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A Dangerous Idea

Hector Bywater

There's an undercurrent in the conference that there isn't a need for a single agreement, and that things can be sorted out between nations bilaterally. This is a pernicious and dangerous idea that will surely lead to war if it is allowed to prevail.

Peace and the prosperity that comes with it needs all the major nations to agree and stand together to support the rules based international order. This is why the League of Nations was set up after the recent world war. Any nation that isn't supporting this is part of the problem, and a grave threat to world peace.

As US Secretary of State Hughes said when opening the conference, if we don't compromise we will not achieve lasting peace for everyone.

Treaty seals Afghanistan's Independence



Nov 22. After protracted negotiations, Sir Henry Dobbs, head of the British mission in Kabul, has today signed a treaty of friendship between Afghanistan and Great Britain which, it is hoped, will restore the old friendly relations between the two countries.

Under the treaty Britain recognises Afghanistan's independence and there is to be an interchange of Ministers in London and Kabul.

On their part, the Afghans have promised that no Russian consulates will be permitted in the Ghazni, Jalalabad or Kandahar areas. Both governments have promised to tell the other beforehand of any major operations they may find necessary to keep order along the frontier. It is understood that Sir Henry Dobbs' good work is to be suitably recognised by the award of the KCSI.

Treaty Port Tensions

Franklin D. Roosevelt

In the first week of the conference the political discussion on mandates was cut short as a topic that is seemingly desired to be avoided by certain powers.

This week the USA began independent talks with both China and Japan about the treaty ports in China. US delegate Eli Root, in discussions with Chinese representative Chung-Hui Wang, said that giving China full control of these ports would happen in the long term, once China has established its stability. Wang said that the Chinese central government was content to "accept the mandates", but that effective and appropriate increases in Chinese control of these areas would be in everyone's best interests.

In discussions between US delegate Henry Lodge and Japanese representatives, including Prince Tokugawa, talk was noticeably heated, as the Japanese were fiercely opposed to reducing foreign control in China.

I sought out comment from some representatives of Britain, who of course have a great deal of control to lose in these matters. They claimed that further discussion with the Chinese was needed to assess the situation and determine the final impact. However, it seemed that as far as this man could tell, that all

discussions on this topic were separate and unofficial – should a sub-committee be established for this? Considering the level of disagreement and confusion around it currently, I am in little doubt of the answer.

Underwood, of the US delegation, made his desires on the matter clear: "Chinese stability and keeping these mandates are two mutually exclusive options. We must allow China to have greater control of its own trade of the situation in China will only deteriorate".

US Scared of Japanese Navy

Hector Bywater

In the military committee the Japanese Navy offered to scrap their shipbuilding programme and suggested a global 50% reduction in the size of navies, all capital ships and cruisers.

The US strongly opposed this offer, insisting that the Japanese scrap their two newest vessels with 16" guns. Other nations were far more conciliatory and willing to discuss the reduction of navies, but US intransigence meant that no conclusion could be reached. Poor chairing from the British Admiral failed to secure an understanding of the positions of all the other nations and so the meeting dissolved without any agreement or significant progress to allow this soon.

Vae Victis! Interview with Aristide Briand, French Prime Minister

by Ida Tarbell

One must understand something of France – that she is a land which through the centuries has held herself apart as something special, the elite of the nations. The people of no country in the civilised world are so

satisfied with themselves and their aim. This arrogant smugness, this delusion of superiority remains evident in the current French objectives. M. Briand affirms his belief in:

1. Victor's Justice. A loser in war must be crushed and humiliated, no mercy (as we saw in Versailles in 1919) and

2. Huge armies must be maintained by France, resulting in the same instability, suspicion and fear which led to the Great War.

M Briand is unapologetic. He seems content to be fundamentally opposed to the peaceful, diplomatic methods espoused by this Conference. He is obsessed with France's victimhood and her bitter anger, and devil take the world's welfare. Frankly, if every people was like the French, the world would have a dark future of bloodshed and horror. Let us pray his miserable

Aussie slams racism

"The degree of racism shown by some countries towards the Chinese is staggering, and is seriously upsetting to some delegates" said Aussie George Pearce

US-Japanese Relationship Deteriorating

The US seems to have threatened to out build everyone else if there isn't an agreement. The Americans are also imposing very strict immigration controls on Japanese and Chinese immigrants. A Japanese source said "*it is almost as if the Americans consider us a lesser race whom they can just bully into surrender.*"

Political Committee Of Arms Limitation Conference Agrees To Increase Supply Of Arms

HG Wells

The Political Committee, meeting

under the chairmanship of Charles Hughes has agreed that the embargo on the sale of arms to the 'legitimate and recognised sovereign government of China' should be lifted and in order to meet Japanese concerns about the destination of arms, the Netherlands should monitor arms deliveries to ensure that they reach the recognised government.

The committee then considered the vexed question of the debts and indemnities owed by China, which amount annually to some £15 million to Great Britain and £5 million to other nations represented at the conference. All the delegations except Japan accepted the principle of remitting those debts in whole or in part, but reserved their positions until the effect on their budgets was clear. The issue is therefore now firmly linked with achieving budget savings through limitation of naval expenditure.

The committee adjourned until Tuesday to permit time for bilateral discussions.