

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
By WILLIAM BRUCKART
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Washington. — In proposing a peace pact for the western hemisphere, President

Wilson Policies Fail

Roosevelt in his speech at Buenos Aires has directed attention to two important positions that the United States has taken in its foreign relations. Whether Mr. Roosevelt so intended or whether it is by the very nature of the circumstance, he nevertheless has set up before the American people the necessity for re-examination of the age-old Monroe doctrine and has brought up for fresh scrutiny the policies of President Woodrow Wilson that were designed to establish eventually world peace by collectivist action.

I think that it must be admitted that the Wilson policies for international peace have not worked. Anyone who examines them squarely and frankly must recognize one outstanding inescapable fact: they have proved to be the illusions of an idealist.

They constitute a landmark, however, and in so doing it seems to me they should serve as a guide on what not to do. Candidly, the Wilson policies, beautiful in theory that they were, have been shown to be futile because they did not consider the perfidy nor the chicanery of European statesmen. They were predicated upon a belief that the world leaders were sincere in their desire for peace—and it is sad but true that such is not the case. In other words, the Wilson theories that were built up into a supergovernment to be called the League of Nations overlooked the element of human fallibility.

It requires only a brief review of the history of the League of Nations to reveal the definite conclusion that there is an absolute lack of sincerity on the part of the European statesmen. Each one has been concerned only with gains and advantages accruing to his own nation. His actions have been permeated to the core with selfishness, sometimes aggravated with desires for personal distinction. The league fell down in dealing with Russia's Stalin and Germany's Hitler. It took a mighty flop in the movement to check Italy's Mussolini in Ethiopia. Having flattened out, none of the three above mentioned has any respect for the league authority. When you add to this the absolute dismissal of the league as a world influence as was done by Japan, you have less than nothing left.

Mussolini said the other day that in order to straighten out the European tangle it would be necessary to wipe out all of the "Wilsonian illusions."

Wilsonian Illusions

He could have referred only to the Wilsonian slogan upon which we entered the World War, namely, the "war to make the world safe for democracy." Later, it will be remembered, the World War was "the war to end war." Neither of these slogans bore fruit. Each was an illusion, a dream of world peace held by a great man whose only weakness in assuming world leadership was that he trusted other statesmen as he trusted the American people, to arrive at a sound conclusion and stick to it.

I am not prepared to say that the Wilson policies led us in a wrong direction. The fact remains, however, that the war that was to make the world safe for democracy led directly into destruction of democracy and the establishment of fascism and communism in various parts of the world as an important factor in the government of peoples.

All of this, of course, was not visible nor predictable at the time the policies were initiated. It is all too plain now, however, and that is why President Roosevelt can very well be governed in his new move with the Pan-American. He can proceed upon a Pan-American basis with at least a hope of success because it is quite apparent that the Americas, North and South, can protect themselves if arrangements for prevention of war relate only to the western hemisphere. International affairs will have to be considered, obviously. But among those authorities with whom I have talked about this problem, there seems to be little doubt that if the idea of collectivist action, first enunciated in the Wilson policies—is to avail anything, it must be applied not to the world but to a section of the world.

I noted in the official agenda, the program outline of the Buenos Aires conference, that no reference at all was made to the Monroe doctrine. Apparently, that course had to be followed. The Monroe doctrine is a ticklish matter among

our neighbors to the south. Frankly, they do not like it.

Considering all of the factors involved in the Monroe doctrine, there seems no conclusion ahead but eventual abandonment of that pronouncement. When I say that, I do not mean that the principles of the Monroe doctrine need be thrown into the ocean. Yet, the name has been the focal point around which much antagonism has been built up and the romantic Latin blood of South America can hardly be expected ever again to subscribe to the Monroe doctrine by that name.

What, then, is the course?

The Monroe doctrine, whether it was ever so intended, has placed the United States in a position where it is made to appear as a boss. No nation of people enjoys being bossed. So, if the Buenos Aires conference is to result in a definite understanding by which the peoples of the western hemisphere are welded together in an effective group, some understanding must be evolved which will replace the ill will engendered by the Monroe doctrine. Possibly, that understanding lies in the direction being followed by President Roosevelt. Apparently, he is willing to subordinate the Monroe doctrine and concede to those other peoples on behalf of the United States the end of our overlordship.

Undoubtedly, it will be a slow process. Present generations throughout the South American nations will be suspicious for a time and will move with caution but there are many who believe in eventual agreement among the western nations on a general policy that will keep us all out of European and Far Eastern entanglements to a greater extent than ever before.

The thing that may break down the apparent Roosevelt plan is the circumstance of drawn swords and cocked rifles in Europe at the moment. It is entirely possible that before concrete adhesion among the North and South American peoples can be accomplished, explosions in Europe may take place. If they do, propaganda agents of the conflicting powers will be abroad in earnest. Attempts will be made to alienate various nations in the western hemisphere, to align them with one side or the other in the European controversy. It may well be that this condition will ruin the Roosevelt program before it gets under way but a start has been made and succeeding generations will profit if the peoples of North and South America can come to regard themselves as an individual group that is willing to make sacrifices necessary to cut off European connections when the European statesmen insist on fighting.

There is yet one more thought concerning the South American sessions. There are students of international affairs who already are saying that history has repeated itself and that the United States has lost, as usual, in its diplomatic dealings. They are saying that the revision of the Monroe doctrine and the rebirth of that policy under a new name represents a gift by the United States. It may well be that such has occurred. But among saner minds, I believe the conviction is that the Monroe doctrine already has undergone so many alterations and revisions that a major operation on its structure will clarify the picture. The Monroe doctrine was designed originally, of course, to prevent European nations from gaining a foothold in either of the Americas. That danger is definitely past. Why, then, is it necessary to perpetuate an antiquated policy that has no purpose any longer? Thus, it seems to me that if a revision, even a casting out of the Monroe doctrine can eliminate suspicion of our government's purposes among those peoples inhabiting the same hemisphere, it is not too much to pay.

There was a great banquet held at one of the hotels in Washington a few days ago. It is not unusual for great banquets to be held in the capital city but most of them are just banquets. The one to which I refer, however, had a significance that is quite unusual. It commemorated the establishment of the United States patent office and celebrated its one hundredth birthday.

Something like eleven hundred inventors, research scientists, representatives of industry and patent office officials entered the great dining room by candlelight. Then, the toastmaster waved a wand over one of the greatest inventions of modern times and the room was bathed in an electric brilliance like of which has never been seen. The action typified, told the story of the scientific development in the United States and elsewhere.

Birthdays Observed

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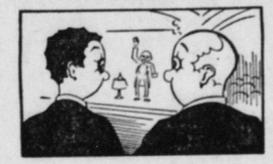


THREAD TO MATCH

The doctor had great difficulty in getting a negro soldier, who had been badly wounded by shellfire, to take an anesthetic. He seemed worried about something, and urged them to get to work without an anesthetic, as he wanted to watch them.

At last they got him to take the chloroform and all went well until the operation was over. The stitching was just being begun when he jerked himself back to consciousness and said: "Doctor, don't make a mistake. Don't stitch me with white thread."

OH, SO TIRED



"Do you know what it means to speak before an audience?" "No. I spoke before an audience once, but most of it went before I did."

A Bird of a Scare

Jack had taken up gardening and was telling the other boys about the scarecrow he had fixed up for his thieving birds.

"Did it work?" asked one of his listeners. "Did it work?" Jack echoed. "Why, the birds not only stopped grabbing my seeds—some of 'em brought back those they had taken the week before!"

Convenient

"Jones, you've been with this firm a week now, and I find you have not the slightest idea of routine. When I engaged you, you told me that you were a handy man."

"Well, so I am. I live in the next street."—Stray Stories Magazine.

A Difficult Task

Junior came to school with the glad news that his father had work again.

Teacher—What's he doing? Junior—Oh, he's got a hard job. He's got to watch six watchmen.

Make a Nice Dog House

Brown—What will you give me for my daughter's piano? Neyber—I'll give you \$3 a cord for it, sawed, split and delivered in my woodshed.

Don't Shoot!

"What," inquired the natural history teacher, "is the biggest game to be found in New England?" A hand shot up. "The Yale-Harvard game, teacher," said Willie, proudly.

Super-Salesmanship.

Woman Shopper—Are you sure these field glasses are powerful? Salesman—Take my word for it. When you look at something less than ten miles away it seems to be behind you.

IN COLORS



"What do you think of the Great White Way?" "I don't think it is as black as it is painted."

Head of the Family

Teacher—Johnnie, you must bring a written excuse for being absent yesterday, from the head of your family.

No Preference

Cyclist—I notice you prefer your beer from a mug. Oldest Inhabitant—Oi doan't moind 'oo Oi takes it from.—London Humorist Magazine.

Good Fortune

Pat—You certainly had tough luck in getting your hand blown off in the explosion. Mike—Yes, but think how much worse if it had been the other one. I had my week's wages in it.—Kansas Industrial.

Discount for Delay

"Yes, it was a case of love at first sight." "Why didn't you marry him?" "I saw him several times afterwards."

STAR DUST

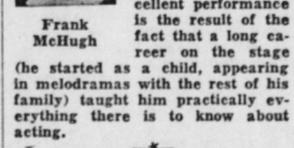
Movie • Radio
By VIRGINIA VALE

IF YOU failed to see "One Way Passage" when it was originally released (and apparently practically everybody failed to see it then), you may have another chance, if one of your local theaters follows the example of one of the New York ones and shows it again.

Hailed as one of the best pictures of its time, it ran into bad luck because it came along when the depression was at its height. People just weren't going to the movies then.

It's still a grand picture. William Powell is as expert in it as he is now—but he looks a lot younger. Kay Francis is very lovely, and Frank McHugh proves that then, as now, he is one of our best comedians.

Incidentally, that same McHugh is coming right along. He is to have a perfect role in "Three Men on a Horse"—in fact, he's to be starred in it. Among others who are said to have wanted that same role are Eddie Cantor. Well, it's McHugh whom you'll see playing it on the screen. And his excellent performance is the result of the fact that a long career on the stage (he started as a child, appearing in melodramas with the rest of his family) taught him practically everything there is to know about acting.



Margaret Sullivan's marriage to Leland Hayward came as a decided shock to a lot of people. As you'll recall, rumors have been flying around for a long time to the effect that it was Katherine Hepburn whom Mr. Hayward either would marry or had already married. And now the man who leads the field when it comes to getting jobs for motion-picture actors, selling stories and doing all the various things that an agent has to do, has proved that everybody was all wrong. The husky-voiced Margaret came first, apparently.

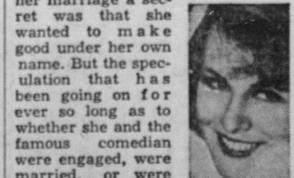
Whether you like football or not, you'll be amused at "Pigskin Parade"—it's hilariously funny. And the Yacht Club Boys do plenty to make it amusing.

Lily Pons is turning that Connecticut farm of hers into a wild animal shelter; she'll cater to deer especially. And as one who has lived in those parts and had deer drop in to breakfast, your correspondent would like to advise her that she'll have plenty of them.

Helen Hayes does a good deal of rehearsing for her "Bambi" broadcasts, and during the off moments that occur at all rehearsals she knits. Does it fast, too—she can turn out mittens and socks in no time at all, and the results are turned over to a charitable organization for distribution.

Sonja Henie, the championship skater who's now in the movies, doesn't care now who knows how terrified she was when she made her first screen tests, or how hopeless she felt when she saw them.

One of the reasons given by Paulette Goddard Chaplin for keeping her marriage a secret was that she wanted to make good under her own name. But the speculation that has been going on for ever so long as to whether she and the famous comedian were engaged, were married, or were just friends has kept her name in the papers, coupled with his always. She appeared in a picture with him, it was announced that he would direct her in two more. Can't see why it would make any difference if the marriage had been announced when it took place. Except, perhaps, in the amount of publicity.



ODDS AND ENDS . . . If you have missed Al and Leo Reiser, the clever piano team, be advised that they've dropped their Thursday broadcasts and are now heard Tuesdays and Fridays . . . They say that Rosalind Russell may win this year's Academy Award for the best performance for her acting in "Craig's Wife" . . . "The Good Earth" has been cut at last—now they'll start on the previews . . . And some day we'll all be able to see it . . . Robert Taylor may have to postpone vacationing in Honolulu if the ship strike isn't settled soon . . . But motion picture people are accustomed to postponing a vacation again and again before they finally take it . . . Spencer Tracy, just through with "Captains Courageous," will start soon on another all-musical picture.

Keeping Christmas Faith—

Spirit of Happiness Much Needed in the Days Prior to the Festival

WHATEVER you do in the way of preparations for Christmas, be sure to preserve the happy Christmas spirit in the home. Nothing is more at war with the atmosphere of Merry Christmas than cross words, wrangles, disputes, and anything that mars good nature in yourselves or those in the home. The pressure of work, the haste that makes waste, the beauty of home life, the conflict of problems, each of which seems imperative to solve on the instant, are not conducive to an atmosphere of concord. It takes a person of remarkable poise not to be influenced by the speeding up of work and activities prior to the festival.

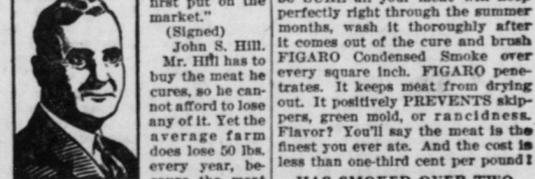
Because this is true, every one of us should be on guard over ourselves. We have an influence. No one can escape this. It may do us good to realize that we are not totally insignificant. Many people feel this their fate when they are very modest or shy, and crave to be among the group of those who attract attention. By the negative method of induction we can discover our influence is not negligible. It exists, perhaps to our surprise, and certainly to our dismay, when we see the effects of our disagreeable conduct.

It is a comfort to realize that in reverse order, the better side of our nature is equally impressive. Our good nature, our cheery attitude, our soothing words, and our hearty happiness leave their beneficent effect upon those who know us—our family, our friends, and even those who are but acquaintances.

It is this fine attitude that is stunting growth. Who are those men that measure futurity by the shadow of their own littleness? It is as if the loose stones lying about a foundation were to say, "You can build no higher than our heads."—Leigh Hunt.

MEAT PERFECT AFTER 8 YEARS IN OPEN ROOM

Someone should tell Mr. "Believe-It-or-Not" Ripley this story that comes from John S. Hill, storekeeper in South Carolina. "I have now hanging on the back door of my store," he writes, "a strip of meat smoked with FIGARO Condensed Smoke EIGHT YEARS ago. This piece of meat is ribbed belly, about 18 inches long and 6 inches wide. It is firm, sweet and sound as a dollar—neither rancid nor spoiled in any manner, and has kept perfectly these eight years. FIGARO is the finest thing I have ever seen for smoking meat. I have been using it ever since it was first put on the market."



(Signed) John S. Hill. Mr. Hill has to buy the meat he cures, so he cannot afford to lose any of it. Yet the average farm does lose 50 lbs. every year, because the meat is not thoroughly smoked. During cold weather, keeping meat is a simple matter. But when summer comes, or a warm spell during the winter, look out. Rancidness develops. You suddenly find the meat alive with "skippers," or worms. Green mold appears on it. Or it dries out and hardens.

Through smoking is the only known way to prevent all these troubles. But how? Everyone knows how uncertain the old smokehouse method is. Other so-called smoking methods, or substitutes for smok-

perfectly sure all your meat will keep perfectly right through the summer months, wash it thoroughly after it comes out of the cure and brush FIGARO Condensed Smoke over every square inch. FIGARO penetrates. It keeps meat from drying out. It positively PREVENTS skippers, green mold, or rancidness. Flavor? You'll say the meat is the finest you ever ate. And the cost is less than one-third cent per pound!

HAS SMOKED OVER TWO BILLION POUNDS OF MEAT

More than 30 years ago, S. Eugene Colgin, Texas farmer boy, discovered how to condense smoke to liquid form. With addition of a few ingredients to improve the flavor, etc., it is called FIGARO Condensed Smoke. Since then, FIGARO has been used to smoke more than two billion pounds of meat! Your dealer has it, or can get it; in 32-oz. size (enough for 500 lbs.), \$1.50; or the 16-oz. size, (enough for 250 lbs.), \$1.00. But DON'T TAKE CHANCES! Use FIGARO on every pound this year.—Adv.

THE FIGARO Co. DALLAS, TEX.

Manufacturers of Smoke Products
FIGARO Condensed Smoke—Barbecue Smoke Sauce—Sausage Seasoning

POCKETS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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