

STEADILY FORGING AHEAD.

The closure of another international session at Geneva leaves the paramount impression that the League of Nations is slowly but surely making headway, and bit by bit registering decisions which in their united sum and influence will at least moderate the ravages of warfare and go far towards bringing civilized nations to a resolution wherein future wars will be made as difficult as possible and wear the aspect of a nation gone Berserker. The fact that eighteen nations by proxy of their delegates have signed an agreement upon the question of arms traffic control, and that twenty-seven nations have formally outlawed the use of bacteria and poison gas in warfare, speaks for the growing prosperity of the great cause the conferees have at heart, and not less for the faith, courage and perseverance of all taking part in the Genevan deliberations. France has not yet signed the proscription of poison gas, but there is no doubt assent will be given, especially as Germany has become a signatory to this item of the peace programme. And the big powers having given their consent to the scheme for limiting warfare, it is a foregone conclusion that others who have not yet appended their mark will follow suit in due time. The decisions arrived at and put upon record will not become positive enactments until the delegates have consulted their respective governments. It may be safely assumed, however, that none of them would sign the agreements without having an intimate knowledge of how the sentiment among their people stood and a firm persuasion that their personal subscription would be honored by the home administration.

The elimination of bacteria and poison gas from the warfare of the future will rid the world of some of the nightmare horrors modern war conjures up in the mind. This is an encouraging beginning in the way of mitigating the slaughterous passions chemical warfare involves. And another hopeful feature is the number of naval and military persons who were representatives at this session of the Genevan conference. Knowing as others do not know what modern war really means, it is the more significant of the temper of nations ten years after the great conflict that these experts conjoin in condemning these inhuman agents of destruction and vote to wipe them off the slate. Still more meaningful is the fact that should the decisions of the League, as recently framed, become operative, nations will have mutual knowledge and authoritative information of the transport of military arms from one country to another. This international knowledge and broadcast instruction should have its effect in giving a different complexion to future mobilization movements. It stands out in striking contrast to the secret preparations and confused misgivings which have led to international hostilities in the past. Altogether, the Genevan session just closed bears favorable comparison with the good work achieved at prior assemblies. The delegates may return homewards justly conscious that, despite tremendous difficulties and occasional setbacks, in act and promise their work is each year securing wider recognition and its influence becoming stronger as the nations realize its values and its ultimate goal.