

France the first Power on the continent, and it is this position rather than the territorial arrangements as such that she is now endeavouring to safeguard. These curity of existing frontiers has become the security of her present prestige.

Security, whether of frontiers or prestige, attained by the methods France has adopted inevitably promotes insecurity of other states. This is specially true as respects Germany, which is surrounded by the armed ring of France and her satellites. While Stresemann remained at the helm the forces of reaction in Germany were held in check, but it is doubtful if even Stresemann could have made headway against the storm of the past few months. Germany has been profoundly disappointed with the results of the Stresemann policy of reconciliation with France and fulfilment of treaty obligations. Locarno did not lessen the military threat against Germany. Not until 1930 did the French troops leave the Rhine, and then only after combined diplomatic pressure on the part of Germany and the British Labour Government. Reparations still remain the occasion of trouble, in view of the French hostility to anything savouring of leniency. On top of the growing resentment came the economic depression to add fuel to the flame. Nor can Germans overlook the French delay of the Hoover moratorium last summer until it all but failed to save Germany from utter financial collapse.

German resentment, however, goes beyond immediate French policy to the Treaty of Versailles. The territorial settlement in the East which cut East Prussia from the rest of Germany by the Polish Corridor and which left, all told, some two and a half million Germans under Polish rule has not been accepted by the masses of Germany as a final settlement. The war guilt clause, by which Germany was compelled to accept responsibility for herself and her allies for starting the War, has never been believed by the German people. Historical research has confirmed their disbelief. To the patriotic German it is a living lie, reflecting on the honour of his beloved country.

No less a cause of bitterness is the inequality in armaments begun by the Treaty and still unadjusted. It must not be forgotten that in compelling the reduction of Germany's armaments the Allies definitely promised general disarmament.¹

1. The preamble to the disarmament section of the Treaty of Versailles reads:

"In order to render possible the initiation of a general limitation of the armaments of all nations, Germany undertakes strictly to observe the military, naval and air clauses that follow".

This clause was drafted by the Allies, not by Germany. Moreover, in their reply to the German delegation on June 16, 1919, they declared:

"The Allied and Associated Powers wish to make it clear that their requirements in regard to German armaments were not made solely with the object of rendering it impossible for Germany to resume her policy of aggression. They are the first steps toward that general reduction and limitation of armaments which they seek to bring about as one of the most fruitful preventives of war, and which it will be one of the first duties of the League of Nations to promote."