

CORRESPONDENCE

The British in the Far East

SIR: Mr. William Hard's articles, *God and Chess at the Washington Conference* and *Give and Take at the Washington Conference*, in Asia, are so admirable and fair-minded that we feel it a pity that his article on *The A. B. C. of the Peace Conference*, like so many others in the journals, emphasizes the offence of Japan who, without the example, past and present, of Great Britain's more or less protective acquiescence, could not do what she is doing. He said:

"Q. Are the Europeans less active than the Japanese in the annexing and in the leasing of Chinese territory?"

"A. In the past, they have been more active."

May I call Mr. Hard's attention to the recent piratical British Cassel Collieries Contract in Kwangtung, when Kwangtung was temporarily governed by the militarists of Kwangsi, later expelled by General Chen, now Civil Governor of Kwangtung. The enforcement of this contract, as John Dewey says, in "giving away the natural resources of the people of the province, was knowingly made by a British company with a government which no more represented the people of the province than the military government of Germany represented the people of Belgium during the War." Coincident with this transaction "a Congress of British Chambers of Commerce was held in Shanghai, at which resolutions were passed in favor of abolishing henceforth the whole principle of special nationalistic concessions."

William Hard, in his article on *Give and Take at the Washington Conference*, says: "A British company was given the right for ninety years to exploit all the coal resources of the districts lying along the railway and the right to construct future railways, the right to have the assistance of the provincial government in succeeding to whatever rights may now be possessed by other persons in the matter of coal in Kwangtung and the right in the directorate of the Company to have four foreign directors and three Chinese."

We would also recall the unjust dealings in Sinkiang and Amoy and the opposition by the British and Japanese to the construction of an American radio station in Shanghai.

JULIA ELLSWORTH FORD.

Rye, New York.

Keep the Open Door

SIR: The present situation confronting Japan and the United States is, in barest outline and without considering the viewpoint of China, the conflict of the Japanese policy of encroachment upon China and eastern Siberia in an attempt to control sources of raw materials, and the American policy of the open door in China. The probability of war between the two nations depends then upon the following three questions:

1. Will the Japanese government persist in its expansion in Asia, if the United States shows determination to resist it, by force if necessary?

The militarists in command of the Japanese government certainly do not want to fight the United States; they realize how costly and largely futile the war would be, and that Japan in the end would be defeated. But, on the other hand, the increasing population of Japan can be supported only by developing Japan as an industrial centre. That development requires raw materials, in which the Japanese islands are not rich. Hence the expansion of control over sources of raw materials in China and Siberia, which the Japanese consider absolutely essential to the preservation of the national prestige and position as a great power, even of the national existence. Under the circumstances, and unless some other way of assuring this needful supply of raw materials can be found, Japan must persist in her present policy in fact, whatever verbal concessions she may be compelled to make; and she will so persist even at the risk of war with the United States.

2. Can any internal forces modify the power of the militarists who at present dominate the Japanese government, and change Japanese policy toward China, so as to avert war with the United States?

Time will bring forward the younger men of Japan to

positions of power, and their attitude may be more liberal; but at present liberal forces, as well as labor and radical organizations, are negligible and seem likely to remain so for years to come. Moreover, even a more liberal government would find itself forced to continue the policy of expansion to control raw materials on the mainland, in the face of the national situation of Japan outlined above,—unless international agreement can provide some other assurance of the necessary supplies.

3. Has the United States interests in the Far East which are sufficiently vital, and which are being sufficiently infringed by the Japanese policy of expansion, to justify a resort to war to preserve them?

War with Japan will not be a joke, Americans must never forget that.

Our colonies in the Pacific are not in danger, except in case of war. Our treaty rights in China are mere expressions of underlying interests such as American trade. (Our trade in the Far East also comprises a considerable traffic with Japan, it must be kept in mind.) Our trade interest with China is bound up in the more important and comprehensive interest represented by the policy of the open door, the policy of equal commercial opportunity and no special privilege for all foreigners in China. It is notorious that Japanese expansion has again and again violated the principle of the open door.

The open door policy, if enforced, is important not only because it provides the fair field of competition which American business demands. It is important also as an expression of American popular sentiment against the exploitation of weak nations by strong, particularly against the exploitation of our friends the Chinese. And the open door is of vital importance, finally, as the greatest safeguard of China against dismemberment into foreign spheres of interest or protectorates. In that sense, the open door is not merely an American policy, it is an international policy and principle, for to preserve the integrity of China is an essential basis of world peace. To abandon the open door as a restraint upon national rivalries in China would be in effect to guarantee a future war of world-wide scope, in which the United States would be inevitably involved.

Under these circumstances, the United States would be justified in maintaining the open door principle even at the risk of war with Japan; but the burden of enforcing this international policy for world peace ought to be shared by all nations, and not left to the United States alone.

The efforts of the Washington Conference therefore, so far as they concern the Pacific, should be directed primarily toward a reconciliation of Japan's imperative need of supplies of raw materials with the open door principle. Japan has a vital national interest, but the open door is a world interest. After all, what Japan needs is not sources, it is reasonably assured supplies, of raw materials. If some method of assuring to Japan her necessary requirements, perhaps by a revival of that international economic control so unwisely scrapped at Paris, can be found, which does not conflict with the open door principle, and if the combined influence of the nations and peoples of the world can be mustered in its support, so that Japan will accept and abide by the arrangement, war between the United States and Japan may be averted.

HAYDN HAINES.

Wyoming, Ohio.

Are Railway Wages Adequate?

SIR: The threatened railway strike has been called off; nevertheless I believe that issue should be taken with the conclusions suggested by K. T. G. in the communication printed in your issue of November 2nd in his analysis of the railway wage situation.

The tables presented by him are computed for average earnings for the second quarter of 1921. The first question presented is whether wage movements should be regulated with reference to *wage rates*, or with reference to *computed earnings*. The railway unions in their arguments before government boards have usually protested against the use of statistics of earning,

and for the use of wage rates. Mr. Stockett in his analysis of railway wage proceedings (The Arbitral Determination of Railway Wages, Page 107) explains their stand as follows . . . "The employees, on the other hand, contend that the computation of the increase in wages should be based on the assumption that wages mean rates of pay, and that the high earnings which the railways show for the men are a result of the excessive hours worked . . ."

A comparison of wage rates for those groups studied by K. T. G. (taken from the May issue of the U. S. Labor Monthly Review) shows a considerably different situation than he depicts. They are as follows:

AVERAGE HOURLY COMPENSATION (IN DOLLARS)				
	Year ending June 30, 1915	Last quarter, 1920	Pct. increase	Pct. deduction ordered July 1, '21
Yard Engineers and Motormen . . . . .	.425	.948	123%	8.9%
Yard Firemen and Helpers . . . . .	.261	.743	185%	11.3%
Yard Conductors (or Foremen) . . . . .	.386	.903	134%	9.2%
Yard Brakemen . . . . .	.349	.838	140%	9.8%
Road Freight Enginemen . . . . .	.598	1.181	98%	8.3%
Road Freight Firemen and Helpers..	.382	.906	137%	10.8%
Road Freight Conductors . . . . .	.498	.989	99%	10.0%
Road Freight Brakemen and Flagmen	.336	.796	137%	12.5%
Road Passenger Engineer, Motormen	.824	1.349	64%	7.4%
Road Passenger Firemen and Helpers . . . . .	.506	1.047	107%	9.6%
Road Passenger Conductors . . . . .	.669	1.132	70%	8.6%
Road Passenger Brakemen and Flagmen . . . . .	.381	.836	119%	12.0%

The wage rates given are as they were for the 4th quarter of 1920, but no changes were ordered between that time, and the change effective June 1, 1921

The chief argument against the use of figures of earnings is, of course, that they are greatly affected by the state of railroad activity. If wage movements are based on figures taken for a period of great prosperity, the union would be correct in arguing that they formed an unfair basis for a wage scale for more normal times. In the same way, figures of earnings for the second quarter of 1921 as the basis of calculation are unsuitable, as that period was undoubtedly one of extreme railroad inactivity. If, in further example, the figures of earnings for the 4th quarter of 1920 (certainly not one of unusual activity) are taken, see what a different result is obtained, presenting the figures as K. T. G. did:

AVERAGE ANNUAL COMPENSATION (DOLLARS).				
	Year ending June 30, 1915	175 % earnings 1915	Earnings 4th quarter, 1920	Pct. decrease July 1, 1921
Yard Engineers and Motormen	\$1,528	2,674	2,750	8.9
Yard Firemen and Helpers	916	1,603	2,107	11.3
Yard Conductors (or Foremen)	1,358	2,376	2,604	9.2
Yard Brakemen	1,169	2,044	2,319	9.8
Road Freight Enginemen	1,846	3,230	3,564	8.3
Road Freight Firemen and Helpers	1,136	1,988	2,560	10.8
Road Freight Conductors	1,589	2,779	3,156	10.0
Road Freight Brakemen and Flagmen	1,036	1,813	2,458	12.5
Road Passenger Enginemen and Motormen	2,141	3,745	3,427	7.4
Road Passenger Firemen and Helpers	1,287	2,254	2,600	9.6
Road Passenger Conductors..	1,850	3,237	3,098	8.6
Road Passenger Brakemen and Flagmen	1,026	1,795	2,212	12.0

It appears that the earnings for all groups except two advanced considerably more than the cost of living. Furthermore, it may be recalled that the Adamson act was passed in 1916—because of the desire of the unions for an eight-hour day. It is seldom that a decrease in hours and an increase in wages can be successfully accomplished within a short period—though it has been done.

Even now this question is not merely academic. It will come up again. The unions must select the more satisfactory principle and stick to it, even if it works against their interests temporarily. The recently threatened strike, in my opinion, would have been ill-advised on many grounds. Certainly the wage reduction of July 1, 1921, did not constitute such a great injustice as to justify it to the country.

HERBERT FEIS.

Lawrence, Kansas.

To Send a Medical Unit to Russia

SIR: The Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia feels that among your readers there must be many persons who will support their plan to send a medical unit into Russia. That unit is being organized. It will go to Moscow and report to the Public Health Authority for work in the famine area. It must, of course, take in its own food, food for the people of the district where it works, and its own medical supplies and ambulances.

The working people of America who are themselves facing a winter of increasing misery still give in response to Russia's distress, and give magnificently. Fifty thousand dollars for the food supplies of the unit have been contributed, and within the next three weeks it is hoped that one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of medical supplies will be provided. The Society for Technical Aid asks for wholesale drug supplies, bandages and dressings, unlimited amounts of soap and for contributions of rubber goods which are the common objects of hospital equipment. Above all it asks for money with which to complete the outfitting of the unit, and hopes that some of the givers of ambulances in the late war will repeat their generosity for this newer need. It is fashionable now to neglect the culture of the Russians, but they are the people of Tolstoi and Chekhov and Dostoevsky, and they cry to us for aid in their time of plague and pestilence and famine.

Contributions and supplies should be sent to Room 303, Medical Unit for Soviet Russia, 110 West 40th Street, New York City, and the Society will be grateful for immediate response by post and telegraph, as the time of preparation is so short.

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL AID TO SOVIET RUSSIA
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

A New School of the Theatre

SIR: May I ask space in your columns to announce the opening on November 15th of the School of the Theatre, an organization that will give instruction in the acting and production of plays, and which plans to act as the experimental station for the development of the drama? Walter Hampden is vice-president, and George Arliss is chairman of the Board of Directors. The others responsible for this new development in stage preparation are Elsie Ferguson, Frank Craven, Arthur Hopkins, Robert Edmond Jones, Jose Ruben, Ernest Truex, Rachel Crothers, Kenneth Macgowan, Brock Pemberton, William Lyon Phelps, Arthur Hohl, and Stuart Walker.

An interesting feature of this new school is the development of an experimental theatre, which will be operated by the students under professional direction. This theatre, as well as the offices and lecture rooms of the School of the Theatre, are located in the Lexington Theatre Building, Lexington Avenue and 51st Street, New York City. By means of this theatre students will receive all the advantages of a working stock company under the finest professional direction, while they are at the same time working at their technical development.

CLARE TREE MAJOR,
PRESIDENT, SCHOOL OF THE THEATRE.

New York City.

V E R S E

The Monologue

Alas, O Lovely One!
Imprisoned here,
I tap. You answer not.
Yet, spite of fear,
Transparent as glass these walls
When you lean near.

Last dusk, at those high bars
There came, scarce-heard,
Claws, fluttering feathers,
With one shrill, scared, faint note
The silence stirred.

Rests in that corner,
In puff of dust, a straw—
Vision of harvest-fields
I never saw,
Of strange green streams and hills,
Forbidden by law.

These things I whisper
For I see—in mind—
Your caged cheek whiten
At the wail of wind,
Your thin breast wasting; unto
Woe resigned.

Take comfort, listen
Once we twain were free;
There was a country—
Fainteth memory—
Lay your cold brow on hand,
And dream with me.
Awaits me torture;
I have smelt their rack;
From spectral groaning wheel
Have turned me back;
Thumbscrew and boot, and then—
A yawning Sack.

Lean closer, then!
Lay palm on stony wall.
Let but thy ghost beneath
Thine eyelids call,
"Courage, my brother!" Nought
Can then appal.

Yet coward, coward am I,
And drink I must
When clanks the pannikin
With the longed-for crust;
Though heart within is sour
With disgust.

Long hours there are,
When mutely tapping—well,
Is it to Vacancy
I these tidings tell?
Knock these numb fingers 'gainst
An empty cell?

Nay, answer not!
Let still mere longing make
Your presence sure to me
While in doubt I shake:
Be but my Faith in you—
For Sanity's sake!

WALTER DE LA MARE.

The Humming Bird

Up from the navel of the world,
Where Cuzco has her founts of fire,
The passer of the Gulf he comes.

He lives in air, a bird of fire,
Charted by flowers still he comes
Through spaces that are half the world.

With glows of suns and seas he comes;
A life within our shadowed world
That's bloom, and gem, and kiss of fire!

PADRAIC COLUM.

We Come from Babel

Words! What are words! A moving of the lips;
A legacy of torment for the sealed
Mouths of the unborn multitude! Life grips
The unaccustomed body that must yield
To indignation or the dolorous
Mingling of tears with hope—we know not why;
While passion smites from the taut heart of us
Always the old refrain of I! I! I!

We come from Babel and our tongues confound
The certitude of that which needs no speech,
But holds mysterious converse all around
With winds and rain and patient roots that reach
Down into knowledge . . . Words! Of what avail
Are words when moonlight wakes a nightingale!

LESLIE NELSON JENNINGS.

Three Wishes

Sink out of being, and go down, go down
Through the steep layers of emerald and jade
With warm thin skin of turquoise overlaid,
Where the slow coral spins a ghostly town
Of tower and minaret and fretted crown,
Give up your breath in sleep's subaqueous shade,
Hold to oblivion; are you afraid
Of cold deep death? Are you afraid to drown?

You have three flashing looks, like fairy wishes;
One burns your eyelids with a lightning-wink
Which turns into a rainbow world, and one
Shows sea-birds brighter than the silver fishes,
And one—the last wild chance before you sink—
A flock of dancing clouds about the sun.

ELINOR WYLIE.