

THE GREAT CONFERENCE

By J. L. Garvin
The delegates of the Five Powers are in London; conversation has already begun. Franco-Italian relations are the hardest crust. To the fortunes of the whole Conference itself, though not necessary to mention afterwards, France has brought hold of her key; and it is well indeed that she is presented by the most brilliant of her younger statesmen, Toggenburg Tarde, whose personal knowledge of the English-speaking world is remarkable.

The three main issues, technically at those of battleships, large cruisers and submarines.

Floating Fortresses Must Go

It is absolutely certain that unless there is drastic dealing with the floating fortresses there will be no financial-economy worth speaking about; and no real change of heart as regards naval armaments. They have involved Britain and America especially in vast waste of money and they will be mock of satire in another generation. They are the world's worst symbols of war-maliciousness. They are not suitable engines for any future war. They are another unimpressive example (history has furnished many) of exaggerated preparation for the past war. The monstrous battleship is a monstrous fallacy. Noisy aircraft, if there is another grapple between nations, will attack the supplies and the life of an importing people, not the fleet. Aircraft will bomb, burn, and sift the ports and shipping and the dense key-towns in spite of the "Nelson," "Rodney," "Rodd," and so forth. Rather than depend on those—if we are indeed to think in realistic war-terms—it would be better to have the fleet of the air-force.

Germany's Famous Pocket Battleship

Germany is setting an example which may be epoch-making. Traditionally size is the prey of brains. Size and science have gone out of the pocket battleship. She was ever packed before her hull. Contrived with original force of research, thought, and skill, the "Ersatz Preussen," though only of 10,000 tons displacement, will be a match for any warship up to twice her size now afloat. She will be incomparable as a blockade-breaker and destroyer. As a hunting ship she requires to insure the centers of vital discipline at 10,000 tons, which have centered in the German pocket battleship between America and Britain. The German "pocket battleship" is wonderfully designed to sink nearly all the marshals and catch her, and to escape the few that could sink her.

No Battleship Over 17,000 Tons

It is understood that at the Conference proposals will be submitted every prospect of gay but inadequate agreement—for lengthening the life of existing battleships and reducing modern battleships to the maximum size of their successors. Romors, for what it is worth, puts that maximum too high. The present "Washington" standard should be cut down by fifty per cent. Allowing anything bigger merely gives scope to commercialism as well as cost. Nothing but a reduction of size will compel the other nations to equal German efficiency as estimated by the German resolutions, to break away from "preparation for the Past War." We shall be disappointed if any battleship laid down this year is allowed to exceed 17,000 tons.

Classes and Common Sense

There is a simpler matter in place of all the preposterous bother that has been made about them since the British-American meeting at Geneva. For the necessary agreement to any agreed party with the United States, British requirement in this branch have been cut down to a minimum. It is decided that we shall not go to war with the United States in any circumstances, to this country whether the British-American mind at Geneva. For the necessary agreement to any agreed party with the United States, British requirement in this branch have been cut down to a minimum.

The Position of Japan

It is said that Japan will jeopardize the contingent Anglo-American understanding by insisting on a slightly higher ratio for 30,000-ton cruisers giving her an additional two or three of these vessels. We do not believe for a single instant that the Conference will be impeded on this of all issues. Our reasons are both political and technical. The Japanese are a wise people. They know that we here admire and like them; that the whole English-speaking world desires amity and co-operation with them on the fairest terms of live and let live; and that further goodwill, though an imponderable element of security, is a real equivalent to a certain amount of tonnage. Again, they are well aware that the "Bismarck" will make obsolete the designs of the British cruisers. They want the newest boats.

Burnt Into the Flesh

France for the present is wedged to the theory of armed security by land, air, and sea alike as the only sure guarantee so long as the Covenant and the Kellogg Pact give her no concrete guarantee of support. You may profoundly disagree with the thesis, but to be impatient with it is foolish. It may be an almost insuperable impediment to the general progress of disarmament; it may be, as we think, both a psychological mistake and a technical fallacy as regards ultimate security itself. But it is an absolute French conviction not only fixed in the mind, but burnt into the flesh by the terrible memory of typhus, rinderpest, wrecking taxes, and the new French nationalization of agriculture and foreign trade.

Unemployment Relief

Information (Montreal): One of the best ways of relieving the situation rapidly would be to accelerate the execution of certain projected undertakings which can be carried out in winter time and to decide on starting others which are of a necessary character. In Canada what the worker demands is not charity, but work to earn him a livelihood.

Next Fifty Years Belong to Canada

Sir Esme Howard is Full of Admiration for Dominion

NATIONAL SPIRIT

British Ambassador Hopes to Return for Longer Visit

Washington.—"I think the next fifty years belong to Canada," said Sir Esme Howard.

The British Ambassador, soon to retire, returned from his farewell visit to the Dominion obviously refreshed and invigorated and full of admiration.

"It was delightful to visit Canada again and renew old acquaintanceship," he said.

Discussing the economic future of Canada, Sir Esme remarked that, unlike less fortunate countries, the Dominion's eggs were not all in one basket. He foresees the development of the country with the development of hydro electric power sources "in which it is wealthier than any other land," together with the advance in industry and the use of which vast and varied resources might be put, and proportionately and necessary increased in agricultural production.

Expressing a particular interest in the opening of Hudson Bay, Sir Esme said he wished he had been able to visit that part of the country as well as the Cobalt district.

CANADA'S NATIONHOOD

With obvious pride the Amassador spoke of the Dominion's nationality and said he noted with a thrill of interest the spirit of the Canadians which is inherently British, ever grew and strengthened. He observed also the breadth of the Canadian outlook reflected in the press where prominence was given to world and imperial affairs.

This was Sir Esme's first visit to Canada in the winter time. "The air is so clear," he said. "The bracing air in Ottawa I should think is not unlike that in the Swiss Alps."

The Ambassador hoped that some time he would be able to return to Canada for a longer period. He suggested that he might take six months or so for a leisurely trip from Halifax to Vancouver and "what would be a great pleasure indeed."

"I am growing old," he said. "My wife is getting old. We have

had a son and a daughter."

Sealers' Drama Will Be Filmed On Ice Floes

Varick Frissell, Amateur Director, Heads Company Now in Newfoundland

A sound-screen romance with its centering about the adventures of Labrador seal fisheries and the perilous lives of the old-time fishermen out of Newfoundland and ports is the project undertaken recently by Varick Frissell, amateur film director, whose expedition, aboard Captain Bob Bartlett's schooner *Maryscy*, will sail from St. John's Newfoundland, early in February for the sealing grounds.

In collaboration with technical experts familiar with the requirements of sound film production, Mr. Frissell will utilize the stage for his drama of ice floe and north Atlantic waters which constitute the seal hunting grounds, of the fleet of sail and steam vessels which annually puts out from St. John's in quest of the seals of these depths of the Arctic regions.

During one of his trips to the northland Mr. Frissell became acquainted with Captain Bob Bartlett, veteran seal hunter, fisherman, sailor and deep water adventurer, whose tales of his trips abroad the Morley have been material contributions to the saga of sealing men. Captain Bartlett will not only supervise the selection of locations on which scenes will be "shot," but will play the part of a sealing captain in the film, a character role not far removed from that which he plays in actual life.

Those in charge of the production have selected Charles Starrett and Miss Louise Huntington for the protagonists of the play. Although Mr. Starrett has figured in leading roles in screen stories before, Miss Huntington has never before appeared in this capacity.

Piracy in China Seas

Hong Kong Press: Nowhere else in the world is piracy on the high seas met with, and no other Government in the world would regard outrages of this character off its coast with such indifference.

But in a country where bandits are almost as plentiful as blackberries, and where the kidnapping of prominent people is quite a commonplace incident, an occasional outbreak of piratical activity is probably looked upon as a matter of so great importance. . . . China claims to be regarded as the equal in all respects of other Powers. To support that claim she should see to it that the lawless proclivities of some of her citizens are effectively held in check.

It was British naval activity which cleaned up the pirates of the Two Kiangs half a century ago, and it is only British activity to-day which prevents the desperadoes of Blasius becoming more dangerous than they already are. China should take this work in hand herself, and do it thoroughly.

The Banks and Industry

New Statesman (London): (Mr. J. H. Thomas has recently stated that the city is now prepared to stand blind, and to provide credits for approved schemes of rationalization and business reconstruction.) We must make what we can of this, until fuller explanations are forthcoming. One thing, however, is clear. Whatever it may mean in the long run for the reorganization of industry, it can bring no immediate hope for work for the unemployed. For it is more likely to result in closing off works than in opening new ones; and it is generally agreed that rationalization in its earlier stages is more likely to indicate than to diminish the numbers of the unemployed.

Mr. Thomas' speech, however, gives no hint of a solution of his immediate problem; but that this problem remains as urgent as the other no sensible person can doubt.

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Canada's New High Commissioner?



MAY SUCCEED LATE HON. PETER LARKIN

Hon. Vincent Massey, Canadian minister to Washington, who is likely to be the next Canadian high commissioner in London, in succession to the late Hon. Peter C. Larkin, it is believed at Ottawa. George Washington Stephens, former head of the Saar governing commission in 1922-26, may be accredited to the White House to replace Mr. Massey.

War Inevitable Thinks Woman

British M.P. Says Considerable Pro-War Feeling Abroad

LONDON.—Inevitability of war under certain circumstances was pressed by Susan Lawrence, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, addressing a recent meeting in London on "Women and Peace."

"We are now," said Miss Lawrence,

watching the progress of one of the most practical and hopeful efforts towards peace. The feeling that war is not only wicked but barbaric and foolish is the sentiment which makes for the success of that conference.

But even if the fulness of war is coming home to the national conscience here as still in this country considerable pro-war feeling, and I think that under certain circumstances war is inevitable.

A statement issued recently by the Archbishop of Canterbury describing the situation as "direful" and "dangerous" in the opinion of the Church Assembly, addressed to the Archibishop of York's recommendation that a commission be appointed to probe Britain's religious

and particularly of fear.

But, said Susan Gonzales, "Colombia is unknown in Colombia, the cause is also true. It is not understood that the inhabitants of our republic are 60 per cent white and that they carry in their blood all the courage and energy of their Spanish forefathers, the Conquistadores. We have only woken but is barbaric and foolish is the sentiment which makes for the success of that conference.

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I would go so far as to say that there are certain conditions which simply argues that war is wrong is, come to futility.

It is a horrible fact that there are great nations in the world that has attained its blood except by war.

The fact that we have passed through that stage has colored our national consciousness. It is no good for us to say that war has never set us dashing. It is not true. We have the progress of one of the most practical and hopeful efforts towards peace. The feeling that war is not only wicked but barbaric and foolish is the sentiment which makes for the success of that conference.

But even if the fulness of war is coming home to the national conscience here as still in this country considerable pro-war feeling, and I think that under certain circumstances war is inevitable.

We should do well, therefore, to realize that just as war has been inevitable in the past, they may be inevitable in the future. We are more likely to act reasonably and wisely if we realize this, especially in regard to our obligations to the League of Nations."

"Unless justice is impartial and irreducible it ceases to be justice and becomes luck."—Rupert Hughes.

A French designer says a woman's dress should be "two Scotch girls below the knee." Er—in this case is the Scotchman pouring from his own bottle or his host's?—Detroit News.

We weaken when we exaggerate.

Devotees of Sport

Chicourim Progress: People of all ages and both sexes waste precious hours discussing the chance of this or that club, and of this or that boxer or wrestler to vanquish his opponent. I should like to see a part of these thousands of hours, which are lost each year, employed in the study of matters which may improve our young people; I should like to see some of them used in work of a social, literary, artistic, economic or other useful character. In all sincerity we waste much time talking about sports.

The answer is that the Government must look after educational and highway expenditures first.

Sir Frederick Bantain, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, other eminent jurists and barristers, and Reginald civic leaders, pressed the Government to build a million-dollar law courts building in the Capital City, but they were turned down.

Saskatoon asked for a new court house and there was rumors of a plan to move the Court of Appeal to the Northern city.

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