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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1919.

**Special Articles**

**The Alien Enemy.**

By J. W. MACMILLAN.

**Conditions in the West.**

By E. CORA HIND.

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**Sir Wilfrid Laurier**

AS we go to press the news comes that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who had lately seemed to have much better health than is usually given to men of his advanced years, has had a stroke of paralysis at his home in Ottawa, and that there is no hope of his recovery. The news will be received everywhere with profound sorrow. Few men who have played such a large part in the hurly-burly of politics have, throughout it all, held so much of the esteem and affection of the people as was enjoyed by the veteran Liberal leader. One of the greatest figures in the public life of Canada is passing off the stage.

**League of Nations**

THE civilized world rejoiced on the 11th of November when the great fact was announced that an armistice—believed to be equivalent to a declaration of peace—had been signed. It might well enter upon similar rejoicing now, in the presence of the telegrams from Paris which make public the scheme for the creation of a League of Nations, designed to ensure the settlement of all future international disputes by friendly diplomacy, supported, and, if necessary, enforced by the power of the nations forming the League. In the Hague Tribunal there has been something like a League of Nations, a Tribunal established with the authority of the civilized nations, having for its aim the same peaceful settlement of disputes that is now sought through the organization proposed at the Paris Conference. In some cases the Hague Tribunal served well its purpose, notably in one in which Canada was largely concerned, the fishery dispute between Great Britain and the United States. But while the Hague Tribunal was available to all the nations which were willing to invite its good offices, it had no means of compelling the use of the machinery so provided, and no means of enforcing any decision not acceptable to the nations concerned. A tribunal ready to advise in international affairs, ready to decide important issues, and able to enforce its decisions, was the thing to be desired. It is this high office that the League of Nations is about to undertake. How the judgments of the League are to be enforced was the most difficult part of the problem. Some of the European nations, accustomed to rely on the power of the sword,

have been desirous of creating an international military force to execute the orders of the League when all other means fail. Unquestionably the work of establishing such an organization, the apportionment of its numbers among the several nations, the cost of its maintenance, the manner of its control, and many other incidental questions, would have added greatly to the difficulties in the way of the great project. All these questions, it is hoped, have been avoided by the determination of the framers of the scheme to rely mainly on moral and economic forces for the carrying out of the League's decisions. The possibility of a military force being required is recognized, but the probability is regarded as so small that provision is made for creating it only in an emergency. Many there will be who will doubt the efficiency of the arrangement. While, however, there is this absence of immediate military power behind the League, it will be a mistake to undervalue the influence on which the League relies. The sixteenth article of the proposed agreement contains the essence of what is proposed as the power and the duty of the nations participating:

"ARTICLE XVI.—Should any of the high contracting parties break or disregard its covenants under Article XII., it shall thereby ipso facto be deemed to have committed an act of war against all the other members of the League, which hereby undertakes immediately to subject it to the severance of all trade or financial relations, the prohibition of all intercourse between their nationals and the nationals of the covenant-breaking state, and the prevention of all financial, commercial or personal intercourse between the nationals of the covenant-breaking state and the nationals of any other state, whether a member of the League or not.

"It shall be the duty of the executive council in such case to recommend what effective military or naval forces the members of the League shall severally contribute to the armed forces to be used to protect the covenants of the League."

In the modern world, where no country lives within itself, where every nation is in some degree dependent on other countries, the penalty of a refusal of intercourse is a very heavy one, which no nation will be disposed to treat lightly. If, in any case of dispute, the nation found to be at fault has no regard to considerations of moral character, which affect its