

PROBLEMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SETTLEMENT

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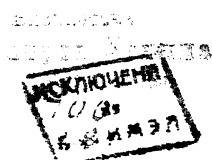
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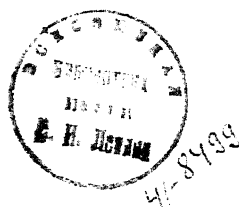


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INTRODUCTION

BY

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THE papers included in the present volume (with the exception of the last three) are reproduced, and (where the original is not in English) translated, from the *Recueil de Rapports* published by the "Central Organization for a Durable Peace." This is an international association, founded at The Hague in 1915, to study and advocate such a settlement at the conclusion of the war as will guarantee a durable peace. Its programme is as follows :

1. No annexation or transfer of territory shall be made contrary to the interests and wishes of the population concerned. Where possible their consent shall be obtained by plébiscite or otherwise.

2. The States shall guarantee to the various nationalities, included in their boundaries, equality before the law, religious liberty and the free use of their native languages.

3. The States shall agree to introduce in their colonies, protectorates and spheres of influence, liberty of commerce, or at least equal treatment for all nations.

4. The work of the Hague Conferences with a view to the peaceful organization of the Society of Nations shall be developed.

INTRODUCTION

The Hague Conference shall be given a permanent organization and meet at regular intervals.

5. The States shall agree to submit all their disputes to peaceful settlement. For this purpose there shall be created, in addition to the existent Hague Court of Arbitration, (a) a permanent Court of International Justice, (b) a permanent international Council of Investigation and Conciliation.

6. The States shall bind themselves to take concerted action, diplomatic, economic or military, in case any State should resort to military measures instead of submitting the dispute to judicial decision or to the mediation of the Council of Investigation and Conciliation.

7. The States shall agree to reduce their armaments.

8. In order to facilitate the reduction of naval armaments, the right of capture shall be abolished and the freedom of the seas assured.

9. Foreign policy shall be under the effective control of the parliaments of the respective nations.

Secret treaties shall be void.

With this programme may be compared that of the French *Association de la Paix par le Droit*, given on p. 200 below.

The circumstances of the war having prevented the meeting of international conferences to discuss and elaborate this programme, the method was adopted of appointing committees to collect information and draw up reports on the various topics involved. Hence the *Recueil de Rapports*, of which four large volumes have now been published, and from which the present selection has been made.

Almost all the papers here included were published in