

from it in arresting the growth of armaments. Man is the most unteachable of all animals. If you inflict punishment upon any other animal he quickly learns. The late war was the most terribly destructive in the history of the world and for that devastation competition in arms is largely responsible. That lesson was scored deep into the flesh of the world, and yet no sooner are we out of it than the nations spend their substance in devising and amassing fresh engines for war, fresh subjects spring up elsewhere to justify war. You might imagine that the one purpose and glory of national organization was human slaughter. Armaments today are thrice as expensive in men and material as they were before the great war, at the present rate they will soon be a hundred times as destructive and terrible. In peace, the burden was crushing, in war, the effect will be too terrible to contemplate. Disarmament is the only road to safety for the human race. Suspicions, fears, misunderstandings even quarrels are as inevitable among nations as among individuals, and if a deadly weapon is ready at hand, one day they will strike. The United States conference has the future of civilization in its charge, therefore I earnestly pray for its success. Twenty-five years ago Lord Salisbury in this room expressed the satisfaction which the people of this country felt at the peaceful solution which had just been reached of our last serious difference with the United States of America. Every man who is a man of British blood has been taught to regard a serious quarrel with the United States as unthinkable. That attitude of mind is in itself a guarantee of peace between the two countries, but this conference, held under the auspices of the United States, ought to carry us a stage further. It is the inculcation of a similar attitude towards all other peoples. If that is achieved at this assembly, the Washington Conference will be the greatest event of the last nineteen hundred years. "Of the Irish negotiations" he said in conclusion, "I cannot reveal any secrets of the conference room, that is the way to bring a conference to naught. All I can say is, that there is a better prospect of our invitation to the people of Ireland to come into free partnership in the British Empire as equals being heeded today than at any time for years. We are now at the most critical stage of the conference. There have been many faults, but not all on one side. But I shall say nothing that would make it difficult for us to arrive at an arrangement. There are three parties to the conference, all with their own susceptibilities success depends on the extent you can reconcile and accommodate those differences of temperament, of tradition, and of interests. In order to do that all parties must be prepared to give and take." He repeatedly empha-

sized the necessity of peace, saying that it was needed for the welfare of the Empire, as well as for the good relations of the British Isles. The worst aspect of a family quarrel, he added, was not only that it caused unhappiness within the family, but attracted the attention of neighbours. Declaring that there could be no peace and that a great opportunity would be lost if each party approached the tangled problem determined not to budge an inch, he explained, "we who are in the conference in behalf of the British Government and people regard ourselves there as the trustees of the Empire, the guardians of its honor and security. It is a high trust, we promise you we will not betray it."

Washington, Nov. 9th.—While the delegations of the Nations were working today quietly perfecting their plans for the armaments conference, cheering assurances of support for the purpose of the negotiations reached Washington from two important quarters of the old world. Mr. Lloyd George, in a message expressing regret that he could not attend the opening session on Saturday, declared the heart of Great Britain was "deeply set upon the success of the conference", and promised diligent efforts of the United Kingdom towards a solution of the problem of armaments. At the same time it became known through unofficial channels that the Pope has given his approval to the purposes of the Conference and might pronounce the official sanction of the Holy See at the consistory of November 21st. He has prepared to maintain close contact with the negotiations as they develop. The attitude of the Holy See is considered, especially by those of the Catholic Faith, as extremely important since it secures to the conference the support of what is termed by many "the greatest moral and spiritual power in the world." Messages of support from two forces, each of the greatest power in its own way, struck a note of encouragement in all the delegations as they conferred among themselves for the work ahead. Today the full membership of the United States delegation and its Advisory Committee met for the first time.

Washington, Nov. 9th.—Mr. Lloyd George's personal message delivered at State Department today by Sir Auckland Geddes, the British Ambassador, reads: "Will you please express to President Harding my very keen regret and disappointment at having been unable to leave England in time to attend the opening of the Washington conference". The discussions to which he has invited the Powers whose representatives assembled in Washington this week are of profound importance to the world. Nothing but the intensely delicate state of the Irish negotiations and absolute obligation which I feel to parliament and the country to be present here until these negotiations are completed and the Govt's

unemployment legislation is in operation, would have prevented my sailing last Saturday as I hoped to do. I must discharge that obligation before I leave, but I will at the earliest possible moment, and I hope to be with you before the conference reaches to decisive stage of its momentous work. I need not assure you, in the meantime, that the heart of Britain is deeply set upon the success of the conference. The world has needed such a lead as Mr. Harding gave us last July for many months. It was the new world's opportunity to have grasped it promptly as Mr. Harding, and his advisers did. It will prove a lasting credit to the clear-eyed statesmanship of the United States. Mr. Hughes expressed to the Ambassador the appreciation of the United States Govt. of the Prime Minister's message and said a reply to it would be cabled soon.

London Nov. 10th.—The Delhi Chamber of Princes unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the Viceroy to convey to the Prince of Wales when he landed in India expressions of the warmest greetings on behalf of the Chamber, emphasizing the attachment of the Indian Princes to the Imperial Throne.

London, Nov. 10th.—A statement issued after this morning's meeting of the Ulster cabinet members here, concluded as follows. "Sir James Craig, on behalf of the cabinet of Northern Ireland, wishes it clearly understood there can be no surrender of Ulster's rights."

Belfast, Nov. 9th.—Twenty-nine more Sinn Feiners held in the internment camps were unconditionally released yesterday. Eleven from the Rath Camp Curragh, eight from Spike Island, Queens-town and 10 from Ballykinlar. This makes the total of released to date 113, leaving the number interned at approximately 4,720.

LIBERTY OF PRESS UPHOLD.

Chicago officials brought suit in the name of the city, for \$10,000,000 against the Tribune and the News because they printed attacks on the city Government and declared that the city's credit was being injured. The case was thrown out of court, on the ground that the newspapers had merely done their duty to the public in exposing what they honestly believed were wrongs. The judge pointed out that there are only four grounds on which freedom of the press can be restrained; these are blasphemy, immorality, sedition, and defamation of character—and none of these had been in evidence in this case. Governments would soon be bad indeed if the newspapers could not criticise them. If people go into politics they must expect to be criticized, for they make themselves public objects. — *Pathfinder*, Oct. 29, 1921.