

HUN DELEGATES EXPECTED TERMS MORE SEVERE

London Opinion on Conference on Reparations.

German Capital Demoralized—Talk of New Triple Alliance—Death of Lord Moulton—Topics of Empire Capital.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, March 17.—The popular notion that the German delegates went back to Berlin crestfallen and with their tails between their legs must be received with some reserve. As a matter of fact, Dr. Simons, from the German point of view, achieved a considerable personal triumph and a very real diplomatic success. Berlin expected that the pains and penalties she would incur by the refusal of the Allied proposal would be much more severe than those actually decided on by the London conference. She expected the occupation of the whole of the Ruhr Valley and would not have been at all surprised, also, if Hamburg had been taken over by the British fleet and a naval blockade of her ports had been instituted to bring her to her knees and her senses. Possibly the Germans actually hoped and wished for some naval measures of this kind, counting, quite rightly it may be, on a powerful reaction of opinion in her favor in the United States. There can be no harm in stating now that some such steps as I have indicated were at one time in actual contemplation, the milder measures being substituted only at the eleventh hour.

Second Thoughts.

Some onlookers in London are beginning already to ask whether perhaps the French do not, after all, possess a better understanding of the Boche psychology than we do. From the first the conference in France has been a contest between the Allies and Germany. It would make no graceful or polite surrender, but yield only to force majeure. For this reason, being a logician, the French have never ceased to regret that the Allies signed the armistice terms where and when they did, instead of pushing forward to dictate and enforce peace terms from the Unter den Linden in Berlin. The cynical French view is that it would have saved lots of subsequent trouble, and Marshal Foch would not have had to insist on a policy of "Berlin a outrance."

Both the signs now manifest in Berlin rather tend to the belief that Germany really does mean to climb down at last. Dr. Simons has been telling the Allies how irrevocably Germany is bound by the terms of the Versailles Treaty, and how important she is to resist their enforcement. If this is the German forecast for the future, it must be so about the reparations. Consequently some people think the already detected signs of reason on this vital topic in Berlin, and Lloyd George's view seems shrewdly correct that the Germans will prefer to meet the Allies' demands fairly rather than either submit to a fifty per cent export tariff or see their trade languish when it is most essential it should flourish.

Meanwhile, as the reparations commission is now once more working and its demanding payment of the outstanding balance of the thousand millions due before May 1 next, a sum on our computation equal to half the total, Germany is to face the prospect of further "sanctions" unless she settles her account.

Demoralized Berlin. People who knew Berlin well before the war and who have visited it since draw a tragic picture of the change that has come upon the demoralized German capital. Before the war Berlin was the cleanest and most prim capital in the world. I well remember seeing a private German policeman tap the shoulder of an English visitor, who had absently turned up a letter while waiting in the Unter den Linden, and thrown

away the fragments. He was made to pick up every scrap before he was allowed to move off. But now even the best parts of Berlin are in a deplorable condition, dirty, littered and dingy. The Prussians, in groggous uniforms used to take their pleasures sedately with ultra-smart ladies, have vanished mostly or else degenerated into cheap anxiety rags of vicious parvenus or pretty desperate adventurers. The Berliners, as a people, are forswearing the forms of expensive pleasure, and the night life of the city, which before 1914 was rivaling Paris, is now mainly a pretence for robbing silly foreigners. Although midnight is supposed to end the though midnight in Berlin, there are low dancing halls and cabarets open until five in the morning, and the once punctilious German police are apathetic. Crowds of women frequent the streets and night haunts, and generally Berlin is today a sort of Doris Grey picture of its own degeneracy.

A New Triple Alliance.

Whilst the diplomatic outlook is scarcely satisfactory, so far as Germany is concerned, I hear very gratifying tidings with regard to the negotiations for the renewal of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty. It may be expected, with confidence, that this important instrument for maintaining the status quo in the Far East will be renewed about the time of the holding of the Imperial Conference in London. This conference will give us an opportunity of conferring with our friends in Australasia. The treaty will be remembered, is of an offensive and defensive character, but the nations with which we have concluded arbitration treaties were expressly excluded from its operation. At the time it was signed, negotiations for the conclusion of an arbitration treaty with the United States were actually in progress, but they fell through and nothing in this direction has since been done. No one wishes out diplomatically with the United States, and I am able to state that the new Anglo-Japanese treaty will contain a clause excluding America from its operations as well as powers with which we have an arbitration treaty. This should have the effect of allaying suspicions in Washington. Incidentally the negotiations which have been in progress here, not in any destroyed, the possibility of a new triple alliance in the Far East which would settle the problems of the Pacific for many years to come by diverting the flow of surplus population of Japan to the shores of Asia.

The Man and The Moment.

The death of Lord Moulton has shocked all those who knew him. A friend of mine saw him coming away from the French have never ceased to regret that the Allies signed the armistice terms where and when they did, instead of pushing forward to dictate and enforce peace terms from the Unter den Linden in Berlin. The cynical French view is that it would have saved lots of subsequent trouble, and Marshal Foch would not have had to insist on a policy of "Berlin a outrance."

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DOMINION RIFLE ASSN. EXTENDS RECOGNITION

Appreciating the importance of strengthening Canada's position in rifle shooting, the Dominion Rifle Association has extended recognition to the 8,000 members who comprise the 196 clubs which are units of Dominion marksmen, and from now on graduates of Dominion marksmen will be immediately eligible to free membership for a period of one year in the Dominion Rifle Association. This information was received at the headquarters of the Dominion marksmen in Montreal in a telegram from Colonel H. J. Birdwhistle, of Ottawa, secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, which reads as follows: "Executive committee approved gold medal schemes and will issue certificates as desired, in addition will give one year's membership in association to winners."

The Dominion marksmen scheme was inaugurated in January, 1917. Today the membership is 8,000, consisting of boys from twelve to nineteen years of age, and the number of clubs 196, extending from coast to coast. Intense interest has been taken in this condition since its inception by schools, cadet corps, boy scouts and other similar organizations which have formed units to enter into small bore rifle shooting under the regulations as laid down by Dominion marksmen headquarters. Under the Dominion marksmen plan to be conducted under the supervision of an instructor, and awards consisting of first a bronze pin, then a silver pin, and later a gold pin—the latter being rather a severe test in rifle shooting—are made to the competitors. While there have been provincial and inter-provincial championship matches and special awards of gold watches, it has been unfortunate in the past that when members attained the age of nineteen they were automatically dropped from membership, and unless they acted upon their own initiative they were forced to leave the Dominion Rifle Association. This is a serious loss to the Dominion Rifle Association, and it is now proposed that the age of nineteen should be raised to twenty-one, and that the Dominion Rifle Association should be made to take over the supervision of the Dominion Rifle Association. It means that the Dominion Rifle Association will be able to take over the supervision of the Dominion Rifle Association. It means that the Dominion Rifle Association will be able to take over the supervision of the Dominion Rifle Association.

Boat Race Training Diets.

I have been reading some records of the various "infallible" diets directed by the "various" boat race crews while in training. In years gone by it was always, beef, more beef, and after that beef washed down by copious libations of porter. Then the "dietist" arrived and "frank" diets became fashionable. Oxford pinned its faith to sponge cakes, and Cambridge swore by hard-boiled eggs, while for both beer was taboo. Another year oatmeal porridge was the chief diet for Oxford, but this may have been accounted for by the fact that Scotch element predominated in the boat. And now the circle is revolving again, and this year the "plain and wholesome diet" is in favor with both the Light and the Dark Blues, while a quart of the thin

Sartorial Politics.

Ehen fugues! What a sort of year it seems now since that terrible firebrand of a fellow, Keir Hardie, whose revolutionary views would nowadays be regarded as the views of a madman, caused a genuine sensation by turning up at Westminster in a cloth cap. It stood for the arrival of the proletariat in respectable British politics. It also marked the slow but sure evolution of even Keir Hardie, in the fulness of time, developed into rather a beautiful Tassoni silk suits in the summer months and his elegantly negligé Montmartre tie all the year round. We have grown accustomed to labor with frock coats and silk topers complete. One of them, Mr. Bruce, even sported his topped hat. King Edward's time at a royal nautical review in the Solent, when it was blowing half a gale and everybody else was holding on for dear life to a yachting cap or a golf cap. And now, at last, the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes appeared on the opposition front bench wearing a really smart dinner jacket. It is in the House of Commons that the labor party has burst forth into evening dress. That also is a sign and a portent. Labor is beginning to take itself for granted and to forget the necessity to pose. But how priceless it would be if some day Will Thorne turned up with a black-ribbon monocle in one eye!

Lounge Lizards.

"Detective (private), wanted for 'lounge lizard' nuisance" is an advertisement in a leading daily paper that probably puzzled a good many people. But the manager of the big and fashionable hotel knows all too well this species of reptilla, male and female, that infests the lounge, the smoking-room, the bar, and the restaurant. This expensive term well-dressed loungeur who haunts the hotel for the purpose of living upon other guests. Not necessarily criminals, they lie in wait from morning till night, using the hotel note-paper and generally conducting themselves as though they were in their own home. The creditous and kind-hearted are "bled" for lunches and dinners on various ingenious ploys, while deeper schemes may often be hatched in various costly hotels and never pays for a meal for lunch or a golf cap. And life to a yachting cap or a golf cap. And now, at last, the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes appeared on the opposition front bench wearing a really smart dinner jacket. It is in the House of Commons that the labor party has burst forth into evening dress. That also is a sign and a portent. Labor is beginning to take itself for granted and to forget the necessity to pose. But how priceless it would be if some day Will Thorne turned up with a black-ribbon monocle in one eye!

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