

ALLIED SOCIALISTS WILL MEET TO-DAY

Peace Said To Be the Main Object of London Conference.

FRENCH AIMS TOLD BY GUSTAVE HERVE

Says Party Is Strong Against Yielding Till Germany Is Beaten.

By MME. JEAN ALCLIDE PICARD.

Paris, Feb. 13.—A conference of the Socialist parties of the allied countries will take place in London to-morrow. In France the Socialist party proper is the General Confederation of Labor, which were generally at odds, have been, like many other parties, reconciled by the war. So of ten delegates which each country is to send it has been agreed that four shall be members of the General Confederation, very interesting feature. Two of the delegates are Jules Guesde and Marcel Sembat, Socialist party representatives in the French Cabinet. As members of the Gouvernement de la Defense Nationale their presence will be of the greatest importance, for it can be reasonably inferred that the mission is approved by the whole Cabinet. The programme of the conference has been much discussed both by the press and public. Peace is said to be the main object, and an article published in the morning papers mentioned such problems as compulsory arbitration, neutralization of the high seas and great strategic seaways, and all sorts of speculations are made so as to make some of these points clear.

Interview with Gustave Herve.

I secured to-day an interview from Gustave Herve, who of late years has become one of the great Socialist leaders. In August he was one of the first to ask to enlist, although his age allowed him to stay behind. The government advised him to continue to edit his paper, "La Guerre Sociale," considering that he would be in this way of more service, and as a matter of fact his daily articles have proved to be very influential on the masses and of great determination beyond criticism. He spoke first of the loss suffered by the party by the death of Jean Jaures, who was murdered by a fanatic a few days before the war began.

"We feel our great loss more every day," he said. "What an admirable instrument of victory he would have been were he with us! What words he would have found to show the immortality of the talk of peace as long as a German soldier treads an inch of Belgian or French ground, while German militarism has not been eradicated from the earth! Although his splendid eloquence shall fall us in London, we shall tolerate no whining for peace. If we have accepted with pleasure to meet the Socialists of the Allied nations, it is to have them know, through the able representatives we are sending, the spirit of the French people, who are fighting for the light and justice."

Vandervelde To Be Present.

M. Vandervelde, the great Belgian Socialist leader and also a member of the Belgian government, will be at our side, with M. Guesde and Sembat. "It has been suggested," I interrupted, "that compulsory arbitration will be proposed, in view of a general disarmament."

"We shall agree on nothing of the kind," he said. "What guarantee would we have that a new treaty would be respected by the nation, which consists of scraps of paper, unless we can back it by a hand strong enough. We want the destruction and disappearance of militarism, but a police force is necessary where there are unlawful elements, individuals or nations, and no more proofs are necessary of Germany's unlawful spirit. In 1908, by the Treaty of Paris, Prussia bound herself not to keep an army of

more than 42,000 men. Five years later Sharnhorst had succeeded in organizing an army of 180,000 men, and the Prussian army was fully reorganized. We must have at least an international gendarmerie to watch Germany reorganize on the principle of other nationalities, where we will admit of no speak of militarism.

"What about the neutralization of the high seas and international straits? This is a strictly German wish. The German government has heavily taxed the people to build a navy which soon ranked second in the world. 'Our future is on the sea,' they said. They invade Belgium. England puts her navy in the way. What becomes of the German dreadnoughts? They dread a battle and hide at home. Disappointment is great; so the Kaiser issues fiery declarations against neutrals, once again breaking international laws, and finds agents to suggest the neutralization of the seas. They are welcome to suggest neutrality," and M. Herve pounded with clenched fist on the table.

Allies' Blockade Effective.

"The Allies are and shall be masters and forbid the seas to German ships and German cargoes," he continued. "The Allies do effectively blockade the German coasts, and, in strict accordance with the Declaration of London of 1909, signed by the Kaiser, they do starve Germany."

"Well, what about Belgium, France and us Socialists, who did everything, including meetings of Social Democrats at Nuremberg, Basle and Bremen? I believed in their words. What became of all our illusions? Did Austrian Socialists do anything? Berthold tried to crush Serbia on the pretext of the Sarajevo crime? Did the Social Democrats protest when the war budget was proposed in the Reichstag, or when the Chancellor admitted being guilty of a crime against Belgium?"

Herve's voice broke down and for a moment he kept silent.

"What do you think of the Socialists' attitude in neutral countries?" I asked. "I think that all over the world even those who were most under German influence, like the rest of us, are gradually opening their eyes and understanding that the Social Democrats' ways have been in opposition to their words; that, in fact, they have been the tools of the imperial government. This will exclude them forever from the whole Socialist fraternity."

GERMAN FAMILY LEFT TO STARVE

Husband in Kaiser's Army— Wife and Two Boys Penniless— May Have to Beg.

In two small rooms at 123 Washington Street live Mrs. Marie Will and her two sons, Eric and George. Her husband, George, has been in Germany since June, and is believed to have joined the army. Whether or not he is alive Mrs. Will does not know. She is now without money, has no food or coal, and is facing starvation.

Until three weeks ago the wife was able to pay the \$7 monthly rent for her two little rooms and keep herself and the children fed. This was possible through a place as cleaner in a downtown office building which netted her \$4 a week.

Last month she broke down. Ten days ago she had recovered sufficiently to leave her bed, but has not yet been strong enough to go outside the house.

With tears in her eyes, she told her story yesterday. The family came from Leipzig to Chicago three years ago, she said in German, for she speaks no English. When the father left for Germany he promised to send her enough money to return with the children.

The funds arrived in August. But when Mrs. Will reached this city she found that no vessels were sailing to Germany, and she was compelled to stay here.

Her sons, ten and seven years old, need new shoes and clothes, which Mrs. Will is now unable to buy. She said that if she could not find employment of some kind she would have to take to begging on the street. Her case has been called to the attention of the German Consulate.

Women Should Knit at the Opera, Says Mrs. John K. Van Rensselaer

Queen Charlotte Always Took Her Needlework Declares Arbitrator of Social Problems— Objects to Anti-Knitting Decree Set by the Philharmonic.

I never heard a needle click. I never hope to hear one. But this I tell you anyhow. It's simply herce to fear one.

Is the anti-knitting decree of the Philharmonic Society based on fear of a discord that does not exist? Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer says that there is no such thing as the click of a knitting needle. She says that to music hounds in yielding their fears of phantom dissonances and issuing the decree barring knitting women from their concert halls have been conquered by a mere figure of speech. "Do you ever hear a knitting needle click?" she issues the challenge to the musical world. "Of course not. Nobody ever did. The click of knitting needles is one of those things that poets advertise, but won't bear investigation."

"I am very much in favor of this knitting fashion, and if the music authorities only knew how the women like to do it they could help their business by encouraging it. Take me, for example. I am bored to death at the opera. If I could take my knitting along I wouldn't mind going. It would give me something to distract my mind when I had nobody to talk to."

Believes in Knitting.

It is not so much for the sake of music as for the sake of woman that Mrs. Van Rensselaer believes in knitting. She is the arbitrator of all New York's social problems and the author of the recent statements that all society was divided into three parts— feet, stomach and brains. To these she now believes it wise to add a third part—hands.

Our grandmothers thought it sinful to be idle. They always took their work when they went calling. I am very glad of anything that will teach this lesson to the modern generation.

"Knitting is good for the soul. The knitter and the knitted are blessed. I don't care so much whether the men in the trenches have a lot of mufflers and knickknacks—and personally, I think it very cheeky of the British government to expect American women to clothe the troops—but I do like to see women industrious. The mufflers won't hurt the soldiers, anyway."

Needle Better Than Golf Ball.

"Yes, men, too. I like to see the men knitting. It is a useful employment, much more sensible than ordinary knocking a ball around with a stick. Isn't it queer that men approve anything that is done with a stick and a ball, be it golf or billiards or baseball, and they won't allow the women their simple pleasures because these are not played with a stick and ball? Knitting or crocheting comes under that classification, doesn't it? There is the ball of yarn and the long needle. Perhaps that is why men condescend to learn to knit. Knitting at cottolins? Well, I don't care. Let them knit. It is a useful occupation, if they accomplish a muffler or two, there is no harm done, is there?"

"The only thing I deplore about this present fad is the ostentatious manner in which it is accomplished. But then those aren't New Yorkers who do that. One never sees the real New Yorkers, you know. The people knitting in the hotel corridors and subways aren't New Yorkers, of course. They are from Oklahoma or Hehoken. The real New Yorkers are doing to-day just what their grandmothers did in the Civil War, buying themselves at home. In those days it was bandages that were needed. Every woman had a rolling machine of her own and worked at home."

"And, by the way, it is only people who don't know anything about New York who criticize the manners of New York. That's what New York is. I saw went to the Colony Club and made a fuss because a person in livery let her in, and the people sitting around didn't talk to her. That was merely the technique of the club. If she were not so prejudiced, she would admit that the same thing is true of a street-car. A person in livery would take her fare, and I doubt very much if the people hanging on the straps next her would engage her in friendly conversation."

"U. S. A." CALL TO WOMEN

Miss Boswell Sounds Industrial Slogan in Address.

In connection with the first "Made in the U. S. A." exposition, to be held at the Grand Central Palace, beginning March 6, Miss Helen Varick Boswell addressed the "Life as a Fine Art" Club at the McAlpin yesterday.

"No more constructive work can be done by women now," she said, "than to

work in every possible way for the movement, which will grow all over the country until we have not only the slogan but the reality of 'Made in the U. S. A.'"

Miss Boswell pointed out that charities in which children were beneficiaries would be aided materially by the movement, and a percentage of the returns would be turned over to them. She added that women were interested in it because it was fundamentally right and was patriotism applied in a practical way.

TO HONOR MISS SCHUYLER

Colony Club to Entertain Noted Charity Worker.

Mayor Mitchel is scheduled to speak at a luncheon at the Colony Club on Thursday in honor of Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler's efforts for more than forty years in behalf of city institutions. The New York City visiting committee of the State Charities Aid Association is trying to have present other surviving members of the first Bellevue visit-

ing committee. This movement has developed into the state association, with a committee in each of New York's counties.

Miss Schuyler is a daughter of the late George Lee Schuyler and a great-granddaughter of General Philip Schuyler, of Revolutionary fame. She is also a great-granddaughter of Alexander Hamilton. She joined the United States Sanitary Commission at the outbreak of the Civil War and was one of the chief volunteer workers in the New York branch.

About forty years ago she organized a visiting committee of Westchester

County citizens for the county poor-house. In this she attempted to reform the administration as well as to relieve the inmates. This grew into the Bellevue visiting committee.

More Coke Ovens Fired.

Connellsville, Penn., Feb. 13.—Announcement was made by the H. C. Frick Coke Company here that 515 additional coke ovens had been fired during the day, adding 3,355 ovens to the company's active list in the Connellsville region during the first half of February.

BRITISH R. R. STRIKE OFF

Agreement Reached by Managers and Union Employees.

London, Feb. 13.—The threatened strike of several thousand railroad men throughout Great Britain, demanding an increase of wages, seems to have been averted. Announcement was made following a conference this afternoon between railroad managers and representatives of the union that an agreement had been reached, the terms of which will be announced next Monday.

B. Altman & Co.

THE spirit of the approaching Spring already pervades the atmosphere of B. Altman & Co.'s Store—not only in the departments devoted to Ready-to-wear Apparel for Women, Misses and Children, but also in those where are displayed the shimmering silks, the filmy laces, the Spring and Summer dress materials, the parasols, neckwear, ribbons, flowers, trimmings and other essentials that are so eloquently appealing to all women. The same influence is equally apparent in the sections for Men's Wear and Young Men's and Boys' Clothing; Interior Decorating, Upholsteries, Fancy Needlework, etc.

SPECIAL SALES AT ADVANTAGEOUS PRICES FOR TO-MORROW (MONDAY):

Women's Silk Afternoon Dresses and Dance Frocks
in the latest models, of superior quality and in the correct colors, will be placed on sale to-morrow (Monday), at \$27.50 (EXCEPTIONAL VALUE)

These Dresses, in a full assortment of sizes and colors, will be on sale on the Thirty-fourth Street side of the Ready-to-wear Department.

A Quantity of Women's French Lingerie (Hand-embroidered)
will present an unusually advantageous opportunity at these prices:
Nightrobes . . . \$1.45, 1.90, 2.45 & 3.75
Chemises 85c., 1.85 & 2.90
Pantalions 1.25 & 2.90
Corset Covers 1.10 & 3.25
Petticoats 1.35 & 2.50

A Special Purchase of Imported Tailor Serge
54 inches wide, in black and navy blue, will be placed on sale at the very low price (for this quality) of 95c. per yard

New Coats and Semi-wraps
for between-seasons and Spring wear are now displayed in the Department on the Third Floor in a collection which represents virtually every new development of fashion in Women's Overgarments. Especially interesting are the novel Empire effects and the smart Semi-wraps featuring the American colors recently originated by B. Altman & Co.; also the flare or belted models, introducing the new Exposition colors.

Department for Imported and Special Costumes (Third Floor)
Women's Tailor-made Suits
Made to order at \$48.00

Imported Lace Curtains Bed Sets and Panels
will be on sale in the Curtain section on the Fourth Floor, at prices calculated to insure a quick disposal.
French Lace Curtains, per pair \$3.75, 5.25 & 6.50
French Lace Bed Sets (single size) per set \$9.75 & 14.00
Fillet Lace Curtains, per pair \$19.00, 22.00 to 48.00
Fillet Lace Panels, each \$16.00, 19.00 & 24.00

A Sale of Household Linens (very specially priced)
will provide a feature of interest for to-morrow in the Department on the Fourth Floor.
Linen Damask Table Cloths, each \$2.65, 3.50 & 4.25
Napkins to match per dozen \$3.00, 3.25 & 5.00
Linen Huck Towels, hemstitched, per dozen \$3.00 & 4.50
Turkish Bath Towels, hemmed, per dozen \$2.75, 4.00 & 5.40

The Handkerchief Department
Among the interesting novelties now being shown in this Department are Women's White Voile Handkerchiefs, these forming part of a very large importation of absolutely new French Handkerchiefs just received.

An Extraordinary Sale of 10,000 Yards of Imported Cretonnes
will be an important feature in the Upholstery Department on the Fourth Floor.
The prices for this occasion will be 22c., 32c. & 45c. per yard
Orders may be left for Slip Covers and Draperies, to be made from these Cretonnes, and prompt deliveries are assured.

18,000 Yards of Spring and Summer Dress Fabrics
at considerably reduced prices, will embrace:
Linen-mixture Suitings, in very desirable checks, stripes and solid colors, per yard 25c.
Cotton-and-silk Ratine, in printed designs on white and colored grounds, at per yard 27c.

The newest fashion features are displayed in **Spring Attire for Misses and the Younger Set**
Particular care has been taken in the selection of styles, and a most interesting assortment is now available for the replenishment of the smart wardrobe.
Tailor-made Suits . . . \$19.75 to 95.00
Shopping Dresses . . . 15.50 to 48.00
Silk Dresses for matinee and luncheon wear at \$15.50 to 95.00
Evening and Dance Frocks 18.50 to 185.00
Cotton Dresses 8.50 to 50.00
Street and Sports Coats . . 10.50 to 75.00
Blouses 2.75 to 35.00
Separate Skirts 5.75 to 16.50

The foregoing are regular stock prices. (Department on the Second Floor)
Special Salespeople will, if desired, be detailed to accompany patrons to the Store's various departments; or goods will be assembled for inspection in a private showroom.

All Charged or Paid Purchases (including heavy and bulky shipments) will be forwarded Free of Charge by mail, express or freight to any point in the United States. The methods of shipment are optional with B. Altman & Co. and no discounts are allowed.

Thirty-fourth Street Fifth Avenue-Madison Avenue, New York Thirty-fifth Street

Maternity Attire
Dresses, Coats, Suits, Skirts, Corsets
Preserve good outline during this period. Ready to wear or made to order at very moderate prices. Booklet "M" mailed out of town free.
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