

Handicaps of Narrow Vision Illustrated in Local and National Life

To the Editor of The Republican:—

A farmer will drive 10 miles to the big town to do a little trading when he could have been served well enough at the local store two miles off. He may save by this 50 cents but on the other hand he impairs local reciprocity and loses valuable time. The physical drudgery with which he is surrounded often impairs mental vision and the best quality of business engineering.

A few years ago, a small town to the north found good profits in the blueberry crop. The county agent helped to promote there a co-operative marketing association so that an enterprising young man contracted to collect and handle the berries at about one-fourth what it had previously cost the individual farmers to sell their berries. This plan worked one season but when the natives discovered what young Mr Enterprise made by the deal it was all off. He was getting "too easy money." Prejudice was aroused and co-operation killed, and prosperity from blueberries died.

"Don't bite off your nose to spite your face" is a familiar aphorism. The farmer may be excused for sluggish business instincts, for building monuments to prejudice and stupidity, but the sins in the higher business world are probably as costly and inimical to public welfare, even though not so obviously flagrant. In the circles where are felt the ebb and flow of a multitude of interests, where the social instinct is supposed to reduce friction and to promote a fluidity of opinion, barnacles of prejudice find a surface for attachment. Designing interests foster a business sentiment and through street gossip and a play of the press produce essential polarization, so that public opinion often becomes stagnant on issues where it should be free and liquid, and where it should rise to a high level.

To one who is at all familiar with the covenant of the League of Nations or who has kept posted as to its workings, this organized co-operative association seems like a very necessary adjunct for the promotion of international business—governmental, financial or other.

But we find a type of daily which preaches credit at home but fosters hate and prejudice for what is beyond and abroad—in short, muddles the waters of international policies. Or we find an ordinarily intelligent citizen suspicious that England and other European nations will profit too much by the United States going into the League. Yellow sentiment here, polarized prejudice there.

The League of Nations is a non-partisan product so far as contributions made from our statesmen and internationally minded engineers are concerned. It is designed to meet a great complex of territorial, geographical and racial needs, to protect minority right against majority might. Are we to allow an image of Great Britain of the past to be so held before our eyes that vision of a slowly disintegrating empire is blurred and we realize not the justice of its large colonies having voting privileges as incipient nations? The leaven in the

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