EXCLUSIVE DISPATCHES FROM THE WAR FRONTS VIVIDLY PORTRAYING GREAT WORLD EVENTS

HAS TRIUMPH OF LLOYD GEORGE

Hall Caine Derides Prophecy That Irish Policy Will Cause Fall

"FIRED NATION'S SOUL"

Premier's Enemies Are Compared to Those of Washington, Pitt and Lincoln

By HALL CAINE

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The prophets of doom are saying that the Lloyd George Government is approaching its hour of destiny. If it lives through the next few weeks, it may survive the war, but a considerable body of the vigorously energetic and vehemently vocal persons in Parliament and the press have decided that it shall not live. They are not Nationalists, nor Unionists, but disaffected Liberals who were followers of the last administration and have never been faithful to the present one.

The Irish question is to be the cause of the collapse, the new Home Rule bill, whatever it may be, will fail, the Government will resign, no other Government will be possible under the present Parliament, there will be a general election and then—nobody seems to know what will happen then.

The prophets of doom may be right, but one thing seems certain. If the Government is to fight for its life during the next few weeks, Ireland may be the excuse for the struggle, but it cannot be the battlefield. The disaffected Liberals of the late administration will not challenge Home Rule. They are already committed to it. Neither will they condemn the conscription of Ireland. The feeling of England, Scotland and Wales is too strong and deep for them. No English, Welsh or Scottish Liberal will be so bold as to question the sole right of the Empire to control imperial issues. No candidate outside of Ireland who values his seat or even his safety will dare by any jugglery of principle with expediency to make common cause with the Sinn Fein. No priesthood, outside of the Irish priesthood, will encourage their people to believe that while all other British subjects must fight and die, Irish subjects may resist and live.

Charges Against the Premier

Where, then, if not over Ireland, will the battle have to be fought? If the Government has to go to the country over the body of the Prime Minister himself and his alleged sins and shortcomings in the prosecution of the war, those sins and shortcomings, though they be many and however unwelcome the task, it seems to be the duty of such of those who believe the present Prime Minister to be the only possible Prime Minister under the existing conditions and the only statesman in this country who commands at once the sympathy of a majority of our own people and the confidence of the people and Governments of our allies, to make full and frank summary in advance of the charges that are certain to be made against him on the election platforms in order that they may be seen for what they are worth, and thus show the real character of their subject—untouched for rectitude, for patriotic spirit and for ability to prosecute our British end of the war.

First, it will be said that, having become Prime Minister, Lloyd George, who had hitherto been nothing if not a democrat, violated the first principles of democracy by abolishing the cabinet, which in Parliamentary government is understood to be responsible to the nation, by assuming a position of authority more absolute than had ever before been occupied by any servant of the people, by gathering about him as his chief directing assistants a group of advisers who, as regards their rank and official position, were not responsible to Parliament, and as regards their political record and opinion were notoriously opposed to every democratic aspiration.

Had No Effect On Will To Win

It may be white truth or black lie, but whether truth or lie can it be said that the fact, if fact it is, has had any effect on the nation's will to wage and win the war? It cannot with truth and justice be said to have done so.

Next it will be said that by way of reward for the assistance he has received from the group of journalists who are charged with bludgeoning his predecessor out of power he has granted them facilities which have been denied to their professional colleagues; that with his own journalistic instinct and his sure knowledge of the best way to work upon the public mind he has encouraged, if not inspired, such a raking and harrowing of the ground he intended to plow as has given the effect of special and unfair advantage in the use of Government secrets to private organizations, and that, above all, he has tolerated, if not invited, a kind of unofficial collaboration in legislation, in the management of the war, and in the highest functions of Ministers on the part of certain outstanding journalists who, whatever their capacity for government, have no mandate from either the Crown or people, and therefore no responsibility to either.

It may be white truth or black lie, but whether truth or lie, can it be said that the fact, if fact it is, has had any recognizable effect on the fortunes of the war?

Has Dismissed Officials

Next it will be said that, acting under outside influence, and in order to retain his hold of power, he permitted or from time to time to impose a rule upon military and naval chiefs, even to dismiss from the service of the nation, for reasons which have not yet been divulged, some officials of the utmost credit and authority, silencing criticism by employing his friends on the press to discredit them in the eyes of the public.

This, it may be white truth or black lie, but whether truth or lie can it be said with any certainty that the fact, if fact it is, has ever strengthened the hand of the enemy or weakened our own?

Next, it will be said that on taking up the highest position in the State he made, and on various occasions since repeated, promises of success in finding the means of protection from attack and in security from assault which have not been fulfilled; that, whether from reckless overoptimism or shocks which no man could have foreseen in the lamentable failure and the lamentable corruption of certain allies, he has kept his word neither to our ear and broken it to our hope.

The Theory of Incompetence

It will be said, too, that, although he has not been directly concerned with the details of the conduct of the war, he has kept in his hands the office of Minister of Munitions, and that, while he has delegated to others the duties of that office, he has not yet found time to fill the office with a man who, by his knowledge and his ability to work with others, would be able to free him from the burden of that office.

Next it will be said that, while he has been Prime Minister, the Government has been responsible for such measures as the Government of Ireland bill, the Military Service bill, the Munitions bill, the Profiteering bill, the Representation of the People bill, the Education bill, the Mines bill, the Corporation bill, the Ministry of Labor bill, the Ministry of Pensions bill, the Ministry of Health bill, the Ministry of Transport bill, the Ministry of Food bill, the Ministry of Reconstruction bill, the Ministry of Agriculture bill, the Ministry of Commerce