

# The National Economic League

6 BEACON STREET  
BOSTON, MASS.



## *Executive Council*

- DAVID STARR JORDAN**  
Chancellor of Leland Stanford, Jr. University
- LOUIS D. BRANDEIS** Lawyer
- FRANKLIN K. LANE** Secretary of the Interior
- JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN** President Cornell University
- ROSCOE POUND** Professor of Law, Harvard University
- JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS** Sociologist
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- CHARLES J. BONAPARTE** Former U.S. Attorney General
- MOORFIELD STOREY** Former President American Bar Association
- EDWARD A. FILENE** Merchant
- JAMES SPEYER** Banker
- HARVEY S. CHASE, TREASURER** Expert Municipal Accountant
- J. W. BEATSON, SECRETARY**  
6 Beacon Street, Boston



"It was only out of the contest of facts and brains that the right could ever be evolved—only on the anvil of discussion could the spark of truth be struck out."

—JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

## ITS PURPOSE

**I**N all parts of the country there are able men of high ideals deeply interested in public affairs and unselfishly devoted to the interests of the people—men who by reason of sound judgment and sincere patriotism should take a leading part in shaping the policies of the nation, but who, through lack of time, or unwillingness to conform to the methods of practical politics, exert little or no influence in this direction.

If a means were devised by which such men, acting through a non-partisan organization, could determine, from time to time, the questions of greatest national importance, and secure their thorough discussion throughout the country, those who ought to be the leaders in directing and informing public opinion, would exert an influence not possible under present conditions.

So long as governmental policies are formulated by party leaders and as much for the purpose of securing votes as to meet real needs, the best thought of the country cannot have due weight in public affairs. It is evident that better methods of selecting public policies and of presenting them to the people for consideration are demanded.

It is to meet this need that The National Economic League has been formed. Its aim is to unite the best men in all sections of the country in an effort to secure a consensus of opinion as to which are the most important economic, social and political problems; to disseminate the leading facts and arguments in relation to these problems; and to promote the widest possible discussion, under non-partisan auspices, of such questions as are decided to be the most vital and urgent. **Its object, in a word, is to educate and crystallize public sentiment and to make such public sentiment an effective force for good.**

## AND PLAN

Over fifteen hundred of the most representative men of the country have already expressed their sympathy with the purpose of our League, and their willingness to cooperate as members of its National Council, the function of which is to select each year the issues which, in its opinion, are of greatest importance for consideration. This is accomplished through the mail by a system of preferential voting.

The Council also elects the officers of the League, and determines any important questions of policy that may arise.

In order to provide for the discussion of the issues selected by the National Council, Economic Clubs, similar to those already established by the League in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, etc., are being organized as rapidly as possible in other cities.

Over three hundred discussions have been held before the Economic Clubs already started. Among the eminent speakers who have taken part in discussions before these clubs are President Wilson, former President Taft, Elihu Root, William Jennings Bryan, Charles W. Eliot, and many others almost equally prominent.

The League maintains a bureau for the purpose of assisting the local Clubs in securing speakers.

Each year a special committee is appointed to study and investigate the subject selected as being of paramount importance, and to submit a report covering their findings.

The League issues a quarterly magazine, in which are printed the most important addresses delivered before the Economic Clubs, and the reports of its committees.

## COMMENTS

"If the National Economic League, in its effort to develop a national interest in the problems of government as it relates to the industrial and commercial interests of the nation, succeeds as well as has the Economic Club of Boston in the local field, it will perform an important and patriotic service. Such organizations as the Economic Club have a large part to play in the formation of the intelligent public sentiment which ultimately determines the policies of American government."

*Editorial from the Boston Herald.*

**President Hadley**, in his book on "The Education of the American Citizen," has clearly stated the need of a movement in this direction, and we print, with his permission, a few paragraphs bearing most directly upon that point:

"Democratic Government should confine its undertakings to those matters of policy which have been thoroughly discussed and have pre-eminently commended themselves to the whole people."

"I believe that we have but one alternative before us if we would preserve our integrity as a nation. . . . We must accept the principle of government by public sentiment."

"It is enough for the moment to call attention to the fact that this power (public sentiment) exists; that it is an instrument fitted to meet the most urgent needs of society today—strong where strength is needed, slow where conservatism is required, capable of indefinite expansion without threatening the foundation of self-government. It lies for the time unused; but it awaits only the mind which shall wield it in the public interest. To the men who will thus see it and use it, it offers the opportunity to become leaders in a higher type of social order than any which the world has yet seen."