

REVIEW

THE GENEVA PROTOCOL

The Geneva Protocol is a very difficult document, intricate phraseology and cross references to other documents make the original text almost unintelligible to the ordinary reader. It is also a tremendous document, and had for us the most far reaching effects, and I think we did well in rejecting it in its present form.

It would take too much space to even attempt to reduce its provisions for inclusion in these pages. It is, to say the least, a scheme which has staggered the faith of those who trusted in Geneva. It has the same grandiose futility that one would expect from a plan sponsored by the Abbe Sieyes. Arbitration, Disarmament, and Security become sounding catchwords and magic incantations with as little relevance to fact as *Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite* had to the French Revolution. The document bears the stamp of the Military Mentality of Paris and Prague. It commits the British Empire to the huge task of helping one half Europe hold the other half down. We are invited to keep fixed and forever the frontiers traced out on the Versailles map of Europe.

In the first place the Protocol absolutely abolishes national sovereignty and parliamentary control. We are deprived of self government in the most vital and supreme issues of national life—the dispositions of goods and blood—of our life and death—of our judgement and conscience. Under section 11, our Budget would have to be framed in accordance with instructions from Geneva, and we might have to furnish troops to coerce Australia or Ireland.

The Council of the League would have the Right to call upon all our man power, all our commercial and financial resources; we would be bound to make provisions of raw materials, of credits and keep open communications in the interest of any attacked or threatened state. And those states that have not would be encouraged to go to war at the expense of those that have.

No nation can afford to plunge blindly into such an immeasurable and unfathomable engagement.

We cannot afford it and we will not do it. No amended instrument of the same kind will meet with

longer shrift unless it recognizes that the government of Canada and the governments of the States of the Empire shall maintain their own absolute control over their own supreme matters and shall determine in their own judgment whether the cause is just or unjust—wise or unwise—and whether they will go to war or not.

Any interference in internal affairs or domestic questions must be excluded by specific amendment of the Protocol. No doubt must remain on the point. The Protocol opens a door for the intervention of the league in questions of Asiatic immigration to Canada, Australia, the United States and South Africa, questions which these countries claim to be of solely domestic jurisdiction, and outside the purview of Geneva. Furthermore, the Protocol, upon the initiative of Japan, lays down the ominous principle that the rights of Asiatics to enter white communities shall no longer be considered a domestic question.

All this is contrary to the spirit of this country and of the Empire. Our historic wisdom forbids our abandonment of Parliamentary control over our own destinies, for the risky purpose of maintaining every thing untenable in Eastern Europe, of enforcing an artificial system contrary to foresight, sagacity and justice, and certain to be fatal alike to the League and to Peace. The thing to strive for is not a supernational League State but reconciliation and adjustment between nations which alone can perpetuate peace.

AIR POWER

A subject which has been receiving a great deal of discussion in the United States lately is the efficiency of airplanes in war. American opinion seems much divided, but I think the division is really on points of organization and control. It is a question upon which we might profitably exercise our minds because, in spite of all our friendly dispositions, we have a great frontier and extensive coasts to protect, and to my mind air power is the cheapest and most modern method of doing so, and of preserving our prestige among nations. We have all the necessary materials at hand, and during the war our men proved second to none when the navies grappled in the airy blue.

Marshal Foch has stated—and no opinion is more authoritative—that air attack in the next war will be

swift, crushing and decisive. Consequently we find that France, in spite of her financial weakness, has built up under the guidance of Marshal Foch and his associates a marvellous air supremacy, more far reaching and dominating than perhaps any other form of power in the world has yet seen.

Armies and navies have hitherto existed to stand between the nation and the enemy, but air power is an overhead means of passing beyond these, and achieving more quickly and directly the objects of war by assailing the enemy nation at its most vital point of organization and population. Many experts believe absolutely, like Marshal Foch, that, by continuous bombardment from the air, cities could be stifled, shattered and destroyed in spite of all that armies or fleets might do. Though conservative sailors and soldiers combat this view, one is inclined to agree in the main with the views of the great Allies' leader. It is well to be safe.

THE BALTIC STATES

Not so very long ago we read in the papers the fact that Russia had placed in this country a huge order for flour, but that does not mean that we are to look to Russia as a future wheat market. Our trade with that country, if we could develop it, would be very different. Some day the gates of normal trade will be opened into Russia. It may be years, but Russia will be one of the greatest fields for developement the world has known. Let us prepare against that day.

The gates of Russia are Poland and the Baltic States. For generations have the people of these countries been engaged in finance and trade throughout the length and breadth of this huge domain, and so they know Russian conditions and requirements better than anyone else in the world. The British Empire, and especially the Northland, ought to cultivate the friendship of these nations—a thing which I do not think difficult, because these States fear the political ambitions of both the Western and Eastern neighbours—Germany and Russia.

In these countries themselves there is great room for trade expansion. Esthonia, Latvia and Poland are anxious to do business if satisfactory credits can be arranged. The United States has extended to Poland loans represented mainly by railway and bridge stock

and agricultural implements to the value of about \$35,000,000. If these orders had been placed in England, as they well could have been, it would have undoubtedly meant a reduction in unemployment and a sadly needed boom for the steel and iron trades. Indeed trade expansion on the part of Canada in these countries is not by any means unpracticable, and such expansion would help, I think, greatly in obviating such unfortunate happenings as the present strike in Nova Scotia.

Russia still remains a dan erous plague spot in the comity of nations because she means to bring about ultimately world revolution. The Zinovieff incident and many subsequent actions such as the discovered plans for a Communist rising in Esthonia undoubtedly have proved this. Esthonia is to be congratulated on her promptness and her escape. It was definitely proved that if it had been successful it was the deliberate intention of the rebels to massacre ten per cent of the population.

The Russian Government consists of a band of the ablest and most energetic fanatics ever recorded in history. They have proved to be utterly unscrupulous, and possessing as they do great powers of organization they mean to be successful in the East if not in the West. What they will ultimately achieve we know not, but I fear we do not sufficiently realize the gravity of the menace. We know there are millions of eyes looking covetously across the Pacific at our own Golden West, and some day we may be called upon to repel these hordes, impregnated with Bolshevism and organized by the brains of Moscow, from our shores. This is not an alarmist picture, but a possibility.

SENATE REFORM

We will all naturally be interested in the mooted proposals for the reform of the Senate. Of course it is not my province to discuss the merits of the question, but I believe any change may have very far-reaching effects, especially for the Province by the Sea.

No change can take place without an amendment being made in the British North America Act and unless consented to by the Provinces, for I understand the terms upon which the Province entered Confederation

to be in the nature of treaties and these instruments must be respected as much. I believe very much in going slowly especially with Constitutional reforms during the present era of unrest, and, in addition, I think a great number of people have yet to be convinced that the Red Chamber has failed to do the work the Fathers of Confederation intended them to do.

'Tis the mind that makes the body rich;
And as the sun breaks through the darkest cloud,
So honor peareth in meanest habit.
—Shakespeare

There is no road to highest fame,
That man has toiled who wears a glorious name.
—Emma C. Dowd

To conquer one's self is the first and noblest of victories.
—Plato.

A library is but the soul's burial-ground.
It is the land of shadows.
—H. W. Beecher.

It is with friends as with flowers: Many may be loved,
but few much loved.
—H. W. Beecher.

To honor, to esteem, to love—and then to part,
Makes up life's tale to many a feeling heart!
—Coleridge.

Knowledge is not power, education is power.
—John P. Gross.

To me the meanest flower that blows can give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.
—Wordsworth.