April 2016

No Power in Opinion

Fred F. Marshall

Follow this and additional works at: https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms53_newspapers

Part of the History Commons

Repository Citation
I was much interested in the editorial "The League Delivers" in the February 25th issue of The News, which commended the League of Nations for condemning Japan, one of the major nations, for its aggression in Manchuria.

The editorial went on to say that the League has no power to enforce its decrees, and that Japan will receive her punishment through the judgment of the rest of the world. In other words, it is the belief that public opinion will be so strong against Japan that she cannot well afford to carry out what she has proposed—the virtual acquisition of Manchuria. I would rather think we are over-estimating the sensitiveness of the world conscience to believe that Japan will suffer to any appreciable degree from adverse foreign opinion. She may be judged for the time being, but I dare say that in a decade from now, the unsavory part of the whole affair will be forgotten by the world. Who, besides Mexico, judges Uncle Sam for the rather strong arm method he used to get hold of California and adjacent territory?

If public opinion is the only enforcing factor to be commanded by the League of Nations then it appears a rather futile body. We recently voiced strong opposition to any "boycotting" or reprisal measures to force Japan to relinquish her greedy land-grabbing campaign, but this is the only effective way an erring nation can be punished and held in hand.

Ten years from now our maps will show Manchuria as much a possession of Japan as Korea. It will furnish graphic proof as to the fallacy of trying to "scold" nations into doing things. If the League of Nations can't enforce its decrees it might as well disband. It can't depend upon world opinion alone to prevent aggression and wars.

Maplewood av., Dayton.

F. M.