

already appeared. Among these the most important is the volume of Herr von Jagow to which a review in the *Times* did justice, and a pamphlet by Count von Pourtalés, the German Ambassador to Petrograd during the last fateful weeks before the outbreak of the war. Our *Daily Telegraph* revelations are as almost nothing compared with the flood of Cabinet and diplomatic revelations which is beginning to burst on Germany.

Now that Lord Reading has returned, there is much discussion in England concerning the future of the Washington Embassy. The name of Mr. Fisher, champion of the Education Bill, is being mentioned for the post. The first of the two following clippings comes from the *London Nation*, the second from the *New Statesman*:

I

'It is difficult to explain and more difficult to excuse, the government's long delay in the important matter of the Embassy to the United States. When Lord Reading was sent to Washington his retention of the Lord Chief Justiceship was a plain indication that the appointment was of a temporary character. At the time of his visit to England last year it was known that he would return to America merely in order to wind up the work of the mission which had been his particular concern. Parliament and the public generally have no real appreciation of the fact that Great Britain has not had in Washington since the beginning of the war an Ambassador in the full and true sense. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice was a broken man for months before the resignation that was followed immediately by his death. Lord Reading — of course a far abler and more brilliant man than his predecessor — has been less an Ambassador than the head of a special mission, and, indeed, he has been less a diplomat than a financial agent of Great Britain, and the fact has been fully recognized in Washington and New York. Moreover, for months together during his brief period of office, the work of the Embassy, in this most critical of times, has been left in the hands of the Secretaries and of Sir Henry Babington-Smith, a quiet, efficient, and admirable representative of the world in which he has

been trained. The new Ambassador should unquestionably have been definitely chosen a year ago. But at the moment of Lord Reading's return there is no announcement of his successor.

'The occasion involves for the Prime Minister and his colleagues at once a great challenge and a great opportunity. It would be impossible to exaggerate the peril of a wrong choice, and equally impossible to overstate the good of a right one. The welfare of the world depends, in a degree which cannot be computed, upon Anglo-American friendship and coöperation, and no one who is not willfully blind can refuse to see that the two countries are entering upon a period full of difficulty, more than sufficiently charged with the chances of mutual misunderstanding. On both sides of the Atlantic all men of vision and of good will echo the words of the present American Ambassador in London: "Let the two peoples never quarrel!" But a pious aspiration is of little force by itself. The friendship between England and America cannot take care of itself. Nor, on the other hand, can it be improved, or even tolerably maintained, if we continue the policy toward America, official and non-official, which was adopted during America's neutrality and developed after her entry into the war. We need, first, a return to the Bryce tradition. We need, secondly, a drastic change in the direction and temper of our public offices in the United States.

'English people who are personally unacquainted with America have no adequate means of measuring the greatness of the stroke by which Lord Bryce became the spokesman of Britain. Wisdom in this matter consists in our realizing that the standard then set should be as closely as possible upheld. To Washington we should send a great Englishman. He need not be a prominent statesman; he should not be a professional diplomat. The post does not demand a gift of oratory; but the Ambassador must be a man who can speak, finely and variously, to the American people. He should be able to interpret the common political and intellectual tradition; he should be no stranger to American history and institutions; he should be at home in the assemblies of educated men and women.

where the vital affairs of the new age are debated. And (a most essential point) he should be free from personal affectation. Such a man comes seldom out of legations. He is always rare; but never, in England, undiscoverable.'

II

'Our poverty in diplomatic talent is thrown up with painful distinctness in the popular nomination of Mr. Lowther as the one man fitted to represent us in the vacant Embassy at Washington. Not that the nominee does not deserve his primacy in the informal plebiscite. He typifies the complete English gentleman as the most fastidious of Englishmen might wish to paint that ideal — the not over-pedantic scholar, the one-time athlete, the squire, the traveled man of the world, the scion of a race which has inscribed its name on the roll of every Parliament since the days of Simon de Montfort, a man of sense and pleasant humor, of fine presence, great natural dignity, and a rather bluff, yet essentially tactful, openness of speech; in a word, the very antithesis of all that used to stand for the insular John Bull. Admirable qualities in an Ambassador, no doubt. But Mr. Lowther, after all, happens to be Speaker of the House of Commons, which has already been nearly bled white of men of distinction. "We are all of us wanted, but not very much," says a philosopher of the admirable country for whose sake, as well as our own, this latest sacrifice is suggested. Mr. Lowther must be an exception. He is not only wanted, but wanted very much in the present House of Commons.

'Have we nobody else, not indeed who could be better spared (for that would be to widen the field of choice unduly), but who possesses just those qualities of personality and prestige which the peoples of both countries have a right to look for in the holder of this post? Several political names occur — Asquith, Balfour, Grey, Birrell, Rosebery — but they are those of men either tied to duties at home or who, for reasons of health or age, might feel that their best work was done. Besides, one can think of objections to all of them. In letters our more celebrated vintages seem to come to maturity at an earlier age, but it has never been our custom to export much of

this priceless stuff to foreign Embassies. Perhaps we are apprehensive lest if Mr. Kipling, for instance, went to Washington — as he would inevitably have come to St. James's had he been born an American — he might become denaturalized and take to writing Star-spangled Banners.'

Jade.

M. SAZONOFF, the well-known Russian statesman, who was Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1910 to 1916, and is at present the representative in Paris of the governments of Admiral Kolchak at Omsk and General Denikin at Ekaterinodar, has been discussing the Russian situation with a correspondent of the *Morning Post*. He said that the news from the region west of Petrograd appeared to be good. He did not think the Bolsheviki would be able to put up a strong resistance to the mixed Russian and Esthonian forces which were advancing on Petrograd, and that there was good reason to hope for the early fall of the city. The capture of Petrograd was a highly desirable event in every way. It would at length be possible to mitigate the terrible conditions prevailing there, a state of suffering, immeasurably and incomparably worse than anything the Germans had had to bear — a city ravaged by disease and starvation, swept clean of young children, who had died under their mothers' eyes for lack of milk. Further, the fall of Petrograd could not fail to have a great moral effect throughout the country.

The news from Admiral Kolchak, on the eastern front, is also good. Admiral Kolchak's Government is, in truth, the Provisional Government of Russia, the only government in the country which counts, and the one to which all Russians loyal to their own country and to the Allies have rallied. It has been recognized by the Archangel Government, and, if its recognition by General Denikin's Government has not been publicly announced, it can only be because communication with General Denikin is at present practically non-existent. M. Sazonoff, of course, hopes for the recognition of Admiral Kolchak's Government by the Allies as the Government of Russia at an early date. He protested vigorously against the accusation