

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

(Wellington Branch).

Resolution Passed at Meeting of Council,  
December 3, 1925.

"This Council records its deep gratification that the Locarno Pact has now been signed by the Powers affected by its provisions, and its equal pleasure that Germany will now enter the League of Nations. The Pact, while not the immediate work of the League, is nevertheless the outcome of the League's efforts to provide a basis for security and disarmament, and will be administered by the League. If the Pact is followed, as in all probability it soon will be, by the adhesion of the United States to the League's International Court of Justice at the Hague, there will open out before the League, which has already abundantly justified its existence, a future of incalculable prestige and authority. This Council finds in the status quo not only an occasion of great thankfulness and a vindication of its faith in the League, but also a call to renewed diligence in its efforts to arouse an intelligent interest in the work of the League and an active sympathy with its ideals and aims."

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

(It has been brought to the notice of the Dominion Union of the League of Nations that the statements made in various directions as to the relation between the League of Nations and the Roman Catholic Church have raised in the minds of many actual members of the League of Nations Unions and many sympathisers who would like to become members, doubts as to whether they are justified in thus linking up with the Union. The position was vigorously dealt with some years ago by Professor Pringle in the South Island. For the benefit of readers who did not have the privilege of hearing or reading the Professor's reply, the following additional pronouncement is now issued.)

From time to time it is asserted by foolish and, it is to be feared, prejudiced persons, that the League of Nations is an organised attempt by the Roman Catholic Church to subject Protestant nations to its authority, and indeed to achieve world supremacy. It will be hard to convince those who accept this grotesque absurdity of its radical fa-

sity. The man who is persuaded that the earth is flat, or that the moon is made of green cheese, will stick to his opinion, in spite of all the astronomers. The man who is persuaded that the League of Nations is inspired by the Roman Catholic Church will be of the same opinion even though the shade of its originator, Dr. Wilson, President of the United States, and a Presbyterian, should "revisit thus the glimpses of the moon" to assure him that he is mistaken.

On what grounds is this remarkable charge against the League based? As far as we can discover, on these:—

(1) There are enrolled on the membership of the League a larger number of Catholic than of Protestant nations.

(2) Sir Eric Drummond, the Secretary-General of the League, is a Catholic.

(1) Many of the Catholic nations of the League are small and insignificant, and neither singly nor collectively do they exert a determining influence in its operations. The Powers that sway the League's decisions are those usually spoken of as the Great Powers. Of these, Britain is Protestant; Germany, which will presently be a member of the League, is Protestant. France is not Protestant, but only sheer and wilful ignorance would venture to call France Catholic; the Catholic hierarchy of France is in deadly opposition to the French Government and Parliament. Italy is Catholic. Japan is neither Protestant nor Catholic. Against the decision of these Powers all the Catholic countries of the world could make no stand, even if they attempted it, and they never do. Moreover, many of the smaller nations of the League are Protestant, including the British Dominions and the Scandinavian countries.

It would not be difficult to show that Britain exerts by far the most powerful influence in the counsels of the League. In 1923, the Treaty of Mutual Assistance fell through because Mr Ramsay MacDonald opposed it; in 1924, the Protocol fell through because Mr Chamberlain opposed it; in 1925 the Locarno Pact succeeded, and its success was due to its acceptance by Britain, again represented by Mr Chamberlain. As a matter of sober fact, it would be infinitely nearer the truth to say that the League of Nations is an organisation controlled by Protestant Britain than by the Catholic Church. In saying so, it is not suggested that Britain sways

the League in the special interests of Britain, but unquestionably the League does not and cannot move in any direction without the concurrence of Britain.

(2) Sir Eric Drummond, the Secretary-General, is a Catholic. Concerning this, Mr J. V. Wilson, an official of the League, but a New Zealander, and a Presbyterian, has written as follows:

"The attack on the Secretary-General is not only impudent and silly—impudent, because the Secretary-General is an eminent member of the British Civil Service, which for generations has been given the credit of being scrupulously careful not to allow individual religious opinions to affect public policy; and silly, because the advantage which he is supposed alone to enjoy, namely, the inspection of Treaties registered by the League, may be shared by anyone in the whole world who wants to see them, and every one of these Treaties is published by the Secretary in the original language, and in French and English also."

## ALCOHOL—NO MEDICINE.

"I have had twenty years' experience in the practice of medicine. At no time have I found it necessary to use or prescribe alcohol as a medicine. We do use it for sterilisation purposes and as a preservative for various drugs and chemicals, but as a medicine it is absolutely worthless, and a detriment to the patient.

"We have thirteen active physicians on duty in this hospital, and only one has ever prescribed whisky or wine. . . . I think you will find when a final survey is made of the medical profession in the United States that there exists a preponderance of sentiment for the elimination of alcohol from the armamentarium of the average physician."—Hugh Scott, M.D., United States Veterans Bureau, Hospital No. 90 Muskogee, Oklahoma.

## FUNNIER.

Orator: "And now, gentlemen, I wish to tax your memory."

Member of the Audience: "Good heavens! Has it come to that?"—"Cap-per's."