

# PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO OUTLAW WAR, HARDSHIP TELLS ARMS DELEGATES

terence, especially with respect to the pacific settlement of international disputes, its result in the specific matter of limitation of armament went no further than the adoption of a final resolution setting forth the opinion that the restriction of military charges, which are at present a heavy burden on the world, is extremely desirable for the increase of the material and moral welfare of mankind, and the utterance of the wish that the Governments may examine the possibility of an agreement as to the limitation of armed forces by land and sea, and of war budgets.

It was seven years later that the Secretary of the United States, Mr. Elihu Root, in answering a note of the Russian Ambassador suggesting in outline a programme of the second peace conference, said: "The Government of the United States, therefore, feels it to be its duty to reserve for itself the liberty to propose to the second peace conference, as one of the subjects for consideration, the reduction of limitation of armaments, in the hope that, if nothing further can be accomplished, some slight advance may be made toward the realization of the lofty conception which actuated the Emperor of Russia in calling the first conference."

## Germany Opposed to Disarmament.

It is significant that the Imperial German Government expressed itself as "absolutely opposed to the question of disarmament" and that the Emperor of Germany threatened to decline to send delegates if the subject of disarmament was to be discussed. In view, however, of the resolution which had been adopted at the first Hague conference, the delegates of the United States were instructed that the subject of limitation of armament should be regarded as unfinished business, and that the second conference should ascertain and give full consideration to the result of such examination as the Government may have given to the possibility of an agreement pursuant to the wish expressed by the first conference.

But by reason of the obstacles which the subject had encountered, the second peace conference at The Hague, although it made notable progress in provision for the peaceful settlement of controversies, it was unable to deal with limitation of armament, except by a resolution in the following general terms:

"The conference confirms the resolution adopted by the conference of 1899, in regard to the limitation of military expenditures, and, inasmuch as military expenditure has considerably increased in almost every country since that time, the conference declares that it is eminently desirable that the Government should resume the serious examination of this question."

This was the fruit of the efforts of eight years. Although the effect was clearly perceived, the race in preparation of armaments, wholly unaffected by these futile suggestions, went on until it fittingly culminated from the unparalleled loss of life, the destruction of hopes, the economic dislocations, and the widespread impoverishment which measure the cost of the victory over the brutal pretensions of military force.

But if we are warned by the inadequacy of earlier endeavors for limitation of armament, we cannot fail to recognize the extraordinary opportunity now presented.

## Lessons of Past Seen as Guide.

We not only have the lessons of the past to guide us, not only do we have the reaction from the disillusioning experiences of war, but we must meet the challenge of imperative economic demands. What was convenient or highly desirable before is now a matter of vital necessity. If there is to be economic rehabilitation, if the longings for reasonable progress are not to be denied, if we are to be spared the uprisings of peoples made desperate in the desire to shake off burdens no longer endurable, competition in armament must stop. The present opportunity not only derives its advantages from a general appreciation of this fact, but the power to deal with the exigency now rests with a small group of nations represented here, who have every reason to desire peace and to promote unity.

The astounding ambition which lay athwart the promise of the second Hague conference no longer menaces the world, and the great opportunity of liberty loving and peace preserving democracies has come. Is it not plain that the time has passed for mere resolutions that the responsible Powers should examine the question of limitation of armament? We can no longer content ourselves with investigations, with statistics, with reports, with the circumlocution of inquiry. The essential facts are sufficiently known. The time is come, and this conference has been called, not for general resolutions or mutual advice, but for action.

We meet with full understanding that the aspirations of mankind are not to be defeated, either by plausible suggestions of postponement or by impracticable counsels of perfection. Power and responsibility are here, and the world awaits a practicable programme which shall at once be put into execution.

I am confident that I shall have your approval in suggesting that in this matter, as well as in others before the conference, it is desirable to follow the course of procedure which has the best promise of achievement rather than one which would facilitate division, and thus constantly aiming to agree, so far as possible, we shall, with each point of agreement, make it easier to proceed to others.

The question, in relation to armaments, which may be regarded as of primary importance at this time, and with which we can deal most promptly and effectively, is the limitation of naval armament. There are certain general considerations which may be deemed pertinent to this subject.

## Building Competition Must End.

The first is that the core of the difficulty is to be found in the competition in naval programmes, and that, in order appropriately to limit naval armament, competition in its production must be abandoned. Competition will not be remedied by resolves with respect to the method of its continuance. One programme inevitably leads to another, and, if competition continues, its regulation is impracticable. There is only one adequate way out, and that is to end it now.

It is apparent that this cannot be accomplished without serious sacrifices. Enormous sums have been expended upon ships under construction and building programmes which are now under way cannot be given up without heavy loss. Yet if the present construction of capital ships goes forward other ships will inevitably be built to rival them and this will lead to still others. Thus the race will continue so long as ability to continue lasts. The efforts to escape sacrifices are futile. We must face them or yield our purpose.

It is also clear that no one of the naval Powers should be expected to make the sacrifices alone. The only hope of limitation of naval armament is by agreement among the nations concerned, and this agreement should be entirely fair and reasonable in the extent of the sacrifices required of each of the Powers. In considering the basis of such agreement, and the commensurate sacrifices to be required, it is necessary to have regard to the existing naval strength of the great naval Powers, including the extent of construction already effected in the case of ships in process. This follows from the fact that one nation is as free to compete as another.

It should be added that this proposal immediately concerns the British Empire, Japan and the United States. In view of the extraordinary conditions, due to the world war, affecting the existing strength of the navies of France and Italy, it is not thought to be necessary to discuss at this stage of the proceedings the tonnage allowance of these nations, but the United States proposes that this matter be reserved for the later consideration of the conference.

In making the present proposal the United States is most solicitous to deal with the question upon an entirely reasonable and practicable basis to the end that the just interests of all shall be adequately guarded and the national security and defence shall be maintained. Four general principles have been applied.

## DELEGATES GUARDED ON PROPOSAL OF U. S.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov. 12. Definite official comment by foreign delegates on the startling American proposals for limitation of naval armaments was withheld to-day pending careful study of the details of the plan and the receipt of instructions from their home Governments.

The reaction of the delegations of the principal Powers, as unofficially expressed may be summarized as follows: British—Clear cut, statesmanlike proposal which looks good at first glance, but has come so suddenly that it will require most careful consideration by our naval experts and the Government.

Japan—Most concrete and logical plan that has been heard of. It is acceptable as a basis for discussion, but Japanese policy must be determined after experts have been consulted.

France—Surprisingly definite proposal for cutting down naval expenditures, a characteristic American move. France is not directly affected, but the plan seems to be a good one from the French viewpoint.

Italy—It is a proposal which should lead to practical results instead of theorizing.

## BOLDNESS OF MOVE AMAZES THE FRENCH

Premier Briand Declares Hughes Faces the Problem With Great Courage.

## NAILS PARLEY DOWN

America Has Stated Her Position and Others Must Now Reply.

## CALLED GOOD BEGINNING

Good Will of This Country Clearly Demonstrated in Proposals, Says Statesman.

## BY RALPH CURNY.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov. 12.

The French, startled at the American naval proposals, are still rubbing their eyes. "We expected something important," said the French Ambassador after the conference, "but nothing as startling as this."

The French mission is full of admiration at what is considered America's audacious move. Whatever America's object may be, they say she has set about it in the best possible manner. The French Premier told THE NEW YORK HERALD after the conference that Mr. Hughes was a very courageous man to tackle the subject as he did.

"The conference was very 'à la Americaine,' Mr. Briand said. "We might have expected this in America, but the session came to us as a surprise."

Mr. Hughes showed a great deal of courage. He faced the problem frankly and honestly and we now know exactly where we stand. America has stated her position and now it is for the others to reply.

"I do not wish to discuss figures because I have not yet been able to read Mr. Hughes' speech in French, but by the way the naval problem is handled it is seen that the conference will very quickly get to real business."

The conference already has a precise plan before it and that is a good beginning. If some other method had been adopted the American scheme might have been brought up in committee. It would have been sent to the experts for examination and a great deal of time would have been lost.

The way Mr. Hughes has chosen is direct and to the point. There is no better way. He avoided none of the difficulties and clearly demonstrated America's good will. America has taken a noble initiative. The Powers will, of course, have to meet and discuss the political consequences of the American proposals, but in my opinion the question of naval armaments has been well put and I am very anxious to hear what replies the other Powers give. It will be very interesting.

"Next Tuesday may be too early to expect definite results, but we shall already be able to see what the tendencies are."

"The President spoke nobly and simply. Mr. Hughes' speech was direct and delivered with great frankness. Both speeches were what I expected of America. It greatly touched me that I should have been called from the gallery. The whole atmosphere of the conference was most sympathetic and I felt it very deeply."

The head of the French naval mission, Admiral Lohon, returned to the French headquarters very much moved at the American offer.

"It was something," he said, "which gave me profound emotion. The proposals themselves may need reflection, but they awakened in us a very deep feeling that everything possible must be done to bring about the realization of the plan. It is not for us to either criticize or to think that this programme cannot be made a reality. We know that America's ideas correspond to the longings of a great many people in the world, and it is our duty to have faith in these ideals and to work for them. America has taken a noble step and great honor should be paid to her initiative."

## PARIS PRESS HOPEFUL, NOT OVEROPTIMISTIC Have Been Such Confidences Before, It Is Noted.

PARIS, Nov. 12.—Interest, but not undue optimism, marks the French attitude toward the armament conference, as evidenced by the editorial comment in the morning newspapers.

"Will the Washington conference which opens to-day really begin a new era, as some of our American friends think?" asks the *Figaro*. "After our painful experience of the last three years we are not free to give ourselves up to rose colored illusions."

Applauding the French viewpoint toward the conference, Jacques Bainville, eminent writer on international history, remarks in the *Figaro*: "There have been many disarmament conferences, the results of which have not always answered the hopes of their promoters, but perhaps the conference called by President Harding in Washington will be more fortunate, because it is based not only on good intentions but on positive facts."

St. Etienne, in the *Journal*, says he believes the conference may "lessen the shocks of warring interests, attenuate urging passions and gain time. If it confines itself wisely to these aims it will do useful work, but if it aims higher it will meet unflinching punishment for the sin of pride."

## DAWN OF HOPE IS SEEN IN OPINIONS OF LONDON Harding Fitted for Leadership, Says 'Telegraph.'

LONDON, Nov. 12.—Interest in the opening of the Washington conference on limitation of armament and Far Eastern questions is attested by the great amount of space devoted to it in this morning's newspapers, which make it a feature in their news columns.

## Text of President Harding's Address to the Arms Conference

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—The address of President Harding in opening the armistice conference follows:

MR. SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It is a great and happy privilege to bid the delegates to this Conference a cordial welcome to the Capital of the United States of America. It is not only a satisfaction to greet you because we were lately participants in a common cause, in which shared sacrifices and sorrows and triumphs brought our nations more closely together, but it is gratifying to address you as the spokesmen for nations whose convictions and attending actions have so much to do with the weal or woe of all mankind.

It is not possible to overpraise the importance of such a conference. It is no unseemly boast, no disparagement of other nations which, though not represented, are held in highest respect, to declare that the conclusions of this body will have a signal influence on all human progress—on the fortunes of the world.

Here is a meeting, I can well believe, which is an earnest of the awakened conscience of twentieth century civilization. It is not a convention of remorse, nor a session of sorrow. It is not the conference of victors to define terms of settlement. Nor is it a council of nations seeking to remake humankind. It is rather a coming together, from all parts of the earth, to apply the better attributes of mankind to minimize the faults in our international relationships.

Speaking as official sponsor for the invitation, I think I may say that call is not of the United States of America alone, it is rather the spoken word of a war-weary world, struggling for restoration, hungering and thirsting for better relationship; of humanity crying for relief and craving assurances of lasting peace.

It is easy to understand this world-wide aspiration. The glory of triumph, the rejoicing in achievement, the love of liberty, the devotion to country, the pangs of sorrow, the burdens of debt, the desolation of ruin—all these are appraised alike in all lands. Here in the United States we are but freshly turned from the burial of an Unknown American Soldier, when a nation sorrowed while paying him tribute. Whether it was spoken or not, a hundred millions of our people were summarizing the inexcusable causes, the incalculable cost, the unspendable sacrifices, and the unutterable sorrows, and there was the ever impelling question: How can humanity justify or God forgive? Human hate demands no such toll; ambition and greed must be denied it. If misunderstanding must take the blame, then let us banish it, and let understanding rule and make good will reign everywhere. All of us demand liberty and justice. There can not be one without the other, and they must be held the unquestioned possession of all peoples. Inherent rights are of God, and the tragedies of the world originate in their attempted denial. The world to-day is infringing their enjoyment by arming to defend or deny, when simple sanity calls for their recognition through common understanding.

Out of the cataclysm of the World War came new fellowships, new convictions, new aspirations. It is ours to make the most of them. A world staggering with debt needs its burden lifted. Humanity which has been shocked by wanton destruction would minimize the agencies of that destruction. Contemplating the measureless cost of war and the continuing burden of armament, all thoughtful peoples wish for real limitation of armament and would like war outlawed. In soberest reflection the world's hundreds of millions who pay in peace and die in war wish their statesmen to turn the expenditures for destruction into means of construction, aimed at a higher state for those who live and follow after.

It is not alone that the world can not readjust itself and cast aside the excess burdens without relief from the leaders of men. War has grown progressively cruel and more destructive from the first recorded conflict to this pregnant day, and the reverse order would more become our boasted civilization.

Gentlemen of the Conference, the United States welcomes you with unselfish hands. We harbor no fears; we have no sordid ends to serve; we suspect no enemy; we contemplate or apprehend no conquest. Content with what we have, we seek nothing which is another's. We only wish to do with you that finer, nobler thing which no nation can do alone.

We wish to sit with you at the table of international understanding and good will. In good conscience we are eager to meet you frankly, and invite and offer cooperation. The world demands a sober contemplation of the existing order and the realization that there can be no cure without sacrifice, not by one of us, but by all of us.

I do not mean surrendered rights, or narrowed freedom, or denied aspirations, or ignored national necessities. Our Republic would no more ask for these than it would give. No pride need be humbled, no nationality submerged, but I would have a mergence of minds committing all of us to less preparation for war and more enjoyment of fortunate peace.

The higher hopes come of the spirit of our coming together. It is but just to recognize varying needs and peculiar positions. Nothing can be accomplished in disregard of national apprehensions. Rather, we should act together to remove the causes of apprehensions. This is not to be done in intrigue. Greater assurance is found in the exchanges of simple honesty and directness, among men resolved to accomplish as becomes leaders among nations, when civilization itself has come to its crucial test.

It is not to be challenged that government fails when the excess of its cost robs the people of the way to happiness and the opportunity to achieve. If the finer sentiments were not urging, the cold, hard facts of excessive cost and the eloquence of economics would urge us to reduce our armaments. If the concept of a better order does not appeal, then let us ponder the burden and the blight of continued competition.

It is not to be denied that the world has swung along throughout the ages without heeding this call from the kinder hearts of men. But the same world never before was so tragically brought to realization of the utter futility of passion's sway when reason and conscience and fellowship point a nobler way.

I can speak officially only for our United States. Our hundred millions frankly want less of armament and none of war. Wholly free from guile, sure in our own minds that we harbor no unworthy designs, we accredit the world with the same good intent. So I welcome you, not alone in good will and high purpose, but with high faith.

We are met for a service to mankind. In all simplicity, in all honesty and all honor, there may be written here the avowals of a world conscience refined by the consuming fires of war, and made more sensitive by the anxious aftermath. I hope for that understanding which will emphasize the guarantees of peace, and for commitments to less burdens and a better order which will tranquilize the world. In such an accomplishment there will be added glory to your flags and ours, and the rejoicing of mankind will make the transcending music of all succeeding time.

Most of them give first place to it on the editorial pages under such headlines as "The Dawn of Hope," "The World's Hope is Fixed on Washington," and "All Nations are Anxious for Success at Washington."

Some of the journals in their comments interview references to President Harding's oration at Arlington Cemetery over the body of America's Unknown Soldier. "The Times" in this respect says President Harding "gave a great lead when he spoke of 'The liberation of the captive conscience of the world.' Much depends on the leadership, and we rejoice to see many hopeful indications that the leaders and initiators of the conference earnestly aim at translating the highest aspirations of our troubled time into the solid substance of the life we have to live."

The *Morning Telegraph* says: "Fortunately President Harding is admirably fitted by character, mental gifts and experience to grace worthily the historic occasion. This conference, as the British Premier suggested, is the New World's opportunity, and in grasping it promptly President Harding has raised the moral status of the United States as a great Power and has conferred a new dignity upon his fellow countrymen."

In the general chorus of good wishes for the conference the cynical note is not lacking. *The Daily Herald*, Socialist organ, in a bitter editorial scorns the entire conference idea and arraigns the motives of the participating nations. The conference, says the newspaper, may settle the partition of China among the bandits of international exploitation, and declares that the abolition of war is a revolutionary task which can only be perfected by men who believe in revolution.

The *Sunday Express* hails armistice week as "a week of moral wonders," and says: "The dawn was breaking on the long night of Ireland as the soul of the British nation bowed itself in prayer for the peace of the whole world. Saturday crowned a week of miracles with the supreme miracle of Washington. Never in the history of mankind has the world been nearer its dream of brotherhood. Surely there is something not ourselves shaping the world and leading it to the light."

## MANY BIG VESSELS WILL BE SCRAPPED

List of Battleships and Battle Cruisers Not to Be Completed.

## 15 ARE OFF U. S. ROSTER

Fifteen Are Japanese, of Some of Which Details Are Lacking.

## FOUR ARE BRITISH SHIPS

Others Built and in Service Will Soon Disappear From the Lists.

## SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE NEW YORK HERALD

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov. 12.

Following is a list of the ships under construction and planned which will be scrapped if the American plan for reduction of armament is accepted:

| UNITED STATES NAVY. |        |        |               |
|---------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| BATTLESHIPS.        |        |        |               |
| Name.               | Tons.  | Knots. | Main battery. |
| Indiana             | 43,200 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Massachusetts       | 43,200 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Montana             | 43,200 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| North Carolina      | 43,200 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| South Dakota        | 43,200 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Iowa                | 43,200 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Colorado            | 32,600 | 21     | 8 16-in.      |
| West Virginia       | 32,600 | 21     | 8 16-in.      |
| Washington          | 32,600 | 21     | 8 16-in.      |

| BATTLE CRUISERS. |        |        |               |
|------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Name.            | Tons.  | Knots. | Main battery. |
| Constellation    | 43,500 | 25     | 8 16-in.      |
| Constitution     | 43,500 | 25     | 8 16-in.      |
| Lexington        | 43,500 | 25     | 8 16-in.      |
| Ranger           | 43,500 | 25     | 8 16-in.      |
| Saratoga         | 43,500 | 25     | 8 16-in.      |
| United States    | 43,500 | 25     | 8 16-in.      |

| JAPAN.       |        |        |               |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| BATTLESHIPS. |        |        |               |
| Name.        | Tons.  | Knots. | Main battery. |
| Kii          | 44,000 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Ovrai        | 44,000 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Kaga         | 41,000 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Tama         | 41,000 | 23     | 12 16-in.     |
| Mitsui       | 33,800 | 23     | 8 16-in.      |

| BATTLE CRUISERS. |        |        |               |
|------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Name.            | Tons.  | Knots. | Main battery. |
| Akagi            | 41,000 | 20     | 10 16-in.     |
| Amagi            | 41,000 | 20     | 10 16-in.     |
| Atago            | 44,000 | 20     | 10 16-in.     |
| Fubuki           | 44,000 | 20     | 10 16-in.     |

ENGLAND.  
Four very large ships. No details known. Probably battle cruisers.

Vessels built and in service or out of commission which will be scrapped under the American plan:

| UNITED STATES. |        |        |               |
|----------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| BATTLESHIPS.   |        |        |               |
| Name.          | Tons.  | Knots. | Guns.         |
| Michigan       | 16,000 | 18     | 8 12-in.      |
| South Carolina | 16,000 | 18     | 8 12-in.      |
| Connecticut    | 16,000 | 18     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Louisiana      | 16,000 | 18     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| New Hampshire  | 16,000 | 18     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Vermont        | 16,000 | 18     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Kansas         | 16,000 | 18     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Minnesota      | 16,000 | 18     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Virginia       | 14,948 | 19     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| New Jersey     | 14,948 | 19     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Rhode Island   | 14,948 | 19     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Georgia        | 14,948 | 19     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Nebraska       | 14,948 | 19     | 4 12, 8 8-in. |
| Ohio           | 12,500 | 18     | 4 12-in.      |
| Maine          | 12,500 | 18     | 4 12-in.      |
| Missouri       | 12,500 | 18     | 4 12-in.      |

Other ships on sale list or in process of being scrapped or converted to other duties:

| GREAT BRITAIN. |        |        |              |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| BATTLESHIPS.   |        |        |              |
| Name.          | Tons.  | Knots. | Guns.        |
| Conqueror      | 22,500 | 21     | ten 15.5-in. |
| Monarch        | 22,500 | 21     | ten 15.5-in. |
| Thunderer      | 22,500 | 21     | ten 15.5-in. |
| Orion          | 22,500 | 21     | ten 15.5-in. |
| Colossus       | 20,000 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| Heracles       | 20,000 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| Neptune        | 19,000 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| St. Vincent    | 19,000 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| Collingwood    | 19,250 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| Bellona        | 18,000 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| Venerable      | 18,000 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| Superb         | 18,000 | 21     | ten 12-in.   |
| Commonwealth   | 16,250 | 19     | four 12-in.  |

| BATTLE CRUISERS. |        |        |               |
|------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Name.            | Tons.  | Knots. | Main battery. |
| Lion             | 26,350 | 28     | 8 13.5-in.    |
| Princess Royal   | 26,350 | 28     | 8 13.5-in.    |
| Australia        | 18,800 | 26     | 8 12-in.      |
| New Zealand      | 18,800 | 26     | 8 12-in.      |
| Inflexible       | 17,250 | 25     | 8 12-in.      |
| Indomitable      | 17,250 | 25     | 8 12-in.      |

| BATTLESHIPS. |        |        |               |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Name.        | Tons.  | Knots. | Main battery. |
| Aid          | 19,800 | 20     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Satanstoe    | 19,800 | 20     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Kurama       | 14,600 | 22     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Bold         | 14,600 | 22     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Bohm         | 13,750 | 21     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Bohm         | 13,750 | 21     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Kashima      | 15,800 | 18     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Katori       | 15,800 | 18     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Mikasa       | 15,362 | 18     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Hizen        | 12,700 | 18     | 4 12 16-in.   |
| Amagi        | 14,765 | 18     | 4 12 16-in.   |

## AGENDA PROBABLY UP AT TUESDAY'S SESSION

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov. 12.

The second session of the armament conference on Tuesday will be open to the public, as was to-day's session. Presumably it is for the purpose of giving the committee on organization and procedure an opportunity to make their report.

The American delegation is committed to the idea of having a public character and does not indicate definitely whether limitation of armaments or the Far Eastern question shall be taken up first.