

ENGLAND ANXIOUS TO REVISE LEAGUE

Continued from First Page.

world for that purpose might be next best." In official as well as in editorial circles there is considerable disposition to fear the results of any conference called within the United States lest it do not include all the elements which are necessary to establish the effective cooperation which Mr. Harding seems to want. There is every disposition to eliminate the element of super-sovereignty from the new order of things and to depend upon voluntary adhesion to the principles laid down generally as a result of an international conference. The very dependence upon this voluntary adhesion is what prompts the British to be cautious regarding preliminaries.

Argentina's action at Geneva in withdrawing from the assembly was referred to as an instance how some nations might kick over the traces if, for instance, they were offended in the first place by not being invited to serve on a committee. It is reported here that the incoming Washington Administration contemplates inviting Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan and perhaps Argentina and Chile to become the first guarantors of the peace of the world. It was pointed out that the list did not include at least two important factors in continental Asia, China and Russia, and European neutrals who are already playing important roles in the work of reconstructing the world's finances.

Downing Street's Wish.

What Downing Street would like to see would be for the new Administration in Washington to get thoroughly in touch with all world opinion, either formally or informally, before moving a definite way, and not to move at all until certain of unanimity, at least on the main lines of the idea. In fact, Downing Street blames most of the post-war uncertainties and troubles on the necessary compromises of all sorts which the peace conference was obliged to make after President Wilson had rushed heading into print with his fourteen points, many of which neither friends nor foes could have made practical about the peace table, however cordially they had been forced to admire them when they were hurled at Germany during hostilities.

HARDING PEACE PLAN MEETS FRENCH FAVOR

Diplomats Would Limit Guarantors to Five Nations.

By LAURENCE HILLS.

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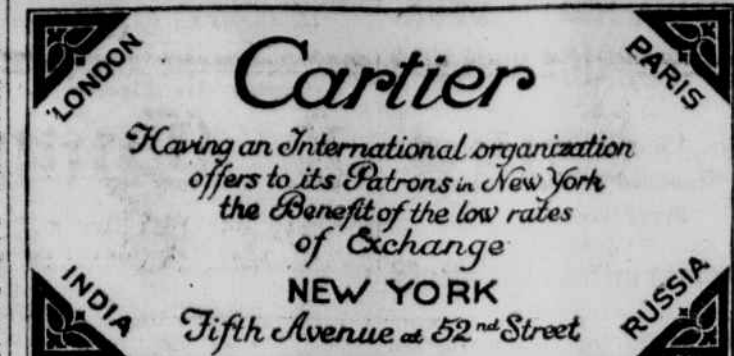
Reports from the United States giving what purported to be the outline of a scheme under consideration by President-elect Harding for international cooperation in bringing about world peace, which peace would rest on a formal guarantee entered into by the great Powers with the United States and not in the covenant of the League of Nations, excited the greatest interest here. A careful investigation to-day seemed to justify a prediction that such a

scheme would meet with the approval of the French Government as a substitute for the present League of Nations and the proposed Anglo-French-American military alliance, providing certain conditions were met. One of these conditions, an authority here explained, would be that it provide means for meeting those points of the Treaty of Versailles to which the present League of Nations scheme is tied in such a way that new negotiations with the German Government on these points would not be required. That is considered a vital question to France in connection with the consideration of any new proposal, even though the principle of the scheme outlined in dispatches from the United States has already received hearty approval here. In fact, the general idea providing for the big Powers, including the United States, contracting among themselves to insure world peace and drawing up a code of international law, the violation of which, if pronounced by the International Court of Justice, would result in joint action by the Powers, met with a significantly favorable reception in high quarters here to-day. It can be stated that such a scheme comports exactly with earlier ideas held by French diplomats, but which gave way to Wilsonian diplomacy. Immediately the plan was pronounced practical and regarded, if put into being, as likely to be more effective than the present league, which is still seen as resting on false opinions embodying ideas of a universal solidarity which does not exist.

Defensive Alliance Only.

The idea immediately envisaged in the French mind by this plan is that of a defensive alliance only to preserve peace. If it went further than that the same trouble is foreseen here as was encountered, it was explained to-day, in the early days of the peace conference—namely, the objection by other nations to having world affairs regulated in the name of the big Powers only. One diplomat authority asserted that the same basic ideas were involved in the proposed Anglo-French-American alliance treaties and the American suggestion. That was an evidence that France has never abandoned her first contention in favor of a military alliance with the big Powers, which in itself is another reason for the favorable reception the Harding scheme has already seemed to meet with here.

Less difficulty is seen in the way of this scheme, however, if there are included in it only the five big Powers. The suggestion that possibly large South American countries like the Argentine Republic and Chile might be invited to enter into some kind of a peace guarantee is foreseen here as inviting trouble with many other countries both in Europe and America, who would feel they were slighted by non-recognition. There is every reason to believe that French diplomats will be for dropping the present league scheme entirely in favor of the suggested arrangement, which is appealing to them as infinitely more practical than the league, the only thing standing in the way being those points of the Treaty of Versailles which are tied to the covenant of the League of Nations. It was suggested to-day in one of the



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most influential quarters here that this could be obviated as follows:

1. Retention of the assembly feature for periodical meetings of the nations for the purpose of general discussions, thereby enabling the retention of the name of the present League of Nations for the purposes of the treaty.

2. The substitution for some of the present administrative machinery of the League of what would be international commissions, but still acting in the name of the Assembly or the League of Nations.

3. A guarantee that world peace would rest upon an agreement between the big Powers, instead upon the covenant with its obligatory clauses involving all nations, large and small, and raising immense difficulties in the way of any real execution of it.

The complete elimination of such a thing as a league or an association of nations from the treaty would, in so far as those points which are connected with the execution of the treaty are concerned, require the consent of the German Government, to secure which entirely new negotiations would have to be instituted. That is what the French Government is keenly desirous of avoiding, while otherwise it is prepared to give support to any scheme which would in fact, but not in name, as a peace preserving agency supersede the covenant.

The Tenor of French Views.

Naturally in the present state of things no French official would publicly say as much, but all private conversations in highest French official circles indicate this is the tenor of France's views.

A typical French attitude in regard to the idea was that of Raymond Poincaré, formerly President of France, who late this evening interrupted a defence of his 1914 policy as President long enough to discuss briefly with THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent here his feeling regarding efforts to rebuild the peace organization.

"France is naturally glad to have America signify her interest, but I need more details regarding the idea before I can prophesy what will be the effect of it in French political circles," he said. "Personally I believe it will be possible to make sufficient modifications in the present league scheme to meet America's requirements. This will require our get-

ting together with her diplomats to arrange matters. We have been waiting a long time, and the United States may be certain France will listen gratefully to any suggestions in an effort to solve the problem of world peace and her difficulties. It must be remembered, however, that France has signed and ratified certain peace treaties, which also have been signed and ratified by enemy countries. She cannot be expected to repudiate her signature.

"Mr. Harding's sincerity is apparent, however, and I for one will welcome the idea of our getting together as soon as his Government is installed. For the present, though, France must wait for the development of his plans and not do anything to hamper the successful working out of the peace problems."

Asked whether the limiting of such a council to the big Powers would not likely evoke a protest from the smaller nations, M. Poincaré merely smiled and remarked:

GEN. O'RYAN FOR A NEW WAR DEPARTMENT JOB

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.

Major-Gen. John P. O'Ryan of New York is believed to be slated for the position of chief of the Militia Bureau of the War Department. His nomination to-day by the President to be a Major-General in the United States Officers Reserve Corps is regarded as the first step in this plan. Under the army reorganization act, passed last session, it is required that after January 1, 1921, the chief of the Militia Bureau shall be appointed from among the members of the Officers Reserve Corps.

High officers in the War Department never have failed to indicate their liking for Gen. O'Ryan and their admiration of his soldierly ability. That is the reason why, it is believed, he will be named for the new post. Several States have recommended candidates. The chief of the Militia Bureau will get the pay, allowances and temporary rank of a Major-General in the Regular Army.

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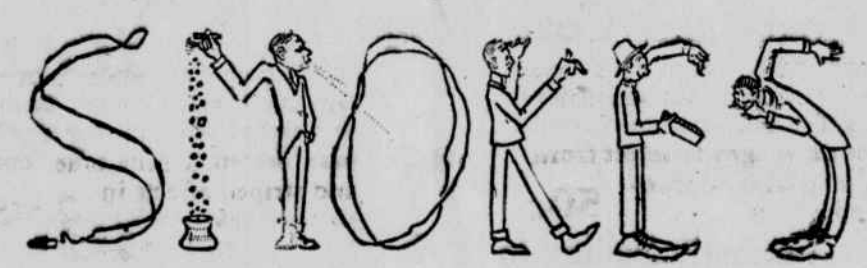


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box of 50, 7.44	Naturals, box of 100, 1.54
box of 25, 3.74	Lord Salisbury, carton of 180, 1.64
Regalia Perfecto, box of 50, 5.74	Sweet Caporal, carton of 200, 1.69
box of 25, 2.97	Piedmonts, carton of 200, 1.64
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