

SUIT.

(Last Week's Letter.) Messrs. H. C. Dickey and Ralph Payne, of Copperhill, spent Christmas with W. L. McNabb's family.

Messrs. Ralph and Clinton Keenum spent the Christmas holidays with home folks.

Mrs. A. P. Walker has returned from Gastonia where she has been on an extended visit to her brother, Mr. A. T. Sanders.

Mr. J. Luther McNabb and family spent Sunday with Mr. McNabb's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. McNabb.

Mr. W. A. Curtis has been very ill for several weeks, but is convalescent at present.

Mr. Essie Ledford is visiting his brother, Ben, at Copperhill, this week.

Miss Cora Nichols spent the holidays with her folks at Culberson, returning to her school here Monday.

Mr. John Curtis, of Athens, Tenn. has been visiting his father during the latter's illness.

Mr. John R. Mason has sold out to his son, Buster, and will move to Dncktown soon.

Coughs that hang on—

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\$100,000 PEACE PLAN PRIZE AWARDED

Advocates Entering World Court and Cooperation With League Without Full Membership at Present—Suggests League Membership Be Opened to All Nations and Provides for Development of International Law.

The American Peace Award brought forth 22,165 plans and many thousands of letters. Since many of the plans were the composite work of organizations, universities, etc., a single plan often represented the views of hundreds or thousands of individuals. The content of these plans is therefore an index of the true feeling and judgment of hundreds of thousands of American citizens.

These plans come from every group in American life. Some are obviously from life-long students of history and international law. Some are from persons who have studied little, but who have themselves seen and felt the horror of war—or who are even now living out its tragedy.

But among them all are these dominant currents: that, if war is honestly to be prevented, there must be a face about on the part of the nations in their attitude toward it; that by some progressive agreement the manufacture and purchase of the munitions of war must be limited or stopped; that while no political mechanism alone will insure cooperation among the nations, there must be some machinery of cooperation if the will to cooperate is to be made effective; that mutual counsel among the nations is the real hope for bringing about the disavowal of war by the open avowal of its real causes and open discussion of them; and finally that there must be some means of defining, recording, interpreting and developing the law of nations.

The only possible pathway to international agreement with reference to these complicated and difficult factors is through mutual counsel and cooperation which the plan selected contemplates. It is therefore the unanimous opinion of the Jury that of the 22,165 plans submitted, Plan Number 1469 is "the best practicable plan by which the United States may cooperate with other nations to achieve and preserve the peace of the world."

It is the unanimous hope of the Jury that the first fruit of the mutual counsel and cooperation among the nations which will result from the adoption of the plan selected will be a general prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all materials of war.

The Question to Be Voted Upon The substantial provisions which constitute the plan selected by the Jury of Award, and upon which the vote of the American people is asked, are hereby submitted by the Policy Committee as follows:

Statement of Jury of Award

The Jury of Award realizes that there is no one approach to world peace, and that it is necessary to recognize not merely political but also psychological and economic factors.

I. ENTER THE PERMANENT COURT

That the United States adhere to the Permanent Court of International Justice for the reasons and under the conditions stated by Secretary Hughes and President Harding in February, 1923.

II. COOPERATE WITH THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, WITHOUT FULL MEMBERSHIP AT PRESENT

That without becoming a member of the League of Nations as at present constituted, the United States Government should extend its present cooperation with the League and propose participation in the work of its Assembly and Council under the following conditions and reservations:

1. The United States accepts the League of Nations as an instrument of mutual counsel, but it will assume no obligation to interfere with political questions of policy or internal administration of any foreign state.

In uniting its efforts with those of other States for the preservation of peace and the promotion of the common welfare, the United States insists upon the safeguarding of the Monroe Doctrine and does not abandon its traditional attitude concerning American independence of the Old World and does not consent to submit its long established policy concerning questions regarded by it as purely American to the recommendation or decision of other Powers.

No Military or Economic Force

2. That the only kind of compulsion which nations can freely engage to apply to each other in the name of Peace is that which arises from conference, from moral judgment, from full publicity, and from the power of public opinion.

The United States would assume no obligations under Article X in its present form, or under Article XVI in its present form in the Covenant, or in its amended form as now proposed, unless in any particular case Congress has authorized such action.

The United States proposes that Articles X and XVI be either dropped altogether or so amended and changed as to eliminate any suggestion of a general agreement to use coercion for obtaining conformity to the pledges of the Covenant.

No Obligations Under Versailles Treaty

3. That the United States will accept no responsibilities under the Treaty of Versailles unless in any particular case Congress has authorized such action.

League Open to All Nations

4. The United States Government proposes that Article I of the Covenant be construed and applied, or, if necessary, redrafted, so that admission to the League shall be assured to any self-governing State that wishes to join and that receives the favorable vote of two-thirds of the Assembly.

Development of International Law

5. As a condition of its participation in the work and councils of the League, the United States asks that the Assembly and Council consent—or obtain authority—to begin collaboration for the revision and development of international law, employing for this purpose the aid of a commission of jurists. This Commission would be directed to formulate anew existing rules of the law of nations, to reconcile divergent opinions, to consider points hitherto inadequately provided for but vital to the maintenance of international justice, and in general to define the social rights and duties of States. The recommendations of the Commission would be presented from time to time, in proper form for consideration, to the Assembly as to a recommending if not a law-making body.

Author's Name Not to Be Revealed Until After Referendum

In order that the vote may be taken solely upon the merits of the plan, the Policy Committee, with the acquiescence of Mr. Bok, has decided not to disclose the authorship of the plan until after the referendum. The identity is unknown to the members of the Jury of Award and the Policy Committee, except one delegated member.

JOHN W. DAVIS LEARNED HAND

WILLIAM H. JOHNSTON ESTHER EVERETT LAPE Member in Charge

NATHAN L. MILLER MRS. GIFFORD PINCHOT MRS. OGDEN REID MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT HENRY L. STIMSON MELVILLE E. STONE MRS. FRANK A. VANDERLIP CORNELIUS N. BLISS, JR. Treasurer

Do you approve the winning plan in substance? (Put an X in the proper box) Yes [ ] No [ ] Name (Please print) Address City State Are you a voter? Mail Promptly to THE AMERICAN PEACE AWARD 342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY Note: Those interested in expressing fuller opinions are cordially urged to send them on a separate sheet.

FIRE FIGHTING JOB ONE FOR A FINISH

The extraordinary favorable fall of mild weather has resulted, as hoped, in a much less disastrous fire season than is usually the case. Delayed frosts kept the woods and forests green much longer than usual, with the result that the usual period of drought did not provide the tinder of fallen leaves. Since frosts came rains have increased and much timber that would have been subjected to fire in ordinary course has escaped.

While the mild fall has been largely responsible for this gratifying condition, reports to the Forest Department of the Survey indicate that the fire prevention forces in the cooperating counties have been very diligent and efficient. In a remarkable number of cases it is shown that when fires started they were extinguished after burning over negligible areas of from one-half acre to an acre and a half, the damages being nominal. In almost every one of the instances, the early concentration and effective action of the wardens acted as a preventive of a fire that was getting headway to work serious harm. The total of property saved through this prompt fashion of performing duty is incalculable.

"Three Bites at Cherry" There were, however, several reports of a neglect to follow through a job well begun that can serve as warning to all fire-prevention forces. In these cases fires had started, the wardens had organized and put them under control, only for new fires to start from smouldering embers.

For instance, a typical fire of this kind started in Montford's Cave Township in McDowell County, on November 12. It was promptly reported and attacked and yielded to the efforts of two men working a total of three hours. The estimated damage to one acre burned over was only \$4.

But on November 13, fire which started from the remnants of the first blaze burned over twenty-five acres, doing damage of \$100 and requiring hours of work on the part of four men to bring it under control, and on November 19 still another fire started from the first two which required a total of 21 men working an average of two hours to bring it under control.

The contrary practice was shown by the action of the warden at Black Mountain, who after extinguishing a small fire which burned two or three acres in the mountains took the precaution to leave one deputy and a helper to watch the burned area throughout the night, with the result that the fire, once "put out," "stayed put."

Correct Fire Practice In every business it is a problem of management to inspire in the officers and employees generally the spirit of sticking to the particular task until it is definitely concluded. Most things are easy to begin and most men carry on efficiently when there is something definite to be attacked. It is, however, far more difficult to secure the service of thoroughness which leaves no odds and ends left over to be picked up, re-assembled or corrected after the job finely begun should have been put in the class of finished business. In the science of forest fire prevention this virtue of sound caution is

one of the most important features. Before leaving any burned area the line of fire should be thoroughly inspected to see that there are no smouldering places liable to start up again, or standing stubs burning which may fall across the line and spread the flames. One hour spent in this way may save several hours of fighting fire later. Many fires should be patrolled until there is not the slightest danger of their breaking out again, especially in dry seasons. The expense of keeping a man of two on patrol duty for a few hours, or even all night, will usually be much less than that of extinguishing a fire after it has broken out a second time and may prevent much unnecessary damage.

Up to December 1, the largest fire reported occurred in Clay County, five thousand acres being burned over at an estimated damage to growing timber of \$15,000.

Moonshiners' Smoke Screen In sharp contrast to the sentiment in Buncombe County is that disclosed in the South Mountain section of Burke where on the outbreak of a large fire that burned over several thousand acres with large damage, the warden found the people not only indifferent to aiding in its control, but actually "favoring" the fire. In one case this peculiar brand of ignorance was displayed by a man who owned the land over which the fire was spreading, and the fire itself may well have been intentionally started with the idea of permitting it to burn itself out.

One theory supposed to support such a destructive practice is that the forest will be fired in any event and that being true it is better that fire should come in the fall than in the spring when the sap is rising in the wood. Another is that in a section in which "moonshining" is somewhat of an established industry, it is supposed that with more or less continual fires in the woods, the "smoke" from the various illicit "stills" will not be the tell-tale sign it would otherwise be to officers—Natural Resources.

UPPER PEACHTREE.

(Last Week's Letter.) The Christmas holidays passed off quietly in this section.

Misses, Cora, Ora and Fulton and T. J. Thomason, Jr., of Andrews High School, spent their vacation with home folks here.

Messrs. Dee Percy, Arnold and J. B. Gregory, of near Andrews, were business visitors here the past week.

Rolin Dockery of near Murphy, was here the past week looking over the Andrews power transmission line.

R. M. Moore has closed a deal for the A. J. Moore heirs land that joins his farm here.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Luna of near little boy, Wheeler, was badly burned t'epast week when his clothes caught fire.

David Raxter, who has been visiting relatives and friends and his former home here, has returned to his home in Oklahoma.

J. H. Thomason of Swancy has returned to his school after a week's vacation visiting relatives and friends here.



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