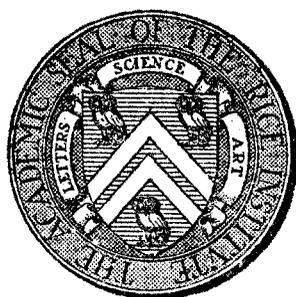


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THE PEACE CONGRESSES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

FOREWORD

AT the outset, I would state frankly the point of view from which these lectures were originally written and which recent events have tended to emphasize rather than to change. I believe with all my heart that a congress to make peace at this time, while a single invading soldier stands victorious on the soil of France or Belgium, would be an irreparable calamity in the history of the world. America has weighed the evidence and is convinced that this war was started, deliberately and without pity, for ends of selfish national aggrandisement. She is convinced that the means for prosecuting the war have been chosen and used in the same spirit. The *Lusitania*, Belgium, and the smoking ruins of northern France have become to us the blazing symbols of great wrongs which must be righted. Billions of gold, the blood of brave men, will not have been spent in vain if these ends can be achieved. And a right peace seems far enough away to-day. America has highly resolved and does not regret her resolution. She has counted the cost and is willing to make the sacrifices. But it is no treason to our high purposes to say that she will always fight with her constant thought on the day of peace and of good will which is to come. It is the fact that these are the supreme preoccupations of mankind, which may give a certain timeliness to lectures in which we shall turn back to three great peace congresses of other days, not so much to tell again the story of their incidents,

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as to study the principles which determined their results and the quality of their statesmanship in the light of our present situation and of our future hopes.

Any bibliography of this subject would be evidently out of place in this connection, but the author would mention the recent essays by Charles Downer Hazen, William Roscoe Thayer, Robert Howard Lord, and Archibald Cary Coolidge, which were published when these lectures were almost completed, but in time to prove of very considerable assistance. Among the newer books, Kornilov's "Modern Russian History" and Seymour's "Diplomatic Background of the War" are worthy of special attention.