

The Charlotte News

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GOD'S WORD STANDS:—The grass withereth, the flower fadeeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever.—Isaiah 40:8.

THE SOUL OF ALL IMPROVEMENT.

There was a large portion of good horse-sense in David Harum's utterance that you can never have an honest horse race until you get an honest human race.

Herbert Spencer changed only the phrase when he declared that there is no political alchemy whereby golden conduct can come from leaden instincts and Carlyle said it better than either of them when he asserted that "the soul of all improvement is the improvement of the soul."

The trouble with the world is not essentially that its governments are bad nor that it needs more laws and greater machinery for holding the bad in check and giving an outlet to the good seed in society. The trouble with the world is that it needs something done to its inner life, to its conscience, to its other self, to its immortal part, and no matter what may be done on the surface that looks like it might introduce the Millennium, the sober truth still confronts us that the change must develop from within the skin.

We hear a great deal in these times about the need for legislation that will make bad men more obedient to the laws and bad governments more amenable to the decent sentiment of society. And we have been trying that almost since the world began. From the early infant days of the race a barrier of statutes has been erected and held out in front of iniquitous men, but they have consistently leaped in and kept up their mischief and perpetuated their misconduct. Legislation has absolutely failed so far to create an ideal society.

Certainly force has failed also. There is nobody to chain today that war has made humanity any better or that, since it has been washed in the blood of slain millions, it has gained some sort of remission. Even those who were silly enough to reason that, according to science, wars were biologically necessary in order to kill off the weak, the puny, the misfits and the unassimilates in society, seem to have crawled into their holes. The picture which world society is presenting today answers in the negative every suggestion that wars are morally stimulating and socially wise. Never before, perhaps, since civilization dawned has there been such a social, such immorality, such lasciviousness, such dishonesty, such carpingness, such pure, old-fashioned backbiting. The whole world is tempest-torn with it in some form or other. Racial and social and physical wretchedness lies sprawling over the face of the earth. Everywhere there is disease and disorder and disarrangement and distantness from right. War has made a thorough mess of his job of purifying things, of bearing up the muddied waters, of eliminating evil and making humanity better and nobler and more soulful.

And everything else attempted has met with failure just as grim and hideous. Nothing that man has done or can do, it seems, will have the effect so universally sought. So we come back to where Carlyle left us when he made his great discovery that "the soul of all improvement is the improvement of the soul", until there is a thorough ablation from within, the crime is going to stay on the surface of things, until something touches the hidden depths of humanity with the sabre-thrust of regeneration and rebirth, we will never come into that attainment of peace and quiet and world-calm which we are now running to and from to find.

Battleship scrapping is not the only sort that is taking place in the disarmament conference. North Carolina has the highest birth rate of all the States and probabilities are that it has the lowest death rate also. And the journey from the cradle to the grave is certainly as pleasantly spent, as safe and decent and comfortable here, as in any other surroundings imaginable.

LODGE, THE INTRODUCER.

The interlocutor in the performance at Washington within these last few days is none other than he who has said so many things lately, and then done the opposite, that nobody knows any more when to believe him or when to lay confidence in him—Senator Lodge. It was the august Senator from Massachusetts who proposed the four-cornered affair which has been announced as the forerunner of the peace of the world, the young league of nations which the Washington conference offers as the first concrete agreement it has reached behind closed doors.

Either Senator Lodge believed in the original league of nations which led to defeat or he does not believe in this latest handwork of his. With the exception of the mere and insignificant matter of numerics, there is no vital difference. It has reduced the number of powers signatory to this new-fangled concert of the nations to four, whereas the league has 46 nations already signatory to it. He has changed the language, of course, from that in which the Versailles document is phrased, but language is elastic. Different words and different sentences can be multiplied that will say the same thing and represent identically the same principle.

And yet, in spite of the kinship between the two, in spite of the fact that in the practical operations of both, there can possibly be no far-reaching difference, Lodge nails the largest and better league a vicious blow at the base of the brain, and then comes tottering out on the stage fondling this new thing.

It is this change of fronts in his part and on the part of the present Republican administration that is so everlastingly detestable, indicating with a new emphasis that there was nothing in the Wilson league which they opposed except the personality behind it. Of course, that has been generally understood, but not before has there been such absolute and invincible proof furnished. The evidence before has been largely circumstantial; it has become direct and irrefragable now.

Another interesting phase of the situation is that Lodge was chosen to present it, selected as the one man who would be held up before the world as the author of this new plan and the founder of the peace which it is supposed to be the harbinger of. There is method also in this madness. President Harding and Secretary Hughes probably understand the temper of the Senate and how that this great body once before stood itself out against a great device of peace because, it said, the framers had not taken the legislators into confidence and the executive of the nation had sought to pull something over the law making department of the government.

Mr. Harding takes no chances, therefore, on a recurrence of this mishap. Surely the Senate can no longer count itself entirely out of the proceedings when its own leader and chief Administration spokesman brings forth this royal paper from his own chest, thereby giving the Senate itself the honor and the preference of having initiated this wonderful movement for world peace. A bunch of me-tooos who have never known what it is to shake their heads when the bell-wether sets out in some direction will dolefully fall in line, the President reasons, assuring him that after the measure receives the executive O. K. it will not fall before the merciless opposition of a slighted and jilted Senate. We suppose this was also done at the suggestion of Mr. Lodge since he seems to have assumed all the responsibility of leading in a movement to bring the whole world peace by bringing just four of the nations of the 50 or more into an alliance, than which none conceivable would be more anti-Washington.

A PROPOSED HEALTH SURVEY.

A health survey has been proposed for Mecklenburg county and we would certainly raise no voice against it, provided we don't merely get a survey and nothing else. Surveys have become the fashion. They are of all sorts and all of them develop facts in connection with the life and activities and conditions of the people which are interesting, and many of them are alarming. Surveys are worth, however, only in proportion as the facts disclosed beget action. There must be a practical application of the disclosures. Merely learning what a given status is may add to the storehouse of current information, but it does not effect alleviation.

A health survey of this county will bring to the eye of the public a great number of situations and truths which have been denied us before. If it shall be followed by such action as will be curative where a cure is needed and corrective where correction is called for, it can be made to be worth all that it may involve in the way of both expense and effort.

Certainly no information ought to stand us in better stead than that relating to the health of the people of this community. Nothing else is as materially important as health. There is no field of public endeavor to which we may more urgently and pertinently apply ourselves than to the conditions of disease and indigence throughout this county. They are the enemies of a correct social order; they tear away our industrial structure and they prevent any sort of a wholesome and rational development.

THE ARMENIANS' NEED.

A special and urgent appeal is being sent out through North Carolina for some sort of remembrance for the Armenians. Josephus Daniels is at the head of a committee consisting of many prominent State officials and other leaders in the thought and action of the State which is trying to present this need intelligently to the people of North Carolina. The very fact that the cause has enlisted the heartfelt interest of such men as these may be taken to indicate that it is more than merely worthy—rather than it is imperative and strategic.

Christianized nations are not dealing properly with Armenia and never have. We wonder sometimes if, in the case of Great Britain and America who seem to have, in an especial sense, this burden and duty to face, they are not disposed to lose interest in Armenia merely because there is nothing in that country except people with a great, glaring need.

It has been said of the United States, for instance, that its people love Mexico, because of the mines and the oil there. It has been said also in England that it is particularly fond of Mesopotamia, for instance, because there is oil there also, solicited about the South Africans because in South Africa there are diamond mines, but neither the United States nor Great Britain seems to care much about Armenia because in that country there is nothing but people who cry continuously their acute wants and needs and aches and pains to the civilized Christian countries to whom they have a right to look.

BEFORE AND AFTER TAKING.

If it was a violation of the traditional policy of this country to join the league of nations, it is equally as great a violation of the same policy for America to join three other powers in a pact to keep the peace in the Pacific.

If it was a violation of the sovereignty of the United States to belong to a concert of the nations that would set up a world-court for the determination of justiciable issues, it is a violation of the same sovereignty for the United States to agree with three other powers that, in the event of any issue arising between them, all of them shall move together in the settlement of the difficulty.

Possibly, the philosopher is mistaken who said the rose is as sweet when called by some other name.

The same principles which lie at the foundation of the four-power alliance are the principles which also lie the foundation of the league of nations.

The league of nations was ridiculed and castigated and its authors were treated with calumny and contempt because of their daring to propose even such a thing for this country.

HUMAN PLAN IS TOO EXPENSIVE.

In a volume prepared for the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace, Prof. Ernest L. Bogart declares that all the wars of the Nineteenth century, including the Napoleonic wars, and running on through all the struggles of the Balkans, show a loss of life of 4,499,209; the dead of the World War reached the staggering total of 9,998,771.

It is generally reckoned that the worth of a single life, economically, is about \$2,400. Counting the dead as measuring up to that average, the economic loss to the world from this source alone has run up to \$23,990,000,000. The property loss on land is estimated to have been \$30,000,000,000 and that on sea about \$6,500,000,000. The indirect cost of the war in the way of stagnation of production is considered at \$45,000,000,000.

The combination brings the aggregate cost of the World War up to the incomprehensible figure of \$115,000,000,000. This war resulted because humanity has been trying to solve its problems in terms of human thought and human transaction. Wars will continue to repeat themselves until the race faces about and tries the plan of the Prince of Peace. What is the world spending on that plan? It is estimated that Christian activities of all sort throughout the world are costing about \$500,000,000 annually. On this basis, the money waste of the war would have supplied funds for the Christian churches and Christian missions for 200 years.

THE CONVICT PROBLEM.

Chairman Griffith of the highway commission is being quoted as having remarked upon the vastness of the convict problem in this county and how that it entails more solicitude than any other single distinct phase of his work. We have no doubt of the correctness of that opinion. The convict system has always been somewhat of a problem in county administrations, whether much was said of it or not. And we speak not of its mere management as of the exactions which its details make upon those in authority and, more especially of the cost of the system. It has been agreed among others who preceded Chairman Griffith into authority over the maintenance of convicts that it would be much cheaper for the county to hire men to do what work they do. Those who think the county makes money out of these men whose services it gets for nothing are mistaken according to the opinion of many of those who have been in these positions of responsibility. There is such a vast expense attached to their care and upkeep that, out of the work returned by them for these things, the county finds no dividends.

TRYON STREET WILL EMPLOY SECRETARY

An executive secretary is to be employed by Tryon Street Methodist church and \$1,400 has been raised to be applied to the yearly salary.

Decision to employ the assistant to the pastor was reached at a meeting of the Men's club at the church Monday night. There was considerable discussion of the proposed step, but when the ballot was taken unanimous endorsement was given. The executive committee was authorized to proceed at once and employ a man.

Guy A. Myers, president of the club, acted as toastmaster. He introduced the speakers as follows: Judge W. W. and Harding, Rev. H. G. Hardin, pastor, Kent Blair, Tom Matthews, L. W. Wingate, Will Bobbitt, W. D. Wilkinson and D. E. Henderson.

The church now employs a director of religious education, who is paid by the board of stewards. With the addition of the executive secretary, financed by the Men's club, it will be the only church in the Western conference with both officers, it was said.

MENNONITE COLONY REACHES ALABAMA

Yellow Pine, Ala., Dec. 13.—One thousand Mennonites, occupying 15 cars, arrived here today from Regina, Saskatchewan. The colonists brought with them cows, horses, sheep, household effects, and farming implements, and they are prepared immediately to start housekeeping and preparation of the soil for next year's crop. An advance guard had purchased lands and provided temporary shelter.

The Mennonite colony is situated in the heart of the Alabama lumber belt, where timber is plentiful and the soil productive. Fast stretches of unimproved acreage afford the colonists ample opportunity to gratify their expressed desire to engage in agricultural pursuits in a sequestered section. Few of the number arriving had ever been so far South. It was stated, and the change from the frozen North to a mild and sunny climate brought many expressions of pleasure.

ROGER D. EASTLAKE IS ON TRIAL FOR MURDER

Montross, Va., Dec. 13.—Roger D. Eastlake, naval petty officer, was placed on trial in the Western district court here today for the murder of his wife, Mrs. Margaret Eastlake, whose mutilated body was found on September 30 in their home at Colonial Beach, Va. Eastlake is charged with the crime jointly with Miss Sarah Knox, a Baltimore trained nurse, who will be tried as soon as the former's trial is concluded. Decision to try the victim's husband first was reached by the prosecution as a result of late developments in connection with the crime, which is regarded by the authorities as one of the most hideous in the criminal history of the State.

Mr. L. B. Cook Tells How Cuticura Healed Brother

"When my brother was three weeks old eczema broke out on his head and face in blisters and then scalded over. His hair became very thin, and he just scratched and cried all the time and could not rest day or night."

"The trouble lasted about eight months. We tried everything we heard of with no results. I read your advertisement for Cuticura Soap and Ointment and bought some, and after using three boxes of Cuticura Ointment with the Cuticura Soap, he was completely healed." (Signed) L. B. Cook, Harrison, Georgia.

Cuticura Soap daily and Cuticura Ointment occasionally, prevent pimples or other eruptions. They are a pleasure to use, as is also Cuticura Talcum, a fascinating fragrance for perfuming the skin.

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The chief requisite to a Merry Christmas is CANDY. Both young and old enjoy it.

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