

### SECRET OF FRENCH ACTION CONCERNING RUSSIA REVEALED

#### Paris Hopes to Reach Preliminary Understanding With Moscow Before Genoa Meeting Is Held — Creditors' Secret Plan Uncovered.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Once more the French authorities give a complete denial to the persistent stories that the Franco-Russian pact is concluded, or about to be concluded and carefully investigated by the representative of the Christian Science Monitor in Paris. The denial is made in the official negotiations of an important character are being actively pursued and before the Genoa conference is held France hopes to reach a preliminary understanding with the Soviet Government. She does not want to discuss the problems in a full conference, but prefers some kind of tacit agreement in advance. When she knows what Russia is prepared to do, she will go into the Genoa conference. Until she knows will delay the conference.

This explanation reveals the secret of the recent French action. It is not a treaty with Russia that is sought, but Mr. Poincaré is endeavoring to test the ground.

Indirect Conversations.

It is understood that interviews with prominent Bolsheviks, obtained by Paris journalists, were desired by the authorities, though not committing the authorities. Leonid Kravchenko, a representative here in Mr. Scobell, who takes a commercial and not a political view of things. That there are indirect conversations seems to be no doubt, but the purpose is not to enter into a separate pact but to ascertain if it is safe to begin open discussions with other allies at Genoa.

In the meantime, the whole attitude of France toward the Bolsheviks has changed. Business men, financiers and publicists are seeking for an understanding. They see the folly of being forestalled.

The representative of The Christian Science Monitor is in a position to reveal what he believes to be the secret plan proposed by an association

of creditors of Russia. It is of great importance, though whether practicable may be doubted. At any rate it will be pressed on the government.

One—Russia must recognize her debts.

Two—The Moscow Government must emit 40,000,000,000 francs in specie bonds, as Germany has done, to cover the debts to France.

Three—The bonds shall be handed to an international consortium.

Four—The consortium will obtain concessions of mines, forests and oil wells.

Five—Establishment for the exploitation of these concessions to be formed.

Six—The sum of 40,000,000,000 francs to be distributed to creditors, as actually realized by the consortium.

Such is the scheme, which is obviously of great significance.

New Polish Scheme.

With regard to the allegations that Russia is demanding from France total abandonment of Poland, there is no confirmation but on the contrary details from special information obtained by the representative of The Christian Science Monitor. It is possible to state that Poland is contemplating an extraordinary and tremendous scheme, which France will endeavor to persuade her to drop. Otherwise an understanding with Russia will be impossible and the Genoa conference completely wrecked. Even worse, war will again break out between Poland and Russia, in which the powers will be bound to take sides.

General Petura, an adventurer who has already made much trouble, is expected to demand as Ukrainian certain parts of Russia and that Poland should receive a mandate for certain parts of southern Russia. This may turn out to be the most important and dangerous factor in the whole Russian problem.

### LIBERAL PARTY OF ENGLAND SHOWS SIGNS OF REVIVAL

#### Meetings of Old Liberal Associations Once More Being Summoned, and the Views and Strength of These Bodies Are Being Considered.

London, Feb. 23.—The historic Liberal Party of England, which passed under a cloud when the great war broke out in 1914, shows some signs of revival, and if the present Coalition between Mr. Lloyd George and the Conservative breaks up, it is doubtful whether the next government will be led by Conservatives or Liberals. Meetings of the old Liberal associations are once more being summoned, and the views and strength of these bodies are being considered. H. H. Asquith claims that 350 out of 400 of these support him.

There are three questions of pressing importance to England which must be decided forthwith:

1. What shall be England's attitude to France and Russia?
2. How shall taxation be reduced and our debts paid?
3. What will be the attitude of the Liberals toward the Labor Party?

Opposition to Premier.

The Genoa Conference is at hand, and on all these matters England must speak.

If the Liberal Party could have been reunited, and could make an arrangement with Labor there would have been every chance of a sound platform, and an old-fashioned, straight fight between the reds and the blues at the next parliamentary election.

Lord George saw this clearly, and made, on several occasions, through his lieutenants, suggestions for reunion. It was hinted that he would accept office under Lord Grey as Prime Minister, if Mr. Asquith would do likewise, but the official organization of the old Liberal Party, control of which had been secured by Mr. Asquith's partisans, refused to entertain any such suggestions.

As soon as it was discovered that the Conservative wing of the Coalition was outraged by the recent settlement in Ireland and by the invitation to Nicholas Lenin to the Genoa Conference, all posturings were suspended, and at the great Liberal Conference at the Central Hall, London, Lord Haldane (who had been invited by Mr. Asquith and Lord Grey to manage the next election for the Free Liberal Party) announced that they were taking the field against Mr. Lloyd George.

Lord Grey's Pronouncement.

The meeting was enthusiastic in its determination to reduce armaments and taxation, but next morning it turned out that Lord Grey's reference to France was extremely unsatisfactory to the rank and file of the party. The Manchester Guardian was outspoken in its opposition to Lord Grey's pronouncement, and the Lloyd George Government, though embarrassed by the intervention of a former foreign minister in the delicate field of foreign affairs, yet found themselves able to stare off trouble.

To understand why Lord Grey's remarks favoring the renewal of the old entente with France caused such a shock to the Liberal attack, one has to reread Lord Lorcum's little book "How the War Came," which child Lord Grey with having entangled his country with France, without telling his colleagues in the Cabinet what he was doing. He only explained his policy a few days before war was declared, and against this procedure Mr. Lloyd George had protested so vigorously that but for Germany's invasion of Belgium, England would have declared the ultimatum to Germany.

Mr. Lloyd George, together with most seven of the Liberal Cabinet of

1914, threatened to resign rather than read into the "Entente" a full alliance. This threat was met by the Conservative opposition promising the other members of the Coalition that if Mr. Lloyd George and the Liberal Party were to resign, they would from that day to this a serious question of policy regarding the conduct of Foreign Affairs was sent to the Liberal Party and has thrown many of its most earnest and capable supporters into the Labor Party, which stands strong against nebulous understandings and foreign entanglements, and the vagaries of the doctrine of the balance of power. Mr. Lloyd George still stands for negotiation in public, whereas Lord Grey thinks the older methods should be retained.

Speaking generally, Liberals are shy of supporting Lord Grey's foreign policy, and after the meeting such strong pressure was brought to bear on him that at his recent Edinburgh meeting he spent some time explaining his London utterance. He urged that the League of Nations should be used to improve the situation regarding France; but the Manchester Guardian has taken fright, and the proposal for support. Mr. Henderson, M. P., speaking for the Labor Party, will have none of it and he probably represents a majority on this question.

Liberalism has been so identified with careful administration of finance, that the country properly looks to Liberals to show the way out of the financial morass, but this cannot be done if the country is to keep up an army and navy to protect France.

Lastly there looms up the specter of Russia, struggling with famine, and "Hive" theories and elusive ideals. The Labor Party has urged successfully a policy of "hands off Russia." France demands the repayment of all money lent to the Tsars and refuses to recognize Nicholas Lenin. Mr. Lloyd George did not support General Wrangel, and being himself a son of the people, sympathizes in part with the effort of Russia to create a new social order. He has now called Russia to Genoa, and it is whispered that the former Pope would have appeared to bless his effort.

Conservative Premier.

Can the Conservatives stand that? They can always turn out the Prime Minister by a vote in the House of Commons, and it is only the fear of a general election which prevents them from so doing.

The question is being canvassed as to whether the King will use his prerogative to refuse a general election if the Prime Minister advises dissolution against the wish of his conservative colleagues. Such a refusal would be tantamount to a dismissal of Mr. Lloyd George, and would not be done unless His Majesty was quite sure that the House of Commons would support a Conservative Premier.

Mr. Balfour's absence complicated the position, as he is by far the greatest figure on the Conservative side and could probably form a strong ad-ministration in the present Parliament without appealing to the country. Liberals would then sit together in opposition to the government and along with Labor would await the swing of the political pendulum.

If Mr. Balfour refuses the task the position will be very difficult. The names of Lord Birkenhead, Lord Cur-

### Kisses Former Wife After She Gets Divorce

New York, Feb. 23.—Supreme Court Justice Gannon yesterday granted a decree of divorce to Mrs. Gertrude Butterfield, 777 Prospect place, Brooklyn, wife of H. Allyn Butterfield, editor of a news pictorial film.

Darby Oliver, a friend of Mrs. Butterfield, testified that on August 18, 1921, he had seen Butterfield enter a Manhattan hotel with an unidentified woman. Butterfield himself identified the hotel register that showed he was there on the date in question.

After Justice Gannon had awarded to Mrs. Butterfield her decree, Butterfield, leaned over, kissed his former wife and said: "Come on, kid, let's go out and eat."

### Labor Moves For New Political Party By Year 1924

#### Union Men, Socialists, Farmers and Clergymen Hold Meeting in Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Unanimous support of a new movement to install men and women of the working class in legislative halls was pledged by members of the Socialist and Farmer-Labor parties, labor union leaders and clergymen, in a conference today, called by a group of railroad union men, headed by William R. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists.

The conference brought together leaders high in labor and minor political party circles. Although Chairman Johnston declared in his opening address that the time was not yet ripe for the formation of a new party, today's meeting was expected to develop the germ of a new political organization which some delegates said would be functioning by 1924.

Non-partisan political action in the 1922 election was the keynote of the meeting. A dozen speakers pledged their support of a program to endorse candidates favorable to the working man.

By combining their efforts workers could build a political machine which would elect to office "men and women truly representative of the people of the United States." E. J. Mann, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, told the delegates, and both he and Thomas Van Lear, former Mayor of Minneapolis, pledged their support to such a movement.

Morris Hillquit of the Socialist Party declared he was not at the meeting to make "political capital" and did not seek office for Socialist candidates there.

"We are willing to give everything we have as a party and as a movement toward the common cause," he declared. "This is the first time that the progressive elements of all divergent factions have gotten together in one common action. I believe it is the most significant event that has taken place in the American labor movement for a generation."

The organized farmers' attitude was presented by A. H. Long of the United Society of Agriculture, who emphasized the necessity of obtaining the actual facts on the way of their production and demanding their share of production.

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"Just what do you understand by 'economics,' Senator?" "Don't know exactly, but it plays thunder with politics." —Baltimore Sun.

### Stinnes Latest Idea To Control

#### Trying to Secure Famous Hotels Scattered Throughout Russia.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—Hugo Stinnes has hit upon another idea. Through the Hamburg Traffic Company, which he controls, he is carrying on negotia-

tions with the Soviet authorities with the view of acquiring two of the largest hotel buildings in Russia. The Hotel Astoria in Petrograd and the Hotel Metropolitan in Moscow, which had an international reputation before the war.

There is every prospect of the negotiations being successful. Stinnes thinks, and so does the Soviet Government, that in the near future the number of visitors to Russia, mainly business people, will increase enormously and that it will be necessary to have hotel accommodation for them.

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### SIR ADAM BECK III AT ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Asheville, N. C., Feb. 23.—Sir Adam Beck, who is ill here with bronchitis, was threatened with pneumonia yesterday, but attending physicians announce today that all danger of pneumonia has passed and he will be up within a few days.

Sir Adam came to Asheville early this week when a mild case of the throat malady gave signs of reaching his lungs. Members of his family who are with him are confident that he is very much improved.

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