

has there been so melancholy a manifestation of insanity on the part of great masses of men than was afforded this summer. That nations, like individuals, occasionally go mad is a familiar truism. But was it ever more signally demonstrated than it has been this year by the Franco-German dispute about Morocco, by the Italian raid on Tripoli, or by the Irish railway strike? Looked at from the standpoint of cool reason, it is difficult to say which afforded the more striking demonstration of collective insanity. Fortunately both may now be spoken of in the past tense. But while they lasted they gave the sane observer the most uncomfortable sensation of being in a Bedlam broke loose. Why sober statesmen and serious workmen should simultaneously have been impelled to inflict wanton suffering upon themselves and upon their neighbors no one has yet been able to explain. Various hypotheses have been hazarded. The influence of malefic planets, the heat of the weather, the bite of the tarantula, or diabolical possession—none of these adequately explains why so many people in high places and in low should have acted as if they had been simultaneously deprived of their wits.

THE MOROCCO MADNESS

Take, for instance, the action of France, who began the Morocco incident by her carefully engineered Jameson Raid on Fez. France for years has coveted the possession of Morocco. She has no colonial army adequate to the task of overrunning Morocco and of holding a turbulent race of men whose unconquerable valor defied the legions of ancient Rome and the invincible armies of Spain at the zenith of her military might. Only a few years ago seven great Powers, herself being one, had solemnly agreed to regulate the future of Morocco on the basis of equal rights for all and the independence and integrity of the Sherifian Empire. Her own right of superintending the pacific penetration of Morocco by Western civilization was strictly defined. If it had been honestly exercised France might have ensured the peace and prosperity of the Sultan's dominions. But being discontented with anything short of a position of exclusive domination, France seized Fez on a pretext of allaying disorder which ranks in history with the "cry from the gold-reefed city" which summoned Dr. Jameson's heroes to the rescue of the matrons and maidens of Johannesburg. The immediate result of this move, in which alas! Sir E. Grey thought fit to support the action of France, was that the Spaniards advanced on pretexts equally illusory into the Moroccan province which they had marked for their own, and the Germans despatched a warship to lie off the town of Agadir. Thus the Morocco question was opened, to disturb the peace of Europe for months.

HOW NOT TO DO IT

If there had been any regard for the sanctity of treaties, the other signatories of the Algeciras compact ought to have collectively summoned the Powers which were in dispute to have either submitted their claims to the Hague Tribunal or to have laid the whole question once more before another Algeciras Conference. The latter course was suggested, but Germany would not listen to the suggestion. No one appears to have had the courage to propose that the Hague Tribunal should be asked to decide whether or not France had exceeded her treaty rights in the march on Fez. The British Government could not make the demand, for Sir Edward Grey had approved of the action of France, and none of the other signatories of the treaty ventured to interfere. The American Government, which could have made such a proposal with authority and without any danger, abdicated its functions. None of the signatories of the Hague Convention who had solemnly declared that they recognized it as their duty to remind disputants of the utility of the peace-making machinery of the Hague discharged that duty. It was not until the eleventh hour that the German Chancellor was reported to have said that even if things came to the worst there was always the Hague Tribunal to fall back upon. But things were allowed to come almost to the worst without any serious effort by any civilized Government to recommend the disputing Powers to submit the question at issue to the decision of a competent and impartial international tribunal.