

At the last session of the Disarmament Conference, for example, the three Powers on many occasions voted together and against the French group.

Thus distrust of France has become the Cave of Adullam to which the discontented states of Europe are resorting. Pacific in intention as the people of France undoubtedly are, French methods of guaranteeing security have gravely upset the balance of power in Europe. In the absence of a strong League of Nations which could guarantee peace and could promise a substantial measure of justice, the old order of the balance of power is an instinctive alternative. The balance of power is, indeed, as natural a habit of European diplomacy as the Monroe Doctrine for the United States, and discredited as it appeared to have been by the War, there are symptoms of an early return if France continues to dominate Europe as she has done since the War. And the impending weights in the scale-pan indicate a new and highly dangerous grouping. If the balance of power is restored, with its inevitable system of counter-alliances, what hope is there of disarmament, or of permanent peace, or even of civilization in Europe?

The prospects of any success in the coming Conference are gloomy, but not hopeless. Great Britain and the United States will sit as intermediaries between the revisionist and the French group of European states. Both are profoundly concerned with the rising tension and the mounting burden of armaments in Europe. With the possibility of naval rivalry between them now barred by the London Treaty, they will enter the Conference not as rivals but as friends who think alike on the general problem of armaments, and who are determined as never before that disarmament must be. Both are convinced that competition in armaments leads sooner or later to war, and that armaments are in a large measure at the root of the present economic condition of Europe because they have weakened confidence in its political and economic stability. Both, as trading nations, are profoundly concerned with the return of confidence and stability in Europe, and they believe that an agreement limiting and reducing arms would go far to promote confidence. To Great Britain there is the added factor that the increasing armaments in Europe tend to make her, like Italy and Germany, insecure. Yet disarmament cannot come by wishing; nor can the armed nations of Europe be compelled to disarm against their will. Progress at the Conference will be possible only if the forces which to-day make for armaments in Europe can be headed off or reconciled. If our analysis of the situation is correct, the questions at issue are these: Can the security of France and her allies be assured