## The

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### The League

The Covenant of the League of Nations, which forms part of the Treaty of Versailles, is one of the most important documents in history. If the idea of the League was, as many believe, the particular conception of President Wilson, it will do him great honor in the years to come. It was, beyond all question, the finest effort ever made to ensure the peace of the world. Yet it has up to this time distinctly failed in its good purpose. War still goes on in Eastern Europe. The failure of the United States to ratify the Treaty and enter the League has been the most serious impediment to success. There is a widespread opinion, one with consider able foundation, that without the United States the League will be to a large extent a failure. Thus the organization suffers at the outset a disadvantage which deprives it of the prestige that it was expected to have. Perhaps it is from this cause that the League has not been called upon to take a more active part in the world's affairs. Many friends of the League feel that the Supreme Counsel of the Allies-The Council of Premiers in which Messrs. Lloyd George and Millerand play the chief parts-have been exercising authority in the very matters that the League was formed to control. Lord Robert Cecil, a warm friend of the League, has on several occasions complained that the functions of the League have been ignored. It is the Council of the League, temporarily organized under the terms of the treaty, that has been doing League business, so far as there has been any. The general body called the Assembly has yet to

In full expectation of the United States having a prominent place in the scheme the Treaty provided that the American President should be the authority to Mr. Wilson Assembly. summon the has no doubt felt the embarrassment arising from the failure of the Senate to ratify the Treaty, and this may be taken to account for the delay in summoning the Assembly. He has now, however, taken action for that purpose. With the meeting of the Assembly at Geneva, and the election of new members of the Council to fill the four places temporarily occupied,

the League may be expected to take a more active part in the world's affairs. That the United States will ultimately join the League we fully believe. Unfortunately the exigencies of American politics must delay the much to be desired event. In the meantime the League may fall short of the high expectation formed for it at its inception.

#### Coal

The importance of a coal supply is emphasized in several recent events. At the Spa conference it was against the Allies' demands for coal that the German delegates made their strongest fight. The Germans having, in their policy of devastation, destroyed important coal mines in France and Belgium, the makers of the Treaty of Versailles very properly required that Germany, as a part of her reparation, should supply sufficient coal to meet the needs of the Allies. Protesting that they could not furnish the quantity required by the Treaty, or even the modified demand of the Allies, the German delegates resorted to all possible means to resist the call for this most important article. The firmness of the Allies representatives led to the acceptance ultimately of their demand. Germany promises to supply the coal, and probably the German Government will see the wisdom of honestly endeavoring to fulfill the agreement. The attitude of labor may enter into the question. If miners make up their minds not to work it is not easy to find means of compelling them.

Here at home the coal question has been a serious one for several winters, and there is reason to fear that shortage may again cause trouble . Indeed already the short supply of bituminous coal is affecting some of our industries. In such a situation, with the prospect of increased trouble, there is naturally a disposition in some quarters to put restrictions on exports. Legislation authorizing such restrictions if they become necessary was enacted at the close of the recent Parliamentary session. But while it is well to have this authority in case of emergency, it is a power that must not be hurriedly used. Many problems, some of them quite serious, arise when one begins to study the ques-