WEATHER FORECAST.
Increasing cloudiness and warmer to-day; to-morrow cloudy.
Highest temperature yesterday, 38; lowest, 16.
Detailed weather reports on editorial page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXVI.—NO. 165. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1919.—Copyright, 1919, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association. PRICE TWO CENTS.

WILSON SAILS SUNDAY WITH LEAGUE PLAN; EBERT ELECTED FIRST GERMAN PRESIDENT; HIS POLICIES ARE DICTATED BY BERNSTORFF

SMITH TO FIGHT FOR PASSAGE OF PET MEASURES

Governor Will Force Action on Recommendations Now Being Held Up.

FOLEY GIVES WARNING

Clash Is Expected Soon on Public Service Board Reorganization.

EXECUTIVE WINS A TEST

Senate Committee Decides to Report Out Nomination of Miss Frances Perkins.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, Feb. 11.—Indications to-night were that the jockeying between Gov. Smith and the Republican Legislature which has been going on since the session opened will cease this week and become a straightout test of power. Following the success of the Governor to-day in having the Finance Committee of the Senate vote to report out the nomination of Miss Frances Perkins for Industrial Commissioner, Senator James A. Foley, Democratic leader of the upper house, served notice on the Republicans that unless speedy action be taken on some of the legislation desired by the Governor he would move to suspend the rules in order to obtain a clear cut lineup.

At the Republican caucus last night Senator Walters, President pro tem of the Senate, refused to make the defeat of Miss Perkins a party measure, although he was known to have been opposed to her appointment. When the Finance Committee met to-day it split seven to seven on a motion to lay over for another week the Perkins nomination. The deadlock was broken when Senator Lockwood of Kings cast his vote for immediate consideration by the Senate, before which body it will go at once. Three other Republicans, Senators Sage of Albany, Davenport of Oneida and Law of Westchester, voted to report the Perkins nomination out of committee.

There was some discussion to-night as to how this change in attitude of certain Republicans might affect the determination of the leaders to hold up the $60,000 appropriation for the Governor's Reconstruction Commission. It is believed that while it might be possible to squeeze the measure through the Senate the sledding would be exceedingly rough in the House. Assemblyman Donohue will make a fight for it before the Ways and Means Committee to-day.

Service Board Plans Discussed.

Senator Thompson, chairman of the Public Service Committee of the Senate, denied a report that the bill for a reorganization of the Public Service Commission by the creation of a single headed body for regulation and a special commissioner for construction work on the subways had been held up because of the pleas of New York city Republican leaders that the change would mean the loss of jobs to 200 members of the party. He said he had been told by the city leaders that less than half a dozen men stood to lose their places. At the same time it was pointed out that there are now two vacancies on the commission and Gov. Smith has the resignation of the third in his hands. So it is within his power to take control of the present commission at any time.

The Republican conference last night took up the question of giving power to the commissions to increase fares on traction lines. But the question was quickly sidetracked by the decision that it would be better to delay the discussion until after the question of reorganizing the commission had been settled. There is no bill before the Legislature that would do this. One introduced a year ago never was reported.

From the temper of Senator Foley it is likely that the Democrats will resort to obstructive tactics on Republican measures unless there is some action on the Governor's bills. These include, in addition to the Public Service reorganization measures and the Reconstruction Commission appropriation, a bill to create a minimum wage commission and a bill repealing the measure for a narcotic commission and placing the control of such drugs under the jurisdiction of the Health Commissioner, who is a Democrat.

Public Ownership Doomed.

Senator Foley and Assemblyman Donohue, Democratic leaders in their respective branches of the Legislature, have made it clear that they are opposed to the Fowler municipal ownership bill, introduced at the request of the New York State Conference of Mayors. Their ideas for amendment do not agree with those of the Republicans, and the chances are that there will be no municipal ownership legislation at this session. There will be a hearing on the Fowler bill before the Senate Public Service Committee to-morrow. Senator Thompson, chairman of the committee, says it has no chance of passage in its present form.

The Senate passed a resolution to-day by Senator Graves of Erie asking Congress to disapprove of the Lenroot plan for the United States participation in the development of the St. Lawrence River as an outlet for the great lakes traffic. The resolution points out that to divert commerce that should go through the barge canal to Canadian ports would work injury to the Port of New York.

Assemblyman McCue's resolution, passed in the Assembly last night, was concurred in by the Senate to-day, asking Congress not to pass the bill forbidding the wearing of service chevrons by soldiers. The Assemblyman's son is entitled to three gold stripes, having served in France for eighteen months.

A special Senate resolution offered the thanks of New York State to the officers and men of the returning 369th Infantry.

HARTSHORNE, FALES & CO., Members N. Y. Stock Exchange, 7 Wall St.—Adv.

Shore Duty Details Cut to Limit by Navy

NEWPORT, Feb. 11.—The Naval station here received to-day a copy of an order sent by the Bureau of Navigation of the Navy Department to all commanding officers of stations directing that no men of the regular navy be assigned to shore duty except upon specific authority of the bureau.

The order explains that this policy is necessary "in order that there may be available for duty on combatant vessels of the navy the greatest possible number of men of the regular establishment."

BLANK CHECK TO GLASS OPPOSED

Congressmen Unwilling to Let Him Fix Interest and Other Terms of Victory Loan.

TAX EXEMPTIONS ISSUE

McFadden Suggests Secretary Has "Outwilsoned President" in Asking for Power.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee will not recommend to Congress that wide discretionary powers in fixing terms of the next loan to be floated be vested in the Secretary of the Treasury unless that official is able to present to these committees convincing arguments of the necessity for this action.

The position of leading committeemen is strongly adverse to continuing the practice of extending to executive officials the arbitrary powers which many of them have had and still have under legislation forced through the necessity of war.

There is a greater willingness by the committees to give Secretary Glass discretion in fixing the amount of the next loan with a maximum limit set by Congress than there is to leave it in the hands of the executive branch of the Government to name the interest rate and decide whether the next issue of bonds shall be tax free. Mr. Glass will be invited to appear before both the committees.

Higher Interest Opposed.

The principal problem so far is the interest rate concerned. There is considerable opposition to exceeding the interest rate on the last Liberty Loan on the ground that the people who bought those bonds for patriotic reasons might feel that they were not fairly treated in having an after the war issue bear a higher interest rate and have a higher market value.

Opposition to the powers sought by Mr. Glass was openly voiced in the House to-day by Representative Moore (Penn.).

"From my point of view," he said, "the hour has struck when Republicans at least, in view of conditions abroad and of the condition of our Treasury, should stand on their feet any say even to the President that we must protect the interest of the taxpayers of the United States. What is it that the Secretary of the Treasury proposes? Nothing less than that we should give him the blanket authority to raise money as he sees fit at any rate of interest he proposes to pay without regard to the taxes or to the Constitution, which prevents us from exempting taxes in certain circumstances."

Has Outwilsoned President.

"As far as I can see," said Representative McFadden (Penn), "the Secretary of the Treasury has outwilsoned the President. Mr. Wilson from time to time asks us to sign blank checks on the Treasury only; Mr. Glass wants us to sign a blank check on the wealth and resources of the United States of America.

"It is time the people realized the magnitude of the obligations they have taken on through the war. They should understand that this is not the last loan; that in all probability before the year is out another loan of similar amount will be necessary and the expenses of readjusting and conducting the country back to normal conditions probably will require several additional bond issues.

"We have had sufficient experience with Liberty Loans to enable Congress to consider intelligently such features as time, interest rate, tax exemptions and other things that the Secretary wishes to settle in his own way and at his own time."

JELLICOE EXPLAINS KITCHENER'S DEATH

Cruiser Hampshire Struck a German Mine, He Says.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—A book written by Admiral Viscount Jellicoe, the former commander of the British grand fleet, which will appear to-morrow, gives the cause of the sinking of the British cruiser Hampshire, on which Lord Kitchener lost his life. Admiral Jellicoe explains that the Hampshire struck a German moored mine, which had been laid by a submarine.

The book contains revelations of British unpreparedness at the beginning of the war. The grand fleet had to run out of harbor several times because submarines were reported inside.

Admiral Jellicoe says he avoided night action with his big ships off Jutland because the British searchlights and fire controls were defective. He recommends a greater superiority of all classes of vessels than in 1914.

Bolshevik Hostages Released.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Vice-Consul Palmer, at Novonicolaevsk, Russia, has notified the State Department of the release of 2,100 Bolshevik hostages held by the Ufa Government since last November as a measure to guarantee the safety of loyal Russians in the Ufa district. The allied representatives protested against the arrests.

HOUSE PASSES BIG NAVAL BILL BY 281-50 VOTE

3 Year Building Plan Put Through on Spur of Wilson Despatch.

CABLE STILL SECRET

37 Republicans Side With Democrats in Favoring Rule to Consider.

MANN GIVES WARNING

Measure Will Be Construed as Threat Against Britain, He Asserts.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Responding to the spur of the President's mysterious cable the House passed late to-day the $746,000,000 naval bill, including the three year building programme, which is to be put into effect only if in the opinion of the President adequate provision for international disarmament shall not have been made through a League of Nations prior to June, 1920.

The final vote on the measure was 281 for, 50 against and 3 voting "Present." The real test of strength came earlier, when the House adopted a special rule permitting consideration of the building programme and its attendant proviso. This vote, which followed a furore of protest from Republican leaders, showed 205 for the rule, 148 against and 3 voting "Present."

Debate was concluded without bringing before the House the wording of the President's cable, but not until Republican leaders had told the House that the adoption of the proviso would be accepted the world over as a threat against Great Britain and would be accepted joyously as such by Germany.

Reveals Wilson's Purpose.

Representative Fess (Ohio) further informed the House that he and several other Representatives had been apprised before the President's departure that the latter intended to use just such a club if necessary to force a League of Nations with power to regulate armaments.

Some Senate leaders reiterated to-day after learning of the action of the House their previous declaration that they would not permit the bill to come to a vote unless the exact wording of the President's cable is made public and will not include any discretionary powers to be exercised by the President so far as the building programme is concerned. It is considereu probable that upon his return to this country an opportunity will be given to President Wilson by Senate leaders to explain exactly what was in his mind when he cabled that the failure of the three year programme would be "fatal to my negotiations."

Only one change was made in the building programme as finally adopted. An amendment by Representative Humphries (Miss.) was passed extending from February 1, 1920, to June 30 of that year the prohibition against letting of contracts. This was adopted in committee of the whole by a rising vote of 98 to 77.

Fifteen Democrats voted with the Republicans against adoption of the rule permitting consideration of the programme and thirty-seven Republicans voted with the Democrats in favor of the rule.

Republican Support.

Republicans voting for the rule were Austin, Britton, Browning, Butler, Classon, Cooper, Copley, Crage, Curry, Dallinger, Fairchild, Farr, Fess, Freeman, Fuller, Griest, Hadley, Hicks, Kelley, Kiess, Lampert, Lufkin, McArthur, McCulloch, Miller, Morin, Mudd, Nichols, Nolan, Osborne, Peters, Rogers, Schall, Smith (Mich.), Temple, Woods and Zihlmann.

Democrats voting against the rule were Bankhead, Black, Claypool, Dies, Doughton, Hamlin, Hilliard, Huddleston, Kelly, Lea, Saunders, Sherwood, Sisson, Steagall and Stephens.

Representative Mann (Ill.) in closing the debate said the adoption of the proviso would be construed as a threat against Great Britain.

"Every German in Germany or elsewhere will say the Allies are now quarreling among themselves and this will be the gladdest piece of news that has leaked into Germany in many a day," he said.

"I do not believe the contents of that cablegram justify me in voting for this proposition," said Representative Longworth (Ohio). "I believe the time has come when the House should vote with full knowledge of the facts.

"We recently listened to an eloquent eulogy of one statesman by another. One of the most significant lines in that oration was this statement: 'He had no secrets from the American people.' To-morrow we will celebrate the birthday of another statesman, Abraham Lincoln, who had no secrets from the American people. We have had other Presidents who had no secrets from the American people. Would to God we had one now."

Apprehensive of Situation.

"We find proposed in this body," said Representative Reavis (Neb.), "not peace terms that will crystallize our purpose in this war but a measure that will mean a contest between the two nations that by race and language and tradition are natural allies—not a proposal that looks for permanent and perpetual peace, but a proposal which looks to a contest between England and America as to which shall be the most warlike upon the sea. I wish that the President instead of occupying a summit beyond and above the ordinary affairs of life, with his eyes fastened on the stars dreaming of a Utopia and a short cut to the millenium, would look down into the

Continued on Second Page.

EX-ENVOY REAL GERMAN POWER

Using Knowledge of Wilson to Gain Easier Terms for Berlin.

CONDUCTS A PROPAGANDA

Chief Aim Is to Cause Split Among Allies—War Talk Mere Ruse.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
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PARIS, Feb. 11.—Behind the great German bluff and the reports that Germany still is a formidable military power and "must not be pushed too far," the purpose of which is to procure easier terms of peace, looms the figure of Count Johann von Bernstorff, who is working in the same devious ways that he did when he was the German Ambassador at Washington. He fast is becoming one of the most influential men in Germany, pulling the strings of the show in which puppets dressed in German uniforms move back and forth as he directs.

Some reports received here recently assert that Chancellor Ebert virtually is a dummy put up by Bernstorff, who planned the speech that the Chancellor delivered at the opening of the national assembly at Weimar.

The Germans court upon Bernstorff's skill in diplomacy, especially his knowledge of the United States and his familiarity with the mental processes of President Wilson, which he gained while in Washington, to play the Americans against the other Allies and thereby obtain a milder peace.

Fraternization as Propaganda.

Information from Germany indicates that Bernstorff has adopted to a large extent the propaganda methods of the old Imperial Government and applied them to the new conditions. Many newspapers have been lined up and are printing editorial articles threatening the Allies.

Another feature of the propaganda is an effort to get the people of the Rhinelands to fraternize with the soldiers of the American Army of Occupation. It is hoped that the reluctance of the allied soldiers and peoples to resume a war once ended will compel the Governments of the Allies to give Germany what she wants. Every breeze that comes from Germany bears the clash of resounding arms, but it is only Bernstorff beating a dishpan.

The former Ambassador whom the United States dismissed has had little difficulty in persuading the German people to play the role assigned to them, for the American troops are good natured and well supplied with food and such things as chocolate, soap, condensed milk and bacon, all of which the Germans crave.

The Rhinelanders have been instructed not only to fraternize with the American troops but to tell them "We are glad you are Americans and not the French or British; the Americans are our friends." This worries some well meaning persons who have not been near the front either before or since the armistice, and gossip runs about Paris, "It is too bad the way the Americans are fraternizing with the Germans."

Tell French They Hate Americans.

It can be stated on the best authority that the Americans about Coblenz are not fraternizing with the Germans more than the French at Mayence, where the Germans say to the poilus holding the bridgehead: "We are glad you are French; we hate the British and the Americans are savages."

So far the strict orders given by Gen. Pershing have defeated the Bernstorff plan, but it is expected that within a fortnight a further development of this plan will be developed, Bernstorff attempting to take some advantage of what he considers the lenience of the Americans.

He knows that the American influence has been exerted steadily toward raising the blockade of Germany and feeding the German people and against a larger military occupation, covering practically all of Germany, while the appointment of civilian armistice experts, lessening the authority of the military,

Continued on Second Page.

Soldiers' Best Friend 'Over There' Is Tobacco

"IF the friends 'over there' would remember that the boys 'over here' call smokes their best gift we should never be without tobacco."

This extract from a soldier's card which is printed on page 7 would indicate there is sometimes a dearth of smokes. That was to be expected, but might be avoided if everybody who likes to smoke would send a donation to THE SUN Tobacco Fund.

Send what you can spare and help the fund keep the soldiers supplied with tobacco.

WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

GERMANS ADOPT A CONSTITUTION

Independents Lose Bitter Fight to Abolish All Secret Diplomacy.

DERNBURG BACKS CLAUSE

Word "Empire" Excoriated, but Cry of "Peace and Bread" Curbs Wrangle.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—A German wireless despatch recording the election of Herr Ebert describes his post as "provisional State President." It adds that there were fifty-one abstentions from voting. Philipp Scheidemann and Mathias Erzberger each polled one vote.

After the election Dr. Edouard David, in a speech said the empire for the first time had a chief who, by virtue of his election, was empowered to speak and act in the name of the German people. The mouthpiece which spoke by inherited right had disappeared and in his place stood a leader chosen by the people.

It was mainly due to Herr Ebert, the speaker continued, that the revolution in Germany had not followed the example of Russia, leading to bloody chaos and complete dissolution of right and order. The German people would have confidence in Herr Ebert's skill, activity and firmness to protect their new freedom from every danger, either from the Left or the Right.

The majority Socialists applauded this statement, but the independent Socialists expressed dissent.

Herr Ebert in his speech accepting the Presidency declared that his purpose would be impartially to dispense justice without favor or prejudice.

SECRET TREATIES ARE DENOUNCED

Call Is Made for Germany to Set an Example.

By the Associated Press.

WEIMAR, Feb. 10 (delayed).—The National Assembly unanimously adopted a provisional constitution at 6 o'clock this evening after a three hour wrangle between the independent Socialists, on one hand, and all the rest of the House on the other, over one single point—the question of secret agreements.

Although the independents lost in their contention that Germany should pave the way for the entire world in going definitely on record in favor of open diplomacy agreements, they rose belatedly to make the acceptance of the constitution as a whole unanimous despite the inclusion of the clause they had opposed.

Plan to End Secret Pacts.

This paragraph—a part of the sixth clause of the constitution—reads as originally conceived and now accepted.

"As soon as the German empire is represented in the League of Nations, with the aim to exclude secret agreements all agreements with the nations allied in the league must have the acquiescence of the National Assembly and the State Commission."

The state commission corresponds to the Federal Council, or second chamber.

The Independents sought to have this clause altered so that Germany might unequivocally go on record as legally bound to enter into no secret agreements regardless of what other States may do in the future. The fight in the Assembly on this point raged during both second and third readings, led by Dr. Hugo Haase and Dr. Cohn for the Independents and Herr Landsberg, Dr. Dernburg and Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau for the Government and other parties.

Argument by Dernburg.

Dr. Dernburg, in supporting the clause as it was finally adopted, said that it was impossible for Germany to hope to make agreements with other nations if they adhered to secret methods while Germany, by its own constitution, was in duty bound to publish all the terms in detail.

Dr. Haase replied that one of the great objects of the revolution had been the elimination of secrecy. He contended that Germany could well afford to lead the way to peace by the path of openness, no matter what others did, and as an evidence of the sincerity and genuineness of her reform.

Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau assured Dr. Haase that he would never make a secret treaty or agreement, but Dr. Haase replied that there was no assurance how long he would be in power. He ridiculed Dr. Dernburg's assertions.

As a consequence of the controversy the House showed excitement for the first time since the opening of the Assembly.

Session Is Tedious.

The session was a tedious one except for the fact that it brought out the first exhibition of differences of opinion. The second reading of the provisional constitution came up for debate and it was the only business of the day. For the first hour and a half the members debated, championing the measure or offering minor objections.

Herr Labe, Majority Socialist; Herr von Prager, Democrat; Herr Delbrueck, Conservative; Herr Helm, Centrist, and others spoke in favor of the constitution. The independents at first raised objection only to the frequent use of the word "empire" in the document and requested the substitution of "republic" throughout the draft offered for acceptance. Much time was wasted in this

Continued on Second Page.

Allies Threaten Germany for Failure to Deliver Machinery as Promised.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 11.—Great Britain and France have sent notes to Mathias Erzberger, President of the German Armistice Commission, the Weimar correspondent of the *Berlingske Tidende* says he learns from a reliable source, dealing with the failure of Germany to deliver locomotives and agricultural machinery as agreed. He says the tone of the note virtually constitutes a threat to Germany.

The correspondent adds that it is reported that a similar note is expected from the United States.

ALLIES CONSIDER SHORTER TRUCE

Proposal Made to Limit Armistice Conditions to Ten Day Periods.

PLAN TO TIGHTEN GRIP

New Terms Will Be Offered to Germany as Need Arises.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Feb. 11.—A proposal to change the allied armistice policy and greatly shorten the armistice periods is understood to be before the Supreme War Council. This proposal calls for the limiting of the armistice periods to about ten days, at the end of which time new terms would be imposed on Germany.

The sentiment is expressed by many in attendance on the Peace Conference that this would give the Allies a better hold on the situation and enable them to meet the constantly changing conditions. No intimation is given as to the attitude of the Supreme War Council in the matter.

To Prepare New Conditions.

In view of the complexity and diversity of the problems raised by the armistice, says a Havas report, the Supreme War Council has appointed a committee of eight members to which will be intrusted the task of studying these questions. The council, therefore, has postponed for a few days the adoption of conditions to be imposed upon Germany so as to be better prepared as to means for insuring their execution.

The committee is composed of Norman Davis and Gen. Bliss, for America; Lord Robert Cecil and Major N. G. Thwaites, for England; Dr. Silvio Crespi and Gen. Cavellero, for Italy, and Etienne Clementel and Gen. Degoutte for France. It held its first meeting last night at 6 o'clock.

When a draft of the conditions has been prepared it will be submitted to-morrow to the Supreme War Council for definite approval.

The report prepared in 1916 by German Main Headquarters to show how Germany would benefit from the destruction of certain industries in France contained 482 pages, according to the statement made to the Supreme War Council at its meeting Monday by Louis Klotz, the French Minister of Finance. Material for the report was collected by 200 experts who were released from military duties for the purpose.

Where Germans Would Profit.

A full review is made of every French industry including spinning, dyeing, pottery, chemicals, sugar, brewing, mining, leather, milling, clothing and rope making. The report says that all these industries "offer excellent openings for German traders in spite of a somewhat hostile feeling."

As the French metal industry in the occupied region had been "suppressed" and was without supplies of raw material, which the occupied regions could not produce, the report says that it was possible for German traders "to substitute yourselves in this new market."

Regarding the French sugar industry the German headquarters pamphlet says:

"Business relations with Germany are sure to continue because the French sugar industry cannot do without German beet seed without damaging itself, and it must also buy large quantities of German coal, the French coal mines having suffered severely."

In its inventory of the ruin caused in the weaving plants of northern France the report says:

"Considerable quantities of raw material, manufactured goods, thread on bobbins and warps have been sent to Germany. In Sedan all the plants have been destroyed. The machinery has been taken away and the buildings lie open to the winds like scrap iron. There is an enormously important opening there for German constructors."

Mathias Erzberger and the other members of the German Armistice Commission were preparing to leave Weimar today, according to despatches received here, for Treves to carry out negotiations for a renewal of the armistice.

FRENCH RELEASING TROOPS.

No Suspension of Demobilization Due to German Rumors.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Feb. 11.—The demobilization of the French army has not been suspended, contrary to persistent rumors, but is proceeding on schedule, according to a statement made to the Associated Press to-day by a French official.

Since Marshal Foch's announcement before the Armistice Commission that the Germans could mobilize 2,000,000 men in six weeks there has been a feeling of uneasiness expressed by the French public. Pessimistic views have been openly discussed, as also has been apprehensions of a renewal of the German offensive. The newspapers have commented on the situation in a manner such as to call for frequent blanks in their pages, due to censorship.

WILSON SOUGHT AS ARBITRATOR

Jugo-Slavs Ask Him to Act in Dispute With Italy.

ASIA MINOR NEW ISSUE

Territorial Question There Directly Involves Interests of Greece.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Feb. 11.—President Wilson received to-night a note signed by N. R. Pachitch, the former Serbian Premier; M. Trumbitch, president of the Jugo-Slav committee in Paris, and Dr. M. R. Vesnitch, Serbian Minister to France, the three Jugo-Slav delegates to the Peace Conference, asking him to act as arbitrator in their differences with Italy regarding the frontier along Istria and the Adriatic. This is in consequence of the President's last interview on this question with M. Trumbitch and Premier Orlando of Italy. M. Trumbitch claimed all of Istria, Fiume and Dalmatia.

President Wilson expressed to Premier Orlando the opinion that an agreement might be reached giving to the Jugo-Slavs the eastern part of the peninsula of Istria, Dalmatia, and by making Fiume a free city. Premier Orlando answered that Italy could not possibly renounce its claims to Fiume without the risk of grave trouble.

President Wilson, not wishing the Peace Conference to be confronted with the necessity of making a decision that might deeply wound either side, suggested that the Italians and the Jugo-Slavs discuss their differences, and if they could not agree that they should submit the disputed points to arbitration.

Premier Orlando answered that he thought arbitration was the proper thing before the war, but not after the long conflict that had ended with the defeat of the enemy and the occupation of the territories claimed. He added that he would consider the suggestion and discuss it with his colleagues on the Italian delegation.

No decision is expected from the Italians until after President Wilson returns from America, as Premier Orlando, Baron Salandra and Signor Bargilai are leaving for Italy Thursday to attend the reopening of Parliament.

Meanwhile, another Italian territorial question has arisen. Italy, at the suggestion of England and in accord with France, has decided to occupy with military forces Adalia and Konieh in the vilayet of Konieh, in Asia Minor, south of the territory claimed by Greece, having Smyrna as its centre. The Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, also looks with favor upon the presence of the Italians in Asia Minor on condition that the Islands of Dodecanesus (Sporades) be transferred to Greece, excepting perhaps Stampalia, the smallest of the group, which Italy may keep as a naval station.

Two Italian divisions have been ordered to Rhodes to join another division already there, and the whole force will cross to Adalia as soon as the formalities with Great Britain are completed.

Italian troops are to occupy Baku and Batoum, on the Black Sea, also. Italy will ask for a concession of the mines of Haracleum, the largest in the Near East, located in the Vilayet of Costamuni, on the Black Sea, which are now exploited by French, Russian and German companies.

The occupation of these points was suggested in order that Italy should be interested in a mandate in Asia Minor.

FRENCH DEATH RATE FAR EXCEEDS BIRTHS

Total Is 883,160 in 4 Years, Excluding War Losses.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Feb. 11.—France's civilian population in four years has decreased by considerably more than three-quarters of a million, without including the deaths in occupied northern France, or the losses due directly to the war.

Official statistics show that in 1913 the births outnumbered the deaths by 17,000. But this slight excess disappeared in the following year, since which time the deaths have outnumbered the births—in 1914 by more than 50,000, and in 1915, 1916 and 1917 by nearly 300,000 in each year. The total excess of deaths over births for these four years is given as 883,160.

Births, which numbered approximately 600,000 in 1913 dropped to 315,000 in 1916 and 343,000 in 1917, while the deaths increased, but not in comparable proportions, so that the total decrease in population was due to the great diminution in births, and not to any great increase in deaths.

The statistics cover seventy-seven departments, excluding eleven invaded departments and not including 1,400,000 persons killed in the war.

If you can save money you can invest while you save. Ask for particulars of Partial Payment Plan, John Muir & Co., 61 B'way.—Adv.

President Expects to Rush Society of Nations Constitution Through.

SEES FRESH PRESTIGE

United States Not Bound to Send Troops to Europe.

NO INTERNATIONAL ARMY

Plenary Session to Be Held Friday, When Draft Will Come Up.

By LAURENCE HILLS.

Staff Correspondent of THE SUN.
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PARIS, Feb. 11.—President Wilson hopes to sail from France on Sunday night with the League of Nations a reality. He believes that by rushing tactics the work of the already hard worked committee may be drawn or redrawn, discussed and adopted in final form for presentation on Thursday for the committee's final approval.

The full Peace Congress, with all the small Powers represented, will meet in a plenary session on Friday, when, it is expected, after a certain amount of discussion, the draft will be approved substantially as it is submitted and will be put into operation immediately.

Thus the President will be able to return to the United States with the prestige of having accomplished the task that is most closely identified with his name.

Although it is believed that the league plans have been worked out in such a way as to make its decisions as binding as possible upon would-be belligerents, the United States will not be bound to send an army to help to settle European quarrels, and there will be no international army so far as the United States is concerned.

At the meeting of the League of Nations Committee to-day Leon Bourgeois, the French representative, made a strong plea for the establishment of an international army under the orders of the league, to be set in motion against whatever nation transgressed its orders. It has been known for some time that this was part of the French plan, but this is the first open expression of it.

President Wilson explained to Prof. Bourgeois that the American Constitution does not permit such employment of an American army, thus bearing out all the previous assurances of the American commission that they would not enter into any agreement that bound the United States to furnish troops for every punitive expedition the league might undertake.

Before President Wilson leaves the War Council will arrive at a conclusion regarding the new attitude of Germany.

LEAGUE UNSETTLED AT WILSON'S SAILING

Draft of Society of Nations Far From Complete.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Feb. 11.—As a result of to-day's meeting of the Peace Conference Commission on the Society of Nations doubts were expressed for the first time that the project for the organization of the society would be completed before President Wilson's departure for the United States.

Questions have arisen within the commission which are of such a nature that they may prolong the discussions, and this has given rise to serious apprehension that the perfected draft of the plan will not be completed by February 16, which is the date provisionally set for the President's departure.

The session of the commission to-day was a protracted one, which lasted until 3:35 o'clock this afternoon. It is understood that among other subjects considered was the project for an international military force, urged by Leon Bourgeois of the French delegation. M. Bourgeois's contention, it is said, was that such a force should be instituted and also that it should be stationed in France, as France was the strategic centre of Europe and the nation most immediately threatened.

Several new amendments to the draft were presented to-day, making further consideration necessary, and the commission adjourned for two days, during which time the committee will make every effort to have the draft perfected for presentation at the next meeting of the commission. There is a wide difference of views regarding some of these new proposals and this is causing apprehension of failure to complete the plan as expected.

Official Report of Session.

This official statement was issued today:

The eighth meeting of the Commission on the League of Nations was held at 10:30 o'clock this morning at the Hotel de Crillon. The meeting was devoted to the consideration of a number of amendments to the draft which had been submitted. After a discussion had de-