

can understand. Assuredly it is not our intention to establish that kind of a peace! (Applause from all.)

LLOYD-GEORGE—Point Two has been bothering the Admiralty a bit—Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants. It sounded to us just a little pro—well, pro-any-nation-except England, if you catch my meaning.

WILSON—May I not call attention to the fact that Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales? "International"—do you follow me? What could be more international than England, Scotland or Wales? (Cheers and hand-shaking among the Delegates, and especially among Lloyd-George.)

MAKINO—As to Point Three—The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers, and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance. You see—our interests in China—our position in the Pacific—

WILSON—Really elementary, my dear fellow. May I not direct attention to the innocuous phrase, "so far as possible?" You and I, Baron, are aware of the possibilities. . . . And while we are upon this subject, consider Point Four—Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will reduce to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety. Why do you think I slipped in "consistent with domestic safety?" (The applause is absolutely deafening.)

LLOYD-GEORGE—Mr. Wilson must make a lecture tour explaining who started the War!

CLEMENCEAU—Just to clarify Point Five—about the colonies, you know—

LLOYD-GEORGE AND MAKINO. Ah!

CLEMENCEAU—Exactly what does it mean? Free, open-minded and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions the interests of the population concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the Government whose title is to be determined. Of course I take it that this does not apply to Chinamen or niggers.

WILSON—I think an exception might be made with regard to the negroid races and those Oriental peoples who are "incapable of self-government," as we say at home.

MAKINO—"Incapable of self-government"—what does that mean?

WILSON—It is the polite term for nations with large natural resources and no army or navy.

ORLANDO—Chinamen and niggers, eh? Well now—there's Albania.

CLEMENCEAU—Isn't there some doubt about the—er—origin of the Albanians? The lost Hittites? Were they not a slightly tanned people?

MAKINO—Or perhaps the Mongol invasions of antiquity. You were speaking of Chinamen.

WILSON—For the purposes of the Peace Conference, may we not regard the Albanians as Mongolian Hittites?

LLOYD-GEORGE (doubtfully) But the Irish—

WILSON (thoughtfully). The Irish vote in New York is not despicable. If I were to run for a third term—

LLOYD-GEORGE. The Irish are very literal.

WILSON (brightening). May I be permitted to point out the idealistic phrase, "the population concerned"? What is the "population concerned" in the case of Ireland? The English, naturally—are very much concerned, too!

LLOYD-GEORGE (admiringly). If I had only been brought up as a professor!

WILSON—At this point allow me to call your attention to the fact that the United States is also accumulating a few—er—shall we say "adopted children"? I have accommodated you gentlemen as regards negroids and Orientals; it is only fair that you permit me to add to the list our Latin-Americans.

CLEMENCEAU—By all means take your greasers.

THE OTHERS—Certainly, with pleasure.

MAKINO (diffidently). A delicate question, but one full of interest to my Government—

LLOYD-GEORGE—And mine—

MAKINO—The German colonies—in the Pacific.

CLEMENCEAU—And in Africa—

LLOYD-GEORGE (coldly). German colonies in Africa? Really, you must be mistaken. I don't recall any.

MAKINO—Our troops captured a place called Kiau-Chao.

CLEMENCEAU—But that is in China, isn't it?

MAKINO (blandly). Oh no—in Germany.

WILSON—Gentlemen, we cannot return to the old ways. I have made definite statements—that is, definite for me. For instance, I have said, "No nation shall be robbed. . . . because the irresponsible rulers of a single country have themselves done deep

and abominable wrong."

(All stare at him in astonishment.)

ORLANDO—But how do you propose to do it then?

WILSON—(softly, with a gentle smile). The League of Nations.

The League of Nations will take over the German colonies.

LLOYD-GEORGE—Preposterous! I refuse to accept—

MAKINO—The Japanese Government will not withdraw—

WILSON—One moment, one moment, gentlemen! The League of Nations turns over the colonies to agents—I have coined a word, "mandatories." You are the mandatories—

LLOYD-GEORGE—Responsible to the League of Nations? Never!

WILSON—Only in a sense. It is a Wilsonism. The League of Nations lays down certain rules for the administration of these colonies. Every five hundred years the mandatories report to the League. We are the mandatories—and we are the League of Nations!

(The Delegates embrace one another.)

MAKINO (to Lloyd-George). And the Pacific?

LLOYD-GEORGE—We English are a sporting race, Baron. Have you a set of dice?

(Immediately all produce dice.)

LLOYD-GEORGE—Thank you, I prefer my own.

MAKINO—I am used to mine, too.

(The telephone rings. Clemenceau answers.)

CLEMENCEAU (to Wilson). Gompers on the wire. He brings you greetings from King George, and wants to know what the Peace Conference has done about Labor.

(Wilson goes to the telephone.)

WILSON—Good afternoon, Samuel. I am as keenly aware. I believe, as anybody can be that the social structure rests upon the great working-classes of the world, and that those working-classes in several countries of the world, have, by their consciousness of community of interest, by their consciousness of community of spirit, done perhaps more than any other influence to establish a world opinion which is not of a nation, which is not of a continent, but is the opinion, one might say, of mankind. Cordially and sincerely yours, Woodrow Wilson. Please give that to the press. Good-bye. (He hangs up.)

LLOYD-GEORGE (looking at his watch). Can't we hurry along, old dears? I've a dinner engagement with half a dozen kings.

CLEMENCEAU—Point Six is, you will admit, the most important of all. The one about Russia—

(Chorus of groans, snarls and epithets in four languages.)

CLEMENCEAU (reading)—"The evacuation of all Russian territory." Does this mean by the Germans?

WILSON—That is hardly the meaning of the phrase. It stands to reason that if the Germans withdraw, the Russians might invade Russia.

LLOYD-GEORGE—It means that Russia must be evacuated by everyone except foreigners and the Russian nability.

CLEMENCEAU (continuing)—"—and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest co-operation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy." Surely you don't mean—

WILSON—Certainly not.

CLEMENCEAU (continuing)—"—and assure her of a sincere welcome into the clutches—I beg your pardon, my mistake—into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing." Excuse me, but isn't there a little too much "independent domination" and "institutions of her own choosing" in the document?

WILSON—On the contrary. If you will note the present state of the public mind, I think you will realize that it is especially necessary at this time to repeat this formula as much as possible.

CLEMENCEAU (continuing)—"—and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she herself may need and may herself desire." Do I understand by that—?

MAKINO—The Omsk Government is already manufacturing vodka. So far as we can discover, Russia's only other need seems to be a Tsar—and we're arranging that as speedily as we can.

CLEMENCEAU—I see. I thought perhaps—

WILSON—Oh, no. May I not comment on the amateurish quality of European diplomacy? At home we think nothing of putting fifteen hundred people in jail for their opinions, and calling it free speech.

CLEMENCEAU (reading). "The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their good-will, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests, and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy." That sort of thing won't go down in France. We have billions in Russian bonds—

WILSON—May I call attention to the inexpensiveness of adjectives?