

PEACE CONGRESS IN CARDIFF

LORD ALLEN'S PLAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF, JUNE 16

The second day's session of the International Peace Congress in Cardiff to-day was chiefly notable for an 11-point programme submitted by Lord Allen of Hurlwood on which to found "a workmanlike system of collective security."

In the absence of Lord Davies, who was indisposed, the Rev. H. Dunnico, secretary of the Peace Society, occupied the chair.

LORD ALLEN said that the meeting of the League Assembly on June 30 would have a more decisive influence on the peace of Europe and the safety of the British nation than any previous gathering of the League. At no time since the Great War had there been so much honest bewilderment as to what ought to be done. The British Government was under an obligation to clear this bewilderment, for it was exceedingly dangerous to allow the public to drift any farther into confusion.

In his judgment it would be almost better to give up pious references to the League and security, and go back frankly to arming the nation in the hope of protecting our own interests, than to continue paying lip service to a conception to which we refused life or precision. The task which now faced us was the same as it was in 1919 when the League Covenant was drafted, but the approach to which was now different because we had allowed an immediate situation to develop which we knew should have been avoided.

The world was once more in the grip of fear and that state of mind now took precedence over all others. Certain immediate decisions must therefore be taken to allay fear before we could get a chance to take the more fruitful steps to organized peace. We needed therefore both an immediate policy and a long distance policy. We must be willing in one and the same statement to put out simultaneously our immediate proposals for 1936, and also reveal our ultimate intentions.

ELEVEN PROPOSALS

Lord Allen then submitted the following programme for his system of collective security:—

(1) The setting up of a League commission to deal with the problem of change by peaceful means and the consideration of revisions in the *status quo*. We should also declare our desire to expedite all those functions of the League which would promote social and economic cooperation ranging from a low tariff group and culminating in the work of the International Labour Office. The whole question of Colonial mandates should also be frankly discussed by this commission.

(2) The establishment of absolute equality in rights and armaments for Germany and her allies in the late War.

(3) That for a fixed period of time all European nations should attempt no changes by force, direct or indirect, and jointly protect the truce by every means including if necessary military action as laid down in Annex E of Locarno.

(4) No recognition of the *fait accompli* in Abyssinia. While scrupulously avoiding the infliction of vindictive sanctions on Italy, and holding out the hand of reconciliation, we must continue to refuse financial credits, or to trade with that country unless she comes to the conference table and agrees that the settlement of the Abyssinian dispute shall be under the auspices of the League.

(5) That during this interim stage of negotiations we should honour our obligations under the Locarno Treaty on the clear understanding that France will wholeheartedly enter into a discussion which will aim at both granting absolute equality to Germany, and providing a thoroughly workmanlike system for the security of the whole of Europe. That we should organize to prevent war, and not merely try to deal with it when it had broken out. This required, among other things, a preliminary declaration by Britain as to what she would be prepared to do in common with other countries providing the negotiations with Germany ultimately reached success.

GENERAL FOR EUROPE

(7) The form of collective security which we must declare our willingness to sign must be general for Europe, and not regional.

(8) Participation in this new European system shall require immediate steps to be taken so that the contribution of each nation to collective security shall be known and worked out in advance.

(9) During those negotiations the British Peace movement to concentrate, not on attacking our armaments, but on demanding a workmanlike system of collective security. On the signing of the new agreement a truce in armaments should be called to enable the resumption of the Disarmament Conference to take place with a real likelihood of success.

(10) Commissions should then be set up to consider the articles of the Covenant and to take into account the proposals he had made for improving its structure and procedure.

(11) A world conference to consider economic and Colonial questions should eventually follow the Fact Finding Commission contemplated in proposal No. 1, and to that America should be invited as a participant or observer.

REBUILDING BROKEN LEAGUE

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That, said Lord Allen, was the programme which at this eleventh hour could rebuild the broken League if Geneva were given a chance to consider it. If the League crumbled away or was shorn of its power the alternative would be an unholy alliance between the pacifists and the armed isolationists, a grim result in a world of good intentions.

A short discussion followed, in which M. LA PRADELLE (France), the Rev. A. J. BILLINGS (Australia), M. LYPACEWICZ (Poland), Dr. S. C. DAMAGLOU (Greece), and others took part, and then the Congress adjourned till to-morrow.

The Congress service was held at Llandaff Cathedral to-night, the preacher being CANON R. J. CAMPBELL.

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