

for it will supply reactionary Local Authorities with a weapon which they will use to check the growth of education and other social services, while progressive authorities will find in it a grave obstacle to beneficial developments that are long overdue.

The Betrayal of Peace

Nor is it only the domestic policy of the Government which demands the considered condemnation of the electors. More than any other nation, Great Britain lives by her international relations. Because she is at once part of Europe and detached from it—because she neither lies aloof in remote isolation nor lives with her eyes fixed on her frontiers—she is in a unique position to make a contribution to the cause of international peace. Self-interest and humanity alike require her to rise to the responsibilities which her situation imposes. The Tory Government, it seems, has thought otherwise. In 1924 Great Britain was hailed as the leader in world pacification. To-day she is slipping into a position where she will be regarded by the conscience of the world as one of the principal impediments to it.

The Government, while professing a belief in international arbitration, has steadily refused to commit itself to accepting, in justiciable disputes, the jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice. It has contented itself with addressing pious exhortations to other nations to do what it declines to do itself. Further, with regard to other disputes, it has refused to sign any part of the General Act of Arbitration, Conciliation and Judicial Settlement drafted and approved by the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1928.

It contributed to the existing deadlock in Disarmament negotiations, by opposing, on the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, both the limitation of expenditure on armaments and the establishment of effective international supervision of the observance of a Disarmament Treaty.

It conducted its negotiations for a naval agreement with the United States in such a manner as to compel its most distinguished representative to resign from the Cabinet, and has brought appreciably nearer a ruinous competition in armaments, in which Great Britain has nothing to gain and everything to lose.

It has attempted to commit the nation to a naval and military agreement with France, of a kind calculated to alienate the good will of the United States, to perpetuate conscription on the Continent, and to undermine the influence of the League of Nations.

In order to give a semblance of discreditable life to the expiring legend which brought it to power, it has ended diplomatic relations with Russia, and has terminated, with injurious effects, its Trade Agreement, in spite of the fact that Russia is the greatest producer of foodstuffs and raw materials in Europe, and that Great Britain is its greatest manufacturing nation.

It weakened the significance of its signature of the Pact for the outlawry of war by reserving, at its own discretion, the right to go to war in self-defence, and for the defence of certain unspecified regions