

## RUSSIAN PEACE GESTURE NOT CONSIDERED SINCERE

Good Faith in a Nation Is As Essential As in The Private Individual and Britain Doubts Russia's Faith

### A THORNY OLIVE BRANCH

When twenty-four nations meet at a given point to discuss disarmament, and the representative of one of them submits a comprehensive draft of a treaty for world-wide disarmament within four years, only to see the proposal raked fore and aft because of its impracticability, the Canadian reader of newspaper dispatches from Geneva naturally begins to wonder what this disarmament business is all about, why the Russian proposal to outlaw war was not seriously considered at the meeting. Only Germany and Turkey backed the attempt of Maxim Litvinoff, head of the Soviet delegation, to secure consideration of his disarmament proposal, we are told while representatives of Great Britain and the United States riddled the Russian proposal with heavy broadsides of verbal shot and shell, and finally sank it without trace.

What is the answer? The Soviet draft proposed that navies be scrapped entirely; that military establishments be reduced to purely internal police forces; in short, that land, sea, and air forces be abolished. This is the second time that Russia has made this proposal within the last four months, and the chief reason it has been unfavorably received, the majority of English newspaper editors agree, is that Russia's good faith is questioned. To quote M. Litvinoff: "The Soviet Government does not need either an army or navy for aggressive purposes, as we desire to remain at peace with all countries. The Soviet Government has interested itself in the problem of the establishment of peace and the banishment from international life of that scourge of human society, war, ever since it came into existence."

"Quite independently of the League of Nations, and on its own initiative, the Soviet Government suggested as long ago as 1922, at the first international conference at Genoa, in which

bassardor Hugh Gibson, head of the American delegation:

"The American Government believes wholeheartedly that a multilateral treaty outlawing war would be welcomed by the whole world, and believes that such a treaty would be more successful in attaining world peace than any scheme of disarmament. The Russian proposals are totally out of spirit with our work. I see no reason to vary our usual procedure in order to continue the Russian discussion."

Russia, explains the St. Joseph News-Press, "has been doing all in her power to corrupt the armies and navies of other nations; she has done her best to sow disaffection and to promote the world revolution. And now she suggests disarmament. . . . The Soviet olive branch would be more convincing if her neighbors could be sure she did not have a weapon concealed in the other hand." In the opinion of the New York Evening Post, "the Litvinoff proposal was 'a political gesture, by which Moscow aimed to enhance its prestige as a peace-loving nation.'" The plan bore upon its face the marks of sincerity, "but the background from which it came stamped it with hypocrisy, for it is still the plan of Moscow to promote armed insurrection among the nations of the world." To lay down arms would be as well planned, declares the Albany Knickerbocker Press, "would leave the door open to intrigue and disaster." In fact, concludes the Lynchburg News:

"The Soviet proposal is fantastic in the extreme. There is no compulsion back of the plan. All nations agree to disarm, and the honest ones disarm, while the dishonest ones do not. The result would then be that the predatory nations would rule the world. Even if all disarmed, there would be

## Germany's Hope For Ocean Flight



HAD TO WAIT IN IRELAND FOR BETTER WEATHER CONDITIONS

## One a Fake Anyway

Diebel, Silesian Miner, Explains How He Tricked Audiences With Similar Display

Berlin.—Soldom have pilgrimages in modern days reached the proportions of one visiting the little South German village of Konnersreuth this Easter tide. A week ago it was generally announced that Theresa Neumann, the new noted stigmatic, was bleeding more freely than ever.

For a long time Theresa had not had her strange visitations and scoffers charged it to the fact that much-needed repairs were being made to the most impassable roads to the hamlet and tourists were unable to pay their usual visits. However, the highway now is in good condition and jammed with autos, carriages, motorcycles, vans and pedestrians.

A Bishop from Munich and several aides visited Konnersreuth last week, but failed to reveal their impressions. The family still maintains that the girl has not eaten since Christmas, 1926, though during the road building period she was reported to have returned to normal health with an excellent appetite.

Meanwhile, Diebel, the Silesian wonder in the Berlin Winter garden, has disclosed his secret to the public, saying that shortly before his appearance he scratched his flesh with his finer nails or a sharp instrument, being careful not to cut it. On the stage, by contracting his muscles, these formerly invisible lines assumed blood-red hue and often bled.

## South Africa's Status Debated In Parliament

House Adopts the Report on the Resolutions of the Imperial Conference

Cape Town.—The South African House of Assembly has unanimously adopted the report on the Imperial Conference resolutions of 1926, which was moved by Premier J. B. M. Hertzog, more than two weeks ago. The feature of the debate was the Premier's declaration that South Africa had a right to be neutral if Great Britain were at war, and the repudiation of this attitude by Gen. Jan Christian Smuts, former Premier, and also by Col. F. H. P. Creswell, Minister of Defense, a Labor member of the Hertzog Government.

General Hertzog's claim to the right of neutrality was based on what he termed the "Dominion's new-found independence" and the right of each Dominion to be the sole judge as to the extent of its cooperation within the Empire.

Freedom and Equality. He asked the House to vote for the

motion to adopt the report on the Imperial conference, not on account of what it might mean to any particular person, but because of the unmistakable language in which it said what it meant, and in "which it declared to us 'our freedom'—our freedom and equality, our absolute equality in the freedom to exercise every function, every power, every privilege of national life, without owing any subordination to any authority outside of ourselves."

General Smuts, in opposing the Premier's neutrality stand, declared that "the same king could not be both at war and at peace in the same empire." He strongly deprecated the position the Premier had taken on the question, and said it was one that ought to be looked upon as purely academic.

Colonel Creswell could not conceive of South Africa or any other Dominion wishing to remain neutral if Great Britain were at war and there had been previous consultations in the matter between the British Government and the governments of the Dominions.

## Five to Attempt Atlantic Flights Westward Soon

Tri-Motored Monoplane, Piloted by Maurice Drouhin, Plans Start Early in May

Paris.—Undismayed by the failure which has met all aviators who have attempted to span the north Atlantic, at least five expeditions are or soon will be in preparation to challenge the ocean this spring. In several instances plans are being made by companies and pilots who wished to attempt the flight last year, but were prevented by adverse weather.

Most of the expeditions thus far are in the formative stage. One plane, however, already is completed, has been publicly shown, and soon will begin trial flights. It is a big tri-motored monoplane, designed and built by the twenty-three-year-old engineer, Rene Couzinet.

Maurice Drouhin, who was engaged to pilot Charles Levine last summer when Levine was planning to fly home from Europe, has been selected to pilot the plane. Drouhin, known as one of the most capable of French aviators, lost considerable prestige as a result of his tilt with Levine, and since has been particularly eager for an opportunity to try the flight. Though the crew has not been selected, the plane is constructed to carry, in addition to the pilot, a relief pilot, a navigator, a radio operator and one passenger.

The plane measures twenty-seven meters from wing tip to wing tip. It is powered with three motors, each of 180 horsepower, and each enclosed in a separate engine room easily accessible from the cabin. The aviators plan to carry a load of 9,000 kilos of fuel and equipment. At present they believe it will be necessary to use only two of the three motors after the starting load has been diminished. A reserve motor, they believe, would make their expedition safer and more certain of success than

has been the case with any of the other attempted east-west flights.

The plane has been christened the Arc-en-Ciel. Trial flights are to begin within two or three weeks, from the field at Orly. The French government already has asked the Weather Bureau at Washington for Atlantic weather reports to be studied in plotting the flight, though it is believed the weather and winds over the ocean will not be suitable for westward flying until after May 1.

Artist (showing friend round his studio)—"The trouble is that only about one person in ten knows a good picture from a bad one in these days." Friend—"That's a bit of luck for some of you fellows, isn't it?"

## Fame Doesn't Help



DRAMATIST HOME BREAKS UP Mrs. Eugene O'Neill intimates that she has had enough of the dramatist as a mate and is arranging for a separation. She was his staunch helpmeet when he was in obscurity.

## Salvagers Using Air to Float Battleship Sunk in Scapa Flow

London.—Salvage work said to be unique in engineering history is being carried on at Scapa Flow by Cox & Shanks, who, having already raised twenty-six destroyers of the German fleet, are now engaged in the gigantic task of floating the battleship Seydlitz.

The Seydlitz lay upon her side. To turn her over and raise her upright it has been estimated would have cost more than \$300,000—too much to show a profit on the transaction. The salvage engineers, therefore, have worked out a plan to float the huge ship, weighing 25,000 tons and having a length of 656 feet, on her side and to tow her in this position to the breaking-up depot six miles away. She lay at a depth of more than eighty feet

## Golden Rule Taken As Motoring Guide

"Drive as You Would Have Others Drive" Is Slogan of Washington Crusade

Washington.—Thousands of Washington motorists have pledged themselves to "drive as you would have others drive" as a result of a Golden Rule crusade for safe driving conducted by the Washington Star. The Golden Rule, the Star points out, "is the one fundamental traffic law."

A gilded automobile cruised quietly through the city during the crusade week exemplifying the merits of careful driving. A feature motion picture starring local children was produced to encourage motorists to drive through residential and school zone districts as though their own children were at play in the vicinity.

Golden pledge cards numbering 50,000 were distributed to school children who took them home for parents to sign. Boy Scouts solicited pledges of mail of the Government department. The crusade was endorsed by prominent federal and District of Columbia officials, Vice-President Dawes and Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, were among the first to sign the pledge. The safety division of the Department of Commerce expressed the view that the campaign might well be taken up by other cities.

## Reminiscent of The Scottish Greys



RED CAVALRY IS MADE UP OF OLD COSSACK REGIMENTS

The Red Cavalry is different to that which was worn by the czar's forces, but this is a typical Cossack riding suit. The uniform was taken at a great military spectacle in and around Moscow, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Red Army. The pageant was something grand.

It is pertinent to the first question discussed here that of general disarmament.

"During its ten years' existence the Soviet Government has never attacked any of its neighbors, has declared no war upon anybody, and has taken no part in the warlike adventures of other States. The fact that the Soviet Government, having no obligations whatsoever toward the League, voluntarily cooperates with this commission, seems additional testimony to its sincerity and good faith.

"The Soviet Government declares it is ready to abolish all military forces in accordance with its draft convention as soon as a similar decision is passed and simultaneously carried out by other States."

Count von Bernstorff, head of the German delegation, also remarked during one of the stormy sessions at Geneva:

"I have been a member of this Commission for more than two years, and on no less than twenty occasions have I heard it asserted here that all our work would be futile because Russia was not represented; but now Russia is here, and the Commission decides to do nothing."

It remained for Lord Cushendun, formerly Ronald McNeill, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as head of the British delegation, to reply to the Litvinoff proposal. Said the successor of Viscount Cecil, in part:

"In what spirit are these proposals made? Our object is to establish world peace on a firm basis, and I assume the desire of the Soviet is likewise. What kind of peace? There are two kinds of war; also there are two kinds of peace. There is international war and civil war. Civil war is the more horrible.

"For years past the Soviet policy expressed by its leaders has been to produce armed insurrections in every nation where they can exercise influence. We must have assurance given by M. Litvinoff that there is a complete change of policy. Has the Soviet Government decided no longer to interfere in the affairs of other nations?"

As for the United States, said Am-

nothing to keep one nation from making its police force large enough to overawe those who scrupulously kept their compact. Where there are no battleships and submarines or cruisers or war-planes, merchant vessels would be as useful in war, if armed, as warships now are, and the nation with the most merchant ships, and unscrupulous enough to manufacture arms in secret, would be the nation that would impose its will upon the world. That being the case, absolute confidence among all the nations is essential to the success of the Soviet program. And where is that confidence? What nation, for instance, would be willing to depend for its existence upon its confidence in a rejuvenated Russia?"

## Air Mail Service Will Be Resumed

Connections With Liners at Rimouski to Be Increased This Summer

Ottawa.—With the opening of navigation on the St. Lawrence about the end of this month, the air mail service from Rimouski will be resumed. Last year the service was confined to Montreal—although one trip was made to Ottawa. This year, however, there will be an extension and both Ottawa and Toronto are included in the air mail program.

The first mail liner of the season is expected at Rimouski on the night of April 27 or the morning of the 28th. The mail will be put on board the airplane and brought to Montreal where it will be re-distributed on planes for delivery in Toronto and Ottawa.

Further expansion of Canada's air mail service is contemplated and efforts may shortly be made to reach an agreement with the United States in regard to connecting up with the trans-continental air lines at Albany, N.Y.

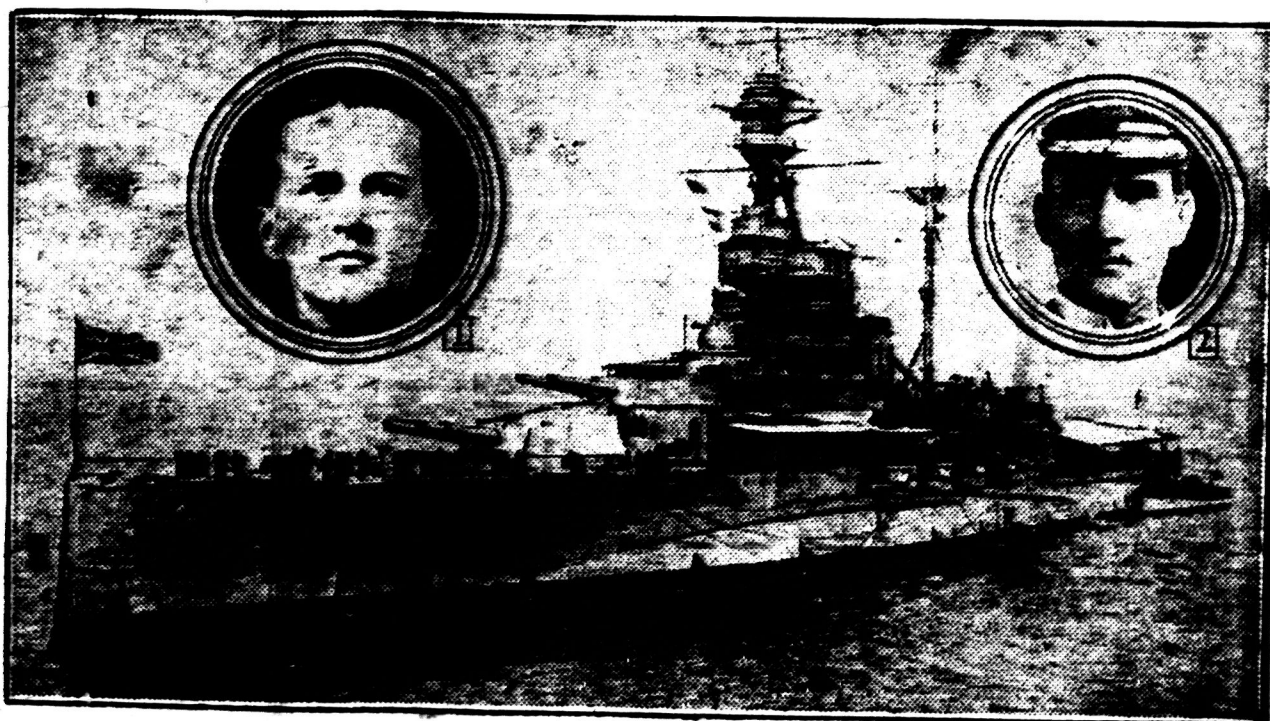
With the opening of the St. Lawrence navigation the winter air mail service to Anticosti and the Magdalen Islands will be discontinued.

## Patriotism and Buying

London Morning Post (Cons.): The problem of combining patriotism and buying is not without its difficulties in a land where no tariff imposes sufficient preferences to make the purchase of Empire products obligatory on all except the rich. Taste in all its forms gives matter for disputes past ending, and in the case of patriotic products and luxuries which concern the palate the purchaser will, as a general rule, insist on obtaining what he wants with little consideration of its place of origin. If patriotism and palate clash, it is to be feared that given human weakness, palate will win.

A contemporary states that there are two Russian lunatics who think they are Trotsky. It does not say which one of them is right.

## The Royal Oak and the Two Victims



BRITISH NAVY DISCIPLINE MAINTAINED Commander Daniel (1) and Captain Dewart (2) were both relieved of their command temporarily due to their action in criticizing Rear Admiral Collard in writing. The Admiral was undoubtedly what might be termed a bully of rank. He used his position to unduly abuse Commander Daniel and others. British public opinion, it would appear, has sympathy for the two officers shown above and Admiral Collard will in the end pay the greatest penalty in loss of prestige.