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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Every Vote Counts

If you could have voted last week and didn't, because you argued lazily "My vote wouldn't make much difference anyhow," the results of the balloting should make you sit up and take notice. Some results were so close that they still are in doubt.

Not one but several men owe their seats in congress to a margin of eight, ten or even fewer votes.

Remember this next time you have a chance to vote, and have respect for the power that lies within your hands as an enfranchised citizen.

Armed Truce 1918-1930

On this twelfth anniversary of the armistice, addresses are being made around the world on the great peace advances made since 1918. As evidence, there will be cited such achievements as the League of Nations, the Locarno security treaties, the world court, the Kellogg pact, and the Washington and London naval treaties.

No friend of peace will sneer at those achievements.

But no person informed of the facts of the present world situation will accept those institutions and treaties as adequate. The discouraging aspect of the situation is that, despite these peace achievements, there is more danger of world war now than at any other time since signing of the armistice.

All basic causes which have produced past wars are present today—national fears and jealousies, the sense of injustice and revenge over so-called stolen territories, oppressed minorities, trade rivalries and conflict over raw materials, the despair of nations loaded with debts which they hope to cancel, the temptation of rulers who fear the rising tides of Fascism and Communism to resort to foreign war to prevent civil war, and, finally, the armament race.

Our own armament bill now exceeds \$741,000,000 annually, an increase over pre-war days of 161 per cent. This, according to the official statement of President Hoover, is "the largest military budget of any nation in the world today."

According to the senate appropriations committee, the total appropriations in the last session of congress "for preparations for and results of war" were \$2,831,825,963—or about 72 per cent of our total national expenditures.

Virtually all the European powers steadily have increased their armament budgets and are continuing to do so. Deducting Germany, now partially disabled by force, the European countries are now spending on armaments annually \$2,370,000,000, compared with \$1,878,000,000 pre-war.

The European nations are not spending these vast sums on armament for the fun of it—indeed, most of them are so close to bankruptcy that they dare not waste a penny. But they feel that they have no choice other than to prepare for a war which they consider inevitable.

And that, after all, is the only real test of the world's boasted peace institutions and of the results of the late "war to end war." If the peoples and governments will not rely on the peace machinery, but continue to increase their military weapons, then the peace progress toward peace is not worth much.

We could blame Great Britain and France and Italy, who have failed to keep their treaty pledge to disarm themselves as they disarmed Germany; and we could blame the smaller and new European states whose militaristic nationalism now is undermining peace.

But there is more point in blaming ourselves. Because of our superior strength and physical isolation, the United States, better than any other nation, can risk arms reduction and binding peace treaties. And yet we have refused to lead, where others might follow.

We have refused to join the league or even to co-operate with it fully. We have kept out of the world court. We have emasculated arbitration treaties. We have refused to make the Kellogg pact binding. We have negotiated naval treaties involving increases instead of reduction.

Unless the United States adheres to the world court, puts teeth into the Kellogg anti-war pact, and leads in joint armament reduction, we shall be partly to blame for the next world war if it comes.

A Winning Issue

Evidence continues to accumulate that last week's elections spoke more significantly on the question of public utilities than on any other.

Wets were elected and drys were elected. Democrats and Republicans; high tariff men and low tariff men; but in every state where utilities were an issue, advocates of public ownership or development of power resources, or of adequate regulation of private companies, were successful. They belonged to both parties; there were drys among them and wets. They were elected in east, west, north and south, but all were elected.

Never in recent years has there been such a striking expression on the subject of power.

Now, with completion of referendum counts, it has been determined that two states have, in addition, gone directly on record in favor of public ownership of power resources.

Washington and Oregon have provided for creation of power districts within their borders, having authority to conserve the water power resources of the states and to supply public utility service for all purposes.

With Pinchot, Roosevelt, Cross, Meier and La Follette as Governors protecting the public interest in power; with Norris, Walsh, Costigan and others fighting the same fight in the senate; with Reece of anti-Muscle Shoals fame defeated, utility companies which were arrogant now are uneasy.

Meanwhile, the rest of us can feel a little more secure in possession of our common heritage.

Neither Mars Nor Mars

We throw out of our schools and colleges all teachers who try to use their position to disseminate Communist propaganda. This is fit and proper. In Los Angeles they will not even graduate from high school students who believe in Communism. Such students automatically are flunked in the required course in civics.

Yet we allow as rank and "un-American" a type of propaganda as Communism to flourish in our schools. It is unchecked, and in many quarters even is encouraged. We refer to the course in "citizenship" given to some 260,000 school and college students in the United States by the war department.

This departs as far from the principles upon which our country was founded as the red rantings of any paid agent of Moscow.

This almost incredible nuisance in American education is well described in the new Republic in an

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

There Are Stronger Forces
Than the World Court or
the Kellogg Pact at Work
for War Prevention.

TWELVE years, and people are blue because the millennium has not dawned. What did we expect, that we should be so discouraged?

A war to end war, they told us, as though the mere declaration were enough. And we fell for it, without pausing to consider the difficulties involved.

The pessimism so prevalent on every hand has for its background the foolish, extravagant optimism with which men hailed peace when the greatest conflict of human history came to an end.

Those who delight in such a pastime can find many disagreeable facts to prove that little has been accomplished in behalf of more enduring peace, and that the outbreak of war is imminent in half a dozen spots, if not on a world-wide scale.

" " "

Outlook Is Gloomy

THE number of men under arms; the resentment of defeated countries and the arrogance of those that won; the presence of flag-waving dictators; the prevalence of discontent because of widespread economic depression; the temporary failure of some of the more ambitious efforts to establish organized peace, and, above all else, the aged popularity of jingoism, combine to give the situation a dark and gloomy aspect.

The Franco-Italian sulk is likely to blow up at any moment, we are informed, while Russia and Germany may decide to attack Poland simultaneously, or Japan may conclude that the time is auspicious to grab Manchuria.

And, as though that were not enough, we are regaled with monologues of Germany's coldness toward the Republic, revolution in South America, the stew in India, or England's inability to put business back on its feet.

" " "

Hege's Ray of Hope

BUT does all that, and much more, warrant the conclusion that conflict is just around the corner?

Is it true that another storm has begun to shape and that the world is headed for another deluge of blood and destruction?

Have all the promises gone sour and all the efforts failed, or are we still a little groggy and a little unbalanced with shellshock?

The League of Nations survives, even though it has accomplished far less than its sponsors hoped; the world court is a going concern, even though we refuse to join it without "reservations," and the Kellogg pact has been signed by a vast majority of nations, even though it lacks "teeth."

" " "

Peace Forces at Work

THERE are stronger forces than the league, the world court, or the Kellogg pact at work for the prevention of war.

For one thing, there is general exhaustion among the nations; for another, there is a world debt which would cause every financial structure and system to collapse at the very outbreak of conflict; for another, there is a great preponderance of women.

It is probably true, as the Bible says, that there will be wars and rumors of wars," until the end of the world, but if history means anything, we can look for more rumors than anything else during the next generation.

It is a weakness of human nature to linger with thrilling experiences, to live days of excitement over again, not only in the memory, but in imagining what is about to happen.

Some one suggests that Edison may negotiate with the Soviets now that they are growing plants from which rubber may be produced. But this is stretching the point too far.

" " "

We Awaken Slowly

THOUGH twelve years have passed since the armistice was signed, there are millions who can't make themselves believe that it is over, that the fire is not still burning somewhere beneath the surface, and that they might wake up any time and find themselves right back where they were in 1914.

They won't, not because trouble is impossible, or even improbable, but because humanity is in no condition to start or to sustain worldwide conflict. We must raise another crop of babies to prepare the way for such a calamity, train another generation of children to the comforts of peace, and put our finances in order.

Even so, we can not be sure that the calamity will come, because, weak as they are, and futile as they have been up to this time, the various movements that have been instituted for a "reign of law" are having a tremendous effect.

The boys and girls going to school these days are being taught a different kind of history than was in vogue fifty years ago, and the difference will become more marked as the years go by. Say what you will, but war as an organized, deliberate sport has ceased to be a glorious thing it once was.

In fact, upon hasty survey, I would put it with two other novels as the finest which any native writers have accomplished in this decade. My choice for companion books would be Willa Cather's "A Lost Lady" and Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms."

I've always felt it a pity that custom accords books by modern authors such an exceedingly short span. Aside from classics which have been salted down through the centuries, few of us ever discuss or even consider anything but "new" books.

Even a fine novel is more or less a drug on the market when it has been on the shelf of any book store for a year.

" " "

Daily Thought

The iron entered into his soul.
—Psalms 105:18.

Revenge is an unhuman word.—Seneca.

How old is Ramon Navarro?

He was born Feb. 6, 1899.

What does quothapahila mean?

It is an Indian name and means "spring flowing from the ground an endless vexation."

How can zinc be cleaned?

Stir zinc into a paste with boiling water, add a handful of silver sand and a little vitriol. Rub the zinc with this paste, rinse with water, dry and polish with a cloth.

When did Walt Whitman die?

In 1892.

How is detour pronounced?

It is pronounced de-tur, with the accent on the last syllable.

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