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He first broached the question of the Far East, where he strongly condemned Japan's policy of attack, which he called a crime against civilisation as well as a crime against defenceless China. Japan has deliberately and openly broken three international pledges. The voting on the Lytton report at Geneva has shown that every single nation condemned her action. One might say what is the good of condemning without action, but no country, however strong, can in the long run defy with impunity the massed opinion of the whole world. The lecturer said that the other powers were far too busy with their own affairs to intervene, and determined not to have war with Japan and that Japan knew that. But, he said, if nothing could be done to stop Japan here and now, three things could be done, all negative, viz. 1. Not to recognise Manchuria, a mere puppet state, created by Japan. 2. No

loans should be granted to Japan while she is breaking her pledges. 3. No sale of munitions. The lecturer particularly referred to the Nine Powers Conference held in America in 1922, dealing with the maintenance of peace in the Far East, where the main object of the Pact was to keep hostile hands off China during the many years necessary for China to educate herself and to pass from the mediaeval conditions into the modern age. The lecturer said he was not anti-Japan, but when he saw a country was doing wrong he was going to say so. He did so in the case of his own country during the South African War, when he had one of his meetings broken up. But to use an American phrase, he said that "Japan has bitten off more than she can chew," viz. the financial strain of holding down a country.

Referring to India the lecturer said that a momentous experiment was on trial. He advocated a forward policy in the question of self-government as the risk of not holding promises is far greater than the risk of going forward. He outlined the British policy in India and said that Indians had gone from strength to strength in holding political positions, but he also said that India is not ripe for much more self-government than she already possesses.

The lecturer then "jumped" across the Atlantic and said that the United States had a great President in Roosevelt, the greatest since Wilson. He had shown that by his courageous actions and the way he struggled with mountainous difficulties from the very day he was inaugurated. He has instilled new hope in a country where the economic blizzard had destroyed all self-confidence. The lecturer emphasised the inter-dependency as between Europe and America, saying that the Atlantic has long been bridged and that America is more than ever dependant on Europe, and that every tremor in Europe is felt all over America economically and financially. The willingness of President Roosevelt to co-operate with the rest of the world was evinced by the clarion call he sent to the whole world to get rid of offensive weapons and every country to take a solemn pledge not to resort to war. The lecturer did not say whether Roosevelt is going to triumph, as the "economic disease" has gone too far to venture such a statement, but he placed infinite trust in America's new President.

The main theme of the lecture was Germany, but turning to Europe the lecturer said that Russia has completely disappeared from the international picture, and is isolating herself. He said the main reason for this is the fact that Russia is making a desperate effort to make a success of the Second Five Years' Plan. In the lecturer's view the second part of the plan, viz. the agricultural scheme, is destined to a hopeless failure. The industrial development, in his view, is very much better, although not a success. Agriculture is far too decentralised in Russia to be properly supervised. The lecturer thought it unwise of Russia not to try to gain the confidence of foreign business men and said that the recent trial has deepened the gulf. Russia is keeping aloof, she is too absorbed in her own affairs. For us in the West it is difficult to understand Russian psychology.

Turning to Central Europe the lecturer asked the audience to keep their eyes on Belgrade. "If there is going to be a flare up in the Balkans, it will be there," he said.

The lecturer then devoted his time to Germany, whose history he had particularly studied, ever since a young man. He referred to the aftermath of the war, the downfall of the old régime and the communistic outbreaks as a sequel of the war, the Weimar Constitution and the government of the left with its socialist leaders. He said that democracy has never had a fair chance in Germany. First it was plunged into an economic depression and had to take over the State almost bankrupt. Men like Stresemann and Brüning have done their best to put Germany back into the Comity of Nations, did wonderful work and struggled desperately against economic difficulties.

The lecturer then gave a detailed account of Hitler's career. He said that Hitler was "born at Versailles" and that if the Allied had been far-seeing enough to make a more moderate treaty, we should not have Hitler to-day. The economic difficulties paved the way to Hitler's access. The lecturer then referred to Hitler's youth and earlier career, the Munich "Putsch," the association with Ludendorff and the failure of the planned overthrow of the capital of Bavaria. The lecturer then drew comparisons between Hitler and Mussolini, the former's neglected education and the similarity of the upbringing of the two autocrats. He also defined the meaning of National Socialism as it is outlined by Hitler himself in his autobiography, "Mein Kampf." Is Hitler the undisputed master of Germany? What stands between him and the utter autocracy of Italy? These questions the lecturer answered by saying that it was only the "Reichswehr." President Hindenburg since Hitler's Chancellorship has absolutely no

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power and Hitler is only waiting to throw out the superior officers of the Reichswehr and then indeed Hitler will be in Germany what Mussolini is in Italy. The lecturer referred to Hitler's speech of that day before the Reichstag, which was reported in the evening papers. On its face a pacific speech. When a man makes a speech, the lecturer said, you must consider his record, consider his followers, consider everything he has been doing. On the whole it was a conciliatory speech, but at the same time, when passions are being fed and fostered, it is very difficult to control them. The lecturer said he looked forward to the next few months with grave anxiety, the future of Hitlerism. Can it keep its power? That depends on the economic development. Hitler has promised his country "Paradise," to use his own expression. He promised to cure unemployment. Most people think that there is no power capable of overthrowing Hitler. "When the acid test comes," the lecturer said, "it will depend on whether the economic position will improve." Many people think it will get worse. The duration and strength of Hitlerism will depend on the economic position in Germany. There will gradually be a revulsion of feeling after all Hitler has not been able to do what he has promised. The lecturer was very sceptical of Hitler's success and though calling him a great organiser he said his intelligence was mediocre and his education had not passed the elementary stage. He will not be overthrown but by his own people. How long it will take for the enthusiasm to evaporate will be a matter of time.

With these thoughts the lecturer concluded his most interesting address which for lack of space I have been able to briefly to depict. The whole was a piece of masterful oratory, full of interest, the position of the world placed in a nutshell by a man whose eminence it is not for me to emphasise. This address can undoubtedly be considered the apex of lectures held at Swiss House for a memorable period.

The audience showed its appreciation in no mean way and the chairman expressed words of thanks on behalf of the Society, which were seconded by Mr. W. Deutsch.

Of the visitors Mr. Campart, Mr. Hoffmann-de Visne and Mr. Joss voiced similar sentiments. These gentlemen reiterated that they had not missed a single one of the lectures which Professor Gooch has given to various Swiss institutions in the course of the last 25 years. May we soon hear him again!

WB.

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