

Daily Democrat

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PROGRESS AT PARIS

There is an impression in some quarters that the framing of a League of Nations plan in Paris has greatly retarded the general progress of the Peace Conference. It is just as well to get this matter straight.

First of all, it should be recognized that the Peace Conference has been by no means so dilatory as its critics have represented. In fact, it has made more rapid progress than similar bodies have generally done in the past, in spite of the unparalleled complexity of its task.

In the second place, it should be recognized that the League Constitution is only one of many big problems that have been handled by the Conference simultaneously. Because of the supreme interest in the League

that is felt in this country Americans have somehow got the idea that nearly all the activity of the Conference has centered around it. The other nations are deeply interested in this project, but none of them so much as is America. Each of the other powers has something else in which it is more immediately concerned, and each has been steadily plugging for what it has set its heart on. This fact, added to the natural and logical handling of the Conference machinery, has resulted in many matters being worked out at once.

The method is the same as that used by all modern legislative bodies and thoroughly familiar to anyone acquainted with the ordinary activity of a United States congress or state legislature or city council. The work is done mainly in committees. Thus while there has been a committee, of which President Wilson is chairman, working on a Constitution for the League of Nations, there have been other committees with other chairmen working on the great questions of territorial boundaries, war indemnities, disposition of surrendered navies, and so forth.

All these committees will soon report the results of their labors, just as congressional committees report their big measures near the end of a session. The reports will then be acted upon in full conference. This final consideration, in many cases, will be little more than a formality.

Nearly all the work has been done already, on nearly

all the big measures. The results do not show yet, but the Conference may surprise the world almost any time now by submitting its finished work.

MOVIES OVERHEAD

A machine has been invented which will throw moving pictures upon the ceiling. At first thought this may not seem very important, but to the thousands of wounded soldiers, lying flat on their backs in the hospitals, it means a good deal.

Intended primarily for the benefit of these wounded boys, like many another invention it presents infinite possibilities for civilian use, and will be doing its work of mercy long after the last soldier is mended and on his way.

What could be lovelier for a wardfull of crippled children than to see the Fair One With Golden Locks, or Cinderella and her Pumpkin Coach move slowly across the hospital ceiling?

For young and old what forgetfulness of aching backs these ceiling pictures promise, what relief from hours of endless tedium!

Many a poor soul in the years to come, strapped to his cot, will mentally rise up and call blessed Hayes Hamilton, the man who invented the machine.

LATINS AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE

Along with all the comment made by Americans on the Monroe Doctrine, as affected by the League of Nations, it is well to get the Latin-American viewpoint. Strangely enough, we are usually slow to consult, in matters where the Monroe Doctrine is concerned, the very nations most interested in it—those whom it is designed to protect.

The Chicago Tribune recently canvassed the Latin-American envoys at Washington, asking them this question: "Do you favor a reservation of the Monroe Doc-

trine in the League of Nations Covenant?" Most of them, as is the usual way of diplomats, refused to commit themselves. The replies of the others are illuminating.

The minister from Panama said: "We Latin-Americans consider that the Pan-American Union has superseded the Monroe Doctrine. We feel that the Monroe Doctrine is no longer vital."

This, it will be remembered, is the view taken by many American statesmen and editors after the formation of the Pan-American Union, before our entrance into the European war drew attention away from the new bonds the United States had formed with the other American republics. It is the view that all the nations of the hemisphere constitute, in themselves, a League of Nations for mutual defense and the settlement of their own affairs.

The minister from Honduras said: "If a League of Nations is formed and works in a satisfactory way, what necessity is there of a Monroe Doctrine, when the coun-

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 - .50 of one per cent goes to pay dividends to shareholders.
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tries of America are guaranteed that they shall not be attacked by other nations?"

The minister from Peru said: "I am among those who consider that the League is an extension of the Monroe Doctrine to embrace the whole world. The League promises that there shall be no more aggressive expansions. That is to say that the Monroe Doctrine need not be applied, but it does not mean that the Monroe Doctrine has ceased to exist."

Many Americans agree with the interpretation given by these Latin statesmen, and are satisfied with it. Many others insist that, even if it is true, there ought to be some explicit reservation of the Monroe Doctrine specifically guaranteeing the integrity of the Western hemisphere and sanctioning American leadership in this sphere. And as Mr. Taft says, there can be no sound objection to such amending of the cove-

nant as will reassure them on this point. This is actually being done now at Paris.

Alma Morris of Lebanon and W. R. Demsey of Waterloo arrived on the noon train and transacted business here this afternoon.

Business Visitors—

WHEN ANSWERING classified ads, kindly mention The Democrat.

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