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GEORGIA'S APPEAL TO ALLIED PARLIAMENTS.

GEORGIA'S CLAIM TO BATOUM.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'S ADDRESS.

"The Georgian government on February 29 received an official communication regarding the resolution of the Supreme Council to declare Batoum a *portofranco* with a small independent territorial zone. The Georgian people looked at this communication with a feeling of deep anxiety and bitterness.

"Two months ago our people celebrated the recognition of the independence of our country by the Allies. The people expected that the recognition would be logically followed by the restoration of Batoum and its region to Georgia.

"This region is South Georgia, contiguous to the shore of the Black Sea. It has represented from antiquity a 'window into Europe for Georgia. In consequence of its geographical position and fairy-tale richness of nature this region from the VIIIth. century of the new era became the centre of cultural and political restoration of Georgia.

"Numerous monuments, ruins, beautiful temples and fortresses, ancient high roads, bridges and aqueducts remain up to now the witnesses of a glorious past. The brilliant cultural historical epoch of ancient Georgia in the X—XII century has blossomed in this region and from there spread over the whole of the country. This region represented the natural stronghold of Georgia, defending it and its culture from the invasions of the barbarians.

"Having conquered Byzantium the Turks abolished in the XVth. century the bridge that joined Georgia to Europe. Georgia was isolated and in an unequal struggle during two centuries lost the better part of its organism. In the XVII century Turkey tore away from it Batoum, Ardagan, Oity and Meskethi with Djavakheti. Then Georgia lost the chief stronghold of its political independence and at the same time the way connecting it with the West was closed.

"Weakened in consequence of such a loss and having lost forces in its struggle with numerous enemies, Geor-

gia was compelled to have recourse to the protection of Russia. The Russian autocracy rudely transgressed the agreement concluded with Georgia and deprived the latter of independence and freedom.

"Under the Russian dominion Georgia lost many national treasures, underwent numerous oppressions and humiliations. But during the Russian domination in the XIXth. century its Southern part was restored to it. Although nearly the whole of the population of these regions of Georgia had been turned into Mussulmans by fire and sword, according to language, culture and all their brilliant historical past, they were inseparably connected with their mother-land, Georgia.

"This circumstance was the cause of the culture-economical revival of Georgia at the close of the XIXth. century, and Batoum—the best Georgian port on the Black Sea coast—became an open door to Europe.

"When old Russia fell to pieces and Georgia entered on the way of independent state-building, Soviet Russia again tore from it Batoum-Ardagan-Oity according to the treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Georgia could not resign itself to this violence and made an attempt to secure Batoum by the blood of its best sons. But the anarchy inherited from Russia deprived it of the possibility of securing Batoum. And the Batoum region had again two years ago to undergo all the horrors of the Turkish occupation.

"Lackily for Georgia, the victory of the Allies annulled the treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Georgia did not participate in this treaty: on the contrary, it fought on the side of the Allies and was practically the ally of the Entente.

"Thus it was—not only during the struggle for Batoum, but also when Georgia formed a part of Russia?—its best sons—over 200,000 of them—fought with self-denial on all the Russian fronts. Their glorious deeds called forth enthusiasm among the Russian society and army, as well as among the representatives of the Allies. Thus

in the matter of common victory of the Allies the Georgian army has also given its mite.

"Georgia has made great sacrifices and had reason to believe that the Allied states would act regarding it as an ally, but not as a vanquished side. It had reason to believe that as a result of the common victory its indisputable territory, torn away by Turkey, would be restored to it. This ought to follow logically the annulment of the Brest-Litovsk treaty.

"But the just hopes of the Georgian people have up to now not been justified. Batoum is at present in the hands of the Allies: the Batoum region is still without a master. And when Georgia, even before the eyes of its enemies, is a desirable island in the sea of anarchy reigning around, Batoum and its region represent an arena of unbridled speculation, fantastic expensiveness of living, hunger and anarchy. Robberies and murders have become a common fact. In Batoum during the last two years pogroms have taken place twice. This is quite unusual and foreign to Georgia.

"The organic part of Georgia, torn away from it artificially, is naturally undergoing a painful crisis. Such a situation called forth the just indignation of Mussulman Georgia. Yet in last August the Medjlis—Assembly of the representatives of the whole of Adjaria adopted the resolution to join Georgia and charged a specially elected delegation to take all measures for the realisation of this resolution.

"In February, the majority of the population of Batoum voted at the town elections in favour of Georgians and thus informed the whole world of their unanimous steady wish to join Georgia. It happened so in spite of the occupation of the town by foreigners, in spite of the open persecution of Georgians and the consequent dispersion of their forces. How natural were such results may be proved amongst other things by the fact that from the date of the establishment of town elections in Batoum in 1888, all town-heads, except the first one appointed by the Russian government, were Georgians. Batoum has always been a Georgian town and remains such up to now.

"The Georgians of the Batoum re-

gion (they form 95% of the population) being now practically left to themselves, desiring to establish social order have sent to Georgia a delegation imploring the establishment of order in Mussulman Georgia and that troops be sent into the region.

"But Georgia has up to today awaited the recognition of its incontestible rights—the restoration of the Batoum region into the lap of Georgia. It strove to quieten Mussulman Georgia by the same hope. The Georgian people believed that the recognition would lose all its sense. Because it would be senseless to say: 'Georgia be free—without Batoum', like saying to a live organism, 'Live—but do not breathe'.

"The Georgian people know from bitter historic experience that without Batoum Georgia will be weak: know that the frontiers of the Batoum region—its natural frontiers from the South—will give it the possibility of securing the country with small forces from invasions. The loss of Batoum region will put it face to face with a permanent menace of war and devastating invasions, will deprive it of the possibility of directing its forces on inner building.

"This was the reason of the general indignation on March 19 when the news of the resolution of the fate of Batoum by the Supreme Council spread over Georgia. On that day all Georgia united in one feeling. Masses of people went to the Constituent Assembly. The people demanded the Constituent Assembly and the government to take decisive measures in order to join the Batoum region to Georgia. On the same day many telegrams were received with the same demand: delegations which came from the region of Batoum asked to take measures in order that the fate of the region of Batoum be solved favourably for Georgia.

"The rights of Georgia to Batoum and its region are incontestible, and these rights must not be trampled on by the Allies. The international right as well as high justice claims this. The prestige of the Allies and the democratic principle of self-definition of nations, written on their standard, claim this. The interests of the Allies themselves claim this.

(Concluded on page 3).

EDITORIAL.

The Mails.

Although we have not yet complained in print of the irregularity of the mails from home, we have done so very frequently in conversation. Letters from home mean so much to their recipients abroad. Sometimes we are two months without a single letter or newspaper; at other times we receive letters from England three weeks after they were posted. This is by the army post, of course, and so far we have looked upon letters only three weeks old as having come very quickly to us. But a few days ago a number of letters from England were delivered in Tiflis by the Georgian Postal Authorities only sixteen days after their despatch. We have already referred to the receipt by us of a telegram sent through the Georgian Telegraphs from Manchester. Georgia has opened up postal connections with Western Europe and, thus far, the service is most credible.

"Kultur".

In last week's "Georgian Mail" we published a special article describing some of the scenes in the night life of Berlin at the present time. This week we publish a report from Vienna regarding the morals of Central Europe. In both articles we read of "kultur" as we have learned to understand the word. For what the Hun called "kultur" was simply vulgarity—than which nothing can be worse. If we remember rightly, it was Oscar Wilde who wrote, "Crime is vulgar, just as vulgarity is a crime". It is interesting to compare present-day Tiflis and Baku with Berlin and Vienna of today. For, one must remember, to the apostles and disciples of "kultur", Tiflis and Baku are wild Caucasian towns. But what a difference!...

Georgia's Appeal.

This week we publish the appeal of the Georgian Constituent Assembly to the parliaments of the Allied Powers. In this address Georgia's claims to Batoum are set forth clearly. Last week we referred to the senseless arguments that have appeared in a section of the press—arguments which were more likely to harm Georgia's case than to further it. Between these articles and the Constituent Assembly's address there is a vast difference. The latter is sane and sound. Georgia's part in the great war is shown and Georgia's rights to Batoum

are briefly and convincingly put forward. The Allies will certainly give this appeal the consideration it deserves.

War in Karabagh.

Danger is threatening the Trans-Caucasian States. At the moment of writing the Bolsheviks have occupied Vladikavkaz, Grosny and Kislyar. And at the moment of writing there is a struggle going on in Karabagh. The cause of the strife is simply a question of territory. By arrangement with the British authorities Karabagh was placed temporarily under Azerbaijani rule until such a time as the future status of the province would be arranged by the Great Powers. The Armenians—it is no secret—have systematically opposed this temporary decision. It is not for us to say here which of the two sides is at fault. Sufficient to say that the strife is very regrettable. Mr. Jordania has already urged the necessity of awaiting in peace the Supreme Council's decision, and Mr. Wardrop, the British Chief Commissioner, has issued an official statement that Lord Curzon has communicated a serious warning to the Trans-Caucasian states that any attempts to settle for themselves their future status will be rejected by the Conference and that such attempts will simply be the cause of diminished Allied sympathies.

"A United Front".

In a recent leading article, "Borba" deals with the defence of the Trans-Caucasus. Georgia, says the paper, is well defended from the North but a united front is necessary in order to fight against the Bolsheviks. The eastern frontiers are the most accessible ones for the enemy. At such a moment Armenian and Azerbaijani are carrying on a war against one another, thereby diminishing their forces. Their governments must stop this because it can only have unfavourable results. "It is time", says the paper, "to reason and to direct all attention and forces of the people of Trans-Caucasia to the real danger menacing the freedom and even the existence of the Trans-Caucasian Republics".

Easter.

Meanwhile, here is Easter. Surely a time of peace and goodwill in the past, no one celebrated Easter more religiously than did the Russians, and yet today,

at Easter, only the Russians are upsetting the whole world. It is a grim and tragic paradox. We will never understand one thing. It is this: No one wants to fight any longer. Everyone is tired of war; everyone is anxious for peace. And still the war goes on. Why? Who is to blame? We can only repeat what we have already written a dozen times—the whole world seems to have gone mad. And what a terrible madness it is! It is for Soviet Russia to put an end to the trouble. Let the Bolsheviks cease their aggression. Let them lay down their arms. Then it will be possible to negotiate peacefully and then it will be possible for man to live at peace with his brother man. The world will be resurrected from its tragic madness and a new era will begin. The responsibility for further strife lies with the Bolsheviks. They have it in their power to cease all warfare.

S. L.

British Colonies not for Sale.

Regarding the suggestions, emanating, it is said, from the United States, that Great Britain might liquidate part of her war debt to the United States by the sale to the United States of her West Indian Colonies, Mr. Lloyd George stated in the House of Commons that there was not the slightest intention on the part of the Government to barter or sell any part of the British Empire.

Commenting on Mr. Lloyd George's declaration the *Times* says: "The British Empire is not a property that can be thrown at will upon the market and its possessions are not those of a bankruptcy concern which desires to free itself as soon as possible of its war debts incurred to foreign Powers. There is no reason why the Empire as a whole should wish to recover itself at the expense of any of its constituent parts. If there has been anywhere a sincere belief in the possibility of the fact of barter or sale in respect of the West Indies, it argues a complete and total ignorance of the effects on the Empire of the last five years. We shall stand as firmly by the British communities in the West Indies as they have stood by us".

Belgium, Great Britain and France.

A Brussels telegram says that at Liège a Belgian Liberal deputy made a remarkable speech on the foreign policy of Belgium in which he said: "The solution of Belgian foreign policy is a military defensive entente between Great Britain, France and Belgium. If Great Britain thinks it necessary to stand aside, Belgium must turn to France and she will make the fullest and most loyal entente with her".

Graft and Gambling in

Central Europe

Vienna, March 3

The morals of the new States of Europe are falling with their moneys. The standards of conduct are collapsing with the crown and the mark.

More is meant than the immorality due to sudden poverty or sudden wealth. There are plenty of people making fortunes but capable of spending them only on night-life. There is a mad boom on the Vienna Bourse in which every class down to the cook-general is taking part.

It began with the real fact that shares were dirt-cheap owing to the fall in exchange. Many are still buying because any kind of bond, they say, is better than paper money which the Government may cancel. Prices have leapt up, and a woman let into a "tip" made a million crowns in a day.

But most are gambling from a conviction, supported by the happenings in every city and village hereabout, that the way to wealth is not to work, manually or mentally, but to handle something, to take a profit from goods, securities, luxuries, or essential foods as they pass from one to another. And because he who handles is sure of his profit, he is willing to take any bribe or to descend to any dodge or dishonesty to get a chance to handle.

Money itself is becoming unreal. It is partly a vice of the small unit. The crown, worth a farthing to-day, in peace time was only 10d. Now we have such absurdities as two crowns for a tramway-car fare or 1,200 for a packet of chicken sandwiches. The poor reckon daily in hundreds and the rich in millions. At times the less well-to-do are taken aback by the change in themselves.

"Before, I used to keep a sharp eye on a crown", said a middle-aged and married Bohemian official as he paid 80 crowns for a scratch meal. "but now I get change for a 1,000 note without counting it almost. Any idea of stinting or saving for a rainy day is dead".

The money you touch is only a convenience for the necessities of existence of the day, and gives no sensation of possession, though its absence very distinctly gives the reverse. The manufacturer or wholesaler with a stock needs no advertisement, or catalogue, or travellers—no selling organisation. The buyers come to him on bended knee offering anything. Prices double overnight.

A hint how or where to get something, to go somewhere and get something done, is paid for recklessly. Graft is everywhere. To do anything you need a permit or privilege, some kind of stamped and signed paper. The new States are stuffed with officials. It is a question whether the old or new, trained or untrained, are the more venal.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'S ADDRESS.

(Continued from page 1).

"Georgia was clever enough to form a democratic state, establish state order and save the country from Bolshevik civil war and anarchy. This circumstance has great importance not only for Georgia, but for the whole of Trans-Caucasia and Asia Minor. The Bolsheviks attempt to throw the conflagration of civil war over to Asia. Trans-Caucasia represents a live wall between Asia and Bolshevik Russia.

"As long as the democratic state order is steady in Trans-Caucasia all attempts of the Bolsheviks will fail. In consequence the allies must remove everything that is apt to shake this wall and that is favourable to the development of anarchy in Trans-Caucasia.

"The work which is carried on now in Batoum and its region creates grounds for anarchy and deprives the Georgian people of the possibility of concentrating all their energy, of directing all their attention on the North menace, of securing the quietness and the inner steadiness in order to defend the statesmanship and independence. On the other hand the secular wounds of Mussulman Georgia must be cured without delay.

"The Georgian Constituent Assembly discussed the situation of Batoum at its sitting on March 19 and adopted the resolution: to charge the presidium to appeal to the Parliaments of Allied Powers to support the vital interests of the Georgian people in the matter of restoration of Batoum and its region to Georgia.

"According to the resolution of the Constituent Assembly its presidium addresses the Parliaments of the Allied Powers being sure that the supreme organs of these states—expressing the will of the people—will reply with full sympathy to the address of the Georgian people".

Sweden and Norway Join the League.

Telegrams from Sweden and Norway say that both these countries have joined the League of Nations. The King of Sweden, after having taken cognizance of the decision of the two Chambers concerning the adherence of Sweden to the League, decided at a Cabinet meeting to take the necessary measures to make Sweden an effective member of the League and to give the Swedish Minister in London an order to hand to the League secretary the declaration of Sweden's formal adherence.

The King of Norway signed the document by which Norway adheres to the League, and a Legation secretary will leave to hand the document to the Norwegian delegation in London, which in turn will hand it to the League Secretary.

"GEORGIAN UNITY".

Social-democratic Party's Resolution.

On March 25 the Conference of leading organisations of the Social-democratic party in Georgia, on hearing the report of Jordania regarding the actual moment, unanimously adopted after long debates the following resolution:

"At the time when the world's war has nearly everywhere called forth a weakening of the influence of the working class and the dispersion of its forces, history has imposed on the Social-Democratic working party of Georgia a very responsible task not only to abolish the old social-political order but also to establish by their own means a full democracy and new social relations.

"Having served this object with self-denial during three years, surmounted numerous exterior and inner obstacles, the party has with flying standards reached in its struggle a series of considerable ideal and political victories.

"This successful work depended on two circumstances:

"1) The party has always had an idea of the co-relation of the forces of the independent Georgian Republic and by its calculated steps deranged the hostile forces and thus turned aside the danger, and, 2) It has always relied on the unity and organisation not in its rank and file only, but also on the unanimous proceedings of the democracy which acted headed by the working class.

"The reinforcement of the unity of the democracy, the creation of a united revolutionary front is to be ascribed to the inner policy which is the result of the programme and tactics that have been long since acknowledged by the party.

"The object of Social-Democracy is to avail itself of the power, trusted to it by the democracy dominating politically in order to realise in full all social-political reforms, and also for the organisation of production and ownership according to new principles, creating thus preliminary conditions for the settlement of socialistic order.

"In order to reach this main aim, forests and mines, railways and other means of transport, real properties, mineral sources etc. etc. were handed over to the state as its own.

"At the same time the state, the towns, the country administration, communities and cooperatives are widening their enterprises and establishing new branches of production. Thanks to the establishment of monopoly for the chief exportable goods, the state acquires the possibility of influencing

the world's market. At the same time the state acquires some objects of first necessity and gives them to the working class at reduced prices.

"Under actual conditions when the economic life is shaken at its base, the state and municipal institutions are deprived of the possibility of establishing by their own forces the production and exchange and, because of this, conforming arena for action is granted to private initiative in order thus to give assistance to the revival of the people's economy ruined by war and anarchy as well as to the blooming of productive forces.

"The party acknowledges that the decrease of the productive forces caused by numerous reasons, has rendered the situation of the working class considerably worse and called forth a decrease of the real pay. At the same time the party points out that owing to the economical policy of the leading organs of Georgia the situation of the working classes with us is much better than in the neighbouring states. At the same time this policy gives the possibility by means of restoration of productive forces of overcoming in time the economical crisis and creating thus favourable conditions for the raising of the pay and improvement of the situation of the working class.

"If the party should turn aside from the way that was elected by it, it would thus reinforce the anarchy in production and would render the situation of the working class worse, weaken the democracy, ruin its force and unity and thus ruin democratic state, which under actual conditions would lead to the triumph over reaction and anarchy.

"The conference calls particular attention of the organisation of the party to the importance of the actual moment when hostile forces gather around the Republic. Unity and unanimous proceedings of the whole of the democracy are necessary in order to overcome this.

"The Conference calls up the organisations of the party and all its members to carry on in full unity with the Constituent Assembly elected by the democracy and the government which is responsible before it, a decisive struggle against the elements which consciously or unconsciously derange the ranks of democracy and weaken it.

"The Conference expresses its steady assurance that, walking by an experienced way, the party will prepare the defeat of the enemies of the Republic and democracy and will assist the wide creative work directed to the establishment of socialism".

FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF.

Rio de Janeiro newspapers publish figures showing that Brazil, which up to 1913 was not regarded as a maize-growing country, is now, next to the United States, the largest producer of maize.

According to statistics published by the Greek Ministry of Shipping, in the year 1919 new ships of an aggregate capacity of 265,460 tons were added to the Greek mercantile marine, which now totals 550,000 tons.

A German Government wireless message states that negotiations for loans similar to that obtained from Holland are now being carried on by Germany with the Scandinavian States, South America, Spain, and Switzerland.

A German officer who has arrived at Ghent under a safe-conduct is said to have indicated a brother officer of high rank as the murderer of a country gentleman in the Wondelghem district, who was killed and robbed while some officers of the German Naval Corps were billeted at his residence.

FRANCE AND STRIKES.

Bill to Make Arbitration Compulsory.

The French Chamber following on the recent debate on the railway strike, which has just been settled, added to its vote of confidence in the Government a clause asking for the working out of social legislation to prevent similar conflicts in the future and particularly recommended compulsory arbitration.

The Government has been examining a project for the amicable settlement of labour troubles, and a Bill has been placed on the table of the House by the Labour Minister.

The Bill does not suppress the right to strike but confines itself to a provision that before any cessation of work all the possibilities of an amicable settlement should have been exhausted. It institutes a procedure of compulsory conciliation. Finally, if this does not succeed, the Bill establishes the principle of voluntary arbitration, but this arbitration is to become compulsory in the case of enterprises where stoppages immediately threaten the economic life of the country.

Socialist Premier for Sweden.

A Stockholm message says that M. Branting, head of the Swedish Socialist Party, has had an interview with the King of Sweden, and it is officially announced that the King has charged him with the duty of forming the new Cabinet.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE WAR.

A Candid Review.

(From the Times).

Mr. Walter Roch, who represented Pembroke as a Liberal in the last Parliament and was a member of the Dardanelles Commission, has added to the growing pile of war books with a volume entitled "Mr. Lloyd George and the War". (Chatto and Windus, 16s).

Mr. Roch devotes nearly half his book to "the armed peace" which preceded the war. If at the end the author speaks of "a grateful nation.... acclaiming Mr. Lloyd George as the man who had won the war," he shows no lack of candour in dealing with his contribution to the armed peace. He shows us Mr. Lloyd George as the darling of the Radicals, the hope of the "Little Navy" group, and the acknowledged leader of the "antimilitarist" section of the Cabinet. In his very first sentence Mr. Roch reminds us that Mr. Lloyd George neither foretold nor even foresaw either the probability or even the possibility of war with Germany. How remote he was from the realism of recent years is shown in the following passage which Mr. Roch has extracted from a speech which he made, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the Peace Society in 1908:—

I want to put two considerations to you from the German point of view... We started it; it is not they who have started. We had an overwhelming preponderance at sea which could have secured us against any conceivable enemy. We were not satisfied. We said, "Let there be Dreadnoughts".

The Agadir Crisis.

That speech was an appeal for a moral warfare with "worse enemies to fight than Germany". Mr. Lloyd George had nailed the "pacifist" flag to the mast at the opening of his political career, and he did not haul it down until it was certain that Belgium would be violated. Just once he dipped it, and that was in the height of the Agadir crisis in 1911, when he declared at the Mansion House:—

"But, if a situation were to be forced upon us in which peace could only be preserved by the surrender of the great and beneficent position Britain has won by centuries of heroism and achievement, by allowing Britain to be treated, when her interests were vitally affected, as if she was of no account in the Cabinet of nations, then I say emphatically that peace at that price would be a humiliation intolerable for a great country like ours to endure".

It is very difficult to reconcile this resolute note of fervent patriotism, which was to be heard so often when the time of trial came, with such manifestations as the Criccieth interview

of New Year's Day, 1914. Mr. Lloyd George regarded the moment (within seven months of the bursting of the war clouds which had been piling up on the horizon during his eight years in the Cabinet) as propitious for reconsidering the question of armaments. Most ironical of all was his parting declaration that "unless Liberalism seized the opportunity, it would be false to its noblest traditions, and those who had the conscience of Liberalism in their charge would be written down for all time as having grossly betrayed their trust". As some explanation of the utter inconsistency of the two phases of Mr. Lloyd George's career, Mr. Roch develops a theory of the existence of two strata in the Cabinet:—

The upper stratum, visible, vocal, visionary, in which Mr. Lloyd George soon became the central, and Mr. Winston Churchill for a time a subsidiary figure, dreaming dreams of Hague Conferences, disarmament, social reform, and universal arbitration; the lower stratum, invisible, silent, executive in which Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. Haldane lived, dealing with realities of which the upper stratum was only dimly aware.

The Second Phase.

There has been no greater contrast in our political history than that between the two chapters in Mr. Lloyd George's career which ended and began in August, 1914. The second part of Mr. Roch's book is a record of events which are fresh in the minds of all. The story unfortunately seems much less complete and authentic than that which we have been discussing, for there are many gaps yet to be filled in the political history of the war. Mr. Roch suggests that Mr. Lloyd George's first serious contribution to the actual conduct of the war was made on January 1, 1915, when he submitted an elaborate alternative policy in a written memorandum for the consideration of the War Council. Mr. Roch says that "in this document he advocated, as the basis of our military policy for 1915, an acceptance of the position of a 'stalemate' on the Western front, and preparations for an attack on Austria in conjunction with the Serbians". His advice was not accepted, but here we have the germs of the "Eastern policy" and the doctrine of the "impenetrable front" which led to such bitter controversy in the later stages of the war.

The truth about the munitions crisis has now been established beyond dispute, but Mr. Roch has some interesting things to say about the still mysterious transactions which led to the formation of the first Coalition Government. He suggests that Mr. Lloyd George took the decisive step by informing Mr. Asquith that in his judgement the necessity had arisen for the formation of a Coalition Government. He adds that Mr. Lloyd George was the only one of his colleagues

whom Mr. Asquith consulted before he called for the formal resignation of each individual member of his Cabinet.

The last chapters of the book deal with Mr. Lloyd George's efforts to secure a unified command. No new light is thrown on one of the most fascinating chapters of the war. The reader is, however, reminded that the first experiment of a unified command (under General Nivelle for the great operations in the spring of 1917) met with no very striking success. The reader's chief impression on closing this book will be not so much of a dominant personality carving his way to victory as of a mighty nation resolutely determined that its efforts should not be wasted for want of adequate leadership.

Russia, the Exchange and Turkey: London Conference Work.

The news from London say that the Foreign Minister's Conference has definitely fixed the plan for the resumption of trade relations with Soviet Russia by the medium of the Co-operative Societies.

Decisions for the regulation of the exchange and for the consolidation of the world market are being studied.

Nothing has transpired about the latest conversations with regard to Turkey.

France's Water Power.

The *Figaro* in an article on the use of water power in France says that the total power utilisable is 8 million H.P. 1,200,000 H.P. are now in use and another 400,000 will be harnessed within two or three years.

A Story of the King.

A humorous story, told by King George concerning his visit to a contingent of the American Army in France, was repeated with great effect by General Sir David Watson, at the Canadian Society dinner. General Watson said the King told him the story after an investiture at Buckingham Palace.

I was making a round of the front (the King told General Watson) when I passed near a group of American soldiers. One observed me closely and called to a comrade, "Hey, Bill, there's the King". His pal shouted back, "What d'ye mean, the King?" And the other said, "Right there, bone-head, the little feller". "The King! Where's his crown?" came back the answer.

50,000 American Dead to be Repatriated.

A message from Washington says: It is officially announced that the bodies of 50,000 Americans killed in France will be brought back to the U. S.

The Ex-Kaiser's Promise

The Dutch Press has announced in Parliament that the ex-Kaiser has sent a letter to the Dutch Government, promising to refrain from political activity.

Gold Struck in Poland.

A report has just reached Warsaw that gold has been struck near the village of Mirchow in the Cracow region. This is confirmed by a despatch from the American Red Cross Mobile Medical Unit which was passing through at the time of the "Lucky Strike".

Gross German Outrage: Murder of Mission Typist.

A telegram from Paris says that the Germans at Wiesbaden attacked two French typists who were members of the Allied Mission staff. A girl aged 18 was so seriously injured that she succumbed subsequently. The body will be brought back to Brittany.

German Officer Thieves: Heavy Sentences.

A Metz Court Martial has sentenced four German officers guilty of looting the Castle of Mercyle-Haut near Metz, belonging to the family Coetloguat, of half a million francs worth of furniture and shipping it to Germany during the war. One of the officers, a captain, receives twenty years imprisonment, and three lieutenants ten years each.



CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICE

SUNDAY APRIL 18
(2nd Sunday after Easter).

Matins and Holy Communion 11 a. m.

At the house of the British Chief Commissioner, Sergievskala 13.

All British and Americans are invited.

H. THOMPSON.

Chaplain to the Forces.