

PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED TO SAVE LIFE

Letters of Col. House and Dr. Mantoux Tell Inside Story of Armistice.

MARSHAL FOCH WAS SATISFIED TO STOP

Felt That Objects Aimed at Would be Obtained if Germans Signed Treaty.

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London, July 20.—Ever since the signing of the armistice criticism has been universal that the "war ended too soon," and today President Wilson is unjustly criticized throughout Europe for making a premature peace. Today for the first time the people of the world have an opportunity of learning why the war against Germany was not prolonged after November 11, 1918, through letters, which have come into the possession of the Public Ledger foreign service, written by Colonel Edward M. House, American armistice commissioner, and by Dr. Paul Mantoux, official interpreter of the Peace Conference, a man of whom it is said that he "knows all the secrets of the conference."

It is made clear that the war ended when it did because the chief military advisers of the allied governments, notably Marshal Foch, were of opinion that the allied objects had been attained and that further fighting would have been a needless sacrifice of human life. Despite the general opinion in Europe that America stopped the war, it is now evident that it ended as the result of a unanimous vote of the allied armistice commission which followed the lead of the generals. The war ended, therefore, for the same reason that it was fought, in the interests of humanity. The first letter from Colonel House to M. Mantoux reads:

"Dear Mr. Mantoux: It is frequently said that peace came too soon and that the great war should have lasted for sixty days longer until Germany had been completely crushed. It is easy to criticize when one has the benefit of past events to guide, but when we sat at Versailles during those fateful days in the autumn of 1918, trying to obtain the full fruits of victory without sacrificing further lives, it was difficult to determine where the cause ended and where our duty to our brave soldiers began. While it was necessary to measurably safeguard the political situation, yet Marshal Foch and other military and naval advisers were heavily leaned upon in determining the result.

"No one, my dear Mr. Mantoux, had a more intimate knowledge of all the facts than you, and I would appreciate your re-enforcing my own understanding of the causes which influenced the making and signing of the armistice which ended the world war. Sincerely yours, E. M. House."

The second letter reads:

"The League of Nations, Piccadilly, W. 1, July 6, 1920. "Dear Colonel House—My personal opinion of the causes which influenced the making and signing of the armistice would be of little interest, but I remember, I hope accurately, for these are things one could not easily forget, what was said at those momentous meetings in which you took part with the heads of the Allied governments and the commander-in-chief.

"When the armistice convention was drafted, I have no doubt that my remembrance will coincide with yours. I have a particularly vivid recollection of a meeting at a house you then occupied in Rue de l'Université, Paris, when the main lines of the armistice convention had been agreed upon. Marshal Foch was present, and what was said by him on that occasion left me under the strongest impression of his moral greatness. You asked him this question, 'Will you tell us, Marshal, solely from a military point of view and apart from any other consideration, whether you would prefer the Germans to reject or sign the armistice as outlined here?'

"Marshal Foch's answer was: 'Fighting means struggling for certain results (on ne fait la guerre que pour ses résultats); if the Germans now sign an armistice under the general conditions we have just determined, those results are in our possession. This being achieved, no man has the right to cause another drop of blood to be shed.'

"Another day when details of the

draft were being discussed at the Quai d'Orsay, Marshal Foch objected to the insertion of a clause which was strongly supported by the naval advisers of the Allied governments and by which the Germans would have been compelled to surrender immediately and unconditionally some of the battleships which were afterwards interned at Scapa Flow. His arguments were these:

"What if the Germans, after submitting to such severe conditions, will not accept this further humiliation? For the mere pleasure of receiving at once a few more of those warships which during the whole war hardly ever ventured out of the harbor, will you risk the renewal of hostilities on land and the useless sacrifice of many thousands of lives?"

"One of the prime ministers, I think it was Mr. Lloyd George, asked him what would happen if the Germans refused to sign and how long it would take to drive them back across the Rhine. He answered, opening both

arms, a familiar gesture with him, 'Maybe four or five months, who knows?'

"He never alluded to a final blow in the next few days when he brought from Versailles his draft of the military terms of the armistice convention. He simply said this: 'The terms your military advisers are agreed upon are those we should be in a position to enforce after the success of our next operation.' There were discussions, of course, about the details of the convention, but there seemed to be perfect agreement between the allied governments and between the soldiers and statesmen as to the desirability of concluding the armistice, provided, of course, that Germany accepted the conditions laid down, which amounted to little less than capitulation.

"Neither the soldiers nor statesmen knew then all we have learned since about the condition of Germany and the German army. Our losses,

which were so great at the end of four years of hostilities, had become particularly heavy during the weeks of intense and continuous fighting that marked the last stage of the war. Apart from purely military considerations, there was in the minds of the statesmen a strong feeling that the populations, after showing themselves ready to accept every sacrifice for a just cause, would never forgive their leaders if they thought the fighting had been prolonged beyond the limits of necessity.

"I do not presume to judge of what was or was not necessary, I can only recollect what in those critical days appeared to be thought and desired by the men responsible for the decision when you sat among them around the table. I thank you for keeping in memory the very modest part I had the privilege to play in those meetings and for the kind reception you gave me when we met again. Believe me, yours sincerely,

"PAUL MANTOUX"

COMMERCIAL MISSION TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Krassin Coming to America to Try and Arrange for Trade With Russia.

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Paris, July 20.—The Russian Soviet government has requested Washington to receive and recognize an official "Commercial Mission" which the bolsheviks desire to send to America, according to a reliable report circulating in Russian circles here this afternoon. The mission, it is planned, will open offices in New York and endeavor to come to terms with Ameri-

can banks and firms for the resumption of Russian-American trade.

Envoy Krassin, who conducted the recent Soviet negotiations in London, will head the delegation. It is reported, which hopes to visit America in September. The present Soviet bureau in New York, headed by Santeri Nuorteva, will be abandoned owing to its "consistent tactlessness," it is stated.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Coster announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Constance, to Arthur Merlyn Harding, of Regina, Saskatchewan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Harding, of St. John West, the wedding to take place the latter part of August.

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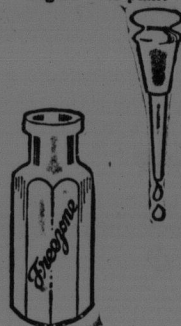
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