Treaty Negotiations

The joint sessions of the week held by the Peace Commissioners at Paris have not, as had been hoped might be the case, resulted in the final and formal adopting of the treaty. The prolonged session of Monday of the present week is reported to have brought about substantial progress in the negotiations, but it is not at all improbable that another week or even more may be needed for the satisfactory adjustment of all details. There is believed to be no serious disagreement as to the main points of the treaty between the American and Spanish Commissioners, but the latter find it hard to abandon their settled habit of constantly striving for delay at every step. In all, eighteen articles are to be included in the treaty. There is room for a perfectly fair difference of opinion as to whether what may be called the extra-protocol concessions and agreements asked for by this country—namely, the stipulations about the Caroline Islands, the acquisition of cable and coaling stations, the renewal of commercial treaties, and a few other minor matters—should be included in the main treaty, or should be made the subject of a second treaty. On the one hand, Spain may argue with considerable force that these subjects do not belong to the treaty of peace, which should, Spain might say, be occupied solely with the questions out of which the war grew and the punitive measures demanded from the defeated nation by the victor, and that all other agreements between the two countries should be kept separate and on the same basis as an ordinary treaty. On the other hand, our Commissioners may urge that there are practical reasons of convenience and mutual benefit in combining into one agreement all matters now under discussion between the two countries. Advices from Washington indicate that, as might be expected, the irresponsible newspaper rumors about a supposed disagreement between the American Commissioners themselves are entirely without basis of fact.

The Outlook for Spain

However definite the connection between Spanish character and the present condition of Spain, it is impossible not to sympathize with those Spaniards who recognize the desperate state of affairs in that country. There must be a very considerable number of such men; and the outlook for Spain from every point of view is pathetic in the extreme. One of the most influential of the Conservative leaders, Señor Sivela, recently wrote to a Spanish newspaper, as quoted in the New York "Nation:"

Our actual situation is the most calamitous that has been seen since our nationality was constituted, and so badly, by the Catholic monarchs. If those who are in a position to exercise an influence upon public opinion do not unite, it will soon be all up with us. There is no time to lose. If we do not forget all our differences and put all hands to the pumps, the ship and cargo will be lost.

Spain suffers from many causes; but one of the great difficulties which she faces to-day in the attempt to deal with the existing situation is the impossibility to secure anything like united public action. The Conservative party is divided into five or six small groups which can very rarely be persuaded into even temporary agreement. There are divisions in the Liberal party; and a revolt which has given Sagasta a great deal of trouble has recently been headed by Señor Gamazo. Then there are the Republicans, the existence of whose organization is a constant menace to the dynasty; and behind the Republicans are the Carlists, who are always plotting, and who may at any moment, in a sudden crisis, become dangerous. The resources of the country are very largely drained; there is the greatest need of moderation, wisdom, and
that the English people have for a long time entertained friendly feelings for and desire for close relationship with the Americans. He says that the English "would not shrink even from an alliance contra mundum, in defense of the ideals of the Anglo-Saxon race—of humanity, justice, freedom, and equality of rights." But he insists that any such alliance should be left to arise out of the exigency which may demand it, and that any attempt to pledge the two nations beforehand to combined offensive and defensive action in all circumstances must inevitably break down and be a source of danger instead of strength." He finds the ground of mutual fellowship and co-operation between these two countries "not in the excess of jingoism or the greed of interested individuals, but in the great moral forces which move a free people in the presence of injustice and wrong perpetrated against innocent men and helpless women and children." He says that if the United States could have joined hands with Great Britain three years ago, and allowed her fleet to co-operate with the British navy, the Armenians might have been protected from the prolonged and horrible massacres inflicted on them. Turning to our colonial question, he points out the fact that "in India, where 300,000,000 of people acknowledge the Queen as Empress, the total white garrison is only 70,000 men;" "while in Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, protected States, the West Indies, and West Africa, not a single white regiment is stationed for the maintenance of our rule, which is secured entirely by colored soldiers and police under British officers;" and he thinks this experience goes far to refute the objections of those Americans who anticipate that a colonial policy would require an immense standing army. He believes that British experience indicates that the task involved in bringing order out of chaos in Cuba and the Philippines is not nearly so great as some American pessimists imagine, and also indicates that the enlargement of the civil service and the expansion of National responsibility will secure the necessary purification in our political life.

The Dreyfus Case Unless the Court of Cassation or the Government interferes, the trial of Colonel Picquart before court martial will take place on Monday of next week. So far the Court has shown no intention of interfering; and the Prime Minister has apparently committed himself to the same position. In a rather weak speech M. Dupuy declared that France had been attempting to harmonize two antagonistic forces—the army and the democracy; and there was a note of despondency in what he said, as if he doubted whether that harmony could be much longer maintained. He does not seem to have even hinted at a solution of the question which would make the army the servant of the democracy. The awe of the civilian for the soldier, and the glorification of the army, which has been the cause of so many disasters to the French people, are still perilously prevalent. At the moment interest centers in the question whether the action of the Military Governor of Paris will precipitate a crisis in the relations of the Government and the army. If the trial of Colonel Picquart by court martial takes place, it will be in defiance of a rapidly growing and very deep feeling throughout France; and in case the brave officer is found guilty of the charges against him, a revision of his case will be as inevitable as was a revision of the case of Captain Dreyfus. Serious apprehension of some kind of coup d'état on the part of the General Staff seems to be widely felt; but there are reasons to believe that these apprehensions will not be realized. There is at present no military leader in France. General Zur Linden is not in any sense a great soldier; nor has he any of the superficial qualities which gave Boulanger a temporary prestige. There is nothing in the man or in his record to make the French army follow at his heels. On the other hand, Colonel Picquart is said to be very popular through the army; and it must be added that it is very doubtful whether the French army of to-day could be handled like the French army of former times, in defiance of the civil authorities. The army itself is penetrated with republicanism; and it is doubtful whether it is any longer a mechanical machine in the hands of the General Staff.

Crete is at last free from the presence of Turkish troops; but it is significant that their departure had to be hastened by a very pointed demonstration on the part of a French gunboat. After two hundred and fifty years Turkish rule has come to an end; and it is not surprising that the event was solemnized