

## PEACE TREATY AND LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO BE PROMINENT

Platforms of Presidential Candidates Being Built

Split in Democratic Party Over Both Issues—Prohibition Law Also Featured—Outline of the Party Platforms.

(Canadian Press.)

New York, May 21.—With the great national conventions, at which presidential candidates for the November election will be nominated, but a short time off, political parties in the United States are present hard at work building platforms which they hope will stand the test of the popular vote next fall. Final and definite platforms will be decided upon only at the June conventions at Chicago and San Francisco, but in the meantime all possible planks have been canvassed by state party conventions and the finished structure can easily be visualized.

The chief difference existing between Republican and Democratic platforms this year is found in the attitudes of the parties towards the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations. After twice failing of ratification when a Democratic president presented it to a Republican Senate, the treaty was projected into the political campaign, and forming the piece of resistance of both party pronouncements. As a party, the Democrats following President Wilson, are for ratification "without destructive reservations," but there is a rift in the party, and Senator David I. Walsh, of Massachusetts, Democrat, has openly announced that he exists a weighty group of younger members of the party who are irreconcilably opposed to the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations as they now stand. This split in the party is not expected to make for harmony at the San Francisco convention, and there is even some doubt expressed as to the final wording of the Democratic national plank on the treaty.

Senator Hiram Johnson, Republican, of California, who has been making a grand sweep in the state primaries in the race for the Republican nomination, is one of the "irreconcilable" foes of the treaty. Many both of his own party and the Democratic side point to his high standing in the primaries as evidence that there is a serious Democratic sentiment against the peace treaty in its present form, and claim that disgruntled Democrats have been invading the Republican primaries and voting for Johnson.

The "Bone-dry" Law.

In their preliminary announcements of their platforms, both Republican and Democratic parties claim the credit of the war played by the United States, and the latter because there was

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A Democratic president and administration in the saddle at Washington when the United States entered the conflict, and the former because since 1918 the Republicans commanded majorities in both houses of congress. A Republican congress passed the "bone-dry" prohibition law, so there is evidence of a tendency among Democrats to demand the repeal of the Volstead Act. This wing of the party does not, however, include William Jennings Bryan. The New York Democrats in state convention declared themselves "unalterably" opposed to prohibition by federal amendment. Other political platforms are being prepared and issued by minor parties, including the Socialist, National, Labor and Prohibition organizations.

A general idea of what the Democratic national platform as adopted at the San Francisco convention next month will be may be gleaned from the platform announced by the Democratic party of the State of New York, as adopted at the state convention in Albany recently.

"We stand," said the pronouncement, in part, "for the immediate ratification of the peace treaty and a League of Nations without destructive reservations, to the end that normal business relations in the country and in the world may be resumed, and future wars prevented. We deplore the refusal of the Republican United States Senate to act on this all-important question, and the consequent tremendous loss of national prestige."

"America must not relinquish her world leadership for the solitude of the western hemisphere. She must ever maintain her position as a friend of all peoples struggling for liberty." On the subject of women's suffrage both parties agree in their platforms. The Democrats at Albany said: "The complete enfranchisement of women should speedily become a part of the basic law of the land, and women, in the exercise of their political rights, should be given full and equal representation in party affairs and in half-hearted subordinate representation."

Coming to the vexed question of prohibition the New York Democrats voiced this view:

"We are unalterably opposed to prohibition by federal amendment. We believe it to be an unreasonable interference with the rights of the states as guaranteed by the constitution. We feel that the recent enactment was the imposition of the ideas of an active minority against the wishes of the great majority of the American people. We, therefore, declare for its speedy repeal. We favor an amendment to the national constitution whereby all amendments to the Constitution of the United States hereafter shall be ratified by a referendum of the whole people."

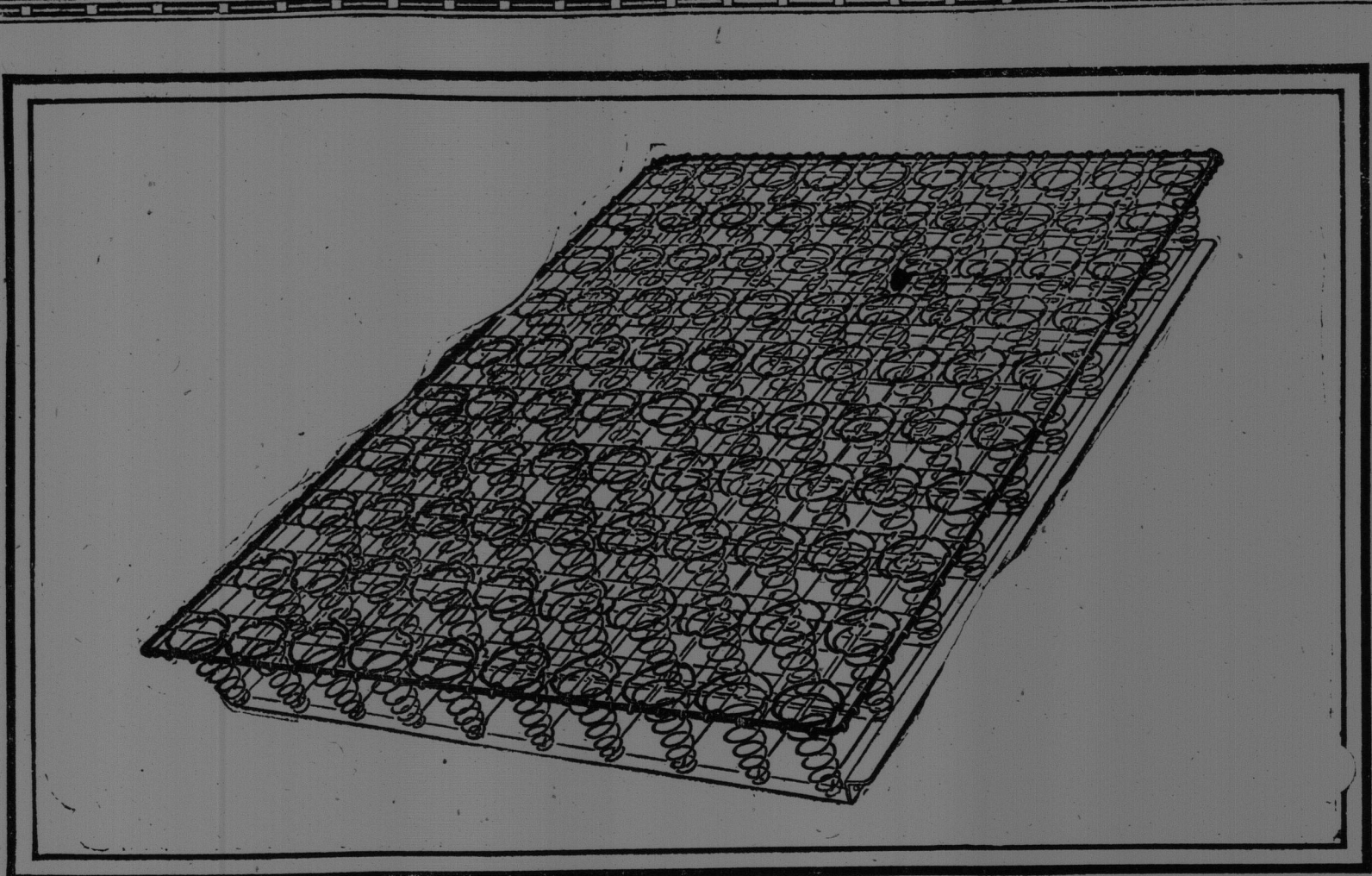
The matter of policy with regard to meeting the radical menace was also taken up, in these terms: "Declaring our allegiance to the political faith of our forefathers, we oppose any restrictions upon free assemblage or free speech. We have no quarrel with any citizen, or group of citizens, who by peaceful and lawful means seek changes in the structure of the government. But we denounce with all the energy we can command any group who, understanding our government, would by appeal to popular passion or prejudice hold up to criticism or ridicule the constitution of our country, the guarantee of our liberties during all our national life."

The Republican platform, as adopted at the New York state convention February 20, and following the lines of other state pronouncements, sets out the following policy on the Peace Treaty:

"We favor the immediate ratification of the pending treaty of peace, with such distinct reservations and declarations as shall make it clear to all the world that the United States retains its unconditional rights to withdraw from the League of Nations on proper notice."

that the United States assumes no obligation, either moral or legal, to send American soldiers or sailors for service abroad unless the congress, in the exercise of its constitutional power, shall so authorize and direct; that the Monroe Doctrine is protected both in letter and spirit, that no foreign power or council of foreign powers shall have any control whatever over the domestic policies of the United States; and that the government and people of the United States shall not be drawn, by the operation of part XIII of the treaty, the so-called labor clauses, into the net spread by international socialism. Article X of the covenant for a League of Nations, in its original form, cannot and should not be ratified by the senate or accepted by the people of the United States. To do so would not only contract away control by the American people of their own policies and acts, but would certainly embroil the country in an endless succession of wars, great and small.

"We believe that the proposed cove-



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allowing policy on the Peace Treaty:

"We favor the immediate ratification of the pending treaty of peace, with such distinct reservations and declarations as shall make it clear to all the world that the United States retains its unconditional rights to withdraw from the League of Nations on proper notice; that the United States assumes no obligation, either moral or legal, to send American soldiers or sailors for service abroad unless the congress, in the exercise of its constitutional power, shall so authorize and direct; that the Monroe Doctrine is protected both in letter and spirit, that no foreign power or council of foreign powers shall have any control whatever over the domestic policies of the United States; and that the government and people of the United States shall not be drawn, by the operation of part XIII of the treaty, the so-called labor clauses, into the net spread by international socialism. Article X of the covenant for a League of Nations, in its original form, cannot and should not be ratified by the senate or accepted by the people of the United States. To do so would not only contract away control by the American people of their own policies and acts, but would certainly embroil the country in an endless succession of wars, great and small.

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nant for a League of Nations is gravely defective in that it attempts to substitute discussion, instead of the rule of law, for force in the settlement of international differences. We declare it to be the policy of the Republican party, when the treaty of war is ratified, promptly to take steps for the institution of an international high court of justice to hear and decide, in accordance with the principles of law and equity, disputes that are justifiable in character arising between nations, and for an international conference, meeting at state intervals, to declare and to revise the rules of international law and conduct; and to urge upon the civilized nations, as a long step forward in promoting permanent peace, their assent to such a code of law defining the rights and duties of nations."

The platform urged the adoption by all states of the women's suffrage amendment, the establishment of commissions on industrial relations to avert trade disputes; revision of the system of taxation and business regulation so as to promote rather than prevent enterprise and production; inauguration of a national budget; and continuance of the policy of tariff protection.

"We are absolutely opposed," continued the platform, to government ownership of railroads and the so-called

Plumb plan for their management. The transportation of the country should be privately-owned and privately managed under strict government regulations that will ensure the lowest possible rates to passengers and shippers, while affording the owners of the railways a fair return on their investment."

The Republicans declare for "a merchant marine manned by American seamen, owned by private capital and operated by private energy." The federal trade commission, they charged, has "instituted its proper functions, persecuting instead of promoting trade." The platform asks for a small standing army, with a trained citizen reserve, subject to call for service only in case of declaration of war by congress. The training of citizen soldiers, it holds, should be under national supervision. Enforcement of immigration laws is demanded.

The platform expresses satisfaction with the conduct and achievements of the Republican party during the war. It calls attention to the election of a Republican congress in 1918 over the people of the United States, as well as to the platform of the election of men of his own party.

"Still the president persisted in his course," the platform says. "Both in his conduct of the peace negotiations abroad and in his advocacy at home of ratification by the senate of his own individual work, he has assumed a purely personal and partisan attitude. He has forced the Republican party to take an attitude of sharp opposition to his recommendations in order to protect the independence and to promote the highest interests of the people of the United States, as well as to open the way to the adoption of a real, instead of an illusory, plan for securing the peace of the world.

"We shall appeal to the people to support a policy of liberal and constructive progress both at home and abroad, one which will secure international co-operation for the preventing of war and the reduction of armaments without sacrificing love of country and American ideals to a false and harmful form of internationalism."

The Socialists.

The Socialist national convention held in New York this month, in its campaign manifesto demands for recognition of Soviet Russia, the independence of Ireland, and "self-determination for small nationalities whose will is now being defeated by imperialist powers." Other features of the manifesto were:

"Condemnation of the dominant parties for their failure to meet the political, social and economic problems of the day. Arrangement of the administration for the wiping out of civil liberties, a demand that oppression and violence cease and that constitutional rights be restored. A demand for the release of all political prisoners."

"Condemnation of the League of Nations scheme and a demand for a treaty of peace which shall not be a breeder of war and bulwark of oppression. A demand for repeal of the espionage act, under which no spy, but hundreds of persons holding opinions differing from those of the administration at Washington have been sent to prison. Denunciation of the tyranny of the post office department, with a demand for the ending of practices which have prevailed in that department under Postmaster-General Burleson."

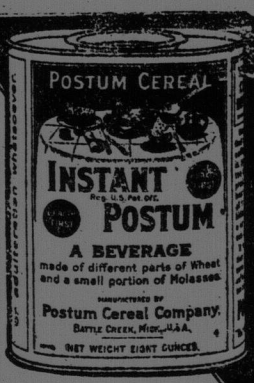
"Demands for immediate and drastic steps to end profiteering. Demands for a drastic revision of taxation in order that the burden may not continue to fall upon the worker and the consumer, but that war debts may be paid out of the

war profits of the profiteers. A pronouncement in regard to 'unearned increment' including the exorbitant profits made in war time. The usual Socialist demand for the socialization of basic industries."

The National Labor Party, despite the opposition of Socialists and organized labor generally, is in the political arena this year. This party was formed last November and will hold a national convention in July. The planks of its platform include the following:

Nationalization of all essential industries; nationalization of unused land; a League of Workers to "destroy autocracy, militarism and economic imperialism and bring about world-wide disarmament"; repeal of the espionage act; equal suffrage and equal pay for men and women in industry; abolition of the injunction power of judges in labor disputes; endorsement of the Plumb plan for tripartite railroad control; staple graduated income and inheritance taxes; a national budget system; limitation of the power of the supreme court to veto legislation; abolition of the United States Senate.

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