PREPARING FOR THE NEXT WAR

WE FIND OURSELVES PREPARING for the next war when the ink is hardly dry on the still unratified Treaty of Peace, remarks the Kobe "Japan Chronicle", which says that "practical statesmen" do not even pretend to think that the League of

THE ALARM

"The world's troubles have been transferred to the Pacific."

AUSTRALIA: "Where are we going so fast?"

THE GRIM PERSON: "We're going to buy you a gun, my lad. You may need it."

----"The Bulletin" (Sydney).

Nations is an instrument likely to be effective. It contains clauses for the combined action against any state which resists the Treaty settlements, yet notwithstanding such an arrangement the first signatories of the Treaty--which included the Covenant of the League of Nations--had so little faith in their own instrument" that they made a tripartite agreement that "in the event of the impossible happening, and Germany making an unprovoked attack on France, Britain and the United States would come to France's assistance." This treaty is not only in direct opposition to the League of Nations, but, what is in itself very extraordinary, it is "purely one-sided." This Kobe weekly sees more immediate foreshadowings of conflict in the discussion of the naval strategy of the future, of which it remarks:

"We have Mr. Josephus Daniels telling the Pacific coast that the American Navy is there to protect it: we have Viscount Jellicoe discussing half-a-dozen British fleets for the Pacific, and of course there are the Japanese big navy men preparing greater programs than ever....

"The Australian press is quite frank about it. They have published forecasts of Admiral Jellicoe's report though they do not, it is true, state whether there is any foundation for these forecasts beyond the intelligent inferences of the antipodean journalists from Viscount Jellicoe's speeches. The Sydney 'Sun' deduces from these speeches that Australia must have adequate naval defence if she is to preserve the ideal of a white Australia, and her development on these lines is bound up with the mastery of the Pacific--- a fairly large area of which to hold the hegemony."

It is clear to the "Japan Chronicle" that Japan is looked upon as the danger to be reckoned with in the future, and it is very likely also that Japan will consider she is being "treated outrageously," for--

"The British and American navies always were far bigger than her own, and the disproportion is now greater than ever. And now, when a war in which Japan fought on their side is hardly over, both these powers are considering plans for the domination of the Pacific--not because of any rivalry between themselves, but because they are jealous of the growth of Japan. One's sympathies for Japan in such a situation are, however, greatly modified by the fact that from the beginning the ideals of the League of Nations have had very little countenance from Japanese statesmen or publicists. The limitation of armaments has been regarded as a very good thing for other nations, but as unsuited, for the moment, to Japan."

The "Japan Chronicle" believes it would be somewhat shortsighted for Japan to enter voluntarily on a course which would ultimately lead to measuring her strength against America or Britain, and at the same time it cynically observes:

"But the purpose of the political militarists is not really war -- only the threat of war. The ideal is always to be so strong as to get what you want without the other party daring to say nay. Even the weaker Power may in certain circumstances obtain a decision favorable to itself if it shows itself very much in earnest and the stronger Power does not consider the issue worth going to war about. When the fight does come it is deplored by the very people who precipitated it. The trouble in international relations arranged on this plan is that they always must end in war. The professional defenders look on war as inevitable. . . . It is to be hoped, when the League of Nations gets into working order, that it will thresh this matter out. At present Japan is definitely preparing for war with either Britain or America, and America and Britain are preparing for war with Japan. It is true, none of these nations want war, but they want to be able to dictate to one another in certain disputes which may arise. Britain and America, it is obvious enough, have no such views regarding one another, and the proposed dispersals of their fleets rather indicate their pacific intent towards one another. Japan has failed to gain a share in this mutual confidence; and her leading men can be in very little doubt as to why this is. The League of Nations will soon have the opportunity of putting the bona fides of its members to the test, and we shall then learn whether the world is going to settle its disputes upon a new basis or in the old manner by threats of war."

OldMagazineArticles.com