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Friday, November 28, 1919.

Reason Together.

Vituperative editorials and abusive speeches will not help the cause of the advocates of the League of Nations covenant to force through a compromise ratification resolution through the United States Senate.

There is plenty of evidence that a great many American citizens—and they are the only ones concerned in the matter no matter how loudly the representatives of other nations now resident in the United States may protest to the contrary—are determined that the United States shall not go into the League of Nations blindly and only after our position has been clearly defined and limitations as to our future relations with other nations clearly defined.

It is magnanimous to play the part of the Good Samaritan but we have no right to be so much of a Good Samaritan that our own affairs are bankrupted thereby. Judging future by past history, there is not a country in Europe that would succor us if we were bankrupt and forced to appeal for aid, no matter what anybody may say to the contrary. And we, as trustees for future generations, have no right to hand down a legacy of bankruptcy to our children and their children's children.

If we concede right motives to President Wilson in negotiating the Treaty of Peace and League of Nations Covenant, and we must do that—we must concede right motives to the Senators who made the reservations to the documents that they considered were necessary to preserve American integrity, sovereignty and self-respect.

These concessions made why should there not be an amicable compromise whereby the President's actions at the Peace Conference may be confirmed at the same time the interests of the United States, as the Senators see them, will be protected fully?

The President has no right to arrogate to himself the entire sovereignty of the United States. William Hohenzollern did this for years. He is no longer a ruler. Neither has the Senate the moral right, nor have the people intimated that they approved such a course—to kill the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations covenant, entirely.

Why not a compromise under which the rights of all could be conserved and protected?

It would appear that President Wilson in selecting the personnel of the new Industrial Conference Board—or whoever advised with him as to the selections—overlooked one very important factor. Had he included a representative of the National Catholic Council for reconstruction he would have placed upon the Board an element that is making more real progress in solving the great problems now before the country than almost any other in the United States.

"The Greatest Mother"

Quite often we disagree with Arthur Brisbane's political and personal views, either expressed on the platform or in the public prints of which he happens to be the editor or controller. We hold to the opinion that Arthur either honestly or for public consumption only is a confirmed pessimist and a hardened cynic. But we cannot refrain from reproducing the following beautiful tribute to "The Greatest Mother" written by M. Brisbane and published in the New York "American"—

The Catholic Church in the United States plans to celebrate the war's ending by building a magnificent memorial church in Washington in honor of the Virgin Mary. The church will cost five millions. It is a notable idea to celebrate the end of a war that killed the sons of so many mothers with a great monument in honor of the mother whose son was sacrificed for the salvation of the world.

The Pope who ordered the building of St. Peter's most magnificent church in the world, by Michael Angelo developed the highest architectural art of his period. That magnificent dome was the newest thing in architecture. Michael Angelo and the Pope directing him imitated nothing; they created.

It would be well if this new magnificent monument could be a creation rather than an imitation, an interpretation of the art of architecture of today—a beautiful religious monument of glass, steel and marble, reaching one thousand feet or more toward the sky. This church will commemorate the ending of a plague more dreadful than the plague followed by the building of the Maria de la Salute in Venice.

Who patronizes the motion-pictures? If, indeed, not only is the industry without religion, as one official of the National Association of the Motion-Picture Industry admitted, but likewise is in effect contravening the Divine Purpose of religion, the desired change can be wrought, whether or not it be ever wrought, by an economic expedient until censorship censors. It is not boycott to choose to attend only those motion-picture theaters where decent pictures are exhibited; it is merely the exercise of the right every man possesses to follow the dictates of his conscience.

There must be something peculiar about Sing Sing Prison. Wardens do not like to stay there—at least they do not stay long.

A news despatch tells about Federal Railway Administration officials journeying to conventions in "private cars." We thought the "private cars" were tabooed under the Federal control of railroads.

President Wilson delegates to Attorney General Palmer wartime powers of the Federal Food Board. Simultaneously comes a report that Attorney-General will hold price of sugar to 12 cents a pound wholesale which means 15 or 16 cents to the consumer—an advance of 5 cents a pound or nearly 50 per cent! And the war is over!

The Times-Union cannot see why we need to enlarge our Army and Navy if there are to be no more wars. But who can assure us there are to be no more wars.

"Rebel"

According to an esteemed contemporary, the term "rebel" usually is considered one of opprobrium; but there are rebels and rebels. Britishers at the moment look upon DeValera as the rankest kind of a rebel. Just the same, there are a lot of people who have learned to love him for the enemies he has made." Maj.-Gen. Montgomery of revolutionary fame was a rebel from the British viewpoint. When he fell, Dec. 31, 1775, Lord North used these words: "I cannot join in lamenting the death of Montgomery as a public loss. Curse on his virtues; they've undone his country. He was brave, he was humane, he was generous; but still he was only a brave, able, humane and generous rebel." To which Fox replied: "The term rebel is no certain mark of disgrace. The great assertors of liberty, the saviors of their country, the benefactors of mankind, in all ages have been called rebels."

Farley's Choice.

Democratic State chairman William W. Farley did not accept the position of New York state prohibition enforcer but he named the man—a former partner of his, a democratic leader in Delaware County, and a former counsel to the New York State Excise department when Mr. Farley was excise commissioner.

Anti-Saloon League Anderson who defamed Cardinal Gibbons, evidently, was not consulted by President Wilson before the prohibition enforcers were named.

From the protest from Britishers, not alone in England but in this country, it is quite evident who thought the League of Nations constituted the best bargain for.

If it be the coal operators, not the miners, who are blocking the resumption of coal mining, then the Government should exert the same sort of pressure it exerted to force recall of the miners, strike order.

Sound Sense

No fair minded person can find fault with the position taken by the "Columbiad" as to how to deal with objectionable motion pictures as follows.—

Admission that a certain percentage of motion-pictures reviewed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Censors was utterly unfit for exhibition might, and apparently does, apply to those prepared in other States, whether censored or not. The people, indeed, in their daily attendance at the picture theaters could attest to the fact that censors have not seen, or at any rate have not acted upon, the thousands of productions presented on the screen. It did not need the Chicago hearing of some time back to prove that censorship of motion-pictures was in most instances sadly wanting; nor to prove that the questionable plot predominated.

In his own inimitable way the dignitary who drew a distinction between "art artists" and others, did a service. An "art artist," would seem, is a person who holds artistic judgment as something apart from popular taste. One of the leading newspapers has published a series of articles by an anonymous writer who in his own inimitable way has brought out the same thought. "The erudition of a handful of savants, the culture of a small group of intellectuals can never be the vital, vigorous force in the life of humanity that the education of the people can become."

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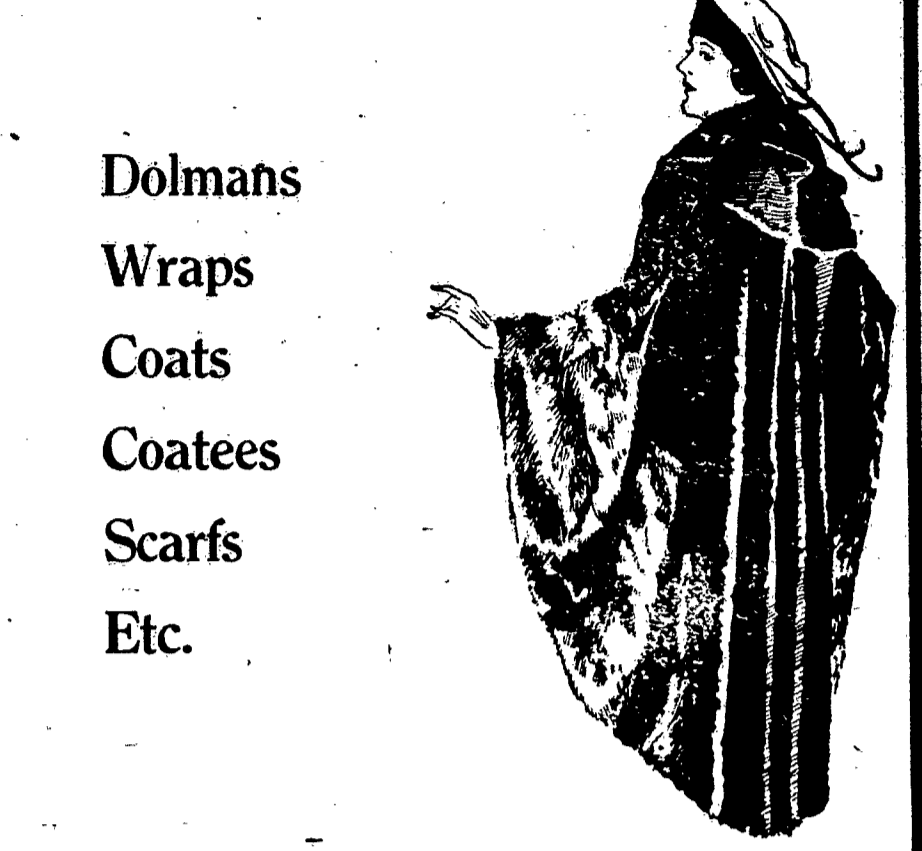
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