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EDITORIAL.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

"We fought to gain a lasting Peace, and it is our supreme duty to take every measure to secure it."

—His Majesty the King to the Mansion House Meeting.

The above words form part of the inspiring message sent by the King to the meeting held at the Mansion House on Monday last, to inaugurate a national campaign for the League of Nations. His Majesty concluded with the words:—

"I commend the cause to all the citizens of my Empire, so that with the help of all other men of goodwill, a buttress and a sure defence of Peace, to the Glory of God, and the lasting fame of our age and country, may be established."

The Prime Minister also emphasised the need for public support of the noble ideal of the League, to which the Allied Governments are pledged. He wrote:—

"I appeal to my fellow-countrymen, everywhere, to join in this great crusade in support of international order and goodwill, so that the sovereign aim of the League may be realised in the liberation of mankind from the cruel thralldom of war."

In his remarks from the chair to a most representative audience, the Lord Mayor said that the great purpose which had taken shape in the League of Nations Covenant was in the eyes of many of them the highest and most supremely important that had ever claimed their sympathy in the sphere of public affairs. It was something much more than the rather shadowy ideal which it was for most people before the war. It took rank to-day as a definite and vital aim, which was of close individual interest to every man and woman. The practical task before them was to enlist not only a vague public sympathy, but a definite and vigorous public opinion.

The motion presented for the consideration of the meeting was as follows:—

That this meeting, largely representative of the great municipalities in England, Scotland, and

Wales, approves of the general objects and aims of the League of Nations Union and cordially endorses its desire that November 11, the anniversary of Armistice Day, be celebrated in every city, town, and village as League of Nations Day, and that an appeal for funds to support the League of Nations Union be made in connection with this celebration.

In moving this Resolution Mr. Asquith said that the present opportunity was one which, if it was once let slip, might, in the lifetime of us, never return. He urged upon all present, including the Lord Mayor, in their several communities and callings, to become the active pioneers of this new crusade.

Lord Robert Cecil, who eloquently seconded the motion, insistently impressed upon the meeting, which, he said, represented the great practical genius of the British race, that the League was a real thing. It was not merely an idealistic dream, though he did not join in the facile scorn of idealism. Without idealism we should never have got anywhere.

The world was, he said, full of combustible materials, and some of them were already smouldering. If we wished to avoid a dangerous conflagration these materials must be removed forthwith, and replaced by sounder ones.

Mr. Clynes emphasised the responsibility of democracies in relation to future peace, and said that the statesmen of the nations could not set their hands to a higher, more holy duty than the establishment, on sound foundations, of the means to make certain what must be the desire of all Christian and civilised peoples.

The proposal will meet with no warmer supporters than those nurses of all nations who have, as a confederation of workers, already bound themselves together in an International Council to secure unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose. Trained nurses, who come into such close contact with the horrors of war, cannot fail to sympathise with this great International movement "for the liberation of mankind from the cruel thralldom of war."

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