

SCRAPPING TREATY

Germany Not to Be Restored at Expense of Allies.

BY FRANK H. SIMONDS.

In so far as the results of the San Remo conference are accurately disclosed in the formal statements which have been issued by the participants, this gathering represents a complete reversal for that fraction of the British public press and public men which has undertaken to establish the principle that the treaty of Versailles must be "scrapped" as the first step toward improving international relations and that in place of making Germany pay anything, France, Poland and the United States should be compelled to pay the costs of the rehabilitation of Germany.

Of these voices which have been raised in protest from the moment of the signing of the treaty of Versailles here and during the entire British participation in the war at the moment when the Germans assailed France and invaded Belgium, in measure this view represents that odd fusion of pacifism, idealism and enlightened self-interest, which the world has come to regard as the normal product of Manchester.

Lovers Feeling for England.

It cannot be discussed that this position has injured Great Britain in the eyes of the nations which were associated with her in the war and in the peace-making, for the very simple reason that in the peace-making the lion's share of the spoils victory fell to the British. This was due in part to the accidents of the war itself and in part to the skill of the British diplomats at Paris, which far surpassed that of all other negotiators.

But looking at the British gains, resulting from the common effort and the common sacrifice, the French might well be pardoned some indignation at seeing an influential element in Britain, momentarily possessed of the ear of the prime minister, insisting that France should resign her far more moderate gains and, above all, her own security, in the interests of a new world settlement, while no suggestion was advanced that any sacrifice should be made by Britain. To ask France to resign her coal indemnities in the name of the Poles to surrender their claims to upper Silesia, to ask the continental nations to abandon guaranteed reparations, far less impressive in the aggregate than British profits in the interests of a better peace, of German rehabilitation, is to ask much and to ask it uselessly, even dangerously.

Exactly the same was true when certain spokesmen of this British school, notably Keynes, suggested that the United States should, by cancelling the loans made to the European nations, contribute \$10,000,000,000 in the case of re-organizing Germany, this \$10,000,000,000 in fact, to be deducted from the sum total of German payments. No one can mistake the resentment this proposal excited wherever in the United States it was understood.

Wiser Policy at San Remo.

Now at San Remo a wiser policy seems to have been adopted. The attempt to save European economic life by restoring Germany at the expense of all the nations attacked by her. Instead, the course has been rejected, the far wiser policy of compelling Germany to perform in so far as she is able to perform, the duties which are demanded by the future of the world.

Aside from its effect upon the nations associated with Great Britain in the alliance which won the war, the worst feature of the British agitation was the degree to which it encouraged the Germans to refuse to comply with the treaty which it embodied. Actually the result in any respect, to give aid and comfort to precisely those elements in Germany which precipitated the war, gave character and caused those devastations and destructions for which Germany is now asked to pay.

On the subject of the necessity to help to restore the economic life of Germany there is no wide difference of opinion anywhere in the world. The French quite as much as the British were glad to see Germany going back to normal life with the same promptness which France displayed after 1870. Germany complying with the terms of the treaty of Versailles as joyfully as the French complied with those of the treaty of Frankfurt would be for the French the most pleasing of all possible prospects.

Difficulty About Germany.

But the difficulty has been and remains that Germany has not accepted the treaty of Versailles; instead, from the outset she has adopted a policy which varies between passive resistance and open defiance. It is conceded that there are portions of the treaty which are unenforceable, it is conceded that there are portions which the whole world agrees should be enforced. But it is precisely these provisions which the world believes should be applied that the Germans are most eagerly seeking to evade, particularly the disarmament clauses. The mood of the world is quite different from the prevailing sentiment of 1918. It is no longer a common agreement that Germany could obtain from her conquerors very real and very great concessions, provided she displayed the most unflinching evidence of any willingness to accept the decision of the war, to abandon her old leaders and her old policies. But if the world undeniably feels less bitter toward the German people today than it did a year or two ago, it does not feel more kindly toward the military leaders of the German nation, and precisely these elements and these policies retain ascendancy in Germany, as witnessed by recent events. The result remains the willing or the unwilling prisoner, it hardly matters much which of the military elements.

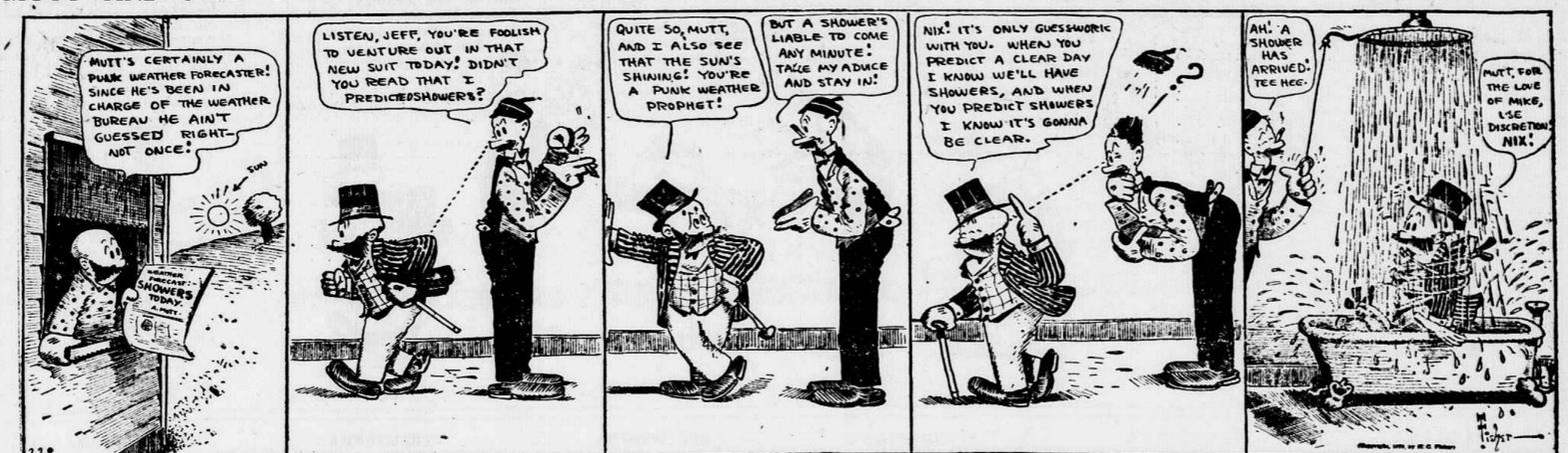
The British agitation to modify the treaty has resulted, not in any concomitant modification of German spirit, but in a rebirth of the old spirit. The more the Manchester school has denounced the treaty, the more the Londoners have gained in assurance. Manchester is, in fact, and not for the first time in its history, playing the part which John Randolph once described in our own politics as the alliance between the British and the blackbird, although in this case it has been the partnership between the pacifist and the Prussian.

Other Views in England.

It is a mistake to associate this Manchester school with British sentiment as a whole, to believe that the British nation as a unit has embraced the selfishness which has been expressed by Keynes, which is expressed in the idea that Germany must be saved if it takes the last French franc and no modest portion of the American dollars remaining available. On the contrary very earnest and honest voices have been raised in Britain against this policy, and not a few Englishmen have appreciated the fact that such a course had for British reputation in the world.

Lloyd George, at San Remo, has at last taken note of the British position and has returned to the logical and inevitable basis of requiring Germany to take the first step toward the first evidence of good faith, of a real intention to perform within the limits of possibility. If this policy ends the Manchester-Franklin alliance, the British will survive and Germany will find economic health. Any other policy is foredoomed to failure because the

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CRANDALL'S AVENUE GRAND 445 7th Ave. N.E. TODAY—LEWIS SARGENT, in "HUCKLEBERRY FINN." TOMORROW—TAYLOR HOLMES, in "NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH."

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NEXT "The Bird of Paradise" News-Magazine, May 4, at 8:30.

FOUR THEFTS REPORTED.

Motor Truck Is Included in Varied Assortment of Loot.

An open window last night made it easy for a robber to gain access to the residence of Richard Sauer, 617 7th street northeast, during the temporary absence of occupants. Jewelry and money to the amount of \$125 were stolen.

Theft of a motor truck from the rear of 1245 Wisconsin avenue was reported by Alexander St. John, 4314 Wisconsin avenue. The truck was taken Sunday night.

James Dambrosio, 335 C street southeast, told the police that a colored boy stole more than \$10 from his cash drawer yesterday afternoon.

Burglars visited the apartment of Francis Richards, Chatham Court, several days ago and stole two quarts of whisky and an amethyst pin.

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