should be called into consultation by the Republican president-elect, especially on a matter he is so earnestly interested in, and on which he is well qualified to speak, as world peace?

How well many remember his arbitration treaties when they were first announced. What a makeshift they seemed. But we were all tense and rigid then, preferring inflexible things, because of the influence of a great tragedy in the making.

As the war developed, we grew more tense and rigid, more in favor of iron-bound methods, more amenable to arbitrary, unbending supervision. Emerging from the gigantic struggle, we looked with enthusiasm on the hard and brittle covenant presented for our consideration. We wanted not only a peace pact, but such a pact as no nation could possibly overstep.

In this mood, Bryan's arbitration treaties seemed more tenuous, more impotent than ever, and the thought of what they might have accomplished, or what they might still accomplish, was quietly forgotten.

Now, however, it suddenly comes to the surface again, and with redoubled force. Even Mr. Root says he is not sure but that it offers the safest foundation on which to build, and President-Elect Harding is so impressed that he wishes to get the whole idea from the lips of Bryan himself.

None of us can foretell the outcome of all this controversy over the best method by which to inaugurate a permanent movement for world peace. There is a mighty jangling of opinions, and a mightier web of cross purposes to be cleared away.

But, and this is the point we started out to make, it is a paradox of paradoxes that Mr. Bryan should be sitting among national counsellors again, especially with the Republicans in power.—Houston, Texas, Chronicle.

CELEBRATE JANUARY 16, 1921

The suggestion has been made that inasmuch as January 16, the anniversary of Constitutional Prohibition, falls on Sunday this year, the churches of the nation should observe the event with appropriate ceremony. American Issue commends the idea.

It should be an occasion not only of rejoicing over the success achieved, a success bought with years of sacrifice and labor, but should also be a time for reconsecration to the unfinished task of completely annihilating the beverage liquor traffic.

No more worthy work can be undertaken by Christian citizens than that of thoroughly establishing prohibition in America through legislation, law enforcement and education.

If one service on January 16, 1921, of every church be given to a celebration of the Constitutional Prohibition anniversary, making law enforcement the keynote, a law enforcement sentiment will be created that will be of inestimable value throughout the year.

It will be a profitable and appropriate way to launch the second year's drive against the outlawed liquor traffic.—American Issue.

DR. ANNA SHAW

"She cut a path through tangled underwood Of old traditions out to broader ways. She lived to hear her work called brave and good, But oh! The thorns before the crown of bays. The world gives lashes to its pioneers Until the goal is reached—than deafening cheers."

The Allies' Debt to Us

The Allies are proposing that their short time obligations to us (amounting to nearly ten billions) be funded by the issue of long term bonds. This was to be expected, but why not use the debt to purchase world disarmament? The debt will never be paid and the longer it stands the more irritation it will cause. Its existence will be a continuing excuse for longer indemnity demands—demands which will create conditions that will delay if not prevent world disarmament. The sooner the debt is settled the better. If we collect the entire debt it will not equal the amount we will spend on the army and navy during the period required for its collection; if we can secure world disarmament now we shall soon save enough to reimburse us for the loss.

It is not proposed to present the debt to the Allies as a gift; it should be cancelled ON CONDITION that the terms of the treaty shall be so revised as to establish a real peace—a peace resting on friendship and cooperation—one that will permit world disarmament.

W. J. BRYAN.

WAR REFERENDUM FOR ALL PEOPLES, MARION PROPOSAL

Robert T. Small in his special correspondence from Marion, Ohio, to the Washington Star, under date of December 14, says: New interest in the coming of William Jennings Bryan to Marion on Friday has been lent by a statement from Col. George Harvey, house guest of Senator and Mrs. Harding, that he and the President-elect have been discussing seriously the last few days the feasibility of the United States standing as sponsor for an association of peoples who shall pledge their respective governments for all time never to engage in offensive warfare until the question has been submitted to, and decided by, the people themselves.

This idea of a war referendum has been close to Mr. Bryan's heart for a long time. He espoused it with particular passion at the Jackson day dinners in Washington last January. He declared it was the people who suffered in time of war and he felt they should be consulted before the making of war was begun. This would not mean a vote of the people in the event of an invasion or an unwarranted attack by another power. The temper of the people in such circumstances would need no referendum to give itself expression.

Comparatively little attention was paid to Mr. Bryan's suggestion at the time it was made but now support for his plan has come from an unexpected quarter. Col. Harvey, who has been spending several days at the Harding home on Mount Vernon avenue, has announced the chief topic of conversation between him and the President-elect has been a proposal which he characterized as "dwarfing all previous propositions designed to perpetuate peace and to democratize the world."

So far as I can recall it, Mr. Bryan's plan for a referendum of the people before a declaration of war was to apply to the United States alone. Col. Harvey would have an association of nations agree to such a plan, with the United States, all-powerful in world affairs, standing as the sponsor for the entire organization.

Senator Harding himself has declined to discuss the matter, but Col. Harvey, while disclaiming any authority to speak for him, personally espoused the belief that a practicable plan could be devised through friendly consultation and helpful co-operation with other nations.

On the 1st of January Charles W. Bryan printed in the Nebraska State Journal a statement, duly authenticated and in plain language, that the retail coal dealers of Lincoln were profiteering to the extent of at least \$5 a ton on Illinois soft coal. He showed where the city of Omaha, operating a municipal coal yard, was selling for \$9.50 what the dealers of Lincoln were asking \$14 and \$15 a ton, and asked what explanation the dealers had to make of this, and why the city government of Lincoln did not follow the example of Omaha. As showing how bold and defiant business and business administrations are, neither the dealers nor the mayor had made any reply when this paragraph was written, days afterwards.

1921-23
21-23
305
FC-73