

THE ONE TRIUMPH OF THE PEACE

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO THE LEAGUE

Ten Years of Steady Marching To the Hearts of all Nations

THE SMALL BEGINNINGS

Many Happy Returns to the League of Nations, Ten Years Old on the Tenth of January, still going strong and growing!

Many bad things came out of the war, and few good ones; but the one tremendous blessing for the world, the one great triumph of the Peace, is the League.

The League began its life very quietly, as quietly as did a Babe of Bethlehem. Three puzzled men, neither kings nor shepherds, nor known in any particular way (an Englishman, a Frenchman, and an American), sat round a table in London wondering what they were supposed to do. The Covenant was in their hands, a strange new document, and it was their job to build up the beginnings of the League on the foundations the Covenant contained. They had no funds, and one of them, who wrote a record of those first days, tells us that they paid their typists out of their own pockets.

"The thing that gave us most worry (he says) was where the first Assembly should meet, and what it should do!"

Dreams Coming True

We can imagine that their dreams of what the League might become were sometimes sky-high with hope, sometimes dimmed by despair; but did they dream that ten years would see it planted so deeply and spreading so wide afield?

A few months later the Council held its first meeting in Paris, and the business to be done was so small that it was all over in less than an hour. The day on which the Covenant came into force was the League's official birthday, and its Secretariat was then established in London. Geneva became its headquarters on November 1 in that same year (1920), and a fortnight later the first Assembly met.

There is little need to remind C.N. readers of the great importance of the Tenth Assembly, held last September, or of its three chief achievements concerning the Optional Clause, Tariff Truce, and Dangerous Drugs. They are far too big to be easily forgotten. Now, three days after the League's tenth birthday, the Council meets for its 58th session, and will carry on into the practical stage the Assembly decisions. Twenty-five items are on its programme, and, instead of the one hour that sufficed in 1920, it is doubtful whether a week of full sessions will see its business completed.

A Year of Hope

1930 bids fair to be a far more important year than any yet. The fully-prepared conference which will build up the beginnings of a recognised body of international law is fixed for March 13 at The Hague; February 15 is the date proposed for the Conference of Governments on the question of a Tariff Truce; there is to be the conference which shall limit the output of dangerous drugs. And shall we not this year, at last, see the first steps taken toward limiting armaments?

The New Year is full of hope. Let us greet the League on its tenth birthday with a cheer, and another, and then another!

See World Map

Pronunciations in This Paper

Duccio	Doot-cho
Mantegna	Mahn-tayn-yah
Masaccio	Mah-zah-cho
Thermopylae	Ther-mop-e-lee
Tiepolo	Te-ay-po-lo

A BAD MOVE IN INDIA

Ill-Will at the National Congress

EXTREME PARTY'S INFLUENCE

The year 1930 is going to be a difficult and anxious time for the Government of India and for the British Parliament behind it.

Just before Christmas, at one of the last sittings of the House of Commons, a resolution was unanimously adopted welcoming the evidence of the readiness of the representatives of the Indian people to work together in the settlement of the future government of their country.

Only a day or two later an attempt was made to murder the Viceroy by blowing up his train. That outrage was condemned by people of every shade of opinion, but on the same day as the explosion the representatives of the Swarajists (Home Rulers) had an interview with the Viceroy at which they definitely refused the invitation to a round table conference in London to thresh things out.

Civil Disobedience

And since Christmas the Indian National Congress, a great society of Indian Home Rulers, has passed resolutions confirming the action of its leaders. Not only so, but it has set up a demand for absolute independence. Its members are no longer to accept election to the Legislatures or to cooperate in any way in the government of the country; and it has authorised its executive committee to proclaim at any time a national movement of "civil disobedience," including a refusal to pay taxes.

It is said that the more moderate leaders deplore these extreme courses but that they have been swept off their feet in the general excitement. Happily, when the Indian National Congress is most extreme it has least influence over the mass of the people, and its ill-natured advice may be less widely followed when excitement has cooled down than appears likely at the moment. But the outlook is not happy.

CHINA'S NEW YEAR SURPRISE

Rights of Foreign Citizens

A PRIVILEGE TAKEN AWAY TOO SOON

The Chinese Government at Nanking has celebrated the New Year in rather a startling manner.

Only four days before the Old Year ended it announced that on New Year's Day all foreigners in China would become subject to Chinese law and Chinese law courts, civil and criminal. Ever since Europeans began to live in China in any numbers the Great Powers of Europe, with America and Japan added since, have had courts of their own in which cases affecting their subjects in China have been tried, a privilege known as extra-territoriality. Germany and her allies lost the privilege during the war, and now, says China, the others are to lose it too.

The demand has been made several times, first by the old Peking Government and then by Nanking. The Powers have always replied that they would agree as soon as China could show that her law courts and her laws were up to Western standards of justice and efficiency.

The long civil wars and the lawlessness of the quarrelling provincial military governors have made this difficult to prove, and though great strides have been made whenever there has been peace enough to allow it, it is doubtful whether the time has come yet for the abolition of this privilege. When it does, there are right ways and wrong ways of doing it, and this New Year's proclamation is a wrong way.

THE COAL BILL

MAKING GOOD A MISTAKE

Changes That Will Make It a Better Bill

SAFEGUARDING THE CONSUMER

When Parliament reassembles on January 21 its most urgent business will be the Government's Coal Bill.

It is quite clear that many changes will have to be made in it. It had only a majority of eight votes when it passed its Second Reading, and if everybody had been free to vote exactly as he thought there would have been a majority against it.

The Bill reduces the working hours in the mines and sets up a National Board to decide wage disputes from the districts, where wage agreements will soon come up for revision. A big majority of the House of Commons quite approves of doing these two things; but in order to get the coal-owners to agree the Government also proposes to give the trade power to regulate the sale and price of coal.

Changes To Be Made

Very likely it is necessary to regulate prices, but it is felt that the coalowners must not be allowed to have it all their own way lest the consumers be ruined. It is urged, too, that it will not do to divide the work of supplying coal among good mines and bad, but that some scheme of reorganisation and amalgamation should be carried out at the same time if the regulation of prices and output is to do any good.

When the Bill goes into Committee the Government will either propose itself or accept from others amendments carrying out these and other changes. It is recognised that with a majority of only eight on the principle of the Bill it would quickly be wrecked on the details if concessions were not freely made. But the public is wondering why it needed a narrow division in the House of Commons, and almost a defeat, to tell the Government what the House wanted and did not want. If it had consulted parties in the House as it consulted interests in the trade it need never have run the risk.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

The Iron Cross Arrives

A likeable story was told the other day by Sir Ian Hamilton to members of the British Legion in Birmingham.

During the Great War General Smuts captured some despatches from Germany, and with them was an Iron Cross meant for General von Lettow-Vorbeck.

Smuts considered that the German was a clean fighter and deserved the decoration, so he sent the cross to his enemy over No Man's Land.

Lettow-Vorbeck was, of course, very glad to possess it, but he got no chance of wearing the cross so chivalrously handed on. Smuts pressed him so hard that he had to retreat, leaving certain precious documents and the Iron Cross buried in the ground.

Ten years after the Armistice the East African Expeditionary Force gave a reunion dinner, and because he had been a clean fighter, and they bore him no malice, they invited their old opponent, General von Lettow-Vorbeck, as we know. What we did not know is that they sent him his Iron Cross with the invitation! It had been discovered in East Africa long ago, and sent to the War Office in London.

The general wore it for the first time at the dinner given by his old enemies, now his friends.

HEROIC RIDER OF NEWFOUNDLAND

CHEERY NURSE CHERRY

Great Adventure of a Northerner Very Far North THROUGH SNOW AND FLOOD

Newfoundland sends Northern England thanks for a noble woman.

At the beginning of last year Nurse Cherry, aged 29, of Blackhall, Castle Eden, Durham, went out to work on a 40-mile stretch of coast. She was sent by the Newfoundland Outpost Nursing and Industrial Association, and was warned that the work would be hard, hazardous, and lonely. That did not dismay the girl born in Durham and trained in Lancashire. She did not expect life to be a bed of roses—and would in any case have thought a bed of roses very dull. In the North they have a way of looking on life as a battle and a chance of proving your mettle.

Tidal Wave and Earthquake

On the south-west coast of Newfoundland that chance came this winter in the form of a 15-foot high tidal wave and an earthquake. Houses and bridges were swept away, roads were strewn with wreckage, and many people were injured. In spite of all Nurse Cherry went right round her district, visiting every single person, giving medical help and human comfort.

At first she set out on horseback, without waiting to change her thin slippers, but after her horse collapsed from exhaustion she continued her journey on foot. It was snowing all the time. Often she had to wade through deep floods. But she did not rest day or night until the Government relief ship arrived just in time to save her from sharing the fate of her horse.

Meanwhile she had travelled 38 miles under the most terrible conditions, and had done priceless work for the panic-stricken women and children of the coast.

It is difficult for most of us to realise the terror that comes with earthquake. The other day we read a letter from a woman whose husband has lost his farm, and whose little boy has never spoken since the day when all the hillside came down to overwhelm their home. They fear he never will speak again.

Amid such hardships the coming of a friend like Nurse Cherry must be like the shining of a lantern on a moor at night when a traveller has lost his road.

MORE PEOPLE LIVING TO A HUNDRED

Will our descendants live longer?

Centenarians are steadily on the increase in the United States. In 1900 there were 3500 diehards; by 1920 the number had reached 4260.

On this side of the Atlantic there is a marked decrease in centenarians. In 1901 there were 680 who had lived to see their century. By 1911 there were only 460.

Women come first in the list of people who have lived to see a hundred springs, summers, autumns, and winters; on both sides of the Atlantic feminine diehards form a great majority.

THINGS SAID

Ours is a Ministry of Fish and Chips.

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

My name rhymes with Waugham, as in

Waugham day. Mr. Somerset Maugham

What a life! But I suppose I must

stick it!

A boy of six

Music publishers often pay us to play

their tunes. A barrel-organ man

Where there is no path pedestrians

should always face the coming traffic.

The A.A.

Come unto Me all ye that labour, and

I will give you rest. Jesus