

## How a Great War Is Ended

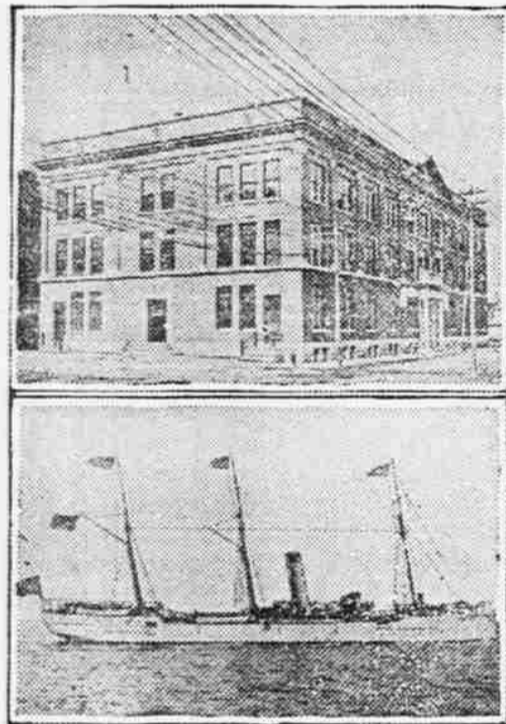
Novel Phases of the Portsmouth Peace Conference—What Spain and France Paid In Defeat—Japan Versus China.

IN many respects the meeting of the Russian and Japanese peace envoys in the city of Portsmouth is unique. In his official statement on landing in this country Count Sergius Witte, the head of the Russian peace commission, said:

The terms must first be ascertained, weighed and judged admissible by Russia before she can proceed to formal negotiations. Hitherto, as you are aware, it was customary in cases like this to settle all such preliminaries before the meeting of the plenipotentiaries, whose task it was to come to a final agreement on the matters under discussion. Now, the very fact that his majesty the czar consented to take a course involving departure from this ancient diplomatic usage and to appoint a mission to learn the nature of our brave enemy's terms is an eloquent token of the friendly feeling which he and his subjects continue to cherish toward the people of the United States.

This is the first time that a peace commission has met in the United States to settle a war between nations of the old world. The meeting is in a sense one of the fruits of The Hague peace conference, which was initiated by the present Russian emperor. The conference and the arbitration methods it put in force provided for ending wars through the good offices of friendly powers, and President Roosevelt in bringing about the negotiations now in progress proceeded on these lines. As M. Witte said, the meeting is a departure from previous customs and the ancient diplomatic usage. That America should be the place for holding such a meeting and putting into application some of the principles formulated at The Hague is considered especially appropriate. The war is one of the most important wars waged in modern times, and if the negotiations for its cessation prove successful the treaty of peace resulting therefrom will not only be of interest in itself, but from the precedent which it will set.

When the United States had beaten Spain to a standstill in 1896, had captured her entire army in Cuba and annihilated her navy in the battles of Manila Bay and Santiago, Spain was forced to sue for peace. Overtures



EQUIPMENT BUILDING, PORTSMOUTH, AND UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP DOLPHIN.

were made by the dons through the French ambassador at Washington, a protocol suspending hostilities was signed Aug. 12, and the peace commissioners of the respective countries met at Paris. Owing to the dilatory tactics of the Spaniards it was Dec. 10, 1898, before the treaty was signed by the commissioners, and it was ratified by the American senate on Feb. 6 and signed by the queen regent of Spain on March 17, 1899. When in 1894 the Japanese had overwhelmingly defeated the Chinese a treaty of peace was concluded at Simonoseki, and it was the first peace treaty between oriental nations negotiated after the western fashion. By it Japan received an indemnity of \$200,000,000 and the island of Formosa.

When Germany beat France in the war of 1870 there was not much diplomatic skirmishing. The Germans laid down hard terms, and there was nothing for France to do but accept them. The original demand for indemnity was \$1,200,000,000, and the Germans obtained \$1,000,000,000, the largest war indemnity paid by a nation in modern times. France also had to cede Alsace and Lorraine to Germany. There was no formal treaty of peace between the Federal and Confederate forces at the close of the American civil war. Lee handed his sword to Grant, and that virtually terminated the struggle.

Latin was formerly the language of treaties between European nations. Later when French became the language of diplomacy it was generally used in the making of peace treaties. But international law permits each nation to use its own language if desired for treaties of whatever nature. English has often been used in recent years, and the treaty between Japan and China was written in this language.

The Portsmouth conference is unique in that the commissioners are the official guests of a country that has no direct interest in the termination of the war. Troops and marines guard them, warships convoy and do them honor, two fine government yachts are at their service, a governor, a rear admiral and an assistant secretary of state look after their comfort, a big naval building is fitted up especially as an arena for their diplomatic combats, and the management of a great summer hotel boards them free of charge.

**Big Words.**  
"Those who are accustomed to ridicule present day scientists because of their fondness for big words," said the etymologist, "will find them much more moderate in the concoction of words than the old timers."

"For instance, I have just come across the account of a scientific treatise published in the seventeenth century that contains words even much more cumbersome than its title, which, by the way, is 'Panzologicomineralogia,' a good mouthful surely, yet the meaning is easily ascertained when the word is reduced to its component parts.

"The list of long titles that were then favorites would cause the modern book clerk a spasm, yet the list could be gone into indefinitely. A play in blank verse published in the latter part of the seventeenth century had as its alluring title 'Chrononhotonthologos,' and this was the opening sentence:

"Aldeborontiphosphophornio, where left you Chrononhotonthologos?"

"If the modern mouthing actor can hardly get simple Anglo-Saxon words over the footlights, how could he get along with that morsel?"—New York Herald.

### Great Writers Not Correct Writers.

There is not a single great author in our literature in whose works numerous errors have not been pointed out or thought to be pointed out. They are charged with violating rules involving the purity if not the permanence of the language. A somewhat depressing inference follows from the situation thus revealed. The ability to write English correctly does not belong to the great masters of our speech. It is limited to the obscure men who have devoted themselves to the task of showing how far these vaunted writers have fallen short of the ideas of linguistic propriety entertained by their unrecognized betters. As a result of these critical crusades there is no escape from the dismal conclusion that the correct use of the language is not to be found in the authors whom every one reads with pleasure, but is an accomplishment reserved exclusively for those whom nobody can succeed in reading at all.—Professor Thomas R. Lounsbury in Harper's Magazine.

### Squirrels Are "Handy."

The handiness of the squirrel is something extraordinary in the animal world. He sits up on his hind paws and uses the fore paws in many ways just as a man does. He strikes with it and wards off a blow from another, and squirrel quarrels rarely go further than attempts to cuff each other like children. A lady who lives in our county and who is the protector of squirrels in that region told me that she had contrived a little rack to be filled with nuts, so that they came to the opening singly, one dropping into the place as another was taken out, and this was fixed by her window so that she could watch the squirrels come. One day a squirrel took the last nut and was quietly eating it on the window bench when another came and, finding none in the rack, went up to the eating squirrel and gave him a deliberate box on the ear and went away.—W. J. Stillman in Century.

### Eyeglasses and Romance.

It is curious to observe that even the greatest realists do not venture to bestow eyeglasses on their heroines. It is rather odd, too, seeing how many charming women do in real life wear them and are not debarred by them from the most dramatic careers and the most poignant emotions, but while the modern novelist has bestowed eyeglasses on everybody else he has not yet had the hardihood to put them on the nose of his heroine. Why?—Mrs. John Lane in London Outlook.

### Incarinate Umbrellas.

We English, of course, get what we call hardened to horrible climatic changes. Nevertheless I am convinced that our solemnity of demeanor is generated by our gray skies, our piercing east winds, our heavy, yellow fogs and our slushy roads and pavements. The waterproof face is the direct result of a firmament of lead. Many of us English people look like incarnate umbrellas.—London Queen.

### Good Reason.

Marie, who never knew her lessons, was speaking of one of her little schoolmates, who always stood at the head of her classes. "I should like to be the father of such a little girl," said Marie's papa, wishing to point a moral. "No, you wouldn't, papa," said Marie. "Why not?" asked papa. "Because her father has been dead two years," said Marie.

### One Sided.

Mr. T.—I think I shall give up my business, my dear. I might as well have some enjoyment out of my money. Mrs. T.—Oh, not yet, Samuel! But when one of us dies I intend to give up housekeeping and see a little of the world.—Illustrated Bits.

### A Reflection.

Daisy—Why was Maude Oldgirl so angry about her photographs? Didn't they flatter her? Maisie—Oh, they were as pretty as the artist could make them, but on the back of each one it said, "The original of this picture is carefully preserved."

### Strategy.

The minister who had difficulty in keeping his parishioners' eyes fixed on him during the sermon solved the difficulty by placing a large clock directly behind him.—Liverpool Mercury.

### The Difference.

Fredde—What's the difference between being sick and an invalid? Cobwigger—An invalid, my boy, is one who makes those around him sick.—Harper's Bazar.

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