

# Ex-Premier of Britain Replies to Clemenceau

## French Policy Means War Declares Lloyd George in Article Making Startling Revelations.

(Continued From Page One)

ished on vengeance and one day the struggle will be resumed. And France has no natural defense against the avenging hordes that are now playing on the German streets, and with the hum of whose voices German kindergarten's resound. The Rhine is the only possible line of resistance. Providence meant it to play that part and it is only the sinister interference of statesmen who love not France that deprives Frenchmen of this security for peace which a far seeing nature has provided.

The fact that this involved submission to a foreign yoke of millions of men of German blood, history and sympathies, and that the incorporation of so large an alien element, hostile in every fiber to French rule, would be a constant source of trouble and anxiety to the French government whilst it would not merely provide an incentive to Germany to renew war, but would justify and dignify the attack by converting it into a war of liberation—all that had no effect on the Rhine school of French politics.

This school is as powerful as ever. In one respect, it is more powerful, for in 1919, there was a statesman at the head of affairs who had the strength as well as the sagacity to resist their ill-judged claim.

But what about 1922? Where is the foresight and where is the strength? There is a real danger that the 15 years' occupation may on one pretext or another be indefinitely prolonged. When it comes to an end, will there be a ministry in France strong enough to withdraw the troops?

**Evil Pressure Insistent.**

Before the 15 years' occupation is terminated, will there be a ministry or a series of ministries strong enough to resist the demand put forward without cessation in the French press that the occupation should be made effective?

Upon the answer to these questions, the peace of Europe, the peace of the world, perhaps the life of our civilization, depend.

The pressure to do the evil thing that will once more spill rivers of human blood is insistent. The temptation is growing. The resistance is getting feebler.

America and Britain standing together can alone avert the catastrophe. But they can only do so by making it clear that the aggressor— whoever it may be—will have the invincible might of these two commonwealths arrayed against any nation that threatens to embroil the world in another conflict.

There are men in Germany who preach revenge. They must be told that a war of revenge will find the same allies side by side inflicting punishment on the peace breakers.

There are men in France who counsel annexation of territories populated by another race. They must be warned that such a step will alienate the sympathies of Britain and

predecessor's achievement. I am afraid the reason is of a more sinister kind.

If France accepts Britain's guarantee of defense of her frontier, every excuse for annexing the left bank of the Rhine disappears. If this is the explanation, if the French ministers have made up their minds that under no conditions will they even at the end of the period of occupation withdraw from the Rhine, then a new chapter opens in the history of Europe and the world with a climax of horror such as mankind has never yet witnessed.

The German provinces of the left bank of the Rhine are intensely German in race, language, tradition and sympathies. There are seventy millions of Germans in Europe. A generation hence, there may be a hundred millions. They will never rest content as long as millions of their fellow countrymen are under a foreign yoke on the other side of the Rhine and it will only be a question of time and opportunity for the inevitable war of liberation to begin.

We know what the last war was like. No one can forget the terrors of the next. The march of science is inexorable and wherever it goes, it is at the bidding of men whether to build or to destroy. It is too much to ask that America should in time take an effective interest in the development along the Rhine? To that extent, I am in complete accord with M. Clemenceau. Neither Britain nor America can afford to ignore the manoeuvres going on along its banks.

It is a far cry from the Rhine to the Mississippi, but not so far as it used to be. There are now graves not far from the Rhine wherein lies the dust of men who less than six years ago came from the banks of the Mississippi.

END ARTICLE ONE.

**Race on to Repeal Esch-Cummins Act**

Capper and Iowa Congressmen Try to Reach Home With Separate Bills.

Washington, Dec. 9.—(Special Telegram)—House and senate leaders have entered into a race with each other to see which can secure amendment of the Esch-Cummins transportation act, first. The contestants are Representative Burton E. Sweet of Iowa and Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas. Both aim to secure repeal of 15-A of the act, the clause containing the so-called guarantee feature and which deprives the state utilities commissions of the powers they formerly exercised relative to intrastate rates and to car service within their jurisdiction.

Both Representative Sweet and Senator Capper have introduced bills amending the act in this respect. While the Capper bill has received the widest publicity, the Sweet bill antedates it by several months and has already been given hearings before the senate committee on interstate and foreign commerce, covering six weeks. The Capper bill has had no hearings.

The senate interstate commerce committee is opposed to the Capper bill and will report it adversely. In this way it will get to the senate but not with the support a favorable report would give it. Mr. Sweet thinks his bill will be approved by the house commerce committee. The Iowa man proposes to push consideration of his bill at once. Neither Capper nor Sweet have taken the position that the entire act should be repealed.

**Good Will Essential.**

International good will is essential to re-establishment of the shattered machinery of international commerce. With a great country like France, to take a towering position on the continent of Europe, in a condition of gratefulness, it was impossible to settle Europe. Hence, the offer which was made by the British government. M. Briand was prepared to welcome this offer and proceed to a calm consideration of the perplexities of the European situation. It was agreed to summon a conference at Genoa to discuss the condition of European exchange, credit and trade. It was also resolved that an effort should be made to establish peace with Russia and to bring that great country once more inside the community of nations.

A great start was made on the path of genuine appeasement. The German government was invited to send its chief minister to the Cannes conference in order to arrive at a workable settlement of the vexing question of reparations. The invitation received prompt response and Dr. Rathenau, accompanied by two or three leading ministers and a retinue of financial experts, reached Cannes in time to take part in the discussion. The negotiations were proceeding helpfully and another week might have produced results which would have pacified the tumult of suspicious nations and inaugurated the promise of fraternity.

But, alas, Satan is not done with Europe.

A ministerial crisis in France brought our hopes tumbling to the ground. The conference was broken up on the threshold of fulfillment. Suspicion once more seized the tiler and Europe, just as it seemed to be entering the harbor of good will, was swung back violently into the broken seas of international distrust. The offer made by Britain to stand alone on the pact of guarantee to France was rejected with disdain. We were told quite rudely that it was of no use without military convention. This we declined to enter into. Europe has suffered too much from military conventions to warrant repetition of such a disastrous experiment. The pact with Britain lies for the moment in the wastepaper basket. But we never flung it there.

**Peace Goes With Pact.**

M. Clemenceau ought to have made his complaint in Paris against men of his own race and not in New York against Englishmen. With the pact went the effort to make peace in Europe. The history of Genoa is too recent to require any recapitulation of its features. The new French ministry did not play the part of an inviting government responsible for pressing to a successful end the objects of the Cannes conference, but rather that of the captious critic, who had to be persuaded along every inch of the road and who threatened at every obstacle to turn back and leave the rest of Europe to struggle along with its burden amid the mocking laughter of France.

I am not complaining of M. Barthou. He did his best under most humiliating conditions to remain loyal to the conference which his government had scoffed in the summoning. But his task was an impossible one. He was hampered, embarrassed and tangled at every turn. Whenever he took any step forward, he was lassoed by a dispatch from Paris. I am credibly informed that he received 800 of these communications in the course of the conference.

What could the poor man do under such bewildering conditions? The other European countries were perplexed and distracted. They were anxious that Genoa should end in a state of peace. There was no doubt about sincerity—the passionate sincerity of a desire for peace throughout Europe, but the European nations could not help seeing that one of the great powers was working for a failure. They had a natural anxiety not to appear to take sides. It is a marvel that in spite of this unfortunate attitude adopted by the French government, that a pact was signed which has, at any rate, preserved the peace in eastern Europe for several months. Before the conference we had heard of armies being strengthened along frontiers and movements of troops with a menacing intent from the Baltic to the Black sea. Genoa, at least, dispelled that cloud.

But a permanent peace has not yet been established, and the pact with Russia will soon expire. I am, however, hopeful that the spirit of Genoa will stand between the contending armies and prevent the clash of swords.

All this, however, is leading me away from an examination of M. Clemenceau's suggestion that Britain did not keep faith in the matter of guaranteeing France against German aggression. The offer was solemnly renewed at Cannes and M. Poincaré has not accepted it. I have my own opinion as to why he has not done so. It is not merely that he does not wish to set the seal of his approval upon a

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**Store Surrounded by Christmas Trees**

A row of tall, brightly lighted Christmas trees set up along Sixteenth and Harney streets surrounds the Burgess-Nash store as a part of its holiday decorations. The trees, which stand 12 feet high, are set in square white box standards, and the colored electric lights which are festooned around their branches are reflected in the show windows across the sidewalk.

Toys of all descriptions fill the big corner window, with the center of attraction a life size teeter-totter on which a lion and a tiger balance slowly up and down, glaring at each other bloodthirstily. Poised between them is a white polar bear with electric lighted eyes and snarling jaws.

The store itself is decked with long garlands of green princess pins and thickly hung streamers of red and green "frizz." Cherry colored lights cast a warm glow over the bustling shoppers in the aisles below.

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