Sir A. CHAMBERLAIN

ON THE LEAGUE

REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

Sir Austen Chamberlain, in an address on "Collective Security," at the first meeting of the eighth session of the International Studies Conference, held at the London School of Economics yesterday, said he knew of no substitute for the League of Nations. In the matter of security he inclined to regional agreements working within the scope of the League and in accordance with the Covenant.

Details of the composition and objects of the conference were published in The Times yesterday.

Lord Meston, chairman of the British Coordinating Committee for International Studies, presided, and a telegram of birthday greetings was sent to the King expressing the hope that he would find "that kind of security which they were striving for, and at the same time pursue the purposes of its world-wide character and even extend it by means of Powers which had or were about to add new ones but he did not think they would bring the kind of security which they needed against the danger of which he had been speaking.

IMMENSE SACRIFICES

Any guarantees which were equally binding in every war, wherever, however, on what subject it might arise; any obligations so widely spread, so universal and requiring potentially such immense sacrifices from the nations which gave them were, he thought, beyond the strength of humanity and called for sacrifices that the growth of the League more modest plans than those originally contemplated were most likely to achieve success and lay the foundations for further progress. It was on some such schemes as those that he placed his faith. His faith in the League was deep-rooted. When he was appointed to the League, he thought the secretariat a beautiful dream, but hardly a practical reality. A few years later it was his house, his good fortune, to represent this country for nearly five years at the meetings of the Council and at the gatherings of the Assembly. The faith which he now expressed in the League was the result of no theory, but of his observations of its practical work and of what he saw it achieve in the years in which he participated in its deliberations.

Professor Louis Eicheng, chairman of the executive committee, replied on behalf of the members of the conference.

After some formal business had been transacted, Professor Maurice Bbourg, general rapporteur of the study conference, made a statement on the preparatory memorandum submitted.

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, chairman of the study meetings and leader of the United States group, gave an address on "Collective Security.

The conference was continued later in the day at the headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, St. James's Square, and will be continued there.

A POTENT INSTRUMENT

Whatever be the fluctuating fortunes of the League, whether at this moment it was commanded more or less ability and respect, he knew it could not be without substance for it; he knew no other method of treating those international differences which offered the same hope; and he was convinced that the need for such an institution was so great that it would survive its infancy illnesses. Its present maturer, and that it would gradually, gradually, play a greater part in preserving peace and removing causes of difference. The League—how great was its task to-day with all its imperfections and with some failures was a potent instrument for the avoidance of war and the settling of international differences. It had ventured in the House of Commons to say that wars could be roughly divided into two classes. There were those for which he found no better name than accidental, and there were deliberate wars. By an accidental war meant war arising without premeditation, without desire for war on the part of anyone, out of some incident which suddenly brought passions to boiling point, which affected or was thought to affect the national honour, or out of some intrigue into which nations had been led, not knowing what they did and from which they saw no substitute for extricating themselves without a loss of honour and of repute. In all such cases the League of Nations was an invaluable instrument for preserving peace at the present time.

What the delegates to that conference had in mind was something greater and much more difficult to cope with—the effort by some power in its will upon its domestic World. No doubt even such a country did not desire war, but it was desired above all that it should have its own way, even though it be at the cost of war. Though he thought the existence of the League of Nations and the public opinion it had created and the moral judgment which it could bring would act as a deterrent even to that kind of war, he did not think they would alone suffice to prevent such a war. In those cases nothing but the certainty, or at least the high probability, that deliberate aggression of that kind would meet with the aggression of that kind which would meet with the agent for which he could not hope to overcome would restrain him and prevent him proceeding to the ultimate resort of war. The original idea of the League of Nations was to bring all the nations of the world into one common system of mutual guarantee. He earnestly hoped that the League would maintain its world-wide character and even extend it by the re-entrancy of Powers which had left it or the addition of new ones; but he did not think they would bring the kind of security which they needed against the danger of which he had been speaking.

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