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### THE INTIMATE PAPERS OF COLONEL HOUSE

Friend And Adviser Of President Wilson - Recounts In His Diary The Great Events Of The War In Which His Country Was Concerned.

Continued from page 4 'At the meeting the British, represented by General Wilson, and the Italians, represented by General Diaz, voted for further encroachment on German territory. Bliss was outvoted two to one. Foch said nothing and did not indicate his mind. However, he asked Bliss to remain behind and they discussed the question together for three quarters of an hour. Foch told Bliss that he was in thorough sympathy with the American position and that the position, taken by the British and Italians might bring a clash, and then every thing would flame up again. The Armistice would be a thing of the past, and war of a certain sort would be on, Foch expressed the opinion that an immediate peace should be made with Germany so that the wheels of industry should be started in motion throughout the world. This has been my contention all the time. He thought the situation full of peril for us all...

I asked the President to come down in advance of the meeting of the Committee on the League of Nations, in order to tell him of the conversation between Bliss and myself. I suggested that before this matter was passed upon at the meeting of the Supreme War Council day after tomorrow, he either see Foch or get permission to use what he said to Bliss when he argued the matter with Clemenceau, Lloyd George, and Orlando.'

### RESOLUTION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

Paris, February 12, 1919 'Detailed and final naval, military, and air conditions of the preliminary peace shall be drawn up at once by a Committee to be presided over by Marshal Foch and submitted for the approval of the Supreme War Council; these, when approved, will be presented for signature to the Germans, and the Germans shall be at once informed that this is the policy of the Associated Governments.'

This resolution was not designed to interfere with hastening work on the territorial and economic aspects of the Treaty, upon which the various committees of the Peace Conference were engaged. President Wilson had discussed with Colonel House the desirability of pushing the work along every essential line during his absence in the United States.

### HOUSE OUTLINES PROGRAMME

'February 14, 1919: The President came down this morning at ten. House wrote in his diary, "and did not leave until one. We sat in my private study for twenty minutes together, and during that time settled all the important questions that were on my mind to take up with him, before he left for America. I outlined my plan of procedure during his absence: we could button up everything during the next four weeks. He seemed startled and even alarmed at this statement. I therefore explained that the plan was not to actually bring these matters to a final conclusion but to have them ready for him to do so when he returned..."

'One of the main things we should do was to fix a programme regarding what was necessary to make preliminary peace with Germany as follows: 1. A reduction of their army and navy to a peace footing. 2. A delineation of the boundaries of Germany. This to include the cessation of the colonies. 3. The amount of money to be paid for reparation and the length of time in which to pay it. 4. An agreement as to the economic treatment of Germany.'

I asked him if he had anything else to suggest in addition to these our articles. He thought they were sufficient. I asked him to bear in mind while he was gone that it was sometimes necessary to compromise in order to get things through; not a compromise of principle but a compromise of detail: he had made many since he had been here. I did not wish him to leave expecting the impossible in all things.'

On the same evening, February 14, President Wilson left Paris for his voyage to America. Colonel House, fully empowered to rush forward the studies necessary to the drafting of the Treaty with Germany, set to work with the British Foreign Secretary, who quite as much as House desired active progress.

### CLEMENCEAU WOUNDED

Lloyd George and Orlando had left the conference to meet pressing political problems at home; they had given full powers to their Foreign Secretaries at Paris. Evidently all were agreed on the need of hastening the peace. But on Wednesday, February 19, as Clemenceau in his automobile was driving from his apartment in the rue Franklin to meet Balfour and

House, he was wounded by a Communist who fired seven shots point-blank at the Prime Minister. One of the bullets narrowly missed the spine and lodged behind the shoulder blade. Fortunately, the rascal was a bad shot, remarked Clemenceau. Retaining consciousness and completed sangfroid he was able to walk to his bedroom. But despite the assurance that the wound was not fatal, the work of the Conference seemed threatened with long delay.

'Balfour and I' wrote House, had an engagement with Clemenceau at ten o'clock. I received word at a little after nine that an attempt to assassinate him had been made and that he had been wounded. Balfour came shortly before ten to the Orillon and we had an hour and a quarter together. Baron Sonnino then came, and the three of us conferred for three quarters of an hour. We then went to the ministry of War and left our cards and made inquiry regarding the President of the Council.

'Outside the personal side of it, it is a great misfortune that Clemenceau should have been shot at this time. He had come to our way of thinking that it was best to make a quick and early peace with Germany. He was brought to this, not only by a realization that Germany was as Foch said "flattened out," but because there are grave signs of unrest in the French army. I have been trying very hard to... make the Allies feel that if peace is not made soon, trouble may some day come overnight and make it imperative that a hasty and ill-considered peace be signed.'

February 22, 1919: I received word that M. Clemenceau would like me to call for a conference... I was with him for a little over twenty minutes. The poor fellow has not been able to leave his chair since he was shot. He speaks of it as "the accident." He should not be permitted to see visitors.'

The indomitable spirit of the Prime Minister prevailed over the advice of those who wished the Conference to await his complete recovery. He agreed with Balfour and the House that work on the German Treaty should be pushed, an opinion in which Marshal Foch concurred.

### COLONEL HOUSE TO THE PRESIDENT

Paris, February 19, 1919 The following memorandum from the Chief of the British General Staff has just interested me:

'I had an interesting interview with Marshal Foch this morning in which he expressed the following views: As the result of his recent discussions with the German representatives at Treves, he is of opinion that under existing conditions we can dictate terms of peace to Germany. The German Government will agree to whatever terms we exact. But, he says, there is no time to lose. At present Germany has only one thought, and that is peace, the reasons being that her Government is insecure and wants peace in order to consolidate its position, and the people fear above all things a renewal of hostilities. Further fighting would take place on German soil, and the Germans are afraid of the devastation of their territory. In the opinion of the Marshal, Germany has at present no military forces with which she could hope to dispute the advance of the Allied armies.'

'For these reasons Germany will agree to our terms if we are prompt, but no one can say how long the existing conditions will last. Delay is dangerous. The Marshal, therefore, strongly advocates the settling at once'

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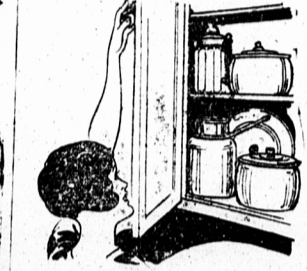
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### INSTITUTE CONVENTION

The public meeting in the evening in connection with the second district meeting of Mayfield New Glasgow, Anglo-Rustico, Stirling Bay view and Avonlea Institute, was well attended. The meeting opened with the singing of O'Canada followed by a reading by Miss Irene Wyand, "I Would Return". Chorus, "The Island Hymn". The address of the evening was given by Mrs. Ewen MacDonald, (L. M. Montgomery); in which that authoress told in her own delightful manner of her visit to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. This was followed by a chorus, "The Maple Leaf". A paper was read by Mrs. M. Doyle which was especially interesting. A reading by Sadie Johnson was followed by a talk by Dr. Creelman regarding the need of a Sanatorium, followed by questions and discussion. Votes of thanks were tendered Mrs. MacDonald, Miss MacPhail, and Dr. Creelman for their kindness and help in making the meetings more interesting. Convention closed with singing of the National Anthem.

### SPINNING & WEAVING

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