

only Europe, but the world at the present time." Referring to indications in the press of a suspicion regarding M. Tardieu's visit, he said, "I want to say that there has never been the slightest shadow of a justification for that suspicion. The intention of the British Government is sincere and disinterested in getting the maximum amount of goodwill and of international coöperation to be brought to bear upon the solution of these problems. One country cannot do it. Two countries cannot do it. The policy which we are working out is a policy of coöperation with everybody who is aiming at peace, and who is willing to put in all his weight behind efforts aimed at peace. . . . This week the Four-Power Conference is to sit and consider the economic problems of the Danubian States. There are no agreements beforehand. There are no draft proposals beforehand. The Powers which are to be represented at the Conference this week are equally free in every way to contribute to whatever the final agreement may be."

In a statement to the press, M. Tardieu said the duty of the Governments was to deal with every one of the issues which they had to consider from the point of view of solidarity. "For France and Great Britain it will be especially easy, and for doing so successfully it is good that they should consider together the aims and the means. This is why I accepted so willingly the invitation which was sent to me at the beginning of last month."

The Foreign Office announced that the Four-Power Conference would open on Wednesday afternoon, April 6th.

April 4th.—Following a conference between the Premier and other British Ministers and M. Tardieu and M. Flandin, an official statement was issued to the effect that "the discussion bore chiefly on the economic and financial difficulties with which the Danubian States are faced. The Ministers of the two countries were of opinion that the problems which they examined can only be solved by general agreements of an international character, and that for this purpose close and cordial collaboration is essential as between the four Powers whose representatives will meet in conference on Wednesday. In view of the impending meeting of this conference they did not attempt to reach any conclusions. . . . The British and French Governments share the hope that it may be possible speedily to concert measures which, while respecting the legitimate interests of third parties, will render possible an economic *rapprochement* between the Danubian States . . ."

In a supplementary statement, Mr. MacDonald said his meeting with the French Ministers was "a conference for exploration and was not an executive conference of any kind whatever." Had not this preliminary exploration been held they might have held up the work of the Four-Power Conference for perhaps a couple of days, and "the exchange of views which took place to-day means that we understand each other perfectly well and we are determined in every way to work to get an agreement at the Four-Power Conference." He added that they were quite convinced that an agreement comprehensive of all the interests of the various countries was possible.

April 6th.—The Four-Power Conference opened in London and an official *communiqué* stated that "an exchange of views took place as regards the problems inherent in the present economic and financial circumstances of the Danubian States, and the nature of the measures most appropriate for their solution. Before the Conference adjourned a committee was appointed to report on this subject to the Conference when it resumes to-morrow. . . . The four Powers agreed to appoint a committee of experts (one from each of the four Powers) to consider the problems raised by the recent Report of the Financial Committee of the League on the financial state of certain countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe."