

document I read the thought which I have just mentioned:

Without doubt world peace is menaced to-day as at no time since the close of the Great War.

This is the opinion of the present situation held by the three gentlemen who represent very many of our people.

The great concern of those who are interested in re-establishing normal conditions in Europe has been the paralysis of the Disarmament Conference and the withdrawal of Germany from that Conference. Why has Germany withdrawn? I have never hesitated to express the opinion that that country had withdrawn because the plan agreed upon by Great Britain, France and Italy was distasteful to her. The plan contained a principle which Germany would not accept—control. Germany shuns control because she wants a revision, if not complete abandonment, of the Treaty of Versailles, and she wants to retain the right to manoeuvre in such a way as to reach that goal by any means. It is natural that she should constantly strive to have the treaty revised, but it is quite alarming to think that she will not consent to armament control.

I was much pleased to find that the President of the United States, in his address at a meeting of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation on the 28th of December last, supported the views of Great Britain, France and Italy in favour of armament control. This means control of the armament, not of Germany alone, but of all the nations of Europe. Mr. Roosevelt said:

Let every nation agree to eliminate over a short period of years, by progressive steps, every weapon of offence in its possession, and to create no additional weapons of offence. This does not guarantee a nation against invasion unless you implement it with the right to fortify its own border with permanent and non-mobile defences; and also with the right to assure itself through international continuing inspection that the neighbours are not creating nor maintaining offensive weapons of war.

This is the kernel of the whole policy which Sir John Simon was about to propound at the meeting of the Disarmament Conference when Germany withdrew.

If I may make bold to cite myself, I may say that two years ago, in this Chamber, I propounded a plan of general armament control over Europe. It will be found in Senate Hansard of February 8, 1932. From it I extract but one paragraph:

If all the nations of Europe are acting in good faith, why should not the Council of the League be given the power to inspect and control not only 50 kilometres of German territory, but the territory of every country

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on that continent? And, indeed, why should not that principle be extended to the whole world? If the countries have nothing to hide, why should they not open their frontiers to such an inspection?

I have felt that there could be no peace in Europe, that no one on that continent could sleep at ease, until some plan was devised by which each nation would know what was taking place on the other side of its frontier. The press and other publications did me the honour to reprint this speech in Geneva. There I found that the representatives of some of the member-nations did not take readily to the plan, but they have since adopted it.

However, no headway can be made in that direction, owing to Germany's refusal of yesterday and, I am quite sure, to-morrow, to accept the principle of control. In my opinion, a very simple solution of the difficulty would be the adhesion of the United States to the League of Nations. When the United States joined the Allies she proclaimed that she was waging war to end war; but she left her task unfinished. Having represented Canada at the League of Nations for a period of seven years, I deemed it my duty in January last to inform the President-elect, Mr. Roosevelt, of the situation at Geneva. I was received by him with great cordiality. I advised him that the League was often handicapped and at times helpless because of the absence of the United States from its councils, and that since the War Europe had been floundering through lack of leadership which the United States alone could furnish. The distracted peoples of Europe do not ask the United States to guarantee their security, but they do need her presence at the League, because of the moral influence which this would exert.

As we all know, the United States Senate was ready to sanction membership of the country in the League, with some reservations. President Woodrow Wilson refused to accept those reservations. Of course, one is always wiser after the event, but I venture to say that he should have accepted them. The League, I am sure, would have welcomed the United States to its councils on that basis. The present chaotic conditions in Europe are due to the absence of the United States from the deliberations of the League. True, by a separate treaty with Germany in August, 1921, the United States declared definitely that she was not assuming any obligation to preserve the boundaries of Germany. But Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points were generally acclaimed in the United States, and the thirteenth point covered the restoration of Poland, with access to the sea. That meant the Polish Corridor,