

penalties. That is what they call equality.

What has become of the principles of sovereignty and equality that should have been at the foundation of this international organization?

Are they merely a false front to hide the domineering tendencies of certain powerful nations over their small neighbours?

To forestall our misgivings, we are told that the great powers have given assurances that they will seldom use their right to veto a decision, that they will take into account the interests of small states and besides, that we must recognize the sincerity of the signers of the charter. What a guarantee!

If we draw a list of the official statements of politicians which have been put to the lie by their acts in the last few years, of the broken agreements, of the times some of the great powers to whom these exceptional rights are granted have disowned their own signatures, there is little comfort for those who may feel some anxiety.

The best means to ensure that a power will not be exercised is not to grant it; we have had a proof of this in our own country. The power to conscript men for overseas service was not to be resorted to, but it has been.

Facts, we will find, are more eloquent than words.

On September 17, 1939, Russia made a sneak attack on Poland, who was fighting Germany to protect her own territory and independence. This was done in spite of a treaty of non-aggression.

Some of the great powers, who had, by treaties, guaranteed the territorial integrity of that country, took no action whatever against Russia.

Therefore, what guarantee do the signatures affixed to a treaty afford us?

From then on, Russia, violating a treaty at every step, attacked in succession all the nations that surrounded her. Finland met her fate November 30, 1939; the three Baltic States were next on the list and had their turn on June 15 and 16, 1940; then Bessarabia, a part of Rumania, was seized on June 28. All these dates recall Russia's disregard of various treaties; we find, therefore, that until June 22, 1941, when Russia herself became the victim of aggression on the part of Germany, that Stalin's treatment of his neighbours was similar to Hitler's. And the game still goes on.

On July 30, 1941, Russia negotiated a new treaty with Poland, assuring her that her territorial boundaries would be restored. That treaty, like the others, has since gone by the board. I will come back to it later.

[Mr. Raymond.]

I have given a list of treaties disregarded, particularly by Russia, one of the five great powers to sign the San Francisco charter.

Now what are we to think of the solemn declarations signed by various leaders assuring the smaller nations who fought with the allies, that their freedom and security will be maintained?

I shall merely refer to the Atlantic charter dated August 14, 1941, signed by Messrs. Roosevelt and Churchill. Section 2 reads as follows:

They (Messrs. Roosevelt and Churchill) desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.

And section 3:

They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

By a pact signed in Washington on January 1, 1942, Russia endorsed those statements by adhering to the Atlantic charter.

Those were fine statements, but what a difference between statements and acts.

Well, what is at present the fate of Poland?

After having lost half her territory to Russia, she remains under the political and economic control of the Soviet Union. A reign of terror and enslavement exists in that country.

This is a sad fate for a nation which has sacrificed millions of lives for the defence of her territory, of her liberty and of her independence; which has fought on unceasingly for six years on all the battlegrounds, in France, in England, in Africa, in Italy, and who now finds herself forsaken by those who had formally pledged themselves to defend her territory and to restore her political status.

What is the fate of Russia's other neighbours? They are under the political and economic control of Soviet Russia. Finland, the Baltic States, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia are under her sway. And owing to the distress which is now rampant in most of those countries, they offer a fertile field for the advocates of communism.

And her ambitions go still further. She has her eyes on the Dardanelles, on the oil wells of Iran and Irak, etc. Where will she stop?

I do not wish to go on with this gloomy picture. I wanted to give facts to show that we must be watchful about statements made by some countries and refuse to accept at their face value doubtful promises.