

Notes and Comments

ON December 9th, the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament completed its protracted labours and submitted to the powers a "skeleton" convention for consideration at a disarmament conference that is now expected to be held early in 1932. The final session and the result indicate the difficulties in the way of progress. Comments by the delegates ranged all the way from the pessimism of Russia to the satisfaction of France. Mr. Gibson of the United States frankly confessed his disappointment that the "convention does not hold out the promise of bringing the immediate reduction in armaments we would like to see" but he went on to say: "We can at least foresee a stabilization of armaments, the setting up of a machinery to receive and disseminate information on armaments, to educate public opinion and to prepare systematically for the work of future conferences as successive milestones in the continuing process of disarmament." One of the most significant recommendations was that providing the machinery mentioned by Mr. Gibson.

THE Second Conference for Concerted Economic Action opened in Geneva on November 17th and closed on November 28th with the signature of a Final Act setting forth the results of its work. These may be summed up as follows: the concerted economic action initiated by the League is being continued; the Commercial Convention of March 24th, 1930, whose influence is already making itself felt, remains open for accessions; negotiations are contemplated between certain countries with a view to the general improvement of trade and to the more suitable organization of the trade system of the agricultural countries of Eastern Europe. Twenty five European states were represented and the object was to find some way of mitigating the world economic crisis.

Six overseas States—namely, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Mexico and the United States of America—sent observers (China and Cuba have permanent delegates accredited to the League; Mexico has a permanent observer accredited to the League and the United States of America a Consul at Geneva who acts as observer).

Miscellany

IMPRESSED.

Lt.-Col. C. P. Meredith, Secretary,
League of Nations Society
in Canada, 381 Wilbrod St.,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—

I feel it my duty to write you to express to you, as secretary of the League of Nations Society in Canada, my deep sense of gratitude at being privileged on Sunday afternoon last to listen to the very eloquent and soul-stirring address made by Sir Robert Borden and broadcast over CNRO.

I feel keenly that the subject is one of most vital interest and that it was dealt with by Sir Robert in a manner worthy of the subject. Propaganda of this character is sorely needed, and I wish you and the Society every success in connection with the scheme for the future.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) R. A. Rigg,
(Director Employment Service
of Canada.)

FIND IT USEFUL.

ONTARIO LADIES' COLLEGE
Whitby, Ont.

Jan. 8th, 1931.

Dear Sirs:—

I am eagerly looking for the first copy of "Interdependence" in its new format. We find it very useful here, particularly in teaching Current Events and Modern History.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) H. W. (Mrs) Carscallen,
Librarian.

DR. MACK EASTMAN:

"A Quarterly 'Interdependence' will be an interesting and, I am sure, successful innovation."
"I am afraid that in most coun-

tries the coming months will be difficult and often discouraging for all workers in and for the League of Nations. The economic chaos has psychic and political repercussions which are inimical to every government or party in power and to every institution that claims to be one of the means for human advancement or safety. It is inevitable that the ill-humour of the peoples should fall in part upon the institutions of Geneva which of course have never been granted by their component parts anything like the powers necessary to grapple as yet with problems when they become urgent and at the same time fundamental. I have no doubt that with the easing off of the economic crisis it will be possible once again to forge ahead with the development of international co-operation and with the enlargement of the functions of the institutions created to this end. I greatly admire the devotion with which you and other members of the League of Nations Society in Canada continue to work for the cause the success of which is after all the most obvious avenue toward the assurance of future safety for the race and prosperity for its constituent nationalities."

International Labour Office,
Geneva, Nov. 25th, 1930.

FAVOUR MAY 18.

Alderside, Alta.,

Dec. 11th, 1930.

League of Nations in Canada,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

We, the women of the Aldersyde Women's Institute received and carefully considered the article and letter in the Interdependence of October on the observance of peace day, etc.