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THE INTERALLIED CONFERENCE OF SCIENTIFIC
ACADEMIES, IN LONDON*

The question of international scientific relations after the war has attracted the attention of scientists for a long time. The French Geodetic Commission, the French delegation to the old International Geodetic Association, and the Bureau of Longitudes, have studied it. Twice the Academy of Sciences has expressed its views on the subject, first in November last, and again recently at the meeting of September 30th. It was unanimous in declaring that personal relations will for a long time be impossible between the scientists of the allied countries and those of the central empires, and it passed several resolutions relating to the reorganization of international scientific associations.

The same question has been studied in other countries, and the Royal Society of London proposed, several months ago, an inter-allied reunion of scientific academies. This Conference was held in London on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of October of this year. Representatives of England, the United States, Italy, France, Belgium, Serbia, and Brazil were present. Important decisions were reached and drawn up in the form of resolutions to send to the governments and learned societies of the allied countries.

Some general observations serve as an introduction to the resolutions finally adopted unanimously. They dwelt strongly on the point that previous wars had not destroyed the mutual esteem of scientists of belligerent countries for one another; peace had been able to efface, after a few years, the trace of the past struggles. Today conditions are quite different. Nameless crimes will leave a stain on the history of the guilty nations which the signatures at the bottom of a treaty of peace will not be able to wash away. Therefore we should abandon the old international associations and create new ones amongst allies, with the eventual coöperation of neutrals.

Other measures, tending to strengthen the bonds between the allied countries, were discussed: their aim is to establish between them a thoro collaboration in scientific research.

A Commission appointed by the Conference will meet shortly in Paris to study more deeply future international organizations. It will also consider the propositions made by delegates. These

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are the proposals formulated by Monsieur Massart, of the Royal Academy of Belgium, on international exchanges and the creation of bibliographical collections, as well as a proposal of our colleague, Monsieur Bigourdan, on the unification of bibliographical notations relative to all knowledge.

We give here the text of the statement and of the resolutions made at the conference in London.

STATEMENT UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE
AS A PREFACE TO ITS RESOLUTIONS

When, four years ago, war burst forth, dividing Europe into enemy camps, men of science could still hope that the conclusion of peace would renew the broken ties, and that the enemies of yesterday would be able again to meet in friendly conferences and unite their efforts for the progress of science. At all times, since the revival of scientific studies in the Middle Ages, the search for truth has formed a chain solid enough to resist the strain of national antagonisms. And this tie became still stronger toward the end of the last century, when the development of certain branches of science required, for their study, the collaboration of all the civilized nations. Associations and conferences multiplied rapidly and more and more friendly relations were established between the men of science of the different countries, in spite of political divergences which were voluntarily left in the shade.

War, formerly, frequently interrupted the coöperation of individuals, without destroying their mutual esteem, based on the consciousness of the value of science; peace soon came to blot out the traces of the past struggles.

If today the delegates of the scientific academies of the allied nations and of the United States of America find it impossible to take up personal relations again, even in the matter of science, with the scientists of the central nations, inasmuch as these will not be admitted again into the union of civilized nations, they do this with full consciousness of their responsibility, and it is their duty to recall the motives which have led them to this decision.

Civilization has imposed rules of conduct on nations which are intended to serve the interests of humanity, and which are, in great degree, concerned with their honor. Such are the recognition of the sacred character of treaties (especially those concerning the state of war) and the suppression of useless cruelties toward civilian

populations. . . . From these two points of view the central powers have infringed the laws of civilization, disdaining all conventions and unchaining in the human soul the worst passions engendered by the ferocity of the struggle. War is inevitably full of cruelties, and individual acts of barbarism cannot be avoided; one must make up one's mind to that. These are not the acts that we refer to; it is the organized horrors, encouraged and conceived from the beginning, with the sole aim of terrorizing inoffensive populations. The destruction of numberless homes, the violence and the massacres on land and on the sea, the torpedoing of hospital ships, the insults and tortures inflicted on prisoners of war, will leave in the history of the guilty nations a stain which the mere reparation of material damages will not be able to wash away. In order to restore confidence, without which all fruitful collaboration would be impossible, the central empires will have to repudiate the political methods the practice of which has engendered the atrocities which have roused the indignation of the civilized world.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
ORGANIZATIONS, UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE
CONFERENCE

1. As soon as circumstances will permit, the conventions relative to international scientific associations, conformable to the statutes or rules peculiar to each one, will be denounced by the competent groups of nations at war with the central powers.

New associations recognized as useful to the progress of science and its applications will be established, from now on, by the nations at war with the central empires, with the eventual co-operation of neutrals.

2. Certain associations, resulting from diplomatic conventions, such as the Convention of the Meter, ought to be made the subject of a special survey at the time of peace negotiations.

3. The measures referred to above will not touch on agreements which exclusively concern indispensable administrative relations between public utilities, such as those controlling navigation, meteorological dispatches, railways, postal and telegraph service, etc.

4. A Commission of Study is constituted, as a part of the Conference, which delegates designated by the Academies of the countries at war with the central powers may join. This Commission

will draw up a general plan of international organizations, to comply with the needs of the various branches of scientific and industrial research, including those relating to national defense.

The Commission will convene at Paris in the second half of November of this year.

5. Each of the Academies represented at the Conference will be asked to promote the creation of a National Council, having as its object the advancement of researches mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

6. An International Council will be established by the federation of National Councils.

7. The Conference, being of the opinion that all industrial, agricultural, and medical progress rests upon the discoveries of pure science, calls the attention of the governments to the importance of theoretical and pure research, the budgets for which should be made as large as possible after the war.

It insists likewise on the creation of large laboratories, private and national, of experimental science.

ADDRESS OF MONSIEUR ÉMILE PICARD AT THE DINNER GIVEN IN
LONDON ON OCTOBER 11, 1918, BY THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT

I am sure of being the interpreter of everyone in thanking the Right Honorable Mr. Balfour for the honor that he has done us in presiding at this dinner. We do not forget that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom has done scientific work in his beautiful philosophical productions. May he permit us to regard him somewhat as a colleague.

I thank also the Royal Society, which has shown the most abundant initiative in so many cases, for having invited us to this conference, and for having directed our deliberations so happily. We can hope that our work has not been in vain. First of all, in a declaration pointing out the principles which have guided us, we have shown that, tho men of science, we remain men. Our solicitude for the progress of science is certainly great, but the moral question has appeared to us to rise above everything. Also, we have not hesitated to advise the rupture, at least for a time, with the men of science belonging to the countries which have systematically committed the most odious deeds in Belgium, in Serbia, in France,

and in Italy. The men of intellect from beyond the Rhine bear a heavy responsibility in these atrocities. Reparation and expiation are necessary; for, as Cardinal Mercier has said, to pardon certain crimes is to be an accomplice. However, we wish to maintain the hope that the immoral theories of universal dominion, fixed in the minds of the ruling classes of Germany, will one day be eradicated, and that our present enemies, recovered from their madness, will be able later on to join again the union of free civilizations.

Meanwhile, we shall labor amongst friendly peoples at our scientific works, collaborating with our diverse qualifications. Not fearing to confess it, we have not always appreciated them sufficiently, having sometimes been weak enough to confound, in the expression of a celebrated Italian poet, the colossal with the great.

The happy result of this meeting will be the establishing of great lines of joint labor. Our projects are very vast, perhaps a little ambitious. Much co-operation, especially by the governments, will be necessary for the reorganizations which we wish to attempt. We hope that they will not fail us.

In the midst of so much sadness it is a consolation to think that the tragic events of these last years have strengthened the ties of sympathy and of friendship, which will contribute to the progress of science. May science never again serve criminal aims.

Gentlemen, we see the approaching dawn of days that will deliver humanity and permit her again to take up peaceful labor. Let us salute our armies which, on all the fronts, from the North Sea to Mesopotamia, force the enemy hordes to a precipitate retreat.