

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1924

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THE BOK PEACE PLAN

The Bok peace plan, urging the United States to join the World Court and participate under certain safeguards in the work of the League of Nations has been pounced upon by the enemies of the League in the United States and declared to be nothing more or less than a calculated propaganda for the League. It is even proposed by some of the diehards to have a congressional enquiry to find out what is behind, while one lawyer-senator is not sure that Mr. Bok may not have violated the law by interfering with the solution of foreign affairs, and thereby made himself a criminal. This is certainly an amusing suggestion.

Edward W. Bok offered \$100,000 for the best plan to promote world-peace. No less than 22,166 plans were submitted, in accordance with conditions fixed by a committee composed of John W. Davis, former Ambassador to London, Judge Hand, W. H. Johnson, president of the International Association of Machinists, Everett Lape, former Gov. Miller of New York, Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, Mrs. Ogden Reid, Mrs. Frank D. Roosevelt, former Secretary of War Simon, Millville E. Stone of the Associated Press, Mrs. Frank A. Vanderlip and Cornelius N. Bliss. The award committee was composed of Elihu Root, Minister General, Harvard, Edward M. House, Ellen FitzGibbon, President of Wellesley College, Dean Pound of Harvard, Brand Whitlock, former Ambassador to Belgium and William Allen White, editor and author.

It is charged that all these persons are advocates of the League of Nations, and therefore were certain to decide as they did; but Raymond B. Fiedick has very significantly observed that "Any feasible plan for international peace must involve the affiliation of the United States with the existing organization—the League of Nations or Court of International Justice."

Turning to the plan which has won the prize we find that it begins as follows:

Five-sixths of all nations, including about four-fifths of mankind, have already created a world organization, the purpose of which is "to promote international peace and security." These nations cannot and will not be actively operating for three and a half years. If leading members of the United States Government ever had serious hopes that another association of nations could be formed, such hopes were dashed during the Washington conference by plain intimations from other powers that there is not room for more than one organization of this kind in the world. The States outside the organized world are not of such a character that the United States could hope to co-operate with them for the purpose named. Therefore, the only possible path to cooperation in which the United States can take an increasing share is that which leads toward some form of agreement with the world of Nations. By sheer force of social international gravitation such co-operation becomes inevitable.

If this be propaganda it is based on facts that are incontrovertible. But the author of the plan goes on to point out that while theoretically maintaining a policy of isolation the United States has actually gone far toward "co-operation with other nations to achieve and preserve the peace of the world." The Washington Conference is cited, and the Hughes-Harding recommendation that the United States should adhere to the permanent court of international justice, and the late President Harding is quoted as follows:

"I do not believe any man can confront the responsibility of a President of the United States and yet adhere to the idea that it is possible for our country to maintain an attitude of isolation and aloofness in the world."

To show further that the country has not kept entirely clear of the League of Nations the following illuminating illustrations are given:

The United States Government has accredited its representatives to sit as members "in an unofficial and consulting capacity" upon four of the most important social welfare commissions of the league, viz: Health, opium, traffic in women and children and anthrax (industrial hygiene).

Our Government is a full member of the International Hydrographic Bureau, an organ of the league. Our Government was represented by an "unofficial observer" in the Brussels Conference (finance and economic commission) in 1920. It sent Hon. Stephen G. Porter and Bishop Brent to represent it at the meeting of the Opium Commission last May.

Our Public Health Service has taken part in the serological congresses of the Epidemics Commission and has helped in the experimental work for the standardization of serum.

Our Government collaborates with the league health organization through the International Office of Public Health at Paris, and with the Agricultural Committee of the league labor organization through the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

In February, 1923, Secretary Hughes and President Harding formally recommended that the Senate approve our adherence to the Permanent Court under conditions or reservations, one of which was that the United States should officially participate in the election of judges by the assembly and

council of the league, sitting at electoral colleges for that purpose.

Unofficial co-operation from the United States with the work of the league includes membership in five of the social welfare commissions or committees of the league, in one on economic reconstruction and in one (Ashland Islands) which averted a war. American women serve as expert assessors upon the opium and traffic in women commissions.

Two philanthropic agencies in the United States have between them pledged more than \$400,000 to support either the work of the Epidemics Commission or the league inquiry into conditions of the traffic in women and children.

The Bok plan points out that without changing its present actual policy the United States can extend its co-operation to other humane and constructive agencies of the League. It has already sent delegates with advisory powers to four of their agencies—why not to all welfare commissions? Similarly there could be co-operation in the work of the commissions and technical committees of the labor organization of the League.

Another immediately practicable step, it is pointed out, would be addressed to the world court as advised by Hughes and Harding. All that is proposed does not involve the question of immediate American membership in the League, which would come up later; but the Bok plan goes on to recommend that the United States Government be authorized to propose co-operation with the League Assembly and Council, accepting the League as an instrument of mutual confidence, but assuming no obligation to interfere with political questions of policy or internal administration of any foreign state, and maintaining the Monroe Doctrine.

There does not seem to be anything at all dangerous in this plan, but some Senators who are bitterly opposed to the League are vehement in their denunciation. They resent the entry of Mr. Bok or anybody else into what they regard as their preserve. Those who are behind the plan, however, are seeking a "straw vote" of the whole country upon the plan, and sentiment in its favor will be organized. The New York Herald, which is not favorable to the plan, says:

"Plans for organizing sentiment in support of the winning Bok formula are understood to have already been put advanced. Through organized league agencies a referendum is to be held, the promoters of the Bok plan expect that the newspapers of the United States will print the formula which is intended to reflect public opinion on the merits of plan No. 1469. In this form to vote yes or no on the question of approving 'the winning plan in substance.' In addition to newspaper support it is expected that Mr. Bok and the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association will send out millions of copies of the League of Nations and world court seal, and members of the Senate. According to league supporters, more than fifty independent organizations will assist in rounding up popular sentiment in every section of the country. The same organizations were employed in the previous attempts to get the League of Nations and world court seal through the Senate. The most important of these agencies are the women bodies, the League to Enforce Peace, commercial bodies closely identified with international interests, chambers of commerce, Y. M. C. A., and chambers of commerce, all of which are well equipped and assisted by adequately financed propaganda machinery."

While President Coolidge commended the Hughes proposal to join the world court to the consideration of the Senate he did not express his own view, and he did not describe the League of Nations as "a closed incident" so far as the United States is concerned. That it is very far from being a closed incident appears from the present very determined agitation.

The most interesting item of political news in Canada is that Hon. T. A. Cramer and Premier Dunning of Saskatchewan are expected in Ottawa tomorrow. Naturally it is assumed that this journey of the western men has some relation to the matter of cabinet reconstruction at Ottawa. Mr. Robert Forke, leader of the Progressives, says that whatever some individuals may do, the Progressives will continue to fly their flag at Ottawa; but it looks as if some Progressives were disposed to help the Liberal Government carry on.

The citizens were shocked this morning to learn of the death of Dr. L. A. McAlpine, who passed away after an illness of only a week. He was a faithful physician and good citizen. The Children's Aid Society will especially miss him, as he was ever ready to answer any call to attend when a child there needed medical attention.

An Ottawa despatch says the net debt of Canada at the end of the year was \$3,041,940 greater than a year before. In view of such a showing the significance of the cry for reduced expenditures is painfully clear. The country must economize. We are entering into a period of better times, but

the better times would be more apparent if there were less burden upon industry and commerce and upon all the people who pay taxes.

The death in Vancouver of Mr. W. M. McLean, so long an active figure in educational affairs in St. John, is sincerely regretted by very many old friends here and in the province at large. He did not long survive his old and valued friend Mr. S. D. Scott.

London cables make it clear that if a Labor Government is formed its leader will present no radical policies at the outset. Already the responsibility of government is making itself manifest in the utterances of the leaders.

It is suggested that the Maritime Provinces may get another Minister in the Cabinet shuffle at Ottawa. They certainly need all the influence they may be able to exert in the Cabinet.

Press Comment

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

(Charlottetown Guardian.) Pride in the city we live in, is as commendable as pride in one's home. The city as is our pride in our homes. The home in which its occupants take no pride in adorning, in making as attractive as circumstances will permit is seldom, if ever, an attractive one, seldom even a respectable one. The humblest home can be made attractive, clean, wholesome and lovable, a place of rest and contentment for those who live in it. The home is not merely a building supplied with furniture, furnishings, apparel and food. It is the atmosphere that makes or mars the home and that atmosphere is created by those whose home it is.

Similarly the attitude of citizens toward their city and towards their visitors, is a large factor in the attractiveness of a city. The attractive city is not necessarily the city of palatial homes, of towering monuments and richly paved streets. These are attractive no doubt, but they are not all. It is not altogether because of the presence of these that we like certain cities and towns and villages, nor is it because of the absence of these that we dislike others. Everyone has felt "at home" in certain cities and towns, and distinctly "not at home" in others. This feeling comes of the atmosphere. What then constitutes the atmosphere of a city? First of all, perhaps, we are attracted by the cleanliness, the evidence of efficient municipal government, the well kept lawns and houses, the clean, whitewashed cottages, the general air of care for necessary details. In such a city you feel at home, we generally look for and find friendly people, people who are justly proud of their locality and proud to point out its attractiveness to the visitor.

In such a city the citizens take pride in maintaining the cleanliness of the streets, in assisting the officers of the law in observing the civic regulations.

IS A MOTOR CAR A LUXURY?

(Wall Street Journal.)

Put in a brief sentence, the answer to the question "Is a motor car a luxury?" will bring the form of ballot which is intended to reflect public opinion on the merits of plan No. 1469. In this form to vote yes or no on the question of approving "the winning plan in substance." In addition to newspaper support it is expected that Mr. Bok and the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association will send out millions of copies of the League of Nations and world court seal, and members of the Senate. According to league supporters, more than fifty independent organizations will assist in rounding up popular sentiment in every section of the country. The same organizations were employed in the previous attempts to get the League of Nations and world court seal through the Senate. The most important of these agencies are the women bodies, the League to Enforce Peace, commercial bodies closely identified with international interests, chambers of commerce, Y. M. C. A., and chambers of commerce, all of which are well equipped and assisted by adequately financed propaganda machinery."

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THE ALLEN.

(Ted Olson in New York Herald.) Curbed in the shelter of the circling hills, Always he dreamed of journeys far away;

Always the hungering urge of timeless wills Tugged at his heart and racked him night and day.

He knew naught else except the drab routine, Of stupid, homely tasks that hemmed him round— And yet he dreamed of waters lifting green, Of valiant, gull-winged galleons outward bound.

Beyond the distant reach of sunburnt ranges, Beyond the cloudy mountain's purple rim, He visioned splendid seas, remote and free, Where undiscovered islands beckoned him.

Down the slow length of August afternoon Two philanthropic agencies in the United States have between them pledged more than \$400,000 to support either the work of the Epidemics Commission or the league inquiry into conditions of the traffic in women and children.

His horse would drowse unglued in the sun, He saw white beaches fanning the moon, Or heard the trade wind chanting in the sea.

Stung by the infinite challenge of Rapture, Dazed by the magic that his dreams unfurled, At last he flung the gaudy towel down to chance, And took adventure's trail across the world.

To-day, a sweating beach below the line; The humbled grass huts of the island men; Where, staring over the white foam, He sees the gull-winged ships put forth again.

And always, far beyond the ocean rim, He dreams of hills, dark on the sunset glow, Or sunset range, until his eyes grow dim, Hungering for the trails he used to know.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Cutting Down Expenses

"What has become of that bad curve just outside of Plunkville?" "The town did away with it."

"Yes, it was cheaper to do it than to build a hospital—Louisville Courier-Journal."

One Consolation.

"There is one consolation in being in jail," said the prisoner to the visiting commissioner.

"There is nobody to wake you up in the middle of the night to tell you to go down and be sure the back door's locked!"

On the Verge.

"Do I understand," said the young man firmly, "that you absolutely decline to let me marry your daughter?"

"No," said the father, surprised. "And I am glad to see that you take your own responsibility."

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ENGLISH BIRDS

Their Songs, Haunts and Habits.

(By Frederick Pangborn.)

III. The thrush, too, is a wonderful bird, beautiful in color and song. He is a lovely pale green, with a breast of the lightest blue, with black spots. He has a large eye, long beak, the same length as those of the blackbird and the starling. His nest is hay, nearly an inch thick, lined with moss and lined with the inside of the nest is exactly like half a coconut shell, very strong built, and weighs around four ounces.

As I say, they line their nest with moss and a beautiful blue, with black spots. They lay up to five eggs, and never more. The cock bird is like the robin, and a great singer during the hatching process and afterwards. The young are as hardy as a young one just as it had fallen from its home. I climbed into the hedge with the poor little fellow, and just as I was placing him in the nest out flew the lot down into the bottom of the ditch. The old birds were almost frantic with terror because they lost their young. They fed them on the ground, and so brought them up until they could forage for themselves.

The blackbird is also a wild, noisy creature. His color is of the darkest blue, with yellow bill and legs. His nest is hay throughout, the same size as that of the thrush. The eggs are of a striped brown color, a little longer than the eggs of the thrush. They are as hardy as the thrush. Both these birds are very hardy, both when in confinement. They are almost as dirty as a duck. The thrush is far away from the best singer of the two. They delight to get the shell until they get their dainty morsel out.

The magpie is a bird that has no song. He builds high up in the trees. His nest is too high for me to go after. The magpie's nests have been known to contain little articles that glitter. They have no charm for me. The house sparrow is a well-known quantity. He is the most greedy of all

birds, always eating and always building. He builds a nest big enough for a hen. Many a hen does not build a nest nearly so large as that of the house sparrow. The weight is eight ounces. They lay four to five eggs, very pretty, a kind of dark brown.

Listen! what is that funny noise in the grass almost at your feet? That is the voice of the landrail, a bird that is heard and seldom seen. You may catch sight of one and that is all, but their nests have never fallen a prey to me, so I cannot comment on them.

Then again there is the tawny, land-rail's brother-in-law, I should say, for they are grass birds. They delight to ramble in the tall grasses of the country, and especially near water.

Mr. Crow is well known throughout the world. He builds his nest of what I call kindling wood, high up on the tree tops. They build only on tree tops and the higher the better.

The starling, too, is a tree bird, and of a very wild nature. Their eggs are just about the size of those of the thrush, and, as I have said, are of a pale blue color. A starling's delight is to ride on a sheep's back, and help itself to the lively, dainty, little jumpy lumps that infest the sheep. No other bird in England ever steals a ride in this way. The sheep seems to welcome them to go right to it.

I would give every person a year's penial servitude that is found killing a lark, or taking its eggs.

As I said, the bird will lay her eggs in nests that are high up, but never has been known to have the patience to sit like other birds. She just lays the eggs and is off, leaving the owners of the nest to hatch and raise the young, which is done with great success.

The swallow is the same here as in England. His nest is mud and they delight to build under roofs in high barns. They seek a warmer climate at the very first approach of winter.

NEGRO REGIMENT BECOMES UNIT OF NATIONAL GUARD

New York, Jan. 9.—The 369th Infantry (colored) has been accepted by the National Guard allotment of the State, and is now being organized as a unit of the National Guard.

Gen. Berry praised the regiment for having maintained its organization intact since the war, and having kept up a high morale in the face of many discouragements. The regiment has been forced to drill in a small hall during the winter months, and the greater facilities accorded through the War Department, Col. Arthur Little, commanding, expects to recruit the unit to full peace time strength.

More than 200,000 persons visited the American Museum of Natural History in New York City last year.

TO LONDON. S. S. Grey County Jan. 10. S. S. Essex County Jan. 12. S. S. Wainwright County Jan. 14.

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ATTENDED 382 FIRES

IN LAST FIVE YEARS

Both Salvage Corps Companies Elect Officers For Coming Year

The annual meetings of Salvage Corps and Fire Police Companies Nos. 1 and 2, were held in their rooms last night, the former in No. 2 Fire Station, Union street, and the latter in No. 5 Station, Main street, when reports were received and officers elected for the ensuing term.

No. 1 Company enjoyed an excellent banquet, served by the chairman of the entertainment committee, Charles Robinson, Chief of Dr. L. A. Langstroth and assistants. The guests of the evening were Commissioner of Safety, John Thornton and Fire Marshal Hugh H. McEllan, who spoke briefly on fire condition in the city and province.

Captain K. J. MacRae delivered a short address, complimenting the members on their excellent attendance and work accomplished at fires during the last term. Edwin A. Ellis, treasurer, showed that the company was in good financial circumstances. E. Percy Howard, secretary, showed in his report that for the period from April 19, 1923, until the end of December, 1923, the corps responded to 46 alarms, worked 26 hours and spread 15 covers. In the five-year period from April, 1918, until April, 1923, the grand aggregate of alarms responded to was 382. The corps worked 303 hours and spread 403 covers in the saving of property.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: Captain, K. J. MacRae; Lieutenant, G. C. M. Farren; Secretary, E. Percy Howard; Treasurer, Edwin A. Ellis; corps surgeon, Dr. L. A. Langstroth; foreman No. 1, N. A. Hambrook; foreman No. 2, R. C. Christie; foreman No. 3, W. E. Campbell; foreman No. 4, W. E. Campbell.

After the meeting had concluded the members enjoyed a few games of auction forty-fives.

No. 2 Company. At the annual meeting of No. 2 Company Captain W. L. Brown presided. He thanked the members for their faithful work during the last term. Charles Sullivan, treasurer, showed in his report that the company's financial condition was strong. Joseph Irvine, secretary, submitted a lengthy report on the activities of the corps for the year. It was the 20th annual meeting of the corps, and the year just closed the corps responded to 40 alarms and used 72 covers, and worked 28 hours. From April 1st to December 31st, 1923, the report on members' attendance showed that Lieutenant C. A. Cunningham and his assistants had worked 100 hours and had their names engraved on the Coupe Cup for best attendance, having attended 18 alarms (the total) from the last annual meeting in April. From January, 1923, to 1924, the company responded to 40 alarms and the average attendance of members was 17.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: Captain, W. L. Brown; Lieutenant, C. A. Cunningham; Secretary, Joseph Irvine; Treasurer, Charles Sullivan; surgeon, Dr. F. W. Hamner; foreman No. 1, Thomas Armour; foreman No. 2, George F. Coupes; foreman No. 3, F. W. Hamner; foreman No. 4, F. W. Hamner.

After the election of officers, and all business had been transacted, the members settled down to a series of several games of auction forty-fives.

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