

"LOOSE" CONSTRUCTION, SAYS KNOX, VITIATES WORLD LEAGUE

Covenant Not Really Society of Equals, He Asserts

NINE WOULD DOMINATE Objects Particularly to Lack of Basic International Law Code



SENATOR KNOX

Continued from Page One... which, as Mr. Clemenceau has assured the members, it may be removed for debate, amendment, and adoption or rejection.

Doubts Sacrifice of U. S. Traditions and Policies Worth While

URGES A REFERENDUM Emphasizes Danger in Omission to Provide for Peaceful Withdrawal

leagues, which guarantee not only their own territorial integrity and independence but also that of every other member of the league.

By Article 12 the parties agree not to resort to war against any high contracting party over any dispute whatsoever, until the matter has been submitted to arbitration or subjected to inquiry before the executive council.

May War Over Decision "Seemingly they may go to war over a recommendation of the council which is not unanimously concurred in by all members of the council, except the parties in dispute."

By Article 20 the high contracting parties undertake to endeavor to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labor in member states and among non-member states and agree to establish as part of the organization of the league a permanent bureau of labor—a somewhat drastic provision.

By Article 25, probably the most important in the entire document, the high contracting parties agree that this covenant shall abrogate all obligations inter se which are inconsistent with the terms thereof and that they will not enter into any other engagements which are thus inconsistent.

By Article 21 the league is to prescribe conditions of entry into it of the outcast states; by Article 17 the league is to be entrusted with the general supervision of trade in arms and ammunition in countries where a control of the traffic of such arms is necessary to the common interest.

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ing less, has history ever answered an attempt to do this thing, save in one way, and has that way ever spelled anything but disaster for the coalition? If so, can it have our support? Must our every effort not be to avoid so dividing the world into two warring camps?

Same Old Balance of Power "In what respect will the situation be different from that created by the centuries-old doctrine of balance of power, save only that now for the first unhappy time in our history, we are to be placed in one side of the balance?"

His third proposal was that, if a great majority of the United States should desire to establish a "true league of nations," not merely to build a coalition to further trade in peace and to expand territorial possessions, then:

"At a convenient and proper time in the relatively near future, we shall cooperate with the representative states of the other powers in the formation of a world international league."

"This constitution should also provide that all disputes relating to international matters as defined by an international code should be decided by an international court."

"The code would define what war is generally, and the jurisdiction of the court would not extend to matters of governmental policy, which would be excluded from arbitration unless one of the disputing parties had by a treaty otherwise given another country a claim that might involve these subjects."

"Under such a code we would not be called upon to arbitrate the policy involved in our Monroe Doctrine; our conservation policy; our immigration policy; our right to expect; our right to repel invasion; our right to maintain military and naval establishments, or coaling stations within our own borders or elsewhere, as the protection and development of this country might demand; our right to make necessary fortification of the Panama Canal, or on our frontiers; our right to discriminate between natives and foreigners in respect to ownership of property and citizenship; and other matters of like character."

"The international court should be authorized by the league constitution to call upon the powers signatory to enforce its decrees and awards as against unwilling states by force, economic pressure or otherwise."

"The court should sit in the hemisphere of the contenting nations, and if the disputants lived in opposite hemisphere, then in the hemisphere of the defendant power."

Why then this plan to strangle and crush us? "Mr. President, there is here something amiss."

Senator Knox then took up the question of snubbing proposals to end war, saying that the arbitration of all disputes might be compelled under such plan as that proposed for the international prize court, or the unratified American-British and American-French arbitration treaties of 1911, or the Olney-Pauncefote treaty of 1897, or a union of the best in all of them.

A second way, he said, would be, if it were felt that world interests and power were reshaping in such way that American needed to be protected, and allied to protect others, to form an alliance with the strongest other power or two powers.

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same complete accord and co-operation as in the past, all for the defense of civilization.

"And why should this be our course, because, Mr. President, a million and a half of our boys are marking time in Europe, waiting patiently, anxiously, their eyes turned across the water, for the signing of the treaty of peace that shall allow them to return to their homeland."

"How much longer shall their return wait on academic discussion of unattainable dreams?"

Another attack on the league of nations constitution was delivered in the Senate by Senator Hardwick, of Georgia, Democrat, who was making probably his last formal address before retirement March 4. He contended that the tentative charter was unconstitutional, would impair American sovereignty and would submit vital domestic questions to the United States would be outwitted.

Senator Hardwick asserted that it would require the conscription of our sons to police the world.

"I am sorry," said Senator Hardwick, discussing the league's constitution, "that we can not have statesmen like

Senator Knox, instead of untried statesmen like Colonel House."

At that the galleries applauded, but quickly subsided when admonished by the chair.

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war and unacceptable decisions of the league's executive council, was presented in the Senate today by Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, Democrat. It was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Representative Poirer, chairman of the House Rules Committee, announced today that the measure would not be pressed, because action of the Senate was regarded as impossible.

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The Man— "I will tell no one—I am sure you did not do it. * * * But what about this mysterious paper we found on the staircase?"

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