

The Economics of Peace

Protection, Preference Policy and League of Nations

discussed by the Manchester Guardian

HON. Walter Long, who holds the portfolio of colonial secretary in the present British cabinet, recently made an announcement about Imperial Preference. He said that a committee over whose deliberations he had presided had drafted "a clearly worked-out scheme for the adoption of Preference within the Empire," about which, however, he gave no details. In an article discussing this whole question, the Manchester Guardian, the newspaper which stands second in the world for character and ability, and which holds a world-wide reputation as a staunch exponent of free trade, begins by pointing out that the present British Coalition Government, which is representative of all shades of economic opinion and conviction, was created to carry on in wartime, not to frame Imperial trade policies for the time after the war, and goes on to say:—

What About the Allies?

"Mr. Bonar Law will not in the least admit that Imperial Preference is fatal to a League of Nations. He could not admit it publicly without stamping hypocrisy upon all our professions and making the blood of the nation's youth a vain sacrifice. And Bonar Law is an honest politician, who would not make what he believed to be a false statement. But it is not a question of what he believes or disbelieves.

"It is a question of what is inherent in the facts. The central fact about Imperial Preference is that it constructs a tariff ring-fence round the vast and varied fraction of the world's surface embraced in the British Empire; not only round the self-governing Dominions, which already possess it, but also round the British Isles, India, and the great tropical and sub-tropical territories which have not hitherto possessed it. The ring-fence may be higher or lower, the tendency of tariffs is to get higher, but the tariff ring-fence is the essence of Imperial Preference.

"Such a ring-fence, such a decree of exclusion, would be unlike any system of Protection which the world had ever before known, because it would be so much vaster in the area of operation, so much more comprehensive in the multiplicity of products it affected.

"The older, narrower, restricted tariffs have been a heavy enough burden to the world, and have helped us into this tremendous war. This proposed British Imperial ring-fence would be an incomparably graver menace to good relations between nation and nation. What would our Allies think about it?

What of the League of Nations?

"They will have fought by our side in what they were told was a common cause. And at the end of it we shall express our appreciation by shutting them out from equal opportunities of commerce with the best quarter of the world's surface. There are some people who oppose the ideal of a League of Nations to the ideal of a League of Allies. How could a League of Al-

lies subsist under such conditions? And if they render a League of Allies impracticable, how unthinkable becomes a League of Nations?

"To be just, the ardent advocates of the Imperial tariff ring-fence—like the Morning Post, in the press, and Mr. Hughes on the platform—are equally ardent enemies of the League of Nations. They know that we can have the ring-fence or the League of Nations, but that we cannot have them both. The government, too, however anxious to commit itself all round, must know that it cannot commit itself to both. If it chooses one it rejects the other.

"What has brought the government to this tragic folly? Two forces in the main: the dead hand of a perverted tradition and the living drive of financial interests. Mr. Chamberlain brought Imperial Preference into British politics and his devotees mumble the creed without understanding it.

"Mr. Chamberlain believed that without Imperial Preference the Empire would go to pieces; he became a Protectionist because he was an Imperialist. His politics dictated his economics.

"The war has shown that his politics were doubly wrong. The Empire without a tariff has held together through the fiercest of storms, and neither the Empire nor the world will get enduring security after this war if it is reconstituted on a war of tariffs. His devotees, following the traditions of so many religions, cling to his economics, for which Mr. Chamberlain did not care two pins, though his politics are bankrupt.

The Protectionists Influences

"The reason for that is that the living force behind the Protection-Preference movement in this country, from the age of Mr. Chamberlain to the age of Mr. Lloyd George, is the powerful interests in trade and finance who are concerned little enough for the Empire and not at all for the peace of the world.

"They urge Imperial Preference because there can be no Imperial Preference without a protective tariff, and it is Protection in their own particular interest that they want.

"There is little disguise about it. It shines through all they speak and write. If it were merely a matter of economics it would be bad enough, but what is in issue is the whole future of pacific civilization.

"Is the new world to be a commonwealth of nations, or have our youth and our manhood been massacred in order to perpetuate the very evils from which we now suffer? That is the real issue behind these phrases about Imperial Preference and Protection. It may be disguised for a time, it may be cleverly overlaid by appeals to other issues, but there it is and democracy must deal with it. If Lloyd George is going to lend himself to this conspiracy against the nation, the democracy will have done with Lloyd George."

Lenine and Trotzky Exposed

Overwhelming Documentary Proofs that They and Their Associates are German Hirelings

IF any lingering doubt remained in any mind anywhere about Lenine and Trotzky and their associates in Russia being paid agents of Germany, that doubt has been scattered to the winds by the conclusive and unanswerable documentary proofs of their guilt made public by the United States government.

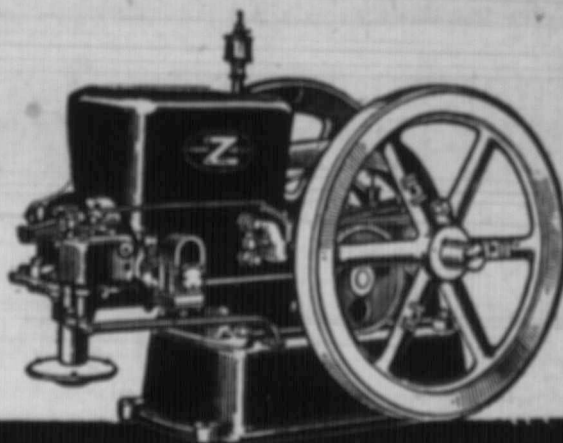
Secured in Russia by American agents, these documents show how the German government, through its Imperial Bank, paid 60,000,000 gold roubles to the credit of Lenine and Trotzky and their associates, in a Stockholm bank, and then had the accounts of the bank "audited," to conceal the payments. They give added proofs, if any be necessary, that Germany had

perfected her plans for a war of world conquest long before the assassinations of the Austrian Grand Duke, at Sarajevo, which, as the world now is convinced, conveniently furnished her pretext.

These documents further show that before the world war was four months old and more than two years before the United States was drawn into it, Germany was setting plans to "mobilize destructive agents and observers," to cause explosions, strikes and outrages in the United States and planned the employment of "anarchists and escaped criminals" for the purpose.

Paid Betrayers of Russia

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IN THIS DAY AND AGE attention to your appearance is an absolute necessity if you expect to make the most out of life. Not only should you wish to appear as attractive as possible, for your own self-satisfaction, which is a long well worth your efforts, but you will find the world in general judging you greatly, if not wholly, by your "looks." Therefore it pays to "look your best" at all times.

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