

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

WILL A LEAGUE OF NATIONS WITHOUT THE POPE PREVENT WAR?

By John McGinnis
The great topic in political circles, business circles, or wherever men gather is the League of Nations. It is absorbing the thought of the common people as well as the diplomat and scholar. A desire for peace, lasting peace, is an aftermath of all wars.

Now from the people, the victims of war, comes an emphatic demand that war be ended forever. They are told by some that the League of Nations will accomplish their desire. History tells us that in the past a League of Nations did not achieve its object - prevent war. That alliance since the sixteenth century have been breeders of wars, not preventatives.

We can discount the failure of the pre-Christian League of Nations without forgetting that human nature has not changed much. True, Rome did preserve the peace of the world for a time, but Rome is no longer mistress of the world, and many wars have come since her fall.

Arbitration and mediation on the part of the Pope is almost as old as the Papacy itself. The Pope was able to stop the advance of such hordes as the Huns and Vandals who besieged Rome. He converted the Lombards and held them in check, not an easy task, because even though they and their descendants accepted Christianity, the predatory spirit remained very strong in them.

By the truce of God which commanded cessation of hostilities from Wednesday evening until Monday morning, and during the entire season of Advent and Lent, the Pope was not only able to reduce wars to a minimum, but shorten their duration.

The Truce of God spread throughout Christendom. It was a powerful factor in maintaining peace and a valuable aid to the League of Lombardy, headed by Pope Innocent III, which labored for peace. Guizot, a non-Catholic, speaking of the results obtained through the Truce of God, says: "These facts (meaning the results accomplished) are so well known that I can spare the trouble of entering into details."

Coming down through the ages we find the Popes arbitrating disputes between nations and protecting weak nations from the strong. When England, France, Spain and Germany were disputing the hegemony of the world, Pope Sixtus V had in mind a League of Nations. He would compel the princes to arbitrate their quarrels and disarm. His death prevented the development of the idea.

Papal arbitration and mediation became seriously impaired with the coming of the sobriety of the sixteenth century. In parts of Europe rulers turned away from the Pope and refused to recognize his authority. Moral force no longer dominated their conscience. Right and justice no longer prevailed. Questions were settled as a matter of political expediency. Might was right. The people, left without the protection of the Pope, became subject to despotic rulers and war followed.

Since the sixteenth century many unsuccessful attempts, without the Pope, have been made to avoid war. Grotius strove to avoid war by framing a law of nations, but International Law is still ineffective in preventing wars or enforcing the rule of law laid down therein. The League of Princes, Holy Alliance, Quadruple Alliance and Triple Alliance have all instituted to prevent war, yet war went on and is still on.

In 1899 an imposing gathering of twenty-six nations met at the Hague Conference to establish permanent peace. It was proclaimed to the world that with the establishment of the Hague war was to end forever. Through the connivance of Italy and England the Pope was excluded from this conference, thus was the purpose of the Hague in its inception nullified by keeping out of it the most potent agency in the world in behalf of universal peace.

We find no difference, however, between the principles composing The Hague Conference and the League of Nations. In fact, in 1915 England became a party to a secret agreement supporting Italy in keeping the Pope out of the Peace Conference, which automatically excluded him from the League of Nations. Yet there are some who, forgetting history for the time being, would have us believe that democracy has become Utopian, and that the millennium will be reached through the League of Nations.

The hearts of men have not changed. Men are still selfish and envious and lust for power. Wealth and power have no regard for human rights which it will always sacrifice for its own benefit. In spite of the principles for which we entered the War, the Allies agreeing, and the League of Nations, self-determination is not yet applied to small nations.

To those who persist in telling us that the League of Nations will prevent war, we reply in the words of Cardinal Fleury to the Secretary of the League of Princes: "You must first begin by sending a troop of missionaries to prepare the hearts and minds of the contracting sovereigns."

Until the hearts and minds of the diplomats who will control the League of Nations become changed and they show a sincere disposition to maintain peace by making the Pope a member of the League of Nations we will place no hope in seeing war ended. There can only be a lasting peace where the moral force prevails. Any League of Nations or other organization which excludes the greatest moral force on earth, the Pope, the representative of the Prince of Peace, will in the end fail just as all movements in the last four hundred years have failed.

A League of Nations without the Pope will not prevent war.

THE BIRTHDAY OF DEMOCRACY

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Christmas, the birthday of Christ, is the birthday of democracy. It is the birthday of brotherhood. It is the birthday of fundamental equality. It is the birthday of freedom.

Before Christ came the dignity and worth of manhood were not grasped. Slavery was at the base of societies even when they were by the name of republics. Men did not realize what nobility inhered in them. They did not treat others as brothers.

Christ came, and taught men by His words and death that they are equal in the most important things, that they ought to act as brothers, and that they have free will and are responsible beings. He taught us that mankind forms a great brotherhood - a brotherhood of blood under the fatherhood of God. His taught us that we have also a spiritual bond of brotherhood in our common redemption by His own death and a closer and more intimate brotherhood when we do God's will. From this springs the moral obligation of acting as brothers one towards another. Self-sacrifice, justice, and charity are virtues he taught that we might act as brothers.

Christ taught us, too, that we are fundamentally equal. All of us have the same nature and the same purpose in life. Differences exist, but not so important as the things in which all of us are equal. It is the differences which are a source of much of the trouble in the world, and Christ taught men humility so as to correct the evil effects of human differences. He taught us that in our freedom we must regard the freedom of others. From His teachings it follows that all men are to be revered whatever their position, and that there should be fundamental equality in legal, political, and economic rights.

He taught us that we are free, and responsible for our actions. He lifted conscience to a plane that it had not occupied before. He told us that in our freedom we must regard the freedom of others. From His teachings comes the recognition of equality before the law and political freedom so as to perform our duties and safeguard our rights in human society.

The emphasis placed upon manhood, His insistence upon our dignity and worth, and His death upon the cross in their behalf changed the world. Where once slavery dominated people, there gradually came a recognition of brotherhood, freedom and fundamental equality. The ancient world did not know these truths and so they thought slavery natural and inevitable. Christ's teachings slowly evaporated slavery and left men free.

Christ's teachings are being rejected again. Pagan imperialism, paganism, a pagan conception of the use of strength, a pagan practice of subjecting men, women and children to the methods and purposes of those who hold power, a pagan inequality in economic life within nations and between nations - these rule social life because Christ is being forgotten.

It will be hard to bring nations to the practice of Christ's teachings. It will be hard for them to throw off their paganism. It will be hard to restore the value of manhood in the mind and heart of society. But it must be done. And Catholics are the ones who must do it. Christ came to save the world, and Catholics are the ones who are keeping the worship of

Christ alive. And just as they hold fast to the religion which Christ established, so too they must find out how to apply Christ's teachings to modern social, economic and political life. Having learned the way to apply Christ's social teaching, they must resolutely perform their task. Upon them lies the safety of the world.

OBITUARY

SISTER ST. GEORGE
Pembroke Observer, Dec. 16

In The Observer last week brief mention was made of the passing on Friday morning at the Mother House of the Grey Nuns in Ottawa of Rev. Sister St. George, revered in Pembroke and throughout this entire district by reason of the long years spent and the service given in connection with Pembroke General Hospital and on behalf of the sick and suffering who came to the institution for care and treatment during a period of more than three decades.

Sister St. George was born at Brooklyn, N. Y., her name before entering religious life being Theresa Hamilton. When young she entered the Grey Nuns community, and some five years ago celebrated the golden jubilee of her profession.

Shortly after the establishment of the General Hospital in the old building in lower town Sister St. George came to Pembroke and joined the small staff of Sisters who were then in charge here, and she remained for a period of nearly thirty-three years, having a large part in the hospital's development during that period and during all those years being practically in charge of the task of maintaining and financing the institution. With the two or three other Sisters on the staff she shared the trials and difficulties and hardships of the hospital's early days, and for thirty years she travelled the high-ways and by-ways of the county and made frequent trips to the lumber camps along the nearby river soliciting alms for the support of the hospital and for the maintenance of the sick who sought their treatment. In nearly every home throughout a great part of the county she was known and loved, and her periodical visits were looked forward to, while very rarely was she sent away empty handed. The best days of her long and useful life were spent here, and for the great work which the hospital was able to do during a long period of its history she largely to the efforts of Sister St. George. Gifted with a happy, cheerful personality, she included among her friends people of all classes and of all denominations, and the sympathies of all were with her during her long period of physical suffering. The record of her life is one of continuous sacrifices to the cause of charity, of heroic and unselfish devotion to duty, without thought of self, and her memory will be cherished in the hearts of all who came within the sphere of her activities.

The funeral, which was of a private nature, took place in Ottawa on Saturday. His Lordship Bishop Ryan, of Pembroke, celebrated the Requiem Mass in the Grey Nuns' chapel, while among those in attendance were Rev. Father Dowdall, of Pembroke, Rev. John Ryan, Eganville, Rev. Sister Augustine, Superior of Pembroke Convent, and Rev. Sister St. Maurice, who for twenty-eight years was associated with Sister St. George in the hospital here.

DIED

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MCCAFFREY.—At Spokane Farm, Whitecourt, Alberta, November 19, Frank McCaffrey, formerly of Vespres, aged fifty-seven years. May his soul rest in peace.

RADING.—On Dec. 10, 1920, at her late residence, 5 Fifth Ave., Ottawa, Mrs. Paul Rading, relict of late Paul Rading. May her soul rest in peace.

MCCULLOUGH.—At his late residence, 181 Waller street, Ottawa, on December 25, 1920, Felix McCullough, contractor, in his sixty-ninth year. May his soul rest in peace.

CORRIGAL.—On Dec 21, 1920, at Starview, Sask., Margaret Corrigan, wife of Ivan Corrigan, daughter of Mrs. M. T. Burns, 4 Torney street, Ottawa. Remains will be brought to Ottawa. May her soul rest in peace.

MARRIAGE

STOCK-MITCHELL.—At St. Patrick's Church, London, December 29, by Rev. P. N. Doyle, Bertha Mitchell, Dorchester, to Mr. P. J. Stock, Kinross, Ont.

THE TRUCE

THE ATROCITIES COMMISSION
As was foreseen, efforts to bring about a truce have broken down. The final documents in the case are, first, Father O'Flanagan's letter to the Premier, and second, the Premier's answer, as follows:

"While sending through a message, peace, good-will to the people of Ireland, your Government have intensified their fiendish attacks upon our lives, our liberty and our property. 'How hollow your fair words read in the newspapers sandwiched in between the burning of Cork and the murder of Canon Magner and Timothy Crowley! 'If you really wish for peace, allow the Constitution adopted by the Irish people at the last general election to perform its legitimate functions, and acts of violence will soon become as rare in Ireland as in any of the most peaceful nations of the world. Then arrange the terms of a treaty of direct negotiations with the official head of the Irish nation—President De Valera. This is the only possible road to that reconciliation which vitally interests both nations.'

"To this the Premier replied: 'I had hoped that with moderation and common sense on both sides it might have been possible to reach an understanding which would stop strife in Ireland and pave the way to a reconciliation. You now imply that in your judgment the only road to peace is the recognition of an Irish republic and the negotiation of a treaty with someone you designate as the official head and President of that republic. I have never failed to make it clear that there is no possibility of a settlement so long as the Sinn Fein demands an Irish republic, and that though I am willing to explore every avenue toward an honorable, constitutional settlement, there is no road to peace so long as the Sinn

Fein persists in trying to compel any settlement by means of assassinations and violence. The only way to peace that is the leaders of the Sinn Fein should recognize these fundamental facts. Their present policy is only leading Ireland ever nearer to chaos and ruin. 'I deeply regret that you should close the door to those counsels of good-will which you invoked at the beginning of this correspondence. 'While this is going on in Ireland, the atrocities commission is still taking testimony in Washington. Mrs. and Miss MacSwiney equaled, if they did not surpass, the Mayor of Balbriggan for incivility of thought and clearness of expression. Their tales of horror did but confirm what was already known to the world. Of great weight was this document of the British branch of the Society of Friends. It read: 'The English Government has ceased to function over at least 80% of Ireland. The Sinn Fein Government could and would run the country, and at present order and safety are only found in districts from which the English military and police have been withdrawn.' 'The British Ambassador, no doubt acting on instructions from Britain, still refuses to visit the passports of Americans wishing to investigate conditions in Ireland. Ten Senators have formally protested to Secretary of State Colby against this attitude of Geddes. Their contention is as follows: The action of Geddes is a violation of the right of free communication between the people of two democracies. It is an instance of governmental suppression of free speech that may result in serious misunderstanding. The United States has never blocked the passage of a British or other foreign mission that wished to come here for any purpose.'—America.

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TRAINING School for Nurses, Ann Arbor, Michigan, located 23 miles from Detroit. Conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. Affords excellent training in modern hospital, with a three years course of instruction. Separate nurses' home. For further information, apply to Superintendent of Nurses, St. Joseph's Sanitarium, Ann Arbor, Mich. 2184-26.

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MERCY Hospital Training School for Nurses offers exceptional educational opportunities for competent and ambitious young women. Applicants must be eighteen years of age, and have one year of High School or its equivalent. Pupils may enter at the present time. Applications may be sent to the Director of Nurses, Mercy Hospital, Toledo, Ohio. 2119-47.

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He is truest to the past who uses it and its victories as gateways through which he must pass, without lingering to the future.

TEACHERS WANTED
WANTED a qualified teacher speaking both French and English for the Catholic Separate School at Quebec, Quebec Falls, Ont. Salary \$80. Twelve children. Apply to Inspector, Falls, Ont. Box 38. 2204-2.

TEACHER wanted at once for Sault Ste. Marie Separate school. Apply to J. W. McNamara, Sec. Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. 2204-1.

NORMAL trained teacher wanted for P. S. No. 2, N. Burgess, holding let. cert. and 2 years teaching experience to R. J. McDonald, Dalhousie Station P. O., Que. R. R. 1, Box 41. 2204-4.

SECOND class teacher wanted for P. S. No. 6, Raleigh. Duties to commence Jan. 3rd, 1921. Apply stating experience and salary to William Dillon, Merlin, Ont. 2204-2.

TEACHERS wanted for Separate School No. 2, N. Burgess, holding let. cert. and 2 years other qualification to teach continuation work in Senior room. Salary \$1,000 a year also a teacher for Junior room holding 2nd class certificate. Salary \$750. Duties to commence Jan. 3, 1921. Apply to J. W. McDonald, Sec. Treas., Stanleyville P. O., Lanark Co., Ont. 2204-47.

WANTED a qualified teacher holding a second class professional certificate for P. S. No. 5, Percy, apply stating salary and experience to J. J. Doherty, Sec. Treas., Dartford, Ont. R. R. 1, Box 38. 2204-1.

TEACHER wanted for the Catholic School-Grant, Ont. Please state salary and qualifications. Apply to J. L. Downey, Grant, Ont., via Caledonia.

TEACHER wanted for P. S. No. 12, Peel. Salary according to experience and qualifications. Apply to Cornelius Callaghan, Arthur, Ont. 2204-3.

TEACHER wanted for Separate School, No. 2, Granton; close to church; small attendance. Duties to begin Jan. 3rd. Apply stating salary etc., to W. T. Oulshan, R. Falls, Coburg, Ont. 2203-2.

WANTED for 1921 2nd class professional teacher for Catholic Separate school Kearney. State salary expected and experience to W. Brown, Sec. Treas., Kearney, Ont. 2169-3.

WANTED second class professional teacher for C. S. No. 1, Cornwall, one holding a certificate in agriculture preferred. Duties to commence Jan. 4, 1921. Apply stating salary and qualifications to August H. Chisholm, Sec. Treas., R. R. No. 1, Northfield Station, Ont. 2204-4.

FARMS FOR SALE
100 ACRES \$8,500. Best of clay loam; no waste; 4 acres bush; 3 acres extra good orchard; all wire fenced, bank barn docks; shed 20x26, also on stone foundation. 3 room frame house; never falling spring 300 ft. from barn; water down to barn and house with out pumping; Public school 1 mile, church and Separate school one and a third miles; 4 Acres from Parkhill, miles from London. Daily mail and telephone. Good roads. Apply to Allan McLellan, Lot 7, Con. 12 W. Williams, R. R. No. 5, Parkhill, Ont. 2166-47.

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