

difficulties in securing such a delimitation of territory as would afford access to the sea, and at the same time would not do violence to national affiliations and sentiments, were extreme; and they have involved very elaborate and complicated provisions, which have received the closest study and consideration, which may not prove completely satisfactory in their operation, but which, on the whole, are the best that could be devised. In this, as in every instance, adequate safeguards have been provided for protecting the rights of minorities and assuring to them freedom of conscience and security of person and property.

The Saar Valley Coalfields

In all his systematic destruction of property and of all indicia of civilization and progress, the German was never more thorough than in the ruin which he wrought on the coalfields of Northern France. It was the definite and fixed purpose of the German Government so to paralyse French industry by confiscation or destruction of industrial plants and by the wanton ruin of French coalfields, that French industry could never again raise its head in competition with Germany. No one would question the need of both restitution and punishment for such crimes. The means and the method were the subject of long debate and grave consideration. Finally the coalfields of the Saar Basin, which has hitherto been German territory, have been placed under a Commission to be appointed by the League of Nations, which will in effect govern the district for fifteen years. Necessary safeguards have been provided for assuring to the people their religious liberty, their language, and their schools. The coalfields are placed at the disposition of France. At the end of fifteen years the people are to determine by plebiscite whether they desire to remain under the League of Nations or to be transferred to France or to Germany. In the latter case the French mines within the district will be transferred to Germany upon the payment of suitable compensation to be credited on the reparation account.

The provisions for the destruction of Heligoland and for the internationalization of the Kiel Canal are obviously just, and I need not dwell upon them.

The German Colonies

To deprive Germany of her entire colonial empire was a stern though just measure. The world's future peace imperatively demanded this action. No effective attempt at colonization had been made by the Germans; their purpose was purely exploitation and commercial advantage. They had been guilty of barbarous and relentless cruelty and oppression in their dealings with the natives. There was abundant evidence, especially in German Southwest Africa, that the native tribes who had shown themselves friendly to the Allies would have been exterminated if German power had been again restored. And there was no illusion as to the future policy of Germany if these colonies should be retained. Strongly fortified naval bases as strategic points, with all the facilities for a submarine warfare far beyond anything hitherto attempted, would have been established within a few years. In their confident anticipation of victory the public men of Germany were perfectly candid as to other future intentions. German organization would be equal to the task of training, disciplining, and arming vast bodies of native troops by whose aid the entire African continent could be subdued, and whose power might even be brought to bear in other theatres of war. So Germany was called upon to renounce her colonial possessions in favour of the Allied Powers. But the