

FRANCE DOUBLES UP REPARATION CLAIM

Treaty Debate Reveals a Demand for \$93,000,000,000 From foe in 36 Years.

DEPUTIES ASTONISHED

Blind Faith Shown in Expectation That League Will Help Financially.

By LAURENCE HILLS. Staff Correspondent of The Sun. Copyright, 1919, all rights reserved.

Paris, Sept. 6.—The estimates of the French Government of the reparation that Germany will be able to pay in thirty-six years far exceed those of any other nation. This fact was brought out sharply in the two days' debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the financial clauses of the peace treaty.

It was revealed also that the French still are clinging to the idea that the League of Nations is going to their rescue financially in some way or other, either by the scheme for international bonds or the plan to pool financial resources, although some of the American experts, like Thomas W. Lamont, when he was here, have taken pains to remove this illusion.

The remarkable feature of the financial debate in the light of what happened in the Reparation Committee is the assertion of M. Klotz, the Finance Minister, that France would receive in round figures \$68,000,000,000 of francs in thirty-six years, counting interest (about \$92,000,000,000). This contrasts with the figure of \$30,000,000,000, the sum which the British, Italian and American financial members of the commission decided that Germany could pay in all, or one-third of the amount that M. Klotz told the Chamber that France alone would get.

Clemenceau Fought Publicly.

When the American and British experts wanted the total of reparations fixed in the peace treaty as essential to a speedy readjustment of world credit, Premier Clemenceau refused his assent and the discussion showed that the French authorities feared that the sum the experts named would prove so disappointing to the French public that the Government might be overthrown. The prediction made then by the Americans that in the treaty discussion the French Government would hold out for an absurd sum seems now to be borne out.

Here is what M. Klotz expects from Germany: For the cost of the French occupation of the Rhine, 13,000,000,000 francs; for pensions, 60,000,000,000, in addition to 2,000,000,000 for the support of widows; for damages caused in other ways, 134,000,000,000; total, 209,000,000,000 francs. Adding interest on the unpaid instalments in thirty-six years, M. Klotz said this would make a total of \$68,000,000,000 francs. He declared it was not in the interest of France to fix the amount in the treaty.

M. Klotz did not disclose how he reached these figures, which from the remarks heard, plainly astonished many members of the Chamber of Deputies, as well as the American here. Germany's capacity to pay, he said, was the result from the excess of its production over consumption, which was at least 10,000,000,000 marks before the war (12,500,000,000), and because of the rise in prices could be estimated now to be at least 20,000,000,000 marks. Even this amount, M. Klotz thought, would be surpassed.

Puzzle in Budget Plans.

The weak point in the Government's defense, as was predicted by the experts, appeared when the Government was pitted with questions as to how, under the treaty reparations plan, any intelligent budget could be framed for France in the first years after the war facing a budget requirement of 20,000,000,000 francs in addition to 20,000,000,000 francs more in advances to the devastated regions.

It was in this connection that M. Klotz and other speakers brought up the financial section of the League of Nations. Asked pointedly if there had been any agreement on the question of dividing proportionately among the Allies the cost of the war, the pooling scheme about which the French were talking continually, M. Klotz was compelled to answer that "that question, unfortunately, has not been settled yet." Explaining the financial section of the league, to which, he insisted, the other nations had agreed, he said: "The financial section will supervise all financial matters between the nations, will pass upon existing claims, upon delays of reparation and measures of coercion and will facilitate payments between creditor and debtor States. It will hold the evidence of such indebtedness between nations and will make advances to States by means of bonds whose maturity shall not exceed two years and which will be guaranteed by all the members of the league."

So far as known the Americans, including President Wilson and Col. E. M. House, never agreed to any such plan, while Lamont, Haruch and others repeatedly pronounced it to be inadvisable for America. Yet M. Klotz plainly is using it now as part of his defense of the reparation clauses against the attacks now being made against these clauses by a large element in the Chamber of Deputies, which sees French finances put into an almost hopeless condition by the peace treaty.

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CARRANZA DODGES BLAME IN NEW WAY

Makes Americans Sign Affidavit Waiving All Claims to Damages in Tampico.

THREE MORE ROBBERIES

Mexican Bandits Tipped Off by Authorities on Amount of Loot to Be Expected.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6.—Apparently convinced that the United States is in earnest in demanding proper treatment of Americans in Mexico the Carranza Government has adopted a new expedient in an attempt to relieve itself of responsibility.

Americans going to the Tampico region hereafter will be compelled to sign a formal release of the Mexican Government's responsibility for what may happen to them. If they refuse Mexican officials will refuse to issue their passports.

The condition raises a peculiar situation, for under international law a Government may refuse travel permission to foreigners into a region where it may not be prepared to guarantee their safety.

Americans going to the Tampico oil region are being asked to make oath to such an affidavit as follows: The undersigned under oath deposes and says that he has been warned that the Tampico oil region is a dangerous district on account of the activities of bandits operating in said region; that dependent, by reason of his business as employee, is on his way to that region and travels at his own risk. That in case some accident might happen to him hereby he formally renounces the right that he or his heirs might have to present a claim to the Mexican Government, either directly or through any other channel.

All Americans Must Sign.

This affidavit is not only required of workmen who are American citizens, but also of American citizens in the United States holding passports from the State Department authorizing them to visit the Tampico region.

Details of three robberies in a week in the Tampico region have been received at the offices of the Oil Companies. The robbers secured \$50,000 Mexican gold, American companies being the victims, and the robberies all took place in the territory where he once had the Carranza troops are permitted to carry arms.

H. M. Krimbill, cashier of the Penn Mex Camp, was forced by bandits to open the safe, from which \$25,000 was taken, the robbers escaping in a company launch. Twenty-eight men in all took part in the robbery, all armed with rifles and revolvers.

Luis Gutierrez, paymaster of the Agui Company, while taking a payroll of \$4,000 to the Tepetate camp, was held up by three armed masked men and robbed. Neither Gutierrez nor his companion, Kenneth De Lacy, knew they were to make the trip until ten minutes before they started. The company officials, however, had notified the Mexican authorities at Tampico of the amount of the payroll and the time of departure and route to be taken.

The robbers demanded the exact amount, according to the report, which was not known to the two men carrying it, and it was counted before the robbers would let their victims go.

A Tampico bank made up a \$20,000 payroll of the Transcontinental Oil Company in an effort to thwart the robbers and placed it in a box to be sent to the camp at Mats Redonda by launch. The Mexican authorities are said to have delayed the departure of the launch for one night and when it reached the camp a box of old iron had been substituted for the original. The State Department received a dispatch from the embassy at Mexico City to-day announcing that the Mexicans who held up and robbed American sailors from the monitor Cheyenne in the Tampico district some weeks ago had been caught and are being held at Tampico. Some of the personal belongings of the sailors were recovered.

PLOTTED TO KILL CARRANZA.

Mexican Papers Tell Secret Society's Assassination Plan.

El Paso, Tex., Sept. 6.—Mexico city papers received here to-day contained front page articles telling of the discovery by Gen. Juan Barragan, Chief of Staff, of a secret society in Mexico City, the purpose of which is to assassinate President Carranza, according to the newspaper articles.

GONZALES GOES TO BERLIN.

Mexican Consul-General Is One of Voyagers on Stockholm.

Enrique A. Gonzalez sailed yesterday on the Swedish American liner Stockholm to take up his position as Mexican Consul-General in Berlin. He took with him his wife, son and two daughters. Senor Gonzalez was reticent concerning the relations between Mexico and Germany, but stated that they were friendly and there was a need for commerce between the two countries.

Dan Brostrom, secretary of the Swedish Navy until 1917 and the largest ship owner in Sweden, also sailed. He expressed the opinion that Sweden would buy here many articles she formerly took from Germany.

Other passengers were Magnus Clar-

holm, Swedish Consul-General in New York; Capt. Harold Pylwan, military attaché to the Swedish Legation in Washington, and Count Adolf von Rosen of Washington.

MEXICAN RANCHER MURDERED

Lawyer Also Victim of Fend Near Border.

NOGALES, Ariz., Sept. 6.—Jose Maria Siso, one of the wealthiest Mexican ranchers in the State of Sonora, and Santiago Cota, a Hermosillo barrister, were murdered last night at Imuris, south of the border. The bodies were found near the Siso ranch house. Siso, a land baron, was said to have had many enemies among the poorer class of Mexicans in his home district, and a neighborhood feud had been in progress for several months.

BRAVO PORTERO IS SLAIN.

Was Mixed Up in Espionage Case in Barcelona.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. Copyright, 1919, all rights reserved. Manago Sept. 6.—It is officially reported at Barcelona that Bravo Portero formerly commissary, who was mixed up with notorious German espionage work and recently engaged in the conflict between Masters and Syndicalists, was assassinated to-day as he was alighting from a tram car, by two men who fired pointblank revolver shots at him. The assassins have not been arrested.

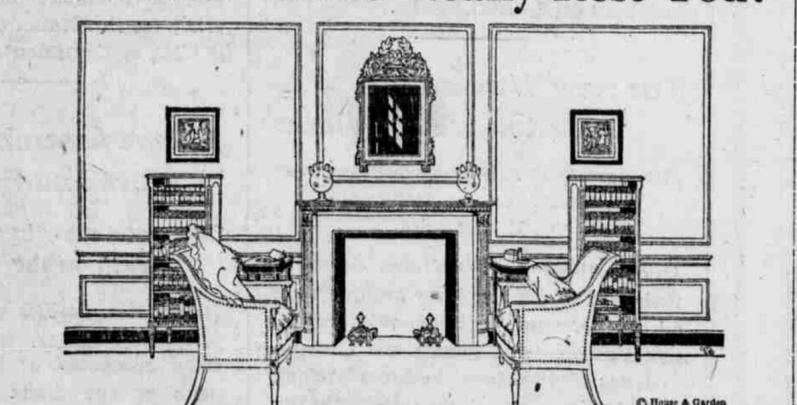
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