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Clemenceau's Speech That Stirred Hearers at Luncheon

Told New York Editors at "World" Affair He Has No Definite Plan, but if U. S. Realizes France's Plight She Will Do Her Part

A speech made by Georges Clemenceau, former Premier of France, to editors of New York newspapers at a luncheon given by "The New York World," on Monday, was released last night, having been withheld from publication until then at the request of M. Clemenceau. In it he says that he comes to the United States not to make any specific recommendations as to how help may be extended to France, but to "awaken something in your hearts." The speech follows:

"Of course, gentlemen, I am sure that you understand that when I say I'll make a speech I don't mean it. But the fact is am very much embarrassed as to what I've got to do. I was told that I was brought to a place to meet the most distinguished editors and publishers in America and I asked what they wanted of me. They said they didn't want anything. They just wanted to shake hands and say "How do you do?" So I thought I'd come, and I was going to prepare a speech and say a good deal about interesting matters, and what did I learn? That it was private. A 'private' speech—I never heard of that before!

Was "Daring Journalist"

"Well, nevertheless, I think that by scraping my head I can find one or two things you will be pleased to have me tell you. The fact is that I am not in my place now. It is so far back that as a journalist my memory is gone. Only I remember as a journalist I was very eager and daring, and maybe that is one of the dearest lessons I learned in America more than fifty-seven years ago. I do not know where most of you were at that time, but I know where I was. I know no one is here to get information.

"You know better than I, I suppose, that in America, as in France, emotions are always contrary. If one says black the other says white and all the rest say gray. The greatest difficulty, I think, in democracy is to get the truth. I do not say that the difficulties are any less in monarchies, but, you see, democracy serves to change the names of the government, of the houses and of the people. But, after all, we are all very much alike. They like the truth as long as it does not come out. When it comes out sometimes they are very apt to be afraid.

"As the journalists say, the newspapers are written by the readers. That is a good word, and that is the danger. We give ourselves the pleasure to write something that will please the readers, simply because it establishes a friendship between the writer and the reader. As a young man I tried to write not only what I thought my people would like, but also my own ideas.

Need More Heroes

"If you give yourself to the propensity of writing what you think, the readers will not like it and will find ways to show they do not like it. It is very difficult to find a hero to stand this. People think to be a hero you must be riding a big horse and doing wonders against an enemy whom nobody sees. We ought all to be heroes. We ought to do the plain, simple duties willingly which are exacted and demanded from us I know that in my country there are some deficiences, but you've got a great thing here that no government can overthrow. There are a number of things in this democracy that are not good, but they need a man for the hard work and to take the position.

"We belong to an old race that has a very heavy story in the past, and if I could complain of something here in this country it would be because you don't always make compromises. You know you established liberty in this country, which was not very easy. You have very many heroes and they established a government in this country; it was not very easy. Ah! What a different story with us! We have been fighting for centuries, bearing sufferings and massacres and everything. But, of course, that reacts. The men do not come to the front and say what they think, and that reacts upon the spirit of the reader. "What is the use of the press if the reader does not believe the writer?

"The American people have difficulties. After all, they look for nothing but the truth. It is not their fault if they are often misled. American people are not only American people; they are a part of the set of European people. Think of your dear old Pilgrims, your cavaliers, your Huguenots! A body of European minds. We all come from the same blood.

"Therefore, be good to us. I do not know whether you mean to be good or not, but I do not care, because I think that the stuff at the bottom of your heart is just what it ought to be. Therefore, I trust, whatever you decide, you will not judge too fast. Let things go to see whether you are prejudiced or your right judgments are founded on them.

"When you find an old people like the French who have suffered for the work of liberation of Europe, and when you come to think that in this last war out of 8,000,000 mobilized we lost 5,500,000 mutilated, killed and wounded, think of the large amount of goodness, courage, power of hope, righteousness and human strength in all its best. Children returning to their own villages finding nothing. Not alone their house, but the city halls and churches —just a stick with the name of the village that was. Well, if they make some mistakes in the work of reparation, tell them that they are mistaken, but don't give them the feeling that after being in the war we will let them lay.

Tells a Secret

"I will tell you a great secret: There is not much difference, as Bernhardi says, between war and peace. But, nevertheless, war must bring a state of peace, and if you do not attend to the execution of this peace you will be asked, 'Why did you send soldiers to Europe, causing so much blood to be shed? Why did you give us money?' Why cannot I find in speches of your statesmen why you were so proud when Europe came to you that you were willing to pay with your men?

"There is one thing that you do not know—that is, when word came that 'America is coming' they did not know what America was. If I could take you to my country now you could see for yourself the peasant. When you ask him what America is you will see that he cries at the mention of America.'

"If you do a noble thing one day, you cannot do a mean thing the next.

"But, as I told you the other day at the City Hall, it has given us one of the greatest joys to see those men at the farmers' tables being asked what their country was. Maybe Americans had been taught to know there was a country called France. But somehow or other among our peasants there was a tradition that America was a country of freedom and they knew what freedom meant.

"The farmer who was born on the fields did not know what freedom was and had to turn to the American soldiers to find out about his government. He would greet the American soldier, say "How do you do? What is your government? Did you get the gratifications you expected from democracy?" And they all laughed. "If you knew your power to-day as you seemed to have known at that time—the great crisis the end of which no one can foresee! It is very easy to see that we are in a crisis, and if you do not choose carefully the means, and if you do not unite your parties—well, the time has come, I thought, when American people ought to think about their responsibility.

"I beg of you I do not come here to blame, to judge or to criticise. We can all make mistakes. You can ask me any question about my political life. I also have made some mistakes, if I should say the truth.

"Well, the time has come for you to make up your mind. I am not going to tell you what to do, how to do it, when to do it, but I am going to tell you that the black clouds are on the horizon far away for all the civilized world.

"I admire American soldiers. I admire the British soldier, who behaved in the splendid way. When I hear an American say, 'What is it to me?'—what is it to the Australian who gave his life? He enjoyed his freedom, and he wanted everybody to have a share of it. Do not put yourself below what you are really worth in spite of yourself.

Wants No Pity

"I did not come for pity nor for protection of my health. I bring health with me. I feel, having lived in the situation which is coming soon, sooner than you think, and I come to wake you up. Not to do any worrying or on account of any economic question. I do not come for money. My principle is every honest debt must be honestly paid.

"See what our situation is. If you doubt it, come out and see the devastated regions that have been destroyed so that we may not have any economic success for a long time. Immediately after the armistice was signed. Think of it! Why? Twenty thousand manufactories destroyed; every piece of the machinery taken; the coal mines put in such condition that they will not be used for years and years. That was the treatment we had for France. I could say we were quite as badly treated by our own people, but I do not think it.

Left in Lurch

"My friends, think of it, you left us in a lurch, and in a lurch we are. I come to warn you because I know what you mean at the bottom of your hearts. I do not want to ask a decision. I want you to decide as you think best for America, because I know what is best for America is best for Europe and the world. Do not forget the responsibility which you have toward the civilized world. We have our share of it.

"I have no illusion about the history of my country. I am pleading for an American influence in Europe that will protect Germany against France, if necessary, no less than France against Germany.

"Do not forget you wanted to call men to help when you broke with England. Otherwise what would you have been? But you saw your cause much higher and you cried out to the world: 'Here we are! We fight for happiness; we fight for liberty; we fight for the human soul and heart!' Was that not the great end?

"I have allowed myself to speak a great deal more than I wanted, but if I succeed in making you feel like myself, I will be very glad to have had this occasion to speak to you with my heart and to show you in what position I am.

"If we are united and you help us get along with Great Britain, which has splendid qualities, the moment you appear, the moment you say America is going to interfere, all the threats coming from Germany will stop, because she will find before her the three powers she cannot overcome. Through your doing that we will pay you what we owe you and shake hands with the best wishes for your country."

"If you will put some questions to me I will be glad to answer with the greatest pleasure and wishes of my heart"

Question—"What definite things can the United States do?"

"My dear friends, I will answer the question very plainly. My strength, my power, the reason that you have been so kind in listening, is that I represent nobody; I bring nobody with me: I have no desire of anything. But there is something I must take care of —your own public powers that are interested with yourselves. I am not going to take the slightest share in the action which I wish you to take. I will not say a word about it I speak plainly because I do not try to make out a definite plan.

"I come to awaken certain feelings in your hearts, and if that is done I am willing to leave the rest to your conscience. I am sure in the end it will be right one way or the other, because if the wish is in your heart the trouble will be in not doing what I ask. I understand why you were afraid to get entangled. When we were told the American nation was not alive, don't think that I did not understand what you meant. I know all the reservations that we have to submit to, but for the present I want to put this idea in your heads.

"I come to ask what will you do to help France to protect democracy? If it is not done, why are you quiet when we are so much disturbed? The government cannot say it; it is only a private man who serves France with a high mind that can come to you as I have just done, but with a danger to me if I go too far, because I know nothing about the American parties. They differ so much between themselves, except with the tariff question. Well, I am going to guard myself against it. The American mind is all right. I know if they make a mistake they repent in the most glorious manner.

Asks No Risk

"But in the mean time you were not prepared when Germany was going to rush upon us. We waited for Great Britain to prepare and for America to get ready. We waited a long time. Now here we are. Do I ask you to do anything dangerous? Will it cost you money? Not at all. No, just the other way. It will give us a way to repay and give you gratitude above it. If you run any risk to-day it is because you will run a greater risk to-morrow.

"There is something harder than war. It is peace. The danger is to go too far, to enter into your own conscience. It is no value unless it comes from yourself. It is for you to do. You know if the circumstances are favorable or not. That is your business, not mine.

"If I brought here a plan you know that two-thirds would rise and say that is not right. You must do it that way. You are a free people. If you were left to yourselves and the way was shown to you, you would not need anybody to show you. You will find, in the end, it was too late, as when you wanted to come to war, because our soldiers had fallen, and for one year after you declared war the American soldier did not appear on the battlefield.

Savage When Others Are

"Therefore I hope I made my reasons clear to you. I am not a savage man. I may be savage when others are savage—oh, then I can give way to my nature. But I take very good care not to go further than what I say to you in this meeting, which is for me the greatest occasion to speak plainly and to tell you after hearing me to-day there will be no difference tomorrow. I bring what is in my bosom. I ask you to discuss among yourselves after I am gone and make up your minds according to what you think should be done. But it seems to me, old as I am, that if France were to be destroyed I would be proud to be among the last Frenchmen. 'God is too high and France is too far.'

"America and England have come to the front together. How many stories I could tell you to prove it! But sometimes I think England is too near and America is too far.

"Come and visit our country as I visit yours; come and see our people and, if you want, secret information upon our military forces. During the war, at certain times when I was in Great Britain I did not like certain officers in London to see the real condition of their soldiers because I complained. We do the same thing. Do not come publicly to call us bad names. The people that you knew a century and a half ago are the same people. They are stronger because France has established democracy very perfectly.

Wants Everlasting Union

"You have the minds, you have the wills which make the greatest men. When a man dies you write on his tombstone that he was a great success in the buttonhole business; that if he is a poor fellow and a good citizen you will take care and have it written down on the stone. I hope there will never be a grave of the American people. If there is, the French will be buried on the same day. You have done too much to do too little, and I want us to live together to the end.

Husband Held in Death Of Man at Wife's Home

Montclair, N. J., Publicity Agent Dies After Dispute at Detroit Party

DETROIT, Nov. 23.—Wesley H. Pett, a wholesale milliner, is being held in connection with the death of Frederick W. Prince, forty years old, of 73 Valley Road, Montclair, N. J., who died under puzzling circumstances at the home of Pett's estranged wife early to-day.

Prince, who was a publicity agent for the Western Electric Company, was found unconscious in the hallway outside of Mrs. Pett's apartment after a party in which Pett had intruded, causing a dispute. The witnesses disagree on nearly all the details of the incidents leading up to his death.

A post-mortem examination to-night failed to reveal the cause of death and Prince's vital organs will be sent to Lansing to-morrow for analysis. Police hold to the theory that he was killed by a blow, although it is admitted he may have died of heart disease.

Prince is survived by is wife and child, who live at the Montclair address. Few details of his death had reached his home last night. He had been with the Western Electric Company for about a year and was highly esteemed by his associates.

Ward Dismissal Denied

Court Holds Immediate Trial Motion May Be Renewed

Justice Morschauser denied yesterday in the Supreme Court in White Plains a motion made by Isaac N. Mills, counsel for Walter S. Ward, for immediate trial or dismissal of the indictment charging his client with the murder of Clarence Peters, who was found dead from a bullet wound near Kensico reservoir last May.

"At this time," runs the indorsement on the papers, "motion denied without prejudice to renew at any term of this court."

Mr. Mills said he intended to place the motion before the court again, though probably not until January, owing to the shortness of the December term.

Turks Refuse To Help Reds Enter Parley

(Continued from page one)

calls for restitution of the Mosul province and oil fields he is prepared to stand pat on that point. This now is the one question on which a conference crisis may develop.

The demilitarization of the Straits with full liberty for all nations, Ismet said, had practically been agreed on by the Turks, and therefore no argument is probable on it. Asked if Turkey would discuss the Straits matter if the Russians did not come here, he answered, "The Russians will be here."

He also admitted adherence to the principle of Bulgaria's access to the sea, and said in answer to a question that Turkey had great hopes after peace is made of receiving loans, not only from England, but from everybody, as his country is ready for the development of its rich resources and outside aid will be welcomed.

The Turks admitted to-day they have made concessions from their stand of yesterday, which brought them face to face with the Balkan bloc, supported by the greater Allies. They have some hope for benefit from to-day's backdown when important Near Eastern questions, such as the Mosul oil fields, come up.

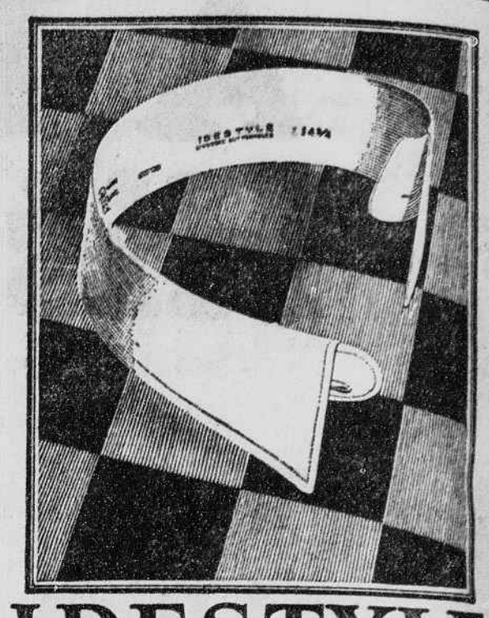
An official Egyptian delegation here has demanded admission to the conference for the purpose of explaining Egypt's troubles and to insist on the termination of British influence in Egypt. The delegation, which is headed by Said Zaghoul Pasha, who has been in exile at Gibraltar, communicated with the president of the conference by letter saying, "Egypt considers herself absolutely independent.

"The only fiflaw in her independence is the presence of England in the Nile valley, and Egypt has a firm conviction the Lausanne conference can repair this injustice." Emphasis is placed upon the claim that to leave Egypt as at present will encourage the greatest danger to her peace and order. The delegation insists it has a mandate from the Egyptian people to speak in its name.

1,500 Hotel Men Attend Banquet of Association

With nearly 1,500 hotel men, representing all of the larger and most of the smaller cities in the country, present, the thirty-sixth annual banquet of the New York Hotel Association was held last night at the Commodore. Those who sat at the guest table were F. N. Bain, J. K. Blatchford, Frank A. K. Boland, Mark A. Cadwell, C. J. Campbell, Dr E. J. Cattel, Colonel Charles Consolvo, Dr. Royal S. Copeland, E. H. Crandall, Frederick E. Crane, Colonel Charles Duffy, Charles E. Gehring, E. C. Green, T. D. Green, Frank C. Hall, J. F. McAdams, C. R. Nott, B. B. Odell, Spencer Penrose, A. L. Race, Fred A. Reed, H. W. Reilly, Edward M. Tierney and J. J. Walker.

The banquet was the climax of National Hotel Week, which is being held this week with an exposition at the Grand Central Palace. A meeting of the executive council and officers of the American Hotel Association was held yesterday morning at the Waldorf and at the exposition "Chefs Day" was observed. Hundreds viewed the monumental exhibits of French and Swiss culinary art during the day. Prizes were awarded for the finest exhibits.



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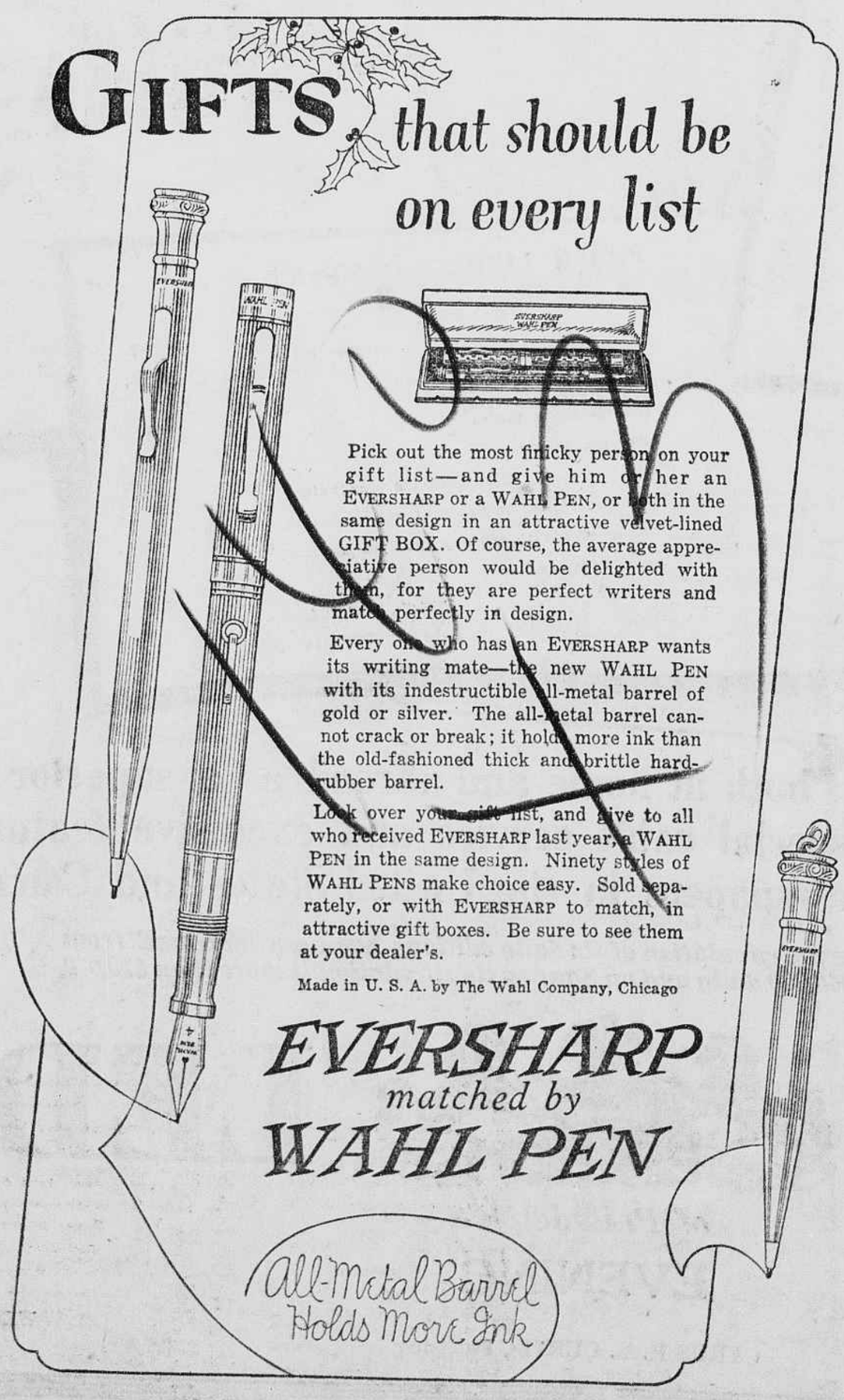

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