

what it is not as in what it is. It was not a conference of Powers directed against a common enemy. It was not in any sense a conference for the formulation of an alliance. It was a conference to develop a plan of common action and future conferences for the settlement of disputes, not after hostilities, but in advance and as a preventive of them.

President Coolidge's suggestion is precisely in line with what was begun at the Washington Conference.

In view of that fact, the following statements need emphasis in the President's speech. Certain definite things for the promotion of peace he said he believed can be done and ought to be tried. "I believe that among these," President Coolidge specified, "are frequent international conferences suited to particular needs." In suggesting the possibility of a further conference on armament, he made clear that "the main hope of success lies in first securing a composed state of the public mind in Europe." He made clear also that he was under no illusion as to the affectionate regard with which other nations hold America, but he recognized that they hold us in respect and that "our position is such that we are trusted and our business institutions and Government considered to be worthy of confidence."

There is no indication in what the President said that the United States is proposing any other basis for a conference than that which served for the Conference at Washington.

### Mixing Taxes and Politics

**W**HEN the Tax Bill came up for consideration on the floor of the Senate, Senator Smoot had announced that he would make a "last ditch" fight for lower surtax rates and higher normal rates than the Democratic-Insurgent coalition is demanding. The Senate committee bill carries practically the rates of the Mellon plan. The Democratic Senate programme calls for higher surtax rates than those of the Longworth compromise bill which passed the House. Senator Smoot said that if the committee recommendations are ignored he will, in battlefield phrase, fall back step by step, offering surtax amendments beginning at 30 per cent and going up by one or two per cent at a time until a rate is reached that enough coalitionists will accept to give a majority.

The enemies of the Mellon plan took this statement as a confession that no bill

## Question Box

I

**What were the sources of power of Charles Francis Murphy?**

II

**Muscle Shoals — General Dawes—well, why not?**

III

**Read the Platforms of the People. How closely do your views coincide with those of the majority of your party?**

with rates approaching those proposed by Secretary Mellon can be passed. Senator Smoot may or may not have meant to convey that impression. There is another impression to be had from his statement, however, and that impression he undoubtedly did intend to make—that the Republican organization will not take the responsibility for failure of tax reduction; that it will offer a scientific bill, that if this is defeated it will yield inch by inch till some sort of tax reduction bill can be passed.

Senate Democrats are asking for surtax rates running to 40 per cent. In the Senate committee bill the maximum is 25 per cent. In the Longworth compromise bill, which was accepted by the Democratic-Insurgent coalition in the House, the maximum is 37½ per cent. If Senator Smoot finds it necessary to make the stubborn retreat that he has indicated, the Senate coalition will probably accept a rate around 35 per cent.

If The Outlook's poll is the indication of intelligent public opinion that we think it is, the effort of politicians to turn a scientific tax measure into a political document will meet with resentment when election comes round.

### Sanity and the Law

**O**NE of the leading efficiency engineers in the United States recently said to an editor of The Outlook: "I wonder why we trust lawyers with the management of anything. They have made such a mess of their profession that it does not speak well of their ability to advise others."

What this man was thinking of was the lost motion and the inefficiency of judicial procedure. He was also thinking

of the failure of the law to take advantage of modern scientific knowledge. The occasion which drew forth his remark was the recent trial in Philadelphia to determine the sanity of Harry K. Thaw.

What does the law do in such a case? It permits those who wish to keep such a man as Thaw in confinement to summon a group of well-paid experts whose testimony (it is determined in advance) will be favorable to the retention of the person examined. It permits those who wish to have such a man as Thaw released to summon a group of well-paid experts whose testimony (it is determined in advance) will be favorable to the release of the person examined. Then it leaves the decision as to which group of experts is telling the truth to a group of twelve laymen who know nothing of the various kinds of insanity, their causes or their results.

Such a procedure, it seems to us, might have been proper to a time when insanity was regarded as the work of evil spirits and devilish possession. It does not seem to have a place in the legal procedure of the twentieth century.

Of course every protection should be given the individual against the horrible danger of confinement for insanity; where such confinement is unnecessary for the public welfare or for the benefit of the individual concerned; but the conflicting testimony of interested experts passed upon by a jury of ignorant laymen provides the necessary protection for neither the State nor the individual.

There ought to be an expert commission for the study of such cases—a commission paid by the State and owing allegiance to no one individual. If the reports of such a commission were reviewed by judges familiar with the legal aspects of insanity, there might be more hope than at present of securing just and impartial decisions in such matters.

### The World-Circling Race

**W**E Americans cannot take a very great deal of pride in the series of mishaps, seemingly due to technical defects, that have almost succeeded in making the around-the-world flight of the American planes a subject for a joke.

While the Americans made the 2,410 miles from Seattle to Dutch Harbor, and then rested while another engine was brought to a disabled plane, Flight Commander MacLauren, the British airman, arrived at Bombay, a total of 4,890 miles. On top of this comes the report

# The blow thou hadst shall make thy peace

(Antony and Cleopatra, Act II, Scene 5)

From a Paris Newspaper



The Germans in Switzerland

Red Cross Solicitor: "For the poor Germans, if you please."

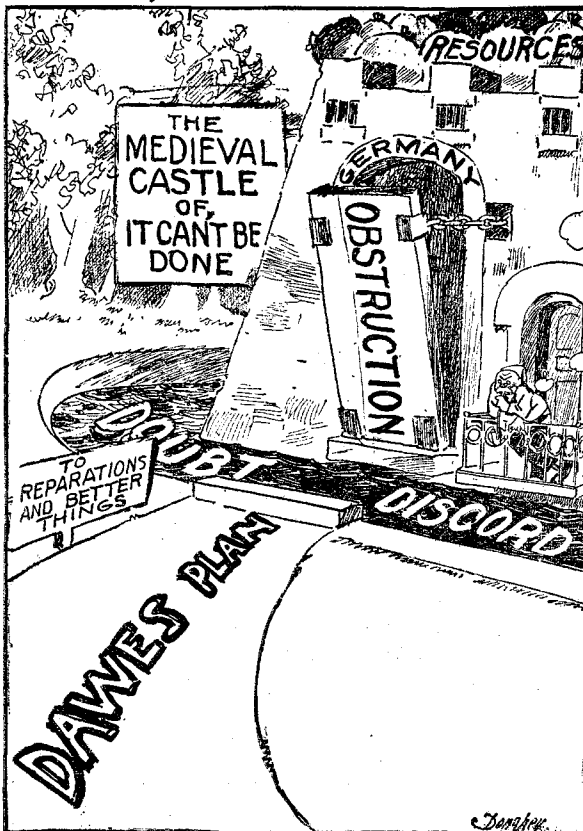
German Guests: "You are mistaken; we are not Swiss."

Kuhn in the Indianapolis News



On the right road at last

Donahey in the Cleveland Plain Dealer



The way out

From H. N. Fosdick, Indianapolis, Ind.

Armstrong in the Tacoma News Tribune



At the end of the lane