

U.S. of Europe seen a reality within two years

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U.S. OF EUROPE SEEN A REALITY

WITHIN TWO YEARS.

Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, visiting professor of public affairs and regional studies at New York University, who has been working for a federation of European states for more than twenty years, said April 22nd he believed that project would be a reality within two years. It has "ceased to be utopian," he said, "and has become a question of practical policy."

Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi, who left the U.S.A. on the "Queen Elizabeth" to assist in organizing a congress of representatives from European parliaments to meet in September or October in Montreux, Switzerland, to organize such a federation, discussed its possibilities in a press conference at the New York University Faculty Club, 22 Washington Square North.

Although he made it clear he would have no voice in that meeting, Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi envisioned its result as a "loose federation something like that of the United States before its Constitution," with eventual incorporation of "some kind of bill of rights," a common European currency, a federal court, and police force - the latter three elements might not, he confided, be immediate. "The first practical step," he said, "will be the economic field. I think that will start probably in next year."

He polled 3,913 members of Parliaments of Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland last year. Of 660 who replied, only fourteen opposed federation. On the basis of those who favored the plan, Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi said it was apparently a revolution of the younger group against the older.

"Those who may have fought in the foxholes of this war," he said, "apparently think more of being spared another world war than of national sovereignty."

The delegates to the Montreux congress, one for each million people in the nation they represent, would determine what other European parliaments would be invited to join, draft a charter, recommend to the European governments practical steps to bring about political and economic union, and elect a council of Europe to serve as a permanent advisory body to the governments and the United Nations.

While in Europe, Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi will also attend the five hundredth anniversary ceremonies of the University of Bordeaux, France, as a representative of New York University.

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LAKE LEMAN AND THE RHONE.

It is a source of surprise for many travellers that - Leman - is the historic and original name of the Lake known as 'of Geneva' a title doubtless conferred upon it by those first English visitors of the XVIIIth century, whom shades of Rousseau and La Nouvelle Heloise attracted to these shores.

Lake Leman is the Rhone's gift to Switzerland, and its springtime a fulfilment of the promise Valais - the Canton which cradles the upper reaches of the Rhone - renews each year. Before mingling its waters with the blue expanse of the Lake, the Rhone has come tumbling down from Sierre where the sun - so say the inhabitants - never sets and the vineyards thunder with the drums calling honest citizens to work; from orchards at