

GERMANY'S LAST HOPE IN NEW WORLD CONFERENCE

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Germany's last hope in a new world conference is to secure the agreement of the United States...

German People Must Be Shown

By contrast, no agreement is worth while, can be of any avail, which does not demonstrate to the German people...

Today the French people are convinced Germany means to evade reparations payment and, as soon as possible, attack France again.

Now, if it be true, as the French assert, that Germany means to evade payment at all cost, that no suffering and no collapse seem to the Germans too heavy a price to pay for successfully evading reparations...

In exactly the same way, if it be true, as is frequently alleged, that France aims at the destruction of Germany, not at the collection of reparations, the situation is hopeless.

Scope of Commission

The present commission, examining into the German situation, can say what Germany must do in order to balance her budget, what expenses she must reduce, what burdens she must abandon.

Before Germany can be saved, she must, naturally, reveal a readiness to comply with the conditions of the commission. But even if she does act in complete good faith, she can accomplish little unless she receives aid directly, in the shape of international loans, and indirectly through the medium of a moratorium with respect of reparations.

To save Germany the British Labor Party has already declared itself in favor of another world conference. Such a conference would be in order at the precise moment when the present inquiry has reached a decision on the main question of the ways and means by which Germany might be rehabilitated.

Then, at last, the world would be face to face with the whole problem and, as I have already said, any success in the present conversations seems to me to lead inevitably to such a world conference in which each nation concerned would be called upon to place all of its cards upon the table.

Conference May Be Blocked Of course if Poincare insisted that there could be no consideration of the Ruhr or of the reduction of the totals of reparation; if the British Labor Ministry, assuming it to be in power then, should declare that no guarantee to France and no cancellation of British claims upon France was even discussable...

problems. It is nevertheless true that once its findings have been made the results must be put before the interested nations either directly or in a new general conference.

Failing any such result, then all that will be left will be some sort of Franco-German combination, industrial and economic first of all, made without British agreement or participation, an agreement which would insure French supremacy in Europe for a considerable period of time but would almost inevitably lead to the formation of a balancing group of states with Britain and Italy ranged against France, Poland and the Little Entente.

The last three British Cabinets have accepted the principle that Germany could not be saved except at the expense of her conquerors. They have even accepted the principle that Britain is so much concerned in the salvaging of Germany, materially concerned, that she should be prepared to make sacrifices herself to France.

In any new conference, such as might follow the present Paris discussion, such as must follow it, if any real good is to result, the new British Ministry will have to make far more sweeping offers, if it is to arrive anywhere.

As for the United States, if it is to have any influence, it will have to be prepared to accompany arguments for the reduction of German reparations totals by promises to scale down allied debts, seeking its compensation indirectly through the restoration of the European markets for American exports.

Some of these things may be made very clear to the American public in the course of the present Paris discussion. General Dawes and his associates, since they have neither official nor political status, may be able to analyze the situation for the American people and explain it as no American public men have ventured to do so far.

Germany's Last Hope If the commission over which General Dawes is to preside fails, there will be very little basis left for hope that there can be any rational solution of the German problem.

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