

Dawn of Tomorrow

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EDITORIAL

The World Economic Conference is at the present time meeting in London and every eye is turned upon the outcome. Everything is being done to reach a satisfactory agreement which will result in leading the world out of the present economic disorder but it seems from the latest reports that the Conference has reached a snag. The gold standard countries—France, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland have asked the British protection since the U.S. has flatly refused stabilization. Premier Ramsay MacDonald thinks that the U.S. should be party to any joint declaration. Italy has backed the gold bloc. Back of the American refusal is the belief that such a concession, if made, would thwart or delay the restoration of world price-levels. The belief is held that U.S. is prepared to pursue its internal policy without interruption, regardless of what happens to the world level. The hope was at first entertained that Prof. Moley's presence at the Conf. would have relieved the tense situation, but apparently pessimism now fills the air. Whether the British will join the gold standard nations in opposition to the United States is doubtful at the present.

A very informative book has been compiled from lectures given under the Halley Element Trust, (founded 15 Dec., 1924 for research towards the Christian intent in all social life). It is entitled "The World's Economic Crisis and the Way of Escape which might have done much good if read by the delegates to the world conference. The lecturer, Sir Arthur sees the way of escape through.

1. Reparation and war debt, already suspended, being suspended for a longer period and greatly reduced.
2. Reform in monetary policy.
3. Tariff and commercial policies being reformed.
4. Speedy restoration of foreign lending.

5. Assured peace in the world as the indispensable foundation of any tolerable world economic structure.

He ends his discussion by saying that the immediate prospect is in some respects a bleak one. But let me remind you, in conclusion, that the problems before us, difficult as they are, are essentially capable of human solution. If nature or science were failing us we might have no alternative but to endure. But our difficulties come only from defects in human organization and what man has made, man can reform.

We need better organization and regulative wisdom, magnanimity in policy and courage in action. For world problems it is not enough to

Negro Spirituals

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immediately after the Civil War.

The Negro was likewise lucky with regard to his folk tales. The plantation stories were collected and set down by a Southern White man (Joel Chandler Harris).

He has not had the same good fortune with the ther folk contribution he has made to the Common Stone of American art. Dancing in so far as it is a native art in America, has been dominated almost absolutely by Negro influence; and yet the Negro has received but the scantiest credit for his contribution.

There are no indications that the high regard attained by the Spirituals will be followed by any marked decline in interest. The vogue of these songs is by no means a sudden popular fad; it has been reached through long and steady development in the recognition of their worth.

The chief effect of this slave music at first upon its white hearers was that they were touched and moved by the deepest sympathy for the "poor Negro." To-day the spirituals have a new vogue; the effect now produced upon white hearers is not sympathy for the "poor Negro" but admiration for the creative genius of the race. The history of the spirituals is sufficient evidence that they possess the germ of immortality. And it is by no means too much to say that they will last as long as anything artistic that has thus far been produced on this Continent.

Has this music been in any way a vital force? Has its powers brought about any change? What modification has it worked upon the Nation and within the Negro?

The Spirituals have exerted a gentle and little-considered influence for a good many years. For more than a half century they have touched and stirred the hearts of people and effected a softening-down of some of the hard edges of prejudice against the Negro. Measured by length of years they have wrought more in sociology than in art. Indeed, within the past decade, and indeed within the past nine of ten years, they have been perhaps the main force in breezing down the old illusion that the Negro in America is nothing but a beggar at the gate of the nation, waiting to be thrown the crumbs of civilization.

The common idea hitherto has been that the Negro is intellectually and morally empty; now, however, slowly, but surely, it is being realized that he is the possessor of a wealth of natural endowments; that he has long been a generous giver to America; that he has helped to shape and mold it; that he has put an indelible print upon it, and that America is the exact America it is to-day because of his influence.

think nationally, or even impartially. We must think internationally. It is very evident that international thinking is lacking on the part of certain members of the conference or rather on the part of the nations which they represent.

WOODSTOCK NOTES

Mrs. J. F. Jenkins of London spent a few hours with friends in Woodstock.

Mr. Harold Marshall of Toronto spent a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Marshall.

A fine baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blair.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Marshall had a delightful picnic at Burford.

Miss Loretta Harris of Hamilton spent a few hours with friends in the city.

Master Eugene Topp who has been a visitor in Toronto or some time is expected to reside with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Topp.

Mr. Smith of Windsor spent a few hours with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Topp and family are residing at Sweabury.

DRESDEN NOTES

Miss Hilda Johnson is visiting friends and relatives in Toronto.

The Green Valley baseball team held an entertainment in the Town Hall. A good time was reported by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Berry accompanied by Miss Florence Drake attended the memorial services of Madame Tully, Sunday, May 28th in the Queen St. Baptist Church. Mrs. Berry rendered a very touching solo. She was assisted at the piano by Miss Drake.

Mr. Benny Talbot was the guest of friends while visiting Dresden.

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