

has effectively supplemented the testimony of Sir Edward Grey (now Viscount Grey) who was the British Foreign Minister. That Germany had resolved on seizing what her leaders thought was a favorable moment for bringing on a war, and that the difficulty with Serbia and the Russian mobilization were merely excuses for that policy, has been made so clear that nothing that the ex-Kaiser can say now to the contrary will be received with respect. If the German Emperor had placed himself at the head of his troops and fallen with those who sacrificed their lives, or even if he had remained in Berlin to share with his people the burdens of defeat, he might have been remembered in history as a brave man, if not as a wise one. In slinking away at the last moment and taking refuge in a foreign country and seeking to place on the shoulders of others the responsibility of the world war he presents a sorry picture.

The authenticity of the interview is now denied by a telegram from one of the inmates of the Dutch castle in which the ex-Kaiser is stopping. On the other hand, Mr. Begbie cables that he stands by his report. More will be heard on this point. In the meantime, it must be admitted that Mr. Begbie is a more reputable witness than the ex-Kaiser.

Attempting Too Much

THERE is much criticism of the Peace Conference on account of the long time occupied in its deliberations. It is now nearly five months since the armistice was signed. It is quite a long time since the Peace Conference had its first meeting. The delay of concluding a peace treaty is causing discontent in many quarters. Critics of the Conference allege that to this delay, and to the uncertainties arising from it, are due much of the disorder in Europe. The abdication of the Karolyi Government in Hungary and the handing over of the country to a faction in sympathy with the Bolsheviks is particularly said to be a result of such delay.

Constructive work is difficult and takes time. Criticism is easy. Nothing is easier than to find fault. It would be too much to expect that the many intricate problems before the Peace Conference could be so handled as to satisfy everybody. The difficulties in sight, and the difficulties that are not seen but which must be met by the statesmen at Paris, should appeal to all on-lookers to exercise patience and believe that every reasonable effort is being made to expedite the business.

The trouble, if trouble it is, seems to come from the fact that the Conference has taken upon itself a very big job—bigger, many people think, than is necessary. In insisting on the peace treaty and the League of Nations agreement appearing in one document, President Wilson and those who have agreed

with him broadened the field of discussion, and, naturally, the field of controversy. This alone would have accounted for much delay. Now a further cause of delay springs from the desire of the Conference to make one treaty which will apply to all the nations that have been at war, and also include the League of Nations covenant. There are many thoughtful observers who think that in endeavoring to accomplish all this in a single document the Conference is attempting too much. The most important and most urgent thing, it is held, was to make peace with Germany, and do it quickly. Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria were at war with us, but they were merely adjuncts of Germany. They followed Germany's lead in making war. They would follow her as readily in making peace. If the Conference had concentrated its efforts on the making of a peace treaty with Germany, it is believed such a document could have been settled long ago, and other matters could then have been taken up. There seems to be much room for the opinion that the Conference has attempted too much to allow of the prompt settlement of affairs.

The Absent Jap

THE working governing body of the Peace Conference at Paris, until recently, has been the Council of Ten, composed of two delegates each of the five great powers which won the war—Great Britain, France, Italy, the United States and Japan. Recently the Council of Ten seems to have remitted its work to a Council of Four, one from each of these powers, excepting Japan. The world's affairs are for the moment in the hands of Mr. Lloyd George, Premier of Great Britain; Mr. Clemenceau, Premier of France; Mr. Wilson, President of the United States, and Mr. Orlando, Premier of Italy. That so much power should be put in so few hands is remarkable. And more remarkable is the fact that in this great service the Japanese representative has no part. There have been whispers of Japanese dissent from the proposed covenant of the League of Nations, owing to the inability of the representatives of other nations to assent to Japan's claims for the unrestricted travel and residence of her people. Does the absence of Japan's delegate from the powerful small committee indicate that the ambitious nation in the East is to stay out of the League?

Japan has had a large part in the war. The Japanese fleet has policed the Pacific Ocean for the Allies. The shores of British Columbia, the Province which has so strenuously opposed the admission of Orientals, have been protected by Japanese warships. In many ways Japan's aid has been of great value in the winning of the war. It is not surprising that Japan should look for some recognition in the readjustment of the world's affairs. The Japanese are a proud people. Since they came into relations with

the Western nations they have aimed at the obtaining of full recognition as one of the powers of the civilized world. Their triumph over the great power of Russia naturally gave them increased importance in their own eyes, and in the eyes of the world. Their treaty of alliance with Great Britain enlarged their self-respect. It was by virtue of that treaty that they felt it to be their duty to enter the war against Germany. They have in every respect lived up to their engagements. They made a "gentlemen's agreement" with Canada, and subsequently one of the same character with the United States, and they have honorably fulfilled the terms of the agreements. For all this they ask that they be fully admitted into the family of nations, with every right that is accorded to citizens of any Western nation.

All this seems fair and reasonable. It is not easy to find a logical negative answer to Japan's claims. But on the other side of the question there remains, both in Canada and in the United States, the fear that the opening of the gates to the vast number of the Orientals, who by improved means of communication are brought near to the Canadian and American shores, would lead to such an invasion as would overcome the white races of the Pacific Province and States. The problem is one of the most difficult in this time of many troublesome problems.

Doubtful Power

THE Ontario Government have announced their intention of adopting legislation to require that in the selling of cream the price shall be governed by the proportion of butter fat that is found. The object doubtless is a good one. But there is much room for doubt of the power of the Ontario Legislature to pass any such law. "Trade and commerce" are Dominion matters. In time past there has been some difficulty in determining just what does and what does not come within the meaning of those words. The Attorney-General of Ontario will have some difficulty in framing a Provincial cream bill that will stand against the criticism of those who may not like it.

Out Of Politics?

ADVOCATES of the nationalization of all the railways of the country who have qualified their support with the declaration that of course the management of the roads must be kept entirely out of politics, will be interested in the announcement from Ottawa that a large deputation of the employes of the Canadian National Railways, dissatisfied with the action of the management, are now at the capital demanding immediate Government action in recognition of their claims.