Slashing Attack On Churchill

By J. L. GARVIN

While the Naval Conference is still sitting in London, and while there are things of supreme importance to be saved, with it or without it, a foremost British statesman has allowed himself to make a speech which is of the deepest public disservice in every way, but especially mischievous in the tone of its references to Anglo-American relations. It is an unavoidable necessity to repudiate that speech in the name of at least five-sixths of the British people.

We write these words, and what follows ,with the greatest possible reluctance and regret. Few public men are personally so attractive to us as Mr. Churchill. We have often given him generous support, and most staunchly at times when his friends were hard to seek. He is in his fifty-sixth year, and will be sixty within those few years more which will pass like a breath. We had hoped that in present public circumstances he would play, both in Parliament and the country, a still greater part as an eloquent and intellectual statesman. Those hopes have so far been disappointed. Just now something is going wrong with his splendid powers.

The Prime Minister is conducting the naval negotiations in the name of the country and the Empire. Whatever else happens at St. James's, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald will win golden opinions for his memorable services to the all-important cause of enduring Anglo-American settlement. Yet at this delicate and critical moment, Mr. Churchill addressed a meeting and permitted himself to attack the Government and to challenge the whole spirit on whih Anglo-American friendship and co-operation depend. Firstly, the orator suggested that amongst all the delegations, British Ministers were notably exhibiting themselves as squeeable and shuffling persons; feebly surrendering British interests at every step and to everyone. In this statement there is not a particle of resemblance to the facts, whether as regards the Prime Minister himself, or Mr. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty, or any one of their colleagues. It was Mr. MacDonald who said "The Navy is us."

Let us work this out. "The Simple is desirable," said Pascal, "but the simple is so hard." Like others, we have desired the simplicity of a complete Five-Power agreement. We have nevr been over-sanguine that this particular idea would be realized in any honest and effectiual manner. Anticipating the position taken up by France, we have shown how the logical pursuit of armed Security by one nation involves all neighboring nater-armaments and increasing insecurtions in the choice between full counity. The twentieth century is getting on. In the end France must disarm or Germany must rearm. The present contrast between them is more unnatural than anything ever seen before in the world The great German race, bound to become nearly twice as numerous as their Western neighbors, while second to none in brains and fibre, cannot for ever accept a Gallic suxerainty in arms which France by herself never could have established. She owes her practical ascendency to the ex-Allies and the ex-Allies and the ex-Associate who now ask her to concede something to them.

Though every year that passes will strengthen the plea, as Versailles recedes and French diplomatic connections weaken, this argument by itself is not likely to be of much present avail at St. James's. What then? It is suggested that if the "Never, Never Pact" against war were supplemented by agreement amongst the signatories to consult under American auspices in case of violation or serious menace, Grance would face some reduction of her present bristling program. "If ifs and ands . . ." What kind of agreement to consult? How much French reduction in return? These questions ought to be frankly put and answered to clear up the psychological situation and complete the efforts of the delegations to understand each other's positions whether the positions prove reconcilable or not.

Britain is ready of, course, for any extent of consultation when peace is threatened or even locally ruptured. The United States seem to us to have a great moral opportunity ,involving no practical embarrassments or entanglements. This has been shown with his usual sagacity and lucidity by Chief Justice Hughes. For the Pact is the basis. It implies every kind of mediation b,ut prohibits resort to violence. Consultation would ensure the largest possible number of neutrals, and compel delay—just the conditions that were lacking when the wild, blind sweep to doom surged onwards in the last week of July, 1914. Can President Hoover contemplate the entry of the United States into such a guarded agreement to consult without any increased obligation to act? It is the idea of "co-operation without entanglement" that we have urged often during the last seven years. It would be wonderfully worth while to moot the idea and to ask what France would give in the way of reduced tonnage were such an arrangement possible. In business, non-committal discussions beginning with "If and if" are frequent, and usually clear the air.

The method moderates temper. There is, of course, a profound difference of mental approach between English-speaking minds and French minds. The English-speakers believe that saving common sense were the Pact affronted, would bring about consultation, even if, as now, there were no formal compact to consult. But in this, as in a thousand other contrasting ways—social and literary as well s political—French logic demands the rifle, the regulation, and the protocol..

The Japanese are equally important, and have one of the greatest opportunities of wise statesmanship. In the course of their marvellous development they have brought a unique kind of fresh and continuous study to the English-speaking world. They understand it better than the French ever will—with the exception of a few brilliant and beloved French friends, such as are known to all of us, who have a genuine thought amused affection for Britain or America, or both. Japan, like Italy, does not, and cannot, want to force up naval expenses. HeHr deepest students of America and Britain know that in the English-speaking world as a whole there is more respect and liking for them than ever there was before. Why should a nation so progressive and discerning, force the United States to build more than the American people at present desire? For Japan any agreement in the general spirit of the Washington Conference is far better than no agreement.

The greatest thing to be secured, whether in the Conference or out of it, is the Anglo-American settlement. In all constructive hopes and plans for the world's peace, that is the keystone of the arch. Pull it out and the rest collapses. Every thorough student of international affairs is well aware that amongst many minds in at least three continents—not excluding South America—speculation on eventual Anglo-America discord is an unconfessed but most obstinate and pernicious influence against disarmament. Talk like Mr. Churchill's nourishes that evil thought. Until it is eradicated and extirpated—until the lingering conjecture that the two English-speaking Powers may yet be divided is absolutely given up—the best atmosphere required for the progress of a new world-spirit under President Hoover's leadership will not exist.

The Conference, whatever else happens, will have done much to create that atmosphere. The sequel must be made to ensure it even if the rigidity of the French program should compel this country to build more cruisers and destroyers than we had hitherto imagined. Even in that event, which would release us from all diplomatic entanglements in Europe, full means of friendly adjustment between the American Government and the Labor Government would be found. At the Morayshire dinner Mr. Stimson paid a generous tribute to the Prime Minister, whose patience, courtesy, and dignity have never failed.

If the Conference comes, in spite of all, to a Five-Power Agreement, which will be a real service is Disarmament and to confidence in Peace, very well and very good. For our part we would rather have an honest break-up than a false sucess. If nominal failure should be he end of it, we shall show at once how the main cause on which the whole world's hope depends can be and will be saved on lines equally bold and pratical. Meanwhile, it has been our business to tell America why Mr. Churchill's attack on the British Government at this juncture is condemned by five-sixths of the British people. It was this spirit that helped largely to damn the late Conservative regime at the polls. If the lesson has not been learned it will be reveated with additions.—Montreal Standard.

Roads on the Brain

London Daily Telegraph: (Cons.): Mr. Lloyd George still has roads on the brain. He sees road traffic developing until every by-road becomes a secondary road and every secondary road a broad and spacious highway. The railways he treats as a back number, their development already stationary. He still abides by his election panacea,—unlimited millions for endless roads. It is time that he also mentioned afforestation —which for half a century has been the refuge of the gravelled statesman —canals and the like; but first and last on the Liberal program is roads.

"A strong breath after a night out has ruined many a home."

A well-known actor says he is teaching his children to dance. A stepfather to them!

A Family Canada Can Well be Proud of

H. W. PHELAN OF TORONTO AND FAMILY WINTER IN HOLLYWOOD, FLA.

Happy group here shows (left to right): Donny Phelan, H. W. Phelan, Mrs. D'Arcy Coulson, Ottawa; Lorraine Phelan, Marion Coulson, Dolly Regan, Ottawa, and Adele Phelan.

France Alarmed By Birth Rate

Figures of Neighboring Countries Provide Striking Comparison

Paris—The race between the stork and the reaper again monopolizes front page space in the Parisian press. The newly-published census figures for 1929 reveal that France is in the dilemma of a constantly falling birthrate a decrease of marriage and an increasing death rate while surrounded by neighboring countries—Germany, Italy, Spain—all of whom registered tremendous increases of population in the past twelve months.

France is becoming alarmed at these figures. According to the official figures of the National Alliance for the Increase of Franch Population, deaths exceeded births in 1929 by 12,564, and it is estimated that unless something is done to check the accentuating tendency of recent years France in a few years time will be subjected to an annual loss of population of 2,000,000 or more.

The situation thus has become so serious as to make thinking Frenchmen open a cry for a "birthrate policy" on the part of the government. One reason for this lies in the Franco-Italian rivalry. Mussolini has already inaugurated a birthrate policy and the census returns show that it is working—to the extent of hundreds of thousands additional births per year.

The National Alliance report reads: "In 1929 Italy increased its population by 375,000, Germany grew by 350,000 in habitants, Spain increased to the extent of 200,000. We are being overwhelmed by our neighbors. France is really faced with a profoundly serious problem. It is about time that those in power inaugurated a real policy of births with the idea of increasing the size of the average family by making it easier to earn a living.

Anglo-French Co-operation

"Augur" in the Fortnightly (London): The experience of ages past and of our own time down to the present day shows that British intervention in European affairs never has been so profitable to the cause of peace and so productive of positive results as when exercised in agreement with our geographical neighbor, France. On the whole, we prefer the Germans, but until now Anglo-German co-operation has neither been stable nor effective; generally speaking, we like the French much less than the Germans, but Anglo-French ententes (for there have been several) have always had excellent results for this country, and the last, no doubt, saved us from falling under the economic, if not the physical, hegemony of a Prussianized Empire in Berlin.

"You must spend money to make money."—John N. Willys.

"The man who gives in when he knows he is right is weak," says a novelist. Or, of course, married!

Western Canada Tightens Liquor Control Policy

British Columbia's 3-Man Board Has Power to Fix Price of Wet Purchases

Montreal, P.Q.—Drastic changes in the operation and enforcement of British Columbia's liquor policy was revealed by Attorney General R. H. Pooley in the British Columbia Legislature. The new amendments provide for a three-man liquor board and tightening up of the present liquor act as follows:

The board will do all its own liquor purchasing. Up to the present all purchasing has gone through the government's purchasing department. The board alslo is given power to fix liquor prices, which are fixed now by the government.

Specified soldiers' clubs will be allowed to sell beer to their members under strict regulations designed to prevent others from obtaining beer in these establishments. This will legalize beer sales now proceeding unchecked in many soldiers' clubs.

Proprietary clubs, considered a leading source of illicit liquor sales, will be wiped out.

The Manitoba system of padlocking bootlegging establishments is adopted to be enforced after a second conviction for liquor sale within a year of the first conviction. Such establishments may be completely closed for twelve months, whether they are dwellings or otherwise.

Liquor advertising on billboards dodgers, leaflets,and by similar means will be prohibited after January 1, 1931.

Wine makers on a small scale, who cannot afford to hold their wine long enough to mature it poprerly, will be allowed to sell it to the larger wineries, which have adequate maturing facilities. This is designed to maintain the standard of British Columbia wines.

New regulations are provided to prevent any persons from using another person's liquor permit to obtain liquor at government stores.

Under the new regulations, any person under twenty-one years who makes application for a liquor permit, or is found without lawful excuse in a licensed club or beer parlor will be guilty of an offense against the act.

Another clause provides that when liquor is transported illegally the automobile, boat or other conveyance will be forfeited to the Crown.

The new act goes into force at once.

DARING OF FAITH

The eaglets that attempt to fly when flight seems hopelessly impossible soon find themselves lords of the blue. The man who, in the daring of faith, undertakes what he cannot perform, will soon astonish the world by performing it.—Dr. Boreham.

ILLUSION

One of the most important things in life is the illusion of the importance of things which are not important.—Robert Lynd.

Defective Cars Cause Accidents

Owners Should be Punished A.O.A. Suggests in Review of Subject

Expressing the belief that defective cars are the cause of a large number of accidents a suggestion is made by the A.O.A., in the current issue their bulletin, that a law should be passed penalizing those who are found driving cars in this category.

"The United States at times furnish us with some fairly good examples which we might do well to follow," the artile reads. "As an instance, last year a number of the States adopted a measure stipulating that all automobiles in operation must be kept in good running order. Severe penalties were attached to this law and with a view to rigidly enforcing it a special force of police were organized recruited from men who were thoroughly familiar with cars and their inner workings.

Punish Offenders

"Every offender found operating a car which was in some way defective was taken before the courts and summarily punished. Particular attention was paid to motorists using cars with a steering wheel exhibiting too much play; a defective axle; a steering rod in bad order; bad brakes or brakes poorly adjusted; a defective speedometer, etc. In short, any fault in the car which might be the cause of an accident was considered as an infraction of this new law and the owner was punished.

"The ultimate result of this law was that eventually the highways were purged of the rickety specimens of gas wagons, a familiar sight on all roads, and which are the cause of a good percentage of the accidents which occur. The inevitable protests with which the law was greeted in some quarters at the start were rapidly changed to songs of praise as the public came to realize the wisdom of the measure.

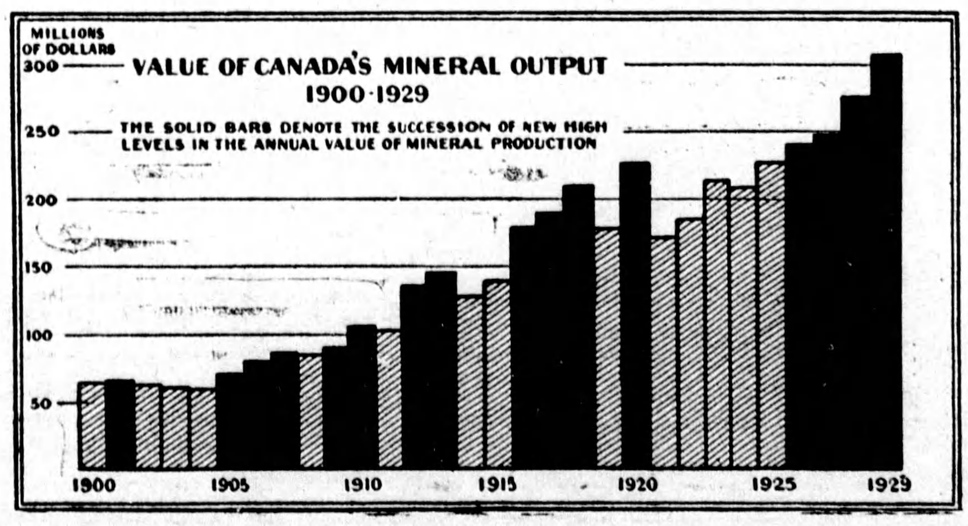
"We ourselves might well emulate our neighbors in drafting legislation alcng this line. The number of accidents registered last year for which defects in cars were the cause would undoubtedly represent a substantial figure. How many motorists ever take the trouble to have their machines looked over by competent mechanics?

Suggestion for Ontario

"When can we expect our own government to emulate the example set by our neighbors and draft a law controlling the use of automobiles which are not in good running order. Such a measure is undoubtedly on the public interest and would be welcomed by all sane motorists. Surely we can never go too far in the matter of legislation delegated to make our highways safer places to drive on and any measure in this regard must receive popular acclaim."

"Education to-day is not designed to teach the truth, but to spread propaganda."—Bertrand Russell.

Canada's Remarkable Advance in Mineral Production



During the thirty years embraced by the period 1900-29 inclusive, the annual value of Canada's mineral production has on no fewer than sixteen different occasions surpassed all previous marks. While the effect of the upward trend of prices must be taken into account, especially as regards the war period, this record is nevertheless a remarkable illustration of sustained growth. It stamps the mining history as a foremost force in the march of Canadian development during the twentieth century.

The sheer increase in value—from less than $65,000,000 in 1900 to well over $300,000,000 in 1929—is amply impressive in itself. But the manner in which it has been attained is no less notable. There has been a great advance in variety of output. At the opening of the century gold and coal were the only two large items of Canada's mineral production, whereas the Dominion's present-day mining industry owes its magnitude not only to coal and gold, but to copper, nickel, lead, silver, zinc, asbestos, and in short, to perhaps a wide a diversity of resources as any country affords to mining enterprise.

Canadian News Briefs

Winnipeg.—Rev. P. Oleksiw, rector of St. Vlademir's and St. Olga's Ukrainian Catholic Pro-Cathedral here, has accepted the pastorate of the Holy Ghost Church, Hamilton, Ont. He will leave for the East on April 29.

Winnipeg.—Police are searching for a bandit with a sore head who attempted to rob St. James' Grocery store. The proprietor struck the gunman with a two-pound can of tobacco as he fled from a fusilade of merchandise. The bandit replied with two shots from a revolver ,just missing Mrs. James Wyllie, wife of the store owner.

The Pas, Man.—Geological survey of the non-metallic deposits of Northern Manitoba will be undertaken by the new mining branch of the Manitoba Government when the provinces assume control of its natural resources.

Meadow Lake, Sask.—James Edward Eveans, veteran of the Nile Expedition in 1883, and first settler of this far Northern Saskatchewan district, is dead here.

Crotherview, Sask.—Beside a discharged shotgun, the body of John Edlund, 45, lumber yard manager, was found recently. He had been ill for some time.

Maniwaki, Que.—Twenty-five roomers at the Central Hotel were driven outdoors in scanty night attire when fire was discovered in the attic of the structure. None were injured and the flames were subdued after $500 damage had been done. A defective chimney is believed responsible.

Hull, Que.—Leaving a note saying he was tired of life, didn't have enough money to pay his room rent, and was going to jump in the river, Romeo Paquin disappeared from a local boarding house. The man had shown deep despondency of late and acquaintances believe he has carried out his threat of suicide. Police are investigating.

Ottawa.—Serious injuries were suffered by Mrs. Catherine Rigby, 70, and her sister, Miss Mary McCarthy, 72, when they were knocked down by an automobile at a street intersection here. Scalp wounds necessitated removal of both to hospital, where their conditions are reported os just fair. Edgar Dufold, the car driver, was not held by police.

Stratford, Ont. — Bricks crashing through a blazing roof from a crumpled chimney into the kitchen where he lay sleeping, awakened Tom Parker in his West Zorra home just in time to allow him to escape. He had barely reached the outside when the entire roof collapsed. Fortunately Mrs. Parker and her four children were at a neighboring house at the time.

The total cut of lumber on the crown lands of New Brunswick during the current season is estimated at the equivalent of 212,000,000 feet.

Prohibition

Frank H. Shaw in the English Review: The greatest tragedy of Prohibition in America is its effect on the immediate generation of adolescence, the potential fathers and mothers of to-day and to-morrow. To them intoxication is no vice whatsoever; and one trembles to think what the children—if any are born—will be like! Unless the young men see visions the nation dies! How can a brain muddled by synthetic alcohol see constructive visions when its principal focus is toward the destruction of established law? The grotesque feature of it all is that in the wine-drinking and non-prohibition countries drunkenness is everywhere on the wane. Only in "dry" America is it increasing by leaps and bounds, and, side by side with it, the terrible crimes of violence of which we in Europe seldom hear.

The St. Lawrence Waterway

R. C. Hawkin in the Contemporary (London): Who will pay for this mighty enterprise? Mr. Hoover's financial proposal was that the United States and Canada should constitute an International Board, with authority to issue waterway bonds guaranteed jointly by the United States and Canada. This would obviously place the whole project under the control of American financiers, and experience elsewhere indicates that under those conditions Canada would play a very secondary part. The alternative plan would be to recognize frankly that not only Canada, but Great Britain, is deeply interested in the scheme. England and Canada, acting together, need not ask assistance from New York bankers. They can find 50 per cent. of the money required, so that the project would be on a fifty-fifty basis.

Security and Sanctions

Sisley Huddleston in the New Statesman (London): In practice, no nation believes in this rubbish of mutual assistance, of security and sanctions; it is quite impossible for any country to place its faith in the prospect of disinterested help to be accorded by other countries, or rather by a consortium of countries; and it is quite impossible for any country to surrender the smallest portion of its armed citizens to the discretion of an international body which will employ them in quarrels not their own.