

## War and Peace.

Interview with Professor John B. Clark of Columbia.  
October 10th, 1911.

Professor Clark tells me that the invitations to the Berne Conference were given with the idea of obtaining the help of the ablest economists of Europe, that no effort had been made to discover whether these men were in favor of war or peace, and that at the very first meeting it developed that the sentiment was by no means unanimous in favor of peace. An introductory dinner was given at which there were several toasts. Prof. Schieman of the University of Berlin made a violent war speech, much to the distress of most of the delegates. Prof. Clark says that the general comment was "Why did he come to a peace conference if he does not believe in peace?" but that later he became one of their most useful counsellors.

The heads have been chosen for the various lines of research, but the subjects themselves have not yet been assigned. Much of the work will be done in Europe, but it is expected that a good many young economists here will be given special departments.

Prof. Clark seems to be much impressed with Baron Sakatani, a former Japanese Minister of Finance, and really an envoy of the Emperor himself to the convention. The Japanese seemed to have had the idea that the Berne Conference was another Hague Conference under private auspices, so that pains was taken to send an ambassador of the highest calibre. Prof. Clark was much impressed with Sakatani and says that he contributed enormously to the discussions, as he had the good sense to adapt himself at once to the private character of the meeting.

There seems to be nothing to do now but to wait until the reports of the investigations come in.