

LEAGUE IS FORMED TO MAKE WAR ON MODERN SLAVERY

Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.
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By Paul Scott Mowrer
Geneva, Switzerland, June 1.—A new international anti-slavery league, which probably will be called either the Black Cross or the Gold Cross, has just been organized here for the purpose of defending the rights of natives or subject peoples before the League of Nations and the court of public opinion. Among the founders are John R. Harris of the British Anti-Slavery society and Hens Claparede, a Swiss, who a few years ago was instrumental in exposing the horrors in Belgian Congo.

It is contended that the League of Nations, as constituted, gives no voice to the subject peoples who comprise a large part of the world's population. The new Anti-Slavery league proposes to protect the natives against abuse by white conquerors, using the Swiss or Dutch representatives in the League of Nations as attorneys. The need of action along this line is declared to be urgent. It is believed that slavery, both actual and disguised, increased considerably during the war while public attention was focused elsewhere.

NATIVES FORCED OUT

Information will be gathered as rapidly as possible regarding peonage in South and Central America, the coolie system in Asia and forced labor and appropriation of the native in Africa. Questions which were about to be studied by the anti-slavery leaders just before the war were the alleged mistreatment of the natives on the banks of the Putumayo river in Peru, slavery in the New Hebrides and the alleged sale of Armenian girls in the Constantinople slave markets.

Harris has just published a sensational volume in which he attacks the British South Africa company's administration of Southern Rhodesia. He declares that the company has illegally expropriated the natives from 72,000,000 acres of tillable land and pasturage and divided the natives' cattle among the agents of the company. He estimates the natives' just claims against the British government at \$40,000,000. The natives, it is said, have been obliged to pay heavy fines for permission to remain in their own homes.

MUST BE VIGILANT
The theory of the anti-slavery leaders is that government action is abortive and that only private vigilance can keep down slavery, which tends constantly to creep into new forms. For example, that of forced labor which Sir Edward Grey called "slavery under another name." It is recalled that following the anti-slavery agitation in 1885-1888 the project for an open congress fell through because Britain and Germany were engaged in bringing pressure to bear on the sultan of Zanzibar. Germany wanted his continental possessions and Britain wanted him to recognize a British protectorate. Negotiations were, moreover, in progress by which Germany, in return for recognizing the extension of British influence to include Uganda, received the island of Heligoland.

The congress which the governments finally called were secret. After eight months' negotiations the governments agreed to found a bureau in Brussels, under the auspices of the Belgian foreign ministry, to collect information regarding slavery, and another bureau in Zanzibar to which Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Portugal sent delegates to institute a maritime anti-slavery police in the Indian ocean.

HOPE AMERICA WILL JOIN
The British consular service reported in 1914 that slavery had practically disappeared from the shores of the Indian ocean, but that inland the situation was apparently different. The Brussels bureau had hardly been founded when King Leopold inaugurated his famous Congo regime and the governments concerned have never sent in the reports demanded.

The League of Nations principle that natives constitute a "sacred trust" apparently applies only to the colonies taken from Germany. The new anti-slavery league intends to expose all injustice to natives without discrimination. The British, French, German, Swiss, Italian, Peruvian, Australian, Portuguese and Bolivian anti-slavery organizations have joined the league. It is hoped that the United States, possibly through an organization of churches, will also join.

Jamaica Oil Land May Be Opened Up

By R. W. Thompson
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.
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Kingston, Jamaica, June 1.—The govern-

ment has granted permission to a representative of the Globe Oilfields, Ltd., to have access to the crown lands for the purpose of making a geological examination regarding the presence of oil. From investigation it is learned that there is a prospect of oil fields being opened here and run on a commercial basis.

Bulgarian Premier Called to London on Troubles in Balkans

By Constantine Stephanov
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.
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Sofia, Bulgaria, June 1.—Premier Stamboulski will soon leave for London, having been asked to go there to discuss questions of great import. The cabinet (legislature) will be closed during his absence. It is understood that unsettled conditions in Jugo-Slavia and the Balkans in general and particularly the Thracian question, will be discussed. Recently the efforts of French diplomacy have been directed toward consolidation of the Jugo-Slav kingdom on a federated pattern, with a view to including Bulgaria in the union.

Jugo-Slavia, strong and united, is indispensable to European peace, but it is plain to all that it will be a failure if the Belgrade policy of imperialism continues to oppress Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia. Premier Stamboulski, who is a pioneer in the movement for a Jugo-Slav federation on the Swiss plan, has since coming into power, been doing everything possible towards such an end. The general strike in Jugo-Slavia, the anarchy in Albania and Thrace, not to mention Roumania's internal troubles, do not augur good for the Balkans, and the future looks threatening.

Unless the Balkan states come to their senses or the entente devises a rational means of settling the Balkan situation, the sacrifices of the World War will have been in vain and a new and bloody conflict will take place in the not distant future. Stamboulski's visit to England will be watched with profound interest.

Holland's Peat in Great Demand; Coal Is Short in Europe

By W. J. L. Kiehl
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.
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The Hague, Holland, June 1.—Owing to the coal shortage in Europe there is an immense demand for Holland's peat. Germany was first in the field and was followed by France. Now Italy and Switzerland are clamoring for the product. Besides the large quantities of peat carried from the peat fields by the hundreds of barges and boats, more than 2000 truck loads are sent each day from one station alone. The peat is dug principally in the province of Drenther and Overysel, although many other provinces produce it on a smaller scale.



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