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MONDAY, JAN ,20, 1919.

THE ALLIES AND THE LEAGUE OF

NATIONS. There are three passages in publispaceches reported in the London papers of
December 31 which go straight to the main
issues at the Peace Conference. Let u
set them out in order:
"You know that the United States ha
always felt from the beginning of her his
tory that she must keep herself separat.

my kina ...
olitics But she is inverrship of right between America and
rship of right between America and
rship of right between America and
so if the future had nothing for us
new attempt to keep the world at a
poise by a balance of power, the
description of the states would take no interest, bedescription of all of the states would take no interest, bedescription of all of the states would take no interest, bedescription of all of the states are states as the states are states are states as the states are states are states as the states are states as the states are states as the right poise t United States

power which is not a combination of all us."—President Wilson, at Manhcester. "There is an old system which appears to be discredited to-day, but to which I am not afraid of saying I am still faith

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mon defence... (The rest of M. Clemenceau's sentence was drowned in the aplause of the great majority of the Chamber. 'Here in this system of alliance, which it
do not give up, is the thought which will
guide me links Conference, if your condience always me to be present at it."

M. Pichon, in reply to various questions put to him in the course of "the day
would not object to the publication of the
"M. Pichon in reply to various questions put to him in the course of "the day
would not object to the publication of the
work of the publication of the continuous states of the conwork of the publication of the continuous the conference, and that the Government
work the Conference (accords preparatoires is
la conference), and that the Government
had accepted the principle of a League of
Nations, and would work for its effective
realisation."

Here we see, on the surface at all events,
a conflict of opinion about the world orpanisation which is to follow the war.
There is nothing surprising in it, and it
is a great advantage that it should be candidly stated Mr. Clemenceau, after his tertrific experience, can see no security for hisrountry except in a firm alliance of friends.

is a great advantage that it amount be dar-didly stated. In Clemenceas, girt his ter-rific experience, can see no security for his country except in a firm alliance of friends who have the balance of power on their side. He is supplicated and yague ideas which seem to dilute this solid guarantee into a misty Uppia. President Wilson tells us very frankly "that the United States is not now interested in European politics," and that "if the future had nothing for us but a new aftempt to keep the world at a right poise by a balance of power, she would take no interest and would join no combination of power-which is not a combination of all of us." M. Pichon, finally, speaking as French Fo-reign Minister, resolves the apparent con-tradiction by saying that France is pled-que to the League of Nations, and will be reign Minister, resolves the apparent contradiction by saying that France is pledged to the League of Nations, and will deep her ber to realise it effectively. Indeed we may say broadly that the task of the Peace Conference is to discover a harmony between these points of view, and it will do this, if at all, not by putting certain propositions on paper and signing them, and least of all by attaching a pious resolution in favour of a League of Nations to the other clauses of the agreement, but by a hard grappling with the facts as they present themselves one after another to the plenipoteniaries. M. Clemanceau is well entitled to point to the sufferings of his countrymen and the devastation of their country in support of their claim that they shall not be left without solid security for the future. We too make the same claim when we object to any interpretation of the "freedom of the sea" which might leave us unprotected against a hostile world. The question for all of us is where best is security to be found is where best is security to be found-a return to the old world of a perilouce of power secured year by year by or in a new international order which wil keep armements low, forbid the revival o keep armements low, forbid the revival of militarism, and substitute for force some process of law and conciliation? We'd not doubt for a moment that M. Clemen-ceau would choose the second alternative if he could believe in it, and the question for him and for all of us is simply whether many halfers in it.

for him and for all of us is simply whether we can believe in it.

It is the paradox of the situation that that question can never be answered affirmatively until we believe in it. The thing can be done if the Governments are determined to do it, and in our opinion the consequences of not doing it are seportentous that the Governments will sooner, or later make up their minds that it must be done. What are the consequences of returning to the old balance of power? First, that the great power of America in stabilising and guaranteeing the peace will be written off. The Unit. am not straid of saying I am still faithrul. Countries have organised solidly deflended froatiers with the necessary armainents and the balance of Powers. This
system seems to be condemned by a few
high authorities; nevertheless, I should
like to point out that, if we had had such
is balance of Powers before the war, that
if the United States, Great Britain, France
and Italy had declared that wheever attacked one of them would have to expect
the other three to assume the task of comfrom the overwhelmingly preponderant

four-Power combination, which is in M. Clemenceau's mind, to a three-Power comr combination, wall it's minds to a three-Power com-which will presently, when Ger-Russia revive, have all its work

abolition of conscription, and probably a large increase of expenditure on arma-ments. When the last farthing has been extracted from Germany, there will still be an enormous load of debt to carry which will make the financel problem all but insoluble. And all the time the na-tions will have to be thinking of war and but insoluble. And all the time the hattions will have hot be thinking of war and preparations for war, diverting an immess deal of their mental energy and physical power to self-dence, and living always in dread that some new scientific weapon will be invented which will frustrate all their preparations and give the other side a short cut to a devastating victory. The development of aircraft alone will change all the conditions and expose the civilian population everywhere to dangers and terrors of which we have had only a foretaste in this war.

Now, if this is the solution which the Governments bring back from the Peace Conference, they will each of them at once have to face the most iserious and perplexing internal problems. Their accordant will not balance without crusking laxation, their working-class populations,

taxation, their working-class population leeply disillusioned at finding themsel condemned to a new and worse period of militarism and to conditions which must writing and to conditions which must verywhere intensify poverty. Even if external security could be obtained this vay, internal would be gravely jeopar-lised. It would be the height of folly for ised. It would be the negligit of long for footer-ments and statesmen not to realise that there is in all countries a great body f working-class opinion which is deternined that this shall not be. There are isks on either hand. With half the Jovernments of the world swinging rud-keeps on regions towards there is no effect. Governments of the world swinging rud-eless on raging torrents, there is no safe-ty in any specific. But the greatest promise of safety lie, we are penuaded, in an honey a tatempt to make the world sew. We are therefore, glad to hear the French Foreign Secretary say that the French foreign secretary say the french foreign secretary say the foreign secretary say the fore If the League of Nations is to heal the wounds of the world, it must not be a pale and negative idea seeking merely to prevent war, but a positive and vital force vent war, but a positive and running through the whole practice of the nations that ac

making their co-operation for com-ends the touchstone of their conduct. INFLUENZA IN ABYSSINIA. .

Letters from Addis Ababa the capital of Abyesinia, tell of the extraordinary virulence there of the influence epidemic, virulence there of the influence epidemic, virulence there of the influence epidemic for the control of the con

are apparently attacked by the disease that is proving so fatal to ma

"Godliness is profi-table unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."