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The Union Of Nations

A SOCIETY calling itself the Interparliamentary Peace Union has been formed and has already many distinguished adherents. Its object is to abolish war and to legislate into existence the United Nations. In the New York Times Mr. William George Jordan explains the objects desired and what has been accomplished up to date, and with the article the Times published the new official map of The Hague, showing sites for the proposed buildings of the international societies.

The movement to call a Constitutional Convention of the Parliaments of the world, not unlike in purpose to the convention that united the American colonies in 1787 is gaining headway, the object being to frame and have accepted by the nations a constitution binding upon them all, and under which international differences must be settled. Senator and ex-secretary Root approves of it and urges that the example of the federated American states, working under independent governments for their general welfare be held up to the governments of Europe as proof of its practicability.

Much has already been accomplished through The Hague Peace conferences; the trouble with them is they have behind them no power to enforce their decrees. Their force up to date has been a moral force only, and that is not sufficient to curb the anger of nations or the ambition and avarice of rulers.

If a work could be accomplished which could crystallize into an organic law and bind the civilized nations into a union to support that law; one can see at a glance the immediate and all embracing benefits that would follow. The standing armies of the world would be reduced to numbers merely sufficient for national police duties; the rush for increasing armaments would cease; the world's industries could have the reinforcement of hundreds of thousands of men who are now consumers; and thousands of men-of-war's men would have places in increasing merchant ships. The moral force that would be worked on the semi-civilized nations and tribes of the world would be very great. Surely these are results worth working for. They would not, if accomplished, give an absolute guarantee of peace, of course. Our constitution could not prevent the most consuming war of modern times among a people speaking one language, and at heart inspired by the same fundamental sentiments and withal the most generous people on earth. But such a compact would change the sentiments of mankind, half-savage as well as civilized; the thought of "putting by the sword" because "states can be saved without it" would take on a new significance; the proof would be supplied that enlightenment and Christian principles were winning their way.

The business of legislation could be directed entirely to local affairs among nations, and in the event of serious internal differences, a court would be supplied to adjust them. It would make an epoch in the twentieth century only less in importance than that ushered in with the coming of the Messiah; mothers looking upon their sons would not fear that they were growing up to be given to the sword; the thoughts of men would turn to peaceful channels, and the triumphs of peace would be multiplied; the redemption of mankind would really begin.

With this new constitution and a new code

under it, men would realize more fully the necessity of every citizen submitting to righteous laws, and that a perfect society must be governed by laws; and that men who would not accept that rule must be restrained.

All this has not yet come, but it is coming. Men will not yet cease to learn war, not yet is the sword to be beaten into plough-shares, but the light of that new day is beginning to warm the east, the echoes of the old song "Peace on Earth, and to Man Good Will," will be heard again by those who listen in the not distant future.

What Of The University?

AN eastern journal publishes the opinions of a dozen or more presidents of eastern universities on the benefits of a university training to students. They all agree that the discipline to the mind is one of the most marked benefits; then the making of acquaintances and forming of friendships is a material advantage. Of course, the fact that a young man graduates from a university is in itself a letter of introduction. The fixing of higher ideals is of course a great advantage, and yet the opinions of these university presidents, it seems to us, reveal, on their part, a conviction that the best is not being done in those higher educational institutions.

Of course a university can not be run unless its expenses and something more are met. To make this possible, all students that present themselves have to be accepted. Nearly all rich men's sons want the endorsement which goes with a college diploma, and a good many of these do not care very much on what terms they can obtain the coveted parchment. A good many of them, too, do things which they know are wrong, because they can either fix the difficulty with money, or that because of the knowledge that they are rich, offences will be smoothed over that would not be condoned if they were poor. Suppose a university was entirely independent, that its revenues would not be in the least affected were half its students to leave; would all who now are accepted be permitted to stumble through the four-year course?

Of all things, ought not a great university to be least handicapped?

In point of fact no student should be permitted to spend four years in a great school unless he has a passion for study and an insatiable desire to acquire knowledge. It would be better for him to spend the time in travel and in the acquiring of a practical knowledge of the world's affairs. And then he would not be in the way of real students and of their teachers.

We have great faith in a university training, provided the subject has the order of mind that will accept the training. Some young men who have not much desire to expend any effort in acquiring knowledge, still have the self-respect and honest pride to impel them to make a reputable showing, but when they lack these and are, moreover, natural shirks, they have no right to have the name then of being university graduates. When in addition they are "mother's darlings" and natural hoodlums, they are a nuisance, and should be eliminated the first week.

Then many young men who mean to be all right, spend too much time in studying what they have no capacity to acquire. This is not so bad as formerly, but there is much of it still. The greatest need, we think, of our universities, is

more independence; that those in charge may be able to conduct them altogether according to high ideas and brush everything out of their way that interferes with such a program.

Not every young man is fit to have the honor of a university course.

Russia's Advancement

PETER THE GREAT of Russia was born two hundred and thirty years ago today, and lived fifty-three years.

We should keep those facts in mind when we are disposed to criticize that country. Its civilization is only about two hundred years old. Indeed, Peter himself was not civilized according to modern ideas. In manners he was half a bear. He was a terror to western Europe and England when he visited those countries. We speak lightly of men who eat with their knives, but Peter preferred his hands to even a knife. He did not know how to occupy a room decently, and the ordinary restraints and courtesies of life were a closed book to him. But he had an all-comprehensive brain; he saw what his countrymen and country most needed, and determined that their wants should be supplied, so he learned to build ships, to forge guns; to build cities and fortresses, and had the prescience to found schools and establish manufactories. In his brief life he transformed his country and began to draw to it the respect of the world. So great were the changes that he wrought that Russians look upon his life as an epoch in their country, and the world supplies no finer example of what a great and resolute soul can, against tremendous difficulties, accomplish than the life of Peter the Great of Russia furnishes. Shakespeare had been dead fifty-six years when he was born. All that shining group around Shakespeare had long been dead, and when Peter started out to learn to build ships, the great Armada had been lost almost a century. So, as we said at the beginning, when we judge Russia we must not forget how brief has been the time since she really took her place among the civilized nations of the earth. So, too, in estimating her possible future, we must not forget what she has accomplished since she really took on enlightened ideas and began to forge out for herself a real place. By the capacity she has shown what may not be expected from her when she rises up to appreciate her real opportunities? When she puts aside most of her strong drink, when the little red school house is on all her cross-roads; when she turns enough of the leaves of the book of knowledge to appreciate its loveliness, what will not that strong race accomplish? Her first enlightened sovereign was a marvelous man; when all the dreams that printed pictures on his restless brain materialize, Russia will be a marvelous nation.

The Fulton Monument

THE New York Times has a picture of the design of the monument to be erected to Robert Fulton in Riverside Park, New York City. It is to cost \$3,000,000, and is to be the most superb memorial ever erected to the memory of man. That is all right. Fulton's invention caused transportation by water to be revolutionized; it doubled the working power of the world; it eventuated in making man master of the world's oceans; the importance and the splendor of the invention can never be described; its value to mankind can ever be measured.