

UNIFYING AUXILIARY INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE.

(enclosed herewith)
The "Declaration" (~~previously sent~~) has for its object the standardization of some single auxiliary language by joint action of the governments of the nations. As, for example, metric measures, the international maritime code of flag-signals, etc., are standardized. The Declaration explains itself. The ultimate view of its promoters is that when once international governmental recognition has been secured, the next step will be the teaching of the language in state-aided schools. Twenty years after such teaching has become general, most of the more educated people under 35 years of age will retain some memory of this single common language - a language very much easier to learn, or to remember, than any of the national languages.

The Declaration is at present being circulated, on a small scale, in Great Britain. About 460 forms have been issued and 144 signatures received. A wider publicity is justified by the fact that the signatories include several distinguished men, and by the fact that the difficulties in the way of progress, along the lines indicated, seem to be mainly due to inertia. Opposition to the proposal is rare. The majority of the people to whom it has been explained have been found to be mildly in favour of it, but not sufficiently informed to have any strong opinion.

In order that it may bear fruit, this idea of a Governmental International Language Commission should be brought forward in

~~all~~ civilized countries simultaneously. Do you know of anyone in your country sufficiently enthusiastic to carry through propaganda? That is to say, (i) To publish either a translation of this Declaration or else some similar document; (ii) To collect the signed forms; (iii) To take all responsibility and to find the money necessary for publication; (iv) To bring the subject to the notice of your government when he thinks a suitable time to have arrived.

If you know of anyone who might do these things will you kindly forward this letter to him or to her?

The enclosed Declaration, in the English language, and bearing London addresses, is intended for residents in Great Britain. It is not proposed to seek signatures to it from other countries, because this could not be done thoroughly. It is hoped that each country will have its own separate propaganda on this subject and will print a Declaration Form in its own language. Nevertheless, owing to exceptional circumstances, — of your compatriots have already signed it, namely, the following:

A copy of this letter (has been) (is being) sent also to the following (will be) in your country: —

Any reply should be addressed to Gilbert H. Richardson,
The Gables, Elswick Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.