

# POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1923

## LONDON VIEW OF GERMANY, FRANCE AND OCCUPATION

A Study of Stanley Baldwin, Chancellor of Exchequer

The Norfolk Farm Wages Question — The Royal Huntsmen — Lady Elizabeth Buying Part of Her Trousseau From Little Firms at Home.

(From Our Correspondent.)  
London, March 29.—The forces, not of intervention, but of mediation in this miserable Ruhr business are beginning to concentrate on two points. The issues for France, of course, are the German payment of reparations and military security for all time against possible German aggression. For reparations the only thing she has to stand by is the Treaty of Versailles, financially a binding if not a broken reed so long as Germany is in a destructive mood. For security the only barrier she has is her own army, the Anglo-American guarantee promised by President Wilson having fallen through. It is now hinted, after the manner of hints that have a semi-official sanction, that it would not be displeasing to France if Germany stated what she believes she can pay, that France would be willing to declare what she is prepared to accept, and that in the event of non-arrangement of a settlement arbitration would not be unacceptable. As regards security, France is being sounded on whether she would agree to a modification in the constitution of the League of Nations giving it greater power, so that it, on behalf of Europe, would guarantee French security. Meanwhile, officially France says "hands off" to all intervention, and maintains the largest army in her long military history as security.

No Peace Feeling in Berlin.  
It is now becoming clear that last week's talk of peace moves to be expected from Germany was premature, and had its origin in French hopes. A friend, one of the fortunate few who have contrived to obtain visas to Germany, tells me that in Berlin the business man's attitude is one of resignation, not of conciliation. There is no talk of active opposition to the French occupation—Germany is incapable of it—but there is equally no talk of climbing down. Meanwhile prices in Berlin are terrific. My friend, who went there from Brussels found Berlin more expensive, and had to pay 250,000 marks or 50c, a night for his hotel. Hoodlumism is rife, and all the hotels



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now post a double guard on each floor to keep a watch for the thieves that infest the fashionable quarter. Coal is really scarce. Everyone believes that the situation will become much more acute within the next few weeks.

Man of the Moment.  
The man of the moment is Stanley Baldwin. And he will grow steadily more momentous as the dreadful crisis of the Budget Day draws nearer.

Bonar Law's chief lieutenant, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is of comparatively recent popular concern. His name stood for little, outside the parliamentary lobbies and the city, until he made a speech at that historic Carlton Club meeting, which slew the political jargon. For he was the man who killed the coalition.

rather a dry and reserved person without the Falstaffian sense of fun which is such a priceless gift to our race. But when Mr. Baldwin joined in a celebration at the Cheshire Cheese tavern the other day, and cracked jokes in Dr. Johnson's seat while smoking the traditional churchwarden, there was a sudden revulsion of criticism. That the Chancellor of the Exchequer has a vein of solid humor is certain; he may need it on budget night when he disappoints the optimists. After the Armistice, when St. James' Park was thickly decorated with captured German cannon, I walked across from the Horse Guards parade with him. He pointed to the cannon. And narrated how, in a thick London fog one evening, while on his way to the House of Commons, he walked slap into a five-inch howitzer. The impact was severe and painful. "My youngster has served through the war in the Artillery," he said, "without getting a scratch; and, without getting any of the honor and glory, I was nearly a casualty to the German guns!" On budget night Mr. Baldwin may be bumping into the Association of British Manufacturers—the gentlemen who expect largess on a fifty-million-surplus scale.

Agricultural Wages.  
The Norfolk strike of farm laborers, although nominally local, deserves to be watched by the nation at large, for it is the outcome of conditions which are general to British agriculture. Roughly, it comes to this, the Norfolk farmers say to their laborers, "We cannot afford to pay you more than 25s. for a 54 hours' week," and the laborers say to their employers, "We cannot live on this." There is a marked absence of bitterness in the dispute, each side going far to admit that the other is right, but both sides fettered by the economic conditions of the industry. The only immediate hope is Government intervention at a time when public opinion is forcing the Government back to the position of non-interference in its industry, and the only ultimate hope a thorough reorganization of the industry, its conditions and methods. It is here that the Government may yet be helpful as adviser rather than as an executive authority. Meanwhile, the aged Lord Kimberley advises farmers to ask for a reduction of rent. If that is the only alternative to a 25s. wage he will certainly have the public with him.

A Conservative Trousseau.  
Although the most important item in Lady Elizabeth's trousseau, the bridal gown, is being made by a well-known authority on these matters, a good many dainty garments have been ordered from among the ultra-fashionable modistes. Not a few little firms that have served the family long and faithfully have been glad to receive commissions—which shows the delightful conservatism of the Strathmores. The bride-to-be and her mother are busy, too, and not once, but several times lately, girls from these firms have been down to their Hertfordshire place to help "finish off."

Master Lascell's Nursery.  
A friend who has just had the privilege of seeing the nursery at Goldborough Hall tells me that it is the simplest room—white-painted, with chairs upholstered in large, colorful, fitted with low divan seats, a plain linoleum floor, and a wreath-patterned wallpaper. There is a magnificent rocking chair with two chairs facing each other for two children to sit in and rock each other. A fine rocking-horse, a wooden engine, several carts, a mechanical stage coach and picture books are among the many toys.

Where Sarah Bernhardt Will Sleep.  
Unique in all things, Sarah Bernhardt will rest in a unique grave, every detail of which she had thought out during her lifetime. "When I am dead," she once said, "my tomb shall be a guide to safety for the brave fishermen I love so well, enabling them in sudden storms which sweep up the Bay of Biscay to sight the way to a haven of refuge where they may shelter till the danger is past." And so it is. Her tomb is on a rocky islet in the Bay of Biscay. Its rocky prominence may be seen from Belle Ile where she had that wonderful retreat, Le Fort aux Poulains, and where, no doubt, the idea of this isolated resting place first occurred to her. On this solid granite mass which rises out of the ocean she had a magnificent mausoleum erected. Above its four square to the winds of Heaven, will stand an erect figure with arm outstretched, in warning or welcome. This figure, in the beautiful marble of Carrara, is the work of the wonderful woman who will sleep beneath it. On the rock-girt Belle Ile, Bernhardt, clad in a simple robe, spent her days in the open, clambering along the rocky beach, loading her pockets with mussels, shooting, fishing or just sleeping in a wicker chair where the tamarisks shielded her from the full force of the wind. Of an evening the little company would sit about the great open fireplace, with its old spinning-wheel, in a room that was once the mess of the fort. The shutters would be left open, and across the low windows stretched old and disused fishing nets. As far as eye could see lay the tumbling ocean, dotted here and there with Breton fishing boats and at one point rose the crag-like rock which this woman had chosen for her last resting place, the mausoleum pointing skywards.

Dyed Dogs.  
Even the poor little dogs in Monte Carlo are not escaping the fads of the fashionable women for "color schemes." A friend just back from the Riviera tells me of unfortunate little pets that are actually being dyed to match the particular color fancy of their mistresses. One lady who "just loves mauve" had her Maltese terrier dyed purple. Another who affected royal blue allowed the hotel hairdresser to turn her fox terrier that color. All went well for a day or two and then something dreadful happened to the dye. Under the influence of sea air and ozone the dog came to resemble a splash of paraffin on the road.

The Boat Race.  
Agreed that it was a great and beautiful race, with Cambridge doing the V.C. act on the winning post, but who won it? Some say Oxford's best cox that ever was, Harcourt Gold, who was brought out of retirement to break the spell of post-war Cambridge wins. Some say, usually with an American twang, Mr. Meilen, Oxford's Rhodes Scholar, who kept his men merry and bright during training with his clever improvisations on the piano and stroked them bravely all the journey from Putney to Mortlake. Some say the Oxford cox, whose steering was excellent and judgment amazing, particularly in refusing to hug the inner



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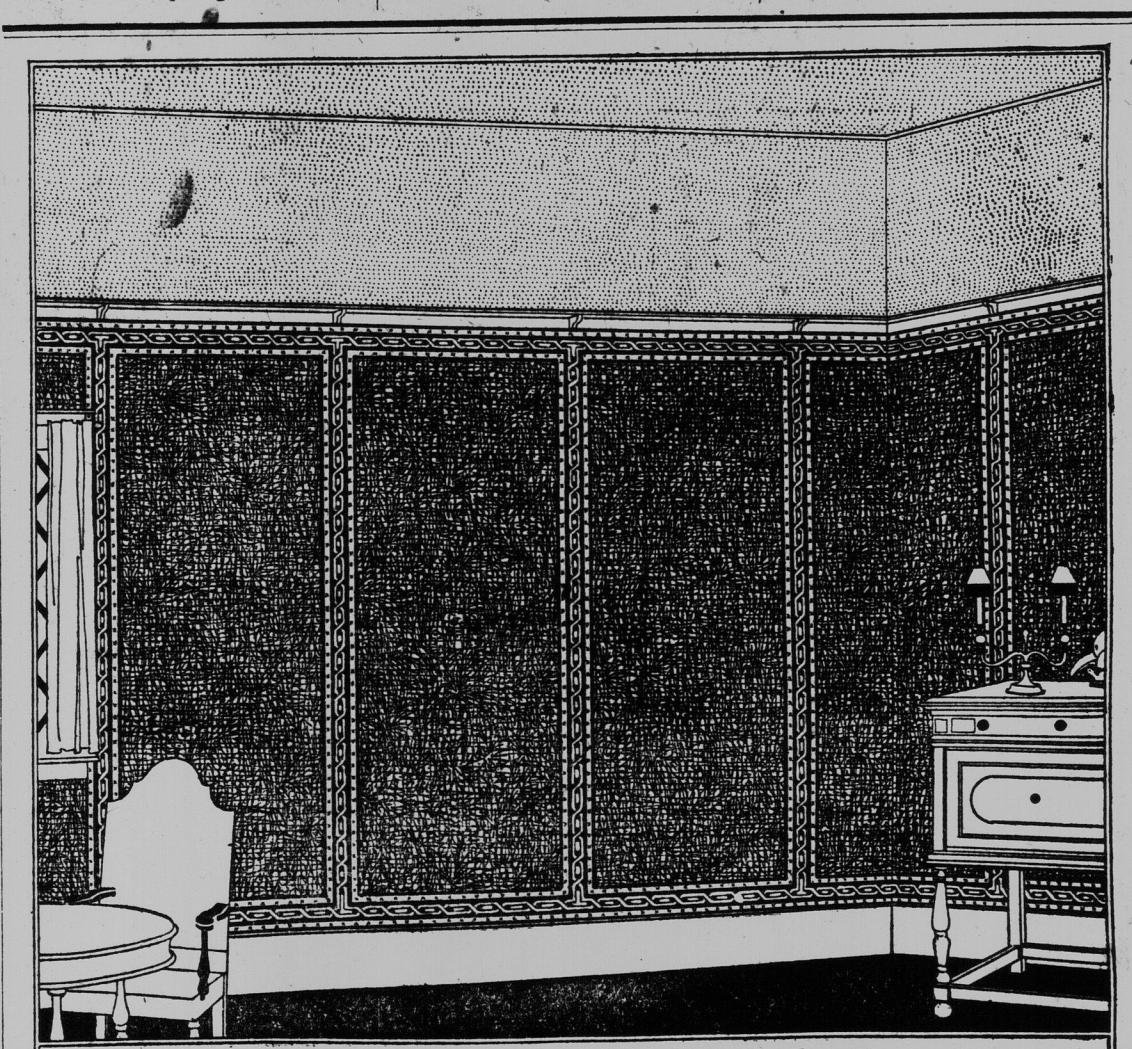
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circle round Hammersmith bend. But others say—and I am inclined to agree with them—it was really Dr. Bourne, the famous old Dark Blue stroke, who invented the new Oxford steam-line boat. Certainly, considering the form of the two crews, Oxford got along with almost mysterious ease, at a slower but not a longer stroke. Most rowing clubs will be bound to experiment with the new model—centre-seated at the four end seats and side-seated at the four middle ones, and with the boat taping from Number 3. This new idea will have to be tried out conclusively at Henley.



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