

THE LATE LORD LEVERHULME.

Mr. Harold Spender, who was a neighbour of the late Lord Leverhulme at Hampstead, contributes a sketch of him to the *Contemporary Review*. He says:

He was at his best when he was talking of his workpeople at Port Sunlight. He loved his people. After all, he had lived their life himself. He was proud of his origins. I heard him once give an account of his success to our little literary club, The Whitefriars. "I travelled for my father in soap. Other people's soap. They took half the profits. So it suddenly occurred to me—'Why not make the soap ourselves?' I asked my father if I could do so—in the backyard." His father assented—and there, in that little backyard in Bolton, were the beginnings of Sunlight Soap. He never quite lost this spirit of adventure and initiative. He never relapsed into the rich man's habit of repose. His motto was: "On, and always on."

Last time I visited him he took me down to see his ballroom—a long room with a swinging floor, which he had built partly for himself. Two young ladies had come to stay, chiefly for him to dance with. He clasped one of them and

proceeded to march down the long room with the solemn two-step of these days, rigid, precise, very serious. He was not a dancer. He lacked the genius of easy movement. He took dancing as a duty—fatal! He gave his body no rest. He was as cruel to it as St. Francis. He defied death, that oldest of fighters, with its unbroken record of victories. He had no intention to die when death took him. All his talk was about the future. He intended to live on. Well! Perhaps that is the best way to approach the remorseless river. "It had to come. I lived my life." I can hear him saying it.

He collected a large and interesting gallery of pictures at his Hampstead house, although I never felt quite confident as to several. A fine portrait of himself by De Laszlo looked down the full length of his ballroom. His rough treatment of the Orpen and John pictures really showed his view of modern English portraiture. He could never understand the modern artist's idea of seizing a portrait commission as an opportunity of insulting the victim. It clashed with his sense of trade. He paid the artists: it was their business to do their best for him. If not, he hit back; for he was ever a fighter.

the one who violates the demilitarised zone. In fact, nations are, so to speak, brought within the law common to all civilised peoples, that whatever the provocation no man is ever justified in taking the law into his own hands. So in this case, whatever the provocation may be, no nation is justified in violating the zone guaranteed internationally, but must have recourse to the means of arbitration prescribed, and to action within and approved by the League.

Last, but not least, such an arrangement has very considerable advantages from the point of view of this country.

The importance of the Rhine to us is undoubted. Were Germany at some future date to cross the Rhine and attack France, action on our part would become imperative, since, the Rhine once crossed, the ports of the low countries and of the Channel are in danger and these are absolutely vital to us. An enemy in possession of these could starve us out within a few weeks. Nobody in England who knows France believes that she cherishes any ambition to conquer Europe, and it is thoroughly understood that she is simply actuated by a desire to obtain security; but

nations are resolute in their determination that any violation of the arrangement which they have put their signature to will in fact mean war, this will be the best guarantee that they will never have to meet their obligations.

Public opinion in this country must be considered.

It is very doubtful whether it will show itself very much in favour of any of the suggested pacts. It will ask many questions before it accepts these obligations. It will probably be reluctant to take action against Germany, and very hostile to any possibility of being compelled to take action against France.

Even the most careful diplomatic wording, defining the circumstances under which we should have to take action, would be certain to give rise to difficulties. As has been stated, an act of aggression would be extremely