

Must We Resort to

THIS

by

Dr. J. HIGHT

broadcast from 3YA

31/12/31

"To attempt to keep Germany in the strait-waistcoat, political, economic and military, in which she has been confined since 1918, is to lay the foundations of another war." Undoubtedly Dr. J. Hight forsaw Germany's difficulties—that she could not meet her obligations. Unless European nations revise radically the terms of the Peace Treaty—and disarm—the world again will be a seething cauldron of WAR.

SURELY there can now be but few who would deny that we are living in a period of rapid social change which appears to be speeding toward its crisis, when old institutions may be cast off or profoundly modified, perhaps even the very nature of Western social structure changed in essentials, and the importance, power and influence of nations acquire quite new relative proportions. Despite our reading of history, how obstinately we cling to the idea or at any rate act on the supposition that whatever is must have been for ages and shall be for ever!

Do we ever reflect, for example, that the present British Empire or the commercial and industrial supremacy of Britain is but a few score years old? It is a wholesome thing in times like ours to-day to reflect upon the fact that empires and even civilisations have flourished and passed away. Not to tempt pessimism but to arouse ourselves to devise correctives.

Is the present generation to make one of the epoch-making decisions as to choosing between the paths along which lie decadence and ruin on the one hand and advance and well-being on the other? One thing is certain—that its leaders will have to make momentous, if not so decisive judgments, this coming year and early, too.

As Mr. Troup said in one of these talks recently political changes and adjustments lag behind economic and general social changes, but even politicians now see that the world stage is being set for a series of the most dramatic scenes in all human experience. The old order, out of touch with changes in economic practice and the march of political ideas, may be burst asunder unless the nations take wise counsel together and immediate action upon it.

The settlement after the War, including the League of Nations and the principle of the Pacific settlement of international disputes, did not win universal acceptance. Nevertheless there has been progress. Germany was admitted a member of the League in 1926; the U.S.A. has co-operated with the League in most important work; the League, with its regular and frequent conferences of European statesmen, has become an essential part of the political structure of Europe, and it has staved off some wars.

THE old nationalist and militarist system of alliances and the balance of power, however, is still followed by France, now holding the dominant position in Europe, though a member of the League, and armaments are increasing (or were up to November 1) despite Article 8 of the Covenant, by £150 millions in six years.

Armaments mean the negation of law and justice as between nations, and set up rivalry leading inevitably to war, and the probable horrors and ruin of another world war beggar the imagination.

Events of the last few weeks would indicate that the sense of these horrors is weakening. The proportion of the population with first-hand knowledge of the War decreases every year. Hence the greater need to strengthen all peace-making institutions and of a common or universal policy to avert war.

The future of the world depends on the acceptance of this principle and the rejection of the contrary. Group agreements are welcome only if they settle disputes between the members of the group concerned, and do not combine them against other States. The Austro-German Customs Union proposed this year promised to be such an agreement; a British Commonwealth preference agreement would do more harm than good, if it contained clauses threatening positive damage to the trade of the rest of the world.

The resolution of the Foreign Ministers of France, (Continued on page 8.)



Armistice Day Celebrations in Paris.

... But we are fast forgetting. A generation who has not known war is springing up, and deep, deep down the old racial prejudices are striving. 1932 will be a year of drastic reorganisation if we are to avoid another World War.