

bodies elaborate financial and economic provisions to which further reference will be made, and finally it establishes guarantees for the execution of the Treaty and for assuring the future peace of the world.

So far as Alsace Lorraine is concerned there is little need of argument. Those provinces, predominantly French in sentiment and thoroughly desirous of remaining French in their national status, were wrested by force and against their will from France fifty years ago. This barbarous and historic injustice has now been redressed and the lost provinces are once more joined to their parent state. The Allied Nations—I shall use the term "Allied" for brevity in speaking of the Allied and Associated Powers—have also made good to the people of Northern Schleswig the promise which Prussia gave in 1866 and which ever since has been constantly violated. These people will now have the opportunity of expressing by a free vote their desire for reunion with their motherland.

The emancipation of Poland and its establishment as a free and independent nation with access to the sea, have commanded the approval of the world. The difficulties in securing such a delimitation of territory as would afford access to the sea and at the same time would not do violence to national affiliations and sentiments were extreme; and they have involved very elaborate and complicated provisions, which have received the closest study and consideration, which may not prove completely satisfactory in their operation, but which, on the whole, are the best that could be devised. In this as in every instance adequate safeguards have been provided for protecting the rights of minorities and assuring to them freedom of conscience and security of person and property.

In all his systematic destruction of property and of all indicia of civilization and progress, the German was never more thorough than in the ruin which he wrought on the coal fields of Northern France. It was the definite and fixed purpose of the German Government so to paralyze French industry by confiscation or destruction of industrial plants and by the wanton ruin of French coal fields, that French industry could never again raise its head in competition with Germany. No one would question the need of both restitution and punishment for such crimes. The means and the method were the subject of long

debate and grave consideration. Finally the coal fields of the Saar Basin which has hitherto been German territory, have been placed under a commission to be appointed by the League of Nations which will in effect govern the district for fifteen years. Necessary safeguards have been provided for assuring to the people their religious liberty, their language and their schools. The coal fields are placed at the disposition of France. At the end of fifteen years the people are to determine by plebiscite whether they desire to remain under the League of Nations or to be transferred to France or to Germany. In the latter case the French mines within the district will be transferred to Germany upon the payment of suitable compensation to be credited on the reparation account.

The provisions for the destruction of Heligoland and for the internationalization of the Kiel canal are obviously just and I need not dwell upon them.

To deprive Germany of her entire colonial empire was a stern though just measure. The world's future peace imperatively demanded this action. No effective attempt at colonization had been made by the Germans; their purpose was purely exploitation and commercial advantage. They had been guilty of barbarous and relentless cruelty and oppression in their dealings with the natives. There was abundant evidence, especially in German Southwest Africa, that the native tribes who had shown themselves friendly to the Allies would have been exterminated if German power had been again restored. And there was no illusion as to the future policy of Germany if these colonies should be retained. Strongly fortified naval bases at strategic points with all the facilities for a submarine warfare far beyond anything hitherto attempted would have been established within a few years. In their confident anticipation of victory the public men of Germany were perfectly candid as to other future intentions. German organization would be equal to the task of training, disciplining and arming vast bodies of native troops by whose aid the entire African continent could be subdued and whose power might even be brought to bear in other theatres of war. So Germany was called upon to renounce her colonial possessions in favour of the Allied Powers. But the Allied nations have placed upon themselves a self-denying ordinance under which these territories are to be developed in the interest and for the benefit of the world at large and especially of the races.