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THE ORGANIZATION OF PEACE

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THE ORGANIZATION OF PEACE

BY

MAXWELL GARNETT, C. B. E., Sc. D.

Secretary of the League of Nations Union

PUT INTO BASIC

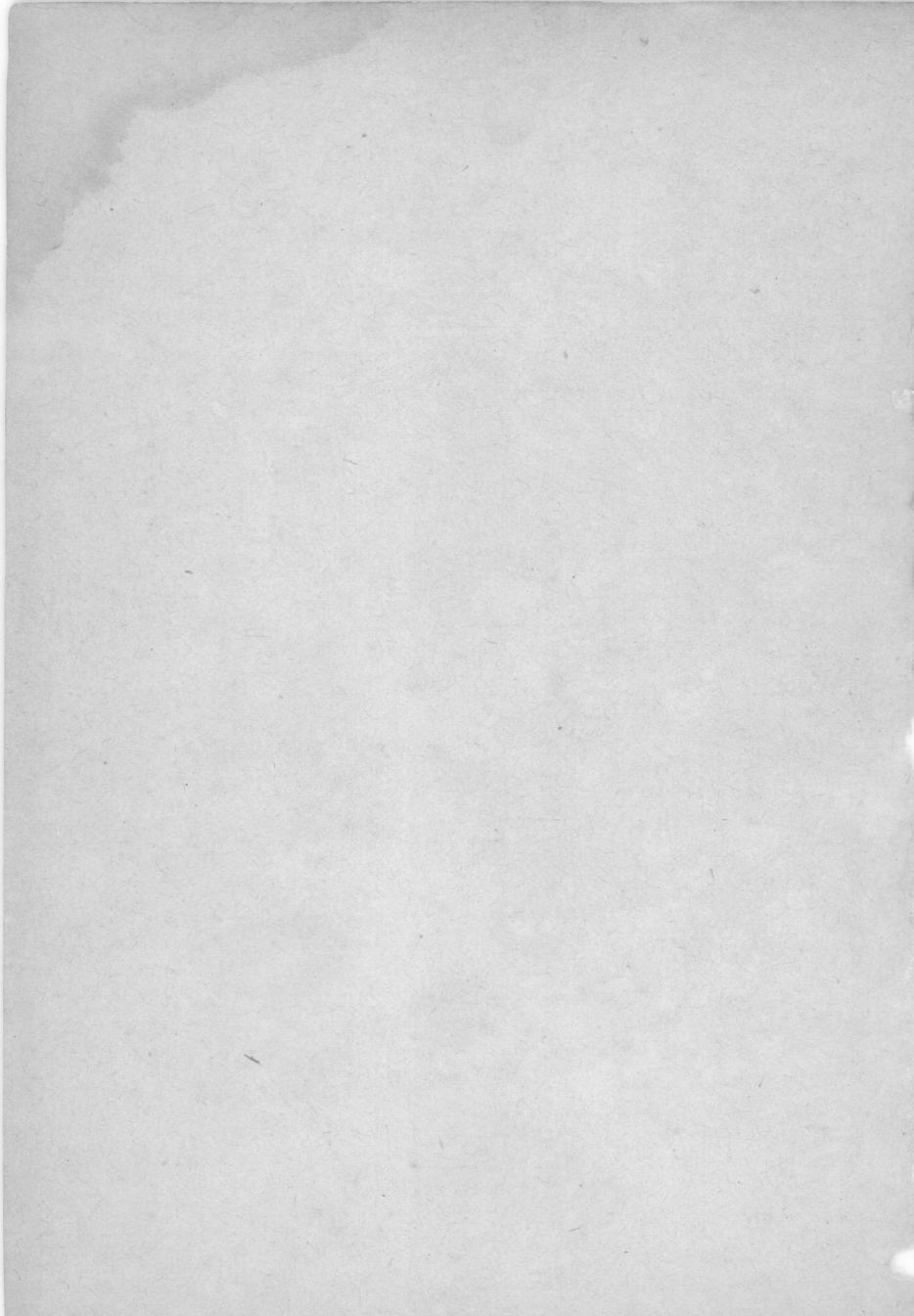
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TO THE READER

The account by Dr. Maxwell Garnett of the growth of a great peace organization, which is given here in Basic English, will be of interest to everyone who sees in Basic the hope of a happier future for international relations.

The international value of Basic may be judged from *Debabelization*; and the opinion so formed may be tested in the light of two other international examples: *The Basic Traveller*, and *International Talks* by Wickham Steed (in parallel form).

In a book of this sort, statements and opinions are naturally taken from a number of different authorities in support of the arguments put forward. The reader is requested to keep in mind that though such views are printed as if in the words of the persons named in connection with them, no statements at second hand will in fact be given in their true form till our public men have become experts in Basic English. This book will have done good work if it gives some of them the idea.

Names of Discussions, such as the 'International Sanitary Convention' and the 'Disarmament Conference' have been given in their normal English form, not because it would have been hard to put them into Basic, but because the reader might have been troubled by the fact that the new names were strange to him. Names

of committees and meetings are not unlike names of persons: the general public gives more attention to their sound than to their sense. The question is one which has to be looked into very seriously, and till the system of Basic for Radio is complete, and the necessary special lists have been put together, it would be unwise to make decisions on such points, for fear that they might have to be changed later when more material has been tested.

The pictures have been taken straight from *Organising Peace*, the normal English form of the book, and naturally it has not been possible to make any changes in words cut into the metal off which the pictures are printed. When necessary a key is given for the Basic reader.

For those who have no knowledge of Basic, a list of the earlier books has been printed on the last page. The rules for working the 850 words here used (all of which are printed at the front, on one side of a bit of business note paper) are given in *Basic English* and in the *ABC*; and the different forms and uses of the words themselves are made clear in *The Basic Words*.

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THE ORGANIZATION
OF PEACE

NOTE

The progress of scientific discovery and, more particularly, the march of mechanical invention have greatly reduced the spaciousness of our planet during the past century. The nations of the earth are no longer able to live almost independent lives. Contacts have multiplied, not only between governments but among all sorts and conditions of men.

Thus the Times newspaper recently reported an experience of two Americans who were returning by the Indian Air Mail from a tour in the East. When the machine stopped at Basra on the Persian Gulf, two Iraqi gentlemen entered: and the Americans invited them to make a four at Bridge. They played together from Basra to Baghdad, where the aerodrome presented a lively scene with soldiers parading, bands playing and flags flying. The Iraqis alighted and drove off in a magnificent Rolls Royce. One of the Americans asked the steward who the men were, and was told "King Feisul and his chief aide-de-camp." The American observed "Geel! If any one had told me in my little home in Oklahoma that I was going to fly over the the Garden of Eden and play bridge with a reigning monarch who would take from me one hundred and fifty good American dollars, I would never have believed it."

The peoples of the world are fast becoming the People of the World: a single 'Great Society' of civilized mankind.

NOTE

The discoveries of science, and more specially the great engineering inventions, have had the effect of making our earth very much smaller in the last hundred years. The nations of the earth are no longer able to have existences almost completely separate from one another. There are more international meetings, not only between governments, but among all sorts and conditions of men.

For example the *Times* newspaper gave an account the other day of two Americans who were coming back from a journey in the East by the airplane taking the Indian mail. When the machine came down at Basra on the Persian Gulf, two Iraqi men got in; and at the request of the Americans they made a four at cards. They were playing together from Basra to Baghdad, where the airplane field was looking very bright, with the military lined up, bands playing and flags waving. The Iraqis got out and went away in a beautiful Rolls Royce. One of the Americans, on questioning the waiter as to who the men were, got the answer "King Feisul and his chief military secretary." "Geel!" said the American, "if anyone had said to me in my little place in Oklahoma that I would one day be flying over the Garden of Eden and playing cards with a ruling king who would take from me 150 good American dollars I'd have had no belief in him."

The nations of the earth are quickly becoming the Nation of the Earth: one 'Great Society.' On the plane

On the economic plane, as the world crisis has proved, the unity is already complete. And our present distresses are in large measure due to the failure of the human family to adapt itself fast enough to the sudden change in its material and economic environment.

One indispensable adaptation is described in the present volume. The nations are having to renounce, in their own interest as well as in the general interest, privileges hitherto associated with independent sovereignty. The machinery of the League or Society of Nations has been created and is being found necessary to keep order in the world; and to fight the common enemies of mankind—disease, addiction to drugs, the traffic in women, slavery and conditions of labour approximating to slavery, social injustice, unemployment—against which the separate governments struggle in vain; in brief, “to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security.” That machinery is, indeed, the life-line of civilization at this critical time.

Only less necessary than the political is the linguistic adaptation to the altered circumstances of human life in the

of industry and trade, as international bad times have made clear, the earth is now united in one system. And our present troubles are in a great measure caused by the fact that the family of man is unable to make a quick enough adjustment to the sudden change in its material and business conditions.

An account of one necessary adjustment is given in the present book. The nations are having to give up, in their private interest and not only in the general interest, rights which have till now gone hand in hand with free and separate government. The League or Society of Nations has been formed and the discovery is being made that its organization is necessary for keeping order among nations; and for fighting the conditions which are poisoning our common existence—disease, the taking of opium and other damaging medical substances, the trade in women, the system of keeping workers as private property or under conditions almost amounting to this, unequal laws, armies of men and women out of work—against which the separate governments put up a fight without effect. To put it shortly, the League is necessary 'so as to get the nations working together on international questions, to keep international peace and make every nation free from danger.' That organization is, in fact, the only thing which may keep our society from destruction in this time of danger.

Only less necessary than the political adjustment is the adjustment of language in face of the changed conditions of man's existence to-day. What is needed is

modern world. Any two persons who may be brought together by business or pleasure, by common interests or even by accident, ought to be able to communicate with one another in speech and in writing. That does not imply the supersession of any of the great natural languages. They will continue to be used and studied and taught for the sake of their vast treasures of thought and culture, of history and romance. But it does mean that, in addition to his other lessons, every child should acquire some one international language as a makeshift means of communication between himself and those he meets who do not understand his mother tongue or any other natural language he happens to have mastered. This universally available international language may be either natural or artificial; but it must be so easy to learn that a few weeks of intensive study will suffice for its effective use. Its teaching, in school would, of course, take longer. Experiment has, however, shown that the time thus occupied may contribute more to the pupil's eventual mastery of a natural language than if it had been spent, in the usual way, on the elements of that language itself.

Basic seems to me to fulfil, in a remarkable degree, the essential requirements of an international language. Of all its many advantages, the greatest is its close connection with English, and especially with the seventeenth century English that belongs equally to Britain and America. For, of all

some language in which any two persons who come into touch for business or pleasure, through common interests or even by chance, may make themselves clear to one another in talk and in writing. To make this possible it is not necessary to put an end to any of the great natural languages. They will go on being used, and men will go on learning and teaching them, because they are store houses of thought and learning, of history and fiction. But it is necessary for every boy and girl, in addition to the normal school work, to get a knowledge of some one international language for use between himself and anyone he may come across with whom he has no other common language. This international language for use in all parts of the earth may be a natural language or a made language; but it will have to be so simple that any one will be able to make use of it after about a month of hard work. Its teaching in school would naturally take longer. Tests, however, have made it clear that time taken for such a purpose may make the learner more able to get a good knowledge of a natural language in the end than if the same time had been used, in the normal way, in learning the first stages of that language itself.

Basic seems to me to have, in a surprising degree, the qualities necessary for an international language. Of all the arguments in support of it, the greatest is its connection with English; and specially with the English of 300 years back, which is equally the property of Britain and America. I say this because, of all the natural