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### No Secret Diplomacy

WASHINGTON news dispatches appear to be inspired by a purpose to prepare the public for closed sessions of the Disarmament Conference. An anonymous member of the Paris Peace Conference is quoted as arguing that public sessions would impose upon the members of the Conference rigid and narrow limitations. The freedom and flexibility of discussion requisite to arrive at agreements representing adjustments and compromises of divergent views, we are told, would be impossible. Moreover, it is insisted, the respective delegates would be exceedingly chary of giving expression to views that might bring upon their heads the criticism of their countrymen.

None of these objections will bear analysis. In fact, every objection raised to publicity for the discussions really suggests an excellent reason for such publicity. The knowledge that they are talking in the open and, in a manner of speaking, in the hearing of the world, would have a wholesome, sobering influence on every utterance in the conference chamber. It would prevent wriggling and evasion, dickering and logrolling.

If the Paris Conference taught any lesson it was that of the utter futility of negotiations in the dark, of secret wirepulling and tortuous complications. A task that should have been cleanly and satisfactorily accomplished in eight weeks at most, dragged its weary length through eight long months and then left endless loose ends and dragged threads. All this to frame a treaty that satisfied nobody and instead of bringing about peace became a fruitful source of future wars and rumors of wars.

Let the discussions and decisions of the Washington Conference be held in the open, and the delegates will find their work wonderfully clarified and expedited. They will enjoy the confidence of their own people in every instance, and all the peoples instead of laboring under that sense of particular and general distrust which is inseparable at this day from transactions that shirk the light and demand closed doors. They will be saved from temptations to dissimulation and double-dealing, from digressions and from waste of time on side issues or frivolous debate.

The people's demand that the disarmament negotiations be held in the open and with distinct focusing on them of the pitiless publicity of uncensored and uncolored press reports is a just and reasonable demand. The delegates sit as representatives of their peoples with a definite and distinct mandate. They are not ambassadors of absolutism unbound by considerations of responsibility to public opinion. Any attempt to evade this responsibility makes them suspect.

The task intrusted to them, not in pursuance of any selfish interest or isolated national scheming, but in that of all humanity, is a plain one. First and foremost, it is to come to an agreement on ways and means for the speedy and effectual limitation of naval armament building all 'round. Supplementary to this main purpose is the arrival at mutually satisfactory settlements of outstanding questions concerning rights and duties in the Pacific and the Far East, so that these possible causes of war shall not stand in the way of effective disarmament.

Holding strictly to this task, there is no reason in the world why preference should be given to the hidden ways of darkness in accomplishing it; every reason why an "open covenant" should be "openly arrived at."

### On to Washington

FROM Massillon, Ohio, to Washington, some 25 years ago marched a motley army of out-of-works marshaled by "General" Jacob Coxey. The purpose of Coxey's Army, of course, was to objectify in this striking manner the condition of unemployment then prevailing. This to enforce the demand on Congress

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for remedial legislation. The marchers had a hard time along the way and in Washington were warned to "keep off the grass" surrounding the nation's Capitol.

Striking reminder of how times change and manners with time was afforded the other day when a large company of automobile tourists drew up before the main entrance to the Capitol in Washington. They were from Massillon and the leader wanted to be shown where the old Coxe Army had camped.

"We don't march now," he said; "we tour, and every car is a family one."

Now, as in Coxe's day, there is much unemployment; but there is probably less of the bitterness which caused that historic demonstration. Men generally realize that the present industrial depression is but a passing stage, and that earnest attempts are being made to deal with a situation that all suffer by and all deplore.

### Labor and Sunday Closing

AUSTRALIA is admittedly a land of democracy. We paid it the compliment some years ago of adopting the form of ballot which it originated to insure honest elections. It has long enjoyed those eminently democratic measures the initiative, referendum, recall and proportionate representation. For a generation or more it has been ruled by "Labor" governments.

These considerations give special weight to a letter from Melbourne to the *World Tomorrow* in which Sidney Strong, of Seattle, who had been attending the Trade Union Congress of Australia and New Zealand, writes:

"I am greatly impressed with certain labor conditions here, among them the universal 48-hour week, Saturday afternoon closing of all business, ditto on Sundays; no theaters nor amusements on Sundays, no street cars on Sunday forenoons—all of these from labor's demands."

This means that organized labor, in the country in which it enjoys highest development and is enthroned in power, explicitly recognizes the importance of the weekly rest day, with its religious and economic sanctions, to be in the interest of the workers. The fact is a telling rebuff to the organized interests in our own country that are just now noisily agitating for the destruction of the American Sabbath under the palpably dishonest slogan of "Anti-Blue Law" and "Personal Liberty" movements.

### An Arch of Peace

AN EVENT that should give the Disarmament Conference food for serious thought will be the dedication on September 6 next of the Arch of Peace built on the Canadian-American border at the edge of Blaine, the border town of Washington, to commemorate 100 years of peace between the United States and Canada.

This century of peace between neighboring nations has been maintained not despite but because of the fact of a five-thousand-mile frontier undefended by a single fort or a single gun on either side. This in itself should be big with meaning for the small as well as the large nations of Europe whose boundaries are all so strongly guarded, and who have experienced probably 100 or more wars during the past 100 years. Such wars, indeed, are going on at this moment in the Near East and threatened at many points.

The actual centenary occurred in 1914 and elaborate preparations had been made for its celebration in England, as well as in the United States and Canada. The purchase by public subscription and the dedication, in the early part of that year, of Sulgrave Manor, Washington's ancestral home, was anticipatory of this celebration and a concrete evidence of the Anglo-American friendship it marked. But the war interfered with these plans, and it is just as well that the completion of the Peace Arch on the border should now be identified with this one hundred years of unbroken friendship between the two great branches of the English-speaking race.

It is significant, too, that the dedication of this arch will also commemorate the completion of the Pacific Highway, a paved road from the Mexican border to the Canadian line. This road opens to traffic and to tourists one of the most picturesque regions of the American Continent. Many of those attending the dedication of the arch will probably travel over the new highway.

Such roads contribute enormously to the increase and facilitation of communication between peoples of various sections, so making possible the mutual knowledge and understanding on which peace so largely depends. Good roads spread civilization now as in the far-flung empire which the old Roman roads united.

### They Want Mexico's Oil

SECRETARY HUGHES deserves high praise for his handling of the Mexican situation. Happily the negotiations are at a stage in which there is mutual recognition of good faith and good will. Mexican national sensibilities are gracefully recognized in our State Department's agreement to recognize the Obregon government on its assurance of assent to the principle that the so-called "confiscatory" legislation regarding oil land leases shall not be retroactive, leaving actual treaty stipulations to future arrangement.

It is notorious in Washington that the Secretary of State has had to battle day and night against the jingo influence exerted in many subtle forms at one time and with a blustering bludgeoning at another. There is a certain set of exploiters, known to be bent at all costs on plunging this country into a war with the sister republic simply to carry out their own mercenary designs. Determined on forcing the new Administration, as they were the Wilson Administration, to armed intervention, ostensibly for the protection of American rights, this international plunderbund engaged in a gigantic raid on the world's oil resources as a big step in the attainment of international financial and political domination.

Thanks to Secretary Hughes' able and resourceful steering, a difficult and dangerous passage in our relations between Mexico has been safely negotiated. For the present, the peril has been dissipated. But it is well that the public should maintain a wakeful and watchful attitude. The very delays and the emergencies by which our resumption of friendly relations with Mexico have been delayed nearly a year after Britain's recognition, so ably and frankly negotiated by Dr. E. J. Dillon, should put us on our guard. Predatory greed knows no conscience.

### Federal Reserve at the Bar

WHILE John Skelton Williams was Comptroller of the Currency, and ex-officio a member of the Federal Reserve Board, he publicly accused the directors of that body of discrimination against the agricultural South and West and in favor of speculative Wall Street in the placing of loanable funds. The charges were repeated by Mr. Williams only the other day before a joint congressional committee of inquiry into the operations of the Federal Reserve Board in the presence of Governor W. R. Harding of the Board.

Although the charges were emphasized by citation of specific instances and examples, the Federal Reserve Board head failed to meet them, resorting to personalities, general denials and petty attempts at justification that sound far from convincing.

The charges, which Senator Owen has repeated in substance on the floor of the Senate, are of the gravest importance. They are of a nature open to easy and final disposal one way or the other, being the statements of facts on record with the Federal Reserve Banks. The charges will persist until they are fairly and squarely met. Vague denials or angry epithets will not down them.

The plain fact, as it now appears on the face of the matter, is that the deflation of cotton and cattle and grain and other farm prices has been much more drastic than that of the prices for these products when reduced to the forms in which they are sold to the consumer.

The economic wrong worked to the farmers of the United States—it is estimated to have meant a lowering of the market value of their products by more than a billion of dollars—is serious enough. But the principle involved goes much beyond even this grave injury. The rediscounting powers of the Federal Reserve Banks were never intended to be used for speculative purposes, whether in securities or commodities.

If the charges made by the former Comptroller of the Currency and by Senator Owen are as well based as they appear to be, the members of the Federal Reserve Board, and particularly its executive, are guilty of a violation of the law which created them and of flagrant violation of trust. The entire spirit and attitude assumed by these men suggests an arrogantly autocratic contempt for the democratic bases of our institutions. The Federal Reserve Board is now arraigned at the bar of public opinion. An unbiased congressional committee should have no difficulty in determining the facts in the case. No evasion, no whitewashing!