

Will The Arms Conference Be A Sham?

Washington Has Gotten the Definite Impression That the Arms Limitation Conference Will be Nothing More Than a Sham and a Pretense.

By David F. St. Clair.
Washington, Aug. 23.—The appointment of Senator Lodge as one of the American delegates to the arms limitation conference to meet here on November 11 and his speech in the Senate after the appointment declaring that he favored only general disarmament has given Washington the definite impression that the conference will be nothing more than a sham and a pretense.

General disarmament would mean the military disarmament of a nation like France. It is certain that France will never consent to disarm and that it would not be safe for her to do so while her present relations with Germany exist. France has been invited to the conference and has accepted. She will be asked to disarm and will of course refuse and by that loop hole the world's big munition makers will be saved from scrapping their factories.

That is the interpretation that some of those most deeply interested in the results of the conference give to the Lodge appointment and his speech. It is believed that Senators Knox and Underwood, opponents of disarmament, will also be appointed on the delegation. That prospect with the actual appointment of Lodge has redoubled the efforts of the women of the country to have one of their sex appointed. Without a woman on the American delegation they contend the conference is already doomed to failure.

The friends of Senator Borah of Idaho are asking why he has not been appointed as one of the origin and inspiration of the whole movement. It was his brilliant battle for his naval disarmament amendment to the naval appropriation bill that finally forced an unwilling Senate to accept the amendment and a reluctant President to call the conference, yet the crusader Borah is ignored and Lodge, an opponent of the only sort of disarmament that is held to be practical at this stage, is chosen.

No Use for Borah.
But Harding has no more use for Borah as a delegate to this conference than he had for the Borah amendment. He did all that he as President possibly could do to kill that amendment. He sent for Senator Poindexter, chairman of the naval appropriation committee, and asked him to plunge the knife up to the hilt in the Borah amendment. It must not be allowed to pass. Mind you, this amendment had no other object than the disarming of the great navies of Great Britain, the United States and Japan. But the President said that it was inopportune at this time and we do not want it.

But Borah had created a ferment of interest throughout the country. Women by tens of thousands had rushed to the telegraph offices with messages to their Senators. The long distance telephone wires as far away as Denver, Colo., Augusta, Me., Jacksonville, Fla., and Huston, Texas, were singing with voices of mothers who had lost sons in the war in France. The Democratic Senators soon began to fall over one another to follow Borah's lead and when enough Republican Senators had joined in the grand march to pass the amendment, the President gave out the statement that he had all along been working for the noble purpose that has animated the soul of the Idaho Senator.

But instead of calling a conference for naval disarmament or the limitation of naval disarmament, he calls a conference for 'general' disarmament with Pacific problems thrown in and invited France and Italy, who have no Pacific problems and China, who has no Navy, to the conference. The Borah plan, aimed at specific, practical results, has been perverted to give the President credit of the movement and to defeat it with impossible demands.

Harding's Incapacity as Leader.
The friends of the real limitation of armament point to the President's perversion of Senator Borah's move as a striking illustration of Mr. Harding's incapacity as a leader. He not only shows no initiative but frowns upon the one great clear practical suggestion that he is forced by public sentiment to take hold of. Then to make it unworkable he loads it down with side issues and appoints men on the delegation that must

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initiate the program of the conference, men who will demand an impossibility. If the conference succeeds—and the whole world is praying that it will—it will be because the sentiment of the American people will compel success.

But the impression grows here that the men who will really have the destiny of the conference in their hands are working to render it a failure. All the army and navy people when not openly are secretly fighting it. They argue that the failure of the movement is the only way to quiet the agitation for disarmament. They contend that disarmament if it could be secured would not remove the cause of war and rearmament would instantly result from friction.

Two months ago Rep. E. W. Pou in an interview given out in this correspondence said that President Harding had no foreign policy, that he not only did not know what to do but did not want to do anything but keep his party together and drift. Nothing has occurred since that time to change Mr. Pou's opinion of the President. But if the conference is a failure, will it not give a death blow to the Harding administration? Well, of course it should and it probably will, but if it is a failure the men who will have made it so will say that the President was not in favor of it to begin with and that he called it to demonstrate its failure. Either that or the failure will be put on some one else's shoulders.

The real friends of disarmament have begun to bestir themselves to have the conference sessions open to the public. The decision on that issue

they believe will be a test of the success or failure of the conference. There is an overwhelming majority of the American people in favor of the reduction of armament but only in open session can they bring their influence to bear.

Tribute to Kitchin.
It was a fine tribute the Democrats in the House paid last week to their absent leader, Claude Kitchin, in adopting his report on the tax bill. Mr. Kitchin as minority leader has not been on the floor of the House since it met last April and his absence has been a great loss to his party. Mr. Kitchin wrote the minority report on the tax bill propped up in his bed at Scotland Neck, where he is now resting and trying to recover his health.

In all discussions of the tariff the Democrats have their opponents at every turn except voting. It is the opinion of the Republicans, even, that no one has so coarsened, cheapened and deteriorated the character of discussion in the House as one Joseph W. Fordney, the present chairman of the ways means committee.

Mr. Fordney is as vulgar as he is ignorant. He uses the language of the fish market in debate but under the guise of cheap humor. The other day while he was engaged in holding the Democrats up to scorn for their al-

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leged extravagance in taking over and using the railroads during the war, he was cornered from the Democratic side with the query: "Did you not vote to put the railroads into the hands of the government then under the Democrats?" and his reply throws a flood of light on the present low moral status of the political party that is now conducting the government at Washington. "Yes", he retorted, "I voted to put the Wilson administration in a hole, and we did it."

It was a bad break and instantly he saw it mirrored in the faces of some of his party colleagues, and then he sought to turn it off as a joke. But this old political prober and ignoramus had under pressure blurted out the underlying motive of his party's action in dealing with the Democrats. As the New York World has pointed out, Mr. Fordney and his party have now put the country and the Republican themselves in the hole he claims to have bored for the Democrats.

Major Charles M. Stedman, the solitary Confederate soldier in the House and now eighty, left here on Saturday to deliver one of the happiest speeches of his life, a beautiful tribute to the immortal heroism of the North Carolina soldiers in the war between the States, at Durham on Tuesday. In that speech the major has repeated a story that will never grow old as long as there is a State of North Carolina with the kind of red blooded, strong hearted men and women who now inhabit it.

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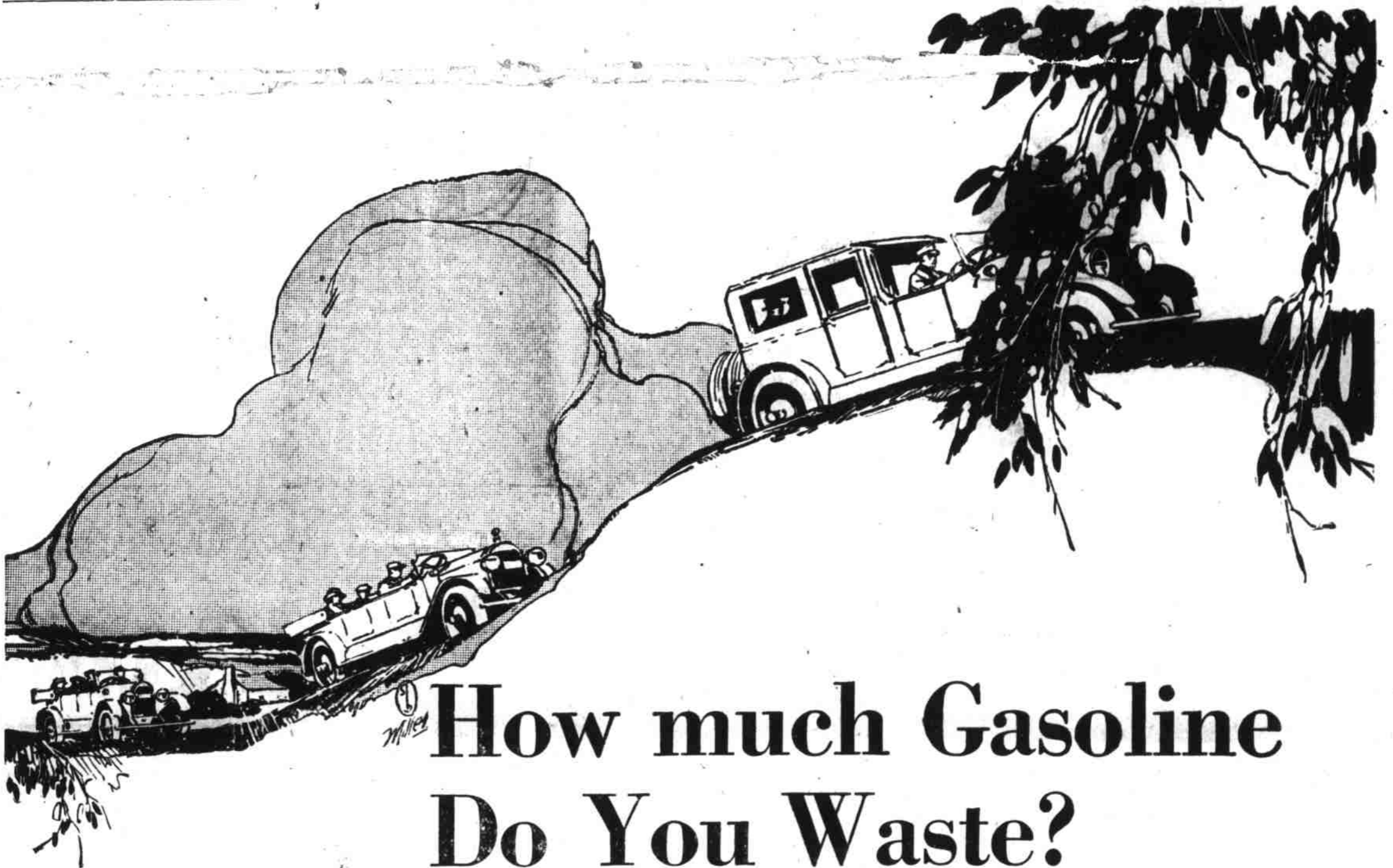
With a total of 395,000,000 pounds of the farmers' sales of tobacco reported to March 1st and enough in evidence to make 420,000,000 pounds as having been produced in North Carolina last year, averaging 21 1/2 cents per pound, the State has accomplished what Kentucky tobacco men said was "impossible."

The February tobacco sales in North Carolina show a total of 67,491,370 pounds reported of which 59,216,289 pounds were producers' sales. The average price was \$18.60 as compared with \$31.43 a year ago. The leading markets were respectively, Winston-Salem 11-097,624 at \$19.7; Wilson 10,193,469 at \$19.48; Greenville 5,965,749 at \$18.15; and Rocky Mount 695,986 at \$18.50. There were thirteen times as much sold as in February a year ago.

North Carolina has grown in tobacco as follows: In 1915 it grew 198,400,000 pounds, averaging 11 cents; in 1916 176,000,000 pounds at 20 cents; 1917, 244,000,000 pounds at 31 cents; 1918, 310,000,000 pounds, at 35 cents; 1919, 325,248,000 pounds, at 51 cents; 1920 420,000,000 pounds at 21.51 cents.

The increase of the last crop was about 14 per cent. in acreage, 30 per cent. in production and a decrease of 57 per cent. in average price per pound as compared with the previous crop. This gives North Carolina first rank in its tobacco total value of the United States or any country of the world.—Concord Times.

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