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TASK OF PRESIDENT WILSON IS OUTLINED BY SIMONDS

The Real Question is Whether America Desires to Lead at Paris and in New Directions Sufficiently Strongly to Agree to Share the Cost of Reorganizing the World.

Frank H. Simonds writing from Paris for the McClure Newspaper Syndicate outlines President Wilson's task in America as follows:

At the moment when President Wilson is beginning his explanation in America of the league of nations there is a single question which ought to be clearly answered for the American public. What is it that Europe expects of America as a consequence of the formation of the league of nations?

The answer to this question must, I think, be found first in the view which obtains both among the English and the French as to what this government of the league of nations which Mr. Wilson has taken back to America actually is. In substance, the English and French views are that the government of the league of nations is a substantial recognition by Europe, by the allies, and primarily by England and France, of the ideas and principles which Mr. Wilson came to Europe to advocate. Much of the actual text and machinery of the present league of nations' covenant is the result of European contribution. But there would have been little or nothing of any league of nations' covenant if Mr. Wilson had not come to Europe and made his consistent and persistent effort.

France and England, in effect, have joined with President Wilson in a draft of the program of the league of nations, which is still a mere sketch, with the understanding, clear and unmistakable, if they and their European associates agree to a new organization of international relations at the demand of America, expressed by Mr. Wilson, America will be prepared on her side to join with European nations in physical defense of such association and in the sharing of expense and the burden of this new social order. And, in substance, Mr. Wilson has obtained his league of nations' covenant in its present form simply as an evidence of good faith on the part of both France and England, who thus signified their readiness to accept the new ideas and the new principles, but very clearly expected that Mr. Wilson would bring his countrymen to accept the new responsibilities and new duties that flow from this league of nations' program.

WHAT ENGLAND EXPECTS

Now, to put it specifically, what does England expect America to do as a result of the league of nations? First of all, beyond any question, England expects the United States to accept one or more mandates, to undertake responsibility for some such peoples as the Armenians, and to contribute all the necessary resources in men, material and protection to bring about the organization of this new Armenian state. In other words, England expects the United States to break with its traditional policy of isolation and enter world affairs as a partner of the organization, and in the defense of various rights which cannot stand alone. Armenia, in Asia, and Liberia, in Africa, have been two most mentioned mandates.

I am satisfied that there will be a feeling in England that the whole British policy with respect to the league of nations has been a failure if the United States shall now, the league of nations having been drawn, fall to take up the responsibilities which, to the English mind, are inherent in America's advocacy of the league of nations itself. There will be a feeling that America has been unwilling to make good her bravado by difficult but necessary labors.

WHAT FRENCH EXPECT

What do the French expect? Substantially this: That the United States will organize and maintain an army available for immediate transportation to France, to protect France, in co-operation with the British and French armies, provided the Germans shall refuse to accept the principles of the league of nations and presently return to their old methods of militant imperialism, at this time expressed by republican rather than Hohenzollern armies.

The whole view of Europe is too simple and yet too close to be misunderstood. Mr. Wilson came to Europe representing himself to be the spokesman of America, to demand that Europe should accept American ideas of a new international association in which moral rather than physical force should prevail and the settlement of the last war should be had, not on a basis of taking extreme military precaution against the enemy but on the basis of making a just peace, eliminating causes for future wars.

Europe, at the end of the most considerable war in human history, was in a realistic mood. It would have drawn a treaty of peace based on the idea that it was necessary to talk every physical precaution against the enemy. Europe would have made a peace based on the preservation of the alliance between the nations which had fought Germany; based upon the idea of preserving this alliance by mutual recognition of the extreme claims of each of the allies. In other words, nothing seems more certain than that if America at the peace conference had pursued her traditional policy of not

intermixing in European affairs, Europe would have made another kind of peace.

WILSON HAD HIS WAY

But Mr. Wilson, representing himself as the spokesman of the will of America, came over here and substantially served notice upon Europe that the peace of Versailles must be a totally different thing from the old settlements, that American ideas about the peace of Paris should prevail. He represented a single nation not exhausted by war. He spoke with authority which for Europe was almost absolute, and he has had his way up to the present moment in forcing the conference at Paris to lay aside European territorial and financial questions until the new organization of society was at least sketched in accordance with his own ideas.

But Europe, on its side, in consenting to accept Mr. Wilson's leadership in this matter, in consenting to break with these traditions, in giving Mr. Wilson a sketch of his league of nations, has done all this with equalities which he has taken back to America. Obviously, it would be unnecessary to take extreme precaution, territorial and military, against Germany if for the future all the vast resources of the United States were pooled with those of France and England and Italy in a new association in which each member was prepared to do his utmost if any member were attacked. The foundation of the league of nations from the European point of view is a defensive alliance between England, France, Italy and America, for the purpose of maintaining the principles expressed in the league of nations.

If the United States is not prepared to go to this length, if it is not prepared to accept mandates in Asia and Africa, if it is not prepared to keep a standing army and expeditionary army, strong enough that in co-operation with the British army two divisions can be put down in France within 14 days for every one division Germany raises in excess of the French establishment, then for England and for France the league of nations is still born, another scrap of paper, an utter dead letter.

The practical application of all this is patent. If President Wilson shall succeed in persuading the American people to become with France, England and Italy, co-guarantors of a league of nations, prepared to defend both nations and principles associated, prepared to accept part of the burden of giving smaller peoples a chance to organize and become self-governing and self-sufficient, then President Wilson may come back here and exercise an enormous influence in the later phase of peace-making and the ideas and principles expressed in the league of nations will dominate through the whole intricate and difficult process of reorganizing Europe and the rest of the world. If President Wilson fails to persuade the American people to take up their share of the burden of world organization, then when Mr. Wilson comes back he will find the league of nations project shelved and bitter and disillusioned Europe, thrown back upon the old fashioned methods and old fashioned ideas, compelled to take precautions against Germany which would be unnecessary if America were a permanent partner.

NOW AT SUPREME CRISIS

Our whole mission and our whole role in Europe is not at a supreme crisis. Europe, and particularly France and England, have accepted our leadership expressed by Mr. Wilson and have formulated the projected league of nations, but they have done it purely and simply on the assurance of the President of the United States that America was prepared to share in the burdens, responsibilities and guarantees of such a league of nations. The French believe they have assurance from the President in the matter of military establishment of America. The English at least have a profound hope that their cordial, consistent co-operation with Mr. Wilson, without which he could not have acquired his covenant, will be recompensed by American participation in mandatory responsibilities of the world. But I do not think I exaggerate when I say that if America regrets her responsibilities the profoundest disappointment and disillusionment will follow, both in England and France, and it will no longer be possible for America to exercise an effective influence in the direction of a new-fashioned world settlement.

The substantial fact is that Germany, having broken the balance of power in Europe by destroying Russia, having assured the absorption of German Austria, having destroyed the industrial establishments of Belgium and northern France, must find herself within the next few years in a better position from which to start out to conquer the world than she was in 1914. Unless the United States readjusts this balance of power by associating herself with the western nations the only possible hope for the western nations is to impose such power on Germany that German recovery will be long, slow and difficult. The mere question of self-preservation will be the determining test of the treaty of peace of Versailles, by contrast, and this is the British view.

If Germany finds herself disarmed by the provisions of the treaty of peace, with conscription abolished, and if she finds herself confronted for the future, should she elect to resume militarist ideas, by England, France and Italy and the United States in a close defense alliance, the

UNION COUNTY COTTON ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

At a Meeting Held Wednesday—Executive Committee Will Elect Officers and Name Canvassers—Resolutions Adopted at Raleigh Ratified.

Arrangements were made for the perfection of a Union County Cotton Association at a meeting of a number of the representative citizens of the county in the Chamber of Commerce rooms Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. W. S. Blakeley was elected to preside at the meeting and Mr. T. J. W. Broom to act as secretary. Mr. Blakeley stated the purpose of the meeting and explained that like meetings were being held in every county in the state. He called attention to the fact that the cotton market had reached such a condition that the South was faced with disaster unless the 1919 crop be reduced and the balance of the 1918 crop be held until market conditions justify its sale. The banks and business men of the South will back up the farmer in an effort to secure better prices by reduction in acreage and holding cotton on hand, he said.

Other men addressing the meeting were: Messrs. J. Z. Green, T. J. W. Broom and Major W. C. Heath. They called attention to various phases of the effort now on hand.

It was decided to leave the election of officers for the association in the hands of the executive committee, composed of Messrs. J. E. Broom, W. S. Blakeley and T. J. W. Broom. They will meet at an early date to elect officers and to appoint a committee in each township to canvass their territory to secure pledges to reduce acreage in cotton and to hold all cotton now on hand.

The resolutions adopted at the Raleigh Cotton Convention on February 11, were ratified at the meeting. They are as follows:

The South is confronted with a disaster unless the crop of 1919 be reduced and the balance of the crop of 1918 be protected and held until market conditions justify its sale. To enable all people in the South interested in cotton, and nearly all are, to adopt a direct and intelligent method of meeting the situation, this Convention earnestly recommends that the following plan be adopted:

(1) That the crop of 1919 be reduced at least 33 1/2 per cent in acreage, and that the fertilizer on the two-third area be not increased; but this does not apply to any farm of less than five acres to the horse; provided, that in carrying out this recommendation the following schedule of reduction shall be observed: Any man planting five acres or less to the horse to make no reduction; 6-7 acres, reduce one acre to the horse; 8-9 acres, reduce two acres to the horse; 10-11-12-13 acres, reduce three acres; 14, reduce four acres; 15-16, reduce five acres; 17-18, reduce six acres. Under no circumstances will any farmer plant more than 12 acres to the horse.

(2) That on all the cotton land left out and on the balance of the farm, ample supplies of food, feed and other crops be planted. That under the present conditions the wisest plan for the South is to produce all of the food needed for its people and the feed for its live-stock.

(3) We believe that the existing situation justifies the holding of every bale of cotton now in the hands of our Southern people, and we urge our farmers not to sell the balance of the present crop for less than thirty cents per pound, basis middling.

(4) That to carry out this purpose, we call upon the bankers and business men of the State for their hearty cooperation.

(5) We recommend that every owner of cotton immediately put his cotton under shelter, or in a warehouse, and will not permit it to leave the warehouse until the owner shall so specify.

(6) We earnestly warn the farmer that if he buys high-priced fertilizer, and a large acreage of cotton is made, he must pay next fall with cheap cotton for the high-priced fertilizer and other supplies.

(7) We recommend to the farmer that he leave uncultivated in cotton every acre that he cannot reasonably expect to make enough cotton to yield a profit at reasonable prices. We do not believe that an acre that produces less than two-thirds of a bale will yield a profit to the grower, and every acre should not be planted in cotton.

(8) For the purpose of securing the united cooperation of all financial interests, and to put this plan into effect, the merchants, bankers, landlords, fertilizer dealers and other business men are asked to extend credit and to finance farming on the basis of a safe program, including full production of food and feed, rather than the production of cotton alone.

(9) It is recognized that the world need for cotton when conditions become anything approaching normal will, without doubt, be exceedingly great, and it is therefore important that those who can hold their cotton against that time, and that in the meantime the situation be held in hand by control of future production.

(10) We recommend that the present Congress of the United States enact the Smith Bill covering the character of cotton deliverable upon cotton exchanges.

We ask that the Governor of this State communicate immediately with our Senators and Representatives, informing them of this action.

(11) We recommend that the Leg-

islature pass an adequate warehouse bill for the State of North Carolina.

(12) We recommend that the tax-basing day for individual tax payers be made June 1st.

(13) We recommend that a committee of seven persons representing the farming and business interests of the State be named by the Governor to inaugurate a State-wide campaign to effect the purpose set forth, such committee to meet immediately and to have full authority to devise ways and means to carry out the provisions of these recommendations.

This committee is authorized to raise money, employ clerical assistance, and to put on an intensive campaign, and to do any and all things necessary to effect the purpose of this meeting. To enable the committee to begin work immediately, contributions are now solicited.

Warehouse Bill by Senator Price Approved.

Senator J. N. Price has introduced a bill in the legislature providing for a state system of cotton warehouses by taxation on cotton. The bill passed the third reading in the Senate yesterday without a dissenting vote.

The following regarding it appeared in this morning's News and Observer:

Only words of encouragement to speed it on its way attended the passage of Senator Price's warehouse bill, which places a tax of 25 cents a bale on all cotton produced during the next two years and which, it is estimated, will produce a fund of not less than \$400,000.

Senator George Holderness, himself a farmer of means and producer of cotton on a large scale, although he stores his cotton in private warehouse space, was heartily in favor of the bill and declared that Senator Price was to be congratulated upon having introduced a bill that has so many good points. Though he would not use the warehouses he believed he should pay the tax because he would profit from the withholding of cotton from the market.

Senator Joe Brown, another farmer of means, declared that a tax of 50 cents would not be extravagant. He realized that nothing worth while could be done without money and this provided the funds and would collect it from those who would directly benefit from the system. In his under speech to the Senate, Senator Brown expressed pleasure in being able to vote for the bill, as did Senator Horton. Senator Fisher could see some objections to it, but ~~was not~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~roll~~ ~~call~~ ~~with~~ ~~no~~ ~~opposition~~ ~~recorded~~.

Recurrence of the Flu Predicted For Next Winter.

Recurrence next winter of the influenza epidemic which caused thousands of deaths in all parts of the country during the past five months was predicted Wednesday by Rear Admiral W. C. Braistead, Surgeon General of the Navy, in a letter to Representative Fees of Ohio, urging that an appropriation be made by congress for research work to determine the cause of the disease and its cure.

An appropriation of \$300,000 for the study of diseases is carried in the sundry civil appropriation bill, now before the house, but Admiral Braistead said this would not be sufficient to undertake the research work on the necessary large scale. He recommended a special appropriation to be divided between the public health service, the surgeon general of the army and the surgeon general of the navy.

Bryant Washburn's New Photoplay is Charming Comedy.

That versatile young screen star, Bryant Washburn, has a human interest comedy in "The Way of a Man With a Maid," and the story originally appeared in "The Saturday Evening Post," where Bryant himself read it and set about securing screen rights. It is a Paramount picture and will be shown at the Strand theatre Friday.

It introduces Arthur McArney, a \$21 dollar a week clerk, as the chief figure, and shows his romance with Elsa Owenson, an extravagant, blonde little stenographer. Arthur McArney is shown as a very ordinary young man, satisfied with his weekly wage until the expensive Elsa comes into his life. Then he has to hustle to corral enough money to show her a good time and from this situation the story develops to a charming and unexpected ending.

Bryant Washburn is said to be at his best as the young clerk, Wanda Hawley plays Elsa Owenson and Fred Goodwins, who has done excellent work in recent Paramount pictures, appears as Biek Pansom. McArney's chum, Others who play important roles are Bessie Eyton, Clarence Geldart, Jay Diggins, Billy Elmer and James Neill.

Donald Crisp, who directed the picture has shown on numerous occasions that he is one of the cleverest of film bosses when it comes to getting human touches out of comedies, and he is reported to have done an excellent piece of work in directing "The Way of a Man With a Maid." Charles Schoenbaum was the cameraman. The scenario was written by Edith Kennedy from the short story by Ida M. Evans. Frank Richardson assisted Mr. Crisp with the direction.

Ancient Egg.

First Soldier (in restaurant)—"How's your egg, Bill?"
Second Soldier—"I'll match you to see who goes back for the gas-masks."—Jersey Journal.

DINNER CONFERENCE FAILS TO CHANGE REPUBLICANS

Apparently Still Oppose Constitution of League of Nations—Wilson is Closely Questioned and Allows Guests Freedom to Tell All.

President Wilson told members of the congressional foreign relations committees Wednesday night that unless the United States entered the league of nations, the league would fall and chaos and turmoil beyond description would result in Europe. Views of the republican members opposing the league constitution as reported to the peace conference apparently were not changed by the conference.

Hitchcock, of the senate committee, said the President held that decisions of the league's executive council would not be binding until specifically approved by each signatory nation, and that consequently the American Congress would have the opportunity to pass on the apportionment of armament for every nation concerned. The President said this section had been misconstrued.

Concerning the clause giving the right to the league to consider acts threatening world peace, President Wilson said that the clause was indefinite and would be made more clear by writing in a safeguard which would require that every recommendation by the council should be unanimous.

It also was said that the President informed the senators and representatives that the disarmament provision would not interfere with the military training of men, but that it was evident that a trained body of men would not be a danger to world peace if their armament supplies were kept in check.

Mr. Wilson said the provision for enforcing the determination of the council in case it was disobeyed by any nation would apply in only one case, and that where the party against whom a decision was rendered had property, including territory, in its possession which it would not surrender.

Views of republican members of the congressional foreign relations committees who opposed the proposed constitution of the league of nations apparently were unchanged after a long dinner conference tonight with President Wilson at the white house. The opinion was expressed by both democratic and republican senators.

Discussion of the constitution as presented to the peace conference was said to have been quite general and the President was questioned closely, especially by Senator Brandegee, of Connecticut, Republican Leader Lodge and Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, former secretary of state, took very little part.

The President after making an opening explanatory statement, answered all questions freely and specifically emphasized that his guests were free to discuss the conference and all its information with newspaper men and others.

One question on which much time was spent was whether a nation once in the league could withdraw, raised by Senator Brandegee. The President was said to have held that any country could withdraw, but Senator Brandegee contended this would be impossible under the constitution as now drafted.

President Wilson denied that the league plan would interfere with the Monroe doctrine, declaring that the doctrine would be guaranteed by all the member powers in the world so clearly.

The President was said to have held that the mandates in the constitution were not compulsory, but required the consent of the nations to which the mandate was assigned. Senators said he expressed the opinion that the United States would desire to become a mandatory for Armenia.

On the question of American sovereignty, the President was said to have taken the position that recession of American sovereignty was not a new precedent, being an incident of every treaty.

In conceding that some sovereignty must be surrendered by membership in the league, the President declared it was inconceivable that there could be any concert of action by nations to eliminate war and protect the weak unless each nation was willing to give up something.

Denying statements that the league meant usurpation of the power of Congress to declare war, the President said the league merely was a promise by the treaty-making power that its Congress would do all in its power to carry out the agreement, a situation which he declared prevailed in many present treaties.

The President was said to have stated that it was necessary that the United States stand to the support of the Czechoslovaks, the Jugos-Slavs, Poland and other weak and struggling peoples made free as the result of the great war.

Senator Lodge refused to see newspaper men or make any statements after the conference.

Accounts of both democratic and republican members of the committees who discussed the conference varied only in very minor details.

The strength of the league would rest on the friendship of America, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, the President said, and he expressed the opinion that serious trouble between these five nations was "unthinkable." Should one of these withdraw from the league or in any

way fail to support it, impotence of the league might result.

The President was said to have told the senators and representatives that the league constitution adopted was proposed by Great Britain, but was not the one drawn by General Smuts, one of the British authorities on the league proposal. Drafts presented by the United States, France and Italy were rejected.

"The President felt that if the league is not ratified," said Chairman Hitchcock, "there will be despair throughout the world because of failure in the effort to secure permanent peace. Serious complication, the President felt, might result at an early date from failure of the league. The league is already in use, the President stated, through the reference of the questions on various subjects which have been referred to international commissions."

SENTENCES WHICH ARE TOO SEVERE TO BE MITIGATED

President's Power Will be Resorted To in Courtmartial Cases — Dishonorable Discharges Have Been Revoked.

Maj. Gen. Crowder appeared before the Senate Wednesday and stated that all imprisonment sentences imposed on men of the army during the war and found to be too severe would be mitigated through the President's power of remission. The 5,000 sentences imposed since the beginning of hostilities will be reviewed by a special board in the next sixty days. Practically all the dishonorable discharge orders have been revoked and 1,200 men sentenced to long terms at Leavenworth have been honorably restored to duty in the past year.

In the record of this courtmartial hearing a confidential order on conscientious objectors sent to all camp commanders by Sec. Baker was read as follows:

"The Secretary of War directs that you be instructed to segregate the conscientious objectors in their division and to place them under supervision of instructors, who shall be specially selected with a view to insuring that these men will be handled with tact and consideration and that their questions will be answered fully and freely.

"With respect to their attitude of objecting to military service these men are not to be treated as violating military laws, thereby subjecting themselves to the penalties of the articles of war, but their attitude in this respect will be treated with kindly consideration.

"Attention in this connection is invited to a case where a number of conscientious objectors in one of our divisions, when treated in this manner, renounced their original objections to military service and voluntarily offered to give their best efforts to the soldiers.

"It is desired that after the procedure above indicated shall have been followed for a sufficient length of time to afford opportunity to judge the results derived from it, a report of the action taken and the results obtained under these instructions is to be submitted to the war department by each division commander. As a result of the consideration of these reports further instructions will be issued by the Secretary of War as to the policy to be observed in future in the case of conscientious objectors.

"Under no circumstances are the instructions contained in the foregoing to be given to the newspapers."

Items From Indian Trail Route 1.

Correspondence of The Journal.

Indian Trail Rt. 1, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Buren Foard of this place got badly scalded one day last week turning a coffeepot over her hands accidentally.

On account of the "flu" situation Mrs. Bruce Helms is finishing out the Furr school term.

Sunday school hour at Union Grove M. E. church has been changed next Sunday to 10 a. m. All are requested to be on hand then.

Rev. T. J. Huggins will preach at Union Grove March 2nd at night.

Messrs. Herman Furr and Lewis Wentz have positions at Camp Bragg, Fayetteville.

Mr. Wise Scott spent Sunday and Monday at Rockingham.

Miss Julia Furr has returned from Monroe after spending a week with friends and relatives.

Miss Margaret Thomas of Wadesboro visited your scribe Sunday.

Messrs. Tom Lemmond and Alonzo Dixon have returned home and report a fine time at Camp Bragg. Carpenter work was all they did there and it was easy work with good pay. Both got home sick and could not stay any longer.

Miss Kate High of Monroe was a pleasant guest of Miss Pearl Hill one day last week.

Miss Anna Blackmon is now at Concord visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. Elmore Ford of Greenville, S. C., spent a few days here with friends and relatives.—Cheerfulness.

Center Grove Honor Roll.
First Grade—Josephine Wentz, Wade Wentz, Viola Stinson, Edna Ritch.
Second Grade—Grace Lee Helms, Mack Yandle.
Third Grade—Paul Wentz, Beulah Helms.
Fifth Grade—Annie Lee Yandle, Ona Williams, Ruby Helms, Clara Bell Wentz.
Seventh Grade—Eula Mae Helms, Auta Presley, Annie Lee Williams, Cora Helms.

(Continued on page eight.)