

The pro-League internationalists, on the other hand, were irate. If the League was weak, it was due to our failure to join up and make it work.

"We Told You It Wouldn't Work!"



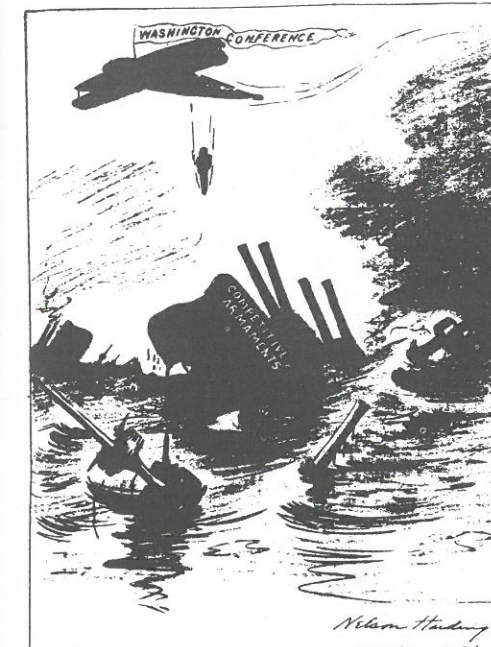
Jay N. Darling. *The Des Moines Register*, c. 1920.

Wilson failed to sell the League to his countrymen, but his vision of America as a moral force in the world working for peace had a lasting impact. Idaho's Senator Borah, the same isolationist who helped defeat the League, persuaded President Harding in November, 1921, to convene the Washington disarmament conference.

The theory behind the conference was, simply, that by eliminating the weapons of war one could eliminate war itself. That struck a responsive chord. When the conference closed, most of the American press and public hailed it as a monument to peace.

Out of the Washington conference came an agreement to stabilize the world's three most powerful navies, the U. S., British, and Japanese, on a capital-ship ratio of 5:5:3. Japan, by agreeing to accept a lower naval ratio, received America's promise not to fortify further any Pacific island except Hawaii.

Our Greatest Naval Victory



Nelson Harding. *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 1922.

The Roots



Carey Orr. *The Tribune (Chicago)*, c. 1921.

The Hearst papers, representing a vocal minority, deplored the conference results. They claimed that a rapacious Japan was even then formulating secret plans to attack the United States.