

took place in regard to the question of the relation of the civil to the military executive. But we must not on that account begin to speak of cabals on the one hand, and incompetence on the other. In the free play of forces, which is the great feature of the British system, we may be confident that a right solution has been or will be found. We may be proud, in fact, of both Lloyd George and Asquith. The great point for the enemy to grasp is that, in some forty bye-elections that have been held since the war began, no pacifist has ever won a seat, or has even dared to stand. England knows quite well what the "next war" would mean for her, started as it would be by an enemy who recognizes no obligations of either law or morality, and who would be quite capable of making a sudden attack without notice. The German successes in the East have probably made Lord Lansdowne realize that his suggestions are inopportune. No doubt, when the time comes, such an informal preliminary conference as he has advocated would be an excellent introduction to the formal gathering of peace plenipotentiaries. But the time has not yet come. Some peace feelers are out, and the German Emperor has publicly expressed his willingness to live in friendship with neighbouring peoples. But he did not fail to specify his condition—"that the victory of the German arms must first be recognized." This is just like Germany's attitude to the proposed League of Nations. Her spokesmen are quite willing to have such a League, provided that "we Germans" are to be its head, and provided also that they are to have full opportunity of stealing everything in sight before the League is constituted. They desire, in fact, to have an international *imprimatur* set upon their burglaries and atrocities of all kinds. France and England both know Germany through and through. They are equally desirous of peace, which is in fact what they have been fighting for since the beginning of the war. But, as Monsieur Clemenceau said the other day to the French Chamber, "It is not by bleating about peace that we shall destroy Prussian militarism." That is why the Allies