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Premier Lloyd George Still The Master Mind

Remarkable Domination of Parliament in Almost Any Circumstances—Wonderful Revival of Industry—The Facts About The "Pussy Foot" Johnson Incident

(Special Cable to Times by F. A. McKenzie. Copyright.)

London, Nov. 17.—The premier's varied Russian policy, with its rapid changes and clever moves, and amazing ignorance and equally amazing avowals, continues to arouse intense anger among critics, puzzle his enemies and stimulate the ingenuity of his political supporters to defend his action.

The truth is the premier has not a free hand. He is hemmed in by powerful political pressure from France and powerful forces here, supported by the mass of Unionists, Churchills and others, which compel compromises at every turn. The government's decision, made after M. Pichon's conference with the British minister, that neither France nor England will make any fresh sacrifices beyond re-provisioning anti-Bolshevik forces, but both countries will equally

refrain from initiating any overtures calculated to increase the strength of the Bolshevik cause, is a compromise. Many both in London and Paris denounce it as futile.

The premier's statement does not satisfy anybody. The Times brings its heavy guns to bear, using every possible means to arouse the nation against Bolshevism. The Telegraph is inclined to regard the premier's position as inevitable, saying complete satisfaction about the Russian situation and British action connected with it is a thing not to be hoped for and may as well be clearly recognized.

"It is simply not in the power of the government, situated as it is, to pursue a policy of active intervention in the fallacious, and on the other hand morally inconceivable that the government should close the Russian account by the simple but suicidal method of concluding a treaty of peace with rulers of Soviet Russia."

The Figaro deplores the policy of non-intervention, in view of German intrigues with this country, declaring Allied intervention would in the long run prove less costly to both Great Britain and Europe as a whole than indefinite prolongation of the conditions of anarchy now prevailing.

Influential Liberal papers like the Westminster Gazette are inclined to view the situation as so confused that it is difficult to find a solution.

"Much of what passes for truth about Bolshevism is," declares the Westminster, "we are convinced, mere fiction. Bolshevism is neither a democratic paradise as some people think, nor chaos. Other people think it has behind it very shrewd brains and skillful ministers, and unless we are much mistaken is developing rapidly on lines which will make it something altogether new in the world, something which, whether they like or hate it, will have to be reckoned with by other governments."

Meanwhile it becomes more evident that the coalition parliament, while complaining and grumbling and showing its teeth on occasion, will not risk the possibility of a real government defeat. Under almost any circumstances, whatever the premier's remarkable domination of the house remains unimpaired. Coalitions are easily satisfied, say Liberal critics sneeringly. This is the dominating factor of politics here.

Business Recovery. Distinguished visitors to the city of London are amazed at the remarkable recovery of business and finance now being witnessed there. City authorities tell me great concerns which were expected a year ago to take fully two years to recover their standing are now doing better than ever. New great building enterprises are being launched. New fresh schemes of a most gigantic nature are being proposed. Our danger, the

possibility of excessive speculation, is being carefully watched by controlling financiers, who believe New York's serious check from over-speculation may do much good here. My inquiries in the city of London give the same result as inquiries over the rest of the country. Everywhere I discover surprising evidences of fresh prospects, and encouraging signs of the times if labor permits. The "Pussyfoot" Capture.

Thursday evening's disturbance here was not so much a demonstration against prohibition as a university students' rag. London medical students have been having an exuberant week. Tuesday saw a great rag between rival schools at University College. Wednesday they demonstrated in front of a newspaper office, burning a copy of the paper because they objected to certain criticism. Thursday they all united to rag Pussyfoot Johnson, the famous American prohibitionist leader here. The Overseas Club had arranged a debate between Pussyfoot and a representative of the anti-Prohibition League, with myself as chairman, and the medical students objected. They say Americans are attempting to teach us our business.

About 2,000 assembled outside the hall. A number securing admission rushed the platform, seized Pussyfoot and myself, and led us captives through the main streets of West London—Pussyfoot upon a stretcher, myself carefully guarded upon a student drawn cart. The proceedings were conducted with the greatest good nature, the worst trouble being when the police attempted to rescue us. Certain damage was done to hall chairs and the reporters' table was smashed. Ladies were very naturally indignant and alarmed, but both leading

victims regard the affair as a jolly, boisterous exhibition of student spirits. Johnson's eye was injured when the police made a final effort to effect his rescue. Students finally released me, with cordial expressions on both sides. The incident has given the prohibition movement a magnificent advertisement. Here. Everyone agreed it was the greatest rag London had witnessed not alone this year but for many years.



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