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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1920

## London Interest Keen In Washington Action

Awkward Situation Over Adriatic Question—  
Bolshevism in England—Matter of Buying Ger-  
man Goods—The Subject of America and  
Whiskey—News of London.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)  
London, Feb. 19.—News from America is being watched just now with the most dramatic interest. There is a feeling that the same impetuous decisions on the part of Mr. Lansing's dismissal may have dictated the president's note to the Allies on the Adriatic settlement. Probably few general readers of the newspapers are acquainted with the facts of this question. But what has happened is that Italy, strongly disapproving of the terms drafted against herself and the Jugos-Slavs by France, America and Britain in consultation, the settlement was revised by France and ourselves. This revised version has now been turned down by America through the president. The situation is very awkward and is causing further irritation between the powers who are, in their cordial agreement and loyal co-operation, the only hope of the league. The difficulty is to determine how far the charges made against the president's state of mind in America are pertinent and how far justified.

### Lord Phillimore.

I hear that Lord Phillimore will probably accept the post of British representative on the League of Nations Council. With possibly the exception of Lord Bickenhead, who is understood to have had the first refusal of the post, but is too much occupied with his judicial work to accept it, Lord Phillimore is the greatest living authority on international law, and was president of the International Law Association from 1905 to 1908, and has written several standard books on the subject. He is a great High Churchman, and, as president of the English Church Union, was recently responsible for the much-discussed letter to the Bishop of Durham, protesting against the invitation to Dr. Jowett to preach in the Cathedral. Called to the bar in 1868, he had a brilliant career both as a lawyer and parliamentarian, being created Baron in 1916, and going to the House of Lords as a law lord.

### The Bolsheviki Element.

One finds a distinct disposition to laugh at any suggestion of real Bolshevism in this country. But the Labor party knows better than to adopt this easy attitude. The nebulous doctrines of Leninism have spread curiously in

some parts of the country during the last few years. And the zeal of its devotees is in inverse ratio to their knowledge of what Bolshevism means. Only last week we had the remarkable instance of a meeting in London where the speeches against Bolshevism were shouted down, and the audience sang in horrible discord simultaneously the national anthem and "The Red Flag." It surprised many people to find that there were so many Bolsheviki sympathizers in London. But during the war the "stop-the-right" propaganda, concentrated mostly on our arsenal employees, effected many conversions. Some young and quenchless spirits have taken up the cause with immense enthusiasm, if very little comprehension. It has the great charm for some people of being the most "advanced" thing going. And labor will have to fight against these extremists very hard before it can hope to realize any of its legitimate ambitions.

### A Figure of Romance.

The death of Gaby Deslys is tragic. She was a wonderful woman in her own right. Her life was really far from beautiful. But her figure was moulded on rhythmic lines. She was full of vivaciousness and lissom vitality. She was, in other words, the superb animal. And she had the temperament of a high adventure. Her hats and her clothes—and her want of clothes—were sensational. And she could dance like Pavlova with the eternal beauty of perfect art, but with the natural abandon of a young savage in furs and feathers. She was like "Honest Enobarbus." She earned "a place in the story." It has always been understood that she was in old Lisbon on the night of the revolution that hurled the Manuel dynasty into the forgetful oblivion and opulent private life. And she had the most enviable pearls of any lady in the land. She was the English Stuart epoch. She was a Du Barry apiece.

### German Cars.

In banking circles there is a very definite opinion that the prejudice against buying goods of German manufacture will have to be overcome if the international exchange is to be stabilized.

lized. Bankers declare that we ought to be selling our own manufactures to America, where the exchange is in favor of the importer, and buying from Germany where the opposite is the case, instead of buying heavily from America, as we are now doing. A motor car dealer who has an office near Piccadilly Circus, tells me that if he could obtain the necessary permit from the board of trade, he could buy cars from Germany, in spite of the high cost of everything there, and sell them in England much cheaper than the present prevalent prices. British manufacturers are naturally anxious that there should be no governmental sanction of German "dumping," but in the case of cars the British manufacturers cannot hope to fill the present enormous demand for them, and the only person who would be prejudiced would be the American importer, every one of whose cars sold in this country adds some thing to the depreciation of our currency.

### The New Shillings.

The new shillings, sixpences and other silver coins which are to be issued are likely to be in a great demand by collectors, for they will probably be withdrawn after a short experience. For a generation and more the mint authorities have made a large profit on the silver coinage; although the sovereign always contained 21 worth of gold. Now the shilling contains 1s. 4d. worth of silver, and obviously the government cannot go on putting an amount of silver in the amount of silver in the shilling. The new coinage bill silver coins will be only one-half silver and contain 1d. worth of that metal. The question is what is the best alloy which will be cheap enough to employ. It must not cost more than five-pence a shilling and, of course, the rise in silver has been accompanied by an appreciation in the price of other metals. The recent purchase of nickel is, no doubt, for experimental purposes. By reducing the amount of silver in the shilling the government can not only avoid fresh loss on coinage, but by calling in existing coins and melting them down, can get two shillings out of one.

### American Whiskey.

The complications of a "dry" America are only just beginning to make themselves apparent. There are several problems to be considered. The arrival of the Comander Maurelante, with every bottle and barrel aboard bone dry, instanced one danger. Because Americans are lately "dry" on high democratic principle, is that any reason why they should, from sheer suppressed desire, drink others dry who do not pretend to any virtue of that sort? It is seriously asked now in certain quarters whether the sale of drinks in those countries, or under those flags where it is still permitted, should be regulated on an international basis. Ought not Americans to be refused drinks in the interests of their own nationalities a little perhaps, but mainly in their own interests? We ought to encourage America to keep her high resolves, and not to "pretend." But another and more serious question



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is the imported American whiskey.

Quantities of this fluid are now on the market in this country, and some of it is being sold in London bars. It is a truly villainous compound, and almost justifies America in going dry. Several cases have already occurred in which it has made people very ill, although they took only small quantities. Some protection against this "murder" whiskey ought surely to be given.

### An Unobtrusive Celebrity.

One evening this week a friend and I ventured into a new Soho—the real London Montmartre and artistic. River in a mis-fo dinner and real coffee. It is an interesting adventure always. One has to pass through the old Soho, which was the Bohemian quarter for dining out before the war, but is now a dusty dreary and underfoot of brasserie profiteering, frequented by fat purses and thin discrimination. This area is, in fact, not so select. It lives on its past with those who know only its present, and imagine fondly it is the real thing.

Much further out, in a region difficult to access unless you know its mysteries, lies the migrated Soho of today, where the men are still within the reach of the true Bohemian's pocket, and the cooking up to the real Bohemian standard. And here, in a most cosy and efficient little cafe, whose great merit is that it is unknown outside the magic circle of the Bohemian freemason—we are, comparatively, but comparatively, the only drawback perhaps a slightly supercilious regard from regular patrons who hold our masonry suspect. And at one table, reading his evening paper and sipping coffee, sat the noted artist of artistic celebrity of the moment in London—Jacob Epstein. Every body knew him, and nobody noticed him, which is the charm of the real Soho.

### Round the World.

Theatrical managers who before the war tried to engage casts for plays visiting the colonies always complained that they could not get the young talent they wanted. Now things are changed, and just at present when several companies are sailing for India, Australia and the East, managers are inundated with applications from both actors and actresses.

Many ex-officers who acquired a taste for travel at the expense of the war office during the war see in these tours a profitable way of seeing the world, and in one company which sails for India in April, and is about to begin rehearsals at a desert hill of Singapore, then at Suva, two ex-officers are to play the leads. One served in the flying corps and the other in the machine gun corps. They are both in the "Lilac Domino," and that, although arrangements are by no means complete, applications for parts are being received every day.

### Futurist Literature.

We have grown used to Futurist music and Futurist art, but now we are confronted by Futurist literature. And it is simply incredible how some reputable writers are succumbing to its charms and adopting its style because it is sheer gibberish—the idiotic vapors of a mad mind. "I looked drunkenly up to look down the cavernous room at my green soul, holding the window clean open from outside." That is one characteristic extract from a recent masterpiece by a lady pioneer of Futurist literature, and it is not sneeringly said, that London publishers are apparently willing to print. "The old palace was there—how charming its grey and pink—goats and monkeys, with such hair, too!" What can anyone make of such vapors as this? And yet we are being earnestly assured that this Futurist literature is going to create a new literary heaven and earth. Whatever there may be to be said in favor of certain phases of Futurist music or Futurist art, both of which are now about as dead as dead mutton, there is absolutely nothing to be urged in favor of Futurist literature. In music one may daily with clever discards, in art one may amuse oneself with chaotic form, but words must be either sane or incoherent. And the only Futurist literary stuff extant is as incoherent as the jabberings of the monkey house at the Zoo.

### Ex-Soldiers on the Stage.

Lyn Harding, who is now playing at the Lyric Theatre and is an enthusiastic member of the Actors' Association, endorses the complaint of young actors who are anxious to return to the stage after service in the army, but find that the fact that they have served tells against them in obtaining parts. He told me that managers are afraid of engaging the ex-soldier, even if he has had previous experience, as they hold the opinion that every man who has served overseas is suffering in some degree from nerves, and may prove unreliable if entrusted with an arduous part. To some extent this is doubtless true, as no one who has spent three years in Palestine or the East is physically the same man as before the war, but one would expect that theatrical managers, who earned a reputation during the war for generosity by organizing charitable performances, would show a little latitude in dealing with men for whom they ostensibly did so much. This, however, is not the case. The men applying for parts are actually being advised not to mention their war service when being interviewed with a view to an engagement.

### Maggie Make Trouble.

A telegraphic contraction for May-August delivery is the word "Maggie" and is generally used in commercial transactions when making or accepting an offer by wire. A well-known city man who inadvertently placed in his pocket and took home with him two purely business telegrams found some difficulty in convincing his wife that his truthful explanation was not an ingenious fabrication. The wires referred to a

deal in linseed oil which had been subsequently dealt with by telegraph. The first ran, "What can you offer me Maggie?" and the second "Can you meet me Maggie?" Unfortunately on the date of the latter the husband had been unexpectedly detained late in town and his wife connected the fact with the wording of the use of the word "Maggie" and in the manner of such little episodes the story is traveling in the city.

### DEEP-SEA DIAMONDS.

In a few years' time we may be able to obtain thousands of perfect diamonds from the sea-bed. Experiments are now being made with a view to ascertaining whether these deep-sea diamonds really exist in quantities large enough to be obtained commercially.

If that proves to be so, then the diamond trade will be revolutionized, and instead of paying 280 a carat for an impure brilliant, we shall be able to obtain an otherwise priceless diamond for about twenty-eight shillings. Diamonds are now being mined extensively in Damaraland, South Africa, and it has been proved beyond all doubt

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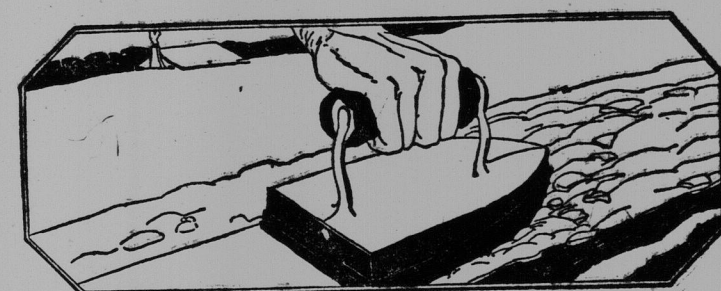


that the territory in which the diamonds are now being found was at one time submerged by sea-water. There is good reason, therefore, to be-

lieve, says an exchange, that before long we shall be able to secure innumerable diamonds by simply extracting them from the ocean-floor.



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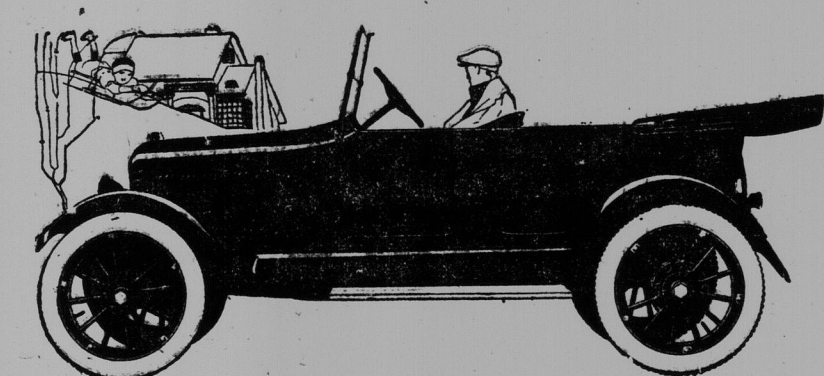


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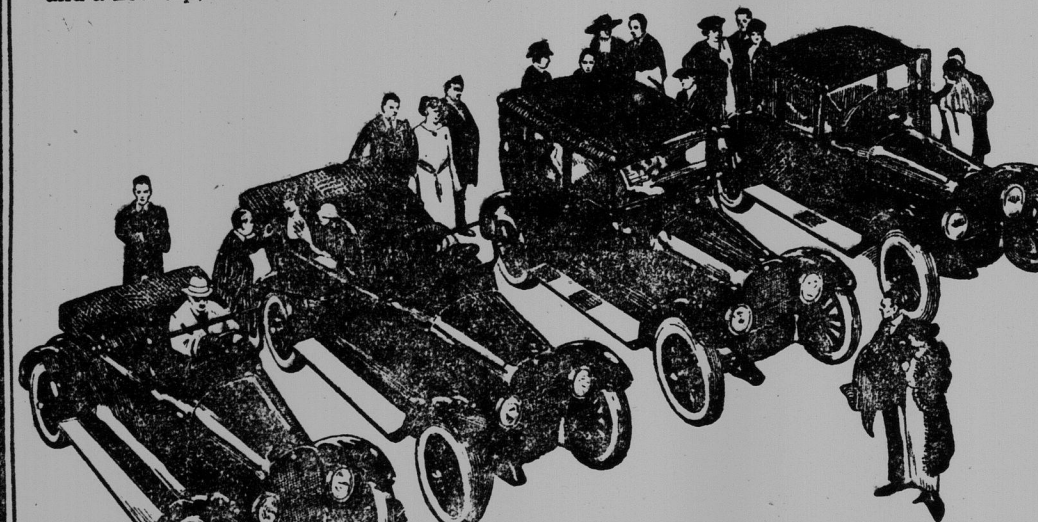
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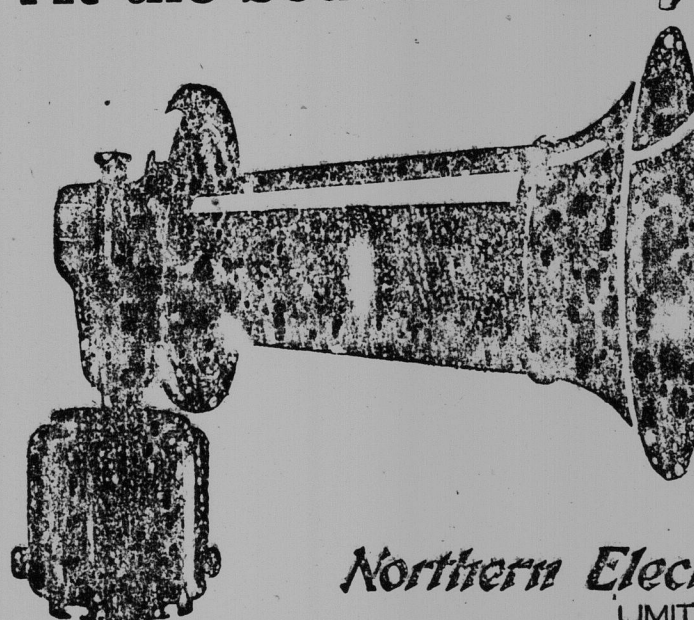
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