

PEACE THE DOMINANT NOTE IN EUROPEAN REVIEWS OF 1925

HOPES OF NEW YEAR ARE FOR INCREASED TRANQUILITY

Sudden Outbreak of War in Central Europe Remote as Result of Locarno Agreements—Further Pacts Are Being Negotiated.

By KEITH JONES
United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Hopes for European peace and prosperity are brighter at the close of 1925 than at any time since the end of the world war. Only tribal revolts in Morocco and Syria and uncertainty as to Turkey's action on the adverse Mosul decision serve to mar a comparatively serene horizon, and these incidents at worst are deemed of only minor character comparatively. Any sudden outbreak of war in Central Europe seems remote as a result of the Locarno pacts. A similar pact for Southwestern Europe is being broached by Spain, Norway and Denmark have announced plans for a Locarno of their own; and in the Balkans the Locarno idea is slowly being put into effect.

Russia still remains the great enigma in the question of European peace, but it is not unlikely that 1926 will see a concerted drive by the League of Nations to get her membership as part of a plan for more peace and stability throughout Europe.

FINANCIAL BETTERMENT
European financial improvement during the year now closing has been slow but securely founded, and is expected to continue in 1926, perhaps being accelerated by the proposed League of Nations arms conference scheduled for next autumn.

The following are reviews of 1925 from correspondents in the principal European countries:—
League of Nations
By HENRY WOOD
United Press Staff Correspondent
GENEVA, Dec. 30.—The greatest accomplishment of the League of Nations for the last year was the Locarno conference and its resulting treaties.

Although the Locarno conference was held outside of the jurisdiction of the league and at the initiative of individual governments, league authorities feel that had it not been for the league and above all for the famous Geneva protocol of 1924, the Locarno conference would never have taken place. In any event, the whole working and application of the Locarno treaties are so intimately tied up with the league that they constitute virtually part and parcel of the league as it stands today and as it will operate in the future.

LEAGUE MILESTONE
Greatly as Europe is expected to benefit by the Locarno treaties, the league is confident that it will benefit even more and that Locarno marks the greatest milestone in the history of the league which the latter has passed. As a result of Germany's entrance into the league, the latter will have at last attained that degree of European universality which is the first indispensable requirement for league success. While Russia still keeps Europe as a whole from being within the league, the latter nevertheless will now have a solid European block which will make it possible for the league, such as it is, to handle every important European question.

GENEVA IS PEACE HUB
As a result of the tasks entrusted to the league by the Locarno treaties coupled with those which it already had under the covenant and other treaties, Geneva becomes at once the center of every international European question and problem will receive these questions and problems include arbitration, conciliation, disarmament, economic and financial reconstruction, and the working out of an entirely new basis of European collaboration and solidarity.

As a result of the Locarno treaties, the various Allied organization that were created after the war, such as the Council of Ambassadors, the Allied Military Missions of Control in the various ex-enemy countries, will disappear, and the league remains the sole international organization for the handling of European as well as world-wide questions.

THE BALKANS
After the Locarno treaties, the next most important accomplishment of the league during the year was the settlement of the Greco-Bulgarian dispute. Important as this may have been for the prevention of a possible war, it was even more important in the development of the authority and machinery of the league.

It demonstrated how quickly it is possible for the league council to act in emergencies of this kind. It demonstrated that the league can utilize the military and naval officials of its various members in all parts of the world, on a moment's notice, for conducting investigations and carrying out the orders of the league.

MOSUL QUESTION
The league also handled throughout the entire year the Mosul frontier dispute between Turkey and Iraq, which has been one of the most difficult questions it has ever undertaken. In the early part of the year, through an international conference which lasted over two months, the league secured the adoption of an entirely new convention regulating the traffic in opium and dangerous drugs.

A few months later, another international conference summoned and conducted under the auspices of the league launched a new international treaty for controlling the traffic in arms and war material. This replaces the famous treaty of St. Germain, on the same subject, which was killed by the failure of the United States Senate to ratify.

During the course of the 1925 Assembly, the league also drew up a new treaty for the world-wide abolition of all forms of slavery. This treaty has now been sent to all of the nations of the world for consideration, and the league expects its final form to be approved and signed before the 1926 assembly.

AUSTRIAN FINANCES
The end of the present year marked also virtually the end of the league's control of Austrian finances

damage, but this shelling, more than any other military measure, is said to have succeeded in checking the revolt. Shortly afterwards Sultan Ataturk and his rebel tribesmen sought the freedom of the hills.

Locarno was the greatest achievement of the year, and France believes the laurels of Locarno belong to M. Briand, who conceived, in August, the plan of inviting Germany to the league of Nations and to sit at a conference table and discuss a pact of mutual security guarantees. On August 24, Germany accepted this suggestion and on October 3 the Locarno conference began.

BRIAND AS PEACEMAKER
While Locarno laurels were still fresh, M. Briand had occasion to act successfully as peacemaker between Greece and Bulgaria. As President of the Council of the League of Nations, M. Briand met the two governments in a special operation and even before the invading armies had crossed the frontier, the League council was working in that country, progress has already been made that leaves no doubt of its full and final success.

During the year the league continued its work of permanent settlement of over 1,000,000 war refugees in Greece and it is expected that this task will be completed during the coming year. The league in the meantime has taken under consideration a somewhat similar project for the final settlement of Armenian refugees in the new Armenian republic of Erivan.

Besides these more notable tasks, the league kept up its work throughout the year in the fields of international health, abolition of the white slave traffic, improvement of financial and economical conditions and communications and transport.

France
By MINNOTT SAUNDERS
United Press Staff Correspondent
PARIS, Dec. 30.—France, in a year marked by two foreign wars, made greater progress toward the complete restoration of peace during 1925 than in any year since the great war. Locarno is now synonymous with peace, and the year just closing is a "peace year," with France, through the personality of her foremost statesman, Aristide Briand, playing the role of peacemaker.

In a year marked by almost constant crisis in interior politics, the outstanding events were clearly the inability of France to reach an agreement with either of her principal creditors, the United States and Great Britain, regarding terms for the settlement of her war debts, and the slump in the world's financial markets of French currency, due partly to a policy of inflation which is excused by a necessity to fund maturing treasury bonds, and to a lack of confidence occasioned by the instability of the Government.

FRANC FLUCTUATES
The fluctuations of the franc brought in its wake business uncertainty, greatly increased living costs and dearer money. There were fewer business failures than in previous years, because few business houses bought beyond immediate needs and the investment in their business was consequently lessened.

The general uncertainty of political, industrial and commercial affairs, gave to agitators the opportunities they desired to create disturbances which further added to the confusion. Communists in France were more openly active than at any previous time since the war, but by their inability to curb the lawless element within their own ranks, they wasted their opportunity. As a result, the 24-hour general transport strike ordered by the Communist leaders as a protest against the Moroccan war, taxes, and the high living costs, was a flat failure and the end of the year finds the menace of revolution far removed.

FOREIGN WARS
France was at no time converted to a policy of war in either Morocco or Syria. Neither war was ever generally popular. Although Parliament voted the credits necessary for the prosecution of war in Morocco, the campaign against Abd-el-Krim never aroused a spark of patriotism. France recognized however that her supremacy in Northern Africa was challenged and that if she hoped to hold the riches of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, she must act to curb Abd-el-Krim.

The withdrawal of Marshal Lyautey and his successor by M. Steeg as Governor of Morocco was a subject of much controversy. France realizes that the veteran governor was a great administrator and a great soldier. The despatch of General Petain to Morocco brought about the checking of Abd-el-Krim. The chieftain of the Rifian tribesmen was unable to match wits against the shrewd victor of Verdun. Slowly the French crawled forward to the frontier, although the great offensive the world awaited was never unleashed.

When the campaign definitely halted in November with the French advancing far as they dared to go with winter weather approaching, the Government struck a balance and found that a billion francs had been spent since May, two thousand men killed and four thousand were injured. The Rifian losses, unofficially, are believed to total eight thousand.

While France was keeping an eye on the Moroccan bonfire stories were drifting in of war rumblings in the Syrian desert. Finally, on August 10, General Sarraill, Resident General of Syria, reported to the War Department in Paris that in an encounter at Djebel-Druse he lost 115 men killed, 385 injured and 422 missing. That was the first information Paris had that there had been a bloody engagement in which the French troops were victorious by a large band of Druse horsemen.

DAMASCUS BOMBARDED
The hurried despatch of reinforcements to Syria and the recall of General Sarraill and his replacement by M. de Jouvenal was followed by an era of calm. Unfortunately, the bombardment of a small quarter of Damascus by General Sarraill when native rebels invaded the Arab quarter and commenced their massacres of Christian natives, resulted in extensive property

as the year closes, production of these is expanding. More fires are being re-lit in the furnaces of works long closed down. Some industries, such as coal-mining, shipbuilding and various branches of the engineering trades, are suffering acutely but real prosperity has hit the building trade and the automobile, electrical and artificial silk industries.

TRADE FIGURES
Imports in October amounted to approximately \$545,000,000, a decrease of about \$5,000,000 as compared with October, 1924. The exports during October, however, showed a decline of nearly \$5,325,000, which was about the average decrease for the first ten months of 1925 as compared with last year. The total exports from the first of January to the end of October amounted to approximately \$2,231,000,000. The imports reached approximately \$2,270,000,000 over the first ten months of 1925.

GOVERNMENT ACTS
Aside from restoration of the gold standard, the government's chief steps during the year have been:

(1) Reduction of six-pence (approximately 12 cents) in the income-tax; (2) Restoration of the McKenna import duties of 33.3 per cent. on certain "luxury" articles, such as automobiles and musical instruments; (3) Lifting, during November, of the ban imposed early in the year on foreign loans; (4) Institution of investigations to effect governmental economies; (5) Creation of a national food council, to expose profiteering and effect reductions in the cost of foodstuffs; and (6) Prosecution of Communist agitators.

SEE PROSPERITY
Experts forecast increasing prosperity during the new year. They believe the favorable crop reports of Central and Eastern Europe, Canada, the United States and South America foreshadow greater buying of British manufactures. In the huge cotton yield forecasted in the United States, they see promises of renewed activity in the textile mills of England.

Altogether the outlook is more hopeful than it has been at any other year-end since the war. At Christmas the unemployed still numbered well over a million but a spirit of optimism and good cheer dominated the nation. The first month of 1926, however, will still be freshly tinged with sadness following the death on November 20, of Queen-Mother Alexandra, the most severe bereavement the royal family

has suffered since the demise of her husband, King Edward, in 1910.

Germany
By FREDERICK KUH.
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Germany rounds the corner of 1925 after her most eventful year since the world war. Crowded into the past twelve months were Fieldmarshal Paul Hindenburg's election to the presidency of the republic, the signature of the treaties of Locarno, the first year of the Dawes plan in action and the crumbling of Stinnes' and other towering economic empires into dust.

To those who anticipated that Hindenburg's election would mean a swift restoration of the Hohenzollern dynasty, a headlong revival of militarism and preparation for a war of revenge—the first six months of the aged soldier's presidency have brought a complete disillusionment. Hindenburg has proved himself a man who realizes his own limitations and capabilities, and is not inclined to overstep either. He has displayed the utmost tact in holding aloof from political controversies, in which his interference might have set the spark to civil strife.

The Locarno treaties confronted the venerable Hindenburg with a perplexing dilemma. On the one hand, his

political friends, the German nationalists, repudiated the treaties. But his cabinet, led by Chancellor Luther and Foreign Minister Stresemann, announced that they would stand or fall by their approval of the Locarno agreements.

Hindenburg unequivocally identified himself with the government's endorsement of the treaties. Friends of the president knew that this decision cost him a bitter personal struggle. Even with the signature of the Locarno treaties, their fate—as far as Germany is concerned—remain an object of political conflict. The German nationalists, now stronger than any other party in the Reichstag, will have none of the treaties. Their opposition to Locarno led to the resignation of three nationalist ministers from the Luther cabinet.

In fighting the treaties, they declare that Locarno means Germany's voluntary assent to Versailles, that the interpretations placed upon the agreements by Germany, France, England, Poland and Czechoslovakia are all in case the treaties are actually enforced, and finally that Germany must not enter alliances with the Western Powers at the cost of Russia's friendship.

But the advocates of the treaties are

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A Few Other Suggestions

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Knee Pads, \$1.50 to \$3.50 pr.
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Gloves—\$5 to \$12.

(Sport Dept., ground floor.)

Beacon Bathrobe Cloths

The ideal material for warm, comfortable Bath and Lounging Robes.

The Indian designs are being largely used for Sport Coats, Sking, Snowshoeing, etc.

27 in. wide \$1.00 a yd.
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Also a splendid assortment of Beacon Bathrobe Blankets. The largest size with girdle sets included—\$7.50 ea.

(Wash Goods dept.—ground floor.)

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In dainty colors. Sizes from 6 to 12 years.
All greatly reduced—\$5.00 each.

(Children's dept.—2nd floor.)

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SPORT DRESSES made from novel imported fabrics in plaids and stripes.

A good combination of colorings. Sizes 16 years to 40 in. bust. Values up to \$19.75 for \$4.95. (Mantle dept.—2nd floor.)

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Are Both Attractive and Economical

The Crinkled Spreads are a boon to housewives. They are inexpensive, look well with any decorative scheme, and laundering them is such a simple matter that you need not be forever worrying lest the children get them soiled. They will last you a long time, which is another reason you will want them in your bedrooms. The colors are very dainty and in lovely combinations; almost any shade you may desire, blue, yellow, gold and a neutral, unbleached shade, all of which will conform to a wide range of decorative schemes.

COTTON CRINKLE SPREADS—80 x 90 in.—cream with rose or gold stripes—\$4.50 each.

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Doesn't that word convey to you a sense of warmth and coziness for these cold winter nights?

WHITE ALL WOOL BLANKETS—Canadian and Scotch make, soft, light and warm. May be had with either pink or blue borders. Prices \$10, \$12, \$13.75 and \$15.75 a pair.

GREY BLANKETS in cotton and wool mixtures from \$4.00 to \$8.75 a pair. Light grey and red—All wool point.

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(our own make)

The most comfortable suggestion we can offer. Extra large size, filled with the best grade of carded cotton with covering of chintz or silkoline in light, medium and dark shades. Prices \$5.00 to \$6.00 each.

(Housefurnishings—2nd floor.)

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GEORGETTE SCARFS in sand, grey and rosewood, embroidered in gold and silver thread.

BANDEAUX of silver and gold that are most becoming and look well with any gown.

FLOWERS are also shown in a variety of colors and sizes from the adorable wee Frenchy boutonniere to the large mum. (Neckwear dept.—ground floor.)