

intention of the Allies to achieve a victory which shall not "crush their enemies." Both intentions have been stated before, but there is something about Russia's way of restating them—not formally, but incidentally, as referring to things about which there could not be any doubt—that must inspire confidence even among the most skeptical.

RUSSIA APPROVES.

Quoting the declaration of the Russian Foreign Office that Russia's "unalterable determination regarding the future of Poland" is the establishment of "a free Poland, which consists now of three separated provinces." The Evening Post describes this as "an amplification of Mr. WILSON's view which may not be as pleasing at Berlin or Vienna as it is at Petrograd." Whether pleasing or displeasing, it is not "an amplification of Mr. WILSON's view." His language on that point approved the idea of "a united, independent, and autonomous Poland." Germany has proposed an "independent" and autonomous Poland, but not a united one. Her plan means Russian Poland under German control. Russia's "unalterable determination" is that there shall be a united one, instead of "three separated provinces." Mr. WILSON and Russia are in exact agreement, so far as words go, and she has not amplified his words in the least.

It is no wonder that this word "united" struck gratefully upon Russian ears; nor is it any wonder that the rest of his speech pleased her as well, for it was in accord not only with her aims in this war, but the aims for which she has striven in the past. The Hague Conference was created as a result of Russia's action, but it was a small thing compared with what she had tried to get. She wanted, not the court which was finally established at The Hague, but the very limitation of armaments which the President now suggests. In the circular note which she addressed to the Powers on Aug. 12, 1898, she warned them that if armaments continued to increase, "it will inevitably lead to the very cataclysm which it is desired to avert, and the impending horrors of which are fearful to every human thought." Russia, therefore, proposed to "converge into a single powerful force the efforts of all the States which sincerely wish the great conception of universal peace to triumph over the elements of disturbance and discord." In the subsequent note dated Dec. 20, 1898, Russia laid down a program proposing the limitation of armaments and the adoption by universal agreement of a means of substituting pacific methods for warlike ones. She proposed that after the armaments had been limited a means should be sought for their reduction. She urged that the nations agree to interdict new firearms and new explosives, "as well as powder more powerful than the kinds used at present," high explosives already discovered, aerial bombardments and submarine attacks. It was a comprehensive program, the kernel of which was progressive disarmament. The only outcome of her proposal was The Hague Tribunal, but it is easy to understand why she now welcomes with joy the bringing up of her original idea by the President, after the accuracy of her dire prophecy has been proved so lamentably.

Accepting the President's suggestion that nations must have access to the seas as intended especially for her, it is still less remarkable that Russia should be enthusiastic over his speech. Only one thing in it might be expected to give her pause, and that is his use of the words "peace without victory"; but the Russian Government interprets this in a simple and sensible way, and finds it again in accord with Russia's often expressed aims. "It never has been the aim of the Allies to crush their enemies," says the Foreign Office, "and they have never insisted upon victory in that sense over Germany." Assuming, very reasonably, that the President understood that state of facts, there is no point at which Russia does not find herself in complete accord with him. If individual writers and speakers in the domains of Russia's allies could get themselves into a less fretful and suspicious frame of mind and acquire something of Russia's open and frank way of taking the President's utterances, there would be less faultfinding with him.

It is significant and hopeful that Russia should thus reaffirm both her intention of freeing Poland and the