

Peace Society Has New League Plan

(By Frederic William Wile, in Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

Public Ledger Bureau, Washington, May 30.—Dr. James Brown Scott, distinguished authority on international law and associate of Elihu Root in formulating the World Court of Justice authorized by the League of Nations, has drawn up a scheme for a new association of nations.

The Public Ledger bureau is enabled to present the preliminary draft of the project, which call for the establishment of an "Administrative Council for the Advancement of International Law." It embraces cardinal features of the existing league, especially the world court, and provides for utilization of certain functions of the pre-war Hague tribunal. In general, the Scott plan, which is offered in the name of the American Peace Society provides for a workable substitute for the League of Nations.

The assembly of the league under it would be represented by the erstwhile diplomatic representatives of the nations at some world capital. Instead of the council of the league there would be an advisory committee of its own members, elected by the diplomatic corps in question. The presiding officer of the organization would be the foreign minister of the country to which the corps was accredited. An advantage over the present league is that its proposed substitute would be in continuous session.

FOURTEEN POINTS IN THE PROJECT

Dr. Scott's project has been laid down in a program of fourteen points whether by accident or reminiscent design is not disclosed. Its outstanding variation from the league covenant is that it eliminates the use of either economic or military force to carry out the organization's decrees. Its basic purpose is to elevate judicial settlement of international controversies to the place of power now held by armies and navies. The scheme gets rid, Dr. Scott thinks, of political entanglements, of the idea of a "super-government" and of other features in the present league assailed in the United States as unacceptable.

Its scope is so wide that every branch of activity exercised by the league—provisions for disarmaments, mandates and other special functions—can be exercised by the commission system.

Discussing the board outline of his scheme with the writer today, Dr. Scott said:

"My proposition is a modest attempt to preserve in simpler form the idea of the league covenant and to enable all of its legitimate functions to be carried out in some city where there is a permanent diplomatic representation of all nations. I have christened the proposed organization an 'Administrative Council for the Advancement of International Law,' but it could just as well be called a league, or an association or a society.

"I have been guided by one basic thought. Millions of people all over the world, including a good many of us in the United States, thought the Versailles covenant was the thing. But the Senate would not have it. Events on November 2, 1920, indicated the American people at large were at least not widely in favor of it. That, at any rate, is the conclusion that has to be drawn. What next? Are we to rest content with seeing the world in a hopeless rut?

"There was a certain wise Greek named Solon who achieved considerable success in framing laws for his community. When certain of his conclusions were criticized, he said: 'I did not give the people of Athens the best laws I could devise, but I gave them the best they would accept.' So, in a humble way, I have tried to evolve a scheme that many not in some respects be as good as the League of Nations, but one that, at least, seems to be handicapped by none of the objections raised to that organization."

AGREEMENTS PROPOSED

After a preamble reciting that principles laid down by President Cleveland and Elihu Root are at the bottom of his project Dr. Scott proposes the following series of fourteen agreements:

"First. An agreement upon the calling of a new conference for the advancement of international law in continuation of the first two

references at stated intervals to continue the work left unfinished for the following purposes:

"(a) To restate the established rules of international law, especially, and in the first instance, in the fields affected by events of the recent war.

"(b) To formulate and agree upon the amendments and additions, if any to the rules of international law shown to be necessary or useful by the events of the war and the changes in the conditions of international life and intercourse which have followed the war.

"(c) To endeavor to reconcile divergent views and secure general agreement upon the rules which have been in dispute heretofore.

"(d) To consider the subjects not now adequately regulated by international law, but as to which the interests of international justice require that rules of law should be declared and accepted.

"II. An agreement upon the calling as soon as practicable of the conference for the advancement of international law, and its organization outside of the domination of any one nation, or any limited group of nations, to which every nation recognizing, accepting and applying international law in its relations with other nations shall be invited, and in which all shall participate upon the footing of equality.

"III. An agreement upon the establishment of an administrative council to be composed of the diplomatic representatives of the nations accredited to the government of the state in which the conference for the advancement of international law convenes, and to represent the common interests of the nations during the interval between successive conferences.

FOR AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"IV. An agreement upon the appointment by the administrative council outside its own members of an executive committee or secretary's office, to perform such duties under the supervision of the administrative council or advisory committee as the conference for the advancement of international law or the nations shall from time to time prescribe.

"V. An agreement upon the appointment by the administrative council pursuant to instructions from their respective governments of other committees for the performance of such duties as the nations in their wisdom shall find it desirable to impose.

"VI. An agreement upon the appointment by the nations represented at the conferences for the advancement of international law of technical advisors who may be thought by them necessary to assist the administrative council, the advisory committee or other committees appointed by the council in the performance of their respective duties.

"VII. An agreement upon the creation of a council of conciliation of limited membership, with power on behalf of the nations in dispute to add to its members, to consider, to discuss and to report upon such questions of a nonjusticiable character which may from time to time be submitted to it by an agreement of the powers in dispute or which may be submitted by the administrative council.

"VIII. An agreement of the nations upon the appointment and employment of a commission of inquiry as advocated by Secretary of State Bryan in his treaties for the advancement of peace, to refer a dispute of any nature whatsoever for investigation and report with the obligation freely accepted by the nations to the agreement not to declare war or to begin hostilities pending such investigation and report.

"IX. An agreement to employ and to foster the employment of good offices, mediation and friendly composition wherever feasible and practicable.

"X. An agreement to arbitrate disputes of a non-justiciable nature, and in the absence of an agreement to the contrary to submit them to the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague in order that they may be decided upon a basis of respect for law. Disputes of a justiciable nature may likewise be referred to the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague whenever they are, in the opinion of the nations in dispute, of a technical nature, or which they may prefer to have decided by judges of their own choice appointed for a particular controversy.

"XI. An agreement upon an international court of justice, with obligatory jurisdiction to which the states, shall have direct access upon the failure of diplomacy to adjust their disputes of a justiciable nature, whose decision shall bind the litigating states and eventually all parties to its creation, and to which the

states in controversy may submit, by special agreement, disputes beyond the scope of obligatory jurisdiction.

TO ENLARGE JURISDICTION

XII. An agreement to enlarge the obligatory jurisdiction of the court without losing the definite limits necessary to guard against the arbitrary exercise of power. This can be done by means of the conference for the advancement of international law, through whose operation the domain of international law and the rules of law to be applied by the court will be continually extended.

"XIII. An agreement of the states inwardly to apply international law as a rule of law to the decision of all questions involving its principles and outwardly to apply international law to all questions arising between and among the members of the Society of Nations in so far as the questions involve the law of nations.

"XIV. An agreement on the part of all states adequately to instruct their subjects or citizens in their international obligations and duties as well as in their rights and prerogatives. There would thus be created the international mind as defined by Nicholas Murray Butler, and an enlightened public opinion which shall persuade in the future, where force has failed to compel in the past, the observance of that standard of honor, morality and justice which obtains between individuals, bringing in its train law and order through which, and through which alone, peace between nations may become practicable, attainable and desirable."

MR. BRYAN IN GEORGIA

(Atlanta Journal, June 6.)

In Atlanta, Monday, to deliver an address at Wesley Memorial church Monday night to the students of Emory university in connection with the commencement exercises, William Jennings Bryan gave out an interview on prohibition, disarmament and taxation, and made public an editorial to appear in the next issue of *The Commoner*, his paper, in Lincoln, Neb., explaining his reasons for moving his legal residence from that city to Miami, Fla.

In this editorial Mr. Bryan indicated that he will take part in the politics of Florida from time to time as issues arise, and though he did not mention specifically the next Democratic national convention, it was not difficult to surmise from his language that he expects to attend that convention as a member of the Florida delegation. Mr. Bryan's removal from Nebraska to Florida makes him a next door neighbor to Georgia in a political sense.

Sentiment in favor of prohibition is growing everywhere throughout the country, declared Mr. Bryan, in his interview, and as fast as leaks are discovered in the Volstead law they will be stopped by congress.

Sentiment is growing, also, in favor of disarmament, throughout the world, Mr. Bryan said, and his opinion is that the United States should lead the way for the world by reducing armaments through agreement if the other nations can be brought to agree, but by example without agreement if necessary.

Congress has not made progress to date in reducing taxation, Mr. Bryan said, but on the contrary has "backed back—possibly to get a running start."

His address to the students of Emory, Monday evening, will be on the quotation from David: "Is the young man Absalom safe?" He will discuss the relation of a young man to government, to society and to God, and what he has to say, he explained, will apply as well to young women as to young men.

"Prohibition enforcement," said Mr. Bryan, "will become more efficient and complete month after month. The Volstead law dealt with the difficulties then apparent, but in such matters experience is the only teacher, and leaks have to be closed as they are discovered. The Palmer ruling disclosed a leak and it will be stopped by congress.

"If it were understood that every one desiring a drink must first be sick, a wave of debility would sweep over the land. Having to be sick in order to obtain the first dose, the patient would remain sick to continue the medicine, and the more medicine he took the sicker he would become. That ruling if allowed to stand would create an economic situation that would impair production. The prohibition sentiment is increasing everywhere. Even New Jersey has adopted a law in harmony with the Volstead law, over Governor Edwards' veto. The last heard of Edwards' he was putting a bottle of whisky in a cornerstone. It means something when a man like Edwards has to keep his whisky in a cornerstone."