THE OREGON SUNDAY JOURNAL, PORTLAND, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 17, 1922.

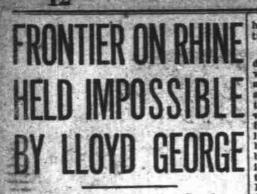
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Former British Premier Declares Poincare Bloc Is Headed Down Wrong Road.

(Continued From Page One)

hand, how much would France demand's. On the other, how much would he allies concede?

There was a subconscious conflict about the Rhine throughout the whole liscussion, however irrelevant the topic under actual consideration happened to be. But unrecorded memores are of little use as testimony unless corroborated by more tangible proofs. Do such proofs exist? I will recall a few.

FOCH SPOKESMAN

French republic. There was a party which considered the Rhine to be the only national fronther of France, a strong party, with a strong man as its spokesman, in many Why was he beaten at the height of his fame by a candidate of infinitely ways the strongest in France, Marshal less prestige and power?

Fach. His splendid services in the The wrath of Marshal Foch and his war gave him a position such as no soldier in France or in any other country could command. The soldier who by his genius leads a nation to vic-, tory possesses a measure of influence French policy about the Rhine. M. Tardieu, as is well known, was on the public opinion of the people he has saved from destruction such as

no other individual can aspire to, as long as his services are fresh in the Themory of his fellow countrymen. That, I admit, is not very long. chief treaty.

Gratitude is like manna, it must b gathered and enjoyed quickly, for its freshness quickly disappears, but in 1919, Marshal the early months of Foch was still sitting at the banquet table of popular fawor, enjoying the full flavor of grateful recognition. His word on all questions affecting the security and destiny of France was heard with a deference which no other man in France could succeed in securing. He had also a quality which is usually an attribute of generalship. for he was a lucid, forceful and pic speaker. He was, therefore istened to for what he was, for what he said, and for the way he said it What did he say? He said a good deal on the subject of the Rhine frontier. and I cannot quote it all. I will take a few germain sentences out of his

numerous utterances on the subject. MARSHAL'S TESTIMONY

On the 19th of April, 1919, there ap peared in the London Times an inter- as I said in my previous article, the view with Marshal Foch. From that pact was part of the argument ad-interview I take these salient pas- dressed to him. But the party of the sages: "And now, having reached the Rhine, we must stay there." "And ure to reach the presidential chair. It having reached the Rhine, we must stay there," went on the marshal, ever do him credit. very emphatically, "intpress that upon your fellow countrymen. Its our only safety, their only safety. We must have a barrier. We must double lock the door. Democracies like ours which the never aggressive must have strong natural frontiers. Remember that these seventy millions of Germans will always be a menace to us. Do not trust appearances of the moment.-Their natural characteristics have not sailles were satisfactory from the changed in four years. Fifty years French point of view. His opponents hence they will be what they are to-

declared that he had given way too From the table at the other end much to American and British standof the room Marshal Foch brought a points and that the peace was unsatisor eight feet so mare (

have to be held in force along its en- be detached by special provision from the economic life of Germany, up which it is almost He expounded his doctrine in greater He expounded his doctrine in greater detail in an official memorandum which he submitted to M. Clemenceau as, commander-in-chief of the allied armies "to stop enterprices towards the west of this nation, everiastingly warlike and covetous of the good things belonging to other peoples only recent-ly formed and pushed on to conquest by sforce regardless of all rights and by ways most contrary to all law, seek-ing always mastery of the world, sa-ture has only made one barriez-the forced on Germany. Henceforth the Rhine will land. The Rhine, which divided new territory from Germany, was to be them into the French and Belgian armies, to fight against their own Germany. Henceforth the Bhine will be the western frontier of the Geruntrymen on the other side of the hine. The whole conditions of life Rhine.

manic peoples." . He repeated this demand in a subof this free and independent republic were to be dictated by an "accord" sequent memorandum. Many of us recall his dramatic eruption into the placid arena of the peace conference in May, 1919, still brandishing the same theme. It may be said that Marbetween France, Luxemburg and Bel-gium and in the words of Marshal Foch, "Britain would be ultimately brought in."

shal Foch is not, and does not, pre-INDEPENDENCE MOCKERY tend to be a statesman. He is only But I am told these proposals did a great soldier. Nevertheless, his poot mean annexation. Then what else litical influence was so great that even in 1920 he overthrew the most did they mean? You do not swallow the oyster. You only first give it an independent existence by detaching it powerful statesman in France within a month after his triumphant return from its hard surroundings. You then at the polls with a huge supporting majority in the French parliament. surround it on all sides and absorb it into your own system to equip you It was Marshal Foch who, by his anwith added strength to prey on other tagonism, was responsible for M. Cle-menceau's defeat at the presidential oysters. What an independence and

what a republic! election of -1920. But for Marshal It would have been, and was in-Foch's intervention M. Clemenceau would have been today president of the tended to be, a sham republic. Had the plan been adopted it would have een a blunder, and a crime, for which

DEFEATS CLEMENCEAU

not France alone, but the world, would have paid the penalty later on. In the face of these quotations and of these undoubted facts, can anyone say that I calumniated France when formidable following was excited all I said there was a powerful party in the more against M. Clemenceau be-that country which claimed that the cause the latter, under pressure from Rhine should be treated as a natural the allies, had gone back on the agreed barrier of Germany and that the peace treaty should be based upon that assumption. Let it be observed I never stated

one of the two most prominent minthat this claim had the support of French democracy. The fact that the treaty, which did not realize that obisters in M. Clemenceau's administration, and closely associated with his in the framing of the peace lective secured ratification by an over-He has written a book, and in that book he gives at length a docvhelming majority in the French parument which he handed to the allies on liament and subsequently by an em-March 12, 1919, containing the followphatic verdict in the country, demonstrated clearly that the French people ing proposal: "In the general interest of peace, to as a whole shrank with their invincible assure effective working of the con-stituent clause of the League of Na-tions, the western frontier of Germany future disaster. But the mere fact

that there are potent influences in is fixed at the Rhine, consequently France that still press this demand and take advantage of every disap-Germany renounces sovereignty over, as well as any customs union with, territories of the former German empire pointment to urge it forward, calls for on the left bank of the Rhine." inremitting vigilance among all people who have the welfare of humanity at TARDIEU'S HUMOR There is a sardonic humor in the heart.

FRIENDSHIP FOR FRANCE "in the general interest of vords beace and to assure effective working In conclusion I should like to add of the constituent clause of the League that to denounce me as an enemy of France because I disagree with the Nations." But it demonstrates that at that date M. Clemenceau and his international policy of its pr ministers had become converts to the ers is a petulant absurdity. international policy of its present rul-During the whole of my public cadoctrine of the Rhine as the natural boundary line of Germany. American reer I have been a consistent advocate of cooperation between the French and and British pressure subsequently in-

duced him to abandon this position and, British democracies. I took that line when fawning on German imperialism was fashionable in this country. fremiership in an effort to place the was an honorable failure, and will British army under the supreme command of a French general. To preserve French*friendship I have The reasons for that defeat, by the

annual register 1919-1920, certainly sepeatedly given, way to French denot a partisan authority, proves that mands and even an unexcitable chronicler labored opinion in this country. under the delusion, if it be a delusion, But I cannot go to the extent of approving a policy which is endanger-ing the peace of the world, even to which possessed me when I wrote the offending article. Explaining the remarkable defeat,

please one section of a people for whose country I have always enterthe annual register says: "Clemenceau's supporters contended tained most genuine admiration. that the terms of the treaty of Ver-

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thus often antagonized





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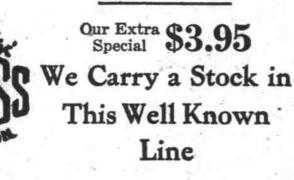
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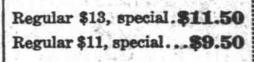
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