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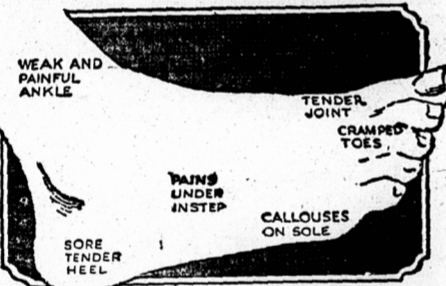
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THE INTIMATE PAPERS OF COLONEL HOUSE

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 STRAINED RELATIONS

'April 21, 1919: The President, came to the Crillon this morning,' wrote House, 'for a conference with the Commission. He read us a statement of the Italian situation which it is his purpose to give out. He was not certain whether to do it immediately or wait until a break actually occurred. I suggested discussing the matter with George and Clemenceau and being governed by their advice.'

'April 22, 1919: A busy day with all sorts of plans and suggestions for the settlement of the Italian question, which has grown acute. Orlando has ceased to attend the meetings of the Council of Four and relations are very strained. The whole world is speculating as to whether the Italians are "bluffing" or whether they really intend going home and not signing the Peace unless they have Fiume. It is not unlike a game of poker.'

'April 23, 1919: The Italian situation is almost the sole topic of conversation. This morning I suggested to the President that he put out his statement, but advised him to confer with Clemenceau and Lloyd George before doing so.'

WILSON'S MANIFESTO

Exactly what passed between Wilson and the French and British Prime Ministers on the morning of April 23 is not clear. They talked of Wilson's statement and they were so far in agreement with its contents that they discussed presenting to Orlando a memorandum written by Balfour which emphasized even more effectively than Wilson's the objections to Italy's sovereignty over Fiume. But although they were told by the President that 'it was his intention to publish his memorandum this evening,' they took no definite steps either to dissuade him from his purpose or to approve it. The publication of Wilson's manifesto by itself isolated him, and when the storm of Italian fury broke it was upon the President's head.

The basis of Wilson's manifesto was the charge that had come in the Adriatic problem, as well as in the spirit of Europe, since the signing of the Treaty of London. Austria-Hungary had disappeared, its place to be taken by smaller states who would enter the League of Nations with Italy; the Principles of the Fourteen Points accepted as applicable to Germany should be applied also to the majority of the delegates. Protests were raised, of which the most stirring was that of Marshal Foch who inveighed against the failure to assure France security against Germany. The protests were recorded, but the Treaty was approved. The following day the Conference met at Versailles, where the German delegates, led by Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, received the bulky document.

He had confidence in the common sense of both Orlando and Sonnino, and did not believe that either would wish to separate Italy from the other Great Powers or from the very material benefits conferred upon the signatories of the German Treaty.

'The Italian crisis,' he wrote on April 24, 'has absorbed for the moment every thought. It looks tonight as if the situation might work itself clear again, although Orlando is going back to Italy. He leaves some of the Delegation here and perhaps is going to inform and consult his colleagues in Rome.'

'April 26, 1919: Prince di Scordia, Orlando's Secretary, surprised me by calling today in order to express Orlando's regret that he left Paris without having an opportunity to bid me good-bye. Di Scordia said that Orlando still has a warm feeling of friendship.'

ITALIANS RETURN

The attitude of the Italians left the Conference in something of a quandary. The Council did not know whether, in presenting the name of Italy should be included or not. There was talk of sending them an ultimatum which would give them forty-eight hours to return to Paris or to face the consequences of exclusion from the German Treaty. The attitude of the three was rather one of indifference, too much so, as Colonel House thought. The disadvantages of not having the Italians sign the Treaty were apparent but the Council of Three feared that if they returned they would insist upon the Treaty of London, to which Clemenceau and Lloyd George regarded themselves as bound, and thereby bring about an impossible situation between France and Great Britain on the one side and United States on the other.

Uncertainty was ended by the decision of the Italians to return without conditions and participate in the ceremony of handing the Treaty to the Germans. At the same time the Belgians, securing a guarantee of a practical priority in reparations, agreed, although reluctantly, to sign. On May 6, a Plenary Session was held at the Foreign Office, which was at this time unknown to the majority of the delegates. Protests were raised, of which the most stirring was that of Marshal Foch who inveighed against the failure to assure France security against Germany. The protests were recorded, but the Treaty was approved. The following day the Conference met at Versailles, where the German delegates, led by Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, received the bulky document.

PRESENTING THE TERMS

'It is strange,' wrote House, 'that the presentation of the Treaty to the Germans should occur on the anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania. This was not by design, but by chance for we hoped to present it last week and again on Monday or Tuesday of this week.'

'I started for Versailles shortly after two o'clock. We drove very rapidly and made what is usually a forty to forty-five minutes trip in a half-hour. Clemenceau and a few others were already there. Balfour soon followed with the other members of the British Delegation. Orlando and Sonnino came in shortly after....'

'After we were seated, the Germans were notified and were brought in by Colonel Henry. We all arose when they entered, an action I was glad to see. Clemenceau made a speech of a few minutes. He did it in his usual composed though energetic fashion....'

'Rantzau began to read a long reply. Clemenceau stood when he delivered his address, but Rantzau remained seated. White and I wondered whether it was not because he was too nervous to stand steadily upon his feet. When White went last Thursday to see their credentials, he said he never saw a greater exhibition of nervousness in a diplomat; that his knees literally knocked together, and White thought that he might at any moment faint.'

'The speech he made in reply to Clemenceau's was an able one, but it seemed to me out of place. If I had been in his position I should have said: "Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Congress: War is a great gamble; we have lost and are willing to submit to any reasonable terms."

'After Brockdorff-Rantzau had delivered his speech, Clemenceau asked if there was anything else to say. Rantzau replied in the negative, and Clemenceau then declared the Con-

Champlain On The Ottawa River



C. W. JEFFERYS

In 1613 Champlain made a journey to the Ottawa River, at that time unknown to the white man. Like all early explorers, Champlain hoped that it led to the sea - that sea which stretched to the Far East of Asia. There before there had come to his ears a strange tale that seemed to encourage his hope. He had sent a young man named Nicholas Vignau to live among the Algonquins on the upper Ottawa to learn their language and explore their country. He returned with a story that he had seen the North Sea, on the shores of which he had found the wreck of an English ship whose crew had been killed by the Indians, all except a boy who was still living among them. The story seemed probable. It was known that Henry Hudson had made a voyage to the Northern Seas two years before and that since then no word had been heard of him. Vignau swore that he had followed the Ottawa to a lake which emptied into the North Sea. Persuaded, after much questioning, that the tale was true, Champlain resolved to explore the route for himself. With Vignau and three other French men and an Indian he started up the Ottawa at the end of May, 1613. With great difficulty they made their way, hauling their canoe against the swift current, or portaging around rapids, until they reached Morrison's

Island, just below Allumette Island. Here they met a band of Algonquins who, on hearing the object of Champlain's journey, told him that Vignau had never been to the sea, but had spent the whole winter with them. Vignau, confronted with their statements, fell on his knees, confessed that his story was a lie and begged for mercy. Champlain, disappointed in his hopes, with difficulty controlled his anger at the deception. "Overcome with wrath," he says, "I had him moved, being unable to endure him any longer in my presence." The impostor had foolishly hoped that he would be rewarded for his supposed discovery, and that Champlain would not undertake the difficult task of verifying his story. With the disclosure of Vignau's ignorance of the route, and the refusal of the Indians to guide him through the unknown territory, Champlain was forced to give up his search and turn back. On their return to the St. Lawrence, Vignau made a public confession, and was pardoned on condition that he would continue to live among the Indians and gather further information.

In his account of this journey, Champlain records his latitude at various places with a fair degree of accuracy up to a point some distance below Allumette Island. Beyond this there is no record of his latitude in his journal. The Germans went out in advance, and the balance broke up into groups to discuss the occasion together. I congratulated both Lloyd George and Clemenceau, particularly Clemenceau, and told him that it was a great hour not only for France but for him. He showed some emotion.

GERMAN BITTERNESS The restraint of House's reference to Brockdorff-Rantzau was not generally echoed by the delegates or the press, who regarded as a studied insult the fact that the Germans remained seated. Nor did they enjoy the vigor of his denunciation of the clause in the Treaty according to which Ger-

many must admit her responsibility for the war. "It is demanded of us," said Brockdorff-Rantzau, "that we shall confess ourselves to be the only ones guilty of the war. Such a confession in my mouth will be a lie. We are far from declining any responsibility; that this great war of the world has come to pass. But we deny that Germany and its people were alone guilty."

"Count Brockdorff-Rantzau was speaking with extreme bitterness of tone," wrote Mr. C. T. Thompson, and his phrase "it would be a lie" was fairly his. He sat stolidly all the time looking straight ahead through his

desk before him and gazed at Rantzau as he spoke. (To Be Continued)

BRINGING UP FATHER



-By George McMan