

to pacts of peace, we mean to respect our signatures. It prays that we shall not only relieve it of burdens, but establish it still more securely in the ways of peace. It begins to give public opinion a chance and to lift our problem out of the narrower scrutiny of the technical expert, and put it on the broader field of the creative statesman. Above all, it demands from us an agreement to stop the competition which has recently begun to show itself, both in types and numbers of ships. If we are not careful we shall be once more involved in a feverish competition such as heralded the outbreak of the war.

Two Important Things.

The Prime Minister suggested that work would be shortened if two things were assumed in the discussions. One was that different needs were imposed by geographical position world responsibility and points of attack in event of war. Conferences, he said, had broken down through unwillingness or inability to understand this point or that the ton used in ships for one purpose was totally different for the ton used in ships for another purpose. The second thing to be assumed was that, although armaments could not be divided into watertight compartments—naval, land, and air forces—for practical purposes they must be discussed separately, always remembering when coming to conclu-

peace which will be one of deeds as well as words, it must be as a Naval Power."

Thus it came about that, after unsuccessful attempts to get an Anglo-American understanding which would make a wide international agreement possible, President Hoover had proposed a further exploration of their difference in order that the five Naval Powers might again try to agree upon an equilibrium in strength and competitive building and reduce the size and cost of fleets and, as a result, present to the Preparatory Disarmament Commission at Geneva an agreement which would be related to its wider work and form part of the material which would ultimately go before a general Disarmament Conference.

The Prime Minister concluded:—

"If we can limit and reduce by agreement one of our most powerful arms without diminishing national security, but indeed strengthen it by our very act, this Conference will undoubtedly take its place amongst the great landmarks which tell the events by which mankind has advanced in enlightenment."

Mr. MacDonald concluded by expressing the view that the London Naval Conference of 1930 would undoubtedly take its place amongst the crowning landmarks by which mankind has advanced in wisdom and enlightenment.

The Voice of the United States.

MR. H. L. STIMSON, Secretary of State for the United States, followed Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, after the former's speech had been translated into French. Mr. Stimson was heard to advantage, proving himself to be a slow and measured speaker. "We are profoundly impressed," he said, "by the speeches we have heard. We also appreciate the welcome extended to us by His Majesty the King, and the wise expression of our problems which has been presented by the Prime Minister. I am convinced that this Conference will be impressed by the lofty ideals of the two preceding speakers, and I look forward confidently to the attainment of success as a result of our labours. I deem it auspicious that our first meeting, in which there must be a spirit of understanding and co-operation, should take place in the Houses of Parliament, which have for Americans deep significance as the home of our jurisprudence and our fundamental ideas of human unity."

Mr. Stimson next outlined the development of the international idea for the reduction of armaments, and indicated the importance it had now taken as a factor in world politics. He referred to the first Washington Naval Conference, and indicated that from that there had been a long course of international development. They could well feel that in any moment of history evolution was a continuous process, and they could hope that by frequent revisions the important position reached to-day would enable still further drastic reductions to be made in the future—thus whatever limitations were now agreed upon might be the basis for further revision at appropriate periods, leading on to the ideal position of disarmament. They were convinced that in attacking now the naval problems they were following a practical course of events. They believed that any reduction they

could make in that problem would be a substantial contribution to the wider problem of general disarmament. Land, sea and air forces constituted the modern means of defence. They believed, however, that a reduction in one of these arms would contribute to an enlightened limitation of the others. He hoped for definite success from the Naval Conference now in progress, but whatever the achievements of the Conference were, their efforts in the general influence of disarmament would continue unabated. They were prepared to consider and study the problems of other nations as well as their own. They hoped to attain a solution acceptable to all, fair to all, and a benefit to the peace and stability of the world. They knew there were many problems, but they were ready to stay there till the problems were solved, and until they could give to the world an agreement that would carry them on to the time when they could meet again in the same spirit for further reduction.

Mr. Stimson concluded: "Mr. Chairman, we have had relations with the members of each delegation here which have given us the assurance of goodwill, patience and wisdom, which we are sure they will contribute to the success of our endeavours. We assure you that we are prepared to cooperate in the fullest measure, and do our utmost to appreciate the difficulties of others, to continue the work for so long as it may be necessary to achieve our purpose. We recognise the disaster that failure of this Conference will bring to the peaceful hopes of our people. We are determined that we shall succeed.

Other Speakers.

SPEAKERS of other nations followed in alphabetical order. The representative of France spoke in English slowly and deliberately. His speech was afterwards given in French by the interpreter.

Of particular interest to New Zealand was the speech by the Hon. T. M. Wilford. Mr. Wilford was the last speaker, and as proceedings at that

time had extended nearly half an hour beyond the allotted time, he showed discrimination in making his remarks of the briefest nature. Mr. Wilford spoke with outstanding calm and dignity, his presence over the air being conspicuously effective. Mr. Wilford said that great difficulties would be experienced in the course of that Con-

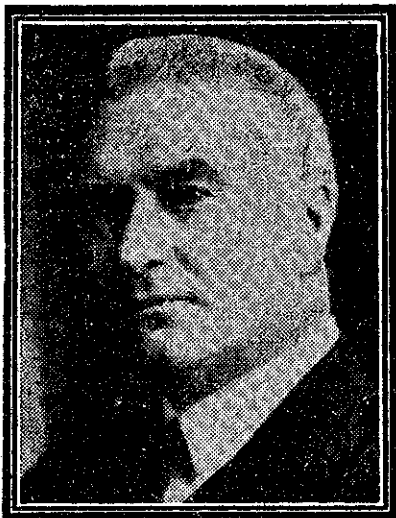


MR. H. E. STIMSON, Secretary of State for the United States

ference, and that mutual forbearance and toleration would have to be exercised. New Zealand wished the Conference well in its deliberations, and hoped sincerely that the result would be another milestone upon the road to lasting peace.

Comprehensive Arrangements.

AFTER the close of proceedings, the announcer at Stations 2XAD and 2XAF, operated by the National Broadcasting Company of America, (Concluded on page 40.)



THE HON. T. M. WILFORD, New Zealand's High Commissioner. —S. P. Andrew, photo.

sions regarding each arm that it had relationships to the other two. If they were willing to make a good naval agreement now, when it came to be reviewed a few years hence, their attitude would depend upon what the other Powers had done as regards land and air armaments in the meantime.

Importance of Navy to Britain.

All nations had not the same interest in each arm, but they had an interest in the general armed state of the world.

"The way of Great Britain is on the sea, for it is a small island," he said. "Our Navy is no mere superfluity to us. So if this country can make a contribution to

Big Railway Concessions

For Picnic Parties

Happy indeed are the memories associated with that popular institution, the "picnic train"—sunshine, happy faces, and joyous laughter.

Here are a few examples of the remarkably cheap return fares for picnic excursions arranged by schools, business houses, friendly societies, trades unions, etc:—

	CHILDREN (up to 15 years)	ADULTS
9 to 12 miles 7d.	1/3
21 to 25 miles 1/-	1/10
46 to 50 miles 1/11	3/3

Communicate with the nearest Stationmaster, Business Agent, or District Manager for full particulars.