

FRENCH TO ACT WITH HARDING ON LEAGUE; APPEAL TO HERRICK

Former Ambassador Will Be Asked to Send Some One to Geneva Meeting.

PARIS FEARS A DELAY Wants Man Rushed to Europe to Give Views of President-Elect.

BRITISH ARE SUSPECTED France Perturbed Over Jumble at Gathering That May Cause Her Trouble.

By LAURENCE HILLS. Special Cable to The New York Herald. Copyright, 1920, by The New York Herald. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Nov. 5.

The problem of the French attitude toward the League of Nations and its Geneva meeting has become so important in French eyes in connection with the American election, that unusual steps are to be taken immediately in the matter.

Myron T. Herrick, formerly American Ambassador to France, has been chosen as an intermediary in negotiations with the new Washington Administration in advance of its actual advent into power.

Within a few days a cable despatch will be sent to Mr. Herrick asking him to urge Mr. Harding to send to Geneva some one who can act as the President-elect's adviser and interpreter and who can communicate the Harding views regarding the league to the French delegates.

This cable request, The New York Herald correspondent learned to-day from the highest source, will be sent by a member of the French Foreign Office, who is a friend of Mr. Herrick, and who is acting in close accord with the French Foreign Office.

The French delegation is composed of M. M. Bourgeois, Viviani and Hanotaux.

According to what was intimated here to-day, Mr. Herrick is the man Mr. Harding referred to as the "unofficial spokesman of France."

He returned to the United States with a complete explanation of the French views and he is depended upon now by the French Government to inform it whether the Republicans want a fresh start made for a new association of nations or will take the present covenant as a basis for negotiations, with amendments to it to be worked out through the prescribed process.

Despatches received here from the United States indicate that no formulation of the American policy can be expected before next March. This is causing great concern in Paris, because it is feared that some nation will take advantage of this to France's detriment.

The French think the agreement is the super-body idea as exemplified in the present league to a recognition of Mr. Harding's more conservative idea of an association of nations is apparent by remarks made to-day by one of the highest French diplomats, who will be at Geneva and whose word can be accepted as having great weight.

Harding's Meaning Understood. "We understand clearly the nuance of the words Mr. Harding used," he said. "The word league implies something more binding, while association implies the uniting of the government in a spirit of good will rather than an enforced binding of them. That has been the sentiment in France, and we can welcome Mr. Harding's selection gladly. All we want is for some one to interpret the Republican viewpoint for us—not an official to bind America by a signature, but some one who will assure that America is interested in such an international movement."

The view this authority expressed was that it might be possible to take the covenant as a basis and overcome the Republican objections by specific amendments.

"But to effect this the United States must sell us what she wants," he said. "The French delegates will find about 150 British representatives from all parts of the British Empire, seventy Japanese and scores of Americans, South Americans, Scandinavians and Italians, but not a single American who can speak confidentially and tell us what President-elect Harding is planning."

Every day makes it plainer that this meeting of the forty nations in Geneva will be one grand jumble of opinions on what to do with the present league fostered on Europe by the peace treaty and now utterly unable to function. It is fully realized that the Republican tidal wave has hopelessly smashed the ark of the covenant in the Versailles Treaty. This thought stands out in all European comment on the result of Tuesday's election.

The Paris press is asking what instructions the Government here intends giving M. M. Bourgeois, Viviani and Hanotaux, the French delegates, regarding this remarkable situation, in order that these delegates shall not prejudice the new power in Washington.

HARDING PLANS MEETINGS WITH BIG MINDS SOON

Conferences to Be Held on Return to Marion in Early December.

FOREIGN POLICY FIRST Democratic Senators Will Be Asked to Confer on All Big Issues.

CONSIDER LEAGUE DEAD Future Efforts to Be Based on Entirely New Policy of World Relations.

Special Despatch to The New York Herald. MARION, Ohio, Nov. 5.—This city again will be a new center of international importance after December 8. On that day the President-elect will return from his month's visit to Texas and to Panama and will inaugurate a series of conferences with men and women who have been eminent as Senator Harding puts it, in the discussion of our foreign relations.

He let it be known to-day that he is sending out requests for personal and informal conferences with persons whose opinions he respects and in whom he believes the country has confidence. These talks here in Marion will be for the main purpose of formulating a foreign relations policy that will be expected to enlist united support. In whatever he does the President-elect wants to have the whole country back of him.

He purposes to avoid what he considers the fatal blunder made by President Wilson in going it alone and ignoring advice. Will include Democrats. His idea is that it will be wise for him to obtain as soon as possible expressions free from campaign or partisan bias, and the series of conferences he has planned will be the first step toward the "meeting of minds" of which he speaks so frequently in the course of the campaign.

The names of the men and women who he is asked to come here to lay their views before the President-elect was not made public to-day. It will not be completed before Senator Harding's vacation ends. It is possible, however, to suggest certain names. Unquestionably the Senator will invite Senators Lodge (Mass.), Knox (Pa.), Brandegee (Conn.), Wadsworth (N. Y.), Cummins (Iowa) and New (Ind.) of the Republican side, also mention a few; and Senators Underwood (Ala.) and Simmons (N. C.) of the Democratic side. It is probable, too, that he will desire the views of former Senator George Butherland of Utah, Herbert C. Hoover, former Senator John W. Weeks, Charles E. Hughes, Ethus Root, Raymond Robins, Clifford Pinchot and Gen. Leonard Wood.

It is taken for granted here that the Wilson League of Nations has been finally and completely rejected by the people. There is no expectation of reviving it. What Senator Harding earnestly seeks is truly national opinion on what now can be done to formulate a policy that will let the United States play its necessary part toward the rest of the world; a policy that will enable the United States to take the lead for peace and general human happiness.

Formal Statement Issued. It is with no idea of causing embarrassment to the present Administration that Senator Harding has taken up with the leading minds of America the great problem of what America's foreign relations shall be.

The Senator's announcement was made this afternoon after he had conferred with Will H. Hays, who came here to spend his 41st birthday with the President-elect. After talking with Mr. Hays Senator Harding caused this statement to be issued.

"Senator Harding let it be known to-day that he is sending out a number of requests for personal and very informal conferences with men and women who have been eminent in the discussion of our foreign relations. These conferences will take place upon his return to Marion in December and will be individual and personal, with the main purpose of learning what policy may enlist united support. Senator Harding means that he will take into consideration the views of all those who are interested in the future of the United States."

Senator Harding further announced that no consideration would be given to a Cabinet during his recreation period.

OBREGON AND HARDING TO MEET ON BORDER Presidents-Elect Will Hold Confab at Brownsville.

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 5.—Gen. Alvaro Obregon, president-elect of Mexico, will accept an invitation from American citizens extended through Y. M. Vasquez, Mexican Consul at Brownsville, Tex., to meet President-elect Harding at the border city.

It was stated at Gen. Obregon's headquarters to-day that it was believed this would be a "good move in the right direction and conducive to a better understanding."

The invitation from Brownsville, however, has not yet been received here.

BANK DEBITS GET \$41,000. CHICAGO, Nov. 5.—Four banks to-day held up a messenger of the Hyde Park State Bank of Chicago and escaped with a net total of \$41,000 in Liberty bonds and coupons and \$257,000 in negotiable checks.

X-mas Cards, distinctive, in great variety. Corlies, Macy & Co., 7 E. 9th St.—20 John St.

SLAYER DODGED 3 AT SCENE OF WATERS CRIME

Used Shoe as a Gun, Made Dash From Hotel Room and Escaped.

AIDED BY CLERK'S ACT Lights Turned Off Just as Trio Had Murderer in Their Grasp.

POLICE SEEK CHAUFFEUR Laundry Mark Clue Expected to Reveal Trail to Clubman's Assailant.

As the police progressed further yesterday with the investigation of the murder of Leeds Vaughan Waters, globe trotter and clubman and one of the heirs of Horace Waters, piano manufacturer of Greenwich, R. I., they found reasons to announce that it was one of the most remarkable capital crimes committed in years.

They let it be known, too, that the murderer, according to fresh information obtained at the hotel, could be classed as one of the coolest individuals with whom they have had to deal. His self-possession and a combination of circumstances that could not be controlled, were solely responsible for his escape after he beat Mr. Waters to death Wednesday morning in a room on the eighth floor of the Hotel Plymouth.

And the police learned also that the murderer did not run from the hotel in fright at the sight of John Carney, night clerk, and Fred Carmier, bell boy. Instead, it was finally determined, Carney and the bell boy, as well as other persons who had rushed to the door of the murder room were confronted by the slayer, held at bay with a shoe and sent out of his way by threat.

Accidentally Helped Slayer. This was the story drawn from Carney and Carmier yesterday by Assistant District Attorney John H. Hennis, who is in charge of the investigation for the District Attorney's office. The two hotel employees, their nerves shaken by the sight of Mr. Waters' body crumpled up on the floor, failed at first to remember those details.

Among the unusual facts surrounding the escape of the murderer were these: That at the moment the door of the room was opened the day clerk, coming on duty at 7 o'clock, saw the slayer, who controlled the lights in the hotel corridors, leaving them in darkness and unintentionally making it safer for the escaping man; that Carney, armed with a bottle as a weapon, could have knocked the murderer unconscious had the bottle not slipped from his hand, splashing a cleaning fluid which it contained. Ammon's trousers from the fluid temporarily blinded the rescue party.

Carney told Mr. Hennis that upon being called to the eighth floor the first time he went to the door of the room to which Mr. Waters and the man known as "Dunn" had been assigned and knocked. "Dunn" answered. "Everything is all right," Carney quoted him as saying.

Carney said he insisted that the door be opened, but that "Dunn" repeated the assurance.

Slayer Laughed at Him. So Carney returned to his desk in the lobby and got into communication with the room by telephone. "Dunn" answered his call, and Carney threatened to call in the police if the door was not opened immediately. The man paid no attention to the threat, and when Carney went up to the room again with "Dunn" he said that he wouldn't take orders from him. The clerk tried the effect of the word "police" on the man once more.

"Let me see him," laughed the murderer. Then, said Carney, the window was opened. He told Mr. Hennis he believes "Dunn" threw out Mr. Waters' cane, with which it is believed the crime was committed.

"Two pieces of luck aided the man to make his escape," Carney said, explaining what happened. "When he refused to permit Carmier and me to enter the room I sent Carmier downstairs to get the master key. Meanwhile we had aroused two patrons in another room nearby, and one of them prepared to help us force our way through the door. Everything is all right," Carney said. When Carmier went downstairs the murderer evidently thought he had both left the door and he prepared to make his getaway.

"Carmier came back with the master key and also a milk bottle to use as a weapon in case of need. The milk bottle was partly full of washing powder. "Waters' assailant opened the door slightly and I put my foot between the door and the case. The four of us entered the room and the other two men—pushed against the door. The murderer, however, had braced his back against a projecting wall in the room and was able to prevent us from pushing him back with the door."

"Just then the day clerk, who went to

Continued on Seventh Page.

GRAFT PLOTTERS INDICTED; THEIR NAMES KEPT SECRET; HETTRICK CAN'T BE FOUND

\$25,000 Graft Levied on 22 Story Building; \$1,000 for Each Floor; \$3,000 for Basement

THE Brindell system of levying tribute was at the rate of \$1,000 for each story on skyscrapers. On a twenty-two story structure being erected in Columbus Circle the levy was fixed at \$25,000, \$3,000 extra being charged for the basement.

"Berries" was the term applied by the graft ringleaders to this form of assessment. "I would like to find twenty-five berries in the basement of the Gotham Bank building," Brindell remarked to Albert Volk, contractor, so the latter testified.

Witnesses told of numerous holdups on contracts by the Brindell ring. The total of the day's graft was \$20,186. Three transactions were mentioned, with payments of \$5,000 each to the system, one of \$2,500, one of \$1,500, another of \$500 and one of \$828.

James Connolly, contractor, testified he passed over \$5,000 in bills to a "tall, dark man" at a subway station without knowing who the recipient was. Frank Melton, another contractor, told the committee he saw the passing to Brindell of \$1,500 extortion money demanded of a fellow contractor.

Five of Brindell's Agents Elude Process Servers Hunting Them. 'LABOR KING' DEFIANT Stone Contractors 'Held Up' Entire Country, Says Reluctant Witness.

FALSE TESTIMONY GIVEN Walter Melton Purges Himself—Untermeyer to Get More Help in Inquiry.

The first indictments growing out of the Lockwood Committee's investigation into the graft and extortion in the building trades in this city were found yesterday by the Grand Jury. Bench warrants were issued immediately by Judge Mulqueen, in the General Sessions court, and the names of those indicted were withheld until arrests are made.

George Backer, contractor, of 137 Riverside Drive, accompanied by his counsel, arrived at the Criminal Courts Building a few moments after Thomas F. McCarthy, foreman of the jury, had handed up the presentment.

"It isn't for murder, anyhow," Backer remarked to newspaper men, and his counsel said he was prepared to offer bail to the amount of \$25,000 to-morrow if Backer was arraigned. That was the only intimation given that Backer was named in the bill. Samuel Untermeyer, chief counsel for the committee, was angry when he learned Backer's name was mentioned in the transaction. Mr. Untermeyer refused to say how many had been indicted.

Ephraim D. Levy testified last week before the Lockwood Committee that he gave \$25,000 in cash to George Backer to call off an strike on the \$2,000,000 Textile Building being erected at Seventh avenue and Thirty-first street. Levy testified that the money was passed with the understanding it was to go to Brindell's Building Trades Union, working with great rapidity, was taking this action while the Lockwood Committee was continuing its session in City Hall turning out new sensations in rapid fire order. The evidence which piled up hour after hour all tended to prove that Brindell's "ring" ruled the building industry and extorted great sums in tribute to its power.

Brindell Is Defiant. Only a few minutes before the indictments were returned Robert P. Brindell walked into the Criminal Courts Building and in defiant manner demanded to know of the clerk in Part 1 whether any one wanted him for anything. He said he had heard several men and women called off to the court to know if he was one of them. The clerk didn't know. Brindell waited while his counsel, Charles R. O'Connor, went to the District Attorney's office to find out. The two left in a few minutes.

Mr. Untermeyer announced during the committee's hearing that John T. Hettrick, author of the code of procedure which regulated bidding and operation of the general clearing house for contractors, at 145 Broadway, had disappeared. Senator Lockwood said he had been informed Hettrick had quit the State and removed his office force with him. A witness later testified he had talked with Hettrick Thursday night on the telephone, but could not tell where the lawyer was when he called.

Henry Hanlein, the contractor who headed the "charmed circle of nine" in bidding for the big limestone contract for the Court House, admitted that the stone contractors had the entire United States "sewed up" under an iron bound agreement, whereby every bid in the nation went through his clearing house. All competition is stifled by this agreement. This testimony lifts the inquiry beyond the power of the State and into the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

Senator Calder Will Help. United States Senator Calder, chairman of the Senatorial Housing Committee, sat with the committee yesterday. He has a nationwide power of subpoena and will use it to help the Lockwood investigators get witnesses. He will also take the interstate combination in restraint of trade.

Walter Melton, wrecking contractor, appeared as a voluntary witness and asked the privilege of purging his testimony given on Thursday. Threats had been made against him by Joseph Moran, agent of Brindell, as recently as last week, he said, unless he stood pat. Eager to clear himself, he told a straightforward story of his relations with Brindell's "crowd."

Frank Melton, a brother of Walter, testified that he saw Herman Klompus, contractor, pay \$1,500 in bills to Brindell in person. This is the first testimony of a witness who swears to seeing money pass.

The Court House contract for limestone was jumped from an original estimate of \$1,962,000 to \$2,272,000 on its way through Hettrick's office to the Board of Estimate. Henry Hanlein, the contractor, said the contract was awarded at a 35 per cent profit for some one. Alderman Kennelly, representing Charles F. Murphy's home district, promised the Board of Estimate that if the contract was awarded at the high figure there would be no labor troubles. Mr. Untermeyer brought out six of Brindell's lieutenants, all of

Move to Cut Big Loss From Damaged Cattle

Special Despatch to The New York Herald. CHICAGO, Nov. 5.—Farmers, shippers, railroad men, livestock handlers and packers met to-day to devise means by which they hope to reduce to a minimum the yearly loss of 18,000,000 pounds of meat by damage to livestock.

E. S. Waterbury, vice-president of Morris & Co. and chairman of the committee on bruised livestock of the Institute of American Packers, stated that 8,716,141 pounds of meat was removed last year on account of bruises to cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection. He placed the estimated number of bruised cattle among those thus slaughtered at 2,926,095.

HARDING WON'T GO ON WARSHIP

Thanks Daniels and Wilson for Offering U. S. Vessel for Trip to Panama.

LEAVES MARION TO-DAY After Visit in Texas President-Elect Will Go to Isthmus, Returning Dec. 4.

Special Despatch to The New York Herald. MARION, Ohio, Nov. 5.—Senator Harding has declined to make the trip to the Canal Zone on a battleship of the United States Navy, sending his declaration to-day in a telegram to the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, who made the offer at the instance of President Wilson.

Senator Harding does not think it would be becoming for him to use a battleship as a yacht, even if he could be considered to have virtually the official status of President, and this afternoon he addressed the following telegram to Secretary Daniels: "I most gratefully acknowledge your gracious telegram in which you convey the President's thoughtful courtesy in directing a warship to be placed at my disposal for a contemplated trip to Panama, along with the use of the Mayflower for connection at Hampton Roads. Please assure the President of my grateful appreciation of his consideration, but I cannot accept, because I am travelling by railroad to a vacation point in Texas, and I have booked to embark from a Gulf port for Panama. I thank you also for your courtesy."

Secretary Daniels in offering the use of the battleship to Mr. Harding included the President's yacht, the Mayflower, for the trip to the President-elect. "The President desires me to say that, having heard that you contemplate a visit to the Panama Canal Zone, he has directed me to place a warship at your disposal. I am also authorized to offer in his name the use of the Mayflower, a Navy sloop, to the President-elect."

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STARS STRIKE, RING MONARCHS HALTING OPERA SIGN TO FIGHT

Singers in 'Aida' at Lexington Theatre Refuse to Play Without Being Paid. Box Next Summer for \$500,000 Purse.

1,200 ARE DISAPPOINTED Arena to Be Built for Contest and Prices to Range From \$5 to \$50.

'I've Been Swindled,' Manager Says, His Backers Having 'Ignored' His Needs.

Financial difficulties with some of the cast caused a postponement of the New York Opera Association's announced performance of "Aida" last night at the Lexington Theatre after an audience of 1,200 persons had waited patiently for nearly two hours. Their surging through the lobby and vain attempts to get their money back at the box office necessitated summoning reserves from the East Fifty-first street police station.

Their money will be refunded, according to an announcement from the stage, at the office of Allen & Sabiani, Inc., 101 West Forty-first street, by presentation of their ticket stubs there to-day between 9 A. M. and 6 P. M.

Theodore Van Hensert, manager of the association, which has for its purpose the development of young singers, told a New York Herald reporter that the postponement was due to the failure of the men who promised to back him to live up to their word. He personally paid for everything, he said, that went to make a success of the association's initial performance, "Carmen," on Tuesday night. He still hopes to present an announced double bill for next Tuesday.

Orchestra Fails to Appear. The audience filed into the big theatre at the usual hour, and were surprised when overtime time came around that there was no orchestra in the pit. Men and women walked patiently or impatiently, as they saw fit, but none of Verdi's mellifluous notes soothed their sara. Already there were murmurs and uneasy looks and a drift toward the box office.

Some time after 9 o'clock Joseph Dunn of the association's publicity department announced from the stage that a trunk had been found, but that it had now been found and that the performance would go on in five minutes. Several times five minutes passed and the movement toward the lobby was growing stronger when the musicians filed into the orchestra pit. This, however, did not have its usual significance, and at 10 o'clock Antonio Baganazy, who had announced from the stage that one of the principals had refused to go on and that a postponement of the performance was unavoidable.

By that time Sergeant Hayes and a squad of reserves from the station house had been called to the theatre to see that the money was paid. They were told that the performance was unavoidable.

Chorus Men Are Pleased. Harry Chin Chin of 163 East 114th street, who said he was a delegate of the Chorus Men's Union, with headquarters in the Gaiety Theatre Building, told a New York Herald reporter that the thirty-six chorus men had refused to go on early in the evening unless they were paid. It was customary to be paid after the first act, he said, but something told him he should demand the money before the men before the performance started. \$325 was collected and the chorus men finally agreed to go on with that divided among them, but by that time trouble had developed among the principals.

"I've been deserted. The men who promised to back me have failed me. They've ignored me," was all that Mr. Van Hensert could say. He was expected to have been aided by Miss Ada Fogel was cast as Amneris and Augusto Fogel as the conductor was Suleglio Guerrieri.

The New York Opera Association was organized for the purpose of encouraging young talent here in America, giving the singers the opportunity to have debuts in grand opera in New York. The scale of prices was arranged to appeal both to those already ardent opera-goers and those who might be induced to become such if the cost were moderate.

Under Section 3 both contestants are permitted to have their compensation no matter what occurs thereafter. Under that provision neither man could be deprived of his money even if the referee decided the boxers were not contesting on their merits.

Seeking a Used Car? SEE NEXT TO LAST PAGE TO-DAY THE NEW YORK HERALD Consult the Automobile Exchange Advertisements. The car you have been looking for, at the right price, may be advertised.