

on the part of England before that country be trusted. "So long as England regards Germany as an inferior and fails to recognize that the two countries have the same rights, this accord must prove abortive." "Away with such accord," exclaims the *Deutsche Revue* (Berlin); "the only guaranty of peace with England is the strength of our fleet."

The wisest and broadest estimate we have met with in the

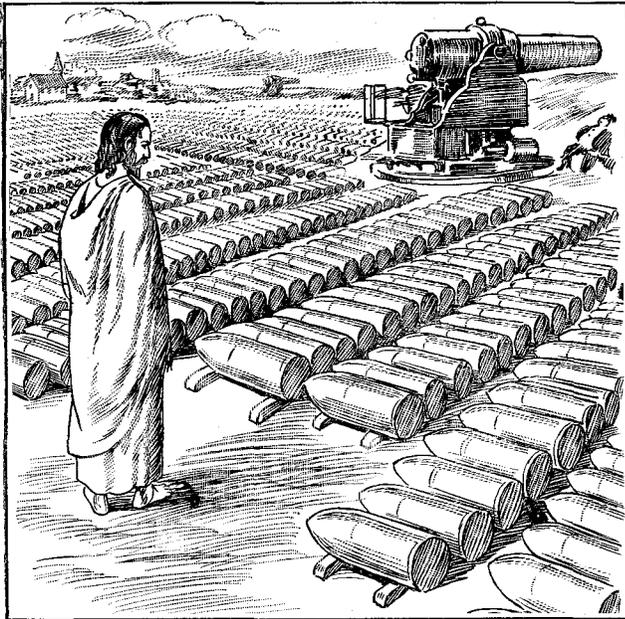


REVISED VERSION.

TRIPOLI—"Men of Africa, behold the White Peril!"
—Kikeriki (Vienna).

English press concerning this movement toward reconciliation is to be found in the London *Nation*, which thinks that Germany is compelled by her present political and social condition and the attitude of the new Reichstag to seek safety in pacific legislation. Hence we read:

"The Socialist successes and the defeat of the Blue-Black Block have necessarily predisposed the German Government to peace. Such a Reichstag as it must now somehow manage can not be trusted to sanction a policy of aggressive imperialism or extravagant armaments. Necessity in one guise or another has confronted all the parties to this fruitless strife, and each must recognize to-day that its interest lies in promoting, as promptly as may be, the fullest reconciliation. The consequences of failure are such as one does not choose to contemplate in their unpleasant detail. It would mean the renewal of the race of armaments, the bankruptcy of social reform at



IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1912.

—Wahre Jacob (Stuttgart).

home, the continuance of the anarchy in the world which has already loosed the predatory instincts of half the Powers, and in the end it may be even that Armageddon with which the imagination of Lord Rosebery loves to play. A ministry which

enters the path of peace in such conditions essays a great and perilous adventure. On one element of success it can, however, reckon. It has behind it in this country, not merely a desire for peace, but an impatience for peace."—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

HOW ARBITRATION AIDS AMERICA

ARBITRATION TREATIES, as bringers-in of peace, are illusory, says a writer in the Paris *Soleil*. They merely strengthen the stronger at the expense of the weaker Power. It would be of no advantage for France, we are told, to make such a treaty with the United States. France has few interests in America. French commerce does not meet with American competition, and any political rôle which the French Republic might play in transatlantic affairs has been made impossible "since the tricky occupation of Panama by the Government at Washington." But it is different with England:

"In England the Anglo-American Convention has not been well received by the Conservative press, which see with regret their national administration surrendering the right to discuss a certain number of American questions which hitherto have been considered of momentous importance to the British people. If these arbitration treaties, declare the Imperialists, do not amount to an effective diminution of armaments and of military expenditure, they simply indicate the decline of that one party to them which has been led to fear the ambition of the other. They point to an abandonment of the position formerly occupied. It is from this point of view that arbitration should be regarded."

Meanwhile England has given up all idea of supremacy in the Pacific, altho her interests there are vast. She is even losing her hold on Canada, says this French writer, and is finding it hard to keep her position in Europe. Further:

"As a matter of fact, at this moment England takes pains not to give trouble to the United States. In the mean time we have no definite ideas with regard to the tariff of the Canal. We fear it is probable that the American will enjoy advantages which may destroy competition. Thus England has come to surrender the hegemony of the Pacific. Threatened by the loss of prestige as the arbiter of Europe, she has abandoned all thought of being the arbiter of the world."

Meanwhile, we read, the United States, hedged round with treaties and conventions which make myrmidons of minor Powers, is waxing in strength and influence. Her imperialistic ideas will not cease to develop, we are told, even should the Democrats return to power in the coming elections. "Public opinion will compel them to carry out a firm foreign policy, such indeed as is clean contrary to the tradition of the party." For the American is proud of his country and, "in spite of its parvenu bluff, this young nation will allow no one to trample upon it." The writer concludes with this description of our country as a world Power:

"The United States always manifests the utmost solicitude for those of its children who are established abroad. The American Government jealously watches over and protects those American citizens in whom we can plainly discern the characteristics of the German, the Frenchman, the Levantine, or the Jew. But it is toward the Far East that this attention is principally directed. In the North of Asia as well as on the coast of China and among the islands of the Pacific, American commerce is flourishing. Toward China the Yankees manifest especial friendliness. Here they desire a treaty of close alliance, if not a monetary protectorate, over the yellow nation. And this is the reason why we ask a definite answer to the question whether all these treaties do not tend rather to isolate the weaker Powers than to form a harmonious confederation. The conclusion by the United States of two recent treaties naturally roused some excitement in Japan, which seems inevitably destined some day or other to enter into conflict with the United States."—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

RUSSIA'S MONGOLIAN DESIGNS

THE NEW LEADERS in China are making strong efforts to hold Mongolia within the Republic, but to succeed they will have to meet and overcome powerful Russian influences. If there had been any previous doubt about the truth of the reports that Russia intended to establish a protectorate over Mongolia, the statement issued by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs in an apparent attempt to deny them seems to have entirely removed it, as far as the Russian press is concerned. The *Riech* (St. Petersburg) declares that the conditions imposed by the Russian Government, the offer of "friendly cooperation of a purely economical and cultural character in the administration of Mongolia," can have but one meaning—a protectorate. The talk about the "friendly relations to China," the "recognition of the sovereignty of China," etc., are treated as mere diplomatic phrases of no significance whatever. While to the conservative papers the Government's attitude offers an opportunity for a display of patriotism, the Liberal *Riech* takes the position that Russia's most advantageous course would be to convert Mongolia into a buffer-state between Russia and China. A protectorate in whatever form, it argues, would be a menace, because it would constitute a breach of the *status quo*:

"It is to our best interests not only in our relations to China, but also to England and Japan, to maintain the *status quo*. One need not be a prophet to tell what the consequences of its violation would be. The other nations will demand, not the reestablishment of the *status quo*, but the bringing about of a balance of power by 'compensation' to themselves. That means the reopening of the Far-Eastern question in all its complications; and it would shake the very foundations of our entire recent policy in the Far East. It would mean a readjustment, not only of our Eastern-Asiatic politics, but also of our European politics. And that is a very dangerous undertaking. It is difficult for Mongolia to come to an understanding with China, but it is still more difficult for it to come to terms with Russia. It is not in our interest to annex Mongolia. The best solution of the whole question is to let Mongolia alone."

Mr. A. Stolypine, in an article in the *Novoye Vremya* (St. Petersburg), also advises against the annexation of Mongolia. But the *Novoye Vremya* itself strongly upholds the Government's position. It advocates the annexation of Mongolia under the pretext of granting it autonomy. The pretext, however, is but thinly veiled:

"Let us have no sentiment about it. The real Russian interests demand that there should be order in Mongolia. Order is possible only if the Mongolian Government establishes an organized power capable of suppressing all anarchy. The Mongolian khans long ago asked for help to enable them to establish such a power. Their request remained unheeded, because of the strait-laced diplomacy of our officials. But now the polite request of the Mongolian khans amounts to an imperative demand. We must send Russian military instructors to Mongolia to create the beginning of a Mongolian armed power."

"By breaking away from China, Mongolia has put an end to Chinese control of all its trade and industry. It is now Russia's opportunity to obtain the upper hand in Mongolian commerce and manufacture. All we need do is take advantage of the present moment and lose no time."—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

A WEAKNESS OF CHINA'S REPUBLIC

SOMETIMES the success of a revolution means the beginning, not the end, of trouble. It was so in France; it may be so in Mexico—and it is not impossible in China. Mr. J. Rodes, the correspondent of the Paris *Temps*, who has recently visited Peking, Hankow, and Shanghai, thinks that many of the revolutionaries have been fighting the Manchus under the impression that with the fall of Manchu rule the recent reforms would be abolished. When these revolutionaries find that the republic means even more reform, they will be just as ready to rise against the new rule. Only the leaders were real reformers, he writes:

"Of course, small groups of young men who have studied abroad and have adroitly taken the lead in recent movements are really imbued with modern ideas, but the masses are actuated by motives diametrically opposite. For the moment these masses are united by a common hatred of the Manchus. On all other points they are at variance, and it will be curious to watch whether elements so inharmonious can ever cooperate. We may, however, safely declare that the population have simply risen for the purpose of ousting the old Manchu usurpers. As for the modernizing policy of the court, it has merely intensified and roused to a paroxysm of fury the general hostility of the people."

All the Government reforms and so-called improvements, causing, as they do, an increase of the burden of taxation and interfering with the habits and amusements of the people, have deepened popular discontent, and we read that China is not really being Westernized. To quote:

"The introduction of reforms, the building of schools, of barracks, of prisons, and the expenses of free education, the new military organizations, burdens aggravated by the rule of the mandarins, have laid upon the Chinese loads which day by day grow greater and more intolerable. The suppression of the opium trade and the closing of gambling-houses have increased the general discontent. The institution of a body of general police has thrown out of employment and turned into the street a number of old watchmen and petty law-officers who formerly lived peacefully on the small profits of their profession. All those who are affected by these innovations, as well as those who have simply been disturbed in their habits and customs, have risen against the Government with even more enthusiasm than the very revolutionaries who have incited them to revolt."

The riffraff and dregs of the people for the same reason have joined the revolution, but are quite ignorant of the meaning of liberty, democracy, or equality, and merely desire a return to the old ways:

"It is thus that in ports of the Yang-tse the medieval archers of yesterday show themselves in crowds, armed with ancient simitars and obsolete firearms. The pirates, who have been recently driven off the seas with greater strictness than heretofore and are not able to make a living, come forth to swell the number of the discontented, but can never be transformed into sincere republicans. These are the men who, with the members of secret societies, to whom they stand as brothers, furnish the great number of revolutionary recruits. In certain provinces even criminals have been prest into the revolutionary army. I am forced to conclude that with the majority of the rebels the movement is very much more a reactionary protest than an explosion of modernism."—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*



MR. ROOSEVELT'S AMBITION.

It is a base insinuation that credits Colonel Roosevelt with an intention to offer himself for a third term. His ambition, as Mr. Puck understands, is to presently come over to China and become by engagement President of the oldest and strangest empire in the world. —*Tokyo Puck.*