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Secret Treaties

SINCE I wrote the articles on the "Economic Causes of War," I have had the opportunity to delve into the secret treaties entered into during the progress of the war, published in book form, but which first saw the light by the capture of the Russian archives by the Bolsheviki. In fact this is one of their unpardonable sins committed against the Allies.

Sazonoff, Russian Foreign Minister, to the Russian Ambassador at Paris, dated March 5th (18th our calendar), 1915:—"Now the British Government has given its complete consent in writing to the annexation by Russia of the Straits and Constantinople, and only demanded security for its economic interests and a similar benevolent attitude on our part towards the political aspirations of England in other parts."

A memorandum, dated March 7th (20th), 1915, a confidential telegram from Sazonoff to Russian Ambassador in London: "Will you please express to Grey the profound gratitude of the Imperial government for the complete and final assent of Great Britain to the solution of the question of the Straits and Constantinople, in accordance with Russia's desires Having already given its promise respecting the conditions of trade in the Straits and Constantinople, the Imperial Government sees no objection to confirming its assent to the establishment:

- (1) of free transit through Constantinople for all goods not proceeding from or proceeding to Russia and
- (2) Free passage through the Straits for all merchant vessels

"The Imperial Government confirms its assent to the inclusion of the neutral zone of Persia in the British sphere of interest. At the same time, however, it regards it as just, to stipulate that the districts adjoining the cities of Ispahan and Yezd should be secured by Russia in view of the Russian

interests which have arisen there Of essential importance to the Imperial Government is the question of railway construction in the neutral zone, which will require further amicable discussion. The Imperial Government expects that in future its full liberty of action will be recognized in the sphere of influence allotted to it, coupled in particular with the right of preferentially developing in that sphere, its financial and economic policies."

In the spring of 1916, when the partitioning of Asiatic Turkey was on the board, we find among the general principles of the agreement: "As a general rule the contracting Powers undertake mutually to recognize the concessions and privileges existing in the territories now acquired by them which have existed before the war." "Alexandretta is proclaimed a free port."

This port is on the north-eastern shore of the Mediterranean. A branch line is to link it up with the Bagdad Railway, it being understood that British authorities regard this port as a natural outlet for Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean. All this dividing up of Asiatic Turkey is to create as many barriers as possible to the Berlin Bagdad project.

The secret agreement with Italy, article 13, reads: "Should France and Great Britain extend the colonial possessions in Africa at the expense of Germany, they will admit in principle, Italy's right to demand certain compensations by the way of an extension of her possessions in Eritrea, Somaliland and Libya, and the colonial areas adjoining French and British colonies."

Article (14): "Britain undertakes to float a loan on favorable terms on the London market to the amount of not less than £50,000,000."

Article 15: "France, Great Britain and Russia pledge themselves to support Italy in not allowing the representatives of the Holy See to undertake any diplomatic steps having for their object the conclusion of peace or the settlement of questions

connected with the present war." This explains why the Pope was called pro-German. A war to a finish was necessary so that the thieves could divide the spoils.

When we come to the agreement of re-drawing the frontiers of Germany, Russia is prepared to allow France and Britain complete freedom to draw up the western frontiers of Germany, in the expectation that Russia would have the same freedom to draw up the eastern frontier of Germany, and Sazonoff adds: "It is particularly necessary to insist on the exclusion of the Polish question from the subject of international discussion, and on the elimination of all attempts to place the future of Poland under the guarantee and control of the Powers."

Imperial Russia demolished, Poland is used as a buffer state against the spread of New Russia. In this same telegram of Sazonoff to Paris we find: "The question of pushing the Germans from the Chinese market is of very great importance, but its solution is impossible without the participation of Japan. It is preferable to examine it at the Economic Conference, where the representatives of Japan will be present. This does not exclude the desirability of a preliminary exchange of views on the subject between Russia and England by diplomatic means."

There are other agreements as late as February, 1917, regarding Lorraine, and Saar Valley, with its coal and iron fields.

The collapse of Russia has altered some of these agreements regarding Russia's share.

This represents a few of the doings of the diplomats behind the scene while placarding the country with sensational dope of a war of freedom, while at the same time their whole attention was the furtherance of their economic interests.

Workers! Unite, and emancipate yourselves from your economic serfdom. PETER. T. LECKIE.

Justice and The Russell Case

THE defeat of the Russell appeal case need occasion no more surprise than the similar result of the trial itself. Such things are the certain offspring of political development, and will continue to flaunt their insolence upon us, while humanity suffers the insensate degradation of government.

It is a false argument to say that our comrades in Winnipeg did not receive fair treatment, even considered on the sordid interpretations of capitalist "justice." Superficially the objection appears plausible, and fundamentally it is far wide of material reality. The concept of "justice" (capitalist) is the product of capitalist interest, and it justifies itself only insofar, and for such time as it safeguards, the capitalist holy of holies,—property rights. Did it not fulfill this function, it could not—it would not—be "justice," and capitalist interest would assuredly abrogate or amend any legislation which did not prove amenable to its ambitions, and create those which would

The working out of capitalist conditions, involves the continual concentration of capital, which in turn determines the movement of the exploited social forces. The concentration of capital makes the

struggle between capital and labor more bitter and intense, since both are striving to possess the same thing—the surplus of labor's productivity. The rule of the class means the enslavement of the worker: the profit of the one measures the loss of the other. The balance of economic condition between the two classes is exact, and mutually exclusive. Hence are their interests not only opposed, but draw increasing intensities of contradictions, with the evolution of the economic laws inherent in, and developed from capitalist progress.

The necessities of class dominion compel the capitalist, continually, to encroach upon the life necessities of the worker, thereby forcing the worker to organize as best he may, against this encroachment. As capitalism grew, so did labor organizations grow with it, and out of it; and as the conditions of production changed, so did the form and scope of unionism change. And since social movements must manifest themselves through human agency, the spokesmen of the new conditions, whom circumstances have lifted to the forefront of progress, are penalized.

It is not the "rights" of the worker which are

in jeopardy: those rights are as the interest of the master decrees, that is to say, they do not exist. And they never will exist, until the working class has risen to a clear consciousness of its miserable position. The issue at stake is neither those rights nor those who suffer the enormities of the law. It is, instead, the principle of social freedom which our fighting comrades symbolise, and which has been the inspiration of their activities. And although the media through which that principle is expressed are ruthlessly crushed by transient authority, the ideal itself, untouched, unhindered, by the united powers of repression, grows lustier with the passing days, because it is the child of a social condition, over which, as yet, neither slave nor master has the slightest control. R.

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