

their interests are bound up with the maintenance of peace.¹ We may go further, for the small States, and especially the neutralized States of Belgium and Switzerland, have played, during the nineteenth century, an invaluable part in the life of the family of nations, and have done much for the advancement of International Law. We recall that the capital of Holland has been the scene of the Hague Conferences, and is the seat of the International Court of Arbitration, that Brussels and Berne are the centres of nearly all of the international organizations which the increasing economic complexities of modern life have brought into being. We remember that various international conferences have met in the capitals of these States, that the conventions for the care of the sick and wounded of the armies in the field were signed at Geneva, and that they owe their initiative to Switzerland.

We are apt to lose sight of the fact that the immediate cause of this great European War lies in the extraordinary demands made by Austria on Servia. The ostensible reasons for Austria's ultimatum were the circumstances surrounding the assassination of the Crown Prince Ferdinand of Austria and his consort at Sarajevo in June of the present year. The Servian Government was charged with being cognizant of the conspiracy and the plot which resulted in the assassination of the Austrian heir apparent. But so far the allegation has not been proved, and we have had evidence—as in the Friedjung trial—of the capacity of Austrian officials to forge such documents as may be necessary to sustain a serious political charge. Be that as it may, the answer of Servia accepted the demands of Austria in all but two points, and these she was prepared to

¹ *op. cit.*, § 5.