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Mr. Lloyd George's Speech

Mr. Lloyd George is no believer in the "hush baby" policy which frightens timid statesmen from speaking unpleasant truths. In peace as in war he recognizes that the Briton fights best when things are darkest, and the picture he has just painted of the United Kingdom's economic position is assuredly of a character to cause even the bravest to quail. Summed up, briefly, Mr. George has shown that Britain today is staggering under a debt of almost \$10,000,000,000 (£7,800,000,000); that she faces an adverse trade balance of \$4,000,000,000 (£300,000,000); that her international commerce is in grave danger; that her consumption is rapidly increasing while her production is on the wane; that her people are spending more and earning less. It is not a pleasant picture; but examination of one feature of it alone—that of the national debt—shows that it is not overdrawn. The present public debt of the Dominion of Canada stands at about \$2,000,000,000. It is regarded, and rightly so, as a tremendous burden; yet, in comparison with the figures given by Mr. Lloyd George, it is as nothing. Two billion dollars means an indebtedness of slightly more than \$200 for every person in Canada. Forty billion dollars means an indebtedness of \$1,000 for every person in Britain. To equal the British burden the Dominion's debt would therefore have to reach eight instead of two billion dollars. Can we imagine such a position? Can our politicians, who shudder at the prospects already before us, picture the country four times as badly off as it is?

Nor is this position of financial gravity confined to Britain alone. It is the common lot of practically every nation in Europe. The recent debate in the French Chamber of Deputies showed that the war cost France \$60,000,000,000—that is to say, the whole fortune of France—and that there is an enormous floating debt of \$20,000,000,000, including credits obtained abroad during the war, which were put at \$6,000,000,000. The result is that, taking into account interest payments and other obligations, the annual French budget of the future will stand somewhere about \$500,000,000, an amount which, to a country with her richest provinces ravaged by the war and her population sorely reduced, is almost crushing.

The cold truth is—Mr. Lloyd George does not blink it—that the war, devastating in treasure as well as in blood, has left a world burdened with debt. The old days of ease and indolence and prosperity are gone, and a new world, particularly a new Europe, must be slowly reared upon the ashes of the old. In one of those acute, penetrating letters which have attracted so much attention in the Westminster Gazette, Mr. J. A. Spender, its brilliant editor states the position clearly:

On the evening of August 4, 1914, I was in one of the great rooms of the Foreign Office with a very eminent man. For a while he paced up and down the room in silence, and then he

looked out over the Park as the last gleam of light faded and said: "I see the lights of Europe going out one by one, and most of them will not be lit again in our lifetime." He spoke the truth, but we are only now beginning to realize it. It will take us years to understand what the cost of this war has been. Don't think, because I say that, I am repenting of August 1914. There was no other way, and if it came over again we could not do otherwise. But we must look the facts in the face. While the war lasted, we were bound to disguise them. We could not have lived through it, if we had not believed it to be in some sense a purifying ordeal, if we had not found our consolation in the great virtues it evoked, in the incomparable courage, endurance, and self-sacrifice of the fighting men. But with the coming of peace these splendours recede, and we are left for the time being with the loss, the impoverishment, the bitterness, the disabilities which war leaves behind it.

Nor is there any short cut from out of such a position. The only remedy—and it is bound to be a slow one—lies in harder work, in thrift and economy, in public and private, in decreased consumption and increased production. This, Mr. Lloyd George seems to clearly perceive; and while he faces realities, he knows that the resources of civilization are not exhausted, and his plain warnings must not be confused with either pessimism or despair.

Mr. Wilson Lets In The Light

If anything can be expected to spike the guns of the senatorial opponents of the League of Nations Covenant in the United States, the discussion between President Wilson and the recalcitrant senators should do it. Mr. Wilson may not have meant to play politics—doubtless all he intended was to get the League plan adopted without more delay—but when the report of his written explanation and the subsequent conversation between himself and the senators is made public the latter will, unless the mind of the public has been thoroughly poisoned with politics, find themselves without a leg to stand on.

If the meeting at the White House has done anything, it has laid the ghosts which the Republican senators have so industriously conjured up. In effect, what Mr. Wilson did was to tell the senators that the Covenant already contained the reservations which they were at such pains to devise, that it means neither more nor less than it purports to mean, and that the honorable members of the Upper House have been spending their time for the last few weeks in the unprofitable business of setting up straw men and then knocking them down. The stenographic reports of the meeting will, of course, be sent broadcast through the land, and they will be the sort of "pitiless publicity" that is particularly hard on bogeys of all kinds.

For the campaign against the League Covenant by the Republicans of the Senate has been very largely a campaign of hostile suggestion. Its leaders have been clever enough to declare that the League plan endangered the sovereignty of the United States and threatened to violate the sacred injunction of Washington against entangling alliances with Europe. None of them have been very different. Borah and his followers have played desperately for the anti-British sentiment. They have stopped at nothing, and they will stop at nothing in

what is nothing more than a frantic endeavor on their part to get votes at whatever cost to international good-will. Lodge has kept his skirts reasonably clean of this nasty business. His education, experience and background keep him from digging for political preferment with a muck-rake, but even he is not free from the charge of making mountains out of mole-hills and hiding behind them to pot at the League, that is to say, at the President.

Mr. Wilson cannot be charged with impractical idealism so far as his explanation of yesterday is concerned. He was able to show at the very beginning that the Senate tie-up is hitting Uncle Sam fairly and squarely in the pocket. Until such definite course is taken by the supreme ratifying power at Washington, United States export business to Europe must remain "up in the air." If the Senate does finally ratify the Treaty with the League Covenant included, American business will be able to go ahead, though under the handicap of lost time. If it does not, the country will have to begin all over again and negotiate with Germany for a separate peace. American ambitions to get in on the European market in its earliest and eagerest post-war hunger will be extinguished, and, incidentally, Germany will be able to profit by the thing she vainly hoped for during the war, a definite diplomatic split among her former enemies.

The President was comfortably explicit on several other matters which have been exercising senatorial minds. He was quite clear that the European nations had no desire to befog the meaning of the League Covenant at the expense of the United States, and that on his return to Paris he had only to express his wish for greater verbal clearness in the written Covenant to have it immediately gratified. This ought to silence the Borah objectors who have made a big feature of their case out of an alleged desire on the part of Europe to fool Uncle Sam first and put it over him later. "Absolutely nothing is concealed in the phrase" concerning the Monroe Doctrine, says the President. When Article 21 said that the Covenant should not affect the validity of the Doctrine it meant that the Covenant should not affect the validity of the Doctrine: just that, nothing more, nothing less. After Mr. Wilson's explanation—which was not needed to begin with—shaking that particular skeleton should not be worth the time of even a Republican die-hard at the Capitol. Similarly where domestic questions are concerned, the President was quite emphatic that the framers of the League never intended it to interfere in such matters. The senators, if they read the Covenant at all, must have known that Article 15 expressly provides for this very thing. Of course they had read it and they did know it, but the "sovereignty" cry was an effective one with super-patriots who had not and who possess votes. Here, again, is another bubble which Mr. Wilson has pricked.

It is not to be expected that senatorial opposition to the League will have ceased with the conclusion of the White House conference. There is a presidential election next year, and against the hope of electing a Republican president certain keen politicians in high places find world peace to weigh but lightly. That is their affair. The value of yesterday's conference is that it will give millions of people throughout the country the clearest insight they have yet had into the vitals of the League plan, and will help them to decide for themselves between the Covenant and its opponents. The whole world is concerned in the manner in which the case is put before them, for there cannot be world peace without the United States in the family of the peaceful nations. That is why the conversation in the East Room of the White House was of such momentous consequence.—Montreal Star.

No "Passing the Buck"

While admitting that the Canadian people are now assured that the new Board of Commerce will lay a firm hand on profiteers and trusts, and will prevent extortion by the exercise of powers conferred upon it at the last session of Parliament. The Toronto Globe says:—

"It is apparent that the Federal Government has moved very cautiously, and has shown a reluctance to place on any Federal body the responsibility of actually punishing any combiner or profiteer." The Globe refers to the fact that under the act when in the opinion of the Board, an offence has been committed the Board "may" remit to the Attorney-General of any province within which such offence has been committed, for such action as such Attorney-General "may" be pleased to institute, certified records of the copy of the case. In lieu of such remission, the Board may declare the offender guilty and liable to fine or imprisonment. Here again enforcement of penalties is left to the provinces. The Globe thinks it will require a vigorous assertion of public opinion to make some Provincial Attorney-Generals do their duty, even when the evidence on which to base a prosecution is put into their hands by a Federal Board clothed with inquisitorial powers.

But it is hardly fair to say that the Dominion Government has moved "very cautiously." The Dominion Government had no power under the constitution other than to leave to provincial officers the punishment of offences under the Criminal Code—to which offences under the new law are added. The only alternative was to make the offence a civil one, which would have been ineffective. When however, the Dominion Government appointed as members of the Board such men as Judge Robson and W. F. O'Connor, it gave the public adequate assurance that "passing the buck" would not be permitted. These Commissioners may be relied upon to give sufficient "pitiless publicity" to any attempt of provincial officers to obstruct the process of law. When an Attorney General is presented by a Board of such standing as the Dominion Court of Commerce, with an indictment to which is attached evidence carefully prepared and verified, he will be a brave man who will defy it. The public would soon show him and his Government where they fitted. Further, if provincial prosecutors are dilatory there is nothing to prevent the Board of Commerce appointing its own prosecutors. The Globe's first guess about the effectiveness of the new Board is a correct one.

Partisan newspapers are trying hard to find some flaw in the measure. One thinks the Commissioners will do good work if they are not "interfered with," another says it won't be surprising if a cabal is instituted to quiet the investigators in the interests of the "big interests." The Commissioners can be dismissed from office only by Parliament, and it is proposed that their salaries shall be fixed by Parliament at its next session. The possibility of "interference" by any people desiring to prevent the Board from carrying out the work for which it has been created is, therefore, very remote. As Judge Robson said, it is "a court of the people," and the people will see that it continues to have the free hand it has been given.—Ottawa Journal.

Federal authorities at Boston seized 4,500,000 pounds of granulated sugar at the warehouse of the Terminal Wharf and Railroad Warehouse Company in the Charlestown district. The action was taken on a warrant issued by Judge Morton, of the Federal District Court, after evidence concerning it had been presented to the Federal Grand Jury which is investigating the high cost of foodstuffs. The libel alleged that the sugar had been in the possession of the company since July 29, and that it was being hoarded in quantities in excess of the requirements of the owners, and for the purpose of increasing the prices unreasonably. The owners were not named in the libel.

Mexican People Aroused

Mexico City, Aug. 20.—The Mexican Government announced that American troops had crossed the border, in a bulletin issued last night, but has given no indication of its attitude. El Universal and El Herald de Mexico are the only newspapers to comment editorially on the situation. A protest against the crossing is made by El Universal and it demands for Mexico an opportunity to be heard "before being outraged." The paper calls on all Mexicans to contribute to the defence of the country. El Universal has also announced that its section, now printed in English will be discontinued until the Americans leave Mexico. El Herald says the situation has assumed a grave character and declares that the crossing by the Americans was without notice or request for permission to do so. The American consuls at Tampico, Vera Cruz and Oaxaca, the Excelsior says, have instructed Americans, in outlying districts to come into populated centres. General Juan Torres, chief of operations in the State of Sonora, reports to the War Department that the Yaqui bandits who killed an American chauffeur named White, had been dispersed with losses.

H. S. White, an American, was reported killed near Hermosillo, Sonora, last May 25, when twenty Yaqui Indians attacked a truck train carrying silver ore.

New York, Aug. 20.—Our relations with the United States are better each day," President Carranza of Mexico is quoted as saying in an authorized interview published in the Nation today. "Having passed through the period of the war," Carranza said, "the American people are now convinced that we remained actually neutral during an epoch when it would have been to Mexico's advantage to enter the world war." Carranza said the best proof of friendship the United States could give would be to establish freedom of commerce and communications with Mexico, follow a policy of non-intervention and exercise greater caution in making claims in behalf of foreign citizens in Mexico. If his administration could obtain arms freely from the United States, Carranza said, Mexico would be pacified by the end of next year with no help from the United States, beyond vigilance on the border.

New York, Aug. 20.—The evening papers comment freely on the Mexican incident. The Evening World says: "It will be more than unfortunate if the misadventure of two army officers, flying in a military plane, which came to grief in Mexico, leads to further complications with that disturbed state. Mischievous-makers are plenty on both sides of the border. There is intense desire among many Americans to invade Mexico and 'straighten it out,' in delightful disregard of a number of curves in our own body politic that will bear attention. The oil, mining and ranching concessionaires are also in full cry to have the republic subjugated in their interest. They cannot comprehend that Mexico is being exploited, not developed, by them. Every barrel of oil, every ounce of silver or gold removed from Mexican soil, cuts just that much from the rightful inheritance of the Mexican people. The increment left behind in wages is so slight as to be negligible. That a country so treated and so poor should foster with revolt is only reasonable. The kind hand, not the strong one, is needed, and should soon prevail, but for the persistent and unwarranted hostility nourished by the adventure and the profiteer. The Mail says: To characterize the expedition as an 'invasion' of Mexico is at least premature. We have no intention to invade Mexico under the existing conditions," extremely irritating as they are. "What course we may be forced to adopt in the future we cannot foresee, since we do not know how far Carranza's impotence of his malice will go. If the United States goes in, bringing order out of chaos along the border, it will aim to create in Northern Mexico a civilization something like that of

Texas. As a matter of abstract justice it looks essentially that we should go into Mexico to do these things. The only difficulty is that justice is never abstract. It is never any better than the people that administer it. We have a good record in the Philippines and in China, but are the American people willing to trust themselves with the desires of the people of so rich a region as Mexico? Are our honesty and morale equal to the task? This is the only question that need trouble us as we stand on the threshold of intervention.

Columbus, O., August 20.—One hundred tanks of the one-man type and three thousand rifles have been shipped from the army reserve depot here to forts on or near the Mexican border within the past week, it was learned to-day. The consignment was divided between San Antonio and Fort Bliss.

Three Measures

Ottawa, Aug. 20.—When Parliament assembles for its extra session next Monday, the Speech from the Throne is likely to indicate only three measures to be dealt with. First and foremost will be the ratification of the Peace Treaty, then a bill with a schedule of War Measures to be extended, and finally an estimate to defray the expenses of the session and pay honorable members of both Houses for their trouble in coming to Ottawa on a special mission. If here for thirty days, Senators and members will get a full indemnity of \$2,500. So all the betting is favorable to a session of at least a month, though the Government, as the program indicates, is disposed to hold down as much as possible the volume of sessional work. The Peace Treaty and the extension of the War Measures, both present an almost insurmountable field for discussion. The former will be more or less academic, for there is no question of the treaty being ratified without any suggested variation.

More contentions will be the War Measures. It is not proposed to extend them all, but rather, only such as have authorized work on initiated undertakings not yet finished. As an example, the Order-in-Council for the sequestration and administration of alien enemy property, will be continued. Orders, such as trade, commissions and the wheat purchasing board, appointed by Order-in-Council will be maintained, and each department will have a number of war measures to continue. It is proposed to put them all in a schedule to one bill, giving the Government authority to cancel any particular measures when the tenure of its usefulness is ended.

Prohibition is almost certain to come up again either as part of the general bill or separately. No permanent legislation on the subject will be proposed, but in all probability, the bill rejected last session will be presented anew in the original form. This provided for an extension of the existing prohibitory order till a year after the date when peace is officially proclaimed by the King—a process which will likely take place when the Overseas Dominions shall have followed the Imperial Parliament's action in ratifying the treaty. It will be recalled that while the bill passed the House overwhelmingly, it was defeated in the Senate by an amendment unacceptable to the Commons. The Senate held that, to all intents and purposes a year after the armistice, their proposal therefore, was to extend prohibition till November 11, rather than to a year after the coming promulgation of peace. While the two Houses were gripped in a deadlock, the bill fell to the ground. It can be only a matter of speculation as to whether the Senate's attitude will have undergone any change by the time the bill is taken up again. With regard to racing, with the privilege of betting, it is probable that a commission will be appointed to inquire into the whole subject, and that upon its report permanent legislation at the next session will be enacted.

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