

peals to him. So let us go forward in the spirit of the words used by Mr. Asquith during the debate in the British House of Commons on 26th July, where, by the way, the Pacifists were able to muster only nineteen votes: "Peace has become, as it always is—it has never been so acutely felt as it is now—the supreme interest and anxiety of mankind, but subject to one all-important condition, that it is a peace which does not defeat the purposes with which the free nations of the world entered upon and have continued the war, and that it does not turn to waste the immeasurable loss and suffering which they have shared and are sharing in common."

THE POPE'S MESSAGE

The above quotation will cover also the answer to the Papal Peace Note. It was obvious from the first that no good could come of the intervention of His Holiness. At the present moment, nothing would suit the Central Powers better than an armistice for the purpose of debate. But the Allies have no wish to debate matters with Germany while she has arms in her hand. While the Pope's intentions were excellent, his message read too much as though he considered all parties equally guilty, and thought that what they needed most was an exhortation to shake hands all round, let bygones be bygones, and try to behave better in future! And for a time it looked as though His Holiness was nearly as reluctant as Berlin itself to specify the restoration of Belgium as one of the most essential conditions of peace. Then there is the so-called "Freedom of the Seas"—which Austrian commentators at once interpreted as meaning that Great Britain must disappear from places like Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, and the island of Malta. What is really meant by what the Pope calls the "true freedom and enjoyment of the seas"? The question does not arise in time of peace, when the seas are free to all. It arises in time of war, and those who are interested in the maintenance of Britain's island empire will do well to bear in mind that, in default of universal disarmament, the glib formula under consideration must mean, as Mr. Bonar Law