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Special Articles

Trosky Gaols Lenine.

By J. W. MACMILLAN.

Book Reviews.

By HOWARD S. ROSS.

Conditions in the West.

By E. CORA HIND.

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Canada and the Peace Conference

THE reports from Paris concerning Canada's position at the Peace Conference are so confusing that there is difficulty in obtaining a clear understanding on the subject. From a Canadian viewpoint, at least, it is doubtful if the Dominions were wise in pressing for direct representation at the Conference, and it is not clear that the measure of representation that seems to be allowed is one that should be regarded with satisfaction. Canada has no axe to grind at the Conference. She seeks no territorial gain. She has no interest that is not common to the Empire at large. For sentimental reasons a place for her at the Conference may seem desirable. But there is no practical need of it. Since only sentimental reasons call for such representation, it is hardly worth while making trouble in the matter. That the claim has made trouble is evident from the despatches. Indeed, it is admitted in a late Canadian Press telegram that such form of representation as has been accorded to the Dominions has only been granted after a sharp division among the representatives of the Allied powers.

It is difficult to understand by what process of reasoning a case can be made out which would justify the Dominions in insisting on direct representation. Several of our contemporaries have remarked indignantly on the prospect of some small nations being admitted while Canada might be excluded. If the nations referred to are small, they are still nations. Canada is not a nation in the same sense of the word. The British Empire has been happily described as "a galaxy of nations." In that restricted sense Canada is a nation. But in the great arena of world politics Canada is not a nation. She is a part of the British Empire, sharing its honors and its burdens. Wherever the British Empire is represented Canada is represented.

If a State of the American Union claimed a seat at the Conference, apart from the seats of President Wilson and his colleagues, would the claim be considered reasonable? Canada is a State of the British Commonwealth. Insistence on a claim for direct representation is much more suggestive of separatism than of Imperial unity. If Canada had no direct representation at the Conference, if she had to be represented there by Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Bonar Law, and Mr. Balfour, she would suf-

fer neither loss nor humiliation. Better full and dignified representation as a part of the Empire than direct representation of a dubious character. And the representation now provided for her seems to be of a questionable character, having neither dignity nor practical value.

The recent conflicting and confused reports concerning the representation of Canada are in themselves indications of the difficulties that have been encountered. A few days ago a cablegram, apparently from official Canadian sources in London, stated that an arrangement was being made by which the Dominions would have one representative at the Conference, and that the Dominions' one chair at the table would be occupied alternatively by the Premiers of Canada, Australia and South Africa. Such an extraordinary shuffling plan could hardly be regarded in any of the Dominions with approval. Evidently it met with so much opposition that it had to be abandoned. Later reports are in a form which, on first reading, convey an impression that Canada is to be allowed full membership at the Conference. A more careful examination, however, does not confirm this impression. There are some indications that Canada is still to be a participator in a shuffling arrangement. A report, said to have been authorized by the British and American delegates, says:

"It was decided that the United States, the British Empire, France, Italy and Japan, should be represented by five delegates apiece. The British dominions and India, besides, shall be represented as follows:

"Two delegates respectively for Australia, Canada, South Africa and India, including the native states, and one delegate for New Zealand.

"Brazil will have three delegates. Belgium, China, Greece, Poland, Portugal, the Czecho-Slovak republic, Rumania and Serbia will have two delegates apiece; Siam one delegate, and Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Nicaragua and Panama one delegate apiece.

"Montenegro will have one delegate, but the rules concerning the designation of this delegate shall not be fixed until the moment when the political situation in this country shall have been cleared up.

"The meeting adopted the following two general principles:

"1—Each delegation being a unit, the number of delegates forming it shall have