

EVENTS OF THE WEEK OVERSEAS

BRITISH EMBASSY STAFF IN WASHINGTON



Underwood and Underwood.

Diplomatic staff of the British Embassy at the embassy of Great Britain in Washington. Left to right, front row: Capt. Sidney Bailey, naval attache; Capt. R. N. Deso, R. N.; Air Commodore Leo Charlton, air attache; Ambassador Sir Auckland Geddes; Mr. John Joyce Broderick, commercial counsellor; Capt. Jeffrey Blake, R. N. Second row: Count John de Salis, secretary; Mr. M. D. Peterson, secretary; Maj. Charles Bridge, asst. military attache; Mr. R. L. Craigie, first secretary; Mr. Arthur Mencken, secretary. Back row: J. Lawrence, vice consul; Harold Sims, assistant to commercial counsellor; Capt. C. J. Henry, honorary attache; A. P. Graves, honorary attache; H. V. Tennant, secretary; Capt. J. F. Harker, secretary; H. C. Carpenter, secretary; McCormick Goodhart, assistant to commercial counsellor.

British Industrial Crisis.

After a week of negotiations in which the British government, mine owners, and leaders of the miners, railway men and transport workers have participated, no agreement has been reached and Great Britain is now faced with the greatest crisis in her industrial history. The strike of the three most powerful of British labor unions which had been postponed and which it was hoped might be averted by negotiations has now been declared. In addition to the 1,200,000 miners, 400,000 railway men and the 300,000 transport workers directly concerned in the walk-out, it is estimated that some 6,000,000 persons will be thrown out of employment by the strike.

The first move made by Lloyd George to bring about a settlement of the controversy was an invitation to the miners to meet the owners and representatives of the government in a conference, at which he stipulated an agreement regarding pumping and the preservation of the mines should be made before any other question was entered upon. After twice refusing to enter a conference in which discussions were in any way restricted, the labor leaders finally agreed to meet the owners and the government without conditions. They also agreed that there should be no interference with volunteer pumpers. As a preliminary to this conference, which was held on Monday, the strike of the triple alliance was scheduled for Tuesday and was postponed pending result of negotiations. At a subsequent conference on Tuesday the government announced its opinion that a standardized wage scale on a national basis might be arranged and that it might be willing to give financial assistance to the industry for a short time, either by loan or otherwise, to mitigate the rapid reduction of wages. Mr. Lloyd George announced, however, that the national pool of profits proposed by the miners was impracticable and unacceptable to both the owners and the government. These proposals were rejected by the miners on the ground that without the pool wages standardized according to average ability would result in forcing the poor mines to discontinue production, while the better mines paying only average wages would afford greatly increased profits to the owners.

The refusal of all parties to the controversy to make any concession regarding the question of the pool of profits was followed by a meeting of the executive of the triple alliance, at which it was decided to call a national strike beginning at 10 o'clock Friday night. During the course of negotiations the government through the premier in the house of commons and the labor leaders by manifestos have endeavored to win the support of public opinion by exhaustive statements of their positions. The leaders of the triple alliance have declared that the fight they are waging has no political significance, but is only to maintain

the fundamental rights of trade unionism. The government, on the other hand, asserts that the issue is not economic but political, that the real object of the miners and the other labor organizations is to secure nationalization of industry. Conservative and liberal papers point out that the attempt of labor to coerce the government by a national strike is an attempt to substitute direct action for constitutional procedure. Meanwhile, the government is mobilizing its forces to meet the crisis while the members of the Parliamentary Labor party and the more conservative labor leaders are seeking to control their more radical adherents. There are indications that many of the trade unionists are not only opposed to the principle of nationalization but do not approve the course being followed by the executive of the triple alliance. This factor in the situation will operate to make the leaders in the strike adopt a more conciliatory attitude.

Ambassadors Named.

FROM President Harding Thursday the Senate received the names of George Harvey, of New York, and Myron T. Herrick, of Ohio, as nominees for ambassadorships to Great Britain and France, respectively. The appointments had been forecast and confirmation was expected to follow at once. John J. Esch, former representative from Wisconsin, was appointed member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and about thirty other names were submitted.

Complications in Near East.

THE publication of the terms of an agreement alleged to have been signed by Italy and the Turkish Nationalists introduces a new complication into the situation created by the treaty of Sevres. According to this agreement, said to have been signed by the Italian foreign minister and the representative of the Angora government at the London conference, Italy is granted important concessions in Turkey in return for which she agrees to withdraw all Italian troops in Ottoman territory and to support, in her relations with the allies, Turkish demands for the restoration of Smyrna and Thrace.

As matters now stand two of the signers of the treaty of Sevres, France and Italy, have understandings with the Ottoman Nationalists which amount to the repudiation of the treaty, the terms of which the Greeks are endeavoring to establish by their futile and costly war in Anatolia. The report, which declares that Constantinople is the scene of more intrigue than in the days when Germany and Austria had their fingers in the Near Eastern pie, are borne out by events. The failure of European postwar diplomacy is nowhere more clearly exposed than in the Near East,

Reparation Rumors.

AS the time approaches when Germany must make new proposals for the payment of reparations rumors as to the nature of the proposals and the course to be pursued multiply with extraordinary rapidity. The French rattle the saber and talk of further occupation, while the Germans call upon Heaven to witness the honesty and sincerity of their professions.

From the American point of view the most significant thing is the rumor which has come fresh from both Berlin and Paris to the effect that the United States will be asked to mediate in the reparations dispute. According to one report this mediation would take place in Washington, but,—according to another, the determination of Germany's capacity to pay would be left to a commission of neutrals headed by the United States, who would conduct an investigation of German conditions. It is argued that the Germans would more willingly accept the findings of such a commission—even if the amount were higher than German estimates—than the findings of allied experts. There are many reasons for believing that American participation in the settlement of this indemnity problem would be welcomed not only by Germany but by certain of the allies, who are finding the sanctions now being enforced both ineffective and expensive.

Port Strike Threatened.

THE government of Argentine faced the alternative of a general port strike at Buenos Ayres early this week or complications with the United States, according to dispatches. Because of a strike by the firemen on the United States Shipping Board liner Martha Washington longshoremen refused to unload the ship when she arrived at port. The Munson Steamship Company, which carts the Martha Washington, announced that non-union men would be hired for the unloading. The government promised to protect these men. The general strike was threatened. The bluff won and no attempt was made to use non-union men. The United States consul general at Buenos Ayres entered a protest against the boycott on the ship which placed the Argentine government in an awkward position.

Three Boundary Parties.

COL. E. LESTER JONES, director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and International Boundary Commission, announced Thursday that three parties would start out within a month for field work, one of them going to the west slope of the Rocky Mountains, one to the Minnesota and Canadian line and another to St. Croix, Me. There will be seventy-nine men in each party. Their work will be that of perfecting boundaries, adjusting monuments which mark the lines already established and mapping. Much of their time will be spent camping, and they will travel afoot, carrying their own packs where the country is too rugged for horse or motor car. During the summer months it is a coveted duty, but hazardous in many respects and when the weather is bad many hardships are suffered.

Lord Chalmers' Visit.

Most important negotiations between Treasury Department officials and Lord Chalmers, probably on the refunding of the British debt to the United States, are forecast with the arrival of the noted financier in this country. Lord Chalmers was scheduled to sail from England yesterday.

Secretary Mellon said last week in regard to the possibility of the demand loans to Great Britain being refunded into long-term obligations that maturity could not be extended beyond 1947 under the present law and that the interest borne must be equal to that on United States Liberty bonds. None of the Treasury officials would hazard an opinion as to the purpose of Lord Chalmers' visit, however.

Death of Former Empress.

On April 11 Augusta Victoria, the former Kaiserin of Germany, died at Doorn, Holland, after a lingering illness.

Augusta Victoria has been described as the former Kaiser's ideal of the German hausfrau, tactful, self-effacing and wholly subservient to her moody and violently temperamental husband. She was, according to one writer, "the personification of virtue, sad, rather dull, determined and sectarian." Like Queen Victoria she was horrified by feminism and by certain tendencies in art and literature which she considered highly improper.

The former Empress was devoted to her children and was in turn worshipped by them. For her personal qualities, as well as for her many charities and deep interest in public works she is affectionately remembered by the German people.