

LLOYD GEORGE fears French Domination of Ruined Germany

Believes That Germany May Collapse and Break Up Into Separate States With Rhineland Republic Under Control of France.

By LLOYD GEORGE.

Special Cable.
London, Aug. 11.—What a muddle it all is! France and Germany are both anxious to settle, but too proud to say so. The struggle, therefore, goes on, and will continue to the detriment of both.

Belgium is sorry she ever entered the Ruhr, but cannot get out of it. Every time she tries to get away, France pulls her back roughly by the tail of the coat. So she has to do sentry duty at Essen, whilst her franc is leading a wild-life at home.

Italy has forgotten she ever sanctioned occupation, and her moral indignation is mounting rapidly, although it has not yet risen to a height which is visible across the Alps.

Great Britain is growing fatter notes of dissatisfaction with everybody—France and Germany alike. The confusion of tongues is deafening and paralyzing, and no one is quite happy except the Spirit of Mischief, who is holding his sides with laughter. He never had such a time—not since the Tower of Babel. And this time it may end in a second deluge.

The horror of the great war seems to have unhinged the European mind. Nations do not think normally. Blood pressure is still very high. Excitement over the Ruhr does not improve it. When some of the articles written and speeches delivered today come to be read by the diligent historian a generation hence, he will recognize the ravings of a continent whose mental equilibrium has been upset by a great shock.

Real issue is Simple.
The real issue involved in all this

struggle is a comparatively simple one. How much can Germany pay, and how can she pay? America, Britain, Italy and Germany are all agreed that the only way to settle that question is to appoint competent experts to investigate and report upon it. The Pope also has blessed this obvious suggestion. France, on the contrary, says it is a question to be determined by guns and generals—both equally well fitted for that task. Germany must present its accounts to the mitrailleuse and argue her case before the solank-quintze. It is a mad world.

Everyone is interested in one question—or perhaps two. How will it all end, and how soon is that coming? Although I have nothing to fear from recalling the predictions of my early articles on this subject, I hesitate to hazard fresh forecasts. But one may review the possibilities and note the drift of the whirling current. In assessing chances you must begin with some knowledge of the man who will decide the event. M. Poincaré is a man of undoubted ability and patriotism, but he is also a man who lives in a world of prejudices so dense that they obscure facts.

Look at one statement in his last note, where he says that the conferences and ultimatums of the past four years got nothing out of Germany. What are the facts? During the three and a half years that preceded the Ruhr invasion Germany paid to the allies in cash and in kind over 10 milliards of gold marks—500,000,000 pounds in sterling;

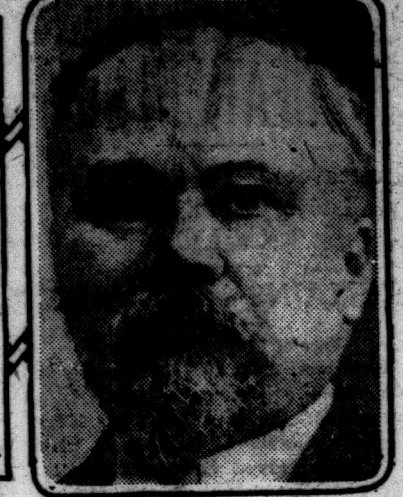
2,000,000,000 in dollars—a considerable effort for a country which had just emerged out of the most exhausting of wars, and whose foreign trade was down 60 to 70 per cent. You might imagine that the man who had taken the grave step of ordering the armies of France to invade a neighbor's territory would have taken the trouble to ascertain the elementary facts of his case. Part of this gigantic sum went for the armies of occupation; part for reparations. But it all came out of German assets. Will the next three and a half years bring anything approximating that figure to the allied coffers?

Resistance Unexpected.

It is a safe statement to make that no one in charge of the French movements anticipated a resistance approaching in its stubbornness that which it has encountered. The friendly press, both in France and here, foretold the speedy collapse of German opposition. All the French plans were based on that assumption. An Englishman who was there when the occupation began asked a French officer how long he thought it would take. The answer is indicative of the spirit in which the venture started.

"Optimists think it will take a fortnight," he said. "Pessimists think it may take three weeks." Reference back to the January telegrams from Paris and Düsseldorf will show that this officer accurately expressed the general sentiment of those who were responsible for the Ruhr invasion. Soldiers estimate chances of resistance in terms of material and trained men, and statesmen too often build their hopes on the same shallow foundations. They never allow for the indomitable reserve of the human heart which does not figure in army lists or in statesmen's annuals.

The resistance of Paris in 1870 was as great a surprise to Bismarck as the stubbornness of the Ruhr miners is to Poincaré today. The last regular army had been destroyed, all docked food stores had been exhausted, and still the struggle of indomitable citizens went on for months. There were few men in England who thought the Boer peasants could continue their resistance for over three months after our armies reached South Africa. They held out for three years, and only then capitulated on honorable terms. The northern strikes of America never contemplated the possibility of a five years' struggle with a blockaded, starved and overwhelmed confederacy. The war of 1914-19 is littered with miscalculations attributable to the blind refusal of rulers and their advisers to recognize the normal elements of human endurance.



LLOYD GEORGE CRITICIZES PREMIERS.

In the accompanying article on the Ruhr occupation, Lloyd George charges Premier Poincaré of France (right) with failure to ascertain the elementary facts of his case before ordering the invasion. Declaring that Italy has forgotten she sanctioned occupation, he recalls that Premier Mussolini (left) was present at the "hush conference" which approved of the invasion.

ment as a factor in reckoning.

"Inspiration From Pigeonholes." The Ruhr tragedy is not the first. Nor will it be the last, to be initiated by facile memoranda framed by general staffs and civilian functionaries drawing inspiration from pigeonholes. Whatever becomes of this episode, it is already clear that the estimates of military men, of transport officials, of intelligence departments and of presiding ministers have been hopelessly falsified. Many more soldiers have been sent into the Ruhr than had been thought necessary; much less coal has come out of the Ruhr than had been confidently expected.

There are already as many Frenchmen in the Ruhr as Napoleon commanded at Waterloo. As to the coal they have succeeded in sending across the frontier in six months, it is about equal to a month's delivery by the Germans during the period of "default" which provoked the invasion. Desperate efforts have been made at great cost to increase the yield so as to satisfy French and foreign opinion that resistance is gradually breaking down. Rubbish is shovelled into railway cars in order anyhow to swell the quota. Coal is seized anywhere, even in the streets. And General Trocquer, bluff and genial Breton, who is in charge of transport arrangements, breezily changes all critics to look at the mounting pyramids of his dust-cart collection and rejoice with him in the triumph of French organization under his control. Alas, the Celtic fire of Monsieur Trocquer, even when fed by the sweepings of the Ruhr, cannot keep going the blast furnaces of Lorraine. So there is much disappointment and discontent amongst the foremasters of France.

French Honor at Stake.

All the same, there must be a limit

conscience, to urge France to haul down her flag. There is only one course which could be urged on the French Government as being consistent with French honor, and that is the reference of the dispute to the League of Nations. That would be an enforcement of the Treaty of Versailles. That suggestion the British Government have refused to press on France. The struggle must therefore proceed to its destined end.

It may be assumed that the British Government will not intervene effectively. What about the ministerial declarations? Surely these strong words must be followed by strong actions! Those who rely on that inference know nothing of the men who used the words, or of the forces upon which they depend for their ministerial existence.

It is true that some weeks ago Mr. Snodgrass took off his coat and proclaimed cryptically and fearlessly that unless peace was restored on its terms something would happen. The French Government replied calmly that they meant to pursue their course. So last week Mr. Snodgrass takes off his waistcoat. But don't be alarmed; there will be no blows; his friends will hold him back.

Meanwhile Mr. Winkle has gone to Paris to lunch with one of the combatants. Next week he will be followed by Mr. Pickwick, who will call on another, and week after next Mr. Tuppad proposes to pay another propitiatory visit.

The French have accurately taken the measure of the mind and the muscle of those who indulged in these spectacular exhibitions of wall-punching in Westminster, with refreshments at Rambouillet. We may therefore assume that whatever conversations take place at these genial gatherings or issue from them, the French won't be talked out of the Ruhr.

Two French Demands.

After the emphatic declarations made by the head of the French government it may be assumed that France will insist at all costs on enforcing her will. She has put forward two demands. The first is that Germany shall abandon passive resistance as an essential preliminary to negotiations. The second is that her forces should remain in the Ruhr until the last payment is made. Will the German government accept these conditions? A settlement on these terms is only possible on two assumptions. The first is that a German government can be found strong enough to accept them and to survive their acceptance. The second is that there is a French government wise enough to give liberal

Only Way To Avoid Disaster Is Appeal To League of Nations—Lloyd George Believes All Allies Guilty In Creating Trouble.

interpretation to these demands. The first depends to a large extent on the second.

Events of the past few months added immeasurably to the difficulties of negotiation. Incidents which are inseparable from a foreign occupation in any land have exasperated German opinion and reached depths of hatred which had never been stirred, even by the great war. The deportation of 75,000 Germans from their homes in the Ruhr area, the repression, the shooting, the starving, the holding up of food trains until essential supplies rot. The myriad insolences of unchallengeable force. The provisions which make the French policy so intractable are entirely attributable to the German occupation of France. Frenchmen are now sowing the same anger in the German breast. Hatreds are being kindled. That is why I despair of a real settlement.

Germany May Collapse.

But Germany may collapse. She might even break up temporarily. The authority of the Central government has already largely disappeared. Berlin has no influence in Bavaria, and the monarchy might be restored in that province at no distant date. There is a movement in the Rhineland to set up a republic freed from the dominion of Prussia. This movement is fostered by French agencies and financed by French subventions. If it is declared, Prussia will not be allowed to suppress it.

We may, therefore, soon witness a Rhineland republic whose glorious freedom and independence will be jealously guarded by colored warriors of Senegal and Cochinchina. Saxony might be captured by Communists and Prussia be torn between Monarchist and Communist. These are not unlikely happenings. Is it too much to say that they are not all

together out of the computation of French statesmanship? If Germany dissolves, then the Rhineland and Ruhr would remain under the dominion of France. France would not secure reparations. But she would enjoy security, and she would, so it is conjectured, enormously enhance her power in the world. An old French dream would be realized. The work of Bismarck would be undone, and the achievement of Napoleon would be restored and perpetuated.

There is an old Welsh saying that it is easy to kindle a fire on an old hearthstone. "This idea of a Rhineland under French domination is the hearthstone of Charlemagne. Mazarin sought to rekindle its flames. Napoleon the First kindled on it a blaze that scorched Europe. Napoleon the Third had hopes of warming his chilling fortunes at the glow of its embers, and now the great victory of 1918 has set French ambitions once more reviving the fires on the old hearthstone."

It is a bad look out for Europe.

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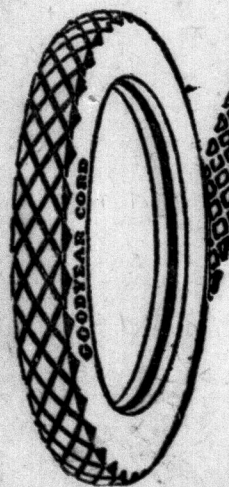
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Lloyd George Says:

"There are already as many Frenchmen in the Ruhr as Napoleon commanded at Waterloo. As to the coal they have succeeded in sending across the frontier in six months, it is about equal to a month's delivery by the Germans during the period of 'default' which provoked the invasion.

"There must be a limit to human endurance. Either France or Germany must give way in the end—For France the honor of her flag is involved in success."

"Not one of the Allies is in a position, with a clean conscience, to urge France to haul down her flag."

"There is only one course which would be urged on the French government as being consistent with French honor, and that is the reference of the dispute to the League of Nations."

"But Germany may collapse. She might even break up temporarily. Berlin has no influence in Bavaria, and the monarchy might be restored in that province at no distant date. There is a movement in the Rhineland to set up a republic freed from the dominion of Prussia."

"We may soon witness a Rhineland republic whose glorious freedom and independence will be jealously guarded by colored warriors of Senegal and Cochinchina."

UPKEEP OF HIGH SCHOOL WILL TAKE \$4,000 MORE

Special to The Advertiser.
Petrolia, Aug. 10.—It is estimated that the upkeep of the Petrolia High School this year will take \$4,000 more than last year. This is due to the fact that owing to the growth of attendance the Jubilee Public School has been rented to hold the pupils. The upkeep of the old High School lost the board of education a great deal, having stood for over 50 years.

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COMMUTES SENTENCE IN TAXICAB MURDER

Alex. C. Mason To Serve Life Term For Slaying in Brixton.

Associated Press Despatch.
London, Eng., Aug. 10.—The British home secretary, Rt. Hon. W. C. Bridgman, has recommended that the death sentence passed on the murderer of the Brixton taxi driver, Jacob Dickey, be commuted to penal servitude for life. Mason was to be hanged on Wednesday next.

A large number of influential people interested themselves in Mason's behalf, including more than 100 members of the House of Commons, who signed a petition for commutation of his sentence. Mason has steadily maintained his innocence. He was once a resident of Ontario and was arrested in this province for housebreaking.

PREMIER'S FATHER-IN-LAW IS DEAD AT BUCKINGHAM

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, Aug. 10.—Alexander Cumming, aged 91, father-in-law of Hon. Howard Ferguson, premier of Ontario, died at Buckingham, Que., today. He had resided at Buckingham for the past 35 years. Three daughters, Mrs. Howard Ferguson, Mrs. J. F. Higginson of Buckingham, Miss Cumming of Buckingham, and one son, Dr. W. A. Cumming of Buckingham, survive him. His wife predeceased him. He was a native of South Gower, Ontario.



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