

Winning The Peace?

PLANS MANY HAVE BEEN OUTLINED for "winning the peace." These plans fall into three broad classifications. They are international cooperation on the political plane; international cooperation on the economic plane; and the building of an invincible war machine. Can any or all of these plans provide the groundwork for an enduring peace, or must peace be obtained by a method not contemplated in any of the plans yet announced?

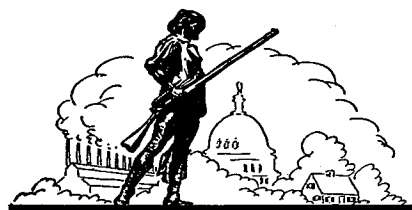
The first mentioned plan would mean a balancing of powers. This we are now attempting in the agreement which has been entered into between the United States, Great Britain and Russia. Undaunted by past failures we are at it again. The League of Nations did not prove to be an effective bar to open hostilities, nor would a Federation unless backed by police power. With the establishment of an adequate police force the question arises, what a nation or nations would control the police power. And in controlling it, would it be directed to maintain arrangements which were advantageous to the larger and more fortunately situated nations at the expense of the smaller nations who were less favorably placed? Would a Federation insure justice for all nations of the earth, and for all peoples of all nations? It is only on such a basis that peace can be maintained.

The second plan: international cooperation on the economic plane has possibilities, but can these be realized when we have yet to learn the meaning of economic cooperation on a national plane? The United States with all its vast resources, its natural opportunities and great manpower, has suffered for many years from widespread and chronic poverty. Some of us did not need the reminders furnished by the Temporary National Economic Committee's report on economic trends to realize that wealth shows a tendency to concentrate into fewer hands each year. We have long been aware that poverty is reducing to virtual serfdom masses of our people, while others in these United States have more than they can ever use.

Plans for the future which would guarantee a comfortable and decent standard of living for all people must either contemplate taking the necessary funds, in taxation, from those who do produce, to bring the living standards of the masses to a more advanced level; or they must consider redirecting the stream of wealth from its source into different channels than those into which it now flows. How

to keep men producing that which they know will be taken from them and given to support those who are unable under our present system to make a decent living for themselves, is a problem that has not been solved through the democratic process. How to induce men who have once been kept in decency and comfort through another's efforts, to sweat for their own bread is also a problem which has not been solved through individual freedom of choice.

It is also not through choice that men live under the degrading conditions which poverty enforces. Nor do they willingly work for wages inadequate for human needs. The reason they are forced to do so should have public recognition. Newspapers instead of side-stepping this problem and its solution, should give it the widest publicity. When we have the moral strength to provide a remedy for unwilling unemployment and for living standards that provide the barest living, we shall be ready for concrete proposals on an international scale. Proposals which not only will end open hostilities but will provide a firm background for genuine peace.



The third plan of forestalling attack by arming to the teeth may prevent war, but it will not promote peace. It will prove a costly drain on the production of the countries which contribute in men and money to the mobilization. Maintenance of large standing armies is not consistent with democratic teachings. We are now paying an enormous price to get a second chance to make democracy work.

ELSIE BALLARD