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HOW TO HAVE PEACE

The people of this country are divided into two camps concerning the righteousness, or the reverse, of projects for strengthening its military establishment and placing it on a footing for national defense. One of the camps regards such preparations as wasteful of the country's resources, and sinful, as cultivating a war spirit among the present and future generations. The other believes that the safety of the country, from foreign aggression and attack, requires the maintenance of means to repel any attempt at invasion by an enemy, and that the possession of such means will be the surest safeguard against a purpose on the part of any nation to attack us. Each believes that its methods and ways will make for peace. Which is right?

The subject is one that calls for most careful consideration by government and people. A very old theory, or maxim, is that the thing to do in time of peace is to prepare for war, and there was a long period in the world's history when that might have been accepted as too logical for controversy. But world conditions have undergone a mighty change during the last century or two, and a maxim that was incontrovertible in the middle ages may now be reversed in meaning: what was true then may now be utterly false in its relation to all the nations of the world. It may now be said, with every degree of truth and certainty that the thing to do in time of peace is to prepare for peace by being prepared for war.

The great war raging in Europe today would probably never have begun if all the nations engaged in it had been as well prepared to enter it as was Germany. It was that very unpreparedness of the allied nations that tempted the German government to light the torch of war and set all Europe burning in the mighty conflagration. Beholding those nations at peace and unprepared for war, the German ruler prompted his people to quietly develop the greatest military force the world has ever seen, to train it in the most thorough and minute detail for aggressive war upon the defenseless countries around them, and to accumulate a supply of war material that appears almost inexhaustible. Does anybody believe that if England, France and Russia had been on as vast a war footing as Germany that the German War Lord would have adventured into the field against them. It was their very unpreparedness that led to a war, the cost of which in human lives, widowed women, orphaned children, crippled men, burning cities and financial treasure is so great as to be absolutely inconceivable. All these disastrous consequences could have been avoided if each of the allied nations had expended annually one-half of the interest they must now raise on war debts. How much better it would have been if in time of peace they had prepared for peace.

All this has been a lesson not to be repudiated with safety by the people of the United States. It must be acknowledged that before this lesson was taught us our country was, and still is, in a comparatively defenseless condition. Germany, if her interests had demanded it, might have made war upon us and have had us at her mercy in half a year. Who can tell, if that condition were continued, that within the next thirty or forty years, some great foreign nation, finding us unprepared, would not force us to an ignominious defeat and, perhaps, to dismemberment as a nation?

Regarding the situation in that light, the worst enemies of peace are the people who preach peace. They would leave us naked and helpless to the swords of our enemies and leave us in the end without a country. It is not necessary, nay it is contrary to the highest aims of the American people, to trench upon the rights of other nations, but it becomes them to maintain their own. They will not put their country in a condition to raise vast armies to war upon their neighbors, or to send them across the ocean to fight against any people upon the Eastern Hemisphere. The thought of such a thing as possible is preposterous. But we do not intend to leave the land so defenseless that nations on the other side may be any better able to prey upon us than we will be able to repel their assaults. And being thus able such assaults will never be made.

The "peace at any price" camp is sending out missionaries over the land to propagate their dogmas, but the indications are that they will make few converts. The American people have had their eyes opened to the importance of keeping their country at peace by making it invulnerable against assault, and that is the whole story of the awakened interest on that side of this question. The relative strength of the two camps cannot be accurately estimated, but it is more than probable that they stand nine to one on the subject. We can all echo the sentiment of Gen. Grant in one of his messages, "Let us have peace," but we radically differ as to the means by which it can be assured. That cannot be accomplished by lying down and permitting our enemies to walk over us.

THE HOME RULE AMENDMENT

The time has come when the voters of this State should carefully consider the three amendments to the Constitution submitted by the legislature, for their action at the election in November. Probably not many of the voters have given the questions involved in these amendments much thought or reflection, yet one of them proposes a radical innovation upon the authority of the legislature in regard to local legislation. That is the second of the amendments which have been published in the Sentinel during the last two months and the publication of which will be continued until the election. This amendment proposes to add a new Article to the Constitution, to be known as article XIA and to be inserted immediately following Article Eleven, and its title, if it shall be adopted, will be Local Legislation.

An exhaustive analysis of its various provisions would require more space than can be given to it in an ordinary editorial, but its general meaning may be set forth in briefer terms than would be required by such an analysis. Its purpose is tersely explained in its title, which is generally interpreted as meaning Home Rule, or rule by the people of Baltimore City and of the several counties of the State, or of such of them, respectively, as shall so elect, for it is left to them to determine whether they will prefer to make the laws for their county governments, or leave the authority to do so, with the legislature, as it is at present. Each county and the City of Baltimore is given the privilege of deciding that question for itself. The amendment provides that to avail itself of the privilege a petition, or petitions, signed by not less than 20 per cent of the voters in any county, or the City of Baltimore, (provided that 10,000 signatures in the city, and 2,000 in any county) shall be sufficient to authorize the Board of Election Supervisors to submit the adoption or rejection of the privilege to the voters of such city or county at the general election following the filing of a petition to that effect. If adopted by the voters of the city or of any county it will become known as its charter. Under this charter the legislative body created by it will be designated as the City Council of Baltimore, or the County Council of the county assuming it.

The duties of these Councils, respectively, will be to pass laws for the local government of such portions of the State as are described as sub-divisions by the Article, meaning the city and the several counties. It will be entirely optional with any of these sub-divisions to employ this method of securing such laws as may be desirable for its government. The City Council will be composed of eleven persons and the County Council of five persons. The chief executive officer in Baltimore will be the Mayor, and in any county, the President of the Council. Acts passed by these bodies will be subject to such constitutional objections as would be the case if they were passed by the State legislature. And they will also be subject to referendum to the voters, under certain restrictions. Other details are embodied in the amendment, but those given here contain the gist of its provisions.

On the whole, it appears rather cumbersome, but it has been drawn with great care and guards against any infringement of the general authority of the legislature by the Councils that may be created under it, or of any of the rights now possessed by citizens of the State. Perhaps it is not so much a Home Rule project as a means of relieving the legislature of the great mass of local legislation imposed upon it at every session and by which its time is taken up to the neglect of more important matters. But on the whole it gives to the people an opportunity to consider at home questions which now must go before the legislature at Annapolis.

Though referred to out of its order, it is proper to state, that a County Council is prohibited, under the amendment, from legislating upon the charters of incorporated towns or cities.

There seems to be little, if anything, objectionable in the amendment and voters may be freely advised to favor it and cast their ballots for its adoption, at the election on the 2nd of November. The other amendments will be considered in future issues of the Sentinel.

BALTIMORE'S BEWILDERED DEMOCRACY

The rank and file of the Democratic party in Baltimore must be in a puzzled and bewildered condition as to what Boss's standard they are marching under, and they must be wondering who is the head boss anyhow. Is Sonny (John J.) Mahon, the former barkeeper on Marsh Market Space, still king of the faithful and the acknowledged leader of the unterrified Democracy? A little while ago his title was undisputed, but his hosts seem now to be divided into two hostile camps. In the recent primary "The" Kelly, of paving contracts memory, issued a declaration of independence in action, if not in words. He followed the Harrington standard and reduced the Blair Lee majority in the city, in the aggregate, to a pitiful two thousand or so, besides causing the Lee forces to lose out in one district entirely, notwithstanding the orders of Boss Mahon, with Mayor Preston and Danny Loden behind him. Of course "The" Kelly is not entitled to the credit of all that achievement, though he had a big share in it. A mighty force on that side was Mr. Furst the gentleman who has made Baltimore's Dredging Company a pronounced success by its work in the Florida Everglades and elsewhere. There were two Kellys in the melee, but one of them was of rather minor account and is but little considered. The battle royal of the organization was with "The" Kelly and, incidentally, with Mr. Furst. It is with Kelly, however, that the mayor is particularly interested, and it is with the mayor that Kelly has to reckon. Boss Mahon has declared for the mayor and, for the time being at least, Kelly followers are likely to lose the favor or privilege of feeding at the public crib.

But how are the masses of those who have heretofore pinned their faith to Kelly and followed his lead, to tell just what to do in the present emergency? To them the situation must be bewildering. Whatever future consequences may result from the break among the bosses, the organization is at this time in supreme control. But Kelly has apparently shorn it of the ability to retain its unopposed hold on city affairs indefinitely.

The situation must also be perplexing to the ambitious mayor of the city, whao must have dreams that future greatness will be thrust upon him. He isn't an ordinary man and might, if he could divest himself af the idea that he knows everything about government and political management, and would really study the public welfare instead of seeking the realization of his own ambitious projects, become one of the truly honored men of Baltimore. Perhaps he may undertake to placate Kelly and the Kelly following. But if he shall do so it will be in the interest of bossism and not of good government.

And all this makes it important to the substantial citizens of Baltimore that the machine, the bosses' machine, should be overthrown and a new order be installed in its stead. "The" Kelly and his following are as badly inoculated with the virus of machine politics as the organization against which they have rebelled, to the bewilderment of themselves and their former pals. And the Independent Democrats of Baltimore would do well to throw them all into the political scrap heap, by electing Ovington E. Weller Governor, sending solid Republican delegations to the legislature from the four legislative districts of the city, and by placing the control of both branches of the City Council under Republican control. If the rebellion of Kelly shall lead to that result it will have served a good purpose in the interest of the real reform so sadly needed in this State, and which should not be left to the source whose recklessness and extravagant wastefulness have made it imperative the welfare of the public.

SOME PROMISES WITH A DIFFERENCE

The platform on State affairs adopted at the State convention held in Baltimore on Friday last, by the Republicans is, throughout, a clean-cut statement of pending issues and declaration of purpose that may well disarm hostile criticism. It fairly bristles with promises of such reforms as are badly needed in State affairs and which the Republicans, if given the authority by the votes of the State, will be certain to accomplish. Twenty years ago the Republican party made a pledge of reform in the election laws and the result was the purification of the ballot, by laws which were enacted by a Republican House of Delegates in 1896, and confirmed by a Republican Senate and House two years later. Democratic tinkering later destroyed their simplicity to some extent and made voting more difficult, generally, besides destroying the system entirely by special laws in some of the counties. But the acts passed by the Republicans put an end to the pudding ticket and stuffed ballot box era that had existed in Baltimore for twenty-five years before their enactment

Now the State is up against abuses and evils of a different character, but not much less reprehensible than the election frauds which had been a shame and disgrace for so many years, and by which a Democratic candidate for Governor had been counted into office over the Reform candidate who had carried the State by 10,000 to 12,000 majority.

These evils and abuses have grown up under the Democratic rule which was restored when Senator John Walter Smith was elected Governor in 1899. One of the most glaring of these has been the extraordinary waste of the public money by the legislature in session after session and against the protests of such men as Governor Warfield and Crothers, but has never yet been condemned by the Democratic party by its votes at the polls. It cannot be much out of the way to say that it has been a species of graft. Common decency cries for its reform, and the State convention of the Democratic party, held two weeks ago, made a sort of pledge that some change will be made by the Democrats if the people will only trust them again. This is what that convention promised on the subject:

"We pledge our party to reduce the expenses of the Legislature to such amount as will conform to the actual necessities of the Legislature, and to exercise in this connection the strictest economy which is consistent with the proper conduct of the State's affairs. We pledge a material reduction in the number of legislative employes, the elimination of extra pay except for additional services rendered, and that the pay of every employe shall begin only from the date of employment."

Isn't that treating the subject so mildly that every Democrat of intelligence, cognizant of the condition, must have smiled at the ingenuity displayed in thus evading the just condemnation of the outrageous practice? The Republican plank on the subject does not mince words in condemning it and in promising its eradication from legislative proceedings. Here is how the Republican convention deals with it:

"We emphatically condemn the expenditure of enormous sums for the expenses of the legislatures of 1912 and 1914. Thousands of dollars during said sessions, were wasted that might have been saved by the people or used for public schools or improvements had not the Democratic party, in control of the Senate and House, ignoring the public plea for retrenchment and repudiating the plan of common honesty in the expenditure of the public funds, knowingly created a large number of useless positions for employes in the Senate and House and paid them unearned salaries with the money of the taxpayers."

To eliminate from legislative action the practice thus condemned is pledged by the Republican platform in general terms applicable to the abolition of all useless offices and that is the determined purpose of the Republican party, not as based upon present pledges, but as demonstrated by its past achievements when the people of the State entrusted it with authority.

The Democratic platform is prolific of pledges, but the past history of the party in this State gives small assurance of their performance. Contrast its pledges in this case, with the unequivocal condemnation of the practice of the legislature in extravagance by the Republican platform, and mark the difference.

There are other contrasts between the platforms, to which reference will be made in future.

UNCERTAIN BULGARIA

For months past speculation concerning the attitude of Bulgaria toward the powers engaged in the European war has been one of the subjects of interest to those who have been observing the mighty conflict. It has not been difficult to understand what the Bulgars want. They are eager for the extension of the borders of their mountain kingdom. It was that, without doubt, that made them the leaders in the war several years ago by which Turkey was despoiled of much territory, but little of which was acquired by Bulgaria. It was the prowess of that country that led to the triumph over Turkey, but the other nations, engaged in that conflict, combined to deprive her of a just share of the spoils, defeated her armies and left her in worse case, if possible, than when she began the war. That she was treated unjustly by her allies can hardly be doubted, and it is now patent that she desires to retrieve her fortunes and extend her domain through the influence of the great war raging to the west of her. Turkey has already paid her price for either her assistance, or her neutrality, by the cession of coveted territory. But she wants more and will, if possible, grasp it from Macedonia and Serbia. But to do that she must cast her lot with the Austro-German cause, and that may lead to her ultimate ruin and extinction as a nation, if the English, French, Russians and Italians triumph. She has been coquetting with Germany, while pretending neutrality, has mobilized her armies and has 700,000 men now under arms. Her excuse for that is that it has been done to protect her borders from invasion by any of the combatants. Her real intention, however, has been but thinly veiled by that explanation, which is a rather bald pretence. She can hope for nothing, in the way of territoroal aggrandizement, by casting her lot with the Allies, and as that means war with Greece and probably with Roumania, she has hesitated to take a decided step by joining the Germans. It was reported, a day or two ago, however, that she was massing a large force for the purpose of assailing Serbia, which would mean an alliance with Germany and important assistance to that country in its proposed drive to aid the Turks. That project, however, will probably be abandoned, for a time at least, by the Germans, while they endeavor to retrieve their serious losses with the Allies in the west war zone, and Bulgaria may still be left halting between two opinions, neutrality, or coalition with Germany. It is inconceivable that she will elect, under any circumstances that can arise, to throw her power in the scales in favor of the Allies. That way leads to nothing more for her than she can gain by an attitude of neutrality. Whatever way she may turn she will be hedged about with difficulties and dangers. It seems impossible to withhold from her a degree of sympathy, in her perplexity, when the unjust treatment accorded her after the war with Turkey is considered.

THE WONDERFUL BENTZTOWN BARD

A poet of poets is Mr. Folger McKinsey, who is best known as the Bentztown Bard. From his prolific brain a column, much of it real poetry, finds its way into the Baltimore Sun everyday, and practically on Sunday too. And that has been going on for years. Mr. McKinsey should be crowned as the Poet Laureate of America. He has just been selected as the author of the official song of Baltimore. A prize of $250 was offered for the best original song for that purpose, and out of 800 poetic contributions that of Mr. McKinsey was unanimously chosen by the final committee which had charge of the selection after Mr. Frederick R. Huber had eliminated the bulk of the songs submitted. Out of the few remaining ones the committee, without having had any knowledge of its authorship, unanimously agreed upon that of the Bentztown Bard.

Here is the song.

Here the stately Carroll flourished,
  Here the guns of England roared;
Here the old defenders thundered,
  As they charged with gun and sword.
Here the starry banner glistened
  In the sunshine of the sea
In that dawn of golden vision
  That awoke the soul of Key.
Here are hearts that beat forever
  For the city we adore;
Here are lips that sing thy praises,
  Baltimore, our Baltimore!

Here the clipper ships of glory
  Brought the cargoes of their day
From the ports of seven oceans,
  Homing white-winged up the bay;
Here the statesman and the tradesman
  And the artist and the priest
Come to found a beauteous city,
  And to flourish and to feast.
Here are hearts that beat forever
  For the city we adore;
Here are lips that sing thy praises,
  Baltimore, our Baltimore!

Here the charm of parks and gardens
  Gave the spirit of the home;
Here the sailor found a harbor
  From the danger of the foam;
Here the temples have been builded
  And a new life fills the mart
Softly tempered by the romance
  Of the spirit and the heart.
Here are hearts that beat forever
  For the city we adore;
Here are lips that sing thy praises
  Baltimore, our Baltimore!

WILL NOT HELP THE CAUSE

It is not unseemly in the President of the United States to take an interest in the fortunes of the party of which he may be a member, considered from the standpoint of principle in relation to national issues, but when such an interest becomes a mere question of local State government, of which, in the very nature of things, he cannot have a comprehensive knowledge, it would ill become him to engage in active work for the success of a party ticket. This is said in consequence of a Washington dispatch which intimates that President Wilson may make a speech to urge the election of the Democratic candidates in this State. The misrule of that party in Maryland has been so pronounced that many Democrats have openly condemned it, and the cry for reform is loud and long. What a spectacle would be presented by the President of the United States, on the stump in Maryland, condoning the extravagant wastefulness, not to say anything worse about it, that has characterized the legislature at numbers of sessions during the past ten years. Of course that is a subject that would be tabooed and Mr. Wilson could talk about Democratic principles, which justly have no place in the campaign. Or he might acknowledge the sins of the bosses and managers of his party and make an appeal to the voters to give them another trial. But if he knows the Mahons and the Prestons, the Lodens and others of that ilk, could he have the conscience to ask the perpetuation of their rule? If he has knowledge of the "invisible legislature," that has controlled legislation at Annapolis would he not stultify himself by advocating its continuance in power?

For the sake of his own reputation for consistency, it will be well for him to avoid mixing in the contest in this State at this time. He owes his elevation to the Presidency in consequence of his activity in purging his own party in New Jersey of the control of some of its objectionable elements. His battle there first called attention to him, as possible Presidential timber, and the wrangle in which the Republicans engaged in their convention in 1912, did the rest. He has done many things to forfeit the cheap reputation he gained in New Jersey, but he could hardly do anything worse to mar his standing as a reformer, than to come into Maryland and advocate the continuance of machine politics in the State government. And it is not much out of the reality to venture the opinion that his doing so would not help the cause for which he would appear as sponsor. It must be hard up for help when it appeals to Woodrow Wilson to come and save it. There are hosts of Democrats with sufficient independence not to be swayed from their purpose to rebuke the misrule of their party, even by the persuasive tongue or pen of the President of the United States.

Many physicians in Baltimore are up in arms against the appointment of Dr. Wm. Travis Howard, Jr., as Assistant Health Commissioner, by Mayor Preston. Opposition to Dr. Howard is caused by the removal of Dr. C. Hampson Jones, who for twenty years has been the prop and mainstay of the Health Department of the city. But Dr. Jones is a Republican. He was originally appointed by Mayor Hooper and has been retained by all the subsequent mayors, till the present, because of his acknowledged efficiency. He is not an active partizan. The salary is $3,000, but in Dr. Jones, the physicians say, the city has had a $6,000 man for the smaller amount. But merit is not the test with Mayor Preston. Party faction also counts with him, as some of the followers of "The" Kelly, who have been superseded by friends of the City Machine, have learned to their sorrow.

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