

dent spoke. President Wilson stood immediately at his right, and listened attentively. M. Poincaré spoke in an earnest, easy manner, without declamatory effect, and, following usual, there was no applause or interruption.

H. Poincaré spoke in French, and, when he had concluded, an interpreter read the Presidential discourse in English.

Nominates Clemenceau
As M. Poincaré closed he turned to receive the congratulations of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George, and then withdrew, greeting each delegation as he retired.

President Wilson rose as M. Poincaré made his exit. "It gives me great pleasure," he said, "to propose as permanent chairman of the conference Mr. Clemenceau."

President Wilson spoke in conversational voice, which, however, carried throughout the chamber, as he paid eloquent tribute to the French Premier.

Premier Lloyd George seconded the nomination of M. Clemenceau, speaking earnestly of the distinguished services the French Premier had rendered in war and peace.

Baron Sonnino, the Italian Foreign Minister, added Italy's tribute, whereupon the election of M. Clemenceau as presiding officer was made unanimous.

Shows Thanks to Wilson
In a feeling address M. Clemenceau acknowledged the honor conferred upon him. He turned first to President Wilson and bowed his thanks, then to Mr. Lloyd George for the tribute he had paid him. It was not alone a tribute to him, he said, but to France.

"We have come together as friends," he exclaimed. "We must leave this hall as friends."

Referring to the league of nations, M. Clemenceau declared it was already in the way of being achieved by the warring of this conference.

He then turned to the programme of the conference, which, he said, covered the following main subjects of general order:

First—Responsibility of the authors of the war.

Second—Responsibility for the crimes committed during the war.

Third—Legislation in regard to international labor.

In Session One Hour
All the powers represented would be invited to present memoirs on these three questions, he said. The powers having particular interests, he continued, would be asked to present further memoirs upon territorial, financial and economical questions.

"The league of nations will be placed at the head of the order of the day of the next full session," M. Clemenceau announced, as he concluded his address. He asked for further suggestions of business, and as none was made, he declared the session adjourned.

It was 4:30 o'clock, and the opening session had lasted exactly one hour and a half. No exact time was fixed for the resuming of the full session of the conference, as that awaits the call of the supreme council of the five great powers, which will probably meet Monday morning.

Press of All Nations Freely Admitted to Opening Conference

PARIS, Jan. 18.—The first formal session of the peace conference was opened freely to the press of all nations. How many of the succeeding sessions of the conference will be held in camera has not been indicated, but the American newspaper men, and probably also the British and Italians, are preparing to reopen the question of publicity if they should decide that the

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flow of news is impeded by rules of secrecy.

In a former communication to the Supreme Council the Americans assumed that the rule forbidding the delegates to discuss the doings of the conference with the correspondents would not be enforced. While no announcement on this subject has been made, it is learned on the authority of delegates that the rules do still obtain.

What action the correspondents will take will probably be developed next week, when the exact character of the press representation and the number to be admitted to the conference will be determined.

Following is the text of the communication sent by the American newspaper men to the Council to-day:

"The American press delegation acknowledges the reply of the peace conference to the resolutions addressed to them. The delegation notes that the decision that representatives of the press shall be admitted to the meetings of the full conference is an acceptance of the principle of direct press representation for which the press of America, Great Britain, Italy and smaller nations have contended.

"The value of this principle, however, turns on the extent and frequency of its limitations in practice. The peace conference announces its intention to limit to the extent that upon necessary occasions the deliberations of the conference may be held in camera. Without assent on our part to this limitation, we trust that if ever it is applied, the public will be advised through the press at the outset of each session in camera of the subject to be discussed and the name of the delegate or delegation making the motion to go in camera and at the close of the session the conclusions or agreement reached.

"In view of the fact that we have not been advised to the contrary, we assume that any rule designed to prohibit communication between individual delegates and the press on subjects of the conference has now been abrogated and that the press is to have access to the verbatim records of proceedings.

"We call the attention of the peace conference to our request for not fewer than five direct press representatives at each session of the conference, and we submit that because of the manner in which the several press associations serve the newspapers of America and because of the attendance upon the conference of numerous individual press representatives, the American newspapers cannot carry on their business of informing their vast public with fewer than five representatives."

Germans Bewail Order To Surrender Farming Machinery to Allies

BERLIN, Jan. 17. (By The Associated Press.)—Chiefs of departments in the German government, especially Ministers of Commerce and Trade, protest against acceptance by the German delegates of the latest armistice conditions, the fulfillment of which, they declare, "means for Germany the organized preparation of starvation."

The Minister of Commerce and Labor, according to the "Tagblatt," declares that Germany will be unable to replace the agricultural machinery taken because Germany lacks necessary metals, coal and trained laborers. He says German agriculture will be crippled if the machines are delivered to the Allies.

The "Tagblatt" asks in an editorial: "Where are justice and humanity which were to dictate peace? We behold always force and only force, and the German people, after such cruel physical and mental sufferings, are delivered over to destruction."

It is said that the Berlin railway division has turned over 108 locomotives and that of a total of 800 now in its possession, only 494 are in running condition. This number, it is declared, is hardly adequate to carry provisions and coal to Berlin.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 18.—The commander of the neutral zone east of the Rhine in the region of Duisburg, Rhine, Brussa, announces that Allied troops will occupy the harbors and landing places on the right bank of the Rhine. Duisburg will be occupied by two companies of troops.

Leaders of Three Nations Address Peace Conference

PARIS, Jan. 18.—Four important speeches were delivered at the opening of the Peace Congress to-day. Two of them, by President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George, were made in nomination of M. Clemenceau as president of the conference. The third was the French Premier's acceptance. President Poincaré welcomed the delegates to Paris.

President Poincaré said: "Gentlemen: France greets and thanks you for having chosen as the seat of your labors the city which for more than four years the enemy has made his principal military objective and which the valor of the Allied armies has victoriously defended against unceasingly renewed offensives.

"Permit me to see in your decision the homage of all the nations that you represent toward a country which more than any other has endured the sufferings of war, of which entire provinces have been transformed into a vast battlefield and have been systematically laid waste by the invader, and which has paid the human tribute in death.

"France has borne these enormous sacrifices, although she had not the slightest responsibility for the frightful catastrophe which has overwhelmed the universe. And at the moment when the cycle of horror is ending, and the powers whose delegates are assembled here may acquire themselves of any share in the crime which has resulted in so unprecedented a disaster. What gives you the authority to establish a peace of justice is the fact that none of the peoples of whom you are the delegates has had any part in the injustice. Humanity can place confidence in you because you are not among those who have outraged the rights of humanity.

U. S. Wished to End "Greatest Scandal"
"The American people wished to put an end to the greatest scandal that has ever sullied the annals of mankind. Autocratic governments, despotic monarchies, the chancelleries and the general staffs of a mad programme of universal dominion, let loose their packs at the time fixed by their genius for intrigue and cunning to begin the chase, ordering science (at the very time it was beginning to abolish distance to bring men closer together) to be used to the end of leaving the bright sky toward which it was soaring and to place itself submissively at the service of violence.

"The religious idea of the content of man's mind, the religious auxiliary of their passions and the accomplices of their crimes—in short, counting as naught the traditions and will of peoples, the lives of citizens, the honor of women and all those principles of public and private morality which we, for our part, have endeavored to keep unaltered throughout the world, and which neither nations nor individuals can repudiate or disregard with impunity.

"While the conflict was gradually extending over the entire surface of the earth, the clanking of tanks was heard here and there, and captive nationalities from the depths of their long jails cried out to us for help. Yes, more; they escaped to come to our aid.

"Poland came to life again and sent us troops. The Czechs-Slovaks won their right to independence in Siberia, in France, and in Italy. The Jugo-Slavs, the Armenians, the Syrians and Levantines, the Arabs—all the victims, long helpless or resigned, of the historic Jewish persecutions, all the millions of the East, all the outraged in conscience, all the strangled in liberty, viewed the clash of arms and turned to us as their nation, their only savior.

"The war gradually attained the fullness of its first significance and became in the full sense of the term a crusade of humanity for the rights of man, for the rights of all, in part at least, for the losses we have suffered, it is assuredly the thought that our victory is also the victory of right. This victory is complete for the victors, and for the vanquished, for the armistice to escape from an irretrievable military disaster.

"In the interest of justice and peace, I would like to see you reap from this victory its full fruit. I order to carry out this immense task you have decided to admit at first only the Allied or associated powers, and I trust that the nations involved in the debates, the nations which remained neutral, you have thought that the terms of peace ought to be settled among our friends before we have turned our backs to those against whom we have fought the good fight.

Solidarity of War Ought to Remain
"The solidarity which has united us during the war and has enabled us to win military success ought to remain unimpaired during the negotiations for and after the signing of the treaty.

"It is not only the governments but free people who are represented here. To the task of danger they have learned to unite and help one another. They want the same thing: they want the peace of tomorrow. Vainly would our enemies seek to divide us. If they have not learned to unite, let them learn to divide. They will soon and they are meeting to-day, as during the hostilities, a homogeneous block which nothing will be able to disintegrate. Even the most ardent of you reached that necessary unity under the aid of the lofty moral and political truths of which President Wilson is the master and inspirer, and which you intend to accomplish your mission.

"You will, therefore, seek nothing but justice, justice that has been the just, justice in territorial problems, justice in economic problems. But justice is not merely a matter of right and wrong. It demands that we should not have been violated or reparation for the peoples and individuals who have been deported or massacred, that we should not have been violated or reparation for the peoples and individuals who have been deported or massacred, that we should not have been violated or reparation for the peoples and individuals who have been deported or massacred.

"What justice also demands, inspired by the same feeling, is the punishment of the guilty and the effective guarantees against a recurrence of the crime by which they were prompted, and it is logical to demand that the same guarantees should be given, above all, to the nations that have been and might again be most exposed to aggression or threat, by those who have many times stood in danger of being judgmentally and periodically the victims of the same invasion.

"What justice banishes is the dream of conquest and imperialism, contempt for national will, the arbitrary expropriation of territory between states, as though peoples were but articles of furniture or pawns in a game. The time is no more when diplomatic games need to be played with authority, the time when the empire on the corner of a table.

"If you are to remake the map of the world it is in the name of the peoples, and the condition is that you shall faithfully interpret their thoughts and respect the right of nations, small and great, to dispose of themselves and to associate with this the equality which is the natural and religious minorities—a formidable task which science and history, your two advisors, will contribute to assist and facilitate.

"You will naturally strive to secure the intervention of the United States was something more, something greater than a great political and military effort. It was a supreme judgment passed at the bar of history by the lofty conscience of a free people and their Chief Magistrate on the enormous responsibility which was inhering in the industrial conflict which was liberating humanity.

"It was not only to protect itself

the material and moral means of assistance for all those people who are consistently reconstituted into states, for those who wish to unite themselves to their neighbors, for those who divide themselves into entities, for those who recognize themselves, for those who divide themselves according to their regained traditions, and lastly for all those whose freedom you have already adopted for the great Allied powers, establish a general league of nations which will be the supreme guarantee against any fresh assault upon the right of peoples. You do not intend this international association to be directed against anybody in the future. It will not, of a set purpose, shut out anybody, but having been organized by the nations in the defence of right, it will receive from them its statutes and fundamental rules.

"I will lay down conditions concerning present or future adherence and, as it is to have for its essential aim the prevention as far as possible of the renewal of wars, it will, above all, endeavor to maintain peace and justice which you have established and

will find it the less difficult to maintain in proportion as this peace will in itself imply the greater realities of justice and safer guarantees of stability.

48th Anniversary of German Empire's Birth
"By establishing this new order of things you will meet the aspirations of humanity, which, after the frightful convulsions of the blood-stained years, ardently yearns for the products of a union of free people against the every possible revival of primitive savagery. An immortal glory will attach to the names of the nations and the men who have worked in faith and brotherhood and who have taken the pains to eliminate from the future peace causes of disturbance and instability.

"This very day forty-eight years ago—on the 18th of January, 1871—the German Empire was proclaimed by an army of invasion in the Chateau at Versailles. It was consecrated by the theft of two French provinces. It was thus a violation from its origin and by the fault of its founders, it was born in injustice.

"I have assembled in order to repair the evil that has been done and to prevent a recurrence of it. You gentlemen, I leave you the future of the hold in your hands and to your world. I leave you, gentlemen, to your grave deliberations and declare the Conference of Paris open."

Clemenceau Nominated by Wilson As Permanent Parley Chairman

President Wilson, in nominating Premier Clemenceau for chairman of the conference, said: "Mr. Chairman: It gives me great pleasure to propose as permanent chairman of the conference Mr. Clemenceau, the president of the council.

"I would do this as a matter of course. I would do this as a tribute to the French Republic. But I wish to do it as something more than that. I wish to do it as a tribute to the man.

"France deserves the precedence not only because we are meeting at her capital and because she has undergone some of the most tragic suffering of the war, but also because her capital, her ancient and her modern, has so often been the center of conferences of this sort, on which the fortunes of large parts of the world turned.

"It is a very delightful thought that the history of the world, which has so often centered here, will now be crowned by the achievements of this conference. It brings to us a sense in which this is the supreme conference of the history of mankind.

"More nations are represented here than were ever represented in such a conference. It brings to us the representatives of all peoples are involved. A great war is ended, which seemed about to bring a universal cataclysm. The danger is passed. A victory has been won for mankind, and it is delightful that we should be able to record these great results in this place.

"But it is more delightful to honor France because it is possible to honor in the person of so distinguished a servant. We have all felt in our participation in the struggles of this war the noble steadfastness which characterized the leadership of the French in the hands of Mr. Clemenceau. We have learned to admire him, and those of us who have known associated with him have acquired a genuine affection for him.

"Moreover, those of us who have been in these recent days in constant consultation with him know how warmly his purpose is set toward the goal of achievement to which all our faces are turned. He feels as we feel, as I have no doubt everybody feels in this room, that we are trusted to do a great thing, to do it in the highest spirit of friendship and accommodation and to do it as promptly as possible in order that the hearts of men may have fear lifted from them and that they may return to those purposes of life which bring the happiness and contentment and prosperity.

"Knowing his brotherhood of heart in these great matters, it affords me a personal pleasure to propose that Mr. Clemenceau should be the permanent chairman of this conference."

Lloyd George Urges Time Be Not Wasted in Framing Peace Pact

Following is the address delivered by the British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, in seconding the nomination of Clemenceau:

"I count it not merely a pleasure, but a great privilege, that I should be expected on behalf of the British Empire delegates to support the motion of President Wilson. I do so for the reason which he has so eloquently given expression to, as a tribute to the man. When I was a schoolboy Mr. Clemenceau was a common figure in his native land and his fame had extended far beyond the bounds of France.

"Were it not for that undoubted fact, Mr. President, I should have treated as a legend the common report of your years. I have attended many conferences with Mr. Clemenceau, and in them all the most vigorous, the most enduring and the most youthful figure there has been that of Mr. Clemenceau. He has had the youthfulness and the fearlessness of youth. He is indeed the 'grand young man' of France, and I am proud to stand here to propose that he should take the chair in this great conference that is to settle the peace of the world.

"I know of none better qualified or as well qualified to occupy this chair than Mr. Clemenceau, and I speak from my experience in his claim. He and I have not always agreed. We have very often agreed. We have

sometimes disagreed, and we have always expressed our disagreements very emphatically, because we are ourselves.

"But, although there will be delays, and inevitable delays, in the signing of peace, due to the inherent difficulties of what we have to settle, I will guarantee from my knowledge of Mr. Clemenceau that there will be no waste of time. And that is important.

"The world is thirsting and hungering for peace. There are millions of people who want to get back to the world work of peace. And the fact that Mr. Clemenceau is in the chair will be a great help to them. They will get there without any delays which are due to anything except the difficulties which are essential in what we have to settle. He is one of the great speakers of the world. But no one knows better than he that the best speaking is that which impels to action.

"I have another reason. During the dark days we have passed through his courage, his unflinching courage, his untiring energy, his inspiration have led the Allies through to triumph, and I know of no one to whom that victory is more attributable than the man who sits in this chair. In his own person, more than any living man, he represents the heroism, he represents the genius of the indomitable people of his land.

"And for these reasons, I count it a privilege that I should be expected to second this motion."

League of Nations Here, Clemenceau Says in Addressing Conference

Premier Clemenceau responded as follows: "You would not expect me to keep silent after what the two eminent statesmen who have just spoken have said. I cannot help expressing my great, my profound gratitude to the illustrious President of the United States, to the Prime Minister of Great Britain and to Baron Sonnino for the words I have just heard from their lips.

"Long ago, when I was young, as Mr. Lloyd George has recalled to you, when I was travelling in America and in England I always heard the French reproached for an excessive courtesy, which sometimes went beyond the truth. As I listened to the American statesman and to the English statesman I wondered whether they had not caught

in Paris our national disease of courtesy. Nevertheless, gentlemen, I must say that my election is necessarily due to the old international tradition of courtesy to the country which has the honor to receive the peace conference in its capital.

"I wish also to say that this testimony of friendship, if it will allow me to use the word, on the part of President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George in particular, has touched me deeply, because I see in it a new testimony for all three of us to the country with the cooperation of the entire conference, the arduous work which is entrusted to us. I gather from it a new confidence in the success of our efforts.

"President Wilson has special authority to say that this is the first time in fact that the world has ever

been assembled together a delegation of all the civilized nations of the earth.

"The greater the bloody catastrophe which has devastated and ruined one of the richest parts of France, the greater and more splendid must be the reparation—not only the material reparation, the vulgar reparation, if I dare speak so, which is due all of us, but the higher and nobler reparation of the new institution which we will try to establish, in order that nations may at length escape from the fatal embrace of ruinous wars, which destroy everything, heap up ruins, terrorize the populace and prevent them from going freely about their work for fear of enemies which may rise up from one day to the next.

"It is a great, splendid and noble ambition which has come to all of us. It is desirable that success should crown our efforts. This cannot take place unless we have all firmly fixed and clearly determined ideas on what we wish to do.

"I said in the Chamber a few days ago, and I wish to repeat here, that success is not possible unless we remain firmly united. We have come together as friends; we must leave this hall as friends.

"That, gentlemen, is the first thought that comes to me. All else must be subordinated to the necessity of a closer and closer union among the nations who have taken part in this great war and to the necessity of remaining friends. For the League of Nations is here. It is yours. It is for you to make it live, and to make it live we must have it really in our hearts.

"As I told President Wilson a few days ago, there is no sacrifice that I am not willing to make in order to accomplish this, and I do not doubt that you all have the same sentiment. We will make these sacrifices, but on the condition that we endeavor impartially to conciliate interests apparently contradictory on the higher plane of a greater, happier and better humanity.

"That, gentlemen, is what I had to say to you. I am touched beyond words at the evidence of good will and friendship which you show me. The programme of this conference has been laid down by President Wilson. It is no longer the peace of a mere or less of territory, no longer the peace of continents to be made. This programme is sufficient in itself. There is no superfluous word. Let us try to act swiftly and well."

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