

When Labour Rules

the murders at Serajevo, there would have been no war. But as it took the War to make the world see this it will be a million pities if the lesson is not taken to heart to the fullest possible extent, and the possibility of such an occurrence breaking out again made out of the question.

Supposing, however, the League, had there been one, had settled the difference between Austria and Serbia, it would have wanted powers far greater than the League at present pretends to. Austria, or any other State which happens to be in the geographical position, can without any interference place such duties upon transit through its domain, that a landlocked country could be crippled. Suppose the countries that lie round Switzerland decided to strangle that country's trade, it would be the easiest thing in the world. Tariffs could make it impossible for her to do any trade at all save within her own borders, and everything going into the country could be made so dear to bring in that the price of everything would be prohibitive, and throw the country out of competition with the rest of the world.

The whole of the ground needs further exploration, but it is sufficiently clear to me that a League of Peoples will go far to prevent the wars that the generals tell us are sure to come. The causes which might lead to war are sure to arise, that we must all recognise. But it is not thinkable that, with women soon to have the power to vote the world over upon reaching twenty-one years of age, a Parliament of Peoples will not find a way to avoid disaster, to adjust the differences between nations, and so bring in the real reign of peace.

Just what powers it would be necessary to give to this central authority it is not the moment to