How World Views Philip Snowden

An Interesting Sizing Up of Snowden's Action at the Recent Hague Conference

A NEW HERO

The Hague Gave Britain a new hero, for the frail little man with the fiery temper who so boldly stated his country's position, united British opinion behind him as no British statesman had done at any previous conference since the World War, correspondents agree. And the world watched with amazement. Its open diplomacy had "its first outstanding trial," and correspondents described the thrill of an international conference in which England was the aggressor instead of the mediator. Whatever readjustment of the Young plan may have been made or left unmade by the time this reaches the reader, all observers seem to be aware that, at any rate, in the words of one of our editors, "the factor of British patience and self-sacrifice, on which everybody has counted for so long, appears to have been played out." Others note the new Labor Government's distinct break with the pro-French policies in vogue wher Austen Chamberlain was Foreign Secretary.

Philip Snowden, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, is in charge of the British Government's finances, and in that capacity he headed the British delegation at the conference called at The Hague to give governmental sanction to the Young plan of reparations settlement drawn up at Paris last spring. Snowden, it will be remembered, electrified the world and startled his fellow-conferees by flatly demanding on the very first day three things—continuance of the percentages arranged at the Spa conference for distributing payments from Germany, instead of the Young plan percentages less favorable to Britain; discontinuance of German payments "in kind," harmful to British usiness; and a rearrangement of the conditional and unconditional payments under the Young plan so as to give England a larger share of what Germany is bound to pay regardless of circumstances.

Whatever the outcome of the conference, Philip Snowden becomes "the most conspicuous figure in old World politics by his determination to speak the truth as England sees it," to quote one of George W. Hinman's dispatches from The Hague to the New York American. Overnight this "cold aloof figure," notes John L. Balderston in a London cable to the New York World "made himself the most popular man in the country." Newspaper readers here will recall that no sooner had reports of Snowden's blunt speeches been spread abroad than the English press, without respect to party, rose to support him. Not only did his own chief, Prime Minister MacDonald, issue statements endorsing his position, but emphatic statements of approval came from the Liberal leader, David Lloyd George, and such conspicuous Conservatives as Austen Chamberlain and Winston Churchill.

"Mr. Snowden is one man in ten million," says the Baltimore Sun, explaining his unforeseen dominance of the conference. Frail and crippled, "possess of inflexible will," he is "poles apart from the type Britain usually sends to a conference: Instead of the traditional figure of suave approach, of reserve, of caution, of long-headed instinct for bargain, of willingness to forget the trees olng enough to look at the woods, there is the man who curtly says, 'Take it or leave it!'" "Snowden is one of the clear, intense flames of British intellectual radicalism" we read in the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger; "he has only bitter contempt for the new war-lords and the shrewd and tireless haggleers who have been representing continental diplomacy at all the debt conferences." This vivid picture is drawn by Guy Hickok in one of his Brooklyn Eagle dispatches from The Hague:

"Philip Snowden is an almost helpless cripple, as a result of a bicycle accident in his youth. At this conference it is only with the air of two canes that he walks from the council table to his car. A complete paralysis of his hips makes it necessary to brace his thighs against the table when he stands to speak.

"His deathly white face with skin drawn tight over the skull is furrowed with hundreds of little lines of pain, and in repose, with its lipless mouth, hollow cheeks and pale blue eyes, is like a German artist's mask of tragedy."

Of this man, once called "the Robespierre of the coming English revolution," R. L. Duus writes as follows in the New York Times:

"Snowden is the son of an English weaver, and was born at Kreighley in 1864. He began his career as a civil service employee at the age of twenty-two. A bicycle accident, which left him permanently dependent on two canes, forced him to give up this work and gave him time to think. He threw himself into journalism and politics, joining the Independent Labor party in 1894.

"In 1906 the cotton operatives of Blackburn sent Snowden to Parliament He rose swiftly to influence in the ranks of his party, made good use of his training in the Inland Revenue Department, and when MacDonald took office five years ago he was the logical candidate for the highest bookkeeping job in Britain. His fiery utterances of past years had made Conservatives apprehensive, but even hidebound capitalists had to admit that his 1924 budget was fundamentally sound.

"The outstanding feature of his financial policy has been not the confiscation of wealth, but stout opposition to adding to the burdens of the British taxpayer by remitting the war debts. He retests the Bolsheviki, and opposed their recognition five years ago.

"He is thin, pale, intense, impatient of inaccuracy, a good but not moving speaker. During the war he had the courage to stand out against prevailing sentiment, and lost his seat in Parliament. He came back after Versailles, stronger than ever. His wife, to whom he owes much, is is the daughter of a Harrogate alderman. She was a suffragist, though not a militant; writes much and speaks continually, making sometimes as many as 100 speeches in a single year; knows how to dress, and is regarded as one of the cleverest women in England."

Such is the man who took the floor on the first day of the 1929 conference of The Hague, and after admitting that the Young plan was "fundamentally sound," proceeded:

"But Great Britain does object to the way the annuities are divided. Great Britain objects to France getting five sixths of the unconditional payments, and also to Italy getting $9,720,000 more annually than she would receive under the Dawes plan. After they get their portions, there is a negligible remainder for the rest of us. The experts at Paris did not even make an attempt to explain, justify, or defend the divisions they recommended.

"I hope you will forgive my speaking frankly, but I wish to say this division is inacceptable and utterly indefensible.

"Great Britain attaches the greatest possible importance to the proposed modification in distribution, and insists upon the Spa percentages. These were fixed nine years ago, and although since then there have been five reparations conferences, this is th first time it was ever suggested that they be changed."

The Snowden argument may be easier to understand through this explanation by Paul V. Collins in the Washington Star:

"Under the Spa agreement, France was to receive, out of the annual payments by Germany, 52 per cent., and England 22 per cent.

"Under the Young plan, France will receive, during the next thirty-six years, 52.5 per cent. and England 20.5 per cent.—a reduction of 1½ per cent. for Great Britain compared with the proportion she has been receiving.

"Under the proposed Young plan, the payments are to be divided into two classes. Of eash annual payment, 660,000,000 marks is payable in foreign hurrencies, unconditionally, without the right of postponement. Out of that sum, 550,000,000 marks, or $142,000,000, is assigned to France.

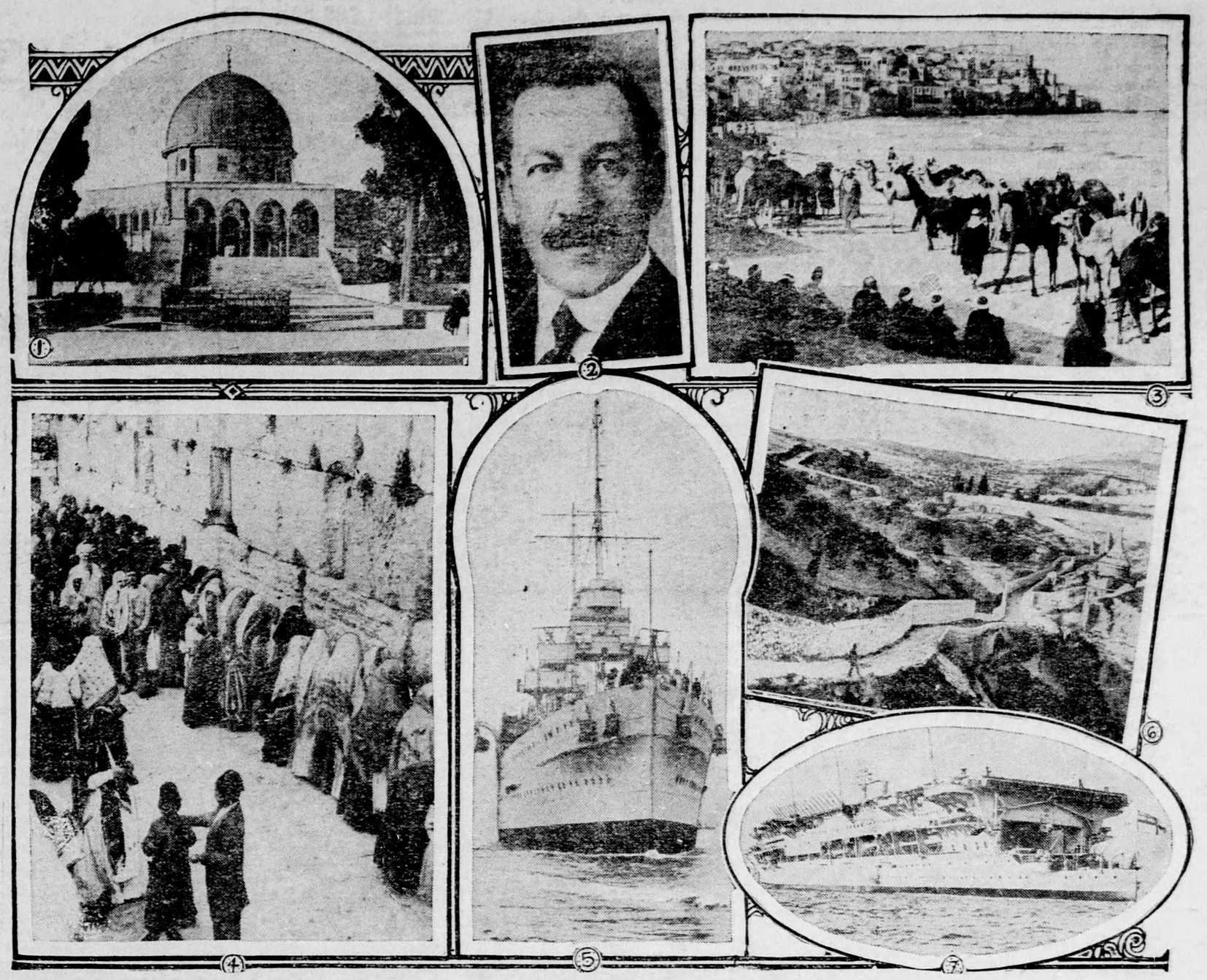
"That 'unconditional payment' is secured by a direct tax on all of Germany's railroads; all other payments come out of the budget of the Reich, and these latter payments from the budget) may be appealed to the special advisory committee of the proposed International Bank of Settlements, which it is planned to establish.

"The bank will then study Germany's condition, and, at its discretion, may grant postponement, not exceeding two years.

Something deeper than the financial objections stated by Mr. Snowden is found by the New York World in the new British position made manifest at The Hague. The World sees the "break-up of the policy which reached its zenith under Sir Austen Chamberlain by which Britain was not the partner but the auxiliary of France." The British Chancellor of the Exchequer at The Hague "expressed a resentment which has long been smoldering in the British consciousness," declares The New Republic, explaining:

"Mr. Snowden evidentally felt that the time had come to cease making concessions to France and to assert Britain's interest. He therefore created the crisis in the conference, certain that at the worst a sidetracking of the Young plan would automatically resuscitate the Dawes plan, which some British authorities felt should have been allowed to run on to its inevitable collapse, in order to get a really final settlement."

Religious Fanaticism Bathes Jerusalem in Blood and Stirs the World



MOSLEM RIDERS SWOOP DOWN ON SETTLEMENTS, LEAVING TRAIL OF JEWISH DEAD AND BRITAIN RUSHES SUCCOR

Bitter warfare has broken out in Palestine between Jews and Arabs in connection with the wailing wall, ancient symbol of Jewish glory, now standing on Moslem ground. Over a hundred are already reported dead. British troops and battleships are being rushed to the scene. The photographs here show (1) Dome of Rock (Mosque of Omar), in Jerusalem, part of the wall surrounding which is the famous wailing wall. (2) Sir Herbert Samuel, former high commissioner in Palestine, leaving Prague for London to consult with authorities, and who may be reappointed to the Palestine post. (3) Port of Jaffa, Palestine, near which British cruisers will patrol to protect the coast. (4) Famous wailing wall, Jerusalem, the bone of contention of Jew-Arab conflict. (5) 10,000-ton British cruiser "Sussex" being rushed under full steam to Palestine. (6) Valley of Jehoshaphat, which lies between Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsamane, near Jerusalem. (7) "Courageous," British aeroplane carrier, sailing for scene with reserve troops and planes.

The Fleet Returns As Scrap Metal

Remnants of Navy Go to Krupp Furnaces

Ruhport, Germany.—Dutch lighters brough the broken hopes of the German Empire to this river port. The cargoes consisted of scrap steel, remnants of the German high seas fleet, scuttled by the crews at Scapa Flow after surrender to the British.

The scrap goes to the Krupp smelting furnaces, to be turned, perhaps, into plowshares.

Thus the proud units of the imperial navy return to the place whence they came. Their armor plates, steel turrets and other fixtures were fashioned at the Krupp works, which out of the remains of death-dealing engines will now manufacture domestic ironmongery.

25 Rattlesnakes Killed in Attack On Nevada Den

California Scientist Verifies the Stories of Reptiles' Congregation in Lairs

Berkeley,—If a man reports having seen a legion of rattlesnakes sitting around in circles with tails buzzing like a swarm of bees, don't be too sure that he has indigestion or a suffering from the heat

For many years naturalists have tended to scoff at the idea that rattlesnakes congregated in dens, in spite of occasional rumors and unconfirmed stories to this effect because there never has been a scientific and authoritative rescription of such a find by a trained observer.

CURATOR VERIFIES STORIES

But this incredulity has been dissipated. You may believe your eyes the next time rattlers swarm around your feet like a school of mackerel. For E. Raymond Hall, curator of mamals in the University of California Museumo of Vertebrate Zoology, has just reported the finding of a den that contained scores of rattlers. As evidence of the find he has brought back twenty-five rattlesnakes with him.

Hall explains that he and Ward C. Russell, a student at the university, were making a collection of specimens in the vicinity of Wheeler Peek, Nerade, when they were told of a den of rattlesnakes which residents of the town of Fly, seven miles away, had attacked with riflese, shotguns and dynamite without avail.

149 PREVIOUSLY SLAIN

Their informant, Lloyd Robison, county game warden, stated that 149 snakes had been killed two days before, but it hadn't made much difference, for Hall and Russell found approximately fifty more sitting on their tails with heads in air when they arrived.

The den is situated at the south end of a butte in Spring Valley, White Pine County, Nev., about 250 yards from the Pike's Peak Highway. The den proper is a sunken place in the ground which has been blasted open several times with dynamite in an attempt to kill the inmates.

The snakes were very slow and clumsy, Hall says and by stepping carefully they managed to approach the den with ankle shoes and no leggings. They were armed with pistols loaded with the finest bird shot and killed twenty-five of the reptiles before they retired.

DEN FOUND FIVE YEARS AGO

Hall learned that the site of the den was discovered five years ago by two sheep herders, Doyle C. Robinson and W. C. Kirkland who thought the rattling was caused by a swarm of bees. Each year sorties have been made against the snakes in the spring and fall, but it has been found impossible to kill them off. Hall says that they probably pass the winter in the den and spread out over the valley in the summer.

Two Queens of the Court

TWO POPULAR DEITIES OF THE TENNIS COURTS

Betty Nuthall, England, and Helen Wills (right), America's outstanding tennis star, prior to their match in Wightman Cup finals, won by the latter, whose victory was responsible for capturing of Wightman trophy by Americans

Japan Views War Crisis As Big Bluff

War Reports Discredited—Tokyo Declared in Control of Situation

Tokyo—Chinese charges that the Soviet is attempting to start a world revolt through the Manchuria crisis is regarded here as nothing more than Chinese propaganda. One of the most gigantic games of bluff the world has ever seen is now in progress in Northern Manchuria between China and Russia, it is held here. Neither party either desires on intends to fight.

China is much concerned since her original bluff—seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway—has been met by Russia. The Soviet, partially reinforced by world opinion is making the most of its opportunity. Both realize that Japan looms in the offing.

While Japan will not do anything, even if a Russian expeditionary force enters Manchuria, provided it does not penetrate southward from Harbin, still Japan wisely and cannily refuses to give this assurance officially.

Nanking is uncertain which way Japan would jump, since Tokyo might think that the seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway to-day would be followed by seizure of the South Manchurian Railway to-morrow. Japan holds control of the situation and conversations between Baron Shidehara, the Russian Ambassador, and the Chinese Minister in Tokyo constitute the read, although unofficial, Chinese-Russian negotiations to-day.

Japan's decision how to act in the present crisis constitutes a vital factor, and that decision is not expected to be warfare. The best index of future developments is the attitude of the Tokyo Government, which at present is unperturbed and unruffled, despite wild rumors and slight border clashes.