

THE MESSAGE OF THE CONFERENCE ON NAVAL ARMAMENT

accepted by the conference for discussion, reserving the right to propose amendments and modifications at the proper time.

Beyond the announcement of the action of Minister Sze on behalf of the Peking Government, no information was forthcoming regarding the construction of the programme in preparation of which the conference committee on Far Eastern affairs was engaged this afternoon.

No official information was given regarding the activities of the board of admirals representing the United States, Great Britain, Italy, France and Japan, to whom the consideration of the naval formula proposed by this country has been referred for technical comparisons and recommendations.

Discussion of French Arms.

The question of land armaments which concerns only France and China was not taken up, although there was a great deal of unofficial discussion of the French ambitions in this direction which was characterized by much acrimonious verbosity.

The army which France desires to maintain as a standard adequate to both momentary and prospective emergencies is far in excess of that of any other nation of the world with the sole exception of China. The military organization of the Peking Government is made up of groups of provincial organizations under the command of predatory Tsuchans. China has under arms probably 1,500,000 in the aggregate, about equally divided between the Peking Government, which is represented at the Washington conference, and the Canton Government, which is not, and which has declared that it will not be bound by any agreements negotiated by the former. The size of the French army, including the forces in Morocco and Indo China, is not far from 650,000.

What France will ask in the way of an army to guarantee her vital needs has not been stated up to date, but there is a great deal more talk heard among the representatives of that Government concerning its military needs in this respect than of any other phase of the armaments conference.

Unofficial spokesmen for France manifestly expect opposition to her demands from British sources, though the representatives of the latter Government have not publicly indicated that they favor such a policy. There is no question that there exists considerable sympathy for the motives of the Washington conference has created a very favorable atmosphere. Up to date, however, these expressions have been more confined to formal than to actual matters.

It is very naturally supposed that Japan is awaiting a favorable opportunity to follow the example of the American Government in offering to present proposals to the conference of China and the removal of political, economic and diplomatic obstacles that render conditions in the Far East of great and disturbing concern.

Presently the Japanese representatives are awaiting to note the trend and character of the conference conclusions in the matter of naval armament before proposing the plan which the Peking Government has been endeavoring to make the solution of Far Eastern problems a matter of comparative ease.

250 TON SUBMARINES FAVORED BY BRITISH

Small Type Long Outgrown in American Navy.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (Associated Press).—British naval thought in Washington today is centered on the question of the limit of size for submarines, it was learned today. That would represent a type of craft not now existing in the first line of the American navy. It would go to the limit of the Grampus, the Pike, the Viper and the Tarantula, now carried on navy lists as the A-3, A-5, B-1 and B-3.

It is the oldest and the smallest in the navy and are included in the second line group more as a type of self-propelling floating mine for harbor defense. The Grampus, displacing 145 tons on the surface and 170 tons when submerged, has a range of 1,000 miles and a speed of 18 knots. The Viper, now the D-1, displaces 238 tons on the surface and 337 tons when submerged.

From that point American second line submarines go up to the M-1, displacing 488 tons on the surface and 676 tons submerged. In the first line group of thirty-four boats, the smallest is close to 800 tons on the surface and the largest run up to nearly 1,000 tons, surface. These figures do not include the group of fleet submarines of approximately 2,000 tons.

It is apparent at a glance, officers said, that the United States hardly can accept any such limitation, yet a submarine of the type of tonnage similar to the British Viper, which is the smallest of their work in the way can cross the ocean and is not within the limitations of operations the British seek to establish.

Before Board of Admirals.

The technical features involved in the discussion of the naval armament plan is now directly before a committee of admirals, upon which the British representatives, Admirals Beatty and Acton; the French one, in the person of Admiral Le Bon; the Japanese one, Admiral Kato, who is not related to the British admiral of the same name; the Imperial navy and spokesman for the Japanese delegation to the conference; Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt is the American representative and chairman of the board.

American naval officials know, of course, that Great Britain will have modifications in the American plan urging to do with submarines which may be of vital consequence in an emergency.

The British representatives on the technical committee are expected to use the further limitation of submarines that is contained in the American plan.

The fact is that the British naval representatives probably will follow the suggestions made by Mr. Balfour yesterday that the submarine units of the United States, Japan, and Great Britain be reduced to a minimum compatible with the actual defensive needs of each country. Mr. Balfour expressed the hope that the submarine might be entirely prohibited as an instrument of war.

This view is regarded as wholly consistent with the requirements of Great Britain, which has no submarine units, and the same problems of defense as the United States and Japan. The representatives of the United States will probably consent to the prohibition of the submarine unit set forth in the plan proposed on Saturday by Secretary Hughes on behalf of the United States.

It is expected the exact views of the three countries will be discussed over the naval disarmament feature of the American plan will present for discussion in the conference full and complete reasons for their respective positions.

Immense complications regarding the prospects for a settlement of the Far Eastern problem are puzzling to the Occidental mind for a great many reasons. It is understood that the controversy over them will probably continue until the exact purposes of Japan are

Harding Greater Than Bismarck, Says Admiral

LONDON, Nov. 17 (Thursday).—Admiral Sir Cyprian A. G. Bragg, noted naval authority, in a letter to the London Times proclaims President Harding as one of the great men of modern times, enormously superior to Bismarck, and superior even to the illustrious Cavour. He declares that the American plan for limiting navies is equitable and practicable, and points out that if it is intended that the American navy shall eventually equal that of Great Britain it is almost a concession, since, had the American 1916 programme been maintained "we should either have been surpassed in naval strength or been compelled to expand our latest expensive building programme."

He concludes: "President Harding has done more than any one man to save civilization from destruction by war, or even if there is no war, from bankruptcy due to the increasing pecuniary cost of naval forces."

forthcoming. The statement of principles presented by the Peking Government today contains no suggestion for the solution of the specific problems. Japan can very reasonably accept them without impairing the security of her own position and probably will do so. The United States, if the Peking Government can, if so disposed, clear up most of the perplexities regarding the tangle over Chinese affairs by a frank statement of her own views accompanied by guarantees of similar reforms.

But up to date the Japanese representatives who are most affable and vocally sympathetic with the American position are those who have not shown any tendency to assume the initiative in so doing.

The conferees representing the other three countries have not succeeded in obtaining more than a vague outline regarding the purposes of Japan regarding Shantung, Siberia, the extent to which she will go in making the "open door" policy under the guise of the confusion over the administration of the Chinese affairs and finally any sincere desire to invite the participation of other powers in the reconstruction.

The source comes from apparently authoritative quarters that Japan will ultimately bring forward a plan by which she will agree to share with other countries a form of control over Manchuria and that under the guise of a genuine "open door" policy will offer to cooperate on an equal basis with other Powers in the unselfish development and administration of China.

There is of course much speculation as to the exact purpose of Japan toward these wholly desirable reforms. Statements from Baron Takahashi, the new Japanese ambassador to London, and sympathy for the motives of the Washington conference has created a very favorable atmosphere. Up to date, however, these expressions have been more confined to formal than to actual matters.

JAPAN ALSO POWERFUL

Serious Loophole in Hughes Proposals Seen by Naval Expert.

By GRASER SCHORNSTEINER.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York, Nov. 16, 1921.

An extremely dangerous situation has been unearthed which appears to be a serious loophole in the American plan. As I pointed out last week, steps must be taken to prevent merchant ships from seizing the control of the seas in the event of war, for, in such a case, the nation possessing the greatest number of merchant ships of the right type would be the mistress of the seas.

Sea power in its last analysis is greatly misunderstood. The capital ship forces are those which make sea control possible, but the capital ships do not control the sea. The value of the capital ship lies in its combination with other vessels of the same general type into what is known as a fleet.

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SEA POWER ANALYZED

England Leads in Vessels Capable of Performing War Duties.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (Associated Press).—Naval vessels designated for scrapping under a limitation of armaments agreement would have to be scrapped or sunk, said naval experts today. No satisfactory method of utilizing naval vessels for any purpose other than for which they were designed and built has been evolved, they said.

Hope of saving the discarded German fleet was voiced in Paris at the peace conference, these officers recalled, only to be thrown out as impractical. The German warships could not be used by other countries effectively on account of design and because of the unusual caliber of their guns.

Attempts to remodel the German fleet into merchant and passenger ships also failed, naval constructors said, and similar efforts to-day in connection with ships of the United States fleet were declared to be equally futile. With the exception of certain light cruisers, which probably will not be scrapped, no naval ships are now being converted into merchant vessels, in the opinion of naval officers.

In a battleship, for example, these men said, the heavy armor would have to be removed, the bolt and rivet holes plugged and sealed, and the ship would have to be torn apart to the very hull before remodeling could be undertaken. The engines, designed to drive

DIPLOMATISTS SEE CHINA'S 10 POINTS

Continued from First Page.

This has been sought to harmonize the particular interests of China with the general interests of all the world.

China is anxious to pay her part, not only in maintaining peace, but in promoting the material advancements and the cultural developments of all the nations. She wishes to make her part in the world, and she wishes to see all peoples who need them, and in return to receive the benefits of free and equal intercourse with them.

In order to do this, she must have every possible opportunity to develop her political institutions in accordance with the genius and needs of her people, and to secure an adequate and certain future.

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Experts See Hope for Ten Year Holiday

British May Consent to American Desire.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (Associated Press).—Hope for a ten year naval holiday was able to see their way clear to give effect to the American plan for a ten year naval holiday was expressed today by high British authorities.

But until these experts have completed the examination of the American proposition and made their report to the British cabinet, they are unable to say that they can express any opinion as to its feasibility.

Touching the proposal to maintain a small construction and repair plant, which would maintain one warship each year, it was admitted that in the British view there would be no real naval holiday. It is regarded as a technical matter, and the British experts and it will be for them to decide.

FAR EAST REPUBLIC ASKS JAPAN TO GO

TOKYO, Nov. 16.—At the resumption of the conference at Dairen between delegates of the Far Eastern republic at Chita and the Japanese representatives of Chita presented to the Japanese an entirely new proposal. This demanded the evacuation by Japanese troops of every part of the Far Eastern republic's territory.

The Chita delegates assert that they are prepared to reply to Japan's counter proposal, but that they must first be assured of Japan's willingness to evacuate their territory. It is alleged that the Chita proposal will contain a guaranty for Japanese interests in eastern Siberia.

SINKING, NOT CONVERSION, MEANT BY NAVY SCRAPPING

Design of Warships Makes Them Practically Useless for Trade and Cost of Legal Refitting Would Be More Than That of New Vessel.

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The ratio of the number of privates to the total number of troops is: United States, 10 cents; United Kingdom, 51 cents; France, 33 cents; Italy, 69 cents; and Japan, 17 cents.

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The United States has no proposals for army limitation. It was said on authority today, as she has nothing to offer in her own behalf, the American army already being as small as is consistent with national safety and domestic needs. Great Britain, it was said, was in similar position, her army not admitting of any reduction.

Having no suggestions for reduction of their own forces, it was said that neither the United States nor Great Britain was in a position to offer any concessions nor were they desirous of suggesting any such limitations, limits for the armies of other Powers.

PROPOSALS BY CHINA

TOKIO DELEGATES HAD LOOKED FOR U. S. TO OPEN DEBATE.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (Associated Press).—China's proposal to-day surprised the Japanese delegates to the arms conference. They had been expecting a series of suggestions from the United States rather than China, because it was the United States that first laid emphasis on the importance of discussing the Far Eastern question in connection with limitation of armaments.

The first wave of fear in Tokyo that an examination of Far Eastern matters would be tantamount to placing Japan on trial at Washington was followed by more tranquil views. Japan determined to enter into a frank discussion, and her spokesmen gave assurances tonight that China's ten points laid before the conference to-day did not change their plan.

A quick study of the Chinese points is declared in Japanese circles to show that they contained many propositions to which Japan would heartily subscribe, but that it included others which, if not opposed, would necessitate a more extended examination.

The portion demanding the declaration of all special privileges, immunities and commitments and an examination of them to their scope and validity is regarded by Japanese as opening up a wide subject affecting Great Britain and France as well.

The question of administrative freedom is declared in Japanese circles to affect particularly England and France because of England's interest in the customs tariff and salt and France's administrative connection with postal service. The Japanese say they are ready to support the administrative integrity of China.

What seems to puzzle Japanese the most is the declaration that China's rights as a neutral are to be respected. This is interpreted by some as meaning that China wishes to have the Powers guarantee her neutrality. Others share the Japanese argument that order in commitments and engagements means a central authority in China to regulate them, and the whole situation goes back to a question of building up an orderly China, rather than exercise her prerogative as a State like other countries.

Removal of Restrictions.

5. Immediately or as soon as circumstances will permit, existing limitations upon China's political, jurisdictional and administrative freedom of action are to be removed.

6. Reservations, in the terms of duration are to be attached to China's present commitments, which are withdrawn at will.

7. In the interpretation of instruments known as the Sino-Japanese agreements or privileges the well established principle of construction that such grants shall be strictly construed in favor of the grantor is to be observed.

8. China's rights as a neutral are to be fully respected in future wars to which she is not a party.

9. Provision is to be made for the peaceful settlement of international disputes in the Pacific and the Far East.

10. Provision is to be made for future conferences to be held from time to time for the discussion of international questions relative to the Pacific and the Far East as a basis for the determination of common policies of the signatory Powers in relation thereto.

The suggestion that all nations make public their agreements and commitments with China is the one that is expected to meet with the most opposition, both from Japan and the Europeans ostensibly the second. Japan, because of her great war ship strength; France the fourth and Italy fifth. However, figures are misleading. About every nation in the world except the United States is able to keep her full merchant marine in commission. That is, there is enough trade to keep the ships going and the nations have the means for repairing and maintaining them. But because of the great difficulties we have run up against in the shipping business there seems to be not enough trade to keep a quarter of our ships in service, and if there were trade enough to keep the full number in commission we would not have enough seamen to do so.

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BRITISH WON'T RAISE QUESTION OF DEBTS

Will Leave Matter for Other Nations to Present to Conference.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (Associated Press).—The British delegation to the Washington conference on naval armaments today declared that it would not raise the question of international debts before the conference. They brought no financial experts with them and have no intention of raising the question themselves.

If, however, the French or the Italians, who have brought their financial experts, do raise the question, it seems probable the British will be glad to discuss it. They see no impropriety in its being brought up but want it plainly understood that they are not to be the ones to do it.

It becomes more and more apparent that the conference is taking a decidedly practical, economic turn. Members of the British delegation speaking privately lay great stress upon the economic advantage involved in the reduction of armaments.

Regarding the merchant marine and the Panama Canal, two subjects that have for some time been considered inevitable topics for consideration by the conference, however camouflaged, nothing has been said by any of the British delegates.

It is understood that when these questions come up as vitally affecting foreign commerce and therefore being part of the general economic question they will be handled by the Admiralty section. Officially the British Board of Trade is not reported on the delegation in Washington, but Capt. V. C. Little of the navy is here as director of the trade division of the Admiralty section.

One of the main problems of the conference is the question of the reduction of the size of the navy. It is here that the British delegation is expected to make its mark. It is here that the British delegation is expected to make its mark.

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EXPENSE OF ARMIES MAY BE REVIEWED

Attempt to Limit Land Forces Will Force Powers to Reveal Costs.

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China's Proposals in Far East Backed by U. S., Is Belief.

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JAPAN SEES BENEFIT IN LIMITING NAVIES

Continued from First Page.

He advocates early relief from the heavy burdens of taxation. The Hoki Shimbun understands that Japan will propose at the Washington conference that in the list of capital ships to be retained by Japan, an outline in Secretary Hughes's plan the Mutsu (to be commissioned in December) shall be substituted for the Settsu (which was in the list of ten to be retained by Japan) and that the number of capital ships be increased from ten to twelve by the addition of the Kago and Tosa, now in course of building.

The paper, however, adds that "in view of the fact that America proposes the scrapping of some of her own capital ships nearing completion, it is doubtful if she will consent to Japan's proposition."

"The navy strongly holds the necessity of at least including the new Mutsu in the list of ten," the paper continues. "Concerning the limitation of auxiliaries, the plan does not give a definite ratio, apparently reserving this for future discussion. If America proposes to limit the auxiliaries in the same ratio as the capital ships, Japan will strongly oppose this, because the navy would consequently be made up of this class on account of an unusually long coast and an extensive defence zone in the Pacific."

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UNIVERSITY HONORS HERRICK.

NANCY, France, Nov. 16.—Myron T. Herrick, American ambassador, arrived here today to receive the degree of doctor of laws from Nancy University. He was greeted by the authorities on his arrival.

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