NO NATION REPRESENTED IN CONFERENCE TO BENEFIT AT ANOTHER'S EXPENSE

U. S., Too, Must Sacrifice In Parley, Says Ida Tarbell

All Nations Must Yield Something to Make Conference Success, Declares Noted Woman Writer.

By IDA TARBELL.

An international conference such as that we are now watching in Washington has almost as many stages as Shakespeare gave the life of man. We have lived through the first stage, the one in which the programs are cut. They are all out now, on the table. First, Mr. Harding's fine program of sentiment and idealism. Second, Mr. Hughes' bold and detailed plan for reducing the navies of England, Japan and the United States. Third, China's ten far-reaching generalities. Four, Japan's reply of less far-reaching generalities. Fifth and finally, to date, Mr. Root's four rules accepted by everbody for handling the Far East agenda, aiming principally to give China a square deal.

Second Stage Uncertain.

The curtain now goes up on the second stage, at least we hope it will go up. The chances are that it will go up and down in a way tantalizing to observers, for this is the stage in which we are to begin to realize that if the programs are to become practical realities there must be sacrifices all around.

It was this realization at the opening of the second stage of the Paris conference that gave the first chill to the noble and world-wide enthusiasm which greeted the programs that body adopted in its first stage. The members of the Paris conference were warned at the start of what was before them. On the 18th of January, 1919, when the delegates of the thirty allied nations first met in the great clock hall of the department of foreign affairs in Paris, Clemenceau, as always astute and farseeing said in his speech in which he thanked the gathering for making him its premament president, "There are no sacrifices to which you must not be ready to consent." So far as I know he was the only man to say or to think sacrifice at the Paris conference.

Then Came Objections.

When it came to the test of working out their platform you know what happened. One of the things to which they had committed themselves was disarmament, but—

England must have her navy; her security required it.

France and Italy must have their armies; their secruity required it.

Each one of the little new nations that one would have supposed to have been so fed up on war that they never again would have been willing to spend a dollar on a soldier, must have their armies; their security required it.

Japan must have her army, her navy, her war loot; her security required it.

Moved By Fear.

That is, no one of the allied nations was ready to make a sacrifice to carry out the plank of disarmament they had adopted. They insisted on applying the plank to the enemy they had beaten, but not to themselves. This was not in any large degree because of greed or revenge, it was because of fear—fear of the vanquished. They believed the vanquished dangerous because they believed that their one thought was of revenge, and that if the victors disarmed, the vanquished would rally and pounce on them.

There was utter lack of confidence in the plan of peaceful international co-operation which they had written into their program. Force alone spelled security in their minds. They had no sense of safety in a mere covenant, though all the nations of the world die commit themselves to its provisions.

America Also Balked.

It has been our boast that we alone asked nothing at Paris. But is this true? When it came to the show-down in working out the code which the world had acclaimed as the true path to permanent peace, we refused to accept the one point on which all the rest hung—that for an association of nations looking to the continuous peaceful handling of international difficulties. Such an association we saw would invade our isolation and that isolation we have come to believe to be our chief security. That is, in essence the United States was no more willing to make a sacrifice for permanent peace than were the distracted and disheveled nations of Europe.

We and they all held on to the particular device which we had come by national experience to believe essential to safety—England her navy, France her army, Japan her army and her navy, we our freedom from entangling alliances.

Success Entails Sacrifice.

Now here we are at the same point in the conference on the limitation of armament; the programs are on the table, but to work them out in the spirit in which they are framed must inevitably mean sacrifice. We say we have made sacrifice when we consent to scrap these millions on millions of naval strength. A sacrifice which reduces our tax bills is not going to cause tears in this country.

The sacrifice which we will probably be called upon to make in regard to this naval program will be mainly spiritual—giving up our pride in having the plan put through as we laid it down—not a jot or tittle of it changed. Our pride in Mr. Hughes' fine work may well prove to be a serious stumbling block. It has led already to the ugliest gesture yet made in Washington—the flourishing of the "big stick" whenever any suggestion of change was rumored to have come from Great Britain or Japan.

Calls Threat Unworthy.

We were not going to tolerate tampering with the great work. It must be accepted as it was laid down, and if it were not we could build the biggest navy on earth; we had the money, moreover we would call our foreign loans and then we'd see! There has been little in the attitude of either Great Britain or Japan towards the naval program to justify these threats. Even if there had been, they the unworthy of a nation, particularly a nation which is acting as a host. Their fulfillment would be unjustified even as a last resort, for carried out they would seem to mean more hate and more war in a world which we are trying to do our part to lead into peaceful ways.

Attitude on Submarines.

Again, up to the present writing, we have shown little spirit of sacrifice in considering England's suggestion concerning submarines. She would like to see the submarine banished from the navies of the world. We are reported to have flatly refused. America's security, we say, requires submarines. And it is rumored that we may build them big enough to go from Maine to the Panama and up the coast to Alaska without reoiling.

Suppose we do, we will then have the most terrible offensive as well as defensive weapon, poisonous gas aside, that has yet been invented. And to the suggestion that we banish this deadly and cowardly war instrument from the seas of the world, we respond "No; we must have it for our defense." That is, when it comes to the show-down we cling quite as much as other people to those instruments of force which we believe to spell security.

Pleads for Understanding.

It will be easier all around to do the giving up which will be required if we are to get through this second stage of the conference without chills and fever, if we'll all try to understand that the nations concerned here are swayed mightily in the matters which are on the table by certain ingrained national sentiments and convictions. If England, France and Japan are to have patience with us they must learn to understand how much a part of us is our dislike of alliances and see that this part of our national gospel is as ingrained as our conviction that our isolation is our security.

But if we expect the world to have patience with our hanging back at the doorway of the Temple of Peaceful Handling of World Quarrels, we must learn to have patience with the sentiment born of their experience and training.

Patience With Japan.

Take this matter of Japan and her fleet and the destroying of her great vessels. There has been considerable irritation over her plea that she be allowed to spare one or two of the greatest. We have looked at it as a proof of her insincerity, an effort to evade, to keep a disproportionate amount of naval power; but there is a sentiment involved here which I doubt if any American can understand—the feeling that the island nation has for ships.

There she is, a little land all told—Formosa and Korea included—with a seafront of 7,500 miles. Ships mean food, contacts, security to her, and these monsters that she has built with such sacrifices are the pride of the land. They are symbols of a great national sentiment.

Symbols vs. Tonnage.

I take it that Japan has something the same feeling about great ships that we have about the Monroe doctrine and our policy of isolation. And we ask her to sacrifice these symbols without even a groan. We do it, of course, because there are so few in the United States to whom a battleship means anything but taxes. We do not depend upon battleships for safety. To build up in this country anything like the sentiment that Japan has for her fleet would take a hundred years of warfare, but if we are to be fair to Japan we must understand the sentiment. We must ask ourselves what sacrifice we are making to match that which we are asking of her. The world is not ruled simply by tons of metal. Symbols weigh more with nations than tonnage. We give up our ships without a sigh, but when Japan scraps hers something of her heart goes with the scrapping.

France's Feeling for Army.

There is a situation akin to this in France. She has the kind of feeling for her army and a weak Central Europe that we have for our isolation and our Monroe Doctrine. They are convictions ingrained by centuries of war, usually defensive war; getting the English out, keeping back the flood of Central Europe, determined to reach the sea. We express horror and surprise that these two national sentiments should have been so strong at Paris that they should have been able to have done so much to have frustrated the great code that the allied nations accepted there; but go over France's battlefields from that of Attila, in the fifth century down to the Marne in the twentieth, and you'll have a better basis for understanding. There are always reasons for these settled national convictions, however wrong and unreasonable they may seem to the outsider.

Lack of Faith.

We were irritated with France in Paris and we have been to a less degree here in Washington because we have had no sympathetic understanding of the experience which makes her so insistent on a big land force and a weak and divided Central Europe. But as a matter of fact she is simply clinging as we are, to those things which through her national life she has come to believe are best adapted for her protection.

France has been no more able than we have to accept for her self-preservation the principles of security through world co-operation. The trouble with all of us at bottom seems to be a lack of faith in any agency for governing international affairs other than war and its ally, secret diplomacy, and unless out of this great conference there does come more faith in the sufficiency of an association of nations this conference is going to be little more than a vastly stimulating and interesting discussion of certain problems.

May Lose Opportunity.

It would be a sorry business indeed if we went away from this great opportunity for helping a battered and weeping world to stabilize and heal itself, having done only those things which required no deep-cutting sacrifice on the part of anyone.

What that would amount to would be that the strong—the conference is made up of the strong—will have made things safer and more comfortable for themselves in the matter of armament; that they will have arranged to help China to her feet in such a way that they each can do business with her without cutting one another's throats. That's a very substantial gain. But how about the rest of the world?

Fifty Not Here.

There are nine nations here in Washington and there are nearly fifty that are not here. There are two whole continents without representation. It is not to be expected that there should not be more or less resentment and fear on the part of those that are not here for those that are. The echoes of it every now and then cut sharply through the loud chorus of optimism which daily arises—and rightfully, for there is every reason so far for optimism—from this conference. But if Mr. Harding's great objective "less of armament and none of war" is to be attained there must be a more inclusive arrangement for fixing up international troubles than we are yet seeing in Washington.

ARMS CONFERENCE TEST OF STRENGTH, SAYS D'ANNUNZIO

Italy's Poet-Warrior Fears Britain Aims at Predominance.

By GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO.
Poet and Popular Leader in Italy.

ROME, Dec. 3.—Only a few days have elapsed, but my prediction has been realized. The men meeting in the Washington council have been stricken sterile and impotent. They speak, but their words do not spread in the living world, remaining tied to their own mouths like the mottoes the ancient fresco painters applied to the mouths of priests. They have no resonance in the human spirit, which has become deaf to them and unbelieving.

We poor people have masticated too many bitter herbs not to laugh sardonically at their attempts. But we do not despair to find the cure for the atrocious convulsion of our deceived lips.

Sees Problems of Strength.

On the Pacific table of debates are set only problems of lucre, problems of enmity, problems of oppression. All these are problems of strength. They can be solved only by strength.

It is vain to juggle with deceit. It is vain to try to cover with sinuous amile the bellicose tusk of war.

What does England want, for example? She wants to keep her present predominance at the least possible cost. She wants to augment and consolidate her wealth reducing the lavishness, reducing the charges upon her privileged position.

Briefly, she wants to lord it, yet to spend less.

Here is her naked problem: Defeated and pursued by Germany and America in the same regions where her mercantile supremacy seemed henceforth affirmed. But today another fearful adversary is confronting her. With what art can she elude the duel?

Wants More Territories.

But her true danger consists in having wanted to augment beyond measure her colonial territories, having wanted to enlarge indefinitely the figure of her empire as if she had forever before her eyes that Oceana which emerging from the depths of the seas casas an immense shade over depressed nations.

She wants peace, yes, but only that of the "greatest Britain." She wants to extend "Pax Brittanica" on all oceans and also on our Mediterranean. Can her measured speeches dissimulate this more than leonine project?

In the same Mediterranean, in our sea, in the fatal sea where Greece revelled in beauty and Rome in justice and sanctity, England proposes to match two Latin nations. She wants to be stronger than France—stronger than Italy and France together. She wants to abolish the traditions of the past and disregard the necessary of the present. She wants to preclude her ways to futurity. In our opinion, she wants to oppose life's truths to history.

Points to Torches of Revolt.

Is that a problem of strength? There are no speeches, either meditated or extemporaneous; there are no treaties, either open or secret, which can change the formidable realty. The breath of Anglican eloquence cannot extinguish the ardent torches of Ireland, India, Arabia and Egypt.

If the disputants keep up their nocturnal sittings these torches must enlighten their toilsome papers and must augment the sinister redness held by invisible fists which, unlike the torches, will not allow themselves to be put out. After 300 years they yet remain deeply engraved on the morial stones of the world.

It is necessary that he who is just must be hallowed. Justice without strength is impotent; strength justiceless is tyrannical.

Must Help Justice.

We must help the just to be strong and the strong to be just. Justice is subject to controversies, strength is recognizable without discussion. It has not been possible to give strength to justice because strength has contradicted justice whenever she has affirmed helself as just, and justice unjust.

But if I consider the presence of Italy "poor woman of God" in the councils of the mighty, it brings to my mind another overseas passage. That of Saint Francis landing in Egypt with simple cords and an empty bag among the Christian barons partaking of booty.

Brazil Coins Own Gambling Money

Roulette Wheels Pour Thousands of Dollars Into Government Treasury.

RIO DE JANIERO, Dec. 3.—The new government fiscalization laws for gambling clubs has caused a great revival in the art of risking one's money upon the roulette wheel or the baccarat tables.

No less than twenty-five clubs now are running in Rio and the government's share each week runs into thousands of milreis.

The "High Life" Club has reopened and roulette games there are said to be unusually high.

All the regular clubs have started roulette tables, with Americans among the best patrons. One youth from New Haven, said to be the son of a millionaire manufacturer, won 7,000 milreis in a single hour's play in a club on the Rua Sao Jose, and his companion, an Austrian countess of American birth, won 5,000 milreis.

Gambling is on the most approved Monte Carlo style. Women of all ages are among the greatest players, and evening clothing is almost essential to get a seat at a table in any of the better clubs. Free coffee and drinks are served to all players.

CALENDAR OF WORLD EVENTS

Nov. 25.—Argentine bandits were reported holding L. J. MacBey, of Kansas City.

The German government officially denied every charge made by Premier Briand of France relative to military preparation and made the counter charge that France possessed at this time the greatest army in its history.

Nov. 26—Sinn Fein delegates guaranteed fiscal autonomy to Ulster and the power of veto on all problems involving North Ireland.

Nov. 27—Dominion rule was offered the Irish, with reservations of tariff and naval facilities.

Anti-French riots swept Italy, the result of anger at contentions between Premier Briand and Senator Shanzer.

Powers represented at the arms parley agreed to abolish foreign postoffice control in China.

Nov. 28—Official denials came from Paris as regards the alleged intent of Premier Briand's remarks, criticized by British and Italians.

A Canadian mission was sent to Mexico to foster trade relations.

Nov. 29—Lord Cecil declared the league of nations "in running order" and termed "madness" the idea of abandoning the plan.

Italian moving picture men protested Americans' invading their industry.

Nov. 30—A strike of electrical workers plunged Berlin into darkness.

A committee from the United States Senate departed for Haiti to investigate conditions following supervision of the government by ths country.

The Wood-Forbes report, opposing Philippine autonomy at this time, was promulgated.

Russian mothers are reported poisoning their starving children.

Dec. 1—Japan and China agree to discuss Shantung outside the arms parley.

Plans have been drawn by the British to aid German credit. A moratorium on reparations payments is anticipated.

Dec. 2—Popocatepetl, Mexican volcano, showed signs of unusual activity and many villages in the vicinity were deserted.

C. W. Morse landed at Havre, France, promising to return immediately to the United States where alleged violations of U. S. shipping laws are under investigaton.

Kerensky, deposed Russian dictator, was reported plotting to assume control of the government once more.

LONDON FEARS COLD WINTER AFTER FREAKISH SUMMER

Weather Sharps Predict Thames Will Be Frozen for First Time in Century.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—It is now more than a hundred years since the Thames was frozen over and an ox was roasted on the ice. There is more than a mere possibility that Londoners shall again be skating in the region of Blackfriar Bridge this winter.

With the early winter fogs, the protracted summer, with its beat waves and drought, gave place to weather with which we are more familiar, and we are asking what the winter has in store for us.

There is a widespread belief that certain signs and portents point at this period of the year to the type of winter that is to come. Many country folk, wise in weather lore, have built up local reputations on their ability to foretell the weather of the coming season. They have, through long years of personal observation, accumulated a knowledge of signs and portents, often handed down from generation to generation, that enables them to tell with some degree of accuracy, the general character of future weather.

Predict Hard Winter.

These unscientific students of the weather are unanimous in predicting a hard winter to follow on the heels of the phenomenal summer. Many of them during the hot October days wagged their heads wisely and quoted the old saw, "Warm October, cold February."

Scientific meteorologists frankly state that they do not know. Organized meteorology is too young a science to distinguish between a freak occurrence and regular sequences. Widespread authentic records date back merely fifty years, and meteorologists are still groping in the dark as to the primary causes of good or bad seasons. One fact has, however, arisen from the statistics that are available. Weather appears to run in cycles of mild and severe winters. The idea of the old-fashioned English winter arose primarily from the writings of Charles Dickens, and his conception of winter was the result of a sequence of exceptionally severe winters that occurred when he was an impressionable boy.

A further series of severe winters occurred between 1890 and 1905, and since then, with the exception of an occasional weather freak which produced severe frost and snow, the weather has been mild and wet throughout.

Study of Weather Cycles.

Another period of hard winters is now due, and the change is generally sudden.

The study of weather cycles reveals the interesting fact that, dating back for several hundred years, ancient chronicles and writings show that in cycles of roughly a hundred years the winters have been so severe that the Thames has frozen over. It is now over a hundred years since such a severe winter was experienced, and according to this law of cycles another winter that will freeze the Thames is now due.

It will be remembered that last winter the period prior to Christmas was particularly cold, but a warm wave, which was probably a forerunner of the phenomenal summer we have just experienced, swept away the cold. It is feasible that this spell of cold was the first warning of the return of a cycle of hard winters and that the coming winter will witness the first of the series.

This, then, is the position: The weather-wise countryman, observing the profusion of berries in the hedges and the large amount of winter food stored up by the denizens of the wild, draws on his stock of weather lore, much of it bequeathed to him by his forebears, and predicts a winter of cold and wind. At the same time the meteorologist, studying his records of facts and figures, acknowledges that a hard winter is by no means improbable, and the law of weather cycles, with its constantly recurring periods of mild and cold winters, demands not only a hard winter, but one of exceptional severity.

RHINE TROOPS TRAIN TO SWIM

COBLENZ, Dec. 3.—The doughboy, to be a good soldier, must be just as much at home in the water as on land, officials of the American forces in Germany have decided, and during the coming winter a campaign will be conducted to encourage every soldier in the American forces on the Rhine to learn to swim.

Calendar of the Week's News Throughout the United States

November 28—American delegates conferred on complicated features of the arms conference.

Seven dead were reported as the toll of a theater fire in New Haven, Conn.

Collapse of a theater in course of construction in Brooklyn cost the lives of four persons and the injury of three-score.

Japanese and Italian envoys at the arms conference voiced approval of President Harding's suggestion for future parleys.

November 29.—Lieut. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, hero of the "Lost Battalion," who told the Germans to go to hell when they asked his surrender, disappeared from a ship bound for Havana and was believed to have ended his life.

Frank A. Vanderlip, New York banker, proposed the re-loan of debts collected from the American allies, as an aid to the rehabilitation of Europe.

A Federal grand jury at New York indicted thirty-one individuals and fifty-three corporations of the window glass industry on charges of violating the Sherman antitrust law.

November 30—Dr. Adolph Lorenz, famous Austrian orthopedic surgeon, fainted three times from exhaustion while treating cripples who swarmed his offices in New York.

Mrs. James A. Meek was under medical care at her home in South Norwalk, Conn., after being attacked by her pet cat.

Furnishings of the home of George M. Pullman, Chicago, valued at $500,000, were sold at auction for a pittance.

December 1—Revision by the Railway Wage Board of the rules governing shop employes on all railroads forecast economies in operation amounting to $50,000,000, increased efficiency and recognition of the "open shop."

While a Federal grand jury was preparing to investigate his war transactions Charles W. Morse, financier and shipping man, was reported to have sailed for Europe.

Eleven high school students and the driver of a motor bus in which they were riding were killed at a railroad crossing near Red Bluff, Cal.

December 2—Margaret Coughlin, 3 years old, missing two days from her home in Chicago, was found murdered in the basement of a neighboring house.

Railroad union officials at Chicago, dissatisfied with sweeping changes made by the Railway Wage Board in rules for shopmen, were preparing for a strike ballot.

Reports of physicians on the condition of Virginia Rappe, movie actress, before her death, were expected to decide the innocence or guilt of Fatty Arbuckle, charged with her murder, before a San Francisco jury.

Archbishop Curley was installed in the cathedral at Baltimore as successor to the late Archbishop Gibbons.

GERMAN DOCTORS FIX FEES AT RATE OF ALIEN MONEY

American Refuses to Pay Bill of $10,000 for Minor Operation.

(Special Cable to The Washington Herald and Chicago Tribune.)

BERLIN, Dec. 3. — With valuta, which is German for "rate of exchange," almost the most used word in the German language today, it was clear that sooner or later it would cease to confine itself to the vocabulary of out and out financiers, and of porters, waiters, chambermaids, retired generals, cash girls, and the rest of the people who speculate in foreign exchange, and spread over to the professions. The case of Dr. James, the American who claimed that an outrageous fee in dollars was demanded of him in Munich for an operation upon his daughter, has served to focus public attention upon a condition with which Americans who have lived in Germany since the armistice are only too sadly familiar.

Foreigners Pay Heavy Fee.

Almost all of the doctor's associations in Germany have passed resolutions calling upon their members to fix the fees of patients from foreign countries in the currency of the country from which they come. Through a peculiar oversight, perhaps, this regulation applies only to foreigners whose native currency at the present time is higher than Germany's and Austrians and Poles who fondly believed that the rates would be lower for them, by virtue of their sadly depreciated currency, have learned from bitter experience that it's a German medical rule that doesn't work both ways.

The result has been that, for most medical services, Americans have had to pay prices in dollars that would provoke comment in America. The chief cause of this has been the general German ignorance as to the real value of a dollar, and there are not a few Germans of the better class who firmly believe that the average American earns as much for the same kind of work in dollars as the German does in marks. A world famous American movie magnate, who has spent several months in Berlin, claims that the sentence that he hears oftener than and other in Germany is: "But, after all, what are $5,000 to an American?"

Demanded Fee of $10,000.

Recently a member of the American colony here, who had engaged a German doctor of no particular fame or repute in connection with the confinement of his wife, received a bill for $10,000 from the doctor in question, "for services rendered." The charge for such a German patient would be 3,000 marks, or less than $25, at the present rate of exchange. The American after he recovered from the shock, took the matter up with his lawyer, and the outcome of the trial is being awaited with breathless interest by would-be parents in Berlin's foreign colony.

Dentists, too, have jointed the "League for Making the Valuta Pay the Rent" as one American terms it, and the American habit of going to the dentist regularly has become a thing of the past with permanent American residents here.

PREDICTS TRADE PACT WITH ITALY

Declares Raising of Tariffs in Both Countries Will Bring Treaty.

(Special Cable to The Washington Herald and Chicago Tribune.)

ROME, Dec. 3.—Having heard of the many complaints against the Italian tariff made recently by several American exporters who furnish Italy with such commodities as typewriters, adding machines, sewing machines, automobiles, tractors and various kinds of farming implements, The Herald correspondent decided to find out the cause of those complaints. The following increase of importation duties on some typical American commodities, which went into effect in the last few months, will explain that cause:

Typewriters increased from 75 to 400 lire in gold.

Sewing and adding machines increased from 30 to 100 lire in gold.

Automobiles and tractors increased about 40 per cent.

Upon further inquiry it was found that some Italian merchants who export goods to the United States are complaining just as bitterly against the American tariff, for America also has increased her duties on goods she imports from Italy. For example:

Duties on lemons was increased about 300 per cent.

Duties on cherries was increased about 200 per cent.

Duties on olive oil was increased about 45 per cent.

Duties on olives was increased about 80 per cent.

According to an American authority on international commercial affairs who is now in Rome the competition between America and Italy in raising their tariffs against each other's goods was intended by one or both of the nations to prepare the ground for a commercial treaty. The complaints of the merchants on both sides will create the demand for such a treaty and will at the same time strengthen the position of each nation in proportion to the demand of her goods on the part of the other nation.

RICHES HIDDEN IN MAN'S FOOD

DANZIG, Dec. 3.—A passenger traveling between Eydtkuhnen and Berlin showed such nervousness during examination of his luggage by the customs that, although nothing incriminating was found, they decided to make a careful reexamination.

The result was that the traveler's luncheon, consisting of bread and butter and eggs, was found to contain gold and diamonds. Pores of the bread had been filled with gold and carefully covered with butter, while the eggs had been emptied and refilled with diamonds.

Dominion Status for South Ireland Seems Probability

Parties to Negotiations Loath to Admit Failure Though Results Are Delayed—Arms Parley Limitations Indicated.

Ulster has said "No" to the settlement proposal of the British government which, presumably, had the indorsement of Sinn Fein. The proposal is said to have contained, as part of the solution, an all-Ireland Parliament. This proposition Ulster finds totally impossible at the present time. An all-Ireland Council or Parliament, which would be on a proportionate basis, and therefore, controlled by Southern Ireland, means, Ulster thinks, that, once accepted, England would be unable, if she wished, to prevent oppression of Ulster by Sinn Fein. Sir James Craig pointed out, in an interview, possible actions of an oppressive nature which Sinn Fein might inflict on Ulster. These possibilities, he said, included injecting Catholicism into state schools and the wrecking of Ulster's important industries by ill-considered legislation. Sir James stated that he was not making for Ulster a final refusal to consent to a united Ireland, but that he wanted Sinn Fein first to prove its ability to govern itself on constitutional lines, and to give practical proof of its fairness toward southern Protestants. After a time under such circumstances, he thought that the two Irish governments might unite of their own free will. The expected statement by Sir James in the Ulster Parliament was made Tuesday. This was an agreed statement, the text of which was fixed by Mr. Lloyd George and the Ulster leader. The exact words were: "By Tuesday next these negotiations will have broken down or the prime minister will send me new proposals for consideration by the Cabinet. In the meantime rights of Ulster will be in no way sacrificed or compromised."

As soon as the text of this statement had been received in Lonlon Mr. Lloyd George called a new meeting of Sinn Fein delegates and the committee of British ministers which is dealing with the Irish question. It was announced afterward that "a new avenue was being explored." So, although the protracted negotiations for an Irish settlement have thus far lead to no conclusion, it is evident that all parties concerned are loath to admit a failure. It becomes increasingly difficult to put an end to the truce which has existed in Ireland for five months. The expectation clearly is that some way out will ultimately be found. It is pointed out by the Daily Chronicle, Premier Lloyd George's organ, that, failing a voluntary agreement on the part of Ulster to unite with Southern Ireland, the British government will not coerce Ulster, nor will it permit Sinn Fein, if it would, to coerce Ulster. It is not likely that Sinn Fein would expect actual, physical coercion of Ulster. Since Ulster has refused the settlement proposed and no coercion is possible, it is difficult to see how Sinn Fein can expect any more than the British government is clearly willing and prepared to grant, namely, a dominion status, practically amounting to nationality within the empire for Southern Ireland. If one might venture to predict, one might say that such a result will probably be the outcome of the present negotiations, with the added feature of some form of cooperative council in which both Southern and Northern Ireland would be represented, but which would not have dominant power in Ulster.

Assurances Not Definite.

During the past week it became known that Premier Lloyd George, contrary to the general view, has had no definite assurance from the Sinn Fein that they will swear allegiance to the crown. While this fact has been put forward as likely to cause a breakdown in the negotiations, apart from what Ulster may do, it seems most probable that this obstacle can be overcome. It is hardly likely that Mr. Lloyd George would have gone as far as he has in these negotiations unless he thought the allegiance difficulty could be settled. It has been suggested that the Sinn Fein leaders and other members of the Dail Eireann would not individually swear allegiance to the crown, but that the Dail itself as a body would acknowledge the king as the head of the empire. Such an arrangement would seem to be satisfactory and would obviate the necessity of Sinn Fein members repudiating their previous refusals.

An interesting speculation is opened up by the prospect that Southern Ireland as a dominion with fiscal autonomy would have a much lower tax than Ulster and than Great Britain itself. It is said that Southern Ireland might have an income tax of as low as a shilling in the pound, whereas the present tax is six shillings in the pound, the reason for this being that Southern Ireland would be relieved of her proportionate share of the imperial debt, although perhaps agreeing to pay a fixed but relatively small contribution. It has been suggested that, if such a situation obtained, there would be a heavy immigration into Ireland from England to avoid the greater taxation and to take advantage of the cheaper living. This, it is thought, would mean not only the removal of individuals but also the removal of large business organizations. Reduced taxation would be not the only financial advantage acquired by those who would move to Ireland. They would also receive, as years went by, an increase in the value of the British money which they possessed, through the gradual improvement of British exchange, which would be due in no way to them, but to the taxing of the people of Great Britain and the consequent ultimate resumption of a gold basis for the currency. How many people might migrate to Ireland under such attractive conditions as outlined is of course problematical But one can see the possibility of a large admixture of English, Scotch and Welsh stock to the Irish population which might ultimately produce a solution of the Irish question never anticipated by the Sinn Fein.

Parley Limitations Shown.

Washington is still the center of the world's attention. The great conference at which the principal nations, with the exception of Germany and Russia, are represented, claims the interest and the hope of people everywhere. One may say quite accurately that, under the present circumstances, foreign events are taking place in America. This fact is emphasized by the presence here of the great diplomats and also by the large number of the most noted writers and journalists of foreign countries. It may be said that foreign press comment is being voiced here through the writings of so many foreign observers.

The fact that America is, temporarily, so closely linked with other nations through the armament conference, serves as a plain indication of America's world connection. But, although that connection is now prominent in the eyes of all men, it existed just as truly before the conference, when all the famous diplomats and celebrated journalists were at home. The conference is a proof of America's inevitable association with all the nations of the earth. It did not create that association; it merely emphasized it.

It becomes more and more apparent that this conference on armaments and on the Far East while of tremendous benefit, is totally inadequate to meet the crying needs of mankind at the present time. It will doubtless accomplish much good in definite reduction of navies and in definite arrangements beneficial to China. But, when the world's chief material need is economic and financial rehabilitation, the reduction of navies will be of little benefit; indeed, the reduction program is likely to increase, temporarily, unemployment.

That the conference itself is a proof of America's necessary mingling with other nations is indicated by President Harding's proposal of an association of nations. The President does not appear to have a very definite arrangement in mind, or, at least, he has not announced such an arrangement. It is a hopeful indication of America's realization of the needs of the world and of her own position and needs that President Harding has proposed such an association. The suggestion seems to have been received abroad as a favorable indication of America's new conviction that she must take part in the world adjustment. The foreign press and foreign statesmen seem to welcome President Harding's proposal more as an indication of a good and enlightened disposition than as a practical, concrete suggestion which can be made a tangible reality. There seems to be no intention on the part of the responsible foreign statesmen to abandon the present league of nations. This view was forcibly expressed by Lord Robert Cecil, one of the chief advocates of and workers in the league of nations. Lord Robert stated that "it would be worse than madness to abandon the league for the hope of putting nothing in its place unless we know exactly what it is." It is reported that the President has in mind an association which would not necessarily supersede the present league of nations. His idea seems to be a series of conferences on world problems participated in by the nations concerned. The present conference may perhaps be considered a sample of the workings of Mr. Harding's proposed association of nations. In addition to this, it is possible that the President would include a world court, although it is not unlikely that the present world court created by the league might be deemed satisfactory.

Advocates of the league of nations here and abroad are inclined to welcome the President's association of nations' idea because of its recognition of the need of world co-operation. But they contend that the need of further conferences, now so clearly recognized, especially of a great economic and financial coference in the near future, illustrates the value and necessity of a definitely organized body such as the present league of nations with continuing permanent machinery to carry out its findings.

Thus it appears that the Washington conference, although still the biggest world event, is becoming significant and perhaps chiefly valuable, not through what it will accomplish but through the light it will shed on the world's needs and through indication of solutions of world problems which it will make manifest. In other words, the biggest service of the present conference will be to expose its own limitations and the need for further action.

AUSTRALIA AIDS WAR VETERANS

PERTH, Australia, Dec. 3.—A remarkable record in public improvements and enterprise is that achieved by the State of South Australia, whose population is less than 1,000,000. For its return soldiers it has spent nearly $50,000,000 for purposes of repatriation, of which sum, some $11,000,000 were expended in securing homes for ex-service men; $14,000,000 for homes and benefits for the widows and widowed mothers of deceased soldiers, and $25,000,000 for settling the returned fighters on farms.

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