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COA

NEW REPARATIONS PLAN REJECTED

ALLIES TO OCCUPY RUHRORT, DUSSELDORF. AND DUISBURG.

U.S.A. "OUT OF IT."

As was generally anticipated, the "new reparations plan" proposed by the Germans the Allics at St. James's Palace was promptly rejected, and in consequence it was ecided that the Allied troops should advance.

Marshal Foch telegraphed the order to march on Ruhrort, Dusseldorf, and Duisburg, and the British War Office ordered a detachment of British troops to proceed from the Rhine district to Dusseldorf. It is understood that American troops will not participate.

The Allies will seize the German Customs revenues there, and the British Parliament will be asked to sanction a tariff on German goods in this country, to be paid by the purchaser. The Dominions will be invited to follow suit.

CLOSING SCENES.

Needless to say, the closing scenes of this istoric conference were marked by considerhle solemnity. The German delegation in particular sat with pale faces and barely appressed emotion.

Dr. Simons, at the final sitting of the Conference, proposed a temporary settlement on condition that the Upper Silesian plebiscite should go to Germany, and that certain trade restrictions should be withdrawn. Germany was prepared to pay the fixed annuities for five years, and would give full equivalent for the levy of 12 per cent. on exports. On the subject of national incomes he "accepted the figures given in the League of Nations memorandum," and said that by deducting taxation the income per head of the population in England was 1,357.5 gold marks, in France 702.5 gold marks, and in Germany 330 gold marks.

Late in the afternoon the Allies and the Germans met again, and the Premier, in rejecting the proposals, said:-

"In the light of what I consider to be the paramount interest of Germany, the Allies, the neutrals-the German proposals completely fail, and until we get proposals from Germany that will mean a definite unchallenged settlement there can be no peace between us. Germany's five years' plan," said the Premier, "is not real; it may end ave weeks, for it is conditional on the plebiscite in Silesia. There is nothing in the alone a gold mark.

AERODROME.

returning to report to a public opinion which is not ready to pay this debt."

PREMIER ON THE SITUATION.

In the House of Commons the Premier again referred to the International situation, and gave an important summary of

the Reparations Conference. He said Dr. Simons had put forward new proposals, which represented an advance on his former proposals, but the House would see that they were quite unacceptable. He proposed that the Allies should confine their arrangements to the first five years, leaving the remaining thirty-seven years to

stand over for further discussion.

He coupled that acceptance with two conditions. The first, not explained very fully, had regard to the conditions under which German trade with the Allies should be co-ordinated. The second condition was that this proposal was to be subject to the plebiscite in High Silesia. That plebiscite

was to take place in the next few weeks.

It meant that if the plebiscite were adverse to the Germans, either in whole or in part, the German Government would be entitled to say the bargain was off. In these circumstances it was idle to proceed. When he came to the remaining thirtyseven years Dr. Simons had practically no

proposals of any sort.

The conclusion he had come to after sitting for days and seeing Dr. Simons was that German opinion had not in the least realised that the Allies were determined to enforce the legitimate conditions of the Treaty.

Dr. Simons had in his mind the kind of

reception he would get when he went back to Germany, and he probably felt he was not in a position to put forward proposals which, in his heart, he was really anxious to

which, in his heart, he was learly anxious we submit to the country.

Therefore they had decided that the sanctions (penalties) should be immediately put into operation. Instructions had already been given for the troops to occupy the indicated towns. They would command a very important in-

dustrial area. They had already given instructions for the necessary steps to be taken for con-sidering the best method of carrying out the

other sanctions. RIGHT WAY TO TAX.

They would have to submit proposals to that House as to one of the sanctions, to which he (Mr. Lloyd George) attached very great importance. That was the sanction which enabled us to compel every purchaser of German goods in Allied countries to pay proportion of that purchase plebiscite in Silesia. There is nothing in the proposal made on which the Allies could raise one paper franc in the market, let alone a gold mark.

a proportion of that purchase mindry into the Exchequer of his own country. With the Exchequer of his own country. I am afraid, and Dr. Simons will forgive German origin. The Government would certainly pass on the proposals to the Dominions, who would find the best way of the to negotiate. He represents, and he is

AIRCRAFT SAFE ROBBED

WAGES TAKEN FROM WADDON

Three well-dressed young men-William Branch (32), a clerk, of Greenwood-road, Dalston: William Godding (27), postal sorter, of Compton street, Goswell-road; and Henry Lovell (28), a clerk, of Gosherwoodsreet, Deptford—were remanded on the clarge of being concerned in stealing £997 beat of the Aircraft Disposal Co., Ltd.

Detective-sergeant Goode snoke to ques-Detective-sergeant Goode spoke to ques-ning Lovell at the depot after the rob-While witness was examining the and which had been split open, he Lovell if he had a knife. Lovell prothat one blade had been broken rently. Lovell then said, "Well, I did it,"
when Branch was brought in he aditted having had &5 of the money, which
thanded to witness

handed to witness.
ater, Lovell made a statement in which said the robbery was planned about six ago. He had the key of a safe which ntained the key of the wages safe. "On hursday evening," the statement con-lied, "we were working late. I hid my-li on the stairs, and after I heard the hers go I rushed into the room where the was. I opened the safe with the key,
k the bag containing the money, cut it
with a knife, and took the contents in
attache case. I put the key back in the er, safe, and ran out of the front gate to indian Station and joined Branch.
I gave him £6, and went with him in the evening to London Bridge and met odding, as previously arranged. We then to Godding's house and handed the money to him and arranged to share it help to him and arranged to share it at a later date. I am sorry this has

ened. It was sudden temptation. I never been in trouble before." CLEARING HIS THROAT.

Accustomed to pushing a piece of steel wn his throat to clear it, William Sharp, Bradford, rushed into a local doctor's regry saying that the steel had become in his throat.

Was taken to the infirmary, where a of steel a foot long was removed from

The Prince of Wales will visit Lancaster Morecambe, probably in July. Snatching 2100 from the counter of a off at Newport (Mon.) a man made off.

Weakle Police detained a man. Weekly rates of unemployment benefit are increased immediately to 20s. for men and for women,

ITALY'S COAL SUPPLY.

AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO WITH AMERICA.

An agreement has been entered into be-tween Italy and the American coalowners whereby Italy will derive her supply of coal from the United States for the next five

The American price is much below that which can be quoted by the British coaltwners.

In 1913 the Welsh shipments to Italy

amounted to 9,500,000 tons, but the total 1920 exports from this country were estimated at only 21,000,000 tons.

ALLOTMENTS.

OLD WINDSOR INHABITANTS "HOLD ON."

Indignation was shown at a meeting of illotment holders at Old Windsor over parish council's action in issuing a number of notices to quit.

Mr. Alfred Smith said that, as the land was not required for building or industrial purpose, the notices were illegal, and he advised the men to refuse to give up posses-

They unanimously resolved to adopt this course, and formed themselves into an association to organise a scheme of action.

BATHING PROFITS.

HOW RATES CAN BE REDUCED.

A scheme for the provision of new baths and washhouses at a cost of £29,000 has been approved by the Hackney Borough

It was argued on behalf of the Labour najority on the Council that the municipal dances at the baths had yielded a profit of £800 to £1,000, and doing away with the compounding of the rates had saved the borough £20,000 a year. Their proposal for new baths would prove equally profitable.

LANDLORD'S "GHOST."

"But you say the man is dead," said Mr. Green, the magistrate, at Tottenham, to a woman who asked him to prevent her land-

"Dead and buried," replied the woman,
"and the day before he died he served me
with a notice to quit. I thought it would
be all right when I heard that he was gone. "But every night since he has appeared and told me I am to leave the house at

once."
Mr. Green: He cannot evict you unless he first makes application at the County Court.

PENSION PROBLEMS: HOW TO SOLVE THEM.

Unemployment: Then and Now-A New Bill and Improved Benefits For Unemployed Ex-Service Men-About the Work of An Agricultural Training Centre: What Has Been Done, and What Can Be

By AN EXPERT.

FREE ADVICE TO OUR READERS.

Thirteen years ago a great wave of un-employment passed over this country. There was then no unemployment insurance to mitigate the sufferings, of the people. In 1909 Mr. Lloyd George was the first man to propose in the House of Commons that the State should undertake the charge of a system of insurance for unemployment. Now tem of insurance for unemployment. Now 12,000,000 people are insured against unemployment, and a Bilk is at present before the House of Commons which will increase the rates for men to 20s. and for women to 16s. As the Prime! Minister remarked: "However inadequate that may be, it is greater than any provision that has ever been made in the whole history either of this country or of any other country in the this country or of any other country in the

world.' Up to March 31, £40,000,000 will have been spent in providing unemployment pay for ex-Service men, and £23,000,000 have been allocated for the purpose of settling men on the land. This, remember, has been done after a great war which has cast upon the country a burden of between £7,000,000,000 and £8,000,000,000. Further advantages to ex-Service men who may be unemployed are promised under the Bill amending the Unemployment Insurance Act, which at the time of writing is engaging the attention of Parliament.

When, or if, the building trade operatives' union consents to dilution—they have already turned down a generous scheme put to them by the Government—a large num-ber of men "out of collar" will find jobs. In any case, the Government is determined to stand by the ex-Service men against all obstacles, and to do the utmost in its power to get the unemployed on to their feet. I fancy, therefore, more will be heard of this matter, as a trade union veto is something which I cannot imagine any Governthing which I cannot imagine any Government putting up with As for the pleas of a brand-new world—for which the Labour Party and others claim to have the prescription—I would re-echo what Mr. George H. Barnes said in the House of Commons not long ago: "You will get no better world until you have made a better use of the world you live in."

Among the training centres that have done much to improve not only the pros-pects but the health of ex-Service men, the one at Telscombe, near Newhaven, in Sussex, deserves honourable mention. Work there is not yet a year old, but there are nearly ninety men receiving instruction, among them a certain number who suffered badly from shell-shock or lost limbs in the war. The work is varied. Poultry-keeping war. The work is varied. Poultry-keeping and horticultural work are the main source of the activities, while in addition to poultry, pigs and rabbits are kept. It is the object of the Ministry of Agriculture so to arrange its poultry-keeping instruction at training centres that each one specialises in a certain direction, and in the poultry section at Telscombe the particular effort is to discover the best kind of table bird. The trainees live in army huts during the west, but some come from Brighton, which is only a few miles away, and these may go seturday to Sunday night. The home from Saturday to Suguay Ingut. Inc. skill of one trainee, who, having lost an arm, yet contrives, by means of special appliances, to kill, pluck, dress, and truss chickens in record time and literally singlehanded, has already attracted widespread attention. On the horticultural side the teaching deals with garden soils, draining, trenching, digging, ploughing, manuring, enclosing, the treatment of bush fruit and fruit trees, planting and transplanting, in sect and fungoid pests, and the cultivation of all vegetables. Favourable weather is devoted to work on the land, and during the worst of the year, when the land is unapproachable, lectures are given, or manual work is carried out in the shops.

In furtherance of the policy of practical teaching and the preparation of the trainees for the actualities of life in the world beyond the centre, all appliances used at the ceutre are hand-made. The trainees make their own chicken huts, their own runs, their own appliances of every description, and when they have completed any for which there is no immediate use at the centre, they find invariably that there is a very ready market for them outside. The duration of the course of training limited to one year, and at present, although Telscombe has attracted attention in bringing forward some men of promise and is investigating problems of poultry-keeping that are of interest throughout the country, nobody has as yet completed a

It seems to have passed without notice that representatives of ex-Service men's or-ganisations have been officially appointed to serve on the Departmental Committee on the System and Methods of Administration of the Ministry of Pensions. The following are thus serving: Captain R. C. Briegel (National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers), Mr. H. E. Giles (National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers), and Mr. S. T. Wilce Taylor (Comrades of the Great War). Six of the other members of the Committee have seen service during the war. A good deal of evidence has still to be taken, I understand, so the findings of the Committee must not be expected for some weeks

Our Pensions Expert is anxious to assist sailors and soldiers and their wives and de-pendents in dealing with ittricacies of the War Pensions System.

Address your queries to "Pensions Expert," c/o Editor of this paper. All essential facts should be stated as briefly as possible, such as name, number, rank, regi-ment of soldier, name and rating of sailor, particulars of families and separation allowance and (in inquiries concerning civil liabilities) pre-war or pre-enlistment in-come, present or war income, and full liabilities Do not send any documents, birth certificates, or discharge papers, etc.

Will correspondents please make a point of sending their negimental number, rank, name, and regiment?

DARING AMBUSH.

GENERAL OFFICER AND LIEUTENANT KILLED.

A message from Dublin reports an am. bush at Clonbanin (Co. Cork), in which a general officer, another officer and two soldiers were killed. The attack was one of the most daring ever carried out by Sinn

Fein.
Colonel-Commandant H. R. Cumming, D.S.O., Commander of the Kerry Infantry D.S.O., Commander of the kerry infantry Brigade, was the general officer killed. The other officer killed was Lieutenant Milingy. It appears that the military convoy consisted of the general's car and three lorries containing parties of the East Lancashire Regiment, with an armoured car as escort. On reaching a bend in the Killarney-Mallow road, where a trench had been cut and obstacles erected, the lorries were compulled to stop. Immediately a devastate cut and obstacles erected, the forries were compelled to stop. Immediately a devastat-ing fire was opened on the troops from the cover of the thick gorse on rising ground on both flanks. Both the leading tender and the armoured car were ditched. Colonel-Commandant Cumming was hit in the head at the outset, and died instantly. The oc-cupants of the cars got down and, taking whatever cover was possible, returned the

fire.

Eventually the armoured car got through to Kanturk, whence military assistance was rushed to the scene.

BIRCHINGTON BEACH MYSTERY.

The discovery on the beach at Birchington, near Margate, of the body of a young woman is surrounded with mystery. Death is believed to have been due to drowning. The body, which was lying face downwards, was found by a carter employed by a firm of contractors, who went to the beach to get a load of seaweed. At the time the tide get a load of seaweed. At the time the tide was receding. The man at once went to the coastguard, and the police at Westgate were telephoned for. The body was only partially dressed, there being, besides certain articles of underclothing, a green jumper. Round the neck was a fine gold chain, attached to which was a small locket containing the photograph of an officer, and marked "1901." There were no identifying marks on the clothing, and a sear on the marks on the clothing, and a scar on the left leg, just below the knee, seemed to be an old one. The woman was apparently between 25 and 30, and her height 5ft. 3in. She had luxurious dark-brown hair, blue eyes, and a very good set of teeth.

The body was later identified as that of
Miss Lucy Maud Summerhayes, a medical
student, of London.

A DIRECTORY OF TITLES.

KELLY'S EVER POPULAR WORK.

A Handbook to the Titled, Landed and Official Classes for 1921 is more useful than ever. Owing to the very large number of honours which have been conferred during the last twelve months, and to the addition which, has been made by giving the names of the more prominent men of business in the United Kingdom, the book has considerably increased in bulk. Personal reference is made to many leading merchants, etc., of the United Kingdom, for many of those who have been created peers, or had either titles conferred upon them, have been lead-ing members of the mercantile community. The New Year's Honours are largely given in the body of the book, though, course, in some cases occurring in the earlier letters, the names have had to be inserted in the list of "Additional Names,

Ratepayers of St. Pancras are protesting gainst the establishment of a lending brary for Camden Town and Somers Town gainst

at a cost of £3,145. Fulham Board of Guardians' estimate demand for the coming half-year is £101,000, an increase in the current half-year's figures

Frome Bural Council hate saved hundreds of pounds by their surveyor acting as architect to the housing scheme.

t the Hastings Town Council meeting it stated that burials in the Borough Cimetery during January included three people over 92, and ten between 80 and 87. Mrs. Mary Thrift (87), who has just died at Ruislip, had never eeen the sea.

"For the Blood is the Life."

Sufferers from Eczema, Boils, Pimples and Eruptions, Bad Legs. Abscesses, Ulcers, Piles. Glandular Swellings, Rheumatism, Gout,

should realise that these complaints are simply the symptoms of deep-rooted blood impurities, and while outward applications may give temporary benefit, they scan do no more, because they cannot get below the surface of the skin.

The One Way to Real Relief.

complete and lasting, is to rid the blood of the poisonous waste matter, the true cause of such troubles. "Clarke's Blood Mixture," by reason of its remarkable blood purifying properties, promptly attacks, overcomes and finally expels the impurities, that's why so many lasting recoveries stand to its credit. Pleasant to take and harmless to Old and Young alike.



OUR LONDON LETTER.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

The German indemnity impasse has so dominated everything that other matters of the moment—even the weather and the the moment-even the weather and the latest outrages in Ireland-have sunk into comparative insignificance. One notable outcome of the impudent German proposals and our reply to them has been a very marked appreciation of the Lloyd George stock as a political asset. The Prime Minister's firmness, and his uncompromising indignation at the attempt to bluff us, which he empha-sised in the Council Chamber with vigorous thumpings of the table, has won approval and something amounting almost to enthusiastic support even from many of his usual opponents—which may be regarded, from one point of view, as a substantial set-off to those rather awkward by-election defeats of those rather awkward by election deleats of the Coalition at Dudley and Kirkcaldy. To see him and M. Briand together after he had definitely put his foot down made one realise also from the cordial smiles of the French Premier how much he had consolidated by his attitude the friendly relations between himself (and all the rest of us too, of course) and our French Allies.

THE HUN IN OUR MIDST.

The members of the German delegation The members of the German delegation have naturally attracted a good deal of attention in their comings and goings to and from the Savoy, where they are very comfortably quartered, though they do not show themselves much in the public rooms there. On the whole, they are not at all a bad-looking crowd, and their clothes are distinctly more useful than beautiful. Silk stockings don't seem to be dreamt of in stockings don't seem to be dreamt of in their philosophy. Most of them, though, are excellent linguists—which is more than one can say as a rule of our French visitors though none can quite compete with the talk
Dr. Drecheler, who has been acting as a
sort of liaison officer with our Press on
behalf of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He speaks five languages besides his own, English specially well, and possesses also the rare attribute among his countrymen of a very considerable supply of tact.

WINNING OUR PEACE.

Apart from the strenuous battle at present in progress to "win the peace," it can't be said that the general prospects are in all directions quite so bright and cheerful here as the spring flowers that have, this year, bloomed so much earlier than usual, whether in the countryside or London parks. Though it has not, perhaps, been very generally realised, the new coal "crisis" that looms close at hand may prove to be quite as serious as the last one—and, of course, any trouble in the coal world is bound to have ramifications which affect any number of other industries. Shipping is one of the first to feel the consequences of the altered conditions brought about, chiefly, by the way the miners have held up things and lost us our foreign orders.

THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS.

The direct road to a happy issue out of these and other afflictions is by co-operation between employers and employed. I have been rather struck by some figures which have just come into my hands of what has already been actually done in the way of profit-sharing between Capital and Labour. Over a quarter of a million employees are participating in schemes of this sort, and big enterprises like the Gas Light and Coke Company, Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, the South Metropolitan Gas Company, Levers, and many others have large amounts of stock held by or for their workpeople. It is a principle which, of course makes years. has already been actually done in the way principle which, of course, makes very largely and helpfully for industrial peace. The schemes in practice are very varied both in method and extent, but the object in every case is the same—to give the worker a direct interest in his work and in the success of the undertaking of which he forms a part. And, of course, one has to remember, too, that to achieve this object the worker must inevitably be taken into the employer's confidence as to the result of his trading, and must also be admitted be a greater share of control of the business than he was allotted under the old regime.

SPRING IS COMING.

The surest sign of all, perhaps, of the coming of spring has been the galaxy of fashion parades that have been held by famous London dressmakers like Lucile and Reville. I confess I do not often visit gatherings of this kind, but at one to which I was taken a few days are what carried I was taken a few days ago, what struck me most—apart from the slinky slouchy grace of the mannequins with their strango swaying motions and earnestly expression-less eyes—was the amazing dowdiness of most of the women who had come to look on. Expensive dowdiness, certainly, but the mere idea of any of these lumpy and thick-ankled ladies donning the ornate creations, which even the almost unnaturally slim and svelte mannequins could only just carry off, caused at least one member of the assembled company to smile heartily (though, of course, silently and internally). Yet I suppose it is, in the end, these good ladies of them of the newly-rich) who form the backbone of the dressmakers' really paying clientele. There are others, alas, one gathers, with perfectly good ankles,

who don't-pay.

LOVE AND LAUGHTER. As for plays, they, too, are positively falling over each other-though that, of course, does not necessarily imply an exceptionally fruitful and healthy development of the drama. As a matter of fact, these early months of 1921 have been rather more than commonly punctuated with dramatic "frosts'—plays that are rashly put on and rapidly taken off, and leave one put on and rapidly taken off, and leave one gasping open mouthed at the optimism of the producers. At one of the most priceless of these, even a first-night audience (generally most favourably disposed), after a long spell of almost stunned puzzlement, fairly broke into titters at the would-be impassioned love scene that brought it to its denouement, and the curtain went down to a chorus of unquenchable langhter not only a chorus of unquenchable laughter, not only from the "deathless gods," but from every part of the house.

Mr. H. L. Cancellor, Master of the Salters' Company, presiding at a lecture given by Dr. M. O. Forster, on "Chemical Tech-nology," at Salters' Hall, said that the Salters' Company gave over 40 grants a year to young men and women who desired to to young men and women who desired to take up chemistry as a profession.

A baker summoned at Shepton Mallet in connection with a "light" loaf, blamed the Chinese flour, which he said did not go so