

JOHNSON ASSAILS ALLIED 'DUPLICITY'

Calls It, as Exemplified in Secret Treaties, "Unparalleled in History."

GETS OVATION AT ST. LOUIS

Great Coliseum Crowd Cheers 15 Minutes Before He Begins His Attack on the League.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 12.—When Senator Hiram W. Johnson of California stepped on the stage of the Coliseum tonight to plead for the defeat of the League of Nations covenant in its present form, he received an ovation that lasted eighteen minutes. The Coliseum is the largest hall in the city, and it was packed to the doors. Hundreds were turned away unable to find standing room.

As soon as Senator Johnson made his appearance the crowd rose to its feet, waved flags, and cheered. Finally the band ended the unusual demonstration by playing "The Star-Spangled Banner," the large audience joining in singing the words.

The crowd shouted "What's the matter with Johnson? He's all right!" for several minutes when Dr. John A. Simond, a prominent Democrat and local head of the League for the Preservation of American Independence, who presided at the meeting, rose to introduce Senator Johnson.

Senator Johnson brought the crowd to its feet cheering when he declared: "The real question in this controversy is whether we are to do our duty as we see it in the future or whether we are to be subject to the will of Great Britain and Japan."

The crowd hissed several times when Great Britain was mentioned by the speaker.

"The real purpose of the League of Nations is to guarantee the things that the Peace Treaty provides," Senator Johnson said. "Our allies want us to protect the spoils given them by this Peace Treaty. That was why the President insisted on combining into one document the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations."

In his plea for the defeat of the League of Nations in its present form, Senator Johnson described the treaty of peace as a patchwork of the secret treaties made between the Allies, unknown to America, before and during the war and challenged the recent declaration of the President that failure to concur in the settlement of the terms of peace by the United States "would put a stain upon our national honor which we never could efface."

"Does the President intend to say that it will put a stain upon our honor if we do not carry out the secret bargains which were, with a duplicity unparalleled in the world's history, concealed from us?" asked the Senator.

In a speech which he delivered at noon before an audience of business men at the City Club Senator Johnson devoted his remarks largely to ridicule of President Wilson at the Peace Conference, to denunciation of Article X. of the League covenant, and to a charge that the President had been the first to inject personalities into what he termed the debate on the League of Nations.

His audience became very enthusiastic at times, particularly when forceful, biting language gave more than usual emphasis to his declarations.

"We may be little and pigmy-minded

Americans," he said, "but we are all Americans."

The Austrian and Bulgarian treaties, he said, were still kept a secret by the President, but he predicted that when they became public they would be found to contain additional burdens for this country. "He alone knows the burdens, and he won't tell," the Senator said, referring to the President.

Newspapers which were supporting the League of Nations and the President were denounced by the speaker as "subservient and subordinate."

Replying to the President's complaint that the Senate was delaying peace, the Senator said that the treaty would have been ratified long ago if the President would have consented to separate the League of Nations covenant from it.

"The United States is the only going and solvent national concern in the world," he continued, "and it is proposed that the United States shall enter into a partnership with four bankrupts. I have heard of a man putting himself into the hands of his creditors, but never before of one putting himself into the hands of his debtors. And, in entering such a partnership, why should the United States take the place of a mere minority stockholders?"

"We may not be concerned about the effect on Germany," he said. "We may think Germany got just about what was coming to her, but we are concerned about the distribution of territory guaranteed by the League of Nations for all time. There is only one good guarantor in all the world, and that is your country and mine. We sign the note. Under Article X. you underwrite all the secret treaties. It puts on us the odium of preserving all the booty and all the spoils for the Governments of Europe and Asia. The people of the United States ought not submit to having this foisted upon them."

Senator Johnson told of sitting in the Senate during the war and hearing Balfour for England, Viviani for France, and representatives of Italy and Japan speak in the "same altruistic way that the President spoke," and he said that at that time "their pockets were bulging with secret treaties, which they did not disclose to any person in the United States Government."

"I will not stop to characterize that kind of duplicity," he exclaimed, "but I say that I don't want that kind of partner."

He repeated the assertion that the United States would be outvoted in the League of Nations six to one, and said that while this country always would respond to the cry of oppressed humanity, and to the cry of civilization, it would do so in its own time, and in its own way, "and not let foreign nations by an overwhelming vote in the League of Nations say when and how."

"Talk about isolated America," he said. "There never has been any isolation and never will be except by the two oceans, and neither the League of Nations nor Woodrow Wilson can dry them up."

"While the President was riding in the clouds and painting rainbows," he continued, "Lloyd George was writing the covenant. He wanted to be certain, so he inserted the clause that self-governing provinces should each have a vote. There were none but his. Thus he had five votes for England, but he thought there might as well be one more, so he sneaked in India, which is governed from London."

"Were it not for this feeling due to various conditions which keeps people silent you would hoot from the hustings any man who defended such a scheme. A year from now you would hoot from this hall any man who would defend it."

"The results which the President brought home were the same old cynical European diplomacy. Scrap the hope of the world, this country, with European diplomacy, and you will wreck the hope of peoples of the world."