

## Lloyd George at Manchester.

Prime Minister Strongly Defends Government Policy, But Withholds Declaration of Programme --- Schr. Henry Ford Will be U. S. Challenger.

### LORD GEORGE'S SPEECH A DISAPPOINTMENT

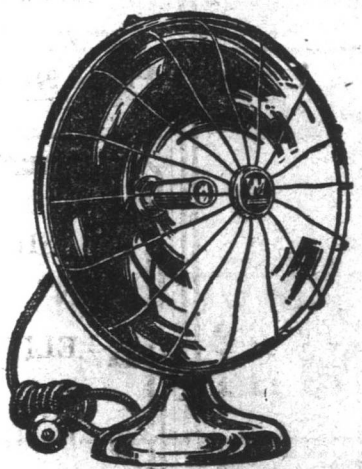
MANCHESTER, Oct. 14.

Premier Lloyd George's speech before the Manchester Liberal Reform Club was a disappointment because it gave no intimation regarding the plans of his programme. He said in part regarding the Near East: "We have not been war mongers but peace makers. The war of 1914 was practically begun in the Balkans. We had to act promptly and firmly. I am sorry the Liberals have been misled. It was none of our business. I maintain that the policy adopted with Turkey was in accordance with the highest traditions of the land, and we have reason to be proud it succeeded. As long as I have a sword in my hand and God gives me strength to use it I will do it. It is no use trying to bluff first fighting animals. It is always a mistake to threaten unless you mean it. The Turks knew we meant it and that's why we have peace. I am glad we have departed from the methods of old diplomacy. That's very good. The old diplomacy ended in the most disastrous war the world has ever seen. The amateur diplomacy of 1914 at least brought peace. If there is to be a change, no man will welcome it more than I. I have had a long spell and a hard one. I love wisdom. There are lots of things I want to say. It will be an interesting experiment to see the work of others. That is one of the joys I have in life. I shall watch many things, to see how we are to forgive Germany reparations, yet make France pay more than ever, how are we to pay the United States all we owe her and forgive every other country all they owe us. I will support any government that devotes itself to measures that will not inflame permanent injury upon the country, be they revolutionary or revolutionary."

### THE SPEECH

MANCHESTER, Oct. 15.

Addressing the Manchester Reform Club on Saturday, Premier Lloyd George said in part: "Whilst we were engaged in this most difficult task, the Near East negotiations, which have been assailed with misrepresentation, abuse and innuendos such as no government in conducting international affairs has hitherto been subjected, and the country will resent it, it is heard that at that time we did not answer these charges. We did not answer these charges, for we were war-mongers, for the reason that we could not place the whole circumstances before the country without interfering with the work of our representative on the spot. Our representative in the actions we took were careful. First, to secure the freedom of the Straits for the commerce of all nations. Second, to prevent the spreading of Europe, with all its conceivable possibilities and confusions. Third, to prevent repetition of Constantinople and Greece of the times in the terrible horror which has been enacted in Asia during the last six or seven years. It is not necessary to point out the importance of securing the Straits against a repetition of what happened in 1914. That produced the war two years, and nearly brought the Allied cause irreparable."



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our Allies. We thought they meant it. How were we to believe they only intended one side to hear? Mr. Asquith asks why we did not emulate the patient and forbearing policy of Lord Grey in 1914, instead of the amateur tactics of Downing Street to-day. No one knows better than Lord Grey that when you come to the portals of International affairs there are factors over which you have no control. His proposals in 1914 were admirable, but he was not the Kaiser's adviser and had no influence over the German Gen. Staff. It is just possible that language less direct or language more emphatic might have prevented war in 1914, but it is easy to be wise after the event. I am not criticising, only pointing out the most calamitous diplomatic failure the world has ever seen, and it was due to conditions over which Lord Grey had no control. Lord Grey tried to prevent Turkey and Bulgaria from entering the war against us, but German diplomacy was too strong for him. I never faulted Grey with that. I am told our policy has been a series of improvisations flung out of what was supposed to be a futile plan. The policy was to secure the freedom of the Straits and take Turkish rule from Christian people. I did not improvise the policy, I came into it. When I came into office in 1916 I found a series of agreements with Russia, France, Italy, even Greece, which completely partitioned Turkey. Viscount Grey and Mr. Asquith did that. I was a member of the Government and approved it and the policy was approved by the Liberals and Conservatives and I think I may say, by the Labor leaders. Its direction was in the hand of Mr. Asquith and Viscount Grey. Turkey had been almost completely partitioned by the agreements. Why did it fail? Because of the circumstances over which Viscount Grey, Mr. Asquith or myself had no control. The first was the fall of Russia. Armenia, Constantinople and the Straits had been given to Russia. I was bound to confess it was a very shortsighted policy, because if the Russian revolution had come off as planned you would have had the Bolsheviks in the moment in Constantinople and the Straits. It was a mistake, but we were all in it. I am not blaming anybody. Also, the Italian Ministry responsible for the policy of taking Southern Anatolia into occupation by Italian troops fell. Neither Viscount Grey, Mr. Asquith or myself were responsible for that. The next was the French diplomatic defeat in Cilicia, which made them recast their position. The next was when President Wilson of the United States was under the impression that he could persuade America to take a mandate for Armenia. His health broke down. Then one of the greatest disasters of all fell, the banishment of that great, wise and sagacious statesman, ex-Premier Venetico of Greece, and the substitution of a feeble, futile and foolish administration. All of these were circumstances over which no government in the country had any control, so we have had to recast our policy. We have made the best of it and succeeded in securing the freedom of the Straits of the Dardanelles, and holding peace until you had established the freedom of that great and gifted people the Arab race, and also some sort of protection for the minorities in Eastern Europe. I never sought the present position. Bonar Law, Balfour and Curzon can tell you that. I am prepared to serve under anyone of experience prepared to conduct war efficiently. I gave up one of the most powerful positions in 1915 to take a low, then humble office, because I thought I could serve the country better. I begged Balfour, Bonar Law or anybody to take the Premiership. I begged Asquith to remain as long as the conditions were assured in his Premiership I thought necessary to efficiently conduct the war. Three years ago I was anxious to go out and at the beginning of the year I suggested that Austria Chancellor should take the Premiership. I throw myself upon the people, whose cause I have never betrayed during thirty-two years of strenuous public life. I shall play no personal or party games. I shall place national security and prosperity above the interests of anybody and if in consequence of that I am driven alone into the wilderness I shall always recall with pride I have been enabled, with the assistance of loyal colleagues in the dark hour of this nation's history, to render it no mean service. I shall be proud of the fact that I have attempted things which even yet have not reached maturity or complete success, but I shall be prouder than ever of the fact that I held this proud position—I should be prouder than ever of the fact that it was given me in the last days of my premiership to invoke the might of this great empire to protect from indescribable horror the men, women and children by hundreds of thousands who were trusting to the pledged word of France, Italy and Britain, as their shield and their defence and who are thanking God at this hour that Great Britain has kept the faith."

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