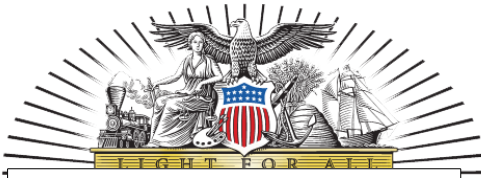


THE



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Britain Loses Naval Superiority

Hector Bywater

In a dramatic discussion in the military committee it emerged that the Royal Navy will no longer be the world's largest navy. The US Navy will have more and larger battleships, breaking the million tonne mark by 1924. The Royal Navy currently has 930,000 tonnes of capital ships to the US Navy's current half million. However the US's aggressive build programme will turn this upside down. It is likely that the agreed limits on total tonnage will see the US Navy getting bigger than it is now while the Royal Navy gets much smaller. The Japanese and French will half the current sizes of their navies, and the Italians will reduce a little to be the same size as the smaller French Navy.

This is a major, and very unexpected change in the balance of power. It might reduce the chance of war, but it's likely to cause other tensions elsewhere.

Tripartite Pacific Agreement Brings Optimism to Conference

Franklin D. Roosevelt

A "fruitful" meeting between the most senior members of the US, British and Japanese delegations this week resulted in a productive discussion about arms reductions and the situation in the Pacific. Though the details are as yet not finalised, the delegates made a joint statement that Britain, the USA and Japan will be agreeing to naval treaties about the Pacific that will result in a reduction of arms – hopefully putting an end to accusations from both sides that Japanese and American delegations were being obstinate and blocking

progress.

It is not clear what has caused this shift, but it is believed that concessions about control in China may be made by one or more sides.

Britain, USA and Japan agree ban on Immoral Warfare Means

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The USA, Britain and Japan have come to an agreement that poisonous gases will not be used in any future conflicts. In addition, air warfare cannot be used against civilian targets. All three powers will be inviting the other powers at the conference to agree to this resolution.

Scoop: Mediterranean Tripartate between GB, Italy, and France

W.W. Abell

An Italian-led diplomatic initiative guarantees Mediterranean balance of power. Diplomatic talks in "advanced discussion" propose arms reduction accompanied by balance of naval power between France, Italy, and GB. This is surprising given GB's previous naval position of having a 2:1 parity to other naval powers. This is the type of diplomatic progress required if this conference is to be a success and peace secured. We hope the Pacific issues don't sink the prospects of European peace.

European Nations lead the way to peace, optimistic about conference

W.W. Abell

We've gotten exclusive interviews with the main European Naval

Powers besides GB (Italy, France, and the Netherlands). They all voiced broad optimism about the current progress towards peace and looked forward to continuing the process. Specifically highlighted was the progress in the Subcommittee on the Conduct of War and work towards naval de-escalation – especially the proposed ban on the use of poisonous gas attacks in international conflicts.

Committee on the Conduct of War Proposes Peculiarly-Worded Ban on Gas Attacks in International Conflict

W.W. Abell

The Committee on the Conduct of War has been hard at work securing the international political support to agree to cease the use of poisonous gas in international conflicts. The work of these tireless delegates should be praised, except for the obstinate Japan, which would prefer to protect the right to use poisonous gas on its own people. We call on the remaining powers (only Japan at the time of writing) to sign the agreement and push farther to completely eliminate the use of poisonous gas in all cases.

The Dutch are Looking for a Friend

W.W. Abell

The Dutch are optimistically searching for naval allies in the Pacific in order to protect their colonies. Surprisingly, the other Pacific powers seem to have not engaged other Dutch on the issue.

Time For Leadership

H.G. WELLS

As the Washington Conference enters its fifth week there is little sign of progress to match the high flown rhetoric of the opening plenary session. One member of the Political Committee privately expressed his frustration with the slowness of progress, suggesting that the Committee has avoided the difficult issues and 'plucked the low-hanging fruit'.

The former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was a man of vision – true, it was often a flawed vision, but vision nonetheless. The present American administration seems to lack vision or a real commitment to ensuring world peace. Its stance in the Military Committee has been particularly intransigent. Its representatives are notably absent from this week's meeting of the Conduct of War sub-committee.

This is the time for America to show its leadership. So far it gives the impression that its motives in calling this Conference have more to do with reducing expenditure than achieving world peace.

Japan Attacks Freedom Of The Press

This week's meeting of the Political Committee under the chairmanship of Congressman Oscar Underwood, began with an extraordinary scene in which the Japanese delegate, Mr Masanao Hanihara, took exception to reporting of Japan's position, and said that he would not take part in discussions. After other delegations explained the concept of a free press, the honourable gentleman joined in the discussions.

Chinese Plan For Full Sovereignty In 25 Years

The Chinese delegate Mr Sze tabled a proposal for full restoration of Chinese sovereignty in 25 years, with the withdrawal of all foreign troops, restoration of Chinese

territory (with some limited exceptions) to the Chinese government, and full control over revenues. He accompanied this with a proposal for an international consortium to exploit and develop China's natural resources which would encourage investment. He stressed that the goal should be to increase the size of the cake, rather than squabble over how to slice it.

Most delegations accepted the concept of a move to full sovereignty over 25 years. The exception was again Japan, whose delegate expressed scepticism that China would be able to achieve self government in that time, expressing concern over the need for reform of the judicial system and to root out corruption.

It was generally recognised that Japan's interests in China are of a different order to those of the other powers. It was agreed that to meet Japanese concerns a permanent arbiter should meet annually to assess China's progress. The Netherlands pointed out that this arbitration committee should be an organ of the League of Nations, as creating such a body outside the League would weaken its authority. The USA should however be invited to participate.

Major Chinese demarche: "Full sovereignty by 1946"

by Ida Tarbell

In a plan both progressive and deeply reasonable, the Chinese delegation led by Sao-Ke Alfred Sze has presented a plan for full Chinese sovereignty – but over the very generous timescale of twenty-five years.

Details are still emerging, and my esteemed colleague H.G. Wells is reporting on the reception of the Plan at the plenary today; but the gist is that the Chinese government would, by the end of the term, expect all foreign troops to be off Chinese soil; and China to have full control of tariffs and taxes, and the legal

system. In essence, China will become a nation with sovereignty every bit as full as Denmark or Argentina, or indeed any of the Great Powers, a rank to which China, with one-fourth of the world's population, will surely aspire before the century is out. Of course, the devil is in the detail, I will be asking the charming and intellectual Alfred to be more specific about the phasing of the plan, i.e. what will happen by 1931, by 1936, etc etc. If one may venture a criticism of the Chinese gentlemen here, it is perhaps they are insufficiently aware of the immense difficulties they will encounter building the nation of Young China. Most have spent much of their lives in Europe and America. They must soon go back to China and work to secure order, education and development of their people along modern lines. Only with stability and prosperity will the Chinese Republic take her rightful place in the comity of nations as free, proud and fully sovereign. I foresee a 1946 China as one of the most peaceful and wealthiest places on God's Earth.