

Underwood

A new Westinghouse and American locomotive

agreed with the minority that it would be best to permit the property to pass to private ownership.

Protestants and Catholics in Conference

THERE is much satisfaction in the discovery that the churches of the United States can come to a common mind and formulate common plans for a common task. This discovery is the most important result of the three-day session of the National Study Conference on the Churches and World Peace, recently held in Washington. The Conference represented, officially, about thirty communions of Protestant churches. Several Roman Catholics were present and participated in the meetings as individuals, but did not represent their Church officially. The meeting was the first of its kind and marks an epoch in the history of the churches.

The principal problems of the Conference, studied and discussed by groups and then reported to the plenary session, were the determination of Christian ideals and attitudes in international relations, the determination of what churches are to do in the present situation, and the laying of plans for a Nation-wide campaign of education through the churches in behalf of a warless world.

The general trend of the final findings

was toward the "practical" rather than the "pacifist" group. Disagreement between these two factions over the question of whether the Church should condemn all war or only "aggressive" war, so pronounced during the early deliberations, changed to a reconciliation of views at the closing session, with the result that the final declaration committed the Church to oppose "war as a method of settling disputes." The question of the attitude of the Church toward the conscientious objector—was also settled by compromise, the Conference pledging the Church to "recognize" the right of the individual to follow his conscience in the matter of participating in war, rather than to "guard and assert" this right.

Entrance into the League of Nations and the World Court, with necessary reservations, was urged and plans for military expansion on the Pacific coast were declared to be needless and provocative of suspicion and misunderstanding on the part of other nations. The final declaration also stated that the United States should examine its policy known as the Monroe Doctrine and seek, in co-operation with other American peoples, such a restatement of policy as will make it a ground of good will between the United States and Latin America.

The pronouncement calls on the Government to make a "careful review" of

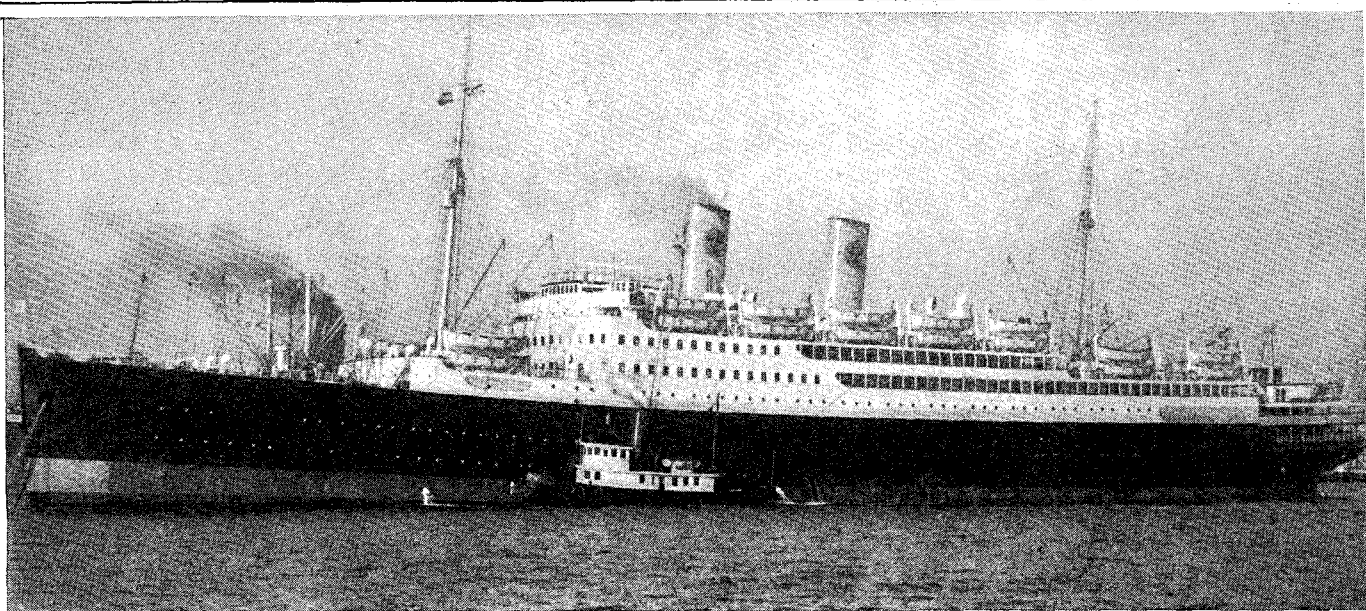
the effect of military training and urges that such training and the mobilization or Defense Day exercises be not used as a means of fostering the spirit of war. The proposed mobilization of industry in preparation for war was condemned and the hope was voiced that the United States would co-operate with other nations in further disarmament.

The findings and declarations of the Study Conference have no binding authority of the churches, except as they may be adopted by the various communions. Before adjournment the delegates agreed to reassemble within a few years to review the progress made toward the ultimate goal—the firm establishment of world peace.

A Jazz Concerto

WALTER DAMROSCH has always been to the fore in the matter of presenting interesting musical programs. It is not surprising, therefore, that he should be the first symphonic conductor to experiment in earnest with an attempt to wed jazz to serious music. Under his direction, the New York Symphony Orchestra introduced to delighted audiences on December 3 and 4 a jazz concerto—George Gershwin's Concerto in F for piano and orchestra.

The youthful composer, who also officiated at the piano, has been known



P. & A. Photos

Giants of Modern Transportation

"BOTH by land and by sea" the art of travel and commerce advances. At the left is shown a new electric locomotive of the Virginian Railway. It is built in three sections for ease in turning curves. It weighs 637 tons and has a horse-power rating of 1,725. It is to be used to move coal trains over a heavy grade. Above is shown a picture of the new Swedish-

American Diesel liner which recently arrived at the Port of New York. Her tonnage is 16,000 and she is driven by two double-acting six-cylinder Diesel engines with a combined horse-power of 22,000. All the auxiliary machinery on the Gripsholm is electrically driven. She has accommodations for over sixteen hundred people.

chiefly as a writer of popular songs and revues, and of the "Rhapsody in Blue," performed by Paul Whiteman's orchestra more than a year and a half ago. So great was the interest created by the "Rhapsody," Gershwin's first serious venture in jazz, that last spring Mr. Damrosch asked him to compose in the jazz idiom a piece of symphonic music. The Concerto in F is his result.

Its long-awaited performance at Carnegie Hall was received enthusiastically—and with very good cause, for, in spite of obvious shortcomings, the concerto displayed freshness, vitality, and audacious originality. It brimmed to overflowing with ideas, some good and some poor, and with a feverish delight in rhythm.

Yet in the rhythms employed Gershwin's composition is new neither to jazz bands nor to symphony orchestras. Mr. Damrosch very cleverly brought out this fact—and we cannot believe he did it unintentionally. He opened his program with Glazounov's Fifth Symphony, a composition of the nineteenth century; and, although none of the newspaper critics noticed the fact enough to comment on it, its *finale* burst forth with the identical "Charleston" rhythm which features so strongly in the Gershwin concerto.

Gershwin's originality lies in something

more than rhythm; it is an originality of language. In combining the vocabulary of serious music with that of the dance-halls he has at times gone outside the vocabulary of both. The result is stimulating. He has, so to speak, landed fish which nobody else had thought were in the stream.

On the other side of the balance must go several serious faults. The concerto is less firmly bound together than might be hoped for. Gershwin might have used the orchestra with greater resourcefulness and effectiveness. His critics were divided in opinion; some thought that he should forget what respectable composers in the past have said in the conventional forms, and express himself; others, that he should forget the vulgarities of his jazz, and write only respectable music. Both sides miss the mark. The only way in which Gershwin can climb to the heights for which he is striving is for him to remember every bit of jazz he ever knew, and at the same time learn all he can from the greatest composers of serious music, and particularly the masters of classical form.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the performance of the Concerto in F was that a young American composer, unlike the vast majority, appeared to have something important to say. Or perhaps it was the even more outstanding fact

that native American music was accepted by serious musicians to a further extent than has ever been done before.

Greece Fined

LIKE a bad boy caught doing something he ought not to have done, Greece has been stood in a corner where her fellow-nations can look at her. She has been told that she is responsible for the invasion of Bulgaria and the consequent damage. A special commission of the League of Nations, called to inquire into the incident, has reported to the Council of the League that an indemnity of \$146,000 for losses to Bulgarian civilians should be paid by the Greek Government and an additional sum of \$73,000 should be paid to the Bulgarian Government for the loss and the wounds of soldiers and for other damages suffered. As this is a minute fraction, about one-tenth of one per cent, of what Bulgaria asked for, it cannot be said that Bulgaria has come out with any flying colors.

Undoubtedly, Greece (which incidentally gets something for the killing of a Greek captain who was advancing under a white flag) will pay the amount of the fine. Nominally and, to a certain extent, actually this outcome is to be credited to the League of Nations. Whether the Powers who are interested in keeping the