

St. Croix Avis.

77TH YEAR.

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TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, July 12th.—Mr. Stanley Baldwin, in the House of Commons, and Marquis Curzon, in the House of Lords, to eager audiences today made identical pronouncement on the Government's policy on the reparations problem. In contrast to such statements by his predecessors Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law, which were very lengthy, Mr. Baldwin's pronouncement was particularly brief, taking about sixteen minutes for delivery and as in neither house the opposition offered criticism of any consequence the momentous proceedings were quickly ended. The question on everybody's lips, how far the Government's open disapproval of the French Ruhr policy and its holding aloft therefrom were to be converted into an active policy separate from France, was to a great extent unanswered. Mr. Baldwin certainly moved quite perceptibly away from Mr. Bonar Law's attitude of pessimism, inasmuch as he asserted the Government's decision to submit to the Allies a separate reply to Germany's latest offer but he did not give the slightest indication of the nature of the proposed reply. It was the only important part in the pronouncement, which, for the remainder, was a warning couched in the most friendly language, but plainly telling France that the British Government could not much longer remain a passive spectator to a policy which threatened the economic collapse of Germany and with it disaster to the whole of Europe. Taken as a whole the pronouncement seemed to be a new appeal to France to retrace her steps and come into line with

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CAST OF CHARACTERS.

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Kaiser Wilhelm II.....	Louis Dean
Crown Prince of Germany.....	Earl Schenck
Field Marshall von Hindenburg.....	George Riddel
Chancellor von Bethman-Hollweg.....	Carl Dane
Foreign Minister von Jagow.....	Fred Hern
Under Secretary Zimmerman.....	Percy Standing
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all the Allies in a new effort to settle the reparation problem by negotiation, instead of by military penalties. The Premier was most careful to avoid the shutting of the door on renewed negotiations. Notable points were the complete absence of any reference to the United States connection with the negotiations and emphasis that Italy was with England rather than with France. Carefully framing his pronouncement to avoid criticism from pro-French members of the Government and Parliament, the Premier was emphatic in declaring that Germany must be made to pay to the extent of her capacity, but he made no answer to the French demands as to what should constitute France's surety in the absence of the Anglo-French-American conference which was originally proposed to afford France security against a renewed German attack. He alluded incidentally

to what was considered the pet theory of himself and Mr. Reginald McKenna, that the reparations problem needs settlement in connection with the inter-Allied debts and he omitted to enlarge on this point. Clearly the British policy will be developed by steps, leaving an opening to the last to France to come into line. It may be assumed that any question of calling a conference of bankers to exploit Germany's capacity will come later. There was an understanding that there should be no immediate criticism to embarrass the Government, but that a separate day should be given for any debate, hence there was no discussion on the pronouncement in the House of Commons and only a minor discussion in the House of Lords. In the Upper House Lord Birkenhead put his finger, on what he re-

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