

Talk of Annexation Is All "Popycock," Says Henry Taft

U. S. Regards Canada in No Other Way Than Valued Neighbor, Says Speaker at Bar Association Banquet—Single Obstacle to Nations League.

Toronto Globe. Speaking at the annual dinner of the Ontario Bar Association last night, Henry Taft of the American Bar Association, and brother of the ex-President of the United States, declared that in the essentials of the League of Nations, if Article 10 were omitted, the American people were at one with the rest of the world. He said the other clauses really constituted "the heart of the league," and the United States not only believed in them but desired in one form or other to be made a party

to them so that they might co-operate in the grandest and most enlightened effort which had ever been made for the preservation of the peace of the world. Mr Taft ridiculed the discussions which frequently crop up concerning annexation, describing them as "all popycock."

J. H. Rodd acted as toast-master, and other speakers were Arthur Lord of Boston, Mass., Bar Association; Hon. Henry C. Walters, president of Detroit Bar Association; Rev. Dr. Eody of Toronto, and J. K. Sullivan of Quebec.

Ado About Nothing.

Mr. Taft mentioned that he was no stranger in Canada, and said he therefore intended to be candid. He said there had been a good deal of talk in the United States lately about Canadians but it was Canadians who started it. A newspaper controversy had been in progress, and an American gentleman had summed this up by saying that "the complaint of the Canadians appeared to be that their country lay to the north of the country that lay to the south of them."

"I do not know that that comprehends the whole thing," Mr. Taft remarked, "but there is not much more in it than that. I do not know but it is the balloons who have caused all this. (Laughter.) They brought back a report to the United States that you sometimes have snow in Canada, and some of your patriots who have cast their fortunes with us said that the weather was being mangled. (More laughter.) Now they are beginning to talk again about annexation, but I saw in the newspapers the other day one of the professors of one of your great universities (it was not Toronto University) wrote to one of the New York papers a serious essay, entitled "Canada as a Vassal State," and he solemnly proceeded to argue that in journalism, in movies, in capital and labor, in universities, in sports and, generally speaking, in habits and customs, Canada is nothing more than nine states not yet brought formally under the control of Washington. Well, there is nothing that could be wider from the mark."

"All Popycock."

"I am free to say that the idea of the annexation of Canada to the United States is all popycock; but it is disturbing a good many of your good people over there, and I am going to be



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plain with you and say that they are a little bit over-sensitive."

Mr. Taft again declared that there

was nothing in this talk of annexation, and said Americans regarded Canada in no other way than as a valued neighbor. He said that Americans during the great war had taken as much pride in the achievements of the Canadians at Vimy Ridge and elsewhere as had Canadians themselves.

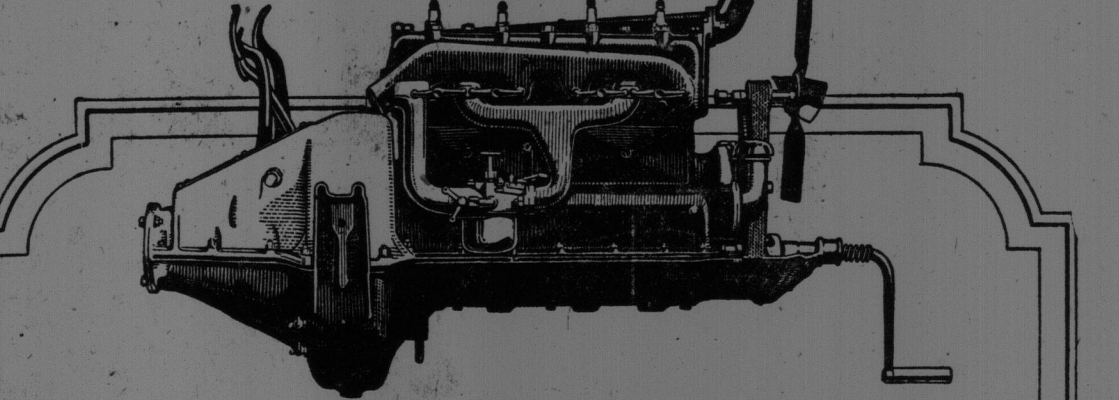
Coming to the question of the attitude of the United States in regard to the League of Nations, Mr. Taft said no country in the world believed in the maintenance of peace more than America. No country believed more in the efficacy of conference among nations as a means of avoiding war than did America; no country believed more than America in the reduction of armaments or in the settlement of justiciable questions by international courts upon the basis of fixed international award, and yet, with the exception of Germany and Russia, the United States was the only one of the great nations outside the League of Nations.

BIG EXPLOSION INTENTIONAL

New York, Feb. 18.—The Wall Street explosion last September which took a toll of 39 lives and injured nearly 200, was "a dastardly crime intentionally committed," in the opinion of the grand jury which investigated the disaster.

The grand jury recommended that the city increase to fifty thousand dollars its reward of \$10,000 for the discovery of the perpetrators of the crime.

"For nineteen hundred years" says the New York Churchman (P. E.) "we have been taught that all men are God's children and all of us are brothers. Ought we not to make us marvel that men who live in immortality; we know that this life is only a little span of minutes in the endless vistas of eternity. What keeps us, then, from fellowship and conciliation—joining hands with our brothers that together, we may enter into God's presence in peace and believe that some day they are going to life is only a little span of minutes in will?"



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MARVEN'S WHITE LILY BISCUITS advertisement, continued.

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MUTT AND JEFF cartoon strip by Bud Fisher.