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Wessen Liga?

Der Gang der Ereignisse läßt es als sicher erscheinen, daß wir eine Liga der Nationen bekommen werden. Wenn es nicht Wilsons Liga ist, wird es Lenines Liga sein. Lenines Liga macht raschen Fortschritt. Sie umfaßt bereits Rußland und Ungarn. Sie macht rasenden Fortschritt in Böhmen, Rumänien und in Polen. Sie ist in Deutschland zeitweilig mit Hilfe von Maschinengewehren niedergekämpft worden; die Frage ist jedoch noch nicht erledigt. Ein Friede in Paris, der die große Masse des europäischen Volkes enttäuscht, indem er ihr nicht die Hoffnung auf eine Welt gibt, in der ausreichende Sicherheitsmaßregeln getroffen sind, um die Tragödie weiterer Kriege zu verhüten, wird die Basis einer bolschewistischen Propaganda bilden, die noch die wildesten Träume Lenines und Trotzkys vor drei Monaten übertreffen mag.

Jeder Versuch, den Präsidenten in Mißkredit zu bringen, arbeitet ihnen in die Hände. Alle Versuche, die vierzehn Punkte, die von allen Kriegführenden als Friedensbasis angenommen wurden, zu mißachten, sind Wasser auf die Mühle der Bolschewisten. Das sind die klaren und nicht mißzuverstehenden Tatsachen, die sich aus dem Stillstand der Verhandlungen in Paris ergeben. Während die Diplomatie unschlüssig hin- und herschwankt, feilscht und knickert, handelt das Bolschewikitum.

So schreibt eine Zeitung, die weder des krassen Radikalismus, noch des Pro-Germanismus angeklagt werden kann. So schreibt eine der größten und einflußreichsten Zeitungen des Landes, die in New York erscheinende Zeitung „The World".

Grund- und Ecksteine des Auslandhandels

Die Leiter des amerikanischen Geschäftslebens auf den verschiedensten Gebieten sind dabei, die Quadern für den geplanten großen Auslandhandel der Vereinigten Staaten zu behauen. Ende des Monats wird in Chicago die National Foreign Trade Convention stattfinden, auf der alle mit einer gesunden Exportbewegung zusammenhängenden Probleme gründlich besprochen werden sollen. Da wird über die Notwendigkeit eines großen Exports, über die dazu nötige Handelsflotte, über die finanzielle Ausrüstung der Nation für die Exportkampagne, über die Arbeiterinteressen am Auslandhandel, über die Tariffrage, und viele andere verwandte Dinge gesprochen werden.

Aus dem Programm der auf drei Tage berechneten Konferenz läßt sich ersehen, daß die amerikanische Geschäftswelt von der Notwendigkeit vergrößerter Absatzmärkte und verbesserter Exportmethoden für Industrie und Handel Amerikas heute mehr überzeugt ist, als früher.

Soweit die Spezialfragen in Betracht kommen, wird es auf der Konferenz nicht an sachverständiger Beleuchtung fehlen. Fragt sich nur noch, ob man auch für gründliche Beleuchtung des grundlegenden Problems sorgen wird: wie Europa, das Haupt-Absatzland für Amerika, so schnell als möglich zu einem kauffähigen Kontinent gemacht werden kann. Die schönste Lösung aller anderen Fragen hilft offenbar wenig, wenn die europäischen Länder so zerrüttet sind, daß an eine größere Einfuhr nicht gedacht werden kann.

Wie Europa wieder einigermaßen ruhigen und sicheren Verhältnissen entgegengeführt werden kann, das ist der Punkt, auf den es hauptsächlich ankommt und den die amerikanische Geschäftswelt besonders studieren muß, wenn sie nicht Enttäuschungen erleben will. Der Krieg hat Zustände geschaffen, die energisch gebessert werden müssen. Er hat Abgründe der nationalen Verhetzung aufgewühlt, die erst wieder angefüllt werden müssen, ehe sich ein Geschäftsverkehr über die europäischen Gebiete bewegen kann. In dem Europa, wie es heute ist, ist viel Zündstoff für Unruhen und weitere Kämpfe aufgehäuft. Wenn die Friedens-Konferenz es fertig bringt, damit aufzuräumen, dann wird das viel helfen. Aber Amerika sollte sich klar werden, daß es seinen besonderen Teil zur Heilung der Weltschäden und der europäischen Zerfahrenheit beitragen kann, indem es den bisher allzu sehr im Schwange befindlichen Tendenzen der Zerklüftung die kräftige Aktion zum Zusammenbringen aller Nationen entgegensetzt. Das wäre die beste Medizin für den Wirrwarr, der überall zu sehen ist. Der Haß hat die Adern der Welt lange genug durchpulst. Friede und Gedeihen ist nur möglich, wenn wir überall nur Menschen sehen und alle Ueberhebung und nationale Eifersucht fallen lassen.

Worte der Anerkennung

Einige Bemerkungen, die der Kommandeur der 27. Division, Generalmajor O'Ryan, gelegentlich einer Bewillkommnung durch die Bronxer Gewerbekammer äußerte, werden von unseren Lesern mit besonderem Interesse entgegen genommen werden. „Eine Liste der Gefallenen, der braven Toten unserer Division, würde sich fast wie ein Adreßbuch der Stadt Berlin lesen", erklärte er. „Der Prozentsatz deutscher Namen unter den Männern, die das höchste Opfer brachten, war erstaunenswert. Bei der Zerschmetterung der großen Hindenburg-Linie zeigte sich der Prozentsatz besonders bedeutend, und das war eine ebenso große Ueberraschung für den Feind, wie unsere Kampftaktik und Kampffähigkeit." Auf der anderen Seite ließ General O'Ryan den deutschen Truppen die Gerechtigkeit widerfahren, daß er konstatierte, „soweit unsere Wirksamkeit inbetracht kam, war der Feind im Kampfe „fair", und er wurde auch von uns „fair" behandelt." General O'Ryan hat als tapferer Soldat gesprochen.

Aus Jowa

Starb auf dem Bahnzug.

Shenandoah, Ja.—Frau Eliza Brownober, eine Frau von ungefähr 45 bis 50 Jahren, wurde als Leiche vom Bahnzug genommen. Sie starb zur Zeit, als der Zug die Station Riverton verließ und wie angenommen wird, am Herzschlag. Sie kam von Arkansas und soll zwei Neffen hier haben. Weiteres konnte zur Zeit nicht in Erfahrung gebracht werden.

Bankbeamter begeht Selbstmord.

Batavia, Ja.—W. A. Lewis, Kassierer der Batavia Bank, wurde tot auf der Weide unweit seiner Wohnung gefunden. Er hatte eine Schußwunde im Kopfe. Die Coroners Jury, welche den Sachverhalt untersuchte, kam nach längerer Untersuchung zu dem Befund, daß Lewis sich das Leben genommen habe. Er war ein Mann von 50 Jahren und hinterläßt eine Frau und vier Kinder. Er war Kassierer seit 22 Jahren und sollen die Bücher der Bank in gutem Zustande sein. Die Ursache der Tat wurde nicht ermittelt.

Küche durch Gasolin verbrannt.

Hastings, Ja., 5. April.—Anderw Wearin, ein junger Mann, hatte den Unrat in seinem Hofraum zusammengerecht, um denselben zu verbrennen. Er forderte seinen jüngeren Bruder auf, die Kerosinkanne zu holen, um durch Aufgießen desselben den Unrat besser zum brennen zu bringen. Der jüngere Bruder brachte jedoch aus Versehen eine Kanne mit Gasolin. Es erfolgte eine Explosion, wodurch der Knabe derart verletzt wurde, daß man wenig Hoffnung hat auf dessen Genesung.

90 Jahre alt und pflanzt Kartoffel.

Fontanelle, 5. April.—Kaptain Burton Freeman feierte letzte Woche seinen 90. Geburtstag dadurch, daß er Kartoffel pflanzte und andere Gartenarbeit verrichtete. Er ist ein Veteran des Bürgerkrieges. Er nahm Teil an der Schlacht Bull Run. Er erfreute sich stets einer guten Gesundheit.

Staatssekretär resigniert.

Des Moines, Ja., 5. April.—William S. Allen hat seine Resignation als Staatssekretär von Jowa eingesandt; dieselbe soll am 1. Juli in Kraft treten. Senator Arney, Mitglied des Senats-Ausschusses für Departmentwesen, gab diese Erklärung ab, nachdem er die Zustände im Automobil Departement des Staatssekretärs untersucht hatte.

Our Boys in France and in Germany.

(RALPH PULITZER'S STARTLING OBSERVATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY OF OCCUPATION.)

(Continued from last week.)

Marriage Banns Pronounced.

Besides these instances of offenses against good taste and national sensibilities which came under my personal observation I have been told by American officers of numerous cases in which Americans who were attracted by respectable French girls had become engaged to them, had had the first banns published, and then, after having made the most of the latitude which an engaged couple occasionally permits itself in France (and possibly not in France alone) had rejoined their command in distant billets leaving the girl in the lurch.

There are, too, in the A. E. F., as in any draft army, a certain number of members of the criminal class. They were the first to become members of the army of men absent without leave which has grown to such disturbing proportions since the armistice. These men gravitate to the larger cities and especially to Paris, where it is exceedingly difficult to run them down. They have been plying their old crooked trades of the pickpocket, the auto thief and the burglar, and while the number of these actual criminals is probably very small yet the stories of their exploits, which are carefully censored out of the French Press, become exaggerated as they run from mouth to mouth into an American crime wave.

These, then, Mr. Pulitzer insists, are the respective grievances of four men and of the French which have so sadly sapped the wholehearted loving kindness with which they first greeted each other. "I have deliberately laid greater stress on the French contentions than upon our own, not because I personally believe that they have the better case, not because, with our sympathies naturally behind our own men, and with these men returning in their hundreds of thousands to plead their own cause, the French contentions must be stressed if our public is to realize that there is any other side of the shield at all."

American Army Makes Itself at Home on Enemy Soil.

There is no use trying to blink the astonishing fact, Mr. Pulitzer declares, that the American Army of Occupation, as it made itself at home in its new billets in Germany, felt as if it had left an alien and unsympathetic country for a familiar and congenial land. And this seemed to hold good as much with the doughboy of old American stock as with him of German extraction.

From the beginning of my visit to the occupied zone to its end it was the same story without a single dissenting voice.

When I stepped off the train at Treves and asked a military policeman for the best hotel he gaped at me in amazement.

"Gee!" he muttered. "You sure got my goat! You're the first American in civilians clothes I've seen in over a year. It sure looks good to see one of you guys again!" This was a pleasant tribute to my having the good fortune to be the first American in mufti to follow the army into Germany.

With this claim on his friendliness, I asked him how he liked it in Treves.

"Gee! This is a swell town. Some change from France! This reminds me of my own home town. It's so clean and orderly. They wash the streets four times a day, and the houses are the same way. They ain't no dirt and they ain't no smells. Give me Germany every time!"

I walked about through the broad, spotless streets of the residential quarter amid rows of massive, prosperous looking houses, each of individual architectural design, many standing in their own grass plots, many esthetically hideous, but all looking solid, substantial and affluently modern. Numbers of them might make an artist writhe, but they were the mansions of a doughboy's dreams.

Amazing Multitudes of Children Swarm in the Streets of Treves.

Then I walked through the shopping district, with its broad streets, still spick and span, its German policemen and American M. P. directing traffic in perfect concert, its neat electric cars clanging by, its shop windows all brilliantly lighted and full of rather pathetic offerings to the Christmas shoppers. One of these windows was given over entirely to leather goods, and in the centre was one cynosure—a satchel ostentatiously marked: "This article is of genuine leather."

Other windows were filled entirely with Christmas tree decorations, imitation icicles and snow showers, little Christmas angels and all manner of tinsel and gewgaws. Here and there a couple of children would cross the street lugging a Christmas tree home between them. The whole atmosphere was saturated with a kind of naive sentiment not to be found in France, whose appeal to the doughboy far from home I could well imagine.

And the children! They romped along the street in perfectly amazing multitudes, startling me at first with the unexpected clatter of the wooden soles attached to their imitation leather uppers. Pink cheeked and chubby, they gave no signs of malnutrition. As they swarmed by I thought at first that the school of a whole district had just let them out round the corner, but I soon found that every block was the same. Many of the civilians voluntarily stepped off the sidewalk to make way for my foreign looking and therefore victorious clothes.

But the children fearlessly played tag around the grinning doughboys' legs—the insidious little propagandists!

Uncensored Comparisons.

After I had received the same replies to my question from a dozen soldiers, without hesitation or qualification, it struck me that perhaps the explanation for this unanimous preference for Germany was that the men were unfairly comparing two utterly incomparable situations—life in a comfortable modern city untouched by war with the inevitable filth and exposure and boredom of the trenches or front billets in France. I put this question to the next soldiers with whom I spoke. They all answered approximately to the same effect as the first one, who said:

"Not on your life! I was quartered in a French city 100 miles from the front and I'm comparing this town to that one, and there ain't anything to it. Their streets were dirty and their houses were disgusting and their habits were dirty, and they put me in mind of greasers more than anything else, and they soaked the life out of us. And look at these people here, how nice they run their town. They're what I call a self-respecting bunch!"

When I arrived at the station to take the train from Treves to Coblenz I found the German railway officials still in full charge of the train operation. The station master and train despatcher were stalking about in their imposing looking uniforms with a military carriage which they made no effort to conceal. I asked one M. P. on duty there what time the train left. He told me and added, 'And you'd better be on the train on time. This isn't France and these birds send their trains out on the dot!"

"Didn't Raise the Prices."

When I reached Coblenz it was late at night and a Y. M. C. A. man kindly volunteered to guide me to a good hotel.

I thought I might get a different point of view from the first American I had met who was not a soldier. But, no, it was the oft repeated tale; the boys were all crazy about it here, they couldn't get over how clean and neat it was; and the Germans treated them right; they didn't raise the prices on them, they were orderly and gave no trouble, they were good natured and obliging, they seemed so glad to be under us instead of the French that they were glad to do anything they

posing superior American political institutions on the rest of the world.

Feudal barons are not so much worse than beef barons, or Hohenzollern and Hapsburg kings than railway and kerosene kings that he can offer a substitution of one for the other as a contribution to the emancipation of the human race. The most convincing democratic asset he has to show is himself; and he may feel some delicacy about harping on it.

Moreover, what has just been said about the formal win-the-war coalitions of Europe is equally true about the virtual win-the-war coalition which stands behind Mr. Wilson.

Senator Lodge is hardly more of a democratic in foreign affairs than Lord Curzon; and the latest American elections have gone Mr. Lodge's way.

Will Need Rare Force of Character.

President Wilson will need that rare and mystical force of character that acts on the "evidence of things unseen" in the face of a very depressing mass of contrary evidence of things very glaringly visible.

He has made an enormous impression in Europe as a great man; in America he seems to be regarded merely as the figurehead of his political party. The prophet is not without honor save in his own country.

In Europe even his opponents know he is in a class by himself, and has become the banner bearer of the reserves of conscience and honor which the popular spoutings of M. Clemenceau and Mr. Lloyd George could not rouse; but sometimes a surprised face is seen here when this is admitted, and it is always the face of an American, and quite as likely an American Democrat as an American Republican.

Thus we have the curious spectacle of an American statesman going into a European conference with a tremendous European moral backing, and a relatively feeble American one.

When he asked for an expression of American support it was deliberately denied to him. He could not ask for an expression of European support, but it has been volunteered to him by every available means.

Europe has earned the same right to say "our Wilson" as Germany earned to say "unser Shakespeare."

Europe Hails Him as Godsend.

All Europe hails him as a godsend; half America groans under him as an affliction. It cannot be helped; no man can be great and popular at the same time before his death, except at a distance; but there are times when the neighbors of illustrious men are in danger of making themselves ridiculous by the familiarity which expresses itself in the old formula, "Woodrow Wilson a great man! Why, I knew his father!"

Rightly or wrongly, Europe is deeply impressed by Wilson, and is not impressed at all by the thousands of doubtless prodigiously able American ward bosses who know themselves to be greatly superior to him; and that fact must be accepted for the moment unless American democracy wishes to be set down as a political failure which has accidentally produced a greater individual success than it is capable of appreciating.

Mr. Shaw further points out that without a League between the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany, there can be no peace in the world and consequently no League of Nations in the sense now contemplated.

Anything short of this would be simply the present offensive and defensive alliance made permanent. By the acceptance of the fourteen points and the acceptance of an armistice (virtually a surrender) on their basis, these four countries have consented to the League in principles.

And it is clear that when the League is once formed and believed to be genuine, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden will join it automatically.

Whether Italy, Spain and Greece would commit themselves at once, or turn over the possibility of a separate League with South America, need not be too curiously considered; for they would certainly not hold aloof with any purpose of reviving the wars of religion against the new crystallization of the Protestant north. They would be friendly.

Frankly, on the score of an undeniable heterogeneity of temperament, the combination might be more workable without them. The northern combination would be strong enough to begin with; and enough is enough.

The danger of biting off more than we can chew is very obvious; superfluous strength would be dearly purchased at the cost of a great increase of friction.

* * *

Our naval policy, Mr. Shaw asserts, presages a new war, unless America and Great Britain agree on sea forces and forswear rivalry. If we understand Mr. Shaw correctly, he insists no less than we do upon a definition of the "Freedom of the Seas," acceptable to all the world. The first battleship Mr. Daniels builds in the absence of a League of Nations, he insists, will begin an anti-American movement in England, compared to which the anti-German one will seem a lovers' quarrel. Recapitulating his argument, Mr. Shaw says:

1. As far as the planning of the war and the preparations for it are concerned, the parties enter the Peace Conference on equal terms morally.

All of them obeyed, more or less intelligently, the instinct of self-preservation, and were under the necessity of securing it by military force because there was no international law in existence to take its place.

2. The war was decided by naval blockade, which proved that the British Empire has militant powers of starvation and ruin at present possessed by no other State.

3. Though France, through M. Clemenceau, has expressed confidence in this state of things, the United States, through Admiral Badger and Mr. Daniels, have declared unequivocally that unless the situation is changed by the establishment of a League of Nations, the United States must build a fleet capable of coping with any existing naval armament.

War If League Fails.

4. As a similar resolution on the part of the German Empire was the first step toward the present war, this declaration may be taken as the first step toward the next war unless and until the League of Nations becomes an established fact.

5. The League of Nations must begin as a combination of States with settled responsible governments of the modern democratic type and will differ from an alliance by having a joint legislature and tribunal for enacting and administering a body of international and supernational law.

The present alliance presents so obvious a nucleus for such a League that it must at once anticipate its attitude and accept most of its moral responsibilities.

6. As republican federations of the North American type will be eligible as constituents of the League of Nations without question, whereas monarchies will have to satisfy the League that their governments are really responsible, the League, without directly imposing any form of government, or denying to any nation its right of self-determination, must, by the mere fact of its existence and the conditions of admission to it, act as a high premium on federal republicanism and responsible government, and as a veto on autocracy.

Germany Must Be Settled.

7. Germany cannot be admitted to the League until she has a settled government of the type desiderated; but the League cannot seriously ensure peace in Europe until Germany is admitted.

8 Pending the admission of Germany to the League, the Alliance will be dominated by the initiative of France and Italy; and as this situation will lead to a rapprochement between the English-speaking allies and Germany, it is important that the campaign of hatred against Germany, which has now served its turn, should be discontinued in England and America.

9. Disarmament (including nominal abolition of conscription) is possible as regards land forces, but delusive.

Naval and aerial armaments must be balanced and morally controlled by the League of Nations. The production of high explosives and artillery on a threatening scale, and the equipment of submarine vessels with torpedo tubes should be made an offense against supernational law; but the League cannot make war physically impossible, and should not try to.

10. The influence of party politics and balance of power diplomacy on the Peace Conference is producing a reactionary combination of the present European war governments with the American Republican Opposition against the American Democratic Government and the European Oppositions; and as, in view of the electoral weakness of the latter, Mr. Wilson, as a Great Man, standing for a Great Idea, must depend on sheer intellectual and moral superiority without regard to election figures, it is important that America should wake up to this situation, and not leave her President in the position of a prophet with less honor in his own country than in Europe, on which he has made a tremendous impression.

Welches Vergnügen bereitet Geld ohne Gesundheit?

Waconda Springs, deutsche Kneipp-Kur-Anstalt, die größte Naturheilquelle in Kansas, ist das ganze Jahr offen für Patienten; man erhält dort schnellere Heilung von chronischen Krankheiten des Magens, der Eingeweide, Leber und Nieren. Mit diesem heilsamen Mineralwasser, vom Jugendbrunnen in geschickter und wissenschaftlicher Weise angewendet, befreit es den Patienten von Neuralgia, Rheumatismus und anderen konstitutionellen Krankheiten und Beschwerden in sicherer Weise. Man schreibe um Auskunft.

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