

League Of Nations About To Be Put To Acid Test

Italy's Ground That League Has No Jurisdiction Because Greek Government Not Recognized Regarded as Untenable and League Has Power to Intervene If Chooses

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, Sept. 3.—Italy's refusal to permit her controversy with Greece to be considered by the League of Nations at Geneva on the ground that the present Greek government has not been recognized by the powers as legal, need not prevent that League from assuming jurisdiction.

This is the view taken by those who have studied the Covenant of the League of Nations, particularly the famous Article II, which was so often interpreted by President Wilson in his speeches as giving any nation the right to bring to the attention of the League any dispute in any part of the world likely to affect the peace of the world, whether it was between members of the League or between a member and a non-member.

Indeed Lord Robert Cecil on his recent visit to the United States declared that under Article II the reparations dispute could be considered, but that out of deference to the wishes of France the controversy had not been taken up because the parties interested believed they could ultimately adjust the matter by direct negotiation between governments.

In the present case one of two parties to the dispute actually appealed to the League which cannot say it will keep hands off out of deference to Italy without seeming to take the side of Italy. The question of whether the present Greek Government has the right to appeal to the League is not considered pertinent here for it is pointed out by international lawyers that the Greek membership in the League of Nations is not a membership of any particular administration or regime but is permanent. In other words the Greek nation enjoys the membership to the fullest extent irrespective of the existing type of government in Greece. Nations do not lose their treaty right simply because of an internal revolution or domestic disturbance. Ample precedent is afforded in the case of the United States and Mexico. No recognized government has existed in Mexico for several years, but the United States has insisted upon protecting American property rights under earlier treaties made between the Mexican people and American people.

The general feeling here is that Italy has seized upon the pretext of an unrecognized government in Athens as a means of shelving the issue so far as the League is concerned. It involves the acid test of the League's real strength. Should the League of Nations accept the Italian interpretation and keep hands off, Article II of the Covenant will become a dead letter and faith in the League itself will be lost by many of its warmest supporters. Should the League, on the other hand, step in and call Italy to task for violating the Versailles Treaty—as the covenant is an integral part of the treaty—the prestige of the Geneva Institution will rise considerably.

The main value of the League, which has been admitted even by its staunchest opponents, has been that part of the Versailles covenant which makes it obligatory for any nation having a dispute with another to wait at least three months before beginning hostilities. The belief was

USE OF TELEGRAM IN TURKISH RELIGIOUS FETES IS CRITICIZED

Constantinople, Sept. 4.—Religious conservatives throughout Turkey are much excited because the Minister of Religious Affairs has ordered and the Religious Court has approved the sending of a telegram to fix feast dates. Conservative newspapers oppose the methods as

"too progressive," a view which has many supporters.

The trouble began recently when a national religious feast day was observed. Customs provide that the feast open when someone sees the new moon. But different Turkish cities saw the new moon at different times, this year. So there was a succession of services which should

have been simultaneous.

The Angora government decided to offset this, by putting all power in the hands of the religious minister, who, on being properly convinced someone had really seen the moon, could send out a general telegram. Older churches appealed the order, but the religious court upheld it.

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