NO PEACE BASIS YET. BALFOUR ASSERTS

Answers Pacifist in Commons That Berlin Still Aims at World Domination.

AND NOT REASONABLE PEACE

Britain and America United on War Alms — Secretary Defends Secret Treaties.

LONDON, June 20.—Philip Edward Morrell, Liberal, representing a small pacifist group in the House of Commons, started today a debate on the question of peace by agreement by moving the following resolution:

"That this House desires that the Government will lose no diplomatic opportunity to settle the problems of the war by agreement, and that to that end it expresses its opinion that secret treaties with allied Governments should be revised, since, in their present form, they are inconsistent with the object for which this country entered the war and are, therefore, a barrier to a democratic peace."

The motion was negatived without di-

In moving his resolution, Mr. Morrell said that the people were anxious about the progress of events and entitled to a restatement by the Government of its war aims and its opinion as to the prospects of achieving them. He charged that statements made in behalf of the Allies bolstered up "Kaiserism." asserted that there was a passionate desire for peace in Germany, if it could be got with security, but that the Germans believed that the Allies were unwilling to listen to reasonable terms, and that only by supporting the Emperor and the military party could they obtain the peace they desired.

Mr. Morrell said that in June the British casualties averaged seventy killed every day, and that for the five months from January to the beginning of June. the British losses in killed alone were 70,000, while the wounded and missing numbered 300,000.

Philip Snowden, Socialist, in support-

ing the resolution, asked Mr. Baifour, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to define what he meant by "peace offensive." He agreed with Mr. Morrell that nothing like a stable peace could be obtained until secret treaties were denounced. Mr. Balfour began his reply by ex-

plaining that by peace offensive he meant any effort, by speech or otherwise, under the guise of seeking an honorable termination of the present war, to divide the Allies and discourage individual members of the alliance. Germany Seeking Domination.

Replying to Mr. Snowden's contention that nothing had been heard about Ger-

many's desire to dominate the world in the early stages of the war, Mr. Balfour said that the British as a nation had been slow to believe that other nations could be animated by motives so widely separated from the motives moved their own people. But it was a fact that Germany was pursuing her aim of universal domina-

tion with persistent and elaborate care and foresight and with a ruthless, coldblooded determination which left Napoleonic tradition far behind. "Is this a case where a sober historian would ever see the basis of a

possible peace?" asked Mr. Balfour. "Is there any evidence whatever that a suggestion like the Austrian Emperor's letter or any similar suggestion was made with a view to obtaining the sort of peace which even Mr. Snowden would regard as a reasonable peace, carrying with it some prospect of security for the future liberties of the world? We never rejected proposals which we thought had the slightest probability of producing such a peace, and there is no evidence whatever that the German Government has ever been serious in making such peace offers." Contending that Belgium remained the greatest blot to German honor, the Secretary asked whether Germany had ever

in any document or speech openly or plainly offered to restore Belgium to absolute political and economic inde-pendence. He knew of no such offer. There had been suggestions, but never a frank avowal. Mr. Balfour proceeded to emphasize

that in the matter of war aims there was not the slightest difference between Great Britain and the United States, and he denied that secret treaties were an obstacle to peace. These treaties were made in circumstances in which, he believed, any Government would have acted similarly, and it was quite a mistake to suppose that the treaty with Certainly," he continued, "the Gov-

Italy would stand in the way of peace. ernments are not going to shut their ears to anything that could be called reasonable suggestions, if such suggestions should be made. Any proposal to the Allies will be considered on its merits. These treaties were entered into by this country with others as members of an alliance. By these treaties we stand. Our national honor is_bound up in them."

The Secretary did not doubt that if it should be to the common interest of the alliance to modify the treaties, the Italians themselves would suggest the modifications.

Believes Russia Will Recover.

, Referring to Russia, Mr. Balfour said:

"We have the task before us of doing all we can to restore Russia to full national self-consciousness. Everybody with the difficulties sympathizes which that vast population finds itself. The sufferings of the Russian people have been little alleviated by the nominal peace which has been forced upon them by Germany. I do not despair of our being even now able to do something material to restore economic and political unity and national effort in that great country." This was the very last time, said the

Secretary, that the Allies were likely to make proposals to the Central Powers, or, so far as he was able to judge, that the Central Powers were likely to make proposals to the Allies, except for the one purpose of a peace offensive.

What the Central Powers apparently wanted to do was not to propose reasonable terms for the alliance as a whole, but to offer some member of the alliance terms seemingly extremely favorable if that member considered only its own interests and not the interests of the whole alliance, and thereby disintegrate the members of the alliance, some of whom would be perfectly helpless taken in isolation, and were strong only so long as they were united.

He did not blame the Central Powers for laying such a trap, but should blame those who fell into the trap, and most of all he blamed his pacifist critics, who appeared to think it almost criminal not

to fall into the trap.

No Temporary Peace Wanted.

"We all desire peace," continued the Secretary, "but not peace which shall prove merely a truce. I hope that the arrangements made by the peace conference, whenever it comes, will be supplemented by a league of nations to enforce peace, thus affording the only real security. We shall never get such a peace or deserve it if we listen to the counsels given to us by Mr. Snowden.

"We desire—we passionately desire an honorable peace, but as time goes on we are more convinced that such a peace can only be attained by struggling to the end to see that we do not leave in power any nation such as Germany to cause a repetition of the evil under which the whole civilized community of nations, whether in the Old World or the New, is now groaning."

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