

# Reaction To New French Plan For Disarmament

## Official Memorandum Is Vaguer Than Was Anticipated And Has Caused A Sharp Change In German Sentiment.

GENEVA, Dec. 14—The official memorandum outlining the new proposals of France for disarmament, writes Miss Mary A. Craig McGeachy, a Canadian member of the Information Section of the League of Nations Secretariat, is rather disappointing to those who expected that it would fill in the outline sketched by M. Herriot and M. Poul-Boncour; it is hardly more detailed than those two speeches. It makes some points clearer, but leaves others very vague.

### I.—THE FACTS

(a) The obligation to be accepted by States not members of the League is stronger than was suggested by the speeches. These States are asked to "prohibit direct or indirect economic or financial relations with the aggressor countries" and to "adopt the necessary measures to make that prohibition immediately effective." This is a good deal to ask of the United States or the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, and it is emphasised that this request is an integral part of the Plan—"without this acceptance, the Plan would be impracticable."

(b) The special European Pact is now made precise. The duty of assistance arises at the moment of attack. The Council of the League is to be the deciding body as to who is the aggressor. It is to act not by unanimity but by a majority decision (at present unanimity is necessary for action in any such questions).

### II.—THE LEAGUE FORCE

(a) The contingent to be provided by each Continental European Power is described rather vaguely as "a small number of specialised units consisting of troops serving for a relatively long term" and equipped with powerful materials which will be forbidden to national armies. It is understood, though not so stated in the Plan, that Germany will have the right to provide the same "powerful materials" for her contingent.

(b) All powerful mobile land material other than the normal equipment of each country is to be "stored in each of the contracting States under international supervision." It follows that Germany, having no such material and no right to manufacture it, would have no such stocks.

(c) European Powers having fleets will also allot a certain proportion of vessels of every category for use in emergency assistance against an aggressor when called upon by the League.

(d) There will be specialised air units which, like the military and naval contingents, will be used only in self-defence or, at the behest of the League, against an aggressor. These units will "possess more powerful machines and more powerful equipment than the ordinary air units."

Nothing is said as to whether Germany will be allowed to have such units, but it is gathered that the intention is that she shall not, since this will involve re-arming.

(e) In addition, the League would have its own air force, "organically international" and "set up and maintained permanently." This would consist of the bombing aircraft which each nation is to give up. It is to be manned by direct recruiting.

III.—NATIONAL ARMIES

With regard to this point, the memorandum follows fairly closely the statements made in the speeches, but the paragraph defining the strength of these short-term forces is singularly vague. "The numerical limitation" is to be "adapted to the inequalities and variations of the resources and recruitment of the various signatory Powers." The memorandum is further somewhat less emphatic than the speeches, with regard to the shortness of terms of service. Nor is the limitation of weapons as definite as had been anticipated. The national armies are to be forbidden "all powerful mobile material." They would have air units of a restricted type; whether or not these are to be allowed to Germany is not clear.

The question of naval and over-sea forces is barely touched upon in the speeches. The memorandum does little more to clarify this point. Oversea forces are to be "calculated and specialised for the

particular tasks incumbent upon them."

On the whole, the naval proposals are the most obscure in the memorandum. There is a suggestion that Great Britain might join France and Italy in a Mediterranean Pact. There is a suggestion that naval reductions shall (a) be a percentage of global tonnages existing in 1931; (b) retain the present relative strengths; (c) reduce offensive vessels more drastically than defensive ones. But perhaps this section is not meant to be taken very seriously. One theory is that it is inserted simply to maintain the principle of interdependence between air, land and sea forces.

The air proposals are made dependent upon special guarantees of security in connection with civil aviation. In particular it is proposed to entrust the management and supervision in Europe of public air transport to a "European Air Transport Union." Great Britain is expected to participate in this scheme. But it is not made clear whether this union would control purely Continental services or such services as the British air lines to the North East and India, the French lines to West Africa and South America.

The general impression is that the Plan has been tightened up in those sections which deal with what one might call the French demands, and has been left or made vague in those concerning French offers. This change, which is one of emphasis rather than of actual content is generally believed to be due to Herriot whose natural caution has been adroitly played upon.

This change has brought a sharp change in German sentiment. In the first place, the declaration in favour of equality is far less precise than had been hoped for. In one place the memorandum speaks of "progressive equalization of military strength"; in another of "equality of defensive strength"; in another it hints that the scheme as a whole will only be carried out by stages—"each stage being justified by the experience of others," and that its complete fulfilment depends upon "confidence" and "loyalty". In addition, it insists on two or three occasions that "all re-arming is ruled out."

Taking these and the more detailed proposals together, the Germans now suspect (a) that even such scope as is offered will be delayed and conditional; (b) that it will only be partial. They interpret the Plan as giving to France and Germany roughly equal militia forces and equal League contingents. But France would have over and above Germany's armies, a powerful fleet, a big highly-trained colonial army, an air force, and large stocks of heavy material "under international control," but actually in the power of the French Government. These discrepancies, they protest, are completely incompatible with any real equality of status.

This German reaction constitutes one great difficulty in the way of the Plan. Another is the reluctance felt in Great Britain and the United States to undertake such definite responsibilities with regard to aggressor States (as defined by a majority and not by a unanimous vote of the League Council). A third difficulty lies in the anomalous situation of the Soviet Union—its geographical, not its political situation.

For all military purposes, the Soviet Union is a single unit stretching from the Polish border to Manchuria. Is it in Europe or outside Europe? Can Russia make a sweeping reduction of her army unless China, Manchuria and Japan are also prepared to do so? Unless Russia does disarm, can Poland? Unless Poland, can the European Powers on her western borders?

This is, in a way, much the same problem as the colonial one. Europe has no definite border. For military purposes, it goes as far east as Vladivostok; as far south as Iahomo.

This basing of its provisions upon Europe as a geographical unit may prove to be a fatal flaw in the design of the Plan.

There is this to be said on the other side, however: that the very looseness of the proposals (a looseness which is said to be deliberate) may mean that in negotiation they may prove to be flexible enough to accommodate themselves successfully to these difficulties.

Jack: What is the difference between capital and labor?  
Fred: Well, suppose I loan you \$5. That is capital.  
Jack: And what is labor?  
Fred: Getting it back.

## CENTRAL GUARDIAN

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### DEBATING SOCIETY MEETS—

The annual meeting of St. Joseph's Literary and Debating Society of Kelly's Cross was held in the hall on Dec. 5th. The meeting was called to order by the retiring president, Mr. Thos. McAvinn. The following officers were elected for the coming year. President, Mr. Frank J. Flood; secretary, Miss Marita Malone; treasurer, Miss Kathleen Cusack; first vice pres. Mrs. Katherine Cremer; executive Mr. Bennett Trainor and Mr. Louis McQua d. Moderator, Rev. Fr. Pitre; librarian Mr. Thos. McAvinn. Entertaining committee Mr. Frank Flood, Mr. Gordon Waddell, Mr. Anthony Malone. The first debate of the season will be held in Kelly's Cross Hall on Dec. 16th at 8 o'clock. The subject for this debate is "Resolved that the transportation of freight in Canada should be given to the railway instead of auto trucks."

## Cornwall

The first debate of the season took place at the young people's society meeting on Tuesday evening of this week. "Resolved that the League of Nations has failed in its duty" was upheld by George MacMillan, leader and Berte Miller, Mrs. Con McPhail and Miss Edna Frizell. Leader in the Con side was Mr. Elmer Frizell and Miss Leah McKinley, Miss Hettie Howard, Jack Scott. The following kindly acted as judges. Miss Emily Platts, Mr. Lawson Crosby and Mr. Harry Crosby. A large number of young people were present and after the regular meeting a very interesting and humorous game was put on by Mr. Gordon Boyle. Meeting closed with singing.

The children of the Mission Band have been busy practising for their Christmas concert.

Miss Sarah Gass of Cornwall is a patient in the Prince Edward Island Hospital. She underwent an operation for appendicitis on Saturday and her friends hope for an early recovery.

The Women's Missionary Meeting was held on Monday, December twelfth at the Parsonage with the President, Mrs. D. K. Ross in the chair. This was the annual meeting and the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Mrs. Deane McEwen, treasurer, Mrs. Hazen Howard, secretary, Mrs. Colin McPhail, strangers secretary, Mrs. Roy McKinnon, missionary monthly secretary, Mrs. Lemuel Drake, temperance secretary, Miss Laura Crosby. Leaders of the Mission Band Mrs. W. R. Shaw and Mrs. G. MacMillan. After the regular meeting the following program was enjoyed. Piano music, Miss Etta Ross; duet Mrs. Everet McKinnon and Miss Winnie Stone, solos by William Ross. After which refreshments were served by committee and a social time enjoyed.

Miss Emily Platts of Charlottetown is supplying for Mr. Ling in the Principal's Department of Cornwall School.

Miss Helen Crosby, nurse in training at the Prince Edward Island Hospital, spent Sunday at her home in West River.

Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Morrow of Charlottetown were visitors to Cornwall on Sunday.

Friends are sorry to know that Mrs. W. R. Shaw has been in the Prince Edward Island Hospital for

Mr. John Delory recently visited Newport the guest of his son Mr. Eugene Delory.

Misses Mary and Susie Hemphill, Montague, spent the week end at their home here.

Miss Elizabeth Morrison, teacher at Georgetown, spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Morison.

Mr. William Martell, Montreal, is spending the winter at his home.

Mrs. Melville Ross picked on Dec. 6th in her garden pansies in bloom.

Mr. John Stewart, Pictou, N. S., is visiting at his home in Georgetown.

Miss Clara Jewell, Montague, spent the week end at her home in Georgetown.

# Gray new Cameras

## for the Christmas Shopper

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# Give a KODAK

A few days and hope that she will soon feel much better.

A largely attended meeting was held in the Cornwall rink on Saturday evening to plan for the hockey season and the Bethune Trophy. Gordon MacMillan was appointed President of League and W. R. Shaw Secretary. We are all looking forward to many interesting games this winter and work has begun on the rink. We will hope for Jack Frost so the ice will make quickly.—C.

Mr. MacDonald, Little Pond, is visiting here the guest of his cousin Mrs. A. J. MacDonald.

The many friends in Georgetown of Mrs. Jack Steele are sorry to hear of her illness at her home in Newport.

The services on Sunday at Holy Trinity were that for the 3rd Sunday in Advent. At Matins Capt. Kelly spoke from the account of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, and dwelt on the words of the conversation between Martha and our Lord. At evensong Capt. Kelly spoke from St. Paul's words "Rejoice in the Lord." As the season of Advent draws to a close we look forward to the great festival of the Nativity. St. Paul tells us that every day should be Christmas and always rejoice in the Lord. God gave us the greatest gift possible, the sacrifice is completed. It is ours to accept the Christ and make ready our hearts for the second coming.

The A. Y. P. A. met on Tuesday. Minor matters were discussed. It was decided to hold a party during Christmas week. Everyone had a great deal of fun during the evening and the lunch topped everything except for the tea.

On Wednesday, Capt. Kelly, left for Souris and Cherry Valley.

On Thursday evening in Holy Trinity Hall Miss Audrey DeBlois, missionary on furlough, spoke of the work undertaken by the church in the district of Kangara, India.

The speaker told of the various castes and the uphill work amongst the same, also of the various religions of the heathen. A description of the actual mission work was given which was greatly appreciated for so many missionaries dwell on the country, climate and nature of the people, their politics and other forms, and forget to tell of the progress of Christ's Kingdom. Miss DeBlois told of many changed lives and how their conversion took place. How herself and the others in various ways sought to lead the Hindu to the true light. During the lecture the speaker sang some hymns in the native tongue; she also displayed the native dress through the kindness of Messrs. Fairchild and Easton. After the lecture Miss DeBlois invited the people to see the curios and articles she brought with her from India. Miss Rose Fairchild provided the music for the occasion. During her stay in Georgetown Miss DeBlois was the guest of Mrs. Thomas Henry. A.

The November meeting of the Middleton Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Clifford Wright. Meeting opened with the Institute Ode followed by the Creed in unison. Thirteen members responded to roll call with "Something I have to be thankful for." One visitor was present. The minutes of the last annual meeting and of the October meeting were read and adopted.

The President then gave a re-

port of the year's work, and the secretary gave the financial report which shows a bank balance of \$69.98 and cash on hand \$3.45. This report was moved and adopted. Both committees failed to report. Moved that lifter be got for school. New committees were then appointed: School, Mrs. Clifford Wright and Mrs. Allen. Visiting, Mrs. Walter Craig and Mrs. Wilfred Craig. The new officers were then appointed for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Elliot Wright; Vice President, Mrs. Colin Craig; Secretary, Mrs. J. S. Wright (elected); Directors, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Clifford Wright, Mrs. James McCordie; Auditors, Mrs. F. Curtis, Mrs. Edson Wright, Organist, Mrs. Walter Craig.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the retiring officers, after which the newly elected President took the chair. Mrs. Edson Wright then read a paper on, "Is interest in Armistice Day dying out," followed by instrumental music by Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Walter Craig. Meeting closed with the National Anthem, after which a dainty lunch was served by the hostess. Next meeting at the home of Mrs. Allen.

"Christmas gifts made at home." Collection amounted to 55 cents, dues \$1.50.

**MARKET FOR ELECTRIC CLOCKS IN JAPAN**

Electrically operated clocks have already found a market in Japan, and as a result three of the leading cloth manufacturers have begun production, writes P. V. McLane,

Assistant Trade Commissioner at Kobe, in the forthcoming issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal. Domestic makes so far have not proven of very good quality, and there is a good possibility of developing an import trade. Efforts have been made to sell German, Swiss, and United States makes, and one Canadian clock has been introduced, but no statistics of imports are available. The prices of imported clocks are much higher than the quotations for those of Japanese manufacture. At the present time the utility as well as the sale of electric clocks is handicapped by conditions governing the domestic supply of electric current, but efforts are being made to have these unfavourable conditions remedied, and when this has been done a considerable stimulus to the use of electric clocks should result. Despite this handicap, there is evidence of an increasing demand for electric clocks in Japan. While the present low rate of exchange has the effect of restricting the importation of foreign makes, it is a trade that is based on quality and performance rather than on price, and affords an opportunity to Canadian manufacturers.

**Coming Back Strong**

Mary: "It must be five years since I saw you last. How much older you look. I should hardly have known you."  
Martha: "Yes, it is a long time. If I had not remembered your coat, I should not have recognized you."

Shop Early and Buy Christmas Seals

8 Shopping Days 'til Christmas