

## The Literary Digest

~November 25, 1922~

### A "MAGNA CHARTA OF PEACE"

**N**OT PACIFICISTS, but soldiers, have signed what several editors term one of the most striking and remarkable appeals for peace that have come to their tables. Before their departure for their respective countries, after participating in the annual convention of the American Legion, the representatives of organizations of European war veterans and Alvin Owsley, the new commander of the Legion, joined in signing resolutions which Mr. Owsley thinks will "mean much for the future peace of the world." Some of the resolutions contained in this document, described as a "twentieth century Magna Charta," are as follows:

"That all international agreements among governments affecting the entire people shall be open and aboveboard, with full publicity.

"To oppose territorial aggrandizement.

"That an international court be established to outlaw war.

"To proceed as rapidly as conditions permit and when the decrees of such courts become operative . . . entirely to disarm and disband sea and air forces and destroy the implements of warfare."

In thinking that this document may forward the peace movement, says *The Christian Science Monitor*, Mr. Owsley "is eminently right. No word that has been contributed to the international movement for disarmament has carried the weight that inheres in these resolutions passed by the men who fought the war." Of the plan itself we are told that it is "the most comprehensive program of mental and material disarmament ever contemplated by men who only four years ago considered it their duty to fight, and who prosecuted the war with every mental and material resource."

"Millions of peace-lovers throughout the world—peace-lovers who, nevertheless, stood loyally behind the fighting ranks of the nations during war—will greet the vision of these younger men as the rainbow of promise. Decidedly, and to an inspiring degree, these resolutions 'mean much for the peace of the world!'"

The spokesman for the representatives of eight of the Allied nations who signed the document was Major J. B. B. Cohen, of Great Britain, who lost both legs in the war, and it sometimes seems to the editor of *The Christian Herald* that "it might have been a good thing if all the militarists on both sides of the water had lost both legs like Major Cohen." Such a loss, we are told, "might bring some of the military fellows to their senses." At any rate, "the fact remains, and it is hopeful for the future, that millions of human beings now hate war as they never did before in the history of the world. And they are praying and working to put an end to the thing, until Mars is 'entirely disarmed.'"