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Office 315 Residence 311Entered as second class mail matter
June 8, 1908, at the post office at Rensselaer, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published Wednesday and Saturday

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SATURDAY, AUG. 30, 1919.

TAFT OUTLINES LEAGUE PLAN

Puts It Into Plain Language Free From Legal and Diplomatic Verbiage, in Response to Request.

MANY ARE CONFUSED BY PRESENT DEBATE

Danger That People Will Lose Sight of Basic Principles During Discussion of Complicated Details and Technicalities.

(By ex-President William H. Taft.)

The plan for a League of Nations is based on a few simple principles, which are not hard to understand when lifted out of the morass of technical discussion and freed from legal and diplomatic language. As the one authority best able to present these points without partisan bias, ex-President Taft has been asked to put the league idea into a few plain words for the benefit of millions of Americans who desire a better understanding of the plan but find themselves confused by the debate in the United States Senate. In response to this request he has written the following article.

Purpose of the League.
The chief purpose of the League of Nations is to keep the world in a state of peace. Another way of expressing it is to say that the league is designed to prevent wars.

We have just finished the greatest, which is to say the most horrible, of all conflicts between nations. We have won a glorious victory. But that victory will be wasted unless this war has made the nations ready to put aside their differences and cooperate to end war forever.

It is not enough, however, to provide for the prevention of wars and the settlement of disputes after they have arisen. We must foresee causes of trouble and remove them before they have reached an acute stage. Hence there must be provision for frequent consultations of members of the League for exchange of information.

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Doing the World's Work.

In addition to settling international disputes peacefully the League of Nations will provide means for doing much of the world's work more systematically and effectively than can be done now when each nation is working only for itself. The people you know best and like best are those who work with you on the same job. It will be the same way with the nations of the future. The more they work together, the sooner they will come to understand and like each other.

For example, the League will establish an international organization for the bettering of labor conditions in different countries, for the protection of women and children and the native inhabitants of civilized and semi-civilized countries. One of Germany's greatest crimes has been her barbarous treatment of the helpless people in some of her colonies. One of the chief tasks of the League will be to look after peoples that are not strong enough to protect themselves.

The League will appoint commissions to take charge of various international undertakings so that they may be carried on, not for the benefit of any one nation, but for the benefit of the whole world. Provision will be made for promotion of fair and equal trade conditions.

These are only a few of the benefits the world will derive from the League. As time goes on we shall find more and more tasks at which the nations can work in common and a greater number of opportunities to remove causes which stir up jealousies and animosities between races and peoples.

Objections Answered.

Of course we cannot hope to make the great changes such as the League of Nations will bring about without opposition. Fortunately the war has taught us the great advantages of international co-operation. It was only by good team work that the free liberty loving nations were able to win.

In the first place it will seek to remove the main causes of war. By the formation of an international court it will create a means for the peaceful settlement of disputes between nations. Then it will seek to compel the nations to make use of this court. This is nothing more nor less than an application of the rules and customs governing private individuals in civilized communities to the relations between nations.

Secondly, the League will seek to remove a great temptation to war by the general agreement to reduce the size of armies and navies. This will halt the race for military and naval supremacy which was largely responsible for the war just ended. The amount of armament any nation may maintain will be strictly defined.

Thus it will be impossible for one country to overwhelm its neighbor by unexpected attack, in the way that Germany crushed Belgium and would have crushed France had not the other democratic nations gone to her aid. The idea is that each country may keep an army and navy large enough to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities as a member of the League, but no larger. The United States, for example, probably would be expected to keep—a check on Mexico and the state of constant turmoil in that country would be taken into consideration in deciding how large an army we should need.

The third important safeguard which the League will set up is a system of penalties. This will make an outlaw of any nation or group of nations which goes to war in violation of the rules of the League. The outlawed nation will be boycotted by all the other members of the League and will find itself cut off from both business and social communication with the rest of the world.

How It Will Prevent Wars.

It is not claimed that the League of Nations will do away with war altogether. Every possible provision that human intelligence can devise will be made to settle international disputes peacefully. But should all these measures fail and two nations go to war, this is what will happen:

If both parties to the dispute have observed the rules of the League, the other nations will stand back and let them fight it out. War under such circumstances is difficult to imagine, however, because before the angry nations will be allowed to fight in accordance with the rules of the League, so much time must elapse that in all probability their anger will cool and they will reach an amicable understanding.

What we have to fear is that some nation will go to war in defiance of the League, and every precaution has been taken to suppress such a nation by the immediate use of the united power of the other nations. If inter-

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