

whose only means of action it is—how could they hope to retain an effective voice in the deliberations? Assuredly, as the President's deep study of the problem must have convinced him, neither the Council nor its work of peace could long survive such a beginning.

It is in no captious spirit that this warning is given. A long and rich experience of what the naval arm can do in preventing war leaves no doubt in British opinion that, if it were proposed seriously to weaken that power, the President's greater aim of a League of Peace would be infected at its birth with the germs of a fatal disease. A League of Peace is hard enough to form with everything in its favour. Again and again it has failed. There is much in its favour to-day, and now that it is put forward with greater weight and greater hope of success than ever before, the first duty of those who sincerely welcome the new "Grand Design" is to guard against this confusion of the end with the means which can only destroy all chance of seeing it realised as a lasting solution of international discord.