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F. E. BABCOCK, Publisher.

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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 Re-  
 quest.

MANY ARE CONFUSED  
 BY PRESENT DEBATE

Danger That People Will Lose  
 Sight of Basic Principles Dur-  
 ing 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 co-operate 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,

for agreement on common policies and for the gradual formation of rules of international law which at present are uncertain and incomplete.

The representatives of the great free nations which won the war have met at Paris and, after long consultation, have drawn an agreement which they believe will accomplish these ends. At the very least it will set in motion great changes which will result in universal benefit to all mankind. This agreement is called the Covenant of the League of Nations and it is a part of the peace treaty.

There will be no league worth talking about, however, unless the United States is a member. The decision as to whether the United States shall join rests with our Senate. The Senators, chosen by the people, will in the end vote as the people desire. For this reason the people themselves will decide whether or not the United States will join the league. In this question every citizen should have a voice. He or she can express opinion either by writing direct to Senators, by letters to the newspapers, or by speeches in his lodge or local union or in conversation with friends.

Methods of Maintaining Peace.  
 Since the prime object of the League of Nations is to preserve peace—and to reap the benefits of peace—let us see how the league will operate to accomplish that purpose.

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-

national boycott failed to bring her to terms she would have to face a combined international army and navy. The founders of the League believe that the mere possibility of such a situation will prevent any nation from violating its agreement. Does anyone think that Germany would have begun war five years ago if she had known that nearly all the other great powers would combine against her?

#### Doing the World's Work.

In addition to settling international disputes peaceably 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 whip Germany.

The treaty which the United States Senate is debating obligates the members of the proposed League to protect one another against attack from enemies outside their own boundaries bent upon conquest. Although this agreement (Article X of the Covenant) is vital to any arrangement which seeks to prevent war, it has been attacked on the ground that it would draw the United States into wars in various parts of the world and force us to send our boys to fight in quarrels which did not concern us.

We should remember, however, that the main purpose of Article X is to frighten nations tempted to wars of conquest from yielding to the temptation, by the certainty that they will be crushed if they begin such a war by a universal boycott and a union of forces of the world against them. If a big war breaks out again, the United States will be forced to take part in it whether we have a League of Nations or not. We tried hard enough to keep out of the war with Germany but found we couldn't.

A little war contrary to the League rules could be handled by the powers close at hand. Certainly it would not be necessary to send American troops to suppress an uprising in the Balkans when prompt action by the armies of Italy or some other nearby powerful nation could suppress the fracas before American troops could even get started.

#### Great Gain for Small Loss.

We had to make many sacrifices to win the last war and we made them willingly because we knew they were worth while. It will be the same in a smaller degree with a League of Nations. When men form a business partnership each one has to make concessions to the views and opinions of the other members of the firm. When we enter the League of Nations we may have to give up certain privileges, but the losses will be small compared with the profits.

The United States will not have to sacrifice her independence or right to make her own decisions.

The council, the chief governing body of the League, cannot take action without unanimous decision of its members and since the United States will have a representative in the Council our interest will be protected there. We hear it said that the League is formed for the benefit of Great Britain or Japan or some other one nation. This is not true. All the nations will gain by it, not only the great nations such as the United States, Great Britain, France, Japan and Italy, but the little nations which in the past have been oppressed by their big neighbors. The international court will give an opportunity for the settlement of old grievances which have long troubled the peoples of the world.

It has been said that the League will interfere with the Monroe Doctrine, but the League Covenant expressly protects this Doctrine. In fact, through the Covenant the Monroe Doctrine receives recognition throughout the world and its principles become forever established.

A free one-cent pencil given with every 5-cent writing tablet—both ruled and unruled—as long as the supply lasts.—The Democrat.

## LEAGUE FULFILLS AMERICAN IDEAL

Herbert Hoover Says Democracies Replaced Autocracies at Our Bidding.

### FOOD ADMINISTRATION CHIEF.

Urges Ratification on Ground That Peace Treaty Will Collapse Without League of Nations.

Herbert Hoover is so deeply concerned over the opposition to the League of Nations in the United States that he has let himself be interviewed at length on the League situation. In a talk with the New York Times correspondent in Paris, the Food Administration Chief asserts that having caused the League idea to prevail America cannot abandon it. We cannot withdraw, he says, and leave Europe to chaos. "To abandon the League Covenant now means that the treaty itself will collapse."

Mr. Hoover's wide acquaintance with conditions both here and abroad, his reputation as an administrator, a man of great affairs who deals with facts, not theories, make his statement one of the most important contributions to the recent League discussions.

"There are one or two points in connection with the present treaty," said Mr. Hoover, "that need careful consideration by the American public. We need to digest the fact that we have for a century and a half been advocating democracy not only as a remedy for the internal ills of all society, but also as the only real safeguard against war. We have believed and proclaimed, in season and out, that a world in which there was a free expression and enforcement of the will of the majority was the real basis of government, was essential for the advancement of civilization, and that we have proved its enormous human benefits in our country."

#### American Ideas Have Prevailed.

"We went into the war to destroy autocracy as a menace to our own and all other democracies. If we had not come into the war every inch of European soil today would be under autocratic government. We have imposed our will on the world. Out of this victory has come the destruction of the four great autocracies in Germany, Russia, Turkey and Austria and the little autocracy in Greece. New democracies have sprung into being in Poland, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Czechoslovakia, Greater Serbia, Greece, Siberia, and even Germany and Austria have established democratic governments. Beyond these a host of small republics, such as Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and others, have sprung up, and again as a result of this great world movement the constitutions of Spain, Rumania, and even England, have made a final ascent to complete franchise and democracy, although they still maintain a symbol of royalty."

"We have been the living spring for this last century and half from which these ideas have sprung, and we have triumphed. The world today, except for a comparatively few reactionary and communistic autocracies, is democratic, and we did it."

"A man who takes a wife and blesses the world with several infants cannot go away and leave them on the claim that there was no legal marriage."

"These infant democracies all have political, social and economic problems involving their neighbors that are fraught with the most intense friction. There are no natural boundaries in Europe. Races are not compact; they blend at every border. They need railway communication and sea outlets through their neighbors' territory."

"Many of these states must for the next few years struggle almost for bare bones to maintain their very existence. Every one of them is going to do its best; to protect its own interests, even to the prejudice of its neighbors."

#### Governments Lack Experience.

"We in America should realize that

democracy, as a stable form of government as we know it, is possible only with highly educated populations and a large force of men who are capable of government. Few of the men who compose these governments have had any actual experience at governing and their populations are woefully illiterate.

"They will require a generation of actual national life in peace to develop free education and skill in government."

"Unless these countries have a guiding hand and referee in their quarrels, a court of appeals for their wrongs, this Europe will go back to chaos. If there is such an institution, representing the public opinion of the world, and able to exert its authority, they will grow into stability. We cannot turn back now."

"There is another point which also needs emphasis. World treaties hitherto have always been based on the theory of a balance of power. Stronger races have been set up to dominate the weaker, partly with a view to maintaining stability and to a greater degree with a view to maintaining occupations and positions for the reactionaries of the world."

"The balance of power is born of armies and navies, aristocracies, autocracies, and reactionaries generally, who can find employment and domination in these institutions, and treaties founded on this basis have established stability after each great war for a shorter or longer time, but never more than a generation."

"America came forward with a new idea, and we insisted upon its injection into this peace conference. We claimed that it was possible to set up such a piece of machinery with such authority that the balance of power could be abandoned as a relic of the middle ages. We compelled an entire construction of this treaty and every word and line in it to bend to this idea."

"Outside of the League of Nations the treaty itself has many deficiencies. It represents compromises between many men and between many selfish interests, and these very compromises and deficiencies are multiplied by the many new nations that have entered upon its signature, and the very safety of the treaty itself lies in a court of appeal for the remedy of wrongs in the treaty."

#### Benefits of the League.

"One thing is certain. There is no body of human beings so wise that a treaty could be made that would not develop injustice and prove to have been wrong in some particulars. As the covenant stands today there is a place at which redress can be found and through which the good-will of the world can be enforced. The very machinery by which the treaty is to be executed, and scores of points yet to be solved, which have been referred to the League of Nations as a method of securing more mature judgment in a less heated atmosphere, justifies the creation of the League."

"To abandon the covenant now means that the treaty itself will collapse."

"It would take the exposure of but a few documents at my hand to prove that I had been the most reluctant of Americans to become involved in this situation in Europe. But having gone in with our eyes open and with a determination to free ourselves and the rest of the world from the dangers that surrounded us, we cannot now pull back from the job. It is no use to hold a great revival and then go away leaving a church for continued services half done."

"We have succeeded in a most extraordinary degree, in imposing upon Europe the complete conviction that we are absolutely disinterested. The consequence is that there is scarcely a man, woman or child who can read in Europe that does not look to the United States as the ultimate source from which they must receive assurances and guardianship in the liberties which they have now secured after so many generations of struggle."

"This is not a problem of protecting the big nations, for the few that remain can well look after themselves. What we have done is to set up a score of little democracies, and if the American people could visualize their handiwork they would insist with the same determination that they did in 1917 that our government proceed."

## MONON ROUTE

RENSELAER TIME TABLE  
 In effect March 30, 1919.

NORTHBOUND.			
No. 26	Cincinnati to Chicago	4:34 a.m.	
No. 4	Louisville to Chicago	5:01 a.m.	
No. 40	Lafayette to Chicago	7:30 a.m.	
No. 22	Indianapolis to Chicago	10:16 a.m.	
No. 38	Indianapolis to Chicago	2:51 p.m.	
No. 6	Louisville to Chicago	3:31 p.m.	
No. 30	Cincinnati to Chicago	6:50 p.m.	
SOUTHBOUND.			
No. 25	Chicago to Cincinnati	2:27 a.m.	
No. 5	Chicago to Louisville	10:56 a.m.	
No. 27	Chicago to Indianapolis	11:18 a.m.	
No. 23	Chicago to Indianapolis & F.L.	1:57 p.m.	
No. 39	Chicago to Lafayette	5:50 p.m.	
No. 31	Chicago to Indianapolis	7:31 p.m.	
No. 3	Chicago to Louisville	11:10 p.m.	

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

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Mayor.....Charles G. Splitter  
 Clerk.....Charles Morlan  
 Treasurer.....Charles M. Sands  
 Civil Engineer.....L. A. Postwick  
 Fire Chief.....J. J. Montgomery  
 Fire Warden.....J. J. Montgomery  
 Councilmen  
 Ward No. 1.....Ray Wood  
 Ward No. 2.....D. Allman  
 Ward No. 3.....Fred Waymire  
 At-large.....Rex Warner, C. Keiler

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 Prosecuting Atty.....J. C. Murphy  
 Terms of court—Second Monday  
 in February, April, September  
 and November. Four week terms.

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 Treasurer.....Charles V. May  
 Recorder.....George Scott  
 Surveyor.....D. D. Neabitt  
 Coroner.....W. J. Wright  
 Assessor.....G. A. Thornton  
 Agricultural agent.....S. Leaming  
 Health Officer.....F. H. Hemphill

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 District No. 2.....S. M. Kester  
 District No. 3.....Charles Welch  
 Commissioners' court meets the  
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 Burdett Porter.....Carpenter  
 Benj. F. LaFevre.....Gilliam  
 Warren E. Poole.....Haring Grove  
 Julius Hurt.....Jordan  
 Alfred Dugleby.....Kankakee  
 Clifford Fairchild.....Keener  
 Charles W. Postill.....Marion  
 Charles C. Wood.....Milroy  
 John Rush.....Newton  
 Walter Harrington.....Walker  
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