

THE FRANCO-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS

The question of Morocco, from being a general international problem, which ought to have been settled from the standpoint of international law by the signatories of the Algeciras Treaty, was handled as if it were the private concern of France and Germany. As for the rights of the Sultan of Morocco and his subjects, they were the very last people who were considered in the matter. "If I assent to your protectorate of Morocco," says Germany, "how much of the French-Congo will you give me?" "If I give you a slice of the French-Congo," replies France, "will you really agree to give me a free hand in Morocco?" "Certainly," replies Germany, "subject to various reservations: (1) The open door; (2) respect for German interests already acquired; (3) a share in railway and other concessions; (4) retention of Consular jurisdiction; (5) the right to have Moorish subjects as German proteges, and a few other trifles of that nature." "Oh, thank you for nothing!" replies France. M. Delcasse then mounted his Toulon perch and reviewed the French fleet, sounding in the ears of all Europe a shrill cockadoodledoo. The Germans retorted by reviewing an even bigger fleet at Kiel, and cockadoodled not less lustily. The French then began to withdraw their gold from the German bankers to whom they had lent it, and the German small investors began to withdraw their savings from the German banks. All the while negotiations were going on. Germany surrendered one point after another, until finally the backstairs bargain for appropriating a neighbor's territory, over which five other Powers had equal rights, was brought to a harmonious close. Germany has given France what was not hers to dispose of; France has acquired Germany's permission to undertake the conquest of Morocco, and Germany has got a slice of territory leading to the Congo from the Atlantic. For this Europe has been kept for two months in constant expectation of war. More money has been lost and wasted than can be realized from the profits of the Moroccan trade in a generation.

THE ITALIANS IN TRIPOLI

The Italians, despite their disastrous experience in Abyssinia, have been unable to resist the temptation to make another attempt to establish themselves in Africa. Last month, apparently excited by the success of the French attempt to seize Morocco, they suddenly descended upon Tripoli. A more cynical, high-handed act of international buccancering has hardly been recorded in our time. The pretexts put forward were even more flimsy than the usual excuses which the wolf makes when he sets about the eating of the lamb. A few hundred Italians settled in Tripoli had grievances—every foreigner in Turkish provinces always has grievances: the Turkish authorities put obstacles in the way of the exploitation of the industrial resources of the vilayet—as Turkish authorities always put obstacles even in the way of the Turkish development of the industrial resources of Turkish provinces—and so Italy descended upon the coast with warships and an expeditionary force to make Tripoli her own.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Italy signed the Hague Convention, declaring that when matters arose threatening peace, recourse should be had to arbitration. Here is a dispute endangering peace arising out of a difference as to facts. Why should they not be investigated on the spot by an International Commission d'Enquete? If, the facts being ascertained, there is a dispute as to how the question should be settled, why not send it to arbitration? All the signatory Powers declared that when disputes arose which threatened to eventuate in war, they regarded it as their duty to call the attention of the disputants to the peace-making machinery of the Hague, and they all pledged themselves not to regard such representations as an unfriendly act. Why have none of the Powers done their duty? The United States is the only absolutely independent Power. Why has Mr. Secretary Knox not done his duty? Americans may have bitter reason to regret not having intervened as peace-makers if the war begun in Tripoli leads to a general attack upon Christians in Asia Minor. Austria tore up the Berlin Treaty. France and Germany and Spain tore up the Treaty of Algeciras. Now Italy tears up the Treaty of Paris, and no one raises a protest in the name of the Hague Convention,