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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY
B. BREWER, General Manager
ELMER S. ROOD, Circulation Manager
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of March, 1922.
(Seal) W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

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The American Merchant Marine.

Americans as a whole will not readily assent to the proposal to pay subsidy to the vessels engaged in overseas trade under Old Glory. It is not enough, however, to assert an opposition to granting favors to special interests. Something more than that is contained in the president's plan. Nor should mere sentiment decide the question.

Prior to the War of the Rebellion the flag of the United States flew over merchant ships in every port of the union. When that war was ended the Stars and Stripes had vanished from the trade of the Seven Seas. So it remained, until the war with Spain aroused the country to the need of vessels in which to transport soldiers. Little was done to remedy the situation, although certain subventions were granted to vessels in the South American and Pacific trade, and the merchant marine languished. When the World War came on, it found America unready, for want of ships. Feverish activity succeeded the lethargy, and energy and wealth was lavished on the creation of cargo carriers that could not be improvised. One thousand five hundred million dollars expended on building these vessels is charged to war cost, but the ships still float and many of them are engaged in commerce.

What the president suggests is the granting of a comparatively small sum to encourage ship owners to engage in commerce carrying under the American flag. If the United States is to send its products abroad and bring its purchases home under the Stars and Stripes, something of the sort must be done. Germany built up its merchant marine on that basis, and is restoring it on the same plan. Great Britain has never hesitated to grant a subsidy when it was needed. These, with Japan, which notoriously subsidizes its shipping, will be America's chief competitors. The question to be decided is, will we pay a subsidy and build up anew a merchant marine, or will we allow the commerce of the world to be controlled by our competitors?

What the Four-Power Pact Means.

Democratic politicians are centering opposition to the work of the arms limitation conference upon Article II of the four-power treaty between the United States, France, Japan and Great Britain for "the maintenance of their rights in relation to their insular possessions and insular dominions in the region of the Pacific." They profess to fear that this article may draw the United States into a war for the aggrandizement of Japan. Japan, they declare, may provoke aggression by Russia or some other nation and, in that case, command the aid of the United States in war.

Let us read this important clause:

If the said rights are threatened by the aggressive action of any other power, the high contracting parties shall communicate with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an understanding as to the most efficient measures to be taken, jointly or separately, to meet the exigencies of the particular situation.

What does that mean? It means simply and only that the four powers serve notice on the rest of the world that they feel a common interest in maintaining peace on the Pacific. It means that, in case of threatened disturbance, they will consider each case upon its merits and decide what action may be justified. No signatory is bound to do aught but "communicate with one another fully and frankly."

This is not a fixed and unchangeable alliance. It is not a new League of Nations' Article X, which bound members of the league to act in accordance with the will of a council of nations sitting in Europe, upon which the United States would have but a single vote among many. No nation can command the support of another in the case of provoked aggression. The merit of its case will be determined when the case arises. There can be no danger in that.

The four-power pact proposes negotiation; the League of Nations which these same democratic politicians endorsed proposed a binding alliance for war.

Ak-Sar-Ben's Promised Pageant.

The Board of Governors of Ak-Sar-Ben is considering making the long promised change in the quality of amusement afforded the citizens of Quivera during the annual fall festival. When the great Ak-Sar-Ben field was acquired, several years ago, a series of amusement enterprises was outlined, including the races and the exposition, neither of which is to be eliminated. To these will be added the carnival, which will be removed from the downtown streets to a location that will afford the opportunity for a better exhibition. Most important, at present, is the project for adding to the evening entertainment a great pageant display. Tentative plans contemplate, for the opening event at least, a pageant builded on the Coronado expedition, with its unlimited opportunity for the employment of processions, dances, choruses and the like, in the presentation of a very interesting chapter of history, one that not many know and with which all should be familiar. This has the advantage of providing entertainment and information at once. While all details are not settled, the Board of Governors looks favorably on the undertaking, and the public might as well accustom itself to thinking of pageants in connection with Ak-Sar-Ben's fall jubilations, for the idea is fast growing and is likely to blossom soon.

If Lloyd George Goes Out.

The only survivor of the Paris group among the national leaders, David Lloyd George, is apparently making his last stand against an opposition that has steadily grown in power since the Treaty of Versailles was signed. That the coalition by which he has been enabled to hold a majority in the House of Commons is going to pieces may be taken as proof that the British feel they have recovered from the war sufficiently to take once more upon themselves the divisions and consequent differences that arise from local issues. If this view is warranted, the overthrow of the premier will not be an unmixed calamity.

David Lloyd George came into prominence as chancellor of the exchequer in the Asquith cabinet of 1908. It was his budget of 1909 that really marked him as a strong leader, a new element in British politics. Going to the country on the issues raised by the Lloyd George scheme for national taxation, the Asquith cabinet won a decisive victory. The issue was coupled with "end or mend" the House of Lords, and the hereditary peers discretely withdrew and allowed the tax bill to go through as the people ordained.

Lloyd George remained in office continually under Mr. Asquith, till in 1915 he formed the coalition group, overturned his chief, and was called by the king to head the government and carry on the war. A remarkable chapter of English history has been written by this man, who is now reported to be weary and willing to resign the care of his great office. No attempt will be made here to appraise his services, nor to record his accomplishments. The fact that for seven years, longer than the average length of a British cabinet's life (five years), he has held office amid the strife of war and the stress of the tremendous job of returning an empire from war to peace, disturbances at home and abroad to deal with, is probably the highest possible testimonial to his skill as a manager. The solid foundation of British institutions he will leave unshaken!

Who will be called to succeed him does not appear. Asquith, perhaps, or Arthur Balfour, or Birkenhead, and even Chamberlain may be considered as within the range of possibilities. It is questionable whether either of these, or any other man, will not soon be forced to go to the country on the general election, clamor for which is rising. British domestic politics will have many interesting phases within the coming months, and not the least will be the reaction to the thought that the turn of the election will be uninfluenced by the canvass of Ireland.

Row Between Departments.

A nice little family dispute is growing in the president's cabinet, possession of control of the Forest service, now under Secretary Wallace, being sought by Secretary Fall. The head of the Interior department has accused the Agricultural department of emitting misleading and unfair propaganda, with unwarranted reflections of the Interior and its purposes. This is a matter for determination. What is true is that the friends of forestry in the United States have joined in an unanimous protest against the proposed change. This does not rest on the thought that under the Interior department the Forest service would be unwisely administered, but that it would be dislocated, because separated from the allied bureaus of Department of Agriculture.

Forestry is coming to have a front rank place in national economy, and will grow in importance as the years go on. Just now it is not so much a question of the conservation and management of existing forest areas as it is one of control and restoration of denuded regions. Coupled with this is the even greater work of interesting all land owners, wherever located, in the planting and proper mantenance of wood lots. All who have gone into the matter thoroughly are agreed that the proper place for the forestry bureau is under the department where it now exists, and where it operates in close relation with the Bureau of Plant Pathology, the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Insecticide and Fungicide board and the Federal Horticultural board, the work of these groups being closely related, and their articulation being therefore almost indispensible.

If the Bureau of Education and of Pensions are to be removed from the Interior department, and the importance of that branch of the administrative machine is to be compensated by the transfer of other bureaus, it should be accomplished at less expense to the public service than by the transfer of the Forest service.

"Trail of Broken Promises."

Reviewing the first year of Harding's administration, Senator "Pat" Harrison says it is a trail of broken promises. Chairman Hull echoes the statement. Only the promises were made by the democrats. By what authority these brethren assume to speak for the republican administration we can not say, but they have been busy ever since the 4th of March, 1921, and even before, telling the world what the republicans were going to do, and what they ought to do, and what the democrats wanted them to do, and from this seem to have reached the conclusion that it is up to the republicans to do all the things the democrats say should be done.

When Woodrow Wilson was in the White House democratic initiative was repressed, and probably distressed as well. The president told the party what to do, and it took its orders meekly and carried out instructions after the fashion of democracy, in a haphazard, aimless sort of way, wasting a lot of time, effort and money and getting nowhere. Now that the great minds of the party are permitted to function for themselves, no longer held in leash by the White House, they naturally feel the urge to tell somebody where to head in and what to do. So far they have had little success with the republican president, but that will not deter them from spouting about broken promises, failure to accomplish, and all that sort of thing. The people understand the situation, and will accordingly pay no attention.

"Babe" Ruth having signed up to play baseball, the world may now give attention to its other worries.

A New York parson asserts that 665 bad actors are in the pen. Some are at large, however.

A divorce between hootch and gasoline would be a good thing for all.

The first robin is frequently seen nowadays.

Senator Pepper's Protest

Destruction of Defense Not in Line With Good Public Policy.

(From the Boston Transcript.)

Because he is a firm believer in the Treaties of Washington, because he values even more the example set at Washington of agreement after conference in preference to "covenanted coercion," because he looks upon the whole experiment in preventive diplomacy there begun around "the table of international understanding" as an advance for the world under American leadership, George Wharton Pepper, United States senator from Pennsylvania, is opposed to the reduction of the regular army below 150,000, or the crippling of the navy by any reduction in its already inadequate personnel. In his address before the Republican Club of Massachusetts, he registered his protest against all such proposals. He accompanied his protest with an appeal to the club to give its support to a wise policy of national defense, to a system of training with the colors for national citizenship begun at Plattsburg under the leadership of Leonard Wood, and for the maintenance of a "treaty navy," every ship of which shall be not half manned, but completely manned with the best trained personnel the nation can produce, and completely equipped with the best guns that the nation can build, and the best ammunition that the nation can manufacture.

As a member of the senate committee on military affairs, Senator Pepper is aware of the activities of the pacifists and the pork barrel politicans in both houses of congress. It is his misfortune daily to be in association with them. He must know that they are the real enemies today of the Conference of Washington, the real conspirators against the ratification of the Treaties of Washington. This is so for the reason that their organized effort to send the military and naval establishments of the United States to the junk heap ahead of the thirty capital ships for whose scrapping the five-power treaty provides will, if it succeeds even in part, convince the world that America's contribution to the success of the conference was not, as we have been informed, initiative and sacrifice, but that her initiative and sacrifice to that end was neither more nor less than cowardice and selfishness camouflaged by the art of diplomacy to look like initiative and sacrifice. Of course Senator Pepper will be a candidate in the Pennsylvania primaries for nomination, and as a candidate he will be under obligation to abide the result of the primary, and to support the republican congressional ticket in Pennsylvania regardless of what is done at Washington in the respect of national defense and other problems of equal importance. But independent newspapers having at heart the welfare of the whole country, and individual voters holding in contempt alike the pork barrel politicians, are under no such obligation.

If the president and his strong cabinet are unwilling or unable to put a stop to the stampede in the direction of the socialistic party that is now threatened at the other end of the avenue, if the president and his strong cabinet are unable to secure from this congress authority to retain our regular army at approximately 150,000 and a navy of at least 90,000, the plain people of the United States will, we believe, prove themselves to be equal to the emergency, and the proof of that they will manifest in the forthcoming republican primaries, here and elsewhere, and in the November election, by sending to Washington new republicans and new democrats committed to a safe and sane system of national policy, thereby putting this vital question on a plane above party partisan conditions.

We have looked in vain through the president's addresses in the first year of his administration for that endorsement and support of his secretary of war and his secretary of the navy that a president endowed with so strong a cabinet might reasonably be expected to give. This is said not in criticism of Mr. Harding, but only in reiteration of the hope that having obtained the budget system he will back it up, that having surrounded himself with a strong cabinet he will back it up, that having been committed by his party to strong policies, he will back up his commitment. Now is the time and Washington the place for the president to display those qualities of leadership in respect to national defense which he has already shown upon other occasions. His treaties may get through the senate in a reasonable time, but they will not find the favor with the country which their negotiators believe they should, if it turns out that in addition to the sacrifices that the nation has made in those engagements we are to be left dependent upon the Anglo-Japanese navy and the Franco-Japanese army for our defense by sea and for the shouldering on land of our responsibilities in the family of free nations. It is in view of these considerations that the protest of Senator Pepper, so heartily endorsed by the republicans of Massachusetts, may well arrest attention at Washington, and at both ends of Pennsylvania avenue. Ours is not a pacifist people at heart—not a sordid and cowardly people. The American people love peace, but they love all the more their liberty, their independence and the righteousness that alone exalteth the nation.

Indian Affairs

Satisfaction with the treatment of American Indians by the federal government is expressed in the thirty-ninth annual report of the Indian Rights association.

The association feels that the least the government can do, after having taken a continent that originally belonged to the Indians, is to protect those who remain and train them for citizenship. At the close of the last fiscal year the Indian population of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, was 340,838, and of that number 101,506 were members of the five civilized tribes, including freemen and intermarried whites. Of 55,141 families, 44,195 live in permanent homes and 10,946 families live in tepees, tents and temporary structures; 184,968 Indians are citizens; tribal property was valued at $190,600,152, and property owned by individuals at $526,105,350. This high per capita wealth is largely due to the discovery of oil on Indian-owned lands. Where such owners are still wards of the government, they are not permitted to sell their land, but they share in the income, and many of them have become wealthy. In the five civilized tribes the birth rate exceeds the death rate in a normal ratio and there is little ground for the prediction that the Indians are vanishing. If they cease to exist as a race, it will be because of intermarriage with both whites and blacks.—The Indianapolis News.

Back to the Bill of Fare.

At last relief is in sight! Out from the woolly west's capital, Chicago, comes the news that the hotel men are going to meet and revise the present day "carte du jour," which, translated, means "bill of fare" of olden days.

No longer will Americans sit at the table looking at the foot-long pasteboard printed with mysterious French and other jargon which relate to food for the hungry one. We will know it's beef instead of being termed "boeuf." Pomme-de-terre will be potatoes, any old style—not O'Brien, but Irish; not a la Francais, but French. Au gratin will be "say it with chees."

Perchance they will also drop the European custom of largesse which completes the meal.—Washington Post.

Meat in Metaphor.

It is hard for the consumer to make both ends meet, according to the retail dealers, because they will not buy the meat ends; but maybe the consumer would do that if the dealer could make the ends meat.—Marietaa (O.) Register-Leader.

How to Keep Well

By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered personally subject to proper limitation, where a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

THE VOTE ON WHISKY.

Several months ago the editor of the Journal of the American Medical association sent a questionnaire on the alcohol question to 37 per cent of all the physicians in the United States; 31,115, or about 22 per cent of the entire body of the profession replied to this questionnaire.

This questionnaire and the result thereof has attracted such wide attention and has been so frequently misunderstood that it is worth while explaining it to those who do not read this medical journal.

It was not a questionnaire as to the repeal of the amendment to the constitution, or of the repealing of the Volstead act, or of the passage of state laws or city ordinances regulating the sale of liquors.

It did not call for an expression of an opinion as to the reopening of saloons. It did not say anything about the use of liquor of any sort as a beverage, or whether such use caused illness.

The principal question was this: "Do you regard whisky as a necessary therapeutic agent in the practice of medicine?"

Or, to state it differently, "Should whisky be carried in drug stores available for the use of physicians to be prescribed by them in the treatment of disease—or, should it be on the same basis as quinine, ipecac, and squills, or even morphine, under a properly administered Harrison law?"

On this question 30,843 voted—15,625 voting yes and 15,218 no.

Similar votes as to wine and beer showed that only a comparatively small number were in favor of the use of beer and wines as medicines.

In 20 states a majority of the physicians voted that whisky was of some service in the treatment of one or more diseases. In twenty-eight states the majority thought whisky of no use in the treatment of any disease.

When it came to those diseases in the treatment of which whisky was of some service the replies were not uniform. About 74 per cent of the group, or about 37 per cent of all those replying, thought it useful in the treatment of pneumonia, influenza, and other acute infectious diseases. About 35 per cent of the group, or 17 per cent of the whole, thought it of service in treatment of the diseases of old age and general debility. About 10 per cent of the group, or 5 per cent of the whole, considered it of value in convalescence from diseases such as diabetes, heart failure and shock.

A few physicians out of the 30,843 thought it of value in treating each of the following: Anemia, asthma, catarrh, cancer, carbolic poisoning, colds, dyspepsia, dysmenorrhea, neuritis, rheumatism, snake bite, heart disease, blood pressure disturbances, toxemia of pregnancy, alcoholism, and insomnia.

In no disease—not even pneumonia—did one-half of the physicians expressing their opinion think whisky was of service in the treatment, so far as that one disease was concerned.

In substance, this vote was on some such question as this: "Shall whisky be left in the pharmacopoeia?" The committee on revision of the pharmacopoeia has been notoriously conservative as to dropping drugs from that official list.

I wonder what the result would be on a referendum on the dropping of several formerly widely but now seldom employed drugs.

To Aid Girl's Growth.

Mrs. A. T. writes: "Are there any exercises you could suggest to influence a girl's growth?

"My daughter is 17 and undersized. I can't notice that she has grown in the last year. At what age does a girl usually stop growing?"

REPLY.

Growth continues until about 25 years of age, but the growth in height of a girl is very slight after 17 years of age.

Our growing apparatus is wound up at birth. It is set to go for a certain number of years and then to stop, and we cannot change the "predestination" to any great extent.

Plenty of good, wholesome, plain food such as milk, meat, bread and vegetables, plenty of sleep and plenty of outdoor exercise help somewhat.

The amount of good milk is generally set at one pint; of sleep, at nine hours. Tennis, golf and horseback riding are good forms of exercise.

Clean Up the Place!

Matron writes of a skin disease prevailing at an institution with which she is connected.

The superintendent would not call a physician, but gave her some chloride of lime to use. This failed.

A minister got a prescription for sulphur and vaseline from a doctor. When this was used the eruption healed, but came right back.

The bedding used by the boys is filthy.

REPLY.

Your description fits scabies or ordinary itch exactly.

This disease is due to a parasite and not, as the superintendent says, to the food—however bad it is. The stock remedy is sulphur ointment. The reason you did not cure the boys permanently was because your method was faulty.

You did not kill the bugs in the bedding and underwear. You did not cure up every boy. Infected sheeting, drawers, or towels will reinfect the boys. One uncured boy will reinfect the others.

CENTER SHOTS.

"Artistic temperament" is highbrow for bad temper.—Greenville Piedmont.

Michigan woman candidate says she would rather wash dishes than play politics. Even if she wouldn't, it makes a good campaign slogan.—Springfield Daily News.

A court has ruled that a jewsharp is not a musical instrument. Justice may be blind, but she's not deaf.—Arkansas Gazette.

It's a hard world. Your friends won't believe you make as much as you say you do, and government won't believe you make as little.—Hartford Times.

A girl of thirteen has been licensed to preach in Nebraska. There must be something about the Nebraska climate. It affected young Mr. Bryan the same way.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

It appears that the two Irelands can't border on each other without bordering on violence.—Virginian Pilot.

Secretary Fall says that "Alaska alone could pay for the war." Well, we are perfectly willing to give her a trial.—Asheville Times.

The Bee's Letter Box

(The Bee offers its columns freely to its readers who care to discuss any public question. It requests that letters be reasonably brief, not over 300 words. It also insists that the name of the writer accompany each letter, not necessarily for publication, but that the editor may know with whom he is dealing. The Bee does not pretend to endorse or accept views or opinions expressed by correspondents in the Letter Box.)

Progressives and The Bee.

Omaha, March 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: The progressive party, having no newspapers should patronize The Omaha Bee for the reason that the editor is generous in giving space to those who express opposite views. Mr. Editor: The reason the progressive party was born and advocates cheap money, plentiful money and credit, is simply because when federal reserve asset-credit currency was at its peak and before reserve board ordered the curbing of credit, the people were happy, contented. Cheap money, low interest rates, employment, good prices for production, high wages, no bankruptcy, no foreclosures, no tight money, no forced sales, no calamity howlers or cheap money cranks. So naturally any sane person opposes the deflation policy of depression, tight money, high interest, unemployment, ruined farmer and business. This is why the progressive party is popular and consistent in its campaign for cheap money. T. S. FENTON,
309 North Forty-first Avenue.

A Slogan.

Bite off more than you can chew;
Then chew it.
Plan for more than you can do,
Then do it.
Hitch your wagon to a star,
Keep your seat, and there you are!
—Pittsburgh Chronicle Advocate.

And Still Lives.

Federal bonus now has six service chevrons and 60 wound stripes.—Fitchburg Sentinel.