

# LL. GEORGE DEFENDS ATTITUDE ON DEBTS; EUROPE HAS NO KICK

(Continued from Page One)

al comparisons, owing to the difference in national wealth, financial systems and social and economic structures of the countries compared. But making every reasonable allowance for all these considerations, there can be no doubt that Great Britain is the most heavily taxed country in the world. This is largely due to her resolve to pay off her debt. All the other European nations have gone on increasing their indebtedness, and their taxation takes the form of a debased currency with the inevitable consequences of high prices and reduced output.

As to the American attitude on the debt question, Europe has no right to complain. The quarrel that led to the war was, in its inception, an old racial quarrel, complicated by other ancient racial feuds on other frontiers. At all European and all of them a full operation centuries before Columbus ever discovered America. The appeal which finally brought the United States of America, as well as Great Britain, into the conflict was as broad as humanity itself. The motives that impelled Americans to rush into a gigantic war with all its terrors, risks and burdens, were unselfish. Their help came at a critical time and the allies have every reason to be grateful for the chivalrous impulses that drove so much to save the liberties of Europe.

What would have happened without the powerful aid, given at a time when Russia, Rumania and Serbia had been shattered by the German armies. It is difficult to estimate. America spent 5,000,000,000 pounds. She would have spent 10,000,000,000 pounds had it been necessary to ensure victory. She lost 50,000 lives. She would have sacrificed a million ere she gave in. If therefore, she says that honor does not demand further sacrifices on her part, the nations she saved are the last people who have any right to criticize.

**The Balfour Plan.**

The Balfour note was not a criticism but an offer. Mr. Snowden said it was too generous an offer. Maybe it was, but it was a generous offer that dictated its terms and it would have been wisdom for all the other nations concerned to have accepted it. Britain offered to for-

give all her debtors provided her sole remaining creditor, the United States, her claim against Britain.

What would that have meant in effect? Both Britain and America would have wiped off the slate claims aggregating 2,000,000,000 pounds each of them respectively. Britain, in addition, was prepared to release her share of German reparations. All the Allied nations would then have been free from the external debts which depress their credit and thus cripple them in their struggle for recovery. All that would have remained would have been the obligation of Germany to repair the devastation wrought by her armies in France, Italy and Belgium and, in a general settlement which otherwise benefited those countries, this liability could have been written down to practicable dimensions.

It was a great proposal and the world would have profited greatly by its acceptance. It was made over two years ago, and had it been agreed to then the United States as well as Britain would have gained more in prosperity from the restoration of world credit which would have ensued than either of them are likely to get out of a rigorous insistence on their bonds.

If the Balfour note had been pressed home I firmly believe America could ultimately have effected a settlement on these lines. Britain was in a position in which she could urge the Balfour terms without incurring under the fair suspicion of being prompted by selfish aims. She stood to lose more than America by an acceptance. That note was, however, not pressed on the consideration of American statesmen. Mr. Baldwin in spite of the protests of his chief Bonar Law surrendered the high ground on which his feet had been planted without striking a blow. That altered the situation much for the worse.

**Hit France, Italy.**

That is why France and Italy are so sore about that transaction. They were not even notified in advance, let alone consulted, about an agreement which made worse their position. It may not be altogether justifiable to say they never had any intention of repaying but it would be within the facts to say they had not considered the taking of any measures in the immediate future to make payment of either interest or principal. Mr. Baldwin's precipitancy has forced them to make it clear to their creditors what is their real purpose. They are naturally embarrassed, and the vague, contradictory answers they send to the American treasury and to the press reveal that embarrassing attitude. As to the British attitude, there

ought to be no doubt. The British debt to America is in course of liquidation according to the plan. But as to the French and Italian debts to Britain, there is not the slightest indication at present that anything will ever be forthcoming.

Meanwhile the British taxpayers under a heavier load of taxes than either his French or Italian debtor and patient as he is and always his victim in his international relations he is becoming restive. Mr. Churchill gave expression to that impatience in the British house of commons. If he is not equally insistent in Paris he will disappoint

his public. We must know where we stand in this important matter.

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**NEW BEDFORD, Mass.**—An announcement of a wage cut of 10 per cent affecting approximately 40,000 operatives was announced by the New Bedford Cotton Manufacturers' association.

## PROMINENT EDGEWOOD BUSINESS MAN IS DEAD

Special to The Gazette.

**EDGEWOOD, Jan. 10.**—Austin Phillips Hatch, for more than thirty years a business man of Edgewood, died Tuesday night at his home, aged 76. While in failing health since last August, he had been able to be about the house and walk down town until Sunday night.

Mr. Hatch was a merchant, a stockholder in the bank and served many years on the board of educa-

tion and was active in church work. He taught an adult Bible class in the Methodist Sunday school for twenty years. He is survived by the widow, one son and one grand child. A daughter died in Paris in 1918 while serving as a Red Cross nurse. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. C. W. Cleveland in the Methodist church Friday. The interment was in the Edgewood cemetery.

**PARIS.**—Fire broke out in the American embassy with considerable resultant damage to the furniture and severe burns to a servant.

## IOWA ELECTRIC CO. LINE CONNECTED AT BELLEVUE

Special to The Gazette.

**MAQUOKETA, Jan. 10.**—The Iowa Electric company of Cedar Rapids has completed its high tension line into Bellevue and this week connection was made with the plant of the Henry Johnson Piano Manufacturing company, north of town. Power will now be furnished from Cedar Rapids instead of by the Bellevue plant.

The town of Bellevue recently got an injunction restraining the Iowa

Electric company from building or furnishing power to the piano company but Judge House dissolved the injunction last week. He held that as long as the company did not build its lines across any of the streets of the town no violation of the statute has taken place.

**REDDING, Calif.**—Lassen, Peak was in eruption yesterday for about three hours.

**LOS ANGELES.**—Mrs. Mabel Moore, 20, said to be part of a wealthy Baltimore family, was arrested here on a charge of embezzlement of diamonds valued at \$4,000.



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