

T. 14. 12. 37.
**THE ITALIAN WAY TO
 PEACE**

BILATERAL METHODS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
 ROME, DEC. 13

The recognition expressed in *The Times* and other London newspapers that the League can no longer be expected to fulfil the functions for which it was planned is quoted with approval here.

It is repeated that the methods of the League constitute a danger to peace. The system of automatic mechanism introduced into the Covenant for the purpose of preventing or stopping war, it is argued, was more likely to produce conflicts than to avert them. Italy has now abandoned this system, it is said, in order to collaborate with other and more efficacious means in the reconstruction of Europe.

It will be more suitable and more expeditious, writes the *Tribuna*, to continue the old system of bilateral and regional agreements and the development of principles of international law. It is certain that any system of collective organization of international relations which departs from them is destined to be wrecked on the inexorable exigencies of reality and produce a new and more potent cause of discord and war.

These comments lead one to suppose that Italy is not disposed to consider any reform of the League or even the creation of a new one.

Signor Gayda, while emphasizing once again the solidarity of the union between Italy, Germany, and Japan, denies that there is any idea of making this union into the nucleus of a new international society. He professes to dislike the idea of the world being divided into hostile groups of States. To-day, he says, the problem is to find a new system of international relations to take the place of that of the League.

VIEWS AT GENEVA

FROM OUR LEAGUE CORRESPONDENT
 GENEVA, DEC. 13

The semi-official German comment on the withdrawal of Italy from the League, containing the declaration that Germany herself would never return to Geneva, was made known to the Secretariat through its publication in the Press. Of the two decisions, the German decision never to return and the Italian decision to withdraw, the former is considered the more regrettable.

The emphatic declaration that Germany will not rejoin the League implies that Germany will lend no aid or counsel in its reform, a task which is now in full progress. But the League refuses to envisage a situation in which Germany will continue to reject all cooperation with the Powers within the League for the maintenance of peace through collective security.

A number of Italian officials of the Secretariat have announced their resignation.

T. 14. 12. 37.
**WORLD'S EXPENDITURE ON
 ARMAMENTS**

FROM OUR LEAGUE CORRESPONDENT
 GENEVA, DEC. 13

The latest edition of the Armaments Year-book of the League shows that world military expenditure has risen from £1,450,000,000 in 1932 to £2,400,000,000 in 1937. The world naval tonnage built and building rose from 5,830,000 tons in 1934 to 6,162,000 tons in 1936.

**NATIONAL LABOUR
 AND SANCTIONS**
 Times 27. 5. 36
"THE REAL ALTERNATIVES"

FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

It was announced in *The Times* on Monday that Lord Allen had asked that his membership of the National Labour Group should lapse as he was in complete disagreement with the Group's attitude towards the League of Nations. This step followed the publication in the *News-Letter*, the organ of the Group, of an editorial note which called for a new Covenant based not upon the desirable but upon the practicable, and declared that when sanctions had failed as a deterrent it would be folly to maintain them as a punishment.

The *News-Letter* comments on the subject in the current issue:—

The Note in our last issue in which we advocated the end of sanctions has come in for a good deal of criticism, not least from among members of the National Labour Group itself. It is natural that the present moment should be one of heart-searchings and honest, if temporary differences of opinion. Our Note, too, was perhaps unduly succinct as well as a trifle over brusquely worded. When we wrote of "calling off sanctions" we were not, it goes without saying, thinking of calling them off to-morrow. The new French Government, for one thing had then, and has still, to show its hand; the exact moment of liquidation is a matter for the Government to decide. What we were trying to enter our caveat against is the mere drifting on with economic sanctions in the vague hope that somehow, somewhere, they will produce some result or other. The real alternatives are surely now: (1) to call off the present partial effective sanctions and scale down commitment under the League Covenant until they do not exceed what the state of public opinion in this country will allow us to fulfil; or (2) to intensify them to the point at which they will be rapid and inevitably effective—the most obvious method being clearly the closing of the Suez Canal. But, if we choose the latter alternative public opinion must at all costs be educated up to what it means.

At present we are fatally disposed to assume that all our present problems can be solved without serious risk or discomfort to ourselves. We calculated, wrongly as it proves, that economic sanctions, with no serious military threat behind them, would be sufficient to end the Abyssinian war. They were not. For goodness sake let us not now, in a similarly vague and over-optimistic fashion, allow our people to suppose that closing the Suez Canal would mean no more than a comparatively comfortable, remote, professional war in the Mediterranean. Let every advocate of a League war make it abundantly clear to his supporters and constituents that this is likely to be a war in which they, and their nearest and dearest, will be deeply and irrevocably involved. And let us remember that hundreds of thousands of enthusiasts for the League are still strenuously opposing rearmament, and even discouraging young men from joining his Majesty's forces. There is something to be said for risking another world war to end war at this fifty-ninth minute of the eleventh hour, lest an even worse thing soon result. But there is nothing to be said for embarking on the adventure under the fatal illusion that it can be carried through with a handage over both our eyes and one hand tied behind our backs.