

But whether this will be so or not, and whatever the settlement will be, the League has now reserved its moral judgment until the inevitable treaties can be scrutinized in the light of those conventions which already bear on the issues of the Far East.

After all, it is well to remember that this issue in the East, grave though it is, represents only one episode in a procession of many. Let us try to see things in a proper perspective. Suppose the League disappoints us in this present instance. If it keeps its sacred principles uncompromised we need have no fear. The only danger is that through a tendency to mere manoeuvre or too great an effort to please those principles may not be honestly upheld. That would be the great betrayal. Defeat itself would be, by way of comparison, nothing; it would only serve to show that the old nationalism of the 19th century in certain quarters of the world at least, is still too strong for the 20th century ideas which the League represents; that we have a longer road to travel than we had thought. But I agree with General Smuts when he said, some two years ago in speaking of its establishment:

"By the side of that great decision and the enormous step in advance which it means, any small lapses on the part of the League, are trifling indeed. The great choice is made, the great renunciation is over, and mankind has, as it were at one bound and in the short space of 10 years, jumped from the old order to the new, across a gulf which may yet prove to be the greatest break or divide in human history."

And we may agree too with Lord Grey when he said, only three months ago that, judged by the amount of progress which it has made in the last few years "the institution of the League of Nations and the work it has already done are perhaps the greatest landmark of progress in the history of the world."

The League represents the greatest effort in human history to replace in international life the law of the jungle with decency and order. Let us not lose faith in the League. Let us hope with an unbroken confidence that those ideals will remain unsullied and inviolate, those principles, like truth itself, will ultimately prevail.

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The bayonet is not a good answer to the boycott.

—Sir Austen Chamberlain.