

## B O O K S

### *Mr. Lloyd George's Disclosures in re the Peace Treaties.*

In Vol. II of his work "The Truth about the Peace Treaties" Mr. Lloyd George sets forth in detail the history of the arrangements made in Paris in 1919—1920. He emphasises the point that the future peace of Europe depended on whether the peace terms were just and fair to all parties, and now asks, if they were not, what has been done to obtain a speedy remedy of the injustices. In his speech of 2nd February, 1919, the British delegate, Sir Eyre Crowe, warned the Peace Conference that they ought not to go to extremes with the principle that the new frontiers must always be drawn so as to favour the Allies of the Entente at Hungary's expense, for the ultimate task of the Peace Conference was to create conditions conducive to permanent peace.

The Czech delegation — says Mr. Lloyd George — at first demanded a Danube frontier from Pozsony to Vác and from thence a frontier running south of Miskolc and Sátoraljaujhely to the Rumanian border. Economic, political and military reasons were urged, and the Czechs declared that this frontier would leave as many Slovaks in Hungary as it would give Magyars to Czecho-Slovakia. Besides this Beneš demanded a corridor 200 kilometres long through Hungary to connect Czecho-Slovakia with Yugoslavia and give the Czechs access to the Adriatic.

The greatest of all misfortunes — according to Mr. Lloyd George — was that Czecho-Slovakia was not represented at the Peace Conference by Masaryk, but by an excitable, crafty, far less balanced and very shortsighted man, Beneš, who did not realize that the more he grasped the less he would be able to keep. But the Entente was always on the side of the Czechs. The result of this was the recognition of a polyglot and incoherent Czech State in which hundreds of thousands of protesting Magyars

and millions of indignant Germans were incorporated. The greater the indignation displayed by the nationalities, the less the attention paid to them by the Czech Government.

Drawing up the balance-sheet of the past twenty years, Mr. Lloyd George establishes the fact that the authors of the Peace Treaties, the victorious Powers, have neglected to fulfil the obligations undertaken by them when they signed those documents: first, because they did not keep their solemn promise to disarm after their enemies had done so; secondly, because they did nothing to assist the weaker members of the League of Nations when they were exposed to aggression; thirdly, because they scandalously broke their promise, which was an integral part of the Peace Treaties, to respect the rights of the minorities; fourthly, because they ignored the clauses providing for a revision of the Treaties. But no treaty can ensure mankind against a universal breach of faith, is Mr. Lloyd George's bitter conclusion.

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