

JAPAN WALKS OUT DRAMATIC SCENE AT THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY

Eastern Empire Breaking Its Pledges To the League

HOW OTHER NATIONS CAN LIMIT THE CONFLICT

From a Geneva Correspondent

Friday, February 24, is a day that will long be remembered at Geneva. After thirteen years a member of the League of Nations, with a permanent seat on the Council, Japan, walked out of the Assembly.

The Japanese representative realised the solemnity of the occasion as much as the others.

We have been proud to be a member (he said), associated with the leading nations of the world, in one of the grandest purposes in which humanity could unite. I deeply deplore the situation we are now confronting, for I do not doubt that the same aim, the desire to see a lasting peace established, is animating all of us in our deliberations and our actions.

The President's Speech

Such was the final declaration of Mr Matsuoka, first delegate of Japan, when the Assembly had unanimously accepted the report in which his country was condemned for violating the Covenant. Instead of returning to his seat as he left the reading desk, he walked slowly on down the hall; his companion delegate rose and followed him; a score or so of his countrymen came out and in utter silence they passed out from the ranks of the international company of which they had formed part since it first came into being.

The President of the Assembly spoke very sadly of the one nation that had chosen to isolate itself, and to carry out its own policy in defiance of the opinion of other States; but he refused to think that this act was final, and looked forward to the day when all States would again be working together. Meanwhile the League will continue without ceasing, amid the present turmoil, to work toward that international order in which "concord and justice will bring the peoples together and ensure the peace of the World."

South American Absentees

Of all the nations making up the League Japan only voted against the report, 42 States voting for it. Siam abstained from voting and certain other States, notably ten from Latin America, were absent from the meeting. Some of these could hardly have found it possible to approve of a report which so plainly condemns the procedure that they themselves are following.

Furthermore, that impressive stand finally taken by the Assembly has forced many States to look to the part that they have actually played in the China-Japan conflict. By supplying unlimited arms and material of war to both sides they are far from being free of blame for the bloodshed and destruction that is devastating the Far East. If some firm and definite decision is taken by all nations to refuse any longer to take part in war in this manner, as England has done, it will be a definite advance toward peace.

War Settles Nothing

Happily the League insists on believing in its Covenant, however unhappily it has to stand and witness one of its members breaking it. Japan has broken its solemn word to the League and to the world. It has put itself in the position of Germany in 1914.

What now will happen? One thing alone seems certain in this chaos—it is still true that war settles nothing, and that, difficult as things may be at the moment, the breaker of treaties and the violator of territories will be unable to sustain his conquest in the end.

A RARE TREASURE FOUND IN A LONDON CHAPEL

Interesting Art Discovery At the Savoy

A 14TH-CENTURY PAINTING

A wonderful discovery of an Old Master, which may have been brought to London by Chaucer, has been made at the Savoy Chapel in London.

While workmen were putting up scaffolding during repairs last year a small dark picture, which had hung obscurely for many years in a shadowed corner over the font, was taken to the office of the Duchy of Lancaster.

When it was seen in a better light its interest and beauty could be appreciated, although it was seen that it had many overpaintings of various dates. Although it was recognised that it must have been painted in Italy it was too much disguised for anybody to guess the name of the painter, so the picture



The Savoy Chapel picture

was carefully cleaned. First the surface dirt had to be removed, then half a dozen layers of fairly modern gilding and another one of silver, and finally a late addition of paint. Now it was possible to see what the picture looked like when it left the artist's studio.

The panel shows the Madonna and Child with two groups of saints, and it is almost certain that it is a particularly fine example of the work of the Master of the Infancy, a brilliant disciple of Giotto. This is the opinion of an expert, who believes it was painted about 1380.

Did Chaucer Bring It?

The Savoy picture has a near relation in Florence. It is by the same painter and is also a panel of the Virgin and Child. The London panel, now in beautiful condition, is being hung for a month in the National Gallery.

What scenes must have been witnessed by this charming little picture during the centuries it hung in the Savoy! Chaucer spent much of his time at the Savoy from 1361 to the end of the century. He went to Genoa on State business in 1372 and was in Florence the following year, and it is very likely he may have brought the picture back with him as a gift for John of Gaunt, his friend and patron.

The Last Relic

There is another possibility. One of the retainers of John of Valois, the French king who was a State prisoner in the Savoy and died there in 1364, may have brought the picture to London. We like better to think the little panel was admired by Chaucer and carefully cherished by him during a long, hazardous journey from Italy.

In any case, we are assured, it must have found a place among the wonderful furnishings of Henry the Seventh's

SCHOOL'S LITTLE KEW

More Green For Wood Green

EVERY ENGLISH TREE IN ONE FIELD

Is there a field in England which has within it every kind of English tree?

Trinity County School at Wood Green has a nine-acre playing-field, and the other day its pupils planted round it 94 trees of over 50 varieties. The idea of the headmaster, Dr Emrys Jones, was to have one of every native English tree, and although several of those planted cannot be called natives they were included because they have been established in this country for so long.

It will be a few years before this miniature Kew adds to the beauty of Wood Green, but meanwhile the pupils will be able to study at first hand the growth and life of many trees not found elsewhere round about them.

The side of the playing-field facing White Hart Lane will be made gay in spring with the varied blossoms of a row of flowering trees; on the opposite side of the field birch trees will form a screen against a row of houses; and tall-growing trees will rise along each end of the ground.

At a time when so many trees are being sacrificed for building developments it is delightful to hear of this fine planting, and the idea of bringing together all our English trees is one which we hope will be copied.

The staff and scholars of Trinity County School are to be congratulated on putting a little more green into Wood Green.

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FRANZ GELBENEGGER

Genius Finds a Way

Franz Gelbenegger has died in Vienna. His is an inspiring story. He was born with a love of beauty above the average. For him there was no pleasure to match the pleasure of looking on the changeable skies, the trees, the broad meadow lands, and the rolling hills. With this love he had an artist's genius. He became a landscape painter, and was happy as a man can be.

Then 20 years ago he went blind.

Like Milton he found

*That one talent which were death to hide
Lodged with me useless.*

He could never paint again. But he was undefeated. Still that ardent love of beauty burned within him, and still in his soul burned the longing to recreate beauty with his hands.

The blind painter became a sculptor. Once again he was happy.

The old poem says Love will find out a way. Genius will find out a way too. From the most sordid poverty, from the most grievous afflictions, that gift of God will spring up like a green plant into the sun.

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newly-built Hospital of the Savoy, which was completed in 1517.

When the Hospital was dissolved the Master's Lodge continued to be used as a residence. The notorious John Wilkinson became Chaplain in 1731, and may have sold the panel for his own gain. Before going to the Savoy he had been rector of Cayley in Glamorgan, and it was at Hereford, not far from here, that the picture was bought in 1874 by the Savoy Chaplain of that time. It had been offered to him by a firm because it had formerly been at the Savoy.

When the Chaplain had assured himself that this was true he restored the grimy little picture to the Chapel, where it hung almost unnoticed for nearly 60 years. It is good to know that, when it goes back to its original home in a few days, it will hang in a place of honour in this last surviving relic of Henry the Seventh's magnificent Hospital.

A FLAG GOES HOME

What To Do When Governments Fail

TAKE IT IN HAND YOURSELF

From a Paris Correspondent

Among the many stories of flags recorded since the war there is perhaps none more stirring than the story of a certain Prussian flag, the last episode of which has just been completed.

The flag was lost near Rheims in 1914. Many flags were lost during the war, but this one was famous, for it belonged to the former battalion of Hindenburg. The few soldiers remaining on the battlefield that night had risked everything in the hope of saving their standard from dishonour, but it could not be found anywhere, and great confusion reigned among those disconsolate men.

Six years elapsed. Then, in 1920, a peasant digging his land came upon some war remains, and among them lay a flag which was identified as Hindenburg's. It was sent to the Invalides, the Paris museum of the Army.

Taking Action

The Marshal heard of this at once in Germany, and he was so devoted to the flag of the battalion that he asked France if she would kindly return it to him as a gift. For several years the French Government turned a deaf ear to this appeal, according to the fashion of the politicians to indulge in long talks on peace but to do very little to bring it about.

The French people were kept quite ignorant of this occurrence until the last few weeks, when a splendid suggestion was made by a group of soldiers.

"If the French Government does not care to answer Hindenburg's request, have we not a right of our own to do something?" these men said, and after further consideration they decided that they themselves would make the journey to Germany and restore the flag.

And so the flag is home again, thanks, not to the politicians who do the talking, but to the men who have done the fighting and will yet have to make the peace.

WATCH YOUR FLEX

The dangers of faulty electric flex and equipment were referred to in last week's C.N.

News of another accident now comes from Coventry, where a cleaner died as the result of a shock from an electrically-driven adding machine while she was cleaning an office floor. It appears that the flex had worn through at the point where it joined the machine, and there was no earth connection.

We repeat the advice given in last week's C.N.:

Watch your flex; and always switch off electrical apparatus when not in use.

THINGS SAID

A trying time is the time to try.

Duchess of York

I have walked 570 miles looking for work.

A man at Hendon

The prisons are full of boys who should not be there.

Lady Clodagh Anson

I would destroy such words as Honour, Prestige, and Fatherland.

Professor Einstein

I don't over-eat; I don't over-sleep; I don't smoke or drink; I just do my work each day.

Mr Lansbury at 74

England is still an enchanted country and still a bulwark for the cause of men.

Departing American Ambassador

I do not imagine that in ten years we shall have brought unemployment down to a comparatively small figure.

Mr Neville Chamberlain