

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1919

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER—A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO THINK

'SECURITY LEAGUE' PLOTS AGAINST NATION, SAYS WM. J. BRYAN

EX-SECRETARY OF STATE ISSUES PUBLIC WARNING FLAYING ORGANIZATION

Says It Is "Application of Submarine Warfare to American Politics" and "Introduces Dark Lantern Methods Into National Campaigns"

BY WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Former Secretary of State and Thrice Democratic Nominee for President.

EVERY voter should read the report of the Special Committee to Investigate the National Security League, submitted to the House of Representatives on March 3, 1919. Congressman Ben Johnson was chairman of the committee and conducted the investigation with characteristic thoroughness and energy. The House of Representatives adopted the report of the committee.

Attention is called to this report at this time because we are approaching the campaign of 1920, at which the people will choose an occupant of the White House for the next four years, one-third of the United States Senate and a House of Representatives.

The secret activities of the League in 1918, recently exposed to public view, permit an accurate judgment to be formed as to the character, purpose and methods of the organization.

It is the latest manifestation of the activity of the predatory interests in politics; it is an up-to-date method of deceiving the voters.

HID ITS PURPOSES UNDER THE NAME

The League has masqueraded under a name which enabled it to conceal its real purpose and to pose as a patriotic organization. It professed to have the "security" of the nation in view, and in the name of the nation's security attacked the loyalty of members of Congress who were objectionable to the "interests."

The League was organized by a corporation lawyer by the name of Menken, who conceived the idea of the League while listening to debates in the British House of Commons on August 5, 1914—two and one-half years before we entered the war. The League professed a "preparation" and drew money for its work largely from large financial concerns, many of them manufacturers of war supplies.

While the management was in the hands of men of little personal or political influence, it courted confidence by the use of the names of well-known public men.

It was "non-partisan," as all predatory interests are, in the sense that it was not hampered by loyalty to any party. It put subversion to the special interests above party and only inquired whether a candidate could be trusted to represent the corporations instead of the people.

CHARACTER SHOWN BY ITS OFFICERS

The "non-partisan" character of the League is shown by the fact that it published as honorary vice president Ex-Secretary Root, who led the cohorts of Wall Street in the Republican National Convention at Chicago in 1912, and Judge Parker, who served in the same capacity in the Democratic Na-

W. J. BRYAN



four districts in which to be "intensely active."

The largest contributor was the Carnegie Corporation, which subscribed \$100,000. The next largest subscriber was John D. Rockefeller, who considered the league's activities worth \$55,000 to him. Du Pont, the powder man, subscribed \$9000, while a corporation whose excess profits ran up to nearly \$15,000,000 was able to spare \$20,000 for the work of the league. A leather company, with excess profits of \$12,000,000 chipped in \$1500.

REAL OBJECTS OF LEAGUE REVEALED

Now, what was the real purpose of this organization? Why did it slander loyal members of Congress? Why did it hide in ambush and attack with poisoned darts the men against whose names it marked the word "light"? The real purpose of the league is shown by the character of the questions asked those whom it impudently presumed to call before it with a view to intimidation.

Mr. Juul, a member of Congress from a Chicago district, and a candidate for re-election, was marked for slaughter. He had stood the league's acid test; they could not mark him "wrong" on any one of the eight test war measures, but all the agents of the league did not trust him. Why? Because, when a member of the Illinois State Senate, he opposed the demands of some of the big corporations whose interests the league seems to be guarding.

Congressman Kinn, also of Illinois, and a candidate for re-election, was asked why he had made a speech in Congress attacking the packers, and why he had in his speech used the name of J. P. Morgan as a text for criticism. The league spokesman also inquired how he stood on the question of the government ownership of railroads. Mr. Menken (quite naturally) favored less tax on big incomes and more tax on small incomes.

PREDATORY INTERESTS ALL REPRESENTED

Here we have it—the secret is out. The men connected with the league as supporters or officials represented almost every predatory interest and favor-seeking corporation. The questions indicated that the two things uppermost in the minds of those in charge of the league's activities were, first, the protection of the meat packers; and, second, opposition to government ownership of the railroads; and to this may be added the transfer of income tax from the rich to the poor.

The foresight of the league must be admitted. The Department of Justice has announced its intention to prosecute the packers for violations of the anti-trust laws, and the question of government ownership of the railroads is now before Congress.

Did the officials of the League know that the packers were guilty? Or is it just a coincidence that they should have been at work two years ago trying to select a Congress friendly to the packers? Did those officials know that the railroad magnates and their Wall Street representatives would be engaged in a life and death struggle to regain control of the railroads of the country? Is it a matter of no concern to the public that an organization, secretly working for the election of a Congress favorable to the special interests, should cloak its unpatriotic activities in the garb of "National Security?" On the contrary, it is a conspiracy against the security of the nation. It is an application of submarine warfare to American politics; it introduces dark-lantern methods into our national campaigns; it furnishes new proof of the necessity for vigilance upon the part of well-meaning and high-minded citizens.

At this time the Security League is ostensibly deeply interested in universal military training, but we shall not know until after another investigation what "side lines" it carries or what questions it will put to those whose attitude on

NEW OLIVERS
Free Trial—No Money Down
Latest Oliver Nine—Standard visible brand new. Direct from factory to you, saving you \$5. Easy terms. The exact machine used by big business. Over 700,000 sold.
Our startling book, "The High Cost of Typewriters—The Reason and the Remedy," tells the story. Get your copy today. It's free. A \$100 machine for \$57.
Simple it is to get a new Oliver for free trial—our low terms—a year to pay. Send for your copy today.
THE OLIVER TYPEWRITER CO.
400 Oliver Typewriter Bldg.
Chicago, Ill. 61607