

# THE GEORGIAN MAIL

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## GEORGIA'S REPLY TO BOLSHEVIK ACCUSATIONS.

### GEORGIA AND SOVIET RUSSIA.

#### Bolshevik Note and its Answer.

Mr. Gegetchkori, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has received the following wireless message from Moscow:

"Tiflis. To the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Gegetchkori. With great perplexity, Soviet Russia learned the arguments by which Gegetchkori justified his refusal to take part in the struggle against the merciless enemy of the Russian and Georgian working classes, General Denikin and his tools. The Gegetchkori government certainly is perfectly well aware that Denikin, and the Volunteer Army generally, aim at the restoration of old, centralised, united and indivisible Russia oppressing all the nations under her authority, including the Georgian people. Can Soviet Russia then count as sincere the objection stating that the fight between Denikin, the agent of the restoration of the old regime, and Soviet Russia, which invariably is carrying out the principle of the right of the working classes of all peoples for national self-definition, is a foreign and indifferent matter to the people's masses of Georgia? The principle put forth by Gegetchkori of washing one's hands of this struggle has nevertheless not been applied in the case when several detachments of the Soviet troops of the North Caucasus, retreating before the superior forces of the Volunteer Army, aspired to find a defence on Georgian territory where they were seized by the agents of the Gegetchkori government and delivered to Denikin's executioners.

#### "A Base for the English?"

"Having firstly supported by all means German militarism at the period when it threatened the restoration of the old regime in Russia and maintaining at the same time friendly relations with the aggressive Turkish imperialism,

even going so far as to congratulate formally the Turkish representative after the rising of last year (1918) in Baku—an unheard of bloody catastrophe: having become this year a base for English imperialism through the medium of their agents, Denikin, Koltchak and Judenitch, who endeavoured in vain to drown in blood the Russian revolution, the Jordania and Gegetchkori government consistently carried out the policy not of washing hands but of union with the counter-revolutionary forces which were threatening the very existence of the workmen-peasants' regime in Russia. And now, at the very moment when in the radio-telegram addressed to the Soviet government the Gegetchkori government takes up a position of an indifferent spectator of the struggle against the last remnants of the agents of the idea of restoring the old despotic Russia, the same government negotiates with Churchill and Foch with the aim that they should avail themselves of Georgia as a base for the new endeavours to attack workmen-peasants' Russia.

"If the Gegetchkori government expresses simultaneously the hope that finally it will succeed in establishing friendly relations with the Soviet Republic, it acts in reality in a quite different spirit negotiating with those who have not yet put down arms directed against Soviet Russia.

#### "Soviet Aims".

"The Soviet government aims at the establishing of steady peaceful relations with all nations, and the struggle which it is carrying on has a purely defensive character. It has sufficiently convincingly proved that it immutably stands on the ground of recognising the principle of the national self-definition of the working masses of all the nations. It does not aspire to receive verbal assurances differing from facts, but that peaceful and good-neighbourly relations be in truth established.

"If the Gegetchkori government really shares our aspirations, it

depends on it to prove this, first of all breaking off in fact the support given by it to the enemies of Soviet Russia: refusing the military forces offered to it by the Entente for the struggle against the Soviet Republic; not admitting the landing of English forces on Georgian territory, and taking an immediate and active part in the struggle against the common enemy of the working masses of Russia and Georgia.

Moscow, January 31, 1920.  
No. 185. People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherin."

#### Gegetchkori's Reply.

On February 7 the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori, sent the following note by wireless to Moscow, to the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherin:

"In reply to your radio-telegram of January 31 of this year, No. 185, the government of the democratic Republic of Georgia notes you of the following: The contents and the character of the said telegram give the Georgian government full grounds to believe that the Soviet government is seeking to injure the prestige of the Georgian Republic by reference to a series of false communications of which I count it completely inadmissible to avail oneself. The Sovnarkom (the Council of People's Commissaries) ought to be well aware that a year ago the Georgian government opened the frontiers of the Republic to the numerous Red army detachments who were saving themselves from the Volunteer Army. In spite of an acute supply crisis which the Republic was undergoing; in spite of the complication of the outer and inner position of the country; and, lastly, in spite of the fact that prior to this the Bolsheviks behaved clearly hostilely and aggressively in regard to Georgia, the government of the Republic gave refuge on its territory to five thousand soldiers of the Soviet

Red army and fulfilled by this act its duty as a neutral state.

#### Georgia's Principles.

"The Georgian government is extremely astounded at the accusation thrown at it alleging that Georgia supported by all means German imperialism and maintained friendly relations with aggressive Turkish imperialism. What may be in a moral sense the political value of this accusation on a par with the commonly-known fact that at the very moment when the decomposed Bolshevik troops left the front before the enemy's forces, the Soviet government gave the whole of Russia into slavery to German imperialism by the Brest-Litovsk agreement, opened the gates of Trans-Caucasia to the Turks, handed over to them the strongholds of this country, Batoum, Kars and Ardaghan, dealing by this act a blow on the back of the Trans-Caucasian nations who were dying from loss of blood in an unequal struggle? The Georgian government can declare with a full consciousness of its responsibility for every word that even then at the moment of mortal danger for its people it did not give up its connections with the outer forces, the principles of democracy and a steady defending of its freedom.

#### Georgia and the Entente.

"The Georgian government denies most energetically the affirmation of the radio-telegram of the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs alleging that at the present moment the negotiations of Georgia with the Entente Powers aim at aggressive actions against Soviet Russia. The Georgian Republic has maintained and will maintain connection and mutual relations with all the outer powers on the grounds of the acknowledgment of the independence of Georgia, of esteem for her liberties and inviolability of the frontiers of the Republic, and

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# EDITORIAL.

## The Weather.

The wintry weather continues in Tiflis. There is snow everywhere, and, as we write, there are sledges running in the Tiflis streets—surely a rare event in the Georgian capital. There is the same to write of Baku. Snow and that wretched Baku wind, and sledges running in the streets. If only the sun would behave himself all would be well, but he stubbornly insists on making an appearance so that one is forced in the middle of the day to walk through streets and on pavements deep in icy slush. And to fall on one's back in a pool of dirty melted snow, as we did, is an unpleasant matter, although highly amusing to the spectators. Three of the latter, by the way, laughed so un-heartedly at our misfortune that they lost their balance. Then it was our turn to laugh long and loud.

## Georgia's Independence.

The Great Powers having acknowledged the independence of Georgia and Azerbaïdjan, it is for the smaller ones to follow suit. Thus we read that Turkey has decided to recognise this independence: that General Denikin has done so, and that Japan has recognised the independence of Azerbaïdjan, although there is so far no mention of the recognition of Georgia. The Argentine Republic anticipated the Great Powers' recognition, and several weeks ago had already decided in favour of the Trans-Caucasian Republics. And now there are more impudent notes from the Bolsheviks.

## The Soviet Notes.

The notes of Tchitcherin to the Foreign Ministers of Georgia and Azerbaïdjan, Gegetchkori and Khan Khoïsky, which we publish this week are typically Bolshevik. Their contents are hypocritical and for the greater part untrue. They speak much of the self-definition of the nations—yet the Bolsheviks themselves are doing all in their power to upset the Trans-Caucasian peoples' chosen governments. They speak of Denikin's aspirations regarding "great, united, indivisible Russia", whereas, as we have on several occasions pointed out, this aim is a purely Bolshevik one. They speak of the support of Allied Imperialism, but they forget—or they would seem to forget—that, as Mr. Gegetchkori says in his answering telegram, it was the Soviet leaders who sold their country to German Imperialism, than which there was none worse.

## "Self-definition".

The whole idea of self-definition, as mentioned by the Soviet government, is mere bluff. The Bolsheviks do not know the meaning of the word. "Self-definition" to them means that the people must have Soviet rule, which is absurd. The Georgian and the Azerbaïdjan people have already expressed their views regarding Bolshevism. They have already elected their democratic governments. They have already appointed their leaders, and these leaders are simply carrying out the wishes of the people. Yet Tchitcherin would hold a pistol to the Trans-Caucasian peoples' head with the vain hope of forcing them to fight for the glory of Soviet Russia. The alternative is that Georgia and Azerbaïdjan by refusing to take up arms against General Denikin, by refusing to enter the terrible civil war in Russia today, will incur the wrath and displeasure of the Lenin-Trotsky firm. In doing so, Georgia and Azerbaïdjan will be in good company as they will be on the side of all the civilised nations of the world.

## Spanish Goods.

There are, we read, Spanish delegates in Tiflis today. They have come to acquaint Georgia of their country's industries. Also they have come on business bent. Further we read that as Spain was untouched by the great war, Spanish manufactures have retained their excellence and now excel those of the countries who participated in the war. We do not wish to detract from the value of these goods, but we confess that we have never before looked upon Spain as a manufacturing country. Somewhat vague memories of geography books arise in our mind, and we seem to recall that Spain produces nuts and oranges and wine and cork and, perhaps, what is known as Spanish juice. We really cannot think of anything else, unless it is leather-work. But to bring licorice to the Caucasus is to take coals to Derbyshire. And the same may be said of wine and fruit. Nevertheless, it is a good sign when foreign representatives are so far interested in the Caucasus that they send their business men with bags of samples.

## Another Fable.

Once upon a Time, there was an Editor who wrote a Fable in his Paper. And it came to pass that he arose and went to Baku.

And lo! when he had returned to his Dwelling-place his Maid-servant went unto him and said, "Master, it is my Custom as you know to hie me to the Bazaar and to the Place where they sell Meats and Vegetables. And so, in your Absence, I did hurry forth"... But we cannot continue in this strain, as the subject is altogether too sad. The fact of the matter is that thieves broke into our flat and made off with two very nice rugs, one very old tunic, and many very personal papers. There is no moral to this story. It is, we suppose, simply a case of very prosaic justice.

## A Mesopotamian Tale.

Or rather, we might say, a tale of the Persian road. Those of our readers who, like ourselves, came to Tiflis the long way round, by way of Baghdad and Enzeli, will appreciate the tale. On this road there are many difficult passages and several passes to negotiate. It was a common sight eighteen months ago to see a score of men hauling a Ford car up a hill or along a rough track by means of powerful ropes. Not many weeks ago a British officer encountered such a scene. Twenty men were hauling one little Ford car up a steep pass. In charge of the men was a sergeant whom the officer recognised. "Hullo, Sergeant", he cried. "How are you getting on?" "Still motoring", said the sergeant.

S. L.

## British Work for Serbia.

Prince Alexander of Serbia has addressed a letter to the Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund in London, thanking the British public for their generosity and unflinching interest towards the Serbian Nation. "From the early days of war", he says "when the Serbian Relief Fund began its magnificent task, to the present day when the country is once more free and independent, this splendid British organisation has never ceased its labours. There is hardly a corner in Serbia today where the Serbian Relief Fund workers are not to be found, healing the sick, distributing food and clothing or caring for a portion of our great number of war orphans.

"The Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund has been to our people a glorious example of constancy and unselfishness in caring for others, and I must particularly commend and appreciate the fact that its well-appointed staff in Serbia has been instructed to act in collaboration with the Serbians, thus establishing British methods of work and thoroughness on a lasting basis".

## The Development of Mesopotamia. Big British Undertakings Costing Millions.

The cost of developing and protecting Mesopotamia will probably involve fresh taxation in Britain for many years to come. The official report compiled by Sir John Hewett shows that the army authorities did fine work in producing a great yield of food crops. One or two items show the dimensions of the British Mesopotamia undertakings. Wharves at Basra cost £400,000, the dockyard cost £848,000 and a re-erection yard £215,000, while the fleet of transport steamers, barges, motor-craft and hospital vessels placed on the rivers represented an initial outlay of £9,203,000. To this fleet the ultimate success in Mesopotamia was due. We built 239 miles of railways on the standard gauge and 483 miles on the metre gauge. The various electrical installations are valued at £180,000. Sir John Hewett states that the civil administration of the province may reasonably be asked to pay £2,070,000 towards the undertakings which will benefit the civil population or as an acknowledgement for war property handed over to the civil authorities, but he remarks that the civil administration is not likely to be able to pay at an early date even this moderate bit.

## THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

### Anglo-French Control of Constantinople and the Straits.

London, January 3.—The "Pall Mall Gazette" states that it is in a position to give the exact status of Constantinople and the Dardanelles as about to be presented to the deliberations of the Paris Conference.

According to this paper, the solution which would seem to prevail is the following:

Constantinople and the Dardanelles to be internationalised, Great Britain and France conjointly exercising over them a predominating authority:

The new seat of the Turkish Government to be in Asia Minor:

The Sultan to be recognised as supreme religious head of the Moslem world and Constantinople to remain the religious capital of Islam.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" adds that Mr. Lloyd George is going to Paris with a perfectly clear plan and there is every reason to believe that it will be adopted by the Conference.

## GEORGIA AND SOVIET RUSSIA.

(Continued from page 1.)

she will take these or other steps for the defence of the Georgian people's interests against the attempts of any kind of hostile forces.

### Artificial Obstacles.

"As long as the Soviet government endeavours to force the Georgian Republic to give up this way and to involve it in the bloody whirlpool of its inner and outer policy; as long as its intentions regarding Georgia remain such as stated in the radio-telegram of the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, the Georgian government has reasons to affirm that the Soviet authority creates artificial obstacles to the establishment of good neighbourly relations between the two brotherly nations. On my government's charge, I declare that no obstacles are put from the part of the Georgian Republic to the establishment of these relations, and I express the hope that the Soviet government in its future policy will find language acceptable for the Georgian people.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori."

### Tchitcherine's Note to Azerbaijan.

The following wireless has been received by Fatali Khan Khoisky, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic:

"January 23. The Russian Soviet government to its great regret is obliged to state that the radio-telegram of the Azerbaijan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Khan Khoisky, of January 14 does not give a direct reply to the proposal to conclude an agreement between the Azerbaijan and the Russian military commands for joint action against Denikin. An indirect reply may be found firstly in the statements of the Minister, Khan Khoisky, who said that the Azerbaijan government has carried on an obstinate struggle against the Tzar's General Denikin; secondly, he referred to the principle of non-interference in the inner life of other nations. Unfortunately, the first statement is not in accordance with facts. As is well known, the staff representing the chief command of the Volunteer Army remained in Baku. This staff has been the victim of a terroristic attempt. Under the direction of Denikin's agent, Podshibiakin, assisted by the Azerbaijan authorities, the mobilisation of Russian officers in order to include them

in Denikin's army was started both in Baku and in other parts of Azerbaijan. General Baratov came to Baku and Tiflis as the representative of Denikin. The Azerbaijan Minister Ussubekov visited him and General Baratov demanded that the government of Ussubekov should participate in the blockade of Soviet Russia. Concluding the negotiations, Ussubekov declared officially that railway and mail communications were established with the regions occupied by Denikin. As is well known, Denikin's troops advanced to Azerbaijan paying no attention to the verbal declarations of the English generals who alleged that they had established a demarcation line for the former. One fact more: the English command traced this line to a point five versts to the south of Petrovsk. Meanwhile, General Denikin's troops reached the river Samur and the third station, Ialama. In September the English command recognised the occupation of the territory up to the river Samur by Denikin's troops and gave no guarantees for the future to Azerbaijan. In spite of this the government of Khan Khoisky limited itself to a note to General Denikin as well as to the English Command, abstaining from any struggle against the Tzar's general.

### The Revolt in Daghestan.

"At the time of the revolt in Daghestan raised by the Mountaineers against the Tzar's General Denikin, the representative of the latter in Azerbaijan, General Palitzen, called on the Minister Ussubekov and menaced him with repressions. After this the government of Ussubekov endeavoured to justify itself in the eyes of the supporters of Denikin and did not allow the Mountaineers to transport the arms received from the Georgian government across the Azerbaijan frontier. The close union of the government of Ussubekov and Khan Khoisky with the English Command and with the English military forces in general is clear. The latter, however, have always protected Denikin and even made him a present of the well-armed ships on the Caspian Sea, yet to Azerbaijan they handed only the disarmed ships 'Kars' and 'Ardaghan'.

### Refusal to Fight Denikin.

"The reference of Minister Khan Khoisky to his former relations towards Denikin does not indicate in any way that the government of Ussubekov and Khan Khoisky had the intention to fight against the Tzar's general. The statement in the radio-telegram of Minister

Khan Khoisky concerning the principle of noninterference in the struggle taking place in Russia may be understood as a refusal to fight Denikin if his troops do not attack Baku. Is it possible that Khan Khoisky believes that the struggle which is taking place between Denikin and the Soviet power does not concern the fate of Azerbaijan? Is he not aware that the programme of Denikin and all elements connected with him includes the restoration of united, indivisible Russia within its former limits and, amongst other things, the full abolishment of the independence of Azerbaijan, no possibility for its population to express their will and no manifestation of the particularity of this region as well as of the people inhabiting it? Is it a secret for Khan Khoisky that the victory of Denikin would mean only the restoration of the Tzar's regime in Azerbaijan also? The numerous declarations of the Soviet Government recognising in principle the rights of the working masses of every nation for national self-definition must have reached Minister Khan Khoisky. He is undoubtedly aware of the numerous realisations of this principle made by the Soviet authorities.

### Soviet "Acknowledgments".

"The Soviet government in its very first days of existence acknowledged the independence of Finland and has made several declarations recognising the independence of Poland. It proposed to Estonia, Lithuania and Lettland to enter into negotiations and has already concluded an agreement with the former, acknowledging unconditionally its independence. It renounced all rights owned by it previously and limiting in some respects the full independence of the people in Persia, China and Mongolia. The Soviet government has acknowledged the right for wide autonomy for Bashkirs, Kirghis and other nations of the former Russian Empire.

"Declaring again that it will always apply to Azerbaijan general principles on which their relations to all people are based, the Russian government is obliged at present to state that its proposal of joint activity against the Tzar's general, Denikin, bringing ruin to the independence of Azerbaijan, has not been met favourably by the government of Khan Khoisky. It maintains, however, its proposal and hopes that the steps undertaken will be successful.

People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherine'.

(Azerbaijan Reply will be published Next Week. Ed.)

## The World's Glut of Paper Money.

A memorandum has been presented to the British Government urging the calling of an international conference to secure the economic stability of the world signed by Mr. Asquith, Viscount Bryce, Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Clynes M. P., politicians, and McKenna, Goodenough and Vassar Smith, bankers. The terms of the memorandum are identical with the terms of a similar memorandum signed in the United States, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, which suggests the inclusion in the conference of Japan, Germany, Austria and the South American States.

The memorandum points out that even some of the victors are in an exceedingly grave position and that the world's balance sheet is inflated by fictitious items. It is not a question of helping any single country or groups, but the interests of the whole world are at stake. All agree that the first step is for all countries to arrest the issue of paper-money, to deflate their currency and to raise taxes more adequate to expenditure.

The decrease of consumption, increased production and taxation are recognised as the most hopeful remedies. The only hope of a return to normal conditions is that all countries shall help each other. It is proposed that credits shall be as small as possible and shall encourage normal financial and trade operations and also self-help in poor countries. "Critical days for Europe are now imminent and no time must be lost if catastrophes are to be averted", the memorandum concludes.

The Times says: "The need of such a conference has been felt for a long time. The world is suffering from too much credit, and any scheme which does not provide for a restriction of further issues of paper currency would not solve Europe's difficulty. What is now wanted is the financing of Europe's needs out of the pockets of the private individual. Countries with favourable exchanges must provide the greater part of the funds as they are most at stake. The American Government and financiers cannot be expected to give unlimited credit to countries which they know to be insolvent, but they see that credit must be revived in these countries if American exports are to thrive.

### Italy and Turkey.

The *Vakit* has a sympathetic article on the friendly Italian policy towards Turkey and says that Italy understands that for tranquility in the Adriatic the independence of Turkey must be preserved and it must not be partitioned. The *Vakit* also wants an economic entente with Italy for the exploitation of Turkey's national resources.

# BIRTH OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

## LORD CURZON'S SPEECH AT FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

Paris, January 17. Long speeches by learned orators marked the birth of the League of Nations at the initial meeting of the League Council yesterday morning. Not a single American representative was present.

Just before the meeting closed M. Léon Bourgeois, the French representative, demanded when and where the next meeting would be held and said: "I suggest that the next meeting be held in London and request that our British friends fix the date".

Replying to him, Lord Curzon rose and said: "I thank our French friends for suggesting that the second meeting be held in London and we are very glad to hold it there. But I prefer not to set a date for a second meeting as we want our American friends there at the next meeting. Let us leave the date for the next meeting open and hope that in the interim the United States Senate will have ratified the Treaty and will have permitted our co-workers to be present with us".

The proposition of Lord Curzon was accepted and while London will be the scene of the next meeting, there has been no date fixed.

The French Representative to the Council M. Léon Bourgeois made the inaugural speech. He said:

"The high contracting parties, in order to promote international cooperation and to achieve international peace and security by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war, by the prescription of open and honourable relations between nations by the firm establishment of the understandings of international law as the actual rule of conduct among Governments and by the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations in the dealings of organized peoples with one another, have agreed to the League of Nations."

"The work of the League of Nations is to be carried out by a body composed of representatives of all the States who are members of the League of Nations and by a Council composed of the representatives of the principal Allied and Associated Powers and the representatives of four States—Belgium, Brazil, Spain and Greece."

"To-day, gentlemen, we are holding the first meeting of that Council convened by the President of the United States. The task of presiding at this meeting and of inaugurating this international institution should have fallen to President Wilson. We respect the reasons which still delay that final decision of our friends in Washington but we may all express the hope that the difficulties will soon be overcome and that a representative of the great American Republic will occupy the place which awaits him among us. The work of the Council will then as-

sume that definite character and that particular force which should be associated with our work. The organisation of the League of Nations will not be complete until the Assembly of all the States meets.

"This Assembly will consist not only of the original members of the League of Nations but of the States mentioned in the annexe to the Treaty, which are invited to accede to the Covenant within two months of the coming into force of the Treaty. Spain, the Argentine Republic, Paraguay, Chile and Persia have already acceded.

"Even if under these conditions the machinery of the League of Nations remains incomplete until a later date, the meeting of to-day bears nevertheless the character of a first and solemn act. January 16th, 1920 will go down in history as the birth of the new world. The decision to be taken this day will be in the name of all the States which adhere to the Covenant. It will be the first decree of all the free nations, leaguering themselves together for the first time in the world's history to substitute right for might".

### Lord Curzon's Speech.

After the speech by the French representative Lord Curzon said:

"Born a year ago, amid great hopes, though not without anxious symptoms, the League of Nations today enters upon its active existence and on behalf of the British Empire I desire to express the loyalty of my Government and of the external Dominions to the League, of our intentions by every means in our power to ensure its practical efficiency and our firm belief that through its instrumentality alone we can hope to ensure that such horrors and miseries as the world has just experienced during the past five years shall not be repeated and that a new era of international relationships shall dawn.

"The League of Nations is the expression of a universal desire for a saner method of regulating the affairs of mankind. It is not a mere expression in platonic words of the necessity for international friendship and a good understanding. It provides the machinery by which practical effect may be given to these principles. The doctrine of the community of international interest is now for the first time provided with an instrument endowed with formidable powers, fortified by the allegiance of the governments and supported by the public opinion of the civilized world.

"The Council which meets for the first time to-day is the forerunner of many similar gatherings at which the States and nations, great and small, will meet together to promote this co-operation and to exchange views.

In the League of Nations an instrument is thus created which will bring together those who are chosen by their people to represent them.

"Should disputes unhappily arise, the disputants will find themselves in an assembly of impartial and unbiased counsellors, whose sole aim will be to remove any misunderstandings which may have arisen and to point the way towards an amicable solution. It has sometimes been said that the League of Nations implies the establishment of a Super-State or Super-Sovereignty. The very title League of Nations should be sufficient to dispel this misconception. The League does not interfere with nationality—it is upon the fact of nationality that it rests. The League is an association of Sovereign States, whose purpose is to reconcile divergent interests and to promote international co-operation in questions which are affecting or may affect the world at large.

### The Labour Conference.

"How valuable such international cooperation can be is proved by the Labour Conference which took place recently at Washington. There for the first time an attempt was made to bring together under the auspices of the League of Nations representatives of Governments, of employers and employees. In spite of many adverse circumstances delegates attended from 39 nations in every part of the world and the result has been a great advance towards the betterment of world labour conditions. Employers and Labour, brought face to face, found that there was a large extent of common ground on which they could meet.

"Instead of the violent conflict of class interests which was predicted by some, agreement was reached on many questions, for example that of the eight hour day and the forty-eight hour week, which has led to bitter disputes in the past. In a single month there were drafted and passed in most cases with a full measure of agreement six conventions and six recommendations. There is every hope that within twelve months the provisions of these instruments will be placed on the statute books of most, if not all, of the countries concerned. If this be fulfilled there will have been achieved in one year, through the machinery created by the Treaty of Versailles, an advance exceeding the results of the previous quarter of a century in the field of international action in industrial questions.

"The success of the Labour Conference is of good augury for the future of the League of Nations and in particular it has demonstrated the use and the power of public debate in one field of international action. The peoples of all countries have now learned that foreign affairs are their vital concern, and they are demanding with ever increasing insistence that international obligations shall not be incurred without their knowledge and behind their backs. Their eyes have been opened to

the necessity for cooperation between all nations but they ask that it shall be done with their knowledge and sanction.

### Diminution of Armaments.

"There is another and more important result, which is this—that great national armaments may automatically in time disappear. We shall not perhaps see this come about in the immediate future but the present weight of armaments is so oppressive to the nations and peoples concerned that we should at once resort to the measures indicated in the Covenant to bring relief.

"There are other activities of the League of wide significance, such as the just treatment of native inhabitants in territories under the control of the members, freedom of transit, equitable treatment of commerce among the members, and in another and not less important sphere the prevention and control of disease.

"The success of the League of Nations will affect many branches of human life and welfare. M. Bourgeois has explained that the League of Nations is called upon to perform certain duties in connection with the Treaty of Versailles.

"It will be asked to undertake further obligations under the terms of the other treaties of peace. In no case, however, will the obligations be inconsistent with the high conception which animated the forming of the League of Nations at the Peace Conference.

"In conclusion, I have to thank my colleagues for having given me the opportunity to utter these few words on an occasion of so much importance in the history of the spiritual progress of mankind".

The *Daily News* Paris correspondent, however, says, "There appears to be reasonable ground for the expectation that at the second meeting of the Council a U.S. member will be present. That is why yesterday's proceedings were deliberately made as brief and formal as possible. Actually the only executive act was the appointment of the Commissioners to administer the Saar Valley area. The appointment of a High Commissioner for Dantzig and Commissioners to administer the Saar Valley will be dealt with at the second meeting of the Council in a few weeks".

### "A l'Anglaise": Boom in Men's Clothing.

The passage of visitors of all nations through London has led to orders for British clothes from all parts of the world. So many Americans have bought English clothes that the characteristic American style may be modified. Japan and Scandinavia are also ordering British clothes and English tailors are being invited to settle abroad. Germany has naturally followed the signing of peace with a large demand for clothes and in fact a new cosmopolitanism in men's clothes produced in England seems possible.