

ENGLAND HAS NO QUARREL WITH US

Writer in London Observer Sees Way to Settle Sea Problem

WANTS FREE DISCUSSION

Believes British and American Navies Could Keep Peace in World

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J. L. Garvin prints in the Observer a five-column article which shows a more intelligent appreciation of the Anglo-American situation than some other Sunday papers yesterday reflect. His chief points are made as follows:

"Wilson and his people have given to Canning's most famous phrase an extension and grandeur never guessed before. They have brought the New World into action to redress the balance of the old.

"We hope Wilson will visit this country. No possible difficulty about the freedom of the seas or anything else, however frankly these things may have to be faced in council, would throw a shadow of reserve on our reception to the President.

"There is no question that we cannot face in a spirit of kinship and honesty when we can come to the round table to know each other's minds and reasons, but it never entered our minds to desire any exclusive or selfish connection or to interrupt America's free dealings in any way with the rest of the world. With France and other of our neighbors in eastern Europe we must be more intimately linked than ever.

"We in this country, grateful to the American press as a whole for a thousand generous, sudden and ourselves denounced by a few Democratic newspapers as little better than junkies and militarists of the sea, though this denunciation is urged on principles which would have endured the triumph of German aggression over Belgium and France and the utter sacrifice of free nations to free goods supplied for the nourishment of armed iniquity. On our hand, many Americans, who would reject that thesis with horror, do not understand even yet British motives, a character, and we may believe we are out to grab all we can hold in territory and trade. This is a mixed picture, is unexpected, and in several ways is disconcerting. We all have to face it if we are to put things right.

"Let us be frank and friendly about the only thing which can stand in the way, the one thing which stands in the way. It is the demand for what grievously is misnamed the freedom of the seas. Two nations are not going to quarrel about that even if they should decide to differ about it. We regret, profoundly that the issue was ever raised, but we think we understand how it came to be raised. We think we see our way to dispose of it, and we are not fussing or worrying about it. On one line or another a solution can be reached or an alternative adopted. We are told

that if we do not accept freedom of the seas the consequences will be such a development of the American navy that might make it as large as our own or even larger. Very well. America is perfectly entitled to do in this, as in other respects, whatever on the balance of all considerations she may think worth while, and wise. We can settle it on that proposal and shake hands.

"We are not by temperament a jealous or acrimonious people, especially not where the American is concerned, and we are not prone to melodramatic fears or suspicions. There already is in this country, after the English-speaking comradeship in war an incalculable stock of increased good will for America to draw on. We know that in the United States there is a large and increasing stock of answering good will for Britain to draw on. Let us both keep our sense of reality and even bring a little Anglo-American humor to bear on the affair.

"We can embrace and insure Wilson's main ideal—a league of nations—over and above that we can give the President virtually every item but one in his original fourteen points of January and several supplementary points made in his speeches and messages. There is only one point which it is absolutely impossible for us to give. No British Government whatever would give it, and to give it would ruin the project of a league of nations from the start. It would undermine the whole safety of the European Allies and diminish the prospects of European stability. It would be a most certain temptation to the German race, not to make a great change of heart and doctrine, but to work for the restoration of German hegemony in some suitable crisis which might be engineered or arise out of itself. It would abolish any certain tangible politico-economic security for maintenance of the world's peace.

"We must think thirty years ahead in this matter. The future of Germany is yet uncertain. It may be weak; after a few decades or less it may be very strong. It may be stronger than ever relatively to any other single country in Germany's neighborhood.

"Germany could afford to do without a navy, since the misnamed principle of the freedom of the seas would serve her in-

stead. Sure of full maritime nourishment, she could assault France and Britain and others by a fuller land power and air power, and this while the British sea power would be crippled by any proposition of that kind.

"We have to say, No. We cannot surrender the primary conditions of our existence. We cannot concede what will be resultant to and Germany would regard, and rightly, as a final British defeat. In one sentence, we cannot throw victory clean away, and we cannot make to Germany a real surrender of the war, even though that surrender were conveyed through American hands.

"Let us sweep away from the Anglo-American atmosphere, from the inter-allied or associated atmosphere, the whole miasma of this question. Let us shake hands upon other bases. Let America get right ahead, if she will, with the development of her own navy. Let her claim for herself in emergency those true and only principles of real freedom of the seas, which she herself used in the past, and which we and the whole free world have found necessary in the past, and, above all, in the recent war. America, like Britain, may need these principles. We may need them together. Who knows? If the British and American navies proved capable of comradeship, like no other two maritime services in the world and combine to keep the peace at least until there are other and equally tangible securities for peace, nothing whatever can disturb it. It is the only sure way in that spirit we are certain that two English-speaking Powers will arrive at excellent arrangements for adjusting the discharge of those main responsibilities for maritime safety and influence which must always devolve upon them."

"Mr. Garvin's conclusions are much on the lines of the Round Table's suggestions already cabled.

Offerings for Refugees Christmas offerings for the Armenian and Syrian children were taken in many Sunday schools yesterday. Sunday school superintendents told the story of the thousands of Armenian and Syrian children in various parts of Asia Minor, many of whom are in danger of starvation. Large numbers of the refugees are children.

METZ WELCOMES FRENCH LEADERS

Poincare Gets Joyful Reception on First Visit to Lorraine Capital

AMERICANS LEAD WAY

By the Associated Press Metz, Dec. 9.

After giving many hearty greetings to the French troops three weeks ago, Metz yesterday received President Poincare and representatives of every branch of the French Government. The enthusiasm shown was more than significant.

In the first surprise at again finding themselves French, the people of Lorraine were unable to express their emotion. They now have become familiar with the entrance of General Mangin's army. They have become accustomed to French occupation, which, true to the military spirit for which they are famous, they thoroughly enjoy.

Greeted as Official Entry The visit of President Poincare and representatives of the French Government meant more than military occupation. The people of Metz looked upon it as a sort of official entry into possession of the city. They approved of it by the presence of a vast throng that continually cheered President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau, Marshal Joffre, Foch and Petain, and Field Marshal Haig and General Pershing, who were included in the official party that assembled here.

All the hunting in Metz was flying when the presidential train pulled into the station a little after 9 o'clock. The streets were as crowded as it was possible to allow in view of the space required for the passage of the official party.

The girls of Metz, wearing their national costumes, were banded on both sides of the street from the station to

the Esplanade. Behind them were packed men and women carrying the French flag and wearing artificial tricolor bouquets in default of real flowers.

Shouts acclaiming the President, the Premier and the general officers could be heard from the Esplanade long before their carriages appeared in sight. All around the square of the Esplanade were great grandstands, while crowds covered the house tops and filled the windows, giving the visitors a hearty welcome. Marshals Joffre, Foch and Petain and Generals Pershing, Fayolle and Gouraud received the warmest greetings when they were recognized by the great throng.

A notable feature was the presentation of the baton of a marshal of France to General Petain, announcement of whose elevation to rank of marshal was made last month. The crowd gave a tremendous cheer when President handed the baton to the marshal, and another as Premier Clem-

enceau advanced to give the noted soldier the accolade. But the enthusiasm which seemed then to have reached its limit took another upward bound when President Poincare embraced Premier Clemenceau.

The ceremony took place on the Esplanade in front of the statue of Marshal Ney. The 121st Regiment of the Thirty-third Division of the American army was drawn up on one side and the famous French marines in front. Other French troops formed the other side of the rectangular space.

The American troops had the honor of leading the line during the review, and the "Star Spangled Banner" was wildly cheered as the regiment marched by in columns of eight in faultless style. The marines of Dixmude, whose fame had reached Metz even during the hostilities, provoked fresh outbursts of cheering, as did the passages of various sections of the troops in review.

The societies of Lorraine—bands of

men and women, young and old—filled through the streets during the morning, singing the "Marseillaise," thus adding to the general enthusiasm.

Paris, Dec. 9.—(By A. P.)—General Mangin will enter Mayence (Mainz), the French bridgehead on the Rhine, this week at the head of the Thirteenth and Forty-third Infantry Divisions, each unit of which has been cited for bravery.

In order to meet the wishes of various units which desire to enter Alsace, Lorraine and the Rhine provinces, the Government has decided, according to the Echo de Paris to change from time to time the troops in the occupied region. French troops will be sent to the Rhine bridgeheads and into the Palatinates and also into the American sphere of occupation. These troops will be relieved later by other units.

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