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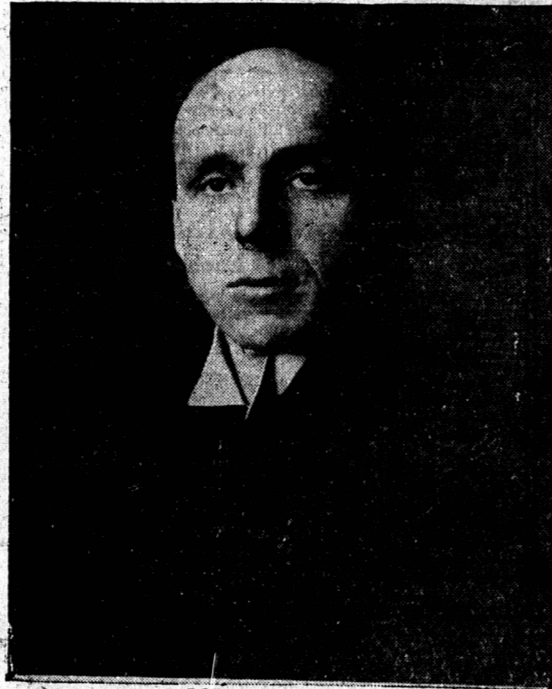
THE INTIMATE PAPERS  
OF COLONEL HOUSE

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Wilson Threatens Withdrawal  
Colonel House was depressed by the course of the conversation, although he had not concealed from himself the difficulties which he would encounter. His best hope lay in coming to an understanding with the British, for Mr. Lloyd George had intimated strongly that

should go on fighting until Germany had accepted the terms of France, England, and Italy, whatever they might be. I turned over and went to sleep, knowing I had found a solution of a very troublesome problem. The last thing desired by the Allied Premiers was a debate on war aims such as would result from laying the matter before Congress. At the moment they could not



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Sonnino again protested that there was danger that events would prevent the opportunity of making their reservation, and that while he was willing to accept Lloyd George's text in so far as it applied to Germany, so far as Austria was concerned the proposal was quite insufficient. But Clemenceau broke in:

"Are we agreed regarding the reply to Germany? I accept. Lloyd George accepts. (Turning to Orlando:) Do you accept?"

"Yes," said Orlando.  
In this way Italy's reservation was excluded from the pre-Armistice agreement.

Freedom of the Seas.  
The withdrawal of Belgian and Italian objections to the note to be sent Wilson, left House to face the two reservations already drafted by the British. That regarding the meaning of reparations was satisfactory to him. He understood it to signify that Germany would make reparation for all direct damage done the civilian population. It would seem from Lloyd George's discussion with Hyman that neither he nor the others understood it to include responsibility for indirect damage, nor to be in the nature of a war indemnity.

As regards the reservation on the Freedom of the Seas, House was not satisfied and the President even less. The wording of the reservation would make it possible for the Allies to refuse even to discuss the matter at the Peace Conference. Wilson wanted nothing less than an explicit acceptance of the principle of the Freedom of the Seas. He authorized House to say that if they would not accept it they could count on the certainty of our using our present equipment to build up the strongest navy that our resources permit and as our people have long desired.

"November 1, 1918: I sent for Sir William Wiseman immediately upon my return from Versailles," wrote House in his diary, "and told him that unless Lloyd George would make some reasonable concessions in his attitude upon the 'Freedom of the Seas,' all hope of Anglo-Saxon unity would be at an end, that the United States went to war with England in 1912 on the question of her rights at sea, and that she had gone to war with Germany in 1917 upon the same question. I did not believe that even if the President wished to do so, he could avoid this issue; and if Lloyd George expressed the British viewpoint as he indicates, there would be greater feeling against Great Britain at the end of the war than there has been since our Civil War. I am repeated, with as much emphasis I could, that our people would not consent to allow the British Government, or any other Government, to determine upon what terms our ship should sail the seas, either in time of peace or in time of war."

"Wiseman is taking the matter up with his people tonight and will let me know tomorrow."  
"November 2, 1918: Lord Northcliffe lunched with me. He offered the use of his publications in any way desired. At this interview I merely gave him a glimpse of my difficulties."

"Lord Reading and Wiseman were waiting to take up the troublesome question of the Freedom of the Seas." We worked at it for more than two hours but 'got nowhere' . . .

"I said to Reading that they took the same attitude Germany took in the spring of 1914 regarding the army. The Germans declared that all the bayonets of Europe were pointed at Germany and that it was essential to her existence not to consent to even modified disarmament. They contended that their army was not for aggression, and pointed out that of all the great Powers, Germany was the only one that had not made territorial conquests for nearly half a century. But Germany came to grief, and in my opinion it was inevitable that Great Britain would likewise have cause to regret such an arbitrary attitude."

"November 4, 1918: It is difficult to fully tell of the tense feeling that has prevailed due to the discussion of the Fourteen Points. George and I, and Reading and I have had many conferences, separately and together. . . ."

"Lloyd George said that Great Britain would spend her last guinea to keep a navy superior to that of the United States or any other Power, and that no Cabinet official could continue in the Government in England who took a different position. I countered this by telling him it was not our purpose to go into a naval building rivalry with Great Britain but it was our purpose to have our rights at sea adequately safeguarded and that we did not intend to have our commerce regulated by Great Britain whenever she was at war."

"After we had this debate, George sent Reading around to argue the matter with me. . . . I told Reading

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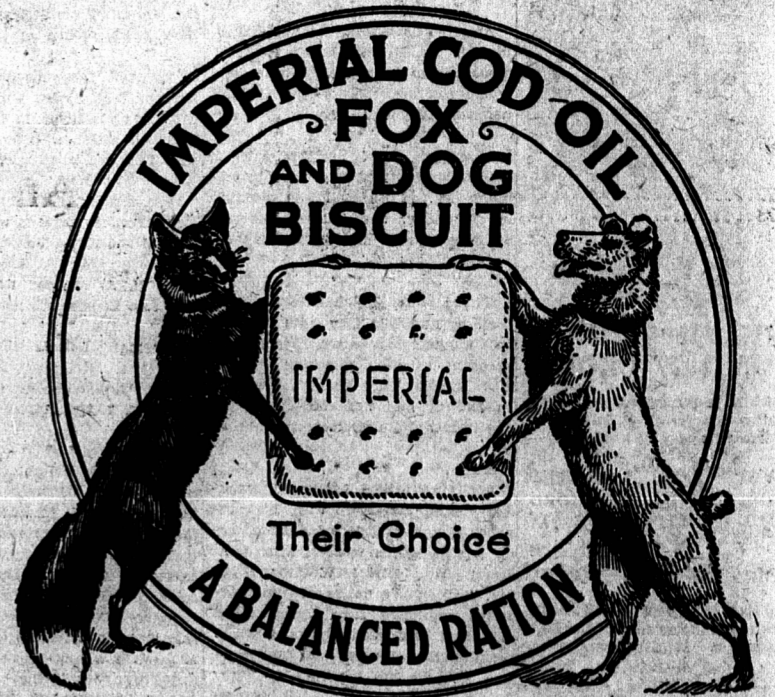
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he was wasting his breath, that in no circumstances would we yield the point about the Freedom of the Seas being a matter for discussion between our two Governments. I insisted that sooner or later we would come to a clash if an understanding was not reached as to laws governing the seas. I let him know that it was not my intention to budge and that I had the backing of the President." To Be Continued.



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