

Indiscretion from Geneva

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As we learn from the newspapers, the confidential proposal of the British Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sir John Simon, meant for the next session of the disarmament conference, was revealed through an indiscretion. According to this confidential proposal, "the dropping of bombs from airplanes will not be prohibited universally, but restricted spatially"; the greatest allowable weight for bombers will be determined, and also the maximum allowable weight of tanks and the number and even the caliber of heavy ground artillery, but "this maximum allowable weight has not been determined at this time." Chemical and bacterial warfare will, it is said, be prohibited altogether.

Well, then, perhaps we ought to further supplement this promising proposal for disarmament with discretions which are even more detailed. The dropping of bombs from airplanes will be restricted spatially in that the dropping of bombs on uninhabited areas and the missing of targets in general will be prohibited. The maximum allowable caliber of guns will be one hundred and twenty cm., but this limitation will apply only to those times during which one of the great powers is unsuccessful in constructing cannon of this or still greater caliber. This will likewise apply to the weight of airplanes and tanks. Gas warfare will, it is true, be prohibited altogether, but only during those times set aside for peace; in wartime, it will be permitted but spatially restricted to this planet. We learn through an indiscretion the all civilized nations will agree to a proposal thus worded with great enthusiasm.