

rule. The political equivalent is, Vote for Harding.

For under Harding we shall undertake no international enterprise that will recall to mind the great days when we set out to make the world safe and free. We shall debate the railroad problem languidly, and rock along. We shall not be forced to think deeply on the problems of labor and capital; they will solve themselves or adjourn themselves, with the least conceivable reference to Washington. If we are employers, we will fight our own battles in our own way, and whether we win or lose, will try to salt down a little money. If we are employees, we'll look to our cards and go in or stay out according to our hands, certain, that if the President will do nothing to help, neither will he dare to swing over us a scourge of scorpions like Palmer. In our souls we know that the problem of our international position will have to be met some day. The time will come when we shall be compelled to face the industrial problem seriously. But only the Lord knows how weary we are of the past and the future. And so we say, Forget them and, furtively, with shame in our hearts, decide to vote for Harding.

ALVIN JOHNSON.

## The Front Porch in Marion

All day the seer and sage, Gamaliel,  
 Destroyer of the sons of Belial,  
 Rocks in the shadow of his roof  
 Withdrawn, and thoughtful and aloof.  
 No longer does he lead the host  
 Up from the wilderness, nor roast  
 A goat against the Philistine,  
 Nor lash the people for their sin,  
 He will not flame, he will not glisten,  
 His only pleasure is to listen.  
 All day he hearkens to the sound  
 Of little feet along the ground,  
 And faint hum of angel wings  
 And whispers from the fairy rings,  
 (He loves the fairies, pretty things!)  
 And happy songs of farmer boys  
 Who celebrate their simple joys,  
 And jovial contented squeals  
 Of workmen at their humble meals,  
 And hymns of soldiers who set free  
 An empire (for democracy)  
 Exalting God their brothers fell  
 In such a battle: they sleep well.  
 All day he listens, and at last  
 When all the feet have homeward passed  
 He turns to Israel his eyes  
 And lifts his voice, and prophesies,  
 'O, government of laws, not men!'  
 'O, good, square deal!' or yet again  
 'O, government of, by and for'—  
 Gets up, goes in—and locks the door.

A. MAC L.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### The Suffrage Planks

SIR: In your issue of July 14th occurs the following sentence, apropos of the Democratic and the Republican platforms:

The Democrats, like the Republicans, gave the League of Women Voters practically what it asked for, practically in the words in which it asked.

May I call your attention to a statement by Mrs. Maud Park, chairman of the National League of Women Voters, made on July 9th in San Francisco?

We close our trip to the two conventions in behalf of our planks with a feeling of great satisfaction over the result—we secured about half [italics mine] of what we asked for at the Republican convention in Chicago, and here in San Francisco the Democratic convention has endorsed all of our planks but one. The plank which they did not accept,—also failed of incorporation in the Republican platform.

The difference between "about one-half" and "all but one" seems to the Democratic women of the country more than the difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee, which your reference to the action of the conventions in regard to the League of Women Voters' planks would seem to make it. I incline to think that the difference seems more serious also to the Republican women of the country. The outstanding fact for women, as women, about the two conventions was that the one at San Francisco showed an absolutely liberal spirit toward them, contrasting painfully with the grudging attitude toward women and their political aspirations displayed at Chicago.

ANNE O'HAGAN SHINN.

New York City.

### The Thing's Bewitched!

SIR: The following excerpts from John Selden's Table Talk have a certain timeliness which may amuse you.

"When a country-wench cannot get her Butter to come she says, the Witch is in her Churn. We have been churning for Peace a great while, and 'twill not come, sure the Witch is in it."

"The Law against Witches does not prove there be any; but it punishes the Malice of those People, that use such means to take away Men's Lives. If one should profess that by turning his Hat thrice, and crying Buz, he could take away a Man's Life (though in truth he could do no such thing) yet this were a just Law made by the State, that whosoever should turn his Hat thrice, and cry Buz, with an intention to take away a Man's Life, shall be put to death."

"Casting out Devils is mere Juggling; they never cast out any but what they first cast in. They do it where for Reverence no man shall dare to examine it, they do it in a Corner, in a Mortise-Hole, not in the Marketplace."

"(The great Lord) eats not in private, except in time of sickness; when once he became a thing cooped up, all his greatness was spoiled. Nay, the King himself used to eat in the Hall, and his Lords sat with him, and then he understood Men.

A. M. P.

## National Egotism and the League

**SIR:** A very moving appeal is made by you through the article headed National Egotism versus International Relief, to the end that American indifference toward European suffering be dispelled. Your *explanation* of American apathy, however, only partly explains.

It is becoming more and more apparent every day that American public opinion was not ready for an internationalism of the brand proposed to them by the President through his League of Nations idea. The "national egotism" of the American people was too potent to tolerate admittance of such an entangling scheme into American policy. But this egotism seemed in a fair way to be temporarily evaded to the everlasting benefit of mankind without the interpolation of the egotistic "reservations" idea, which is entirely subversive of effective international cooperation. This was due to the tremendous confidence reposed in Wilson and the willingness to follow his lead wherever the path. Thus when the League was first proposed to the American people, they could easily have been made to bridge the yawning gap from nationalistic isolation over to international cooperation without the time and travail with which that process would ordinarily have to be accompanied, because of their willingness to follow the President. Here was the golden opportunity to put the egotism you speak of to good use in the cause of international cooperation. The American people could have been committed to a policy which their "national egotism" would later successfully help to carry through.

But this step, which could have been almost imperceptibly taken *then*, was never taken. If it ever will be taken, in the only way it can effectively be taken, i. e., without reservations, it will have to be preceded by the whole lengthy troublesome process of education, and the piercing of prejudice, bigotry and ignorance which must inevitably come before a nation feels itself ready to concern itself in the affairs of other nations.

The blame for the failure of the American people to bridge the gap rests on the shoulders of many—not the least of it rests on the shoulders of liberal magazines of the type of the New Republic. By applauding the "irreconcilables" and others of their like, the New Republic did not help the cause of internationalism, but rather allied itself with the jingoes and the chauvinists. The latter groups succeeded in creating sentiment against the League only by appealing to the "national egotism." The "holier than thou" idea was employed with telling effect. The successful evasion of national egotism by Wilson was nullified. The New Republic by applauding those who appealed to this egotism, itself *helped to enhance the "national egotism" of which it now complains*, and put *unreserved* American participation in foreign affairs farther away than ever.

Liberals who dissented did not attempt to distinguish their dissent from that of jingoes and partisan politicians, with the result that the American people, their latent "egotism" again fully aroused, rejected the only effective League, and with it THE PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING ANY SUCH LEAGUE.

Do not misunderstand me. This league was not the best conceivable league nor would it enforce the most righteous treaty. But it was a wedge through which the great force of American cooperation might have almost unconsciously slipped, "national egotism" having been temporarily avoided, and once in, American "national egotism"

might have been brought to bear to help purge a reeking, creaking civilization.

JOSEPH LANG.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

[Our correspondent states that "liberals who dissented (from unreserved participation in the League) did not attempt to distinguish their dissent from that of jingoes and partisan politicians." We cannot accept without protest the application of this charge to the New Republic. We have many times stated, and here state again, that our objection to the Treaty of Versailles is fundamentally its gratification of vicious national egotism. We are aware that the same brand of egotism has its advocates in America. And we are conscious of the danger that while high priests of the cult dominate the councils of Europe, unreserved American participation in a League of Nations may, perhaps against the will of many of us, serve to strengthen and not destroy the egotism which our correspondent laments.—THE EDITORS.]

## Bulgarian Labor Conscription

**SIR:** You may be interested in the so-called "Labor Conscription" bill which the Bulgarian government has introduced into the National Assembly. The object of the bill is to organize and further the productivity of the state and public estates and to help on the economic progress of the country in general. The Labor Conscription is not, as has been represented, identical with military conscription. Its essential character is purely economic.

All Bulgarian citizens of both sexes are liable to Labor Conscription; the men at the age of twenty, the women at that of eighteen. The term for the obligatory public labor for the men lasts sixteen, for the women eight months, of which at least three months will be devoted to purposes of education and preparation for the service, the rest of the time being employed in productive work. All those persons who are granted exemption from military conscription on account of some physical disability or other reasons will enjoy the same privilege in regard to Labor Conscription.

In case of abundant harvests, damages due to natural causes or some national calamity the Ministerial Cabinet has the right to call for temporary Labor Conscription from three days to four weeks all Bulgarian citizens of both sexes aged from twenty to forty-five years.

These various works will be carried out under the control of the respective branches of the administration, while for the general management and supervision of the Labor organization a chief Direction or Board is established with three departments; administrative, technical and economic. Various technical and trade courses, schools, work-shops, model households, etc., will be provided, where the Laborers will get their instruction and preparation.

This Labor Conscription aims at the speedy reconstruction of Bulgaria after so many years of war, so that the economic advancement of the country may be furthered and the heavy obligation imposed upon her by the Peace Treaty met. In fact, of all the States of Europe that were directly affected by the world-war, Bulgaria seems to be the one that has settled down to serious work with the grim determination to overcome her difficulties. The Labor Conscription and the project for Landed Property, which provides that all the land that is capable of cultivation but has not been cultivated, should be utilized and distributed among the peasants according to their respective capacity for labor, are sure to be beneficial, and contribute to the increase of Bulgaria's national wealth. X.