

¶There is honor among thieves,—

IS THERE HONOR AMONG NATIONS?

THE great worry of thinking people today is the disregard shown by many national leaders for the plighted word in international affairs. Germany under Hitler denounced or violated the Treaty of Versailles. Japan under her military chieftains has paid no attention whatever to her treaty obligations to China and to states interested in China. Such powers as Italy and Germany have openly intervened in the internal government of Spain and have thus violated the accepted rules of international law that bind every state to refrain from interfering with the domestic problems of another country. Russia and France failed to live up to their treaty agreements to defend Czechoslovakia against external aggression. As a result about one-third of the territory and resources of Czechoslovakia were grabbed by Germany.

It looks, therefore, that a treaty nowadays is a mere scheme to mislead the honest but weak party. This should be of special concern to the Filipinos now that they are about to be separated from the United States. A treaty of neutralization to guarantee the political independence of the Philippines

is likely to be denounced by any strong signatory state that desires to deprive this country of a portion of its territory or of any of its valuable possessions.

Sometime ago in the near past, writers who were inclined to view international problems realistically argued that no country had any right to leave its territories undeveloped for a long time. The hungry, the indigent, and the naked elements of humanity must be fed and clothed and housed. Any other state having the ability and the willingness to develop unproductive regions in any place in this planet has the moral and cosmic right to fall upon them and make them serviceable to the needy millions of mankind. Many of us used to consider such conclusions brutal and harsh even when we admitted, to a certain extent, the validity of its logic. We felt that the strong and the able need not grab territory from its lawful owner to feed its famished millions because an appeal to the owner's sense of justice and humanity might be sufficient. Without, however, discussing further the alternatives of unlawful depredations, re-

cent occurrences have shown the insincerity of the old argument. For well-developed countries have not been overlooked by greedy and powerful governments. The outstanding instance is Czechoslovakia.

In the light of these events, President Quezon's statements made before the coconut and abaca convention last month are significant. He said:

"While I am President of the Philippines I shall not permit this government to take its promises lightly.

"We are in an age when the future of civilization is in danger, when the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse shall be let loose at any time.

"We are in an epoch when the future of civilization and of progress may be destroyed in the next 10 years. If civilization and the future of humanity are in danger, it is because of the little respect in which governments hold their promises. I shall not permit the government of the Philippines to figure in the list of governments

which do not know how to honor their promises and obligations.

"We are now establishing the foundations upon which the future of the Philippines shall be built and one of the most important of these bases is that the government should know how to comply with its obligations. We are not in the same condition as governments who laugh at their promises and forget their obligations. We do not have the power, we have no other protection but respect for law.

"Other nations may do so because they have forces behind them. Our only protection is respect for our laws; and in order to have our rights respected we should first respect the rights of others."

But, even if the Philippines were strong, it should be added, she should use that strength to fulfill her obligations, domestic and foreign, to prove to the world that there is such a thing as morality in might.—*C. Alpis-to.*

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Panorama Quiz—Answers

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Wilhelmina | 10. Jose Palma |
| 2. The heat-producing value | 11. Manuel Roxas |
| 3. Thoroughly chewing one's food | 12. Cardinal Pacelli |
| 4. Tercentenary | 13. José Fernandez |
| 5. An airplane cannot run backward | 14. Storing fat |
| 6. Graf Zeppelin | 15. Shell Oil Company |
| 7. The northeast coast of the main-
land of South America | 16. Heart |
| 8. Russia (By the Treaty of Brest—
Litovsk, March, 1918) | 17. Bronchoscope |
| 9. The blood circulates | 18. Brazil |
| | 19. Austria and Bosnia |
| | 20. Hainan |

* * *

A Spinster

A spinster is a woman who knows all the answers but has never been asked the questions.—*Irish Digest*.