

THE TIMES. 4.11.36.

ARMING FOR DEFENCE

SIR T. INSKIP ON ANGLO-BELGIAN FRIENDSHIP

Sir Thomas Inskip, Minister for the Coordination of Defence, was present last night at a dinner at Claridge's, organized by the Cercle Belge de Londres and attended by members of the Anglo-Belgian Union and members of the Belgian societies in London, in honour of the anniversary of the birthday of King Leopold.

The BELGIAN AMBASSADOR presided, and, in proposing "The Guests," said that Belgium, under its new Administration, which had given a new impetus to its economic life, had reason to be well satisfied with having emerged from the shadow of trade depression. Now, once more, King Leopold had given his people the lead. Belgium would have to-morrow the army it needed for the maintenance of the safety of her territory, without which there could be no peace in Western Europe. Whatever measures were indispensable for Belgium's defence should, however, be regarded as the best contribution for the maintenance of the peace of Europe.

SIR THOMAS INSKIP, who responded, emphasized the desire of Britain for peace and security, like Belgium, by a policy of arming for defence, and said that Britain and Belgium were united by sincere and deep-rooted affections. Britain, or, at any rate, England, had had an interest in the security of Belgium for certainly 500 years, and the treaties of assistance that had characterized the relations of the two countries for at least 300 years were perhaps only superfluous to-day because they were united to each other by bonds which required no writing to record them.

The declarations which King Leopold had made with regard to the future of his country had been read in Britain with sincere interest, and, he hoped, with understanding. Britain and Belgium shared a common interest in the honour they paid to their Sovereigns, and they had found the best guarantee for the security of the Monarchy was not dictated by mere interest, but by the devotion to the same ideals of freedom and of peace. There was no nation in Europe with which Britain and Belgium did not desire to be on terms of peace. The happiest day would dawn when they could with good will to all nations put aside the task of defending their shores, and devote themselves to those pursuits of peace which would produce the greatest happiness. (Cheers.)

Mr. A. F. C. VAN DEN BERGH, Président du Cercle Belge de Londres, proposed "Les Sociétés Belges de Londres." A telegram was read from Lord Ebbisham, President of the Anglo-Belgian Union, apologizing for his absence owing to indisposition.

Among those present were:—

Baron Silvercray, Lord Glenravel, Sir Herbert Samuel, Lady Emmott, Sir Edward and Lady Crowe, Vicomte de Lantshere, Comte de Laubespain, General Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate, Commander and Mrs. Holbrook, Mr. and Mrs. Sigismund Goetze, Sir William Gowers, Mr. E. F. Benson, Mr. Algernon Maudslav, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Barrett, Viscount Leverhulme, Sir Maurice Jenks, Colonel Sir John and Lady Chancellor, Sir Herbert and Lady Samuelson, Sir William Max-Muller, Lady Inskip, Baron Vincotte, Mr. Edward Myers, the Dowager Lady Swaythling, Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, Captain and Mrs. Moore, M. and Mme. Charles Bastin, Mr. Jules Jadot, Lady Berwick, Mr. and Mrs. Emile Mond, Sir Joseph and Lady Burn, Sir Alfred Pickford, Miss A. Alma Tadema, Mr. Vernon Bartlett, Major and Mme. Wouters, Miss Nan Lever, M. and Mme. Antoine de Clercq, the Hon. Lady Norman, Lord Justice Scott, Sir William Jackson Pope, M. Louis Lepersonne, Sir Robert Hamilton, Major A. Longden, Captain and Mrs. Alfred Instone, Mr. Hubert Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Slazenger, M. Emile Cammaerts, Mr. Louis Oppenheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haslam, Mr. Fernand Haegler, Mr. Albert Mertz, Mr. Henry R. Jonckheere, Mr. Armand Donnay, Mr. Louis Godchaux, Mr. Albert Bomhals, Father Van Zuyt, Father Van Aspert, Father de Vidts, and Father Van Langendonck.