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WHAT FOCH REALLY SAID SHORT OF BREATH

TO ERZBERGER AND OTHER GERMAN PLENIPOTENTIARIES

Capt. Recouly Describes the Historic Scene of the Morning of November 11th, 1918.

New York, April 28.—Germany's appeal for an armistice on November 11, 1918, met with the laconic reply, "I have no terms," from Marshal Foch and the other plenipotentiaries, according to Raymond Recouly (Captain X), French biographer of Foch and Joffre, in an article entitled "What Foch Really Said," which is published in the May issue of Scribner's Magazine.

Captain Recouly, describing the historic scene of the morning of November 11th, when the generalissimo of the Allied forces, attended by a few members of his staff, signed the document in a railway dining car in a forest near Rethonde, a town between Compiègne and Soissons, declared "the sight of butter seemed to fill the German envoys with joy." The radio from the Germans asking for "a cessation of hostilities in the name of Humanity," was received by Foch shortly after midnight on the 7th and at 1:25 a.m. on the 8th Foch sent back his answer: "The German plenipotentiaries will have to go to the outpost on the main road from Mauberge la Capelle Guise." From this point they were brought by delayed stages to Rethonde, which they reached about 7 o'clock in the morning. Two hours later they were in the presence of the commander of the conquering Allied armies.

"There was a cold salute," says Captain Recouly, "a bow in return; no presentations. The Germans took their places at the table in the dining car, where their names were written, and remained standing. The officers seemed embarrassed and upset. Not so the civilians who did not seem to care at all. They talked familiarly together; it was impossible to believe that their country's fate was hanging in the balance, and that they were there to sign the most colossal capitulation the world had ever seen."

Foch's piercing eyes, gruff voice and curt manner were impressive. "To whom have I the honor of speaking?" he asked. The Germans replied, "What is the object of your visit?" he asked. Then followed this dialogue:

Erzberger: We have come to inquire into the terms of an armistice, to be concluded on land, on sea and in the air.

Foch: I have no terms to submit to you.

Count Oberndorf, the diplomat in the German party, interceded: "If the Marshal prefers, we may say that we are here to learn the conditions on which the Allies would be willing to grant us an armistice."

Foch: I have no terms.

Erzberger, drawing forth a greasy paper: "President Wilson has informed our government that Marshal Foch has been invested with the power of submitting the Allies' conditions to the German plenipotentiaries."

Foch: I will let you know the Allies' conditions when you have asked for an armistice. Do you ask for an armistice?

Was: exclaimed Oberndorf and Erzberger together.

Foch: In that case I will read you the terms drawn up by the Allied governments." He sat down and the reading began. It lasted an hour, for the document had to be translated. The German plenipotentiaries pleaded for an immediate suspension of hostilities and for time to permit the Berlin government to examine the terms. Again Foch spoke:

"I am but the mouthpiece of the Allied governments. It is those governments that have drawn up the conditions of the armistice limiting the delay to 72 hours' duration. I have, therefore, no power to suspend hostilities without their authorization."

The Germans at once dispatched a messenger to Spa, with credentials and the request that his journey to Berlin be "facilitated." When the messenger reached the German outposts, it is related, the troops were so demoralized that they fired upon his white flag. Promiscuous volley firing continued and the emissary was unable to reach his destination until the next day. Meanwhile the German envoys had notified Foch of their difficulty and Foch agreed to permit them to send a German officer to Berlin by air. A plane was equipped and ready for the flight when word was received that the messenger had reached Berlin.

Captain Recouly declares the armistice was signed because Foch and his staff were convinced Germany was already in the throes of a revolution. The armistice envoys painted a "black picture" of conditions. While the German government was analyzing the terms the plenipotentiaries remained near Foch in the forest at Rethonde. They were permitted to leave their train and, guarded by armed soldiers, exercised in the open air. On the afternoon of the 10th, Foch informed Erzberger, the head of the delegation, that hostilities would be resumed at 11 a.m. the next day. At 7 o'clock on the night of November 10th the following radio message was intercepted by the French:

"German Government to German Plenipotentiaries: The plenipotentiaries are authorized to sign the armistice. (Signed) The Chancellor of the Empire." Three ciphered figures at the end of the message proved its authenticity. More than twelve hours of deliberation and debate over the "harsh" terms followed. Foch granted some concessions and refused the others.

Subsequently the wearied French English and Germans appended their signatures to the document, and, by prearrangement, six hours after the signing, or 11 a.m. of the morning of the 11th, operations ceased along all the fronts. Four years of warfare which had cost more than 9,000,000 lives was at an end.

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WASTING THE FORESTS.

Prodigality Adds to the High Cost of Living.

In a comprehensive address on the forestry situation in Canada, Prof. C.D. Howe, of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, told the members of the Royal Canadian Institute that the continued neglect to conserve the forest resources of this country would mean still further increases in the high cost of living. He said that from one-half to two-thirds of the forest wealth of Canada had been destroyed by fire in the past seventy-five years. There are 1,900,000 square miles of forested country in the Dominion, he stated. He advocated the re-investing of forestry profits in the replenishment of the merchantable timber supply.

"I trust that you will not consider me flattered when I assert my belief that the community should share in the increased price of lumber," he said. In British Columbia, for example, when the market price of lumber goes above a certain price agreed upon as furnishing the producer a reasonable profit upon his investment, the royalties exacted by the province increase in definite ratio. Thus, the people as a whole profit by the upward trend of prices. I would suggest that a certain portion of such graduated tax be re-invested in the forests by the community to accelerate the regeneration and growth of the commercial species, and thus keep our woodlands at our market doors continually productive.

"Most private business is sustained by a reinvestment of a certain portion of its profits. The communities' forest business can only be sustained in the same manner. The Dominion Government spends about \$2,000,000 a year for the encouragement of agriculture, which is another way of saying that amount is re-invested in the business of increasing the productivity of the farm soil. The forest soil products have a value equal to that of our wheat crop, yet we are re-investing almost nothing to continue its productivity. The lumber industry creates for Canada in 1917 forest products valued at \$118,000,000. The pulp mills of the country produced in the same year materials to the value of \$96,000,000, a total of over \$200,000,000. The lumber and pulpwood industries stand third as producers of wealth in this country, being surpassed only by agriculture and manufacturing. We re-invest a portion of the earnings of agriculture and manufacturing to keep those industries going, but with the exception of spasmodic planting we have re-invested very little of the forest revenues to encourage the regeneration of the present commercial species."

Prof. Howe said that south of the vast barren lands stretch there is a very sparsely wooded transcontinental belt containing about 70,000 square miles. This is the "little stick region," and will never contribute materially to the Canadian supply of sawlogs or pulpwood.

Prof. Howe stated that 1,600,000 square miles of the Dominion are incapable of producing forests of commercial value.

"Over 40 per cent. of the land area of Canada is either too cold, too high or too dry to produce saw logs or even pulpwood," he said. "This is a fact that is overlooked by those who talk boastfully of our inexhaustible forest supplies. Subtracting the treeless areas from the total land area, we get 1,900,000 square miles of forested country."

Prof. Howe said that from one-half to two-thirds of our forest had been destroyed by fire in the past seventy-five years, and pointed out that it would take twice that length of time to make a tree 12 inches in diameter.

"In other words forest fires have destroyed the saw log in 1,000,000 square miles of good Canadian territory. Ninety per cent. of these fires were caused by sheer carelessness. We are already beginning to feel the pinch of the diminishing supply of accessible timber. You will more readily comprehend what the destruction by past fires means when I say that the loss is equivalent to about 450 years' supply at our present rate of consumption of our billion board feet a year."

Prof. Howe gave an extended resume of the progress of the various provinces, the greatest of which are those of British Columbia, where at the present rate of use the supply will last for 300 years. He said that definite statistics on the forestry outlook in Ontario would be obtainable when the Dominion Commission of Conservation had completed the survey it was undertaking at present. The wanton destruction or indiscreet use of Canada's forest resources should be discouraged by the newspapers, because it would mean a further encroachment in the present high cost of living.

Lumber Shortage in Alberta. Curtailment of the amount of lumber exported from Canada is the request which the Alberta Association of Architects has put before the Federal Government. The Dominion Commission of Conservation had completed the survey it was undertaking at present. The wanton destruction or indiscreet use of Canada's forest resources should be discouraged by the newspapers, because it would mean a further encroachment in the present high cost of living.

Ests Many Nests. A cliff swallow will eat a thousand flies, mosquitoes, wheat midges or beetles that injure fruit trees in a day, and, therefore, it is to be encouraged. This bird is also known as the cave swallow because it places its nest on the outside of a barn or other building up under the eaves. Colonies of several thousand will build their nests together on the side of a cliff. These nests, shaped like a flattened gourd or water-bottle, are made of bits of clay rolled into pellets and lined with straw or feathers. This bird winters in the tropics.

Wear Khaki Shirts: Do Washing. Chicago, April 28.—A collar and shirt strike, aimed at alleged profiteering by haberdashers and laundrymen to begin May 5th, and continue twenty days, was announced yesterday by a local committee, who expect to have 10,000 adherents in a few days. The strikers will wear khaki shirts, and their washing will be done at home.

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