

## Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., MAY 1, 1922

### UNFRIENDLY ALLIES.

THE business of shamming an Allied united front in the battle of wits and words at Genoa brings to mind again Mr. Wilson's wonderful phrase concerning "open covenants openly arrived at." French efforts to clog the wheels of the diplomatic machinery having met with a considerable degree of success, Mr. Lloyd George, failing in all other measures to control the recalcitrant member, actually threatens to rise and tell the truth. It works. The French have made a passable pretence of unity, and the press scullions have not yet recovered from the unusual shock of possible reality. So the conference proceeds.

As everybody expected (whether they admitted it or not) the Russians have presented a bill of expense against the Allied governments. Its amount is 300 billion francs (gold). This sum, in the main, covers the counter claims of Russia against damages caused by Denikin, Yudenich, Kolchak, Semenov, Wrangle and such other blood spillers as the Allies have sent against Russia. This, as against the proposals of the London financial "experts," has not yet been disposed of in any settlement. With it is bound up the question of pre-war debts and plans for future capitalist excursions into Russia, the actual basis of which is not yet disclosed definitely. British and French antagonism lies in this quarter. "The Nation" (N. Y.) April 26, comments upon "this deeper issue—the real battle of Genoa"—thus:

"The keenest struggle of the Conference, and that about which least appears in the newspaper dispatches, is between the French policy of dividing Russia into zones for economic exploitation by her neighbors and their financial allies, and what has hitherto been the British policy of aiding Russia through an international consortium, which would be virtually a scheme to use Germany to exploit Russia for the benefit of the Allies."

"The Province" (Vancouver), April 26 (cable service, New York Times) in a dispatch from Genoa, says:

"Sentiment here (Genoa) drifts back to the London consortium plan under which there would be established an international stock corporation which would undertake at first to develop ports and transport expenditures being protected by a first mortgage on improved property. Of course under this plan the Soviet would not control. It might participate, but the people who put up the money and did the work would run the business"

There we have the argument. The Soviets have been driven to the desperate need of aid from capitalism. Britain and France are divided on the opportunities offered by the opening up of Russia as a field for exploitation and as a market for goods. Their mutual distrust over Russian policy is shown in connection with the Russian-German trade agreement.

Whatever happens at Genoa, Soviet Russia is definitely committed to the policy of concessions to capitalist enterprise. The Soviet note, addressed (March 15, 1922) to the British, French, and Italian governments contains the following:

"The Council of the People's Commissaries considers as a practical problem the application in Russia, in the interest both of that country and of the rest of the world, of the technical capacity and material resources of foreign

States, where industry has been more fully developed. The Council of People's Commissaries have, therefore, guaranteed, by a decree of November 23, 1920 (Code of Laws, 1920, article 421), the property of those holding concessions in Russia against any sort of nationalisation, requisition, or confiscation, and has given them various privileges which will allow them to carry on their business without hindrance.

"The re-establishment of property in industry, and of private initiative in production generally, naturally involves the same principle in commerce. A series of decrees of the Central Executive Committee, and of the People's Commissaries, has established full liberty for private commercial transactions, the ban on private trade having been removed (C. of L., 1921, articles 149, 212 and 350)"—(From "Russian Information and Review," published by the Information Dept. of the Russian Trade Delegation, London, April 15, 1922).

Soviet Russia has not adopted that policy willingly but through sheer necessity. At Genoa, in meeting with the paymasters of the unscrupulous mercenaries already mentioned, Chicherin is under no delusion concerning protestations of friendliness towards the Russian people. After violence; robbery. The Allies are now in a race for advantage in directing the process of profit production. If the Genoa Conference does nothing else it will show that to be the sole interest of the capitalist class.

### SECRETARIAL NOTES.

NEXT issue we hope to present the substance of the report on the recent convention of the S. P. of C. (Alberta) locals held in Calgary. The report is prepared by Comrade W. R. Lewin, but as it is rather lengthy and would occupy overmuch Clarion space it will require summarising. Some nineteen resolutions were considered. These will be summarised as briefly as possible consistent with the text.

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The articles now appearing in the Clarion, "The Origin of the World," by R. McMillan are causing many comrades to write asking if the book is obtainable. We hope to be able to lay in a stock at a later date, but have none on hand now. When we get them we shall have them listed along with our other literature.

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We made some remarks concerning our bankruptcy in Theosophy in last issue which we now cheerfully retract. We idly reckoned without Comrade Harrington whom we now fall back on (as usual). Jack threatens to give us an article on Theosophy for next issue.

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The Clarion needs more readers and more subs. Try it!

### CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

Wm. Churchill \$2; Wm. Clarkson \$1; W. Wasson \$1; Mrs. Annie Ross \$1; "B. L. J." \$2.  
Above, C. M. F. contributions received from 13th to 27th April, inclusive, total \$7.

### A LETTER FROM LESTOR.

Continued from page 2.

worked to help along the growing antagonism between Britain and Germany, and now the same bunch is assisting the United States and Britain in the direction that the clash of economic interests is driving them.

I should just like to drop into the Headquarters in old Vancouver but I am tied here in a most peculiar way. My mother has been in bed for months and she does not desire me to return to Canada until she either recovers or goes the way of all flesh, but I long to be with you and to take my part in the fight. It would do Lenin good to tour Canada as Cassidy did and as I and others have done more than once. The Russian episode has slightly overbalanced us. We are now getting the correct perspective and realize that the S. P. of C. has built even better than it knew.

So long, Boys! You have your faults, but I take my hat off to you. You are the soundest bunch of reds it has been my lot to meet. Remember me to all and give everybody my address.

C. LESTOR.

## Russ-German Pact

BY KATHERINE SMITH.

THAT Lloyd George's scheme to divert the Teutons into Russia and thus avoid trade rivalry should have been forestalled by the Germans themselves, thus depriving him of a diplomatic victory which would have been of great assistance to him in bolstering up his waning popularity at home, could hardly meet with the approval of that erstwhile astute politician.

That the basic idea of Lloyd George's present diplomatic strategy was to make Russia available as a stable market for Germany, and by so doing aid Germany in her task of recovering sufficiently to pay her debts; remove Russia as a bankrupt burden on the back of the entire world by letting Germany take over the job, and at the same time eliminate from the foreign markets the danger of German's undercutting competition which today has them in a state of demoralization and which is the biggest individual factor in preventing Great Britain from going back to normal conditions, is revealed by Norman W. Baxter in a special cable to the Philadelphia "Public Ledger" and the Rochester "Herald" under date of London, April 15.

He further goes on to say: "The mere threat of German competition today is responsible for 70 per cent. of the uncertainty and shakiness that exists in foreign markets. This is due not so much to what Germany actually is placing in the markets in the way of deliveries but because every time there are prospects of a big order the German bid is entered at a figure no one else can meet. The effects of this have been naturally to muddle the markets. Buyers holding off in an effort to determine the price levels and monthly figures of British exports tell their own story of what the result of this has been to the country. This menace to trade, real enough in its reactions, however, can be countered if a market can be found for Germany where not only prices but deliveries also can be made so that at one stroke Germany ceases her activities and finds some outlet for her productivity."

"War animosities prevent the expansion of German trade in every direction on land but Russia. The German merchant marine, which made Germany felt in foreign markets in the two decades that preceded the war, is so impoverished that there is no feasible outlet there.

"German capital is eager for the Russian experiment, British financiers and the government are said to have assurances of this from Stinnes, Rathenau, Simons and others whose visits to London recently have been more or less periodical. In fact the present Georgia policy is the outgrowth and development of the plan for Russian reconstruction that Herr Stinnes and Dr. Rathenau offered to private capital when they first arrived last fall to negotiate with British financiers.

"It first came as an idea involving private resources of Germany and Britain and, it was hoped, the United States, but it has grown through pressure and development into the keystone of the diplomatic triumphs Premier Lloyd George hopes to bring back from Genoa for the stabilization of post-war Europe."

So the treaty between Germany and Russia is looked on with disfavor. The very purpose which it was determined to accomplish with a great flourish of trumpets has been quietly accomplished without any intermediary to claim the distinction and profit by the transaction.

And France is rattling her sabres anew and further disclosing (if that were necessary) that her ulterior object is to reduce both Germany and Russia to a state of vassalage, for she has systematically opposed any measures that would make for the rehabilitation of Germany and she is consequently furious at the strengthening of both Germany and Russia against her full designs.

(Editor's Note: A concession has been granted by the Georgian Soc. Sov. Republic to a company formed by the former owners of the Putilov works (Continued on page 8)