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Peace.

The world was taken by surprise when, on Tuesday of last week, the news was sent abroad from Portsmouth that terms of peace between Russia and Japan had been agreed upon. It had seemed that the outlook was almost entirely hopeless. Japan had modified her terms by relinquishing her demands for indemnity, for the surrender of the interned warships and for the limitation of Russia's naval power in the Far East. She had also agreed to relinquish her claim on the northern part of Sakhalin Island on condition of the payment by Russia of \$600,000,000. But as this still meant indemnity for the cost of the war in a thinly veiled disguise, it was unacceptable to Russia, and Japan's concessions were accordingly meet with an unqualified refusal. So far as could be judged from an outside point of view, it was altogether improbable that Japan would make larger concessions, and accordingly it appeared inevitable that the Conference would end in failure. At this point the incident occurred which surprised all the world, including Russia and her envoys at Portsmouth. Japan intimated her willingness to withdraw entirely her demands for indemnity, and retaining only the southern part of Sakhalin, to make peace on the conditions to which Russia had already agreed. These conditions are to the effect that Japan's influence over Corea shall be recognized by Russia; that Russia shall evacuate Manchuria, while Japan undertakes to restore Chinese sovereignty and civil administration; that the integrity of Chinese territory shall be respected, while all nations are placed on the same footing as to commerce with China; that Japan shall take over the Russian leases of Port Arthur and the adjoining territory; that the railway to Port Arthur shall revert to China, which will probably be expected to pay Japan for it; that the policing of the railway across Manchuria to Vladivostok shall be entrusted to China, and that Japanese citizens shall have a right to fish along the Russian coast from Vladivostok to Behring Sea. The terms now indicated by Japan are far more generous than the Russian Government or its plenipotentiaries had ever expected and they were promptly accepted. Outside of Russia and Japan, there is general gratification at the assured prospect of peace, and President Roosevelt is receiving many congratulations on his success as a peacemaker. But in neither of the two countries most interested has the news of peace been received with unmixed satisfaction. There appears to be in Russia a party which desires to see the war prolonged and which does not want peace on any terms which Japan without utter self-stultification could grant. To this party a peace which not only recognizes Japan's supremacy in Korea and guarantees all her contentions prior to the war, but also cedes Russian territory to Japan is galling and unpalatable in the extreme. In Japan too there is a natural expression of dissatisfaction more or less strong with the terms of peace, on the ground that far too much has been conceded to a beaten enemy and the nation in part robbed of the legitimate fruits of victory. Among the Russian diplomats at Portsmouth, and in some other quarters, there would appear to be a disposition to regard the issue of the Conference as a great diplomatic victory for Russia, and to regard Japan as outwitted in the contest. We do not take this view of the case. Russia was evidently determined to continue the war rather than pay an indemnity. Would Japan have been justified in prolonging the conflict for the purpose of collecting an indemnity? We believe that the answer, both on ethical grounds, and on those of the highest statesmanship, must be given in the negative. In view of Russia's aggression and perfidy prior to the war, and in view of Japan's grand series of victories on land and sea, the demand for indemnity may indeed be regarded as not unreasonable. It is probable too that other victories scarcely less important were within her reach, but, apart from the question of indemnity, Japan had achieved in a very large measure at least the ends for which she entered upon the war, and if she had refused to make peace on the terms available, the responsibility for prolonging the bloody strife would have rested largely upon her. And it is more than doubtful if at the end Japan could have collected an indemnity from Russia or secured material advantages to reimburse her for the cost of the war. Again the moderation and magnanimity which Japan has exhibited in her hour of victory and of preparedness for further victory will be of incalculable value to her in her relations with the nations of the world. If Japan has won the admiration of the

world in the conduct of the war, still more has she won its admiration in the conclusion of peace.

Curzon and

Kitchener.

A gentleman from Bombay, India, and eminent in business there, was lately in Montreal, and discussed freely with a representative of a Montreal newspaper the subject of Lord Curzon's resignation. In this gentleman's opinion, and he thinks he voices what is very largely the sentiment of India in the matter, the British Government, in supporting the contentions of Lord Kitchener as against Lord Curzon, chose the wrong side. That is to say that Curzon's policy rather than Kitchener's was in the interests of India. It is intimated that it was fear of Lord Kitchener rather than a persuasion of the wisdom and justice of his policy that determined the Government's course. If the Government had supported Curzon and Kitchener had resigned, as he certainly would have done, the Government would have had to find him something to do at home, which perhaps would have been inconvenient. A man of his energies might have found out matters in connection with the administration of the army at home, which the Government would rather should not be known at present. "Unfortunately, we in India, who are the most concerned, have absolutely no voice in the matter at all. We must grin and bear it—and pay. Kitchener's victory, and the carrying out of his army scheme means extra taxation for a country which for the present cannot bear more taxation." The gentleman from Bombay, quoted from "The Times of India" the following, which he thinks expresses the quite unanimous sentiment of the country: "For good or evil, we have embarked in India upon a period of military dictatorship; and the potential evils it may bring in its train are not lessened by the thought that the general apprehensions aroused will probably exercise a wholesome restraining influence upon the present Commander-in-Chief. It is not the acts of Lord Kitchener we fear so much as the veiled subversion of constitutional principles which the change implies. Lord Kitchener will not be with us always, but the revolution he has wrought will remain with us after he has gone, and we do not like the outlook. We deprecate, most of all, the fact that the wishes of an entire country, and of a whole body of responsible, and experienced, and temperate administrators, have been rudely disregarded at the bidding of one man. . . . We mistrust Lord Kitchener's administrative scheme, because we do not believe it will work well; because we do not consider he has sufficiently studied the problems that confront him; because we do not wish to see the revenues of India at the mercy of any military man whose only real restraint in future will be the measure of his own forbearance. We condemn the manner in which it has been accepted by the Home Government, because we believe that they endorsed it less upon its merits than from fear of possible consequences to themselves if they refused it. . . . We do not believe that a scheme so imperfectly considered, so generally condemned, and so unhappily foisted upon India, is destined to remain long in working when it is put to the test."

Total Abstinence

the True

Temperance

An interview was lately published between Hon. Mr. Tarte and a workingman, in the course of which Mr. Tarte sought to impress upon the mind of the artisan the great advantage he would reap if, instead of spending a dollar for strong drink, he would invest the same amount in life insurance. This was certainly very excellent advice which many a wage earner who is spending a dollar or perhaps two or three dollars weekly in drink, might receive with great profit. It appears, however, that Mr. Tarte thought it necessary to tell the workingman that he did not advocate prohibition or total abstinence. In reference to this Dr. L. A. Lessard, of Granby, Que., has written a letter to Mr. Tarte. Dr. Lessard declares that so long as the masses are taught that "abuse" alone constitutes the evil in the matter of strong drinks, the desired reforms cannot be secured. He points out that while alcohol may be found useful in the pharmacopoeia, the same as strychnine and other poisons, medical science refuses to recognize it as an article to be used in the ordinary course of life; and he adds: "In this matter more than in any other, half measures are entirely insufficient. Knowing the physiological effects of alcoholic liquors on the different vital organs, I can assure you that if you allow the use, you will too often have the abuse. That is

inevitable." "In my humble opinion," the doctor adds, "there is safety in total abstinence only. Has there not been constant talk against abuse, and yet, what results have been obtained?" The doctor then quotes the following remarks of Professor Gruber, after a study of the different effects of alcohol on different natures: "Who among us could state beforehand whether he belongs to the category of those who cannot be injured by liquor, or to the infinitely more numerous category of those who are influenced by it? Who could tell, in advance, what daily dose he can bear without suffering any damage?" Dr. Lessard concluded his letter as follows: "Do you not, then, believe, my dear sir, it would be better, if we wish to succeed in the fight against alcohol to use the surest measures? Past experience stands there to teach us. Let us take up the battle with courage. There is no room here for any feeling of false shame. The fact of being called a 'water-drinker' or a 'teetotaler' never hurt the reputation of any one, to my knowledge. I trust, therefore, that you will recognize total abstinence as the real sheet-anchor, and will admit that it is the only one to be recommended." Dr. Lessard's doctrine on this subject is wholesome, and it is a hopeful indication that an increasing number of physicians are speaking out plainly as to the lack of any good to be derived from alcoholic drinks even by the most moderate drinkers, and as to the wisdom from all points of view, of total abstinence.

The Open Air

Treatment.

"The advantages of the open air treatment for consumptives," says Dr. H. W. G. Mackenzie in the London Lancet: "The patient exposed continuously to fresh air gains in appetite, assimilates his food better, sleeps more soundly and awakens more refreshed. Free exposure to air is the best antipyretic. Sweating at night, formerly so common a symptom, usually ceases. Colds are practically unknown among patients leading an open-air life. Secondary infection, on account of the comparative freedom of the air from micro-organisms, is much less likely to occur. Tolerance of outside air is very quickly established, and no one who has tried the open-air life will willingly go back to the former conditions of stuffiness. I have never seen any one made worse by exposure to fresh air. Even during a thick London fog patients get on better lying in bed on a balcony or in rooms with windows wide open and a good fire burning than when attempts are made to shut out the fog by keeping the windows shut."

Race

Suicide.

The subject of race suicide has again been raised in London by the publication of the latest birth returns, showing a continued decline. It is pointed out that there is the same tendency in all Christian countries. Ireland is now almost on a level with France, and the last quarter's statistics for England and Wales are the lowest ever recorded, equalling only 27.8 per thousand annually. The Bishop of Ripon declares that the falling birth-rate is a sign of national decadence, and considers the outlook most grave from the imperial point of view. That the declining birth-rate is not wholly due to causes over which those most immediately interested have no control, is indicated by the fact that the Mayor of Huddersfield's promise of one pound sterling for each baby born during his year of office has already led to a rapid rise in the local birth-rate. The Corporation is co-operating by a scheme of baby inspection and instruction for mothers. The Princess of Wales has expressed hearty appreciation of the movement.

The Catalogue Gazette, says a Berlin despatch, prints extracts from private letters written by Prof. Robert Koch, who went to German East Africa at the end of 1904 for the further investigation of certain tropical diseases, showing that he had already made important discoveries about the tsetse fly. The professor found the breeding ground of this fly, and he says that the insect can be rendered harmless through simple means. Prof. Koch made the still more important discovery that trypanosomes, which are present in sleeping drops, existing in the tsetse fly. He further discovered in April last that the relapsing fever is transferred to men through a small sand tick. These discoveries are regarded here as of great scientific importance. The professor visited the Chebe tableland, which he found to be temperate and salubrious and highly suited to European settlement.