LEAGUE CALLED UNESSENTIAL BY SENATOR MOSES

In Analytical Speech He Shows Treaty Tasks Are Left to Allies.

WOULD EMBROIL THE U. S.

Others Defend and Denounce Covenant During Day of Debate.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—In contrast to the many virulent attacks on the League of Nations covenant made hitherto Senator Moses (N. H.) to-day dissected the peace treaty itself in a speech before the Senate. Although his speech was a long one the Senator was able only to skim the principal features of the 80,000 word document and point out the principal weaknesses of the pact.

Analyzing the treaty the Senator detailed the terms imposed on Germany, declaring that his only quarrel with this part of the instrument was that these terms were not imposed eight months ago. He held up to ridicule, however, the assertion that the treaty in this and all other respects squares on the whole with the famous "fourteen points" as President Wilson assure the Senate on his return from Europe the last time.

The Senator took up and tore to pieces the Presidential claim that the whole working out of the terms of the treaty rests on the "indispensable instrumentality" of the League of Nations. He told the Senate, and held up the peace pact terms to prove it, that this was a mistake, to say the least.

Winding up his speech Mr. Moses declared that the seed and germ of war are as surely in the present peace pact as they were in the peace of Berlin forty years ago. He recalled to the Senate that Disraeli, summing up his labors there, said the settlement was "peace with honor."

"It is to be hoped that none of the phrasemakers of to-day will be permitted to repeat Disraeli's fatal error of word and deed," said the Senator. "And it lies in our hands, Senators, to make sure that this shall not be done. This treaty of Versailles is as menacing to the peace of the world to-day as the treaty of Berlin was forty years ago, and unless we can make in it changes which I deem primarily essential I shall not vote for its ratification."

Senator Moses began with this interesting statement:

"The published summary of the treaty as a whole failed to arouse or hold the public mind; and even when a full and well authenticated text fell under the eyes of some of us and finally into the hands of all—not as receivers of stolen goods probably obtained by bribery, but as legitimately as any document wrongfully withheld could possibly come into the possession of its rightful custodians—even this failed to divert the ebb and flow of the tidal waves of criticism and defence which have poured across the weather beaten topic of the League of Nations."

Calls Wilson Vague.

Senator Moses noted that in the President's speech of July 10 Mr. Wilson devoted only fourteen lines to the peace treaty, and that his comment upon it was equally vague and apologetic. He heartily concurred, he said, in the objections to the league as endangering our sovereignty and shackling freedom of action and judgment, but he counselled more attention to the peace treaty itself, so that Americans would understand the thicket of difficulties into which the nation would be thrust were it to be ratified as it stands. He continued:

"In it are considerations of many things—of 'shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings.' The wide world has been combed to find objects of reparation with which to carry out the doctrine of no annexations and no indemnities, and neither schoolhouses in China nor villas in Egypt, nor manuscripts from Medina, nor skulls from East Africa have been overlooked. In short, Mr. President, the most ardent of special agents of our own Treasury, seeking for additional items of taxation from a rich Republican, could not have been more diligent than the Peace Commissioners of Paris in digging out remote and ofttimes unrelated properties, rights and privileges with which to swell the treasure chest of booty.

"In the treaty, described in words and laid down upon its accompanying maps, are new boundaries for Germany, for France, for Belgium, for Luxemburg, for Switzerland, for Denmark and for East Prussia—to name the nations which were before the war, and for Poland and Czecho-Slovakia—to name those which the treaty will contribute to set up.

"It creates a new free city; it optimistically looks forward to new Russian States; it roams the plains, sails the seas, delves into the earth and soars into the sky; it opens prisons and it guards graves; submarine cables and wireless telegraphic plants are subject to its terms; dyestuffs and drugs, coal and chemicals, Huns, horses and huntsmen alike come within its purview; books, boundaries and bullets; contracts, cattle, cotton and claims; deeds, debts and duties; finance, fire insurance and fortifications; guns, goats, guarantees and governments; missions, mines and mixed commissions; navies, negotiable instruments and natural products; ports, prizes and penalties; railroads, recruiting and rivers; sheep, submarines, stock exchanges and social insurance; tunnels, tonnage and trials; vessels, victuals and the Vistula; warships, waterways, woman suffrage and Wilhelm II. In short, Mr. President, the alphabet and alliteration alike are agonized in an attempt to deal adequately with merely a topical index to this instrument which we are asked to ratify in haste lest we break the heart of the world."

Tells Treaty Purposes.

In complete detail Senator Moses then set forth the principal purposes of the peace treaty as it stands, specifying the territory demanded from Germany, the new States created, the reparations to be enforced, the replacements and compensations that are to be carried out. Absorbedly and often with laughter the Senate heard Mr. Moses's extraordinarily vivid enumeration and description of the terms of the punishment meted to the beaten foe. To many Senators who had given the treaty itself the most cursory reading, if they had gone through it at all, Mr. Moses's analysis was a revelation, particularly as to the difficulties and perils of the task ahead. This being the point the Senator was essaying to make, he then continued:

"These, Mr. President, are only a part of the deservedly drastic terms imposed upon Germany by the treaty. They constitute a victor's peace; and with them I have no quarrel. 'Vae victis' is the agonizing cry which has gone up from every battlefield since the human race learned to fight, and my only criticism of the penalties which I have only in part enumerated is that they were not promptly and rigorously imposed upon a crushed and humiliated foe eight months ago, and that they are now presented to us with the argument that they square 'as a whole with the principles agreed upon as a basis of peace.'

"These principles have trod a thorny path. First promulgated, under this roof, on the eighth day of January, 1918, they were, we have lately been told, 'readily acceded to as the principles to which honorable and enlightened minds everywhere had been bred.' They spoke, we have been assured, 'the conscience of the world as well as the conscience of America;' but it was with a happiness which the written result does not justify that there fell from the President's lips his 'tribute of respect and gratitude' for the 'constant effort' of his fellow negotiators 'to accommodate the interests they represented to the principles' which all had agreed upon.

"This agreement, Mr. President, was almost wholly supposititious, so far as the resultant provisions of the treaty are concerned. We look in vain through its 267 pages for the elusive fourteen points of peace. Open covenants long since took to hiding; the freedom of the seas was treated with scant courtesy at Paris; the establishment of equality of trade conditions among nations consenting to the peace is nowhere to be found in this instrument; the earlier doctrine of no annexations and no indemnities long since became a tragic joke; and there remains alone, so far as present negotiations have been reduced to written form, the general association of nations established by specific covenant.

Sees "Balance of Power."

"Neither can we find here any confirmation of the prediction that this treaty was to be written in disregard of the old order of the balance of power and with no element of national commercial greed. The balance of power expressed in geographic terms does not, it is true, appear; but all the elements of greed, national suspicion and jealousy are only too evident in almost every article of the treaty. 'The treaty,' says an eminent English commentator, 'is triple nonsense. It expects Germany to earn vast sums and to earn them without the right and facility to trade abroad. It expects some Government to impose this servitude on the German workers, yet denies to that Government the army which alone might hold them down in outward obedience. It robs 15,000,000 Germans of subsistence and omits to provide them with a field for emigration.'

"In short, the sun of commercial expansion in which Germany sought a place passes into total eclipse behind this treaty; and the shackles with which she is manacled in her obscurity have been forged with meticulous care by "the forward looking men" with whom the President was privileged to cooperate at Paris, but whose cooperation was strictly limited to looking out for themselves, while not omitting to see to it that the United States should be made a full partner in every phase of the enterprise designed for the benefit of the other members of the Big Five. No one could find fault with this, Mr. President, if it had been done in the open, or if it were now brought to us with no pretense that the deed "squares, as a whole, with the principles agreed upon as the basis of the peace," and that the inevitable compromises "nowhere cut to the heart of any principle."

Since the treaty could not be self-operative, the Senator pointed out, how was it to be enforced and by whom? He called the Senate's attention to the fact that the signatories to the instrument have constituted themselves into two groups, the first comprising the United States, the British Empire, France, Italy and Japan, everywhere described throughout the treaty as the "principal allied and associated Powers," and the second, comprising all the other belligerents except Costa Rica. Then Senator Moses noted the treaty specified clause by clause that functioning and enforcement have been left, not to the League of Nations, but to the five great Powers. He illustrated:

"For instance, in the delimitation of the new frontier line between Belgium and Germany, it is not the League of Nations, but a commission of seven persons, five of whom will be appointed by the principal allied and associated Powers, who will assume this task. Equally, in connection with the renunciation of the privileges conferred upon Germany with relation to the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, it is not the League of Nations who will procure to the Grand Duchy the most favored nation treatment which Germany provides for others, but the principal allied and associated Powers.

"Old Order, New Day."

"In matters of controversy relating to the return of Alsace-Lorraine to French possession, it is not the League of Nations which functions, but the Central Rhine commission, an organization set up years ago under the old order, and now made use of in the light of a new day.

"In the establishment of the new Czecho-Slovak State, which was made the subject of special comment in our chief negotiator's report of his doings at Paris, it is not the League of Nations which will determine its frontiers—even though it later must guarantee them—but it is the principal allied and associated Powers, who, through a commission of seven members, five to be named by them, will trace the frontier line between Poland and Czechoslovakia; and in the proceedings necessary to protect the rights of the racial, linguistic, religious minorities in Czechoslovakia it is not to the League of Nations that these oppressed people turn, but to the principal allied and associated Powers.

"Similarly with Poland. Where boundaries for the new Poland are not definitely laid down in the treaty, it is not the League of Nations that will determine them, but the principal allied and associated Powers, and a plebiscite there to be taken in respect of Upper Silesia is to be carried on not under the benign aegis of the League of Nations but by a regime set up by four of the principal allied and associated Powers; and it is to take place in a region which the troops of those Powers will occupy. Moreover, Mr. President, in Upper Silesia this commission exercises full powers of sovereignty, without reference to the League of Nations, for a period which may extend as long as eighteen months, or even for an indefinite period after the proposed plebiscite has been had; and it is not to the League of Nations that the result of the vote will be communicated, but to the prinpal allied and associated Powers, who also shall delimit the frontier and fix the time when the indigenous peoples shall take over the Government of their own nation.

"And, for the protection of the racial, linguistic and religious minorities in Poland, it is not the League of Nations which will interpose the strong arm of defence, but the treaty which Poland agrees to make with the principal allied and associated Powers.

"So, too, with East Prussia. On the withdrawal of German troops and authorities from that area a commission of five members appointed by the principal allied and associated Powers, with no reference to the League of Nations, shall move in and take possession; they shall conduct plebiscites which they shall report not to the League of Nations but to the principal allied and associated Powers, and these Powers will fix the frontier, and determine what portion of the deficit in the budget shall be paid by the inhabitants of East Prussia.

"The limitation of armaments has been presented to us, Mr. President, as one of the fundamental purposes of the League of Nations, and it is natural to suppose that such limitation as the treaty provides in this respect would be confided to the wise heads and the active hands of the league. Yet nowhere in the instrument does this appear to be the fact. Throughout the whole line of minutely detailed stipulations which reduce Germany to military impotence it is not the soothing agency of the League of Nations which essays the task, but the strong arm of the principal allied and associated Powers.

"We have been told that the negotiators at Paris studied how best to put ill governed colonies into the hands of Governments which are to act as trustees for the people and not as their masters; and that there was to be some common authority among the nations made responsible in the execution of this trust. This common authority can refer to none other than our old friend, the League of Nations; and yet in that portion of the treaty which deals with the German colonies the initial declaration is that Germany renounces in favor of the principal allied and associated Powers, and not to the League of Nations, all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions.

League Not to Collect.

"The President has spoken to us of the Turkish Empire, which he discloses as having fallen apart, and his plain implication was that here again the League of Nations would be an indispensable instrumentality; yet the treaty provides that so far as Germano-Turkish relations are concerned the sums in gold and silver had or supposed to be had in German possession with reference to the Ottoman debt and other Turkish fiscal transactions are to be paid not into the honest hands of the League of Nations as trustees, but to the principal allied and associated Powers. In like manner sums in gold held as pledge or as collateral in connection with German loans to the Austrian-Hungarian Government, the benefits disclosed by the treaties of Bucharest and Brest-Litovsk, and all monetary instrument, specie, securities, negotiable instruments or goods received under these treaties pass into the possession of the principal allied and associated Powers and are to be disposed of in a manner which these Powers shall hereafter determine.

"I shall not dwell upon the shameful episode of Shantung, pausing only to say that it is not to the League of Nations, but to Japan that Germany renounces her rights, title and privileges under the provision of the treaty.

The provisions for rendering Germany harmless in a military sense occupy many pages of the treaty, Mr. President; and, as I have said before, it would be natural to suppose that the League of Nations would be the indispensable instrumentality for bringing this about—particularly since it is only with reference to Germany that any steps have been taken toward that delimitation of armament which is to be found. I assume, not in the immediate present, but somewhere beyond the spotlight which now shines on the pathway ahead. But, here again the word of promise is broken to the ear and hope alike; for it is a conference of military experts of the principal allied and associated powers, and not the League of Nations, which will fix the reductions to be made in the number of German effectives, and it is to the principal allied and associated Powers that Germany will report as to the limited stocks of munitions and guns, the armament and the few fortified works which she will be allowed to retain.

"It is not the League of Nations, but the principal allied and associated Powers who will approve the location and restrict the number of factories and works wherein Germany will be permitted to manufacture arms, munitions and war materials. It is to the principal allied and associated Powers, not to the League of Nations, that Germany must surrender her surplus war material; and it is these Powers and not the League of Nations who will direct the manner in which this surrender will be effected. And when the German Government shall disclose, as she must, the nature and mode of manufacture of all explosives, toxic substances, or other chemical preparations used by her in the war or prepared for the purpose of being so used—is it to the League of Nations, is it to Sir Eric Drummond that these lethal formulæ shall be turned over for deposit in the massive vaults which doubtless will form part of the squipment of the League of Nations palace at Geneva? By no means! it is the principal allied and associated Powers who will take over and assimilate this deadly knowledge.

Objects to Naval Terms.

"The diminution of German forces upon the sea is likewise deemed by the treaty of too much importance to be turned over to the League of Nations, and it is the principal allied and associated Powers who will fix the number of mine sweeping vessels which Germany may maintain, to whom will be turned over German warships now interned in neutral ports, who will receive the enumerated battleships which Germany must surrender, who will select the destroyers and torpedo boats which Germany must give up, who will supervise the breaking up of German warships now under construction, who will take possession of the submarines, their salvage vessels and docks, including the tubular dock, which Germany must hand over; who will indicate the allied ports to which the surrendered submarines must be taken, and who will supervise the breaking up of submarines under construction, the demolishment of which Germany has promised. Moreover, Mr. President, it is the principal allied and associated Powers, and not the League of Nations, who will fix the quantity of arms, munitions and war materials which German warships may have on board; who will take over the surplus of all naval war material in excess of that which Germany may maintain, who will designate the areas in the Baltic Sea, which Germany must sweep and keep clear of mines, who will supervise the demolishment of and the removal of guns from German fortifications in the areas between the North Sea and the Baltic, and to whom Germany shall deliver all the hydrographic information which it possesses concerning the channels and waters in this area."

Senator Moses pointed out that the failure of the Peace Conference to entrust any important function to the League of Nations clearly indicates the distrust of the league by its makers, and that this conclusion becomes more evident as the provisions in the treaty for reparation are noted. These, he observed, are left, not to the league, but to a reparation commission nominated by seven nations only, the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Belgium and the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, and the power is placed actually in the hands of the five great Powers, with four a majority of the whole seven, and proceedings to be in secret. He added:

"I make no pretence to have touched, within a wide margin, the total number of particularized references which the treaty makes respectively to the League of Nations and the signatory Powers as active agencies for carrying the treaty stipulations into effect; and I have made no effort to summarize the myriad manner in which the reparation commission is to function. But even this incomplete summary is sufficient, I think, to demonstrate that the negotiators of the treaty had no respect for the League of Nations as an indispensable instrument such as the President has sought to make us believe. Numerically stated, Mr. President, the number of references to these respective agencies under the treaty to which I have referred may be summarized as follows:

"The principal allied and associated Powers figure 76 times; the allied and associated Powers figure 45 times—a total of 121. Whereas the League of Nations figures altogether only 57 times, and of these 21 refer to its nebulous connection with the administration of the Saar Valley; 18 in connection with the labor clauses of which the league is supposed to be the special champion, and only 3 to Danzig, in relation to which we have been told the league is a prime necessity—leaving only 15 references to general activity for the League of Nations in the entire 253 pages which constitute the treaty apart from the covenant of the league itself.

League Not Indispensable.

"These figures should be sufficient not only to refute the claim that the League of Nations is an indispensable instrumentality in carrying out the provisions of this treaty, but they also serve as an effective denial of the defiant claim made in New York on March 4, 1919, that the League of Nations 'if we could but form it would be an invaluable instrument through which to secure the operation of the various parts of the treaty; and that when the treaty comes back gentlemen on this side would find the covenant not only in it but so many threads of the treaty tied to the covenant that you cannot dissect the covenant from the treaty without destroying the whole vital structure.' It will be neither a delicate nor a difficult task of dissection, Mr. President, to remove from the treaty the fifteen general provisions which it contains in regard to the League of Nations, and I assume that France will be able to assimilate the Saar Valley and that an international council of labor can be set up even if the League of Nations shall never come into being.

"I hope an examination of the treaty will convince others, as it has convinced me, that the instrument is infinitely worse for us than even the League of Nations, bad as it is; for whatever may be said of the baleful consequences which will flow to the United States from the operation of the League of Nations, they are, after all, in futuro—whereas the provisions of this treaty immediately and without recourse thrust us automatically and by authority into the endless snarls of attempting to set new boundaries for contentious races in Europe and impose upon us a share in the task of holding Germany in leash, of stifling her commercial and industrial development and even of framing and applying the most essential of her internal statutes.

"Once drawn into these meshes of international complications it will be difficult for us to extricate ourselves, and I would have the Senate and the country realize fully, before we set our seal of approval upon this instrument, that it means a complete departure from all the traditions and principles which have governed us from the foundation of the Republic; that it means our entrance into and our active participation in all of the numberless broils which now exist in troubled Europe and which the next few years will multiply; and I hope that before any such irremediable course is decided upon both the Senate and the country will study carefully this treaty in all its bearings."

The whole address made a deep impression as contributing a fresh and most important objection to hasty approval of a document whose real meaning is apparently little understood as yet by the body of the people. Along with Senator Fall (N. M.) Senator Moses has made a closer study of the treaty than have any of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Republican members having confined their attention principally to the League of Nations. After the speech to-day comment referred to it as indispensable for reference, and it will be widely distributed over the country for public reading.

Oregon Senator Speaks.

Senator McNary (Ore.), who has been regarded by supporters of the league as one of their leading hopes among Republicans, spoke also, dealing particularly with the league. He presented a construction of Article 10 that was regarded as rather novel, insisting that whenever the question should arise of America assisting in protection of some other Power it would be free to do so or not, as it should decide at the time.

If this view were generally accepted it would do away with the strong opposition to Article 10, for as one of the President's callers told him to-day, it would have the effect of wiping out Article 10. The President not only does not agree with this view but is unwilling to have any reservations whatever made as to this article.

Mr. McNary concluded his speech thus:

"Let this country be committed to a step in the direction of everlasting peace, and it is my sincere belief that the League of Nations is the greatest step the world has taken toward peace; therefore I shall support the league, as it is the hope of the world."

This conclusion left some uncertainties in the mind of auditors who had not heard the entire address wherein the Senator declared in favor of a series of reservations. As he walked out of the chamber after ending his speech Senator Kellogg expressed some uncertainty of what the concluding sentences implied.

"Oh," replied Senator McNary, "I intend to vote for the Root reservations." Thus the one Senator on whom the Administration forces most relied for the gain of a vote is aligned for the general programme of reservations.

Johnson, S. D., for League.

Senator Johnson (S. D.) spoke for the league. In his summary and conclusion he said:

"I am going to vote for this League of Nations on account of the protection of my family in future years. And when I vote for the good of my family as I see it, I vote for the good of your family and for the good of every family in our great country. I shall vote for it because every German sympathizer in the world wishes it to fail; because every Bolshevik, every I. W. W., every man in the world who does not believe in law and order would vote against it, as they would vote against anything to compel them to obey the laws of God and man. Germany, Turkey, Bulgaria and what is left of Austria-Hungary would like to see it fail. And I do not propose that my vote shall be registered with that group.

"None of us can see further than to-day. The future is sealed to our vision. The good that this league may do for our country we do not know. But these of us who favor it hope and believe it will be great. And seeing that way and believing that way the finger of duty points only in one direction. And so in casting my vote on this proposed covenant of the world I shall cast it with a consciousness of having discharged my duty. We are under obligations to every citizen of our land to bring this p ace about at the earliest possible moment. We owe this to every man who went to the defence of our country. We owe it to every mother in this great land who gave her sons for freedom. [illegible] it to every soldier living and every soldier dead, and I am ready to vote to redeem my promise."

Mr. Beckham (Ky.) also advocated the league in an address defending it against the charges that have been laid at its door, and summarizing his position thus:

"The peace of the world may be involved in our action. No more solemn responsibility ever came upon the Senate of the United States. A world wearied and sickened with bloodshed, broken and disabled with the ruin and devastation of the most destructive war in all human history looks to us to put the seal of our approval on this work of the peace conference and give to it the one and only means which it believes will serve as any reasonable guaranty against war in the future.

Admits Its Imperfections.

No advocate of this document can proclaim it perfect. No idealist can safely promise that it beyond all doubt removes the possibility of war in the future. But it at least comes to us with a promise that if given a fair trial, if improved where improvements may be found necessary later on, and if supported by the civilized Governments of the earth, it will certainly be a tremendous advance over all previous plans and one that may in reality fulfill the dream of its most enthusiastic advocates, a world wide and an enduring peace.

"I have not undertaken to enter into a discussion of all of the details of this proposed League of Nations. These features of the discussion have been well and ably presented by other Senators. In my opinion the technical arguments which have been so forcibly urged against the various articles of the treaty have been successfully met by others who have spoken for it.

"The President of the United States has done a great work for his country and for all the world. He has labored in all these months at the table of the peace conference with the earnest effort and the sublime hope that out of its work there might come peace, justice and freedom to all the people of the earth.

"The treaty represents the judgment and wisdom of the best thought of the civilized nations. The obligation is now upon us. The eyes of the world are watching us. The keen gaze and scrutiny of the people of this country will not fail to see the motives and purposes that may actuate us in what we do. We should dedicate to this subject the best thought, the highest patriotism of which we are capable. Their hope at present is in us and we dare not and should not disappoint them."

VILLA BANDITS ROUTED.

One Killed During Skirmish at Casas Grandes.

JUAREZ, Mexico, July 22.—One Villa follower was killed, two wounded and fifteen made prisoners, including Jesus Saldana, the leader, during a skirmish Sunday between a Villa band and a Federal force from Casas Grandes, commanded by Col. Porcayo, according to a despatch received at Federal military headquarters here to-day.

The first passenger train in seven weeks left here for Chihuahua city to-day. A guard of fifty Federal soldiers accompanied it. The railroad was destroyed by Villa during his march on Juarez early in June.

The American Consulate here received a report to-day from Carranza military authorities that 250 Villa followers had surrendered to Federal authorities and that amnesty was granted to them. This information was forwarded to the State Department at Washington by American Consul Dow.

DEFENDS SHANTUNG PACT.

Gerhard M. Dahl Says Facts Are Misunderstood.

Gerhard M. Dahl, vice-president of the Chase National Bank and president of the Japan Society, issued a statement last night relative to the Shantung controversy, in which he declared that there is a widespread misconception of the facts supporting the Shantung provision of the peace treaty.

"Any dispassionate consideration of the facts," he said, "should lead an unbiased mind to the conclusion that on the merits of the case Japan is entitled to everything given to her by the peace treaty in the Province of Shantung. As a matter of fact Japan received by the peace treaty only those rights which Germany had acquired in the Province of Shantung by virtue of the treaty entered into with China in 1898, which treaty covers chiefly the port of Kiao-Chau, consisting of about 200 square miles and containing about 195,000 people."

Mr. Dahl bases his argument largely upon the fact that China, France and England agreed by treaty to cede to Japan the rights owned by Germany in the Shantung province.

LARGER STEERING COMMITTEE.

House Republicans to Hold Caucus to Increase Membership.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—Republican House leaders agreed to-day that the party conference to consider enlargement of the legislative steering committee would be held to-morrow night instead of Friday. No decision was reached as to the number of additions to the committee, now composed of five members, but indications were that two rather than four would be added.

The question of a recess, beginning in August, and a legislative programme to precede it also may be taken up.

50 SLAIN, NOT ONE AVENGED IN MEXICO

Fletcher Tells of Murders of Americans in Two Years Which Are Unpunished.

CRIMES LAID TO BANDITS

Carranza Government Fulfiling Mission, Envoy Tells House Committee.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—Fifty American citizens have been murdered in Mexico in the last two years and during that time the United States has not been informed of one prosecution or punishment by the Mexican Government for the crimes, Henry Fletcher, American Ambassador to Mexico, told the House Rules Committee to-day. This number is included in the 251 Americans known to have been slain since Porfiro Diaz fell.

While Ambassador Fletcher was testifying the State Department was informed that Lawrence L. Shipley of Yerington, Nev., had been kidnapped by Mexican bandits at Fresnillo, Mex., last Saturday. The official announcement of the State Department gave no details but did say that an investigation had been started. The report, following the other recent attacks by Mexicans against citizens of this country, added to the tension in official circles.

"Can you recall one prosecution or punishment by the Mexican Government of its citizens for the murder of American citizens?" Chairman Campbell (Kan.) of the Rules Committee asked.

"I do not now recall one," Mr. Fletcher replied, but he added that the Mexican Government had promised after every representation on the murders to make every effort to capture the guilty parties. Most of the murders were by bandits in out of the way places, he said, in pointing out that it was difficult for the Government to apprehend them.

Mr. Fletcher submitted a list of Americans murdered since the Diaz regime.

Mrs. John W. Correll, whose husband was murdered at Tampico recently and who was brutally treated herself, will appear before the committee to-morrow to urge the investigation of Mexican treatment of Americans and other foreigners as proposed in the resolution of Representative Gould (N. Y.).

Fletcher Is Reluctant.

Mr. Fletcher in his testimony appeared reluctant to criticise the Carranza regime, several times asking to be excused from answering as to the general attitude of that Government toward Americans.

Other points brought out by questioning of Mr. Fletcher were:

The principal Mexican and Carranza papers were violently hostile to Americans during the war.

It is difficult to determine whether the Carranza Government is more unfriendly to Americans than other foreigners because owing to the greater number of Americans in Mexico, more of them were injured. Mr. Fletcher knew of no Germans or Spaniards being murdered.

The Carranza Government has recently ceased issuing permits to foreign concerns to open new oil wells in Mexico except under almost impossible restrictions.

Large tracts of land belonging to Americans have been seized, divided among the peons and bonds issued in return, which now have no market value.

American war vessels remained in Tampico harbor all during the war without a Mexican protest. Mr. Fletcher cited this as an indication that the United States Government was not being discriminated against.

The Allies controlled the cables to Mexico and investigation has shown there were no German wireless plants there. Germans in Mexico got their news through American official sources at Laredo, Tex., but it was of no military value to them, he said.

Mr. Fletcher's testimony indicated he believed that outwardly, at least, the Carranza Government was trying to maintain friendly relations with the United States.

Whenever Americans were injured, he said, it was customary to ask immediate reparation and the Mexican Government always promised it. Usually, however, we were informed that the investigation showed it was impossible to tell who was the offender and no report of the parties being apprehended was received.

Carranza Control Outlined.

"Is the Carranza Government fulfilling its mission as a government?" Mr. Campbell asked.

"I think it is," replied Mr. Fletcher.

"How much of Mexico does Carranza control?" Mr. Campbell asked.

"Practically all of it, including the courts," was the reply. "Villa controls practically only the near vicinity where he is camping."

Mr. Fletcher avoided answering questions as to what should be the future policy of the United States, saying it was a matter of opinion which the President alone should state. He also refused to answer whether the results the United States is getting from its representation for damages and injury to American citizens is satisfactory.

Mr. Campbell asked whether it would be wise to withdraw recognition of the Carranza Government and allow unlimited shipment of arms and supplies to Mexico.

The latter plan, Mr. Fletcher said, would be certain to add to the general turmoil.

Representative Odenburg (Ill.) said the Mexican Government had shown no zeal in reparations for the crimes against Americans, but Mr. Fletcher, as Ambassador, could point only to the official statements of the Government that it was making every effort to apprehend the guilty parties.

Efforts are being made by the House Foreign Relations Committee to have the investigation transferred there instead of the Gould plan of having a special committee appointed.

Gould Plan Substitute.

Chairman Porter (Pa.) to-day introduced this resolution as a substitute for the Gould plan:

That the House Foreign Affairs Committee shall investigate and report to the House on the following:

The treatment since 1910 accorded to lives and property of Americans and of other foreign residents in Mexico and on American territory contiguous thereto.

The policy and activity of the Government of the United States since 1910 in presenting and pressing claims or protests in behalf of American citizens for loss of or menace to life and property, the results thereof and the responsibility therefor.

The claims, if any, which foreign Governments have since 1910 formally or informally presented to the Government of the United States against the United States or Mexico growing out of the treatment accorded by Mexico or Mexicans to such foreign Governments or to the lives or property of their citizens.

The economic and political relations since 1910 between the United States and Mexico in so far as such relations have affected the security of lives and of property of Americans and of other foreign residents in Mexico and on American territory contiguous thereto.

The relations since April 6, 1917, of Mexico or Mexicans with the Government of any country with which the United States has been at war.

To report its conclusions and recommendations on the facts found as a result of its investigation.

Mr. Fletcher presented the following list of Americans killed this year:

WALLACE, Oscar, killed March 2, near Progreso, Coahuila.
MORGAN, E. E., killed at Chivela, near Geronimo, April 5.
DUFOURCQ, Edward L., killed near Texuitlan, Puebla, April 18. Mr. Dufourcq was manager of Texuitlan Copper Company.
GORHAM, Frank P., killed at Chomal Colony, Tamaulipas, about April 20.
WHITE, H. S., killed near Corcada, Sonora, May 24.
TOVOTE, W., killed May —, near Batuc, Sonora.
McCLAREN, Edward F., alias John Henderson, brother of William McClaren, Hobart, Ind., reported accidentally shot by attacking Villistas at time of release of prisoners from Juarez jail, June 15.
CORRELL, John W., killed near Colonia, Tamaulipas, while defending his family. His wife was then indecently maltreated. Pursuit and capture of criminals demanded by Consul, Tampico.
MOYE, Leroy, employee of Mexican Gulf Oil Company, killed by rebels near Tampico, night of July 1.
CATRON, Peter, son of Hiram Catron, who applied for registration June 27 before Consul at Tampico, was shot to death by bandits near Valles on or about July 7.
HUGHES, Hiram, assaulted by unknown parties July 4 near Tampico, died in American hospital, July 5, at Tampico, from bullet wound said by authorities to have been self-inflicted by accident during scuffle.

The Department of State has been advised by the American Embassy at Mexico city as well as by the Mexican Ambassador of the United States, Mr. Bonillas, that the Mexican Government will authorize the temporary boring of oil wells provided the interested parties apply to the Department of Industry and Commerce for such permits under the formal promise that they will be subject to legislative regulations that may be enacted in the future by the Mexican Government. The Department of Industry and Commerce is to issue at once a circular "relative to this matter."

The Department of State is awaiting with interest the text of the circular referred to.

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