Pyramid of Peace

Editorial Board
Pyramid of Peace

The history of mankind in its onward march of civilization and progress is like a great pyramid, with its apex still in the process of construction. A World League or League of Nations to enforce peace would seem to be the next logical step, which is to comprise the apex of this pyramid. By what alchemy can the nations of the world be moulded into one league, to enforce the words, “Peace on Earth.”

History repeats itself, says the pessimist, but is it not true that the standards which man has thus far attained have been the result of years of hope and aspiration, one generation trying to advance just a step farther than the one gone before?

At the dawn of history we are aware that the family, which is supposedly the germ of early society, is established as the base in our pyramid. The pastoral age, with its families herding the flocks over that area of the East known as the “Cradle of Civilization”, is the next step in the construction of the pyramid. The patriarchs governed over these wandering peoples, who each summer came up from the Mesopotamian region, dotting the valleys and plains of Palestine with their tents and herds. The Jewish nation, which at one time was a world power, had its growth from the household of Abraham. In the same way the early records of the Greek, Roman, and Indian society present the family as firmly established, and generally regarded as the first step in human association. The Greek City States grew out of the association of the household. The early success of the Roman
State is attributed to the discipline and unification of the family and its government. The head of the household, the pater familias, had absolute power and after conferring with the family council, could condemn members of the family to death.

The City States of the ancients were the direct outcome of the association of the family, forming the third block in the pyramid. The town and the city of today are examples of the early city states, except that today the government of the cities is for a more efficient government, whereas in the ancient times the City States were governed primarily for the purpose of war.

With the influx of the German hordes into the Roman civilization, history is buried in the dark ages. During this period and for hundreds of years thereafter, the people are dominated over absolutely by some powerful character, whose ambitions are warlike and aggressive.

The feudal system of continental Europe introduced into England by William the Conqueror, destroyed the county organization which had grown up during the reign of Alfred the Great. This system of predomination was not erased until the nineteenth century when the Tudor system of royal control over the county was altered by the establishment of the county council.

But during this period of transition in England, a great event had taken place, namely the colonization of America. The fortified towns, to be better protected against the Indian, united into counties or colonies. The New England Union, 1643, was the first unification of the colonies for defense. These county governments, the outgrowth of the English county, form the fourth block of the pyramid.

The colonies were forerunners of the state, which form the fifth block in this pyramid. These states were formed that the needs of the people might better be met, namely, a more efficient government.

The sixth block of the pyramid was formed when the thirteen New England states united in a common cause against Great Britain. This was in the Declaration of Independence in 1776, when they described themselves as "The Thirteen United States of America." Thus we find that the government which is the nearest perfect of the representative governments was formed to make war. The states that comprised these first thirteen were afraid at the time of the Federal Constitutional Convention of losing their individuality, just as the nations today are afraid of
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losing their nationalism. But do we not find that the several states have still maintained their individualism? The southerner has his dialect, his own habits and customs. The easterner with his culture and training stands no better in this United States than the democratic westerner, still they are all united, forming the greatest government in the world.

We have come to the point on the pyramid where we have a number of nations, each striving to overcome weaknesses and to outstrip the other economically. All of the large nations of the world today have arrived on the plane of nations through a process similar to that by which our government has arrived there. One of the nations cannot rise from this plane and try to force its nationalism upon the others and say that this thing or that thing is "verboten."

Looking through the glass of history, the construction of the apex would seem to be inevitable. It is true that treaties have failed; that the main purpose of the Congress of Vienna did not materialize; that the balance of power did not prevent wars. Are we to stop in this age of civilization just because of a few petty jealousies, because of greater economic power in the world, striven for by the representative nations? Democracy was the dream of our forefathers, realized in spite of mistakes and mis-haps, due to that human hope and perseverance which does not recognize failure. Our hope is "Peace on Earth." Have we the ambition, the persistence, the perseverance to carry our hopes and our dreams into execution? Does not a World League or a League of Nations seem to be the next logical step in the construction of the apex of the Pyramid of Peace?