"An Ambassador of Peace" And Also A Keen Observer

Viscount D'Abernon, the First British Ambassador to Germany After the War, Tells of Vital Days

At the close of the war the British Empire was served with distinction by Viscount D'Abernon, who was the first British Ambassador to Germany after the signing of the Versailles Treaty. It is widely recognized that Viscount D'Abernon proved to be the ideal representative, and he probably more than any other man, is responsible for the improved relations between the British and the German peoples.

In his book, "An Ambassador of Peace," Viscount D'Abernon tells the story of his early years in Berlin. His record of political events and negotiations is a distinct contribution to history, an dit is this side of book that has been dealt with by the newspaper reviewers. For that reason we think his shrewd comments on men and affairs will be likely to interest our readers in his books. They were of course, written at the time, and his diary quotations we give from different periods speak for themselves:—

Mr. Lloyd George's Ban

"Curzon's French is fair, and he would possibly like to air his verbal facility in a new dress, but for Lloyd George's ban. The latter had very wisely broken through the previous European practice of considering French the language of international discussion. It places us and some other nations at too great a disadvantage, especially to ourselves—as we are shy and self-conscious, in addition to not knowing French too well. The mere fact that all the drafting has to be done by the French is in itself a danger.

"No foreigner that I have ever met can write French perfectly, and very few can speak it without applying a portion of their intelligence to the task—and in political discussion the whole available brain power is wanted for the argument, so that none can be diverted to the vehicle."

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"Two members of the old German Foreign Office with whom I dined yesterday gave me interesting information.

"The attitude of these members of the old Foreign Office, regarding the Kaiser was curious. They maintained as do all the Imperial Party, that the Kaiser was more a fool than a criminal. His great idea in creating a large German navy was to swagger about in admiral's uniform—to pace the quarter-deck with Beresford. This silly vanity had been exploited by von Tiplitz—he was the real author of Germany's downfall.

"But for the naval policy an understanding would have been achieved with England. . . . ."

If the Kaiser Had Not Gone To Holland

Then again, after a discussion with several eminent Germans as to whether the Kaiser should have returned to Berlin when the great collapse came or gone to Holland, the author observes:—

"Looking logically at the whole question, one comes to the following conclusions:

"(1) Had the Kaiser remained at Spa, the probability was that the Entente would not have concluded the Armistice on the following day, for their main object was the overthrow of the monarchy, principally the German Kaiser. Would the Kaiser have been justified in taking that responsibility simply because he wished to remain?

"(2) Had it been possible to find troops to march back to Germany with the Kaiser, the supply trains would never have been allowed over the Rhine. The troops would have been starved and civil war could not have been avoided. Was blood to be shed thus as well as at the front, just because the Kaiser wished to remain?

"(3) If the Kaiser had attempted to return as a private individual, he could only have remained in Germany at the mercy of the revolutionaries and under the surveillance of the scum in red ties. Further the surrender for trial of the Kaiser to the Entente would, under these circumstances, have been a much more simple question. Holland could protect him; the Germany of that time could not, and the greatest of all humiliations, the surrender of their Kaiser, would not have been spared the people."

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Viscount D'Abernon, too, throws a vivid searchlight on the German view about the use of poison gas:—

"German military experts say that gas would be overpowering against Orientals. If we had used it against the Turks we could have done what we liked. Similarly, in India a very small army with gas would hold the country. I do not know that they are particularly good authorities on these questions, but I am struck with the unanimity with which this view is held.

"They consider that one of the many ways that Germany lost the war was in letting the gas secret out too soon. If they had kept it in reserve until gas installations existed in sufficient quantities they could have broken through any line, but their own military commanders were more than sceptical about the success of the gas experiment."

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"Perhaps the most important characteristic of the German mind," writes Viscount D'Abernon, "as compared with that of surrounding nations, is their peculiar capacity for bringing philosophy and science to bear on the problems of life.

"With other races book learning and all that is derived from scientific training have a tendency to remain in a separate compartment, divorced from the daily task. With the German, learning has been absorbed into the blood; he remains through life something of a student, something of a professor. . . .

"Far above his regard for any European nation, the German has a profound respect for the United States. Its size, its immense wealth, the business capacity of its citizens, impress the German with the deepest admiration, and he is, moreover, not blind to the possibility of financial assistance which Germany may in future derive from the United States, nor is he unmindful of the assistance already given. The United States have lent Germany not less than £200,000,000 during the last few years.

"In all the more important developments in Germany during the post-war years, American influence has been decisive. Eliminate action taken on American advice, or in assumed agreement with American opinion, or in anticipation of American approval, and the whole course of policy would be altered. . .

Envy of English "Luck"

"The English he (the German) considers politically wise and incomprehensibly lucky—far wiser, indeed, than we probably are, and far luckier than he thinks we deserve to be. Our success he attributes, in the main, to a political instinct which enables the British Government, without either logical argument or scientific, analysis, to adopt instinctively the most worldly-wise course in any conceivable emergency.

"I would be super-human not to feel some envy at the possession by a rival nation of such a useful endowment, obtained, as it seems to them, without painful effort. But there is little or no hostility to England of a pronounced character."

Trucks in Australia Aid Interstate Trade

The motor truck is considered a boon to interstate commerce in Australia, for many years handicapped by the lack of systematized railroad facilities, according to C. E. Stebbins, Federal Motor Truck Company representative in the Commonwealth, who returned recently to Detroit.

The fundamental difficulty with rail shipments, he said, is that there are three widths of track in Australia. In order to ship goods from one State to another it is necessary to transfer merchandise from a narrow gauge to a wider one, or vice versa, causing expense and delay.

This lack of standardization, Mr. Stebbins pointed out, is due to the fact that many of the present States originated as separate settlements, each installing the transportation facilities it needed without regard to its neighbors.

The scientists who are unable to account for the dark weather prevailing in Europe seem to overlook the fact that Mr. Einstein is busy explaining his theory.

Many of Our Readers Will Enjoy This Comparison

MODERN STREET TRAVEL AND THE FAVORITE OF ONCE UPON A TIME

The regular thing a generation ago, the hansom cab has almost disappeared from London's streets and looks very antique alongside the modern omnibus.

The Blouse Leaps Into Prominence

The emphasis on the ensemble costume has suddenly brought the blouse from obscurity to the limelight of fashion. Starting first of all by forming an important part of the "tuck-in" blouse costume, it is now embodied in many variations of the jacket costume, which will be an outstanding spring fashion.

Blouses offer unending variety. They may match or contrast with the skirt or jacket, or they may, like the linings of the new spring coats, be fashioned of material which seems alien to the rest of the costume. As for the cut and material, there, also, there is variety.

At the moment the most popular model is the crisp blouse of white broadcloth, which may ge tucked into a dark skirt and worn with a youthful jacket. A blouse following this style may be decorted by bands around the collars and cuffs and a mannish four-in-hand of checked colored broadcloth. Another model, fully as tailored, displays the hip band. The style point is cut down the front in jagged lines. This design is repeated on the hip band where it buttons together.

Prints are seen a great deal in dresses, to be sure, but they are more prevalent in blouses. Some of the newest models are made of pastel prints, very lovely in their delicate blending of colors, as is one with a swathed hipline and a sharp V-neck. The effect of a bolero is achieved by the lines which start at the point of the V and curve on either side to a point slightly below the armpits. This line is emphasized by its binding, which is the predominant color of the design of the print. To relieve the severity of the neck, there is a soft bow of self-material.

Similar to this in treatment, but slightly dressier in effect, is a blouse of oyster satin. To match the beauty of the material the design is more intricate and a yoke is set in under an inlaid motif, which is repeated in inverted form on the swathed hip band.

Still another blouse, utterly feminine in design, is suitable for an elaborate street costume. Fashioned of ecru flat crepe, it has a swagger elegance due to the ingenious way in which it is trimmed with pleated frills. Slightly below the shoulder, the frill starts and curves in a half-circle nearly to the waistline. Then, along the bottom of the snug-fitting hip band, the frill repeats itself and rises in a point directly belowe where the frill started on the blouse. A pearl pin gleams on the shoulder, and at the hip a soft bow provides the balancing touch.

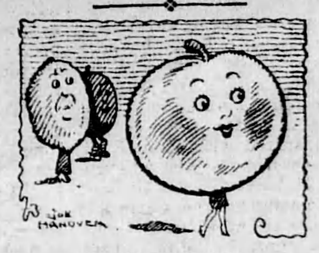
A stylist talking about the possibilities of the jacket costume for southern wear insisted that a woman could not have too many blouses and advises an entire wardrobe of little blouses to accompany it. For different occasions, she enumerated: "A tailored silk shirt in white or pastel; a bright color tuck-in; a printed overblouse; a blouse with a scarf which drapes over the jacket; and one which is elaborated with little bowknots, tricky bindings, or which is accented with buttons."

Even though a woman prefers just one blouse to a costume she will observe on her other frocks the influence of blossoms, by the new intricacy of neckline. The very simplest innovation which is, nevertheless, a distinct novelty, is the presence of collars which may be traced directly to the blouse. On many tailored dresses the conservative V-collar in crisp linen or organdy adds a note of freshness to an otherwise severe frock.

Other collars have a nautical air, youthful in the extreme. They possess such a breezy holiday air that they will admirably fit into the wardrobe of the woman who goes south. Then for those who remain at home, the regulation sailor collar is adapted to sports or business frocks and sometimes, for a surprise, the collar turns square around with the knot in the back, and thus may elaborate an afternoon dress if the material is flimsy.

On other frocks, the collar hardly betrays that it started with that basis, but forms, instead, a graceful, cape-like bertha. Neither are these collars superfluous, clouding the lines of a dress, as would seem the case on first thought. On the contrary, the bertha collar emphasizes the slenderness of the hips by the effect of width across the shoulders, in the same way that a bolero does.

An example of an abbreviated sailor collar is shown on a gay two-piece sports dress. In itself the dress is not unusual. It is formed of jumper top, with a side opening from the waistline to the hips, closed with while pearl buttons, which is worn over an all-around pleated skirt. The smart flair of style lies in the contrast of the while silk crepe sailar collar and cuffs and the rich black silk tie against the deep garnet of the frock. With a smaller collar the contrast would not have been so unusual.—Christian Science Monitor.



HARSH CRITICISM

Plum: What wonderful rosy cheeks Miss Pippin has.

Old Man Lemon: You can't tell me. I think the brazen thing paints!

Poet: "My new poem will cause your editor to miss a beat." Editor: "Then please take it away. I don't want anything that will affect the circulation.

The origin of all mankind was the same:, it is only a clear and a good conscience that makes a man noble, for that is derived from heaven itself. —Seneca.

May Be Popular But Nature Adds Little to Miami's Lure

FAMOUS BEACH IS NOW POPULAR

Unusual view from an aeroplane of winter playground, Miami Beach, Florida, which has more than recovered after the hurricane disaster of a few years ago and is more popular than ever.

Does Ontario Lag Behind

Rural Health Must Soon Receive More Attention Than Formerly If We Keep Up With Progress

INTERESTING FIGURES

That thousands of farmers and small-town dwellers all over Canada are dying years ahead of their time, of diseases which could be prevented, is the startling fact now completely proven by an experiment conducted in Quebec, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

For some time it has been generally felt, amongst outstanding leaders in Canadian public health work, that something very decisive must be done, and soon, to give country people at least some of the protection against disease, that people in big cities enjoy.

So in those three provinces, to a few selected counties, the most modern methods in idsease—prevention were applied. Country health units—full-time departments corresponding to the medical health department of a big city were organized. This is what happened:

In the County of Beauce, Quebec, during 1926, there werGe 34Knunuu during 1928, there were 643 deaths from general causes. In 1927 there were only 487—a reduction of 156 deaths in a single year. 156 lives saved! Similarly infant deaths were reduced from 215 to 160; deaths from tuberculosis from 56 to 51, deaths from contagious diseases 86 to 27.

And the methods that saved all those lives, and prevented besides, an enormous amount of sickness, can be applied equally well to any county in Canada. They were applied to three other Quebec counties, and again, here is what happened.

	General Mortality.		Infant Mortality	
	1926	1928	1926	1928
St. Hyacinthe and Rouville	558	425	150	124
Lac St. Jean	625	512	254	215
Saint Jean and Iberville	301	277	90	54

Deaths from Contagious Diseases::

	1926	1928
St. Hyacinthe and Rouville Unit	46	19
Lac St. Jean Unit	68	46
Saint Jean and Iberville Unit	26	14

Only the more intelligent, perhaps, can realize the desperate urgency of applying, in their own counties, these same methods that have saved life and tremendous economic waste in the Quebec counties mentioned above.

If all the people who die, unnecessarily, of disease in any Canadian county in any one year were to be killed at once, in an earthquake, flood or other cataclysm, it would be regarded as a world disaster. But because death does his work quietly, taking young and middle-aged people one by one, years ahead of their time through what are termed "natural" causes, no one realizes that every month, every week, and every day, someone is dying in rural Canada whose life could have been preserved for years if rural and semi-rural people had health departments equipped to take care of their health by preventing disease, just as the big cities have.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is often quoted—but how many people who so glibly quote it have the backbone to apply it, as a principle, in taking care of their health, and of the health of their communities?

As to the cost of these county health units, it is pretty generally felt that the rural communities should be helped to pay it—that health is a national asset more important than mines or railways, and that just because the city is richer than the country, is no reason for supposing that the farmer's health is not so important as the city man's.

The following is a resolution passed in December by the Dominion Council of Health:

"Resolved that the Dominion Government be respectfully requested to further the establishment of full-time health units by voting an annual grant of money for the purpose."

It has been suggested that the provinces should be asked to contribute. In fact, probably the best basis upon which the cost could be split, is one-third from the Dominion, one-third from the Province, and the remaining third from the county, according ot the estimate of one authority.

The Problem of Population

Sir John Aird in the Colonizer (London): If we make it difficult for desirable people to migrate to Canada, there should be no hesitancy or delay in altering the regulations. Nationality is by no means the best test, for, while, we should, endeavor to maintain a strong British strain in our race, superior types of immigrants are available in all countries, particularly those of Northern and Western Europe.

One of the funny things about Einstein is that so many people who never studied mathematics think it funny that they can't understand him.

Yet most of the wrecks due to driving in a fog occur when the weather is clear.