

# The Old World and Its Fighting Fever

By W. P. CROZIER

Manchester, England, July—(By Mail). AMERICANS may perhaps be too fully engrossed with the excitements of their presidential campaign to follow closely the doings of the Old World. England, on the other hand, has no general elections, or at the moment any domestic troubles, except the never failing labor disputes and the turmoil in Ireland, to disturb its contemplation of foreign affairs. To tell the truth, as the New World has not yet come in to redress the balance of the old, the Old World is in an extreme condition of unreason and confusion and here at least we have plenty of time to study the picture, to deplore the submergence of many hopes and to watch anxiously for the gleam which may announce the dawn of better things.

To begin not in Europe but in distant Asia, there is the trouble with Japan. Japan has quietly occupied the whole of the Siberian coast line while withdrawing her troops from the interior. For this she offers two reasons: First, the danger lest the microbe of Russian unrest, or Bolshevism, should attack Korea; second, the massacre at Nicholaievsk. The first reason is an effort of the imagination. The revolutionary microbe has since the war attacked every people which is held subject by another. It flourishes with equal vigor in the veins of Egypt, of India and doubtless of Korea. But the Japanese have military force enough in Korea to crush the movements of rebellious patriotism and in any event no Japanese has yet been able to explain how the spread of the revolutionary idea in Korea can be prevented by the seizure of Russian ports many hundred miles away to the north.

The massacre at Nicholaievsk is rather different. It is probable that almost any other power would have answered such an outbreak by a hostile act against the offending country. The Bolsheviks, even if they so desired, probably could not punish the assailants of the Japanese at Nicholaievsk and as Japan had no ready means of making active war on Russia she took the easiest and most profitable method of exacting a penalty—by seizing Russian territory. The Japanese Government asserts that as soon as it had word of an outbreak at Nicholaievsk it sent warships to the rescue. These were held up by the ice but when at last on July 2 they reached their destination they found that the whole of the Japanese colony in the town, seven hundred in number, had been killed.

The upshot is that Japan by her recent seizures has cut Russia off from every outlet which she possessed on the Pacific. The plight of Russia can only be properly conceived when it is remembered that she is also almost entirely cut off from the Baltic. Riga has gone to Lithuania; Reval to the Estonians; Petrograd, which still remains to Russia, is notoriously unsatisfactory as a port, being icebound for a large part of the year.

When Japan will evacuate the harbors which she has occupied no man can say, but certainly if she follows the traditions of the great European powers she will not do so in a hurry nor until she is compelled. She has now completed the scheme of which she accomplished the first stage in her war with Russia of 1904-5. That war was fought to arrest the southward pressure of Russia upon China and toward the Yellow Sea and the Pacific. Japan established herself in Manchuria and annexed Korea, but Russia was still left with Vladivostok and one or two other ports as outlets on the ocean. Those are now sealed to her and Japan has one nation and one power the less to think of in her plans for establishing herself in the Pacific. China, long her expected prey, lies to the west. To the east lies the United States and to the south Australia, each of them, the great power and the small, warily watching every step that Japan takes in her policy of exclusion and monopoly in the Pacific.

This week the alliance between Britain and Japan falls due for renewal; that is to say, unless it be now denounced it will be automatically continued twelve months hence. It may be asked what interest or anxiety is aroused here by the question of its renewal and by Japanese activities in Siberia. The answer is that neither problem awakens any popular interest at all. Public opinion, which is too listless to become ex-

cited even about Ireland, does not bestir itself at all about the fate of the Pacific. In one or two papers the question has been mooted whether England could not drop the alliance with Japan and make some kind of an agreement with the United States for preserving peace and the "open door" in the Pacific regions. Few people trust the ambitions of Japan. No one of those who follows these questions has forgotten the notorious Twenty-one Demands which Japan sprang on China in 1915, taking advantage of the preoccupation of all the other powers with the Great War. These are but rumors about an agreement with the United States, begotten probably of the wish which is father to the thought, for it is true that all Englishmen who for a generation have advocated justice and the "open door" in China have looked to the United States as the only determined and disinterested champion of those two ideas. An agreement with the United States and any and every other power that is interested in the Pacific would be ideal. But ideal it is likely to remain. To expect it nowadays is to cry for the moon.

In Europe the feature of the moment is the war between Russia and Poland and the catastrophe which is fast overtaking the Poles. This war springs from the overweening ambitions of the Poles and the foreign policy of France. The French can only furnish military advisers to Poland but that they do with no niggardly hand. Earlier in the year there were seven hundred of these officers at work. Not all the blame attaches to France. A Russian, who was not long ago in Poland, told me the other day of a conversation which he had had with one of the leading Polish generals. This general told him that Poland must crush Russia in exactly the same way as France had crushed Germany. He said that a great Poland could no more exist alongside a strong Russia than a powerful France could live beside an unbeaten Germany and that therefore the Poles must grapple with Russia and beat her to the ground. It was incredible folly to believe that Poland had the power to do it and at the present moment the question is not whether the Poles will defeat Russia but whether the Russians will march straight on to Warsaw and overrun Poland.

When the Poles recently made their wanton attack on Russia, Trotsky declared that the Russian armies would make an end once and for all of the Polish menace by carrying the revolution into Poland and sweeping away the ruling castes. The danger is now lest Trotsky should carry out his threat and march to Warsaw. No one could blame him if he did, for so long as the ruling caste remains in power in Warsaw it will never abandon its vainglorious dreams of an Imperial Poland figuring as one of the great European powers. But a Russian march to Warsaw would be the most likely way to bring the Allies into the field. French policy depends so much on having a strong Poland as a counterpoise to Germany and Russia in Eastern Europe that France will not allow the Polish power to be broken if she can possibly prevent it. Already the Allies at Spa have bidden Russia to an armistice and peace conference with the Poles, threatening them with active military measures if they do not stay their advance at the "legitimate frontiers" of Poland. It would be difficult to exaggerate the cynicism of this action on the part of powers which either egged the Poles on to the attack or at any rate did not prevent it when they might. Possibly the Russians, who are sincerely desirous of peace, will yield to the Allied threats. Rumors are strong already that Trotsky will not have long to wait for his Polish revolution. The landlords and nobles who rule Poland will find it hard to survive the disastrous military defeat which they have brought on their country. For a long time now they have kept a large part of the Polish manhood in the field because they could not trust it, if demobilized.

There are other wars in Europe. In Teschen, the disputed territory in the northeastern corner of the old Austria, the Poles and Czechs (both of whom claim it) are reported on impartial authority to be cutting each

other's throats. On the east coast of the Adriatic the Albanians are fighting the Italians, and Italian troops at home have mutinied at the idea of their being sent to take part in the Albanian war.

In Asia there is one large-scale war and several little ones. Palestine is troubled by Arab raids from over Jordan, and in Mesopotamia the British are perpetually harassed by the Kurds and nomad tribes. In Asia Minor the Greeks are conducting a regular campaign against the Turkish Nationalists. It is one of the strangest results of the war that the Turks, who were beaten to the ground in 1918 and were notoriously impoverished in every form of military supply, should now be dominating Asia Minor so that the Great Powers have to delegate to Greece the task of rendering them harmless. The Greeks, of course, are not disinterested. They will expect their reward. They are to have Eastern Thrace, which overhangs Constantinople on the north, and it will be surprising if they do not push from the Smyrna region toward Constantinople from the south. Constantinople is the ultimate goal which the rulers of Greece have before them. The goal may be distant and hedged round by difficulties, but the present campaign is another step toward it. But ultimately Russia stands in the path, not to mention Bulgaria and Italy. What folly, by the way, that the Supreme Council should think that the fate of Constantinople can ever be settled without consulting Russia.

From this recital it would seem that the League which was to prevent war has so far failed to achieve its purpose. The fact is that in all that concerns war and the prevention of war the League scarcely counts in the Old World. When a subject like the future of the Aaland Islands comes up it is remitted to the League for consideration, because no one of the great Allied Powers is directly interested in the Aaland Islands. But let it be a question of Russia or Poland or the spoils of Asia Minor and the League of Nations is put in its proper place and kept there. It is not the League which settles any or all of the things that matter but the prime ministers of England, France and Italy. These three all-powerful ministers decide what the League of Nations shall or shall not be permitted to do. Thus they invite the League to send a delegation to Russia but they do not ask the League to intervene when Poland is on the point of attacking Russia. That is a matter of high diplomacy affecting the continental policy of France and the League must not touch it—and so with everything that touches the interests of the three. They are everything; the League is nothing.

But is there nothing then to announce the dawn? Yes, there is something. It is something that Italy under Signor Nitti definitely adopted a moderate liberal policy in international affairs and that Signor Giolitti will carry it on. It is something that the Allies have at last met the Germans round the conference table at Spa whatever the result may be—and at the moment of writing the conference promises ill. It is something that the Bolshevik Government has accepted the British terms preliminary to an agreement about trade and though the treatment of Russia by the Allies is cynical enough, it is likely that peace between Russia and the Poles will bring a general peace on the Eastern frontiers and make possible the revival of life and industry. It is something also if it be possible finally to eliminate the Turk not only as a European power but as a power at all.

With such aims carried to accomplishment it might be possible at last to make the League of Nations a reality, if the United States will yet come in. At present the Old World lies under the suspicion of bringing in the United States in order to solve its troubles, pull the chestnuts from the fire, pay its debts and the like. Perhaps if we could show that we were not simply seeking to push off our troubles onto other shoulders, the United States would join in more readily. The Old World will not be well again, scarcely even will she be convalescent, until the United States, Russia and Germany are all pulling their weight together in the League of Nations crew.

When a man fails at everything else, he becomes an "efficiency expert."

The world is full of real heroes, but most of them are in fiction.

Lies fly. Truths saunter.

The man who says that he used to be a fool about some things, forgets the other things.

We give advice because it is practically impossible to sell it.

A great many men make more money than their wives can spend, but never as much as their wives would like to be able to spend.

With the present style in feminine attire there'd be no excitement at all in living in glass houses.

Mind is ever stronger than muscle. It was Delilah's wit that enabled her to cut Samson's hair.

The man who invented the phrase "marriage of convenience" had a crazy conception of the definition of the word.

The good who do not die young get over it.

## Touching on Everything

By LEWIS ALLEN BROWNE

When prosperity struts in, meekness sneaks out.

"Love knots" are tied exactly the same way as a hangman's noose.

Love laughs at locksmiths—and keeps goldsmiths busy.

The rich man with nothing to do gets awfully tired. The poor man with nothing to do gets awfully hungry.

Home is frequently the place where the big leaders of men play second fiddle.

Man laughs at woman for wearing furs in summer—laughs until his hot, rasping, stiff linen collar nearly chokes him.

The violet is no longer an emblem of modesty—when it comes to shrinking, the dollar is champion.

It used to be said that most of men's troubles were in petticoats, but if they wear them these days they're mighty old-fashioned troubles.

The friends you have to buy are never friends.

Many a womanly halo is eagerly replaced by a diamond tiara.

"How to Make It at Home" now tops the literary list of the six best sellers.

Birds and cats also take much time in performing their toilets.

To fall in love is fatal. To live without falling in love is—fatal.

The average man has a larger vocabulary than woman, but less opportunity to use it.

The safest and sanest kiss is that of a husband and a wife, always provided they are married to each other.