

FULL TEXT OF LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH—PEACE ONLY WHEN PRUSSIAN MILITARISM IS BROKEN

LLOYD-GEORGEISMS

On March 21 the enemy has been relieved of all apprehension on his eastern front by the peace of Brest-Litovsk. He had brought all his best divisions from the east. He was coming to the west and bringing them to the west. Divisions these men had enjoyed a long rest on the eastern front and had devoted their time to the study of the tactics of the new warfare. They were to be directed against the Allied armies.

On March 21 we had in front of us the power of the German army, retrained, specially equipped for the campaign. Our troops were tired by a prolonged offensive under the most exacting conditions any troops ever fought under. That is why the whole British front was new ground which had been won from the enemy. There had been no time to set up defenses, and these first troops, instead of resting, had to dig defenses.

Second German Miscalculation. "Look what has been done. In February the Americans brought over 48,000 men, I think. In January it was still fewer and the German general staff, which seems fairly well informed, came to the conclusion that what was said in the British press of our having no men was true, and they knew what was being brought over in American ships was true, and if what our newspapers of the press said about our having no ships was true, then the destruction of the Allied army was a certainty. That was one of the reasons why the German general staff was so confident. It is a mistake to contradict them. That was their second miscalculation.

Third German Miscalculation. "What was the object? The object was to attain a military decision this year before the American army could be brought over. It was to be achieved by the first of all, by the first of the two armies; then, having separated the British and French forces, overtake the British and French army and, after dealing with the British army, to turn to deal with the French army. That was the German calculation, and let us see how it worked out. It was not such an impossible estimate.

Fourth German Miscalculation. "But how did the German plan prosper? There have been four hard months of such fighting as has never been seen on the face of the earth. The losses inflicted and sustained, the valor displayed, but in the issues which hung in the balance.

Remarkable Feat of Transport. "Before the battle was over, in a fortnight's time 268,000 men were thrown across the channel, one of the most remarkable feats of British shipping, and the organization of our British transport and for the War Office. In a month's time 355,000 men had been thrown across the channel. A fresh gun had been put back for every one that was lost, and every deficiency in a machine increased, and at this moment there are more guns and more machine-guns than the army in France ever had.

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With regard to the present military situation, its essential facts are well known, but perhaps I may be permitted to summarize them as they appear to me to have been working inside. In the past we have been hearing that the German plan was to capture Paris, destroy the British army and overthrow the French, is now retreating.

The danger is not over, but he would be a sanguine man on the German side, and you would say that the German plan was to capture Paris, destroy the British army and overthrow the French, is now retreating.

tion take place than the constituent assembly was dispersed by force. "The idea that we are behaving honorably toward a great democratic government has nothing in common with the facts of the case. There is no democratic government in Russia now. What ever its professions, it is a government by force, and our only policy was to deal with the de facto government, and that is not easy. We have not the slightest desire to interfere with the Russian people, and we have certainly no intention of imposing upon them any particular government. That is a matter entirely for themselves, but when Germany imposing her authority on large tracts and expelling or attempting to exploit them to the detriment of the Allies, against the will of the people, we feel at any rate that the Russian people ought to be free to decide for themselves.

Czechoslovak Movement. "The Czechoslovak movement is a very remarkable movement. The only desire of the Czechoslovaks was to leave Russia and to come to the west to fight for the Allies. They asked us for ships to bring them away. I say this because I wish to make it clear that we are not exploiting the Czechoslovaks in order to interfere with Russian people in more and more seeking Allied assistance. We shall not hesitate to render every help in our power to liberate them from this cruel oppression.

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