

Lord Beaverbrook On European Tangle

We Must Move Now If Britain Is To Be Saved From Another War—Clouds Are Gathering In Every Direction

If those of us who believe in splendid isolation are going to save Britain from the horrors of another war, we must move now.

The Powers of Darkness are gathering in every direction. The web is being woven more and more securely round us.

Let the nation be warned in time. One day we will wake up to find that the documents we signed in the name of peace have pledged us to do battle in a cause that is not our own.

Do not be deceived by this talk of pacts of mutual assistance. Do not be taken in by the assurance of Sir John Simon that we are undertaking no new commitment.

The pact is a new name for an old bad thing. The old game is being played in a new guise. Russia and France have made an alliance, and with the knowledge and approval of Britain.

Toward War

It is the old combination all over again, the combination that went to war in 1914.

No British interest was involved in that war. No British interest will be involved in the new war towards which the new arrangement will inevitably bring us.

But we were bound to the war of 1914 by our old had treaties and alliances. And we will be bound to the new war, too.

The purpose of the alliance between France and Russia is to compel Germany to adhere to the Treaty of Versailles. That is the only objective of it.

But the maintenance of the Treaty of Versailles is not a British concern. This country believes that the territorial clauses of that treaty are un-

just, indefensible and certain to be changed.

Yet we are pledging ourselves anew to fight for a treaty which the British people believe to be a monstrous and intolerable act of oppression.

As for the pretence that no new commitment is being undertaken by us, it will not bear examination for a moment.

By the wicked treaty of Locarno we are bound in an unlimited partnership with France. Now France, our partner, undertakes vast new liabilities.

We are bound with our partner. Like every other partnership of unlimited character the obligations of one member of the firm extend to every other member. French liabilities are ours.

If France promises to fight for the frontiers of Russia, sooner or later we will find ourselves marching to war with the French to defend those frontiers.

That was the situation in 1914. France went to war with Germany because she had a treaty with Russia. We went to war because we were bound in honour to aid France. That was the consideration which impelled our statesmen to enter the war.

There was another ominous note in Sir John Simon's speech. He gave a pledge, a new and solemn pledge, to guarantee the integrity of Belgium. He said it was more important to us to defend Belgium than it had ever been.

Now what are the reasons put forward for this conduct by our statesmen who move in darkness? Let us examine them.

(1). They are striving after the balance of power in Europe. They do not call it that, but that is what they mean.

Their view is that we must protect ourselves against a hostile combination in Europe by entering an alliance with Continental Powers.

It is a mistaken policy, a policy of disaster. It has always led to war in the past. It will certainly lead to war in the future.

False Argument

(2) Then it is said that we must defend Belgium because a hostile Power might establish airplane bases in that country, and might bombard our shores with big guns on the Belgian coast.

The arguments are false. Ordinary common sense rejects them.

'Big guns in Belgium can be met by big guns in Britain.

As for the danger from the airplane, that worn device is constantly dragged out to justify our Ministers' passion for entanglements on the Continent. But the truth is that the advent of the airplane has made the British Empire potentially more invulnerable than it has ever been.

A powerful air defence depends on the existence of a great commercial air system. The vast extent of the British Dominions makes it absolutely certain that in those territories will spring up a civil flying service without parallel in the rest of the world.

That is not a matter which depends on the will of any Government. It will come about through the sheer force of economic necessities.

The air argument for interference in Europe is a bogey. The airplane is an argument for isolation.

One by one the reasons in favour of entanglements break down under scrutiny.

No Interference

Now for the arguments against the entanglement policy, the arguments of the isolationist. What are they?

(1) Interference in Europe. The reason is plain; the territorial clauses of the Treaty of Versailles cannot stand. Millions of men feel themselves suffering under unbearable injustices because of that treaty. These millions

will fight sooner or later.

If we stand out of European commitments, we are given the hope and expectation that there will be no war for Britain, that we will not be compelled to fight on one side or the other in a dispute about territorial clauses which are no concern of ours.

(2) Interference in Europe divides us from the Dominions. It is a policy which means the break-up of The British Empire.

The Dominion refused to have anything to do with Locarno. They will reject with still greater determination the unlimited extension of the Locarno commitment which is now contemplated by the British Government.

(3). There is another nation whose interests, like our own, lie outside the European embroglio. It is the United States.

Our Plain Duty

The policy of the United States has been declared by President Roosevelt. He says:

"The United States will not participate in European negotiations and settlements, and will not make any commitment whatever to use its armed forces for the settlement of any dispute anywhere."

Our plain duty is to align ourselves in policy with the United States.

Now, how are we who believe in the policy of isolation to make our influence felt?

So deep is my conviction that the cause of the Empire is bound up with resistance to the policy of entanglements in Europe that I am ready to take any steps, to develop any plan, that will enable us to bring the era of interference to an end.

I am prepared with the collaboration of colleagues throughout the country representing the mass of public opinion, to present our policy to the people.

I am prepared to use every means in our power to bring home to the nation the terrible danger in which we stand today.

What will you do?

—Montreal Standard.

29 YEARS AGO TODAY

(FROM THE FILES OF THE DAILY HERALD)

MARRIED

A marriage of interest to friends here and in Marysville took place on the 12th of this month when Alfred Quartermain of Fredericton and Annie Gilmour of Marysville were united in marriage by the Rev. W. B. Thomas.

APPRECIATED

Mr. J. A. Winslow has kindly placed at the disposal of the curling club the use of an excellent piano for the winter and it will be installed next week in the club's nicely furnished general meeting room upstairs. The club includes a fine musician, Mr. W. A. McKee, organist of the Baptist church, among its members and he will be induced to manipulate the instrument.

PERSONAL MENTION

Mr. J. H. Richards of Boiestown, is among the guests registered at the Queen today.

Mr. W. N. McDonald of Boiestown, is stopping at the Queen.

Mr. George F. Banks of Upper Mauderville is in the city today.

Mr. H. G. Clowes, of Mauderville, is in the city today.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 17—Nova Scotia will be represented at Canada's coming drama festival at Ottawa next April. In deciding to send a troupe to the capital for the a competition, the management of the Theatre Arts Guild of Halifax last night set dates for regional trials for Nova Scotia as April 15 and 16. Col. S. C. Oland was named head of the committee in charge of the trials.

It will be the first time in two years that Nova Scotia has sent players to the annual festival.

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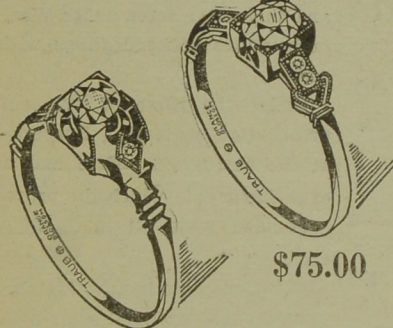
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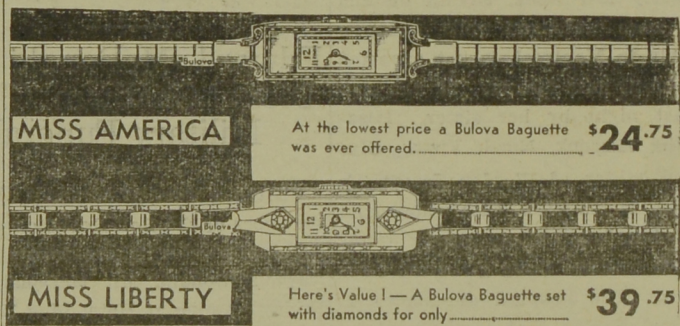


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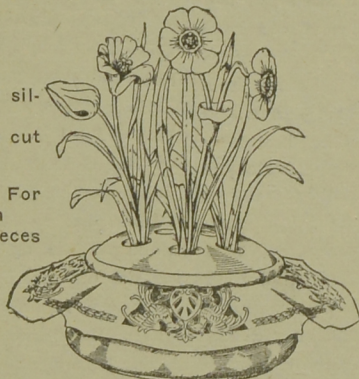
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