

The Red and White

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Editorial.

The Peace Conference For the last four years has the gaze of an anxious public been directed along the western battle-front of Europe where, back and forth, swayed millions of men in a fearful death-grapple. Today that gaze seeks another scene. No longer does it scrutinize the ebb and flow of doubtful strife, but, with an anxiety no less intense, is it focused upon that very city, which not only was the much coveted objective of the enemy, but whose very defense inspired our armies to victory. For there, in the Salle de la Paix, Paris, is assembled the greatest "World Tribunal" of all time, the Peace Conference, a tribunal, representative of the governments and free peoples of not only the allied nations, but all the neutral countries of the world, in so far as their interests are concerned—a tribunal which is hailed as the dawn of a new age.

On this Conference depends the future welfare of mankind, or to quote words of President Poincaré, addressing the delegates at the first formal assembly "You hold in your hands the destinies of nations." To it, humanity, shocked and aghast at the terrible conflict which has shaken civilization to its base, appeals for protection against the revival of such savagery. From it, nations and individuals seek restitution for cruel wrongs undeservingly inflicted, and demand punishment of the guilty and effective guarantees, that the aggressors may never again plunge the world into such misery and bloodshed.

As far as can be learned good progress is being made, though a great deal of criticism and dissatisfaction is expressed especially regarding the delay of negotiating peace terms with Germany. That there should be difference of opinion on certain debates is not to be deplored, and that there should be some disagreements on the methods of settling the infinite variety of problems, laid before those delegates, is not a matter of grave anxiety or doubt as to the welfare of the Conference.

The League Of Nations Among the many vital questions laid before the Peace Conference, the one for the establishment of a League of Nations is by far the most important. According to the drafted Constitution, it is the power which will put and keep in motion the machinery, necessary for the promotion of international co-operation and the prevention, as far as possible, of wars. It will diagnose, then prescribe and administer the healing ointments, when the germs of strife attack any of its members. Its charity will even extend to those beyond its fold from which no nation will be excluded, provided it can be

relied upon as being sincere in observing its obligations.

A League of Nations has been a long desired thing in the minds of men and though regarded by many as idealistic, it is gradually becoming a practical reality. "The old order changeth giving place to the new." Balance of power has served its day, lost its own equilibrium and is now a thing of the past. Today the peace of the world is required and no longer that of a certain portion. Thus it is expressed by Premier Clemenceau when accepting the chairmanship of the Conference and speaking of the League: "All else must be subordinated to the necessity of a closer and closer union among the nations who have taken part in this great war and to the necessity of remaining friends." "It is no longer the peace of a more or less vast territory, no longer the peace of continents; it is the peace of nations that is to be made."

The project for establishing a League of Nations was unanimously adopted by the entire delegation at one of its earliest sessions. A commission was appointed to draft a plan of the League. This commission, made up of representatives of fourteen nations drew up a Constitution of the World League, which they approved and submitted to a plenary session of the Conference. As far as can be ascertained the fundamental principles have been agreed upon but many minor points are in dispute. However this is not the final and definite Constitution of the League.

Of course dissapproval and opposition exist particularly in France and the United States. In the former country the League is considered as insufficient for its purpose ; while the latter country demands a

peace treaty first, and then a modification of the League. It looks as though some of the Senators of that very country whose President outlined and moved the adoption of the League were trying to give it the knock-out blow. But such men as Clemanceau, Pichon, Cambon, Wilson, and others may be relied upon to turn this opposition to the perfecting and polishing of the final draft of the League. Then will be completed that great world-wide arch of international conclusions and agreements held together by the League of Nations, the only rightly tempered keystone for such a construction.

President Wilson's Visit to the Pope. An important historical event was President Wilson's visit to His Holiness Pope Benedict. Its great significance claimed the attention of the French press; it is also described by a leading English paper as "epoch making" and "not one of the least surprises of the war and its sequels."

That it was mutually agreed upon and that it was the first official visit of a President of the United States to the Pope in the vatican emphasises the importance of this courteous act and gives it an incalculable moral meaning.

The meeting was very formal. The President and his party were received in the Court of Saint Damasus by the whole Pontifical assembly headed by Mgr. Tacci, majordomo to His Holiness, and conducted between Swiss Guards and Noble Guards to the Pope's apartments where they were met by Mgr. Canati, Secretary of the Congregation of Ceremonials, who extended a formal welcome to the President. The Master of the Chamber having announced the

President's arrival Mr. Wilson was then admitted to the presence of the Pope, who came forward and met him on the threshold with extended hand. After a conversation of about twenty minutes the Pope presented the President with a handsome mosaic reproduction of Guido Reni's famous picture of St. Peter, which has been valued at forty-thousand dollars. He also made gifts to Mrs. and Miss Wilson and then asked to be introduced to the remainder of the Presidential party. The President then left with the same cortege, to visit Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, who presented him with two copies of the modification of the canon law. One volume contains an autograph dedication to President Wilson the other to the University of Princeton.

Ireland Those who have watched the current of events in Ireland have become accustomed to the sight of that country bent down under the weight of oppression. Many a time and oft have they witnessed the Emerald Isle about to take a position among the nations of the world—only, at the moment of her delivery, to be crushed to earth again by some fresh disappointment. So that, even now, when from the Peace Assembly at Paris fruits of freedom and contentment are being scattered broadcast to the "little nations," and when Ireland's plea for self-government seems to be an irresistible one, we are afraid that the question in the minds of many of Ireland's friends is not: "Will justice be done to Ireland this time?" but rather, "By what new pretext will her oppressors contrive to trample her under foot again?"

No doubt this attitude is over pessimistic. For it is almost inconceivable that the demand for Irish

self-government, so emphatically made by the Irish people at the recent British elections should, under present circumstances, be ignored—incredible, indeed, that the trustees of the world's future would reply to Sean O'Kelly's request for admission to the council of their deliberations with the response: "You may knock but it shall not be opened unto you."

In the past Ireland has frequently been forced to appeal for assistance to various individual nations. To-day she is appealing to all nations; and her appeal is, in very few cases, falling on deaf ears. From all corners of the world are coming forth expressions of sympathy with Ireland's cause. Australia, whither so many of Erin's sons fled in their hour of exile, has in no unmistakable manner placed herself on record as a strong supporter of Ireland's self-determination. A large element of the Canadian people are vigorous in their demands for Irish rights. The great majority of the people of France, with whom the Irish have so often taken common cause, would certainly welcome the day when the sons of St. Patrick would regain their long-lost prosperity. Even in England itself no inconsiderable portion of the press is clamoring for a settlement of the Irish question. And Belgium! What a blow to her justice-loving spirit to see Ireland's hopes blasted once more! The great and revered patriot, Cardinal Mercier writing to Cardinal Logue voices Belgium's attitude in the words: "It is inconceivable that Ireland's right to self determination and nationhood be not recognized by the free nations of the world at the Peace Conference. Your country, the most faithful and venerable daughter of the Church, deserves justice from all mankind and surley must receive it."

But especially from America, which has itself, during the last century and a half, basked in the sunshine of "self-determination," comes the most universal disapproval of the policy followed by Ireland's rulers. Resolutions of city councils, state legislatures, conventions and assemblies of American citizens and all culminated by a grand congressional resolution, passed with an overwhelming majority, call on the dispensers of liberty and fairness at Paris to see that Ireland's wrongs are righted. In fact it would seem as though England's position towards Ireland stands under a condemnation almost as strong and universal as did Germany's policy of martial terrorism.

Therefore, though the work of the Peace Conference is nearing completion, and though, as regards Ireland, up to the present time "the oracles are dumb," let us still be optimistic, hoping that the Peace Delegates will crown an otherwise glorious mission by granting to this oppressed country the blessings of independence and liberty.

Social May we not well be alarmed at the increase
Unrest of the Social unrest of the world today?

Scarcely a day passes but we read of Strikes—many of them justifiable no doubt and many others by no means so. Strikes are to be abhorred in as much as yearly they cause enormous economic loss by reason of the tying up of industries for even weeks at a time—in as much as they beget hatred and too often riots and deaths. Is it not strange that among the laborers and employers of nations that a spirit of brotherhood and charity does not prevail, rather than this continual struggle between Capital and Labor? The spirit of selfishness on the part of

capitalists, on the one hand, has provoked the laborer to organize and demand his rights. But, on the other hand, the laborer, of late, too often forgets where to stop and goes to excess. The colonies of Australia and New Zealand have a way of treating this labor question which seems to us to be a very sane one ; at any rate it has given very satisfactory results for the last twenty years in these two progressive countries. The State sets a standard wage, below which no laborer's wages shall be ; this minimum, set by a Board of Governors, who also decide whether an exception may be made in the case of any one who, on account of some physical disability or other, cannot earn the minimum wage set. At the same time no maximum is placed, so that organizations may still seek better salaries ; with this difference, however, that a minimum equitable wage being received by all, no such dissatisfaction as we witness here today prevails. Why have we not this system in America ? Is it that the capitalists are too strong ?

Thanks! Red and White wishes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a money contribution from "A Friend."

Old Copies of An effort is being made to collect
Red and White all the previous numbers of Red and White in order that they may be bound and kept for reference in the College Library. As we are unable to obtain copies of the issues for December, 1909, Easter, 1910 and June, 1912, we would be very grateful to any of our readers who would let us know where we could obtain those numbers.