

Disarmament and World Peace may be won  
but the price is high.

For more than sixteen years since the end of the Great War men and women of goodwill throughout the world have hoped and prayed for disarmament to be brought about through international agreements or pacts, which should lead to permanent peace with war as a means to settle disputes forever banished from the policy of nations. And to that end and definite purpose was the League of Nations, with its Solemn Covenant to eliminate war conceived and created; and domiciled at Geneva with over fifty signatory nations having representatives attending its sessions and contributing their best efforts toward the great objective.

With the same high purpose for years past many disarmament and peace conferences and conventions have been held at Washington, London, Paris, Geneva, Locarno and elsewhere, attended by national delegates sincerely seeking a solution of the problems involved.

These men have earnestly sought to initiate and launch pacts and agreements calling for gradual disarmament of nations, while carefully providing during the process for full security of the nations involved - the ultimate object being to accomplish general disarmament to the point where military, naval and air forces should not exceed what might be termed police forces, sufficient to cope with internal national disorder, while equally competent to control any aggressor nation seeking to break pacts or agreements by resort to force.

To this great task has been devoted the highest intelligence and noblest sentiment of leading men of many nationalities while every means would appear to have been employed to secure success. And yet, after all these years of honest effort what, frankly speaking, is the situation today?

The whole world stands perplexed and discouraged in the shadow of disillusion and disappointment before the spectacle of the great nations of the earth supporting armies, navies, and air forces, greater and better equipped than ever before, while governments claiming the necessity of defense and so justifying their policy openly compete in the race for the maximum of war preparations, burdening their peoples with taxation almost past the point of endurance.

Have we, therefore, to accept the view of cynics and pessimists that World Peace is an empty dream and giving up hope supinely to await the inevitable Armageddon - war more blasting than ever before - with its foul sequel of civilization wasted while the primal law of "might is right" again dominates the earth?

The answer should be an emphatic No, for although the good work of the League of Nations, of Governments and of disarmament Conferences may have so far failed of their objective all means available have not yet been exhausted.

Have we not overlooked a great source of strength - have we not to enlist in a great Crusade for disarmament and peace that most powerful of all forces the united will of men and women of all nations concentrated on one noble purpose? Have we forgotten that something divine in every soul which responds to the right appeal - in this case the call for devotion wholeheartedly to the winning of the greatest boon for which humanity hungers, "Goodwill amongst men, peace on earth".