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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1920

## LEAGUE SHOWS REAL PROGRESS AT FIRST ASSEMBLY MEETING TOWARD INTERNATIONAL PEACE

### World Court Plan First in Importance

Disarmament Move is Rated Second—League No Longer European Alliance, But Organization of All Powers

By Charles A. Selden.  
(Special Cable Dispatch to New York Post)

Geneva, Dec. 16.—With only two days left of the five-week session of the League of Nations Assembly, the time has come when a summing up may be made of this first meeting and some appraisal given of what has been its value and significance to the world.

Such an appraisal must be made not from the viewpoint of any one of the five continents but all of them. That in itself suggests the chief gain of all, namely, that the five continents have by comparison of notes and working in common on the same problems actually begun to have a common ground. Therein lies the one great difference between this Geneva meeting and the Paris Peace Conference. At Paris the two chief interests and motives were to punish the enemy and divide up what was taken away from him. There was no harmony as to the decision. The states which were at Paris, and many more besides, have come together at Geneva not to see what they can get but to consider what they should give, and they have all given something.

**Arms Reduction Move.**  
At Geneva the problem has not been to punish enemies, but to consider the matter of forgiving enemies and taking them back into international relations. At Paris all the emphasis was on disarming Germany. At Geneva forty-one nations have taken the first tangible move toward reduction of all their armaments. At Paris in the Adriatic question between Italy and Jugoslavia there was nothing but the menace of another war. At Geneva Tito of Italy and Zolger of Jugoslavia have worked together in committee to perfect an international court of justice. At Paris there was nothing but a boundary dispute and its accompanying bitterness between Poland and Czechoslovakia. Here the representatives of those two countries have been working together in six different committees handling as many major world problems. Japan voted yesterday afternoon for election of China as a member of the League Council. There are a thousand and one similar illustrations.

Many of the old quarrels still exist, but they no longer furnish the only questions in which the nations are interested, and they no longer demand war as the only means of solution. The psychological value of these personal contacts between nations and the fact that they must be left out of summing up the gains of this assembly. The men who leave here at the end of this week to return to their own capitals of their own nations, whose influence in their governments is real. This first Assembly in five weeks of hard work has done more to restore real world peace than the Paris Conference could do in five months. The truth of that statement would not be disputed even if Poland and Russia resumed hostilities tomorrow.

**Progress With Court Plan.**  
It is perfectly true that the league has not scored one hundred per cent. success on any one of the big questions, but in each of these questions the element of success has been larger than that of failure. For example, the Court of International Justice is not a compulsory jurisdiction. That fact is due to the unanimous rule in assembly voting that the fact that many states did not prefer compulsory jurisdiction. But even so, failure on this point is more nominal than real.

In the first place, the court compulsory jurisdiction in various matters has made it possible for any or all states to make the court compulsory among themselves in such matters as they decide by special agreements. There is no far from being an empty failure that progressive leaders like Barnes, Cecil, Rowan and Nansen look upon it as the first step toward the reduction of armaments. It is the second best thing done at this session. It is the second best because it is less important than the court, but because the assembly could not get so far on this question as desired. But by a vote of thirty to seven the nations assembled here have recommended to all governments not to increase their military budgets for the next two years. It is too early to scoff at that as little better than some of the governments have had time to respond.

"It is at least something," as Mr. Barnes of England put it. "We have a new point of departure. If we do not begin immediately to reduce armaments, at any rate, we can cease increasing." Furthermore, the assembly has created every needed facility to get information on which to lay the ground work for a further disarmament move at the next assembly.

On mandates little or no progress was made. That was not the fault of the league, however, but due to failure of the Allied Powers to agree upon preliminaries in the matter, which is necessary before the league can function. **Early Faults Overcome.**

But in question even more fundamental and far-reaching the assembly makes a still better showing and will close the first session with gains that are almost 100 per cent. In its beginning the league was not only too exclusively European but too exclusively dominated by one section of Europe. Also the council, which dominated in the first months, was too much a continuance of a war alliance. It, council, or the governments lack of it, manifested a desire to retain its dominance even after the assembly got into action. These defects have been rectified.

The assembly which came together November 15 uncertain as to its power and strength, and wondering what if anything it might accomplish, will adjourn December 18 sure of itself as an agent of all the world, with real power its own, not subject to domination of

the smaller council, and not controlled by any section of the world. The council itself recognizes and acknowledges this. The precedents established at the first session rather than the formal rules are fixed things for the future. The council's first attitude, for example, was that it was not obliged to account to the assembly for any of its acts and that it had no jurisdiction over league finances. But one motion of Mr. Barnes, that the council explain its failure to attempt to prevent the Polish-Russian war, brought forth before the full assembly a defence and explanation by the council. It was not a good defence, but the main point was that the yielding of the council to that demand from the assembly determines the conduct of future councils.

**Jurisdiction Over Budget.**  
In the same way the Assembly successfully asserted its right to review the League budget on the ground that financial control must be a larger and more representative body of the League, according to the example of all parliaments. Whatever this country does next year will have to be accounted for to representatives of all the nations at the second session of the assembly.

The council itself has been vastly improved by the election of China to succeed Greece as a member. That election also is a big factor in what has been accomplished toward making the League a world organization instead of a European league. The danger is safely over. Fifteen South American states have astonished Europe with their demonstration that they amount to far more than mere groups of people with whom to carry on commerce. What they have done for the southern continent in proving that all the world must hereafter participate in world politics has been done for North America by Canada under the remarkable able leadership of Mr. Rowell, not as an appendage of England but as an independent state. It is to Mr. Rowell more than anybody else that hereafter there is to be no doubt about members of both council and assembly being representative of their governments.

**High Grade Leadership.**  
The leadership of both sides has been high grade and splendid. Not a slur nor an ounce of mud has been thrown at the five weeks. As usual there have been many little private diatribes and laments about no evidence of any intrigue and intrigue growing out of these gatherings. Lord Robert Cecil, the South African delegate, is a great conciliator as well as a hard fighter. He has gained much for liberalism, whereas a man of the same aims but of a different temperament might have lost everything.

It was Nansen of Norway who first insisted that the non-European states have a full share in the management of the assembly. I have spoken of the leadership of "both sides" because of the evidence at the outset that there were conflicting liberal and reactionary tendencies here. But the evidence has been cleared as the session has proceeded; sometimes it has vanished altogether. Unanimity has been reached on practically every question after hours and days of debate in committee and before the full assembly.

It was Mr. Viviani of France who was looked upon as the chief apostle of reaction at the beginning, but he has lost that reputation. It was Viviani who wanted to admit Armenia to the League. It was Mr. Branting of Sweden, of strange contrast, who was the champion of the Baltic States. Mr. Viviani now is looked upon as a man personally willing to go a long way on the liberal road, but must wait a little until his people are in the mood to follow him.

The great hope now is that by another year France will feel that the situation is such that she can see things more as the Scandinavians see them, for example, as England would see them now if she were not afraid of hurting France's feelings. At any rate Viviani will leave Geneva with the respect and admiration of many men who have more faith than he may now show in the new methods of safeguarding states.

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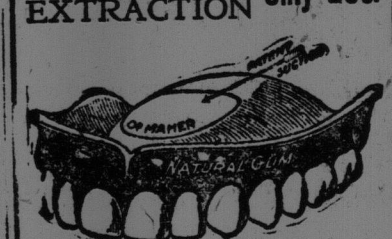
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### MINING SALT IN SASKATCHEWAN

Regina, Sask., Dec. 29.—Salt mining in the saline deposits at Senlac, Sask., has been commenced by the Senlac Salt Company and the company is now hauling a low grade rock salt a distance of ten miles to the nearest railway by motor trucks. The company has built a shed at the site of the deposits and has installed a number of evaporating pans. They expect shortly to be evaporating salt at the rate of about ten tons a day. A contract has been made by the company to supply the United States Grain

Growers of Alberta next year with its entire requirements of salt for cattle purposes.

### BIG MID-WINTER CLOTHING CLEARANCE AT M. R. A. LTD.

The wonderful values offered will enable every man and boy to have new clothes for the new year. We could talk a long time about the splendid fabrics used; about the little details of tailoring perfection which make the clothes sold here so stylish and shapely, and about the many reasons why they give so much service and value but we would rather you would see these things for yourself. This is really a great Clothing Occasion—an opportunity to buy just the kind of clothes you want at the price of very inferior makes. Every new and desirable suit and overcoat of the present season is included in this selling event. The bargains are well worthy your immediate consideration. Sale ends on January fifth. The sooner you make your selections, the more room you have for individual choice.

### LOCAL NEWS

Big month end sale of suits, coats, and dresses now on at F. A. Dykeman's. The greatest values in town. See them. 12-31.  
Excellent home-made fruit cake, 50c



and the sealed air-tight carton keeps it "Good".

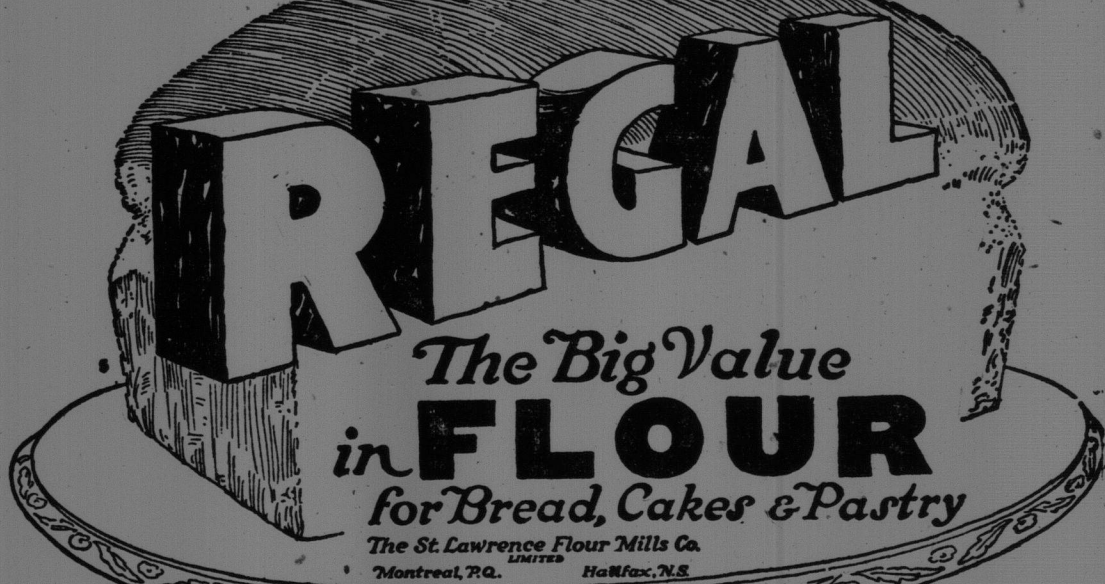
Red Rose Tea comes to you with all its original rich strength and rare flavor fully retained.

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The Big Value  
in FLOUR  
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per lb. Morrell's Grocery, 40 Winter street.  
Using "Perfect" Baking Powder keeps St. John wheels turning.

Victoria rink now open. Band every night and Saturday afternoon. 12-11

Don't forget the children's musical festival, Imperial Theatre, Thursday, December 30, at 4.30, 12-30.

Gibson & Company have all sizes hard coal, also Old Mine Sydney coal. Phone Main, 2636 or 594. 1-3.

London, Eng., Dec. 29.—At the age of 71 an inmate of Bawell Workhouse is engaged in the boiler house from 6.30 a. m. to 7.30 p. m. every day in the week. He takes a keen delight in his work. The board insisted, however, that he take a day off every week.

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1 lb. blocks ..... 29c.  
3 lb. tins ..... 84c.  
5 lb. tins ..... \$1.40  
20 lb. pails ..... \$5.50

SHORTENING

1 lb. blocks ..... 23c.  
3 lb. tins ..... 65c.  
5 lb. tins ..... \$1.10  
20 lb. pails ..... \$4.30

California Peaches, sliced and halves ..... 35c. tin  
California Pears ..... \$3.85 doz.  
California Apples ..... \$4.05 doz.

Finest Orange Pekoe Tea 40c. lb.  
2 cans Tomatoes, Corn or Peas ..... 35c.  
4 lb. tins Kielbasa Scotch Marmalade for ..... \$1.25

Fancy Barbados Molasses ..... \$1.25 gal.  
Finest Delaware Potatoes 40c. pk.  
1-2 bbl. bag \$1.95

2 pkgs. Liptons Jelly Powder for ..... 25c.  
10 lbs. Choice Onions for ..... 25c.  
4 bars Laundry Soap ..... 25c.  
2 tins Old Dutch ..... 25c.  
2 pkgs. Lux ..... 25c.  
surprise, Gold or Sunlight Soap, cake ..... 10c.  
3 cakes Lifebuoy Soap ..... 25c.  
2 boxes Matches for ..... 25c.

Robertson's  
11-15 Douglas Ave. Phone M. 3461, M. 3462  
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FLOUR

98 lb. Bags Flour, all kinds ..... \$6.40  
24 lb. bags Flour, all kinds ..... \$1.70  
10 lb. Finest Gran. Sugar ..... \$1.15  
15 oz. pk. Red Ribbon Raisins ..... 25c.  
1 lb. Boxes Mixed Peels ..... 55c.  
Excelsior Dates, per pkg. ..... 19c.  
4 lbs. New Mixed Nuts ..... \$1.00  
1 lb. Flavored Sugar ..... 15c.

SHORTENING

20 lb. pails ..... \$4.35  
10 lb. pails ..... \$2.25  
5 lb. pails ..... \$1.10  
3 lb. pails ..... 70c.  
1 lb. blocks ..... 25c.  
Pure Fruit Syrup, per bottle ..... 35c.  
Finest Orange Pekoe Tea, pkg. ..... 45c.  
22 oz. Bottle Mixed Pickles ..... 35c.  
22 oz. Bottle Chow ..... 45c.  
2 pkg. Pure Gold Tapioca ..... 25c.  
2 pkgs. Pure Gold Chocolate ..... 25c.  
Corns Flakes ..... 25c.  
Oranges, per doz ..... \$1.00, 85c, 65c.  
Choice Mince Meat, per lb. ..... 25c.

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Onoto Ink Pencils (Can't Leak) \$3.00

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Last Year—Better Call for  
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Chicago, December 29.—Western railroads are 100 per cent. on their car orders and a majority have a surplus. The movement of freight trains is rather above normal for this season, owing to mild weather. There is no congestion and railroads are working to get business. The movement of coal is in excess of last year, which is the only kind of freight that is showing a gain.

Railroads are returning cars to connections more promptly and the home movement in recent years. Even coal cars are being returned in an irregular. On three of the big Western systems increases of 1 to 3 per cent. are shown, the Rock Island and the Great Northern showing a fair increase in business from connecting lines, while that originating on its own lines is running sharply behind, there being a loss of 5,000 cars in the first half of December.

The passenger business is picking up. Roads running to the Pacific Coast are reporting business nearly up to capacity, while the Southern lines are behind last year.

Operating expenses are being cut wherever possible, and all surplus men are being let go so that the overhead charges can be kept down to the lowest possible limit without injury to service.

Freight loadings on Western roads are irregular. On three of the big Western systems increases of 1 to 3 per cent. are shown, the Rock Island and the Great Northern showing a fair increase in business from connecting lines, while that originating on its own lines is running sharply behind, there being a loss of 5,000 cars in the first half of December.

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