

"The good old way of running countries has come a frightful cropper. Slowly, painfully and at enormous cost, the world that it has regulated is working out of an awful pickle. People can't help feeling that the old remedies no longer cure, and that the existing world disease, like infant paralysis, baffles the doctors and calls for a new treatment."

The leading Statesmen of Great Britain—Asquith, Lloyd George, Lord Grey—are all declaring that this war must put an end to militarism and make another such war impossible for generations. Unless some other remedy is provided when it is over (no matter how complete our triumph) the benefit will only be for a day.

The fear of "what might have been" but for our superiority in the use of force will not only justify but necessitate a maintenance of that superiority. That means the same old story and sooner or later the same result. The burden of preparedness will force war without to avert revolution within, or a combination only sustained by selfish interest will sooner or later break. Appreciating this condition the obvious remedy is to provide for the maintenance of order among nations by the same means that has proved effectual as between citizens—the enactment of laws and the establishment of a court with provision for enforcement of its decrees.

The second objection is, that even if an International Court were formed the nations agreeing to abide by its decision would not do so. If a Court on the lines suggested had been in existence when the differences which are supposed to have brought about this war arose, no Kaiser would have dared to refuse to refer the matters in dispute to it for settlement. Every nation involved in this war admits that it never should have been begun and denies responsibility for it. No nation could escape its responsibility once a tribunal is established to inquire into the facts and provide a remedy, and no nation would dare to face that responsibility when it could be fixed upon it. The silly things that have been made excuses for war would be made to appear very trivial when placed before an impartial tribunal. The inclination of every member of the Court would be to make it a success, and every member would know that that could only be accomplished by administering justice with an even hand. A Court constituted with the sole desire to do justice would not have a very difficult task. Its conclusions would have world-wide influence upon public opinion; democracy the world over would rejoice at its existence and support its decrees.

How can there ever be government by the people or the earth under present conditions? The sword is drawn without reference to them, and they are helpless because there is no alternative. Once Justice is enthroned with scales in hand the peoples everywhere will demand their