JAPAN PREPARED TO SCRAP THE MUTSU TO HASTEN NAVAL ACCORD

JAPAN SOON TO BOW TO 5-5-3 NAVY RATIO

Announcement Expected to Follow Meeting of Hughes and Kato.

FRANCE NO OBSTACLE

Exact Meaning of Harding's 'Association of Nations' Is Discussed.

FRESH CONFERENCE AIM

Wickham Steed Gives Washington's Interpretation of President's Phrase.

By WICKHAM STEED.

Editor of the London Times.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—Belief is growing that the principal feature of the plan for the limitation of naval armaments will be adopted very soon. Japanese acceptance of the 5-5-3 ratio of capital ship strength is regarded as imminent. The matter has been entrusted to Mr. Hughes and to Admiral Baron Kato for settlement. If these two statesmen agree an official announcement is likely either to be made at once or at the next plenary sitting of the conference.

There is also reason to think the skirmishing which has gone on in connection with the ratio of naval strength claimed by France does not represent the settled views of the French delegation. It will probably be found the French attitude on the naval question will be not only reasonable but calculated to facilitate a general agreement.

Notwithstanding the importance of these specific issues public attention here turns principally toward the hints of President Harding's intentions which were given at the White House on Friday. The President evidently desires cooperation between the chief nations of the world, including Germany, with the object of reducing land armaments and of safeguarding the peace of Europe while the limitation of naval armaments safeguards peace in the Pacific. In some quarters the idea ascribed to him is called an "association of nations," though nothing has hitherto transpired to justify a nomenclature so positive. Nevertheless, the earnestness of his intention is unquestionable.

Old League: New Name.

Senator Borah and the section of the American press that raged most furiously against American participation in the League of Nations have opened a vociferous campaign against what they describe as the league under a new name. Since it is as improbable the President has not foreseen and discounted this campaign as that he will play into the hands of its leaders less importance attached to it than to the elucidation of his immediate policy.

Undoubtedly the United States Executive aims at securing the peace of the world on the broadest possible basis. On the assumption that the Washington conference will establish conditions that promise peace in the Pacific and in the Far East, there remain the precarious position in Europe proper and the uncertainty of the situation in Russia. It is admitted on all hands that the Russian question is insoluble for the present; but the European question, which, in the light of declarations made here, can be stated in terms of providing adequate security for France against an eventual German menace, is believed to be susceptible of solution by international cooperation under American leadership.

The fundamental idea is that Germany herself should join in giving France adequate guarantees. One significant implication of this idea may or may not be fully appreciated at the White House. It is that nations which should join in underwriting assurances of peaceful intentions would thereby engage themselves to support France in the event of the stultification of those assurances. Since the definite contraction of such an engagement by the United States is beyond the scope of practical American politics the underwriting would have to be done chiefly by Great Britain and Belgium.

War Debts Involved.

A further implication is that a guarantee of the kind suggested presupposes a definite settlement of the reparations question, which in its turn involves consideration of war debts and of the rates of exchange. Were it intended to debate and to settle all these matters during the Washington conference its duration would be impossible to predict, and the composition of the delegations attending it might need to be radically modified.

It seems, therefore, reasonable to suppose that President Harding looks forward rather to the convocation of fresh conferences on these matters than to the indefinite extension of the present conference. From a practical standpoint it would be far better to create a precedent for the success of international gatherings of limited scope than to run the risk of dwarfing the results now attainable in Washington by aiming at a vaster programme.

I am therefore disposed to believe that when the President's views are more definitely expounded it will be found he has in mind a series of gatherings for precise objects. Such gatherings may, indeed, become a peripatetic association of the principal nations that will neither resemble the existing League of Nations nor invade the legitimate functions of the league. The tendency of American thought is rather toward the association of the United States with other nations for the treatment of immediate and definite problems than toward the creation of any hard and fast international organization.

LLOYD GEORGE BUYS ESTATE.

LONDON, Nov. 28.—Premier Lloyd George has purchased from Lord Ashcombe a portion of the Churt estate, which lies about five miles from Farnham, in Surrey, and forty miles from London. It is situated in the midst of the most beautiful part of a heavily wooded district. The Hartley Common golf links, which has just been extended to eighteen holes, is quite handy, while not more than three miles away is the Hindhead course of eighteen holes, said to be the most natural course in the south of England.

Whatever changes the political future may have in store for Lloyd George, he will thus be able to avail himself of the consolations of golf.

LOOKING IN on the conference

Cooperation of Hughes and Balfour Forms the Solid Rock of the Conference—Borden's Influence Adds to Powerful Concord.

By EDWIN C. HILL.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov. 28.

The solid rock of this conference is the good understanding between Great Britain and the United States. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Balfour understand each other. Their cooperation, obvious from the first day, overcomes all difficulties. Against the rock of this mutuality of good will waves of malevolent criticism break into harmless foam.

Other personages of the empire contribute largely to this powerful concord, Sir Robert Borden, notably. Borden, very like an American in his big, upstanding way, represents Canada. Better than any unit of the empire, Canada understands the workings of the American mind, sometimes impalpable to the foreigner, saturated in the suspicions and habits of old diplomacy. The United States and Canada bicker over the back fence now and then, as most neighbors do, but they have solved the problem of going along peacefully, even sympathetically.

A Canadian authorized to speak for the Dominion points out that the relations between England and Scotland are actually no closer in point of fact than the relations between the United States and Canada. Innumerable points of contact are found by the two Governments and the two peoples. There are 1,200 miles of Canadian railroads under the American flag. Thousands of Americans live and make their living in Canada, and thousands of Canadians are happy to be temporarily under the Stars and Stripes. This diplomat points out that, however proud Canada may me of her position in the British Empire, Canada and the United States are peculiarly joined in the common purposes of democracy.

Whatever may have been Japanese opinion before the conference began, there are signs looming large that they are now thoroughly aware of the Canadian-American entente that has grown up in the last century. It is that unofficial entente that Borden speaks for at the conference, and his words are listened to.

Sir Robert comes from a part of the Dominion whose sad history is immortalized by Longfellow, for he was born in Grand Pre, in the old Acadian land. If "Evangeline" can be said to have any geography, Borden's birthplace was almost on the spot where Longfellow found his heroine. Lady Borden married the Canadian statesman when, like many Americans, he was merely a hustler with prospects. Their home in Ottawa, Glensmere, is happily known to many Americans who have been entertained there.

So far as it has been humanly possible, the work of the conference has been done in the open. That is to say, no important move of any sort has been made without a frank statement from the working committees as to propositions and their purport. After every committee session a communique is issued to the press. Thereafter participants in the negotiations gladly submit to questions from newspaper men. These conferences clarify the situations and provide the real news of the proceedings. To begin with, the British delegates meet the press twice daily. Mr. Hughes talks before probably 200 reporters every day at 3:30, speaking with absolute frankness. The President receives the press twice a week and speaks with remarkable openness. Then there are the French, Italian, Japanese and Chinese conferences to fill the day. Out of these crowded sessions flows the news that the world craves. It is no less authentic and unofficial because of the proper rule that the principal personages are not to be quoted.

So far as publicity goes, the conference has met every expectation. It has agreeably disappointed several cynics who predicted that the proceedings would be Paris all over again. Secrets are hard to keep in the great whispering gallery of Washington. The truth leaks out, as the honorable Senators know full well from their experience with executive sessions. Somebody always tells. It reminds one of what Br'er Remus said. "You kin hide de fire, but wat you gwine do wid de smoke?"

It is the publicity and the straightforward methods with the press employed by the President, Mr. Hughes, Lord Riddell, speaking for the British; Sir Robert Borden for the Canadians, Mr. Pearse for Australia and others scarcely less responsible that has discouraged the carpers and growlers.

A witty Frenchman talking about the Chinese problems raised at the conference said: "You know this motto 'The open door' is a good deal like a doormat with 'Welcome' written upon it. It looks bully. It is soul satisfying to the stranger on the threshold. But you notice that it contains no promise of what the stranger is going to get when he gets inside."

The simplicity of the White House amazes most of the foreign guests. The absence of pomp and ceremonial is simply astonishing to them. They are not used to residences of rulers unguarded by soldiers with bayonets. In and around the White House the only suggestion of guards are a few policemen who make themselves as inconspicuous as a policeman can, and a few secret service men. They see the President entering or departing with no fanfare of trumpets and with perhaps only a single guard. They sometimes see Mrs. Harding walking in the gardens at the back of the noble home of Presidents, usually quite unattended. And they find that anybody, by asking for the privilege, may obtain the right of walking through the stately and beautiful rooms of the lower floor, rooms fragrant with history.

Not much has been said since the conference began of the Hon. Henry Prather Fletcher. Yet he is Hughes's right hand man and has singularly proved his worth as Under Secretary of State. He has lived a life, has Fletcher. He was Charge d'Affaires at Pekin and was a close friend of the late Willard Straight, who knew China as few Americans have ever known it. Then he became Ambassador to Chile and to Mexico and from that service came to the State Department to take some of the great burden from the shoulders of Mr. Hughes. His career may be said to have begun as a trooper of Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

The United States is doing a little navy scrapping without reference to the proceedings or outcome of the conference. The news that Schley's flagship in the Battle of Santiago, the cruiser Brooklyn, is soon to be sold as junk revives many memories. She was a wonder in her day, fast and powerful for the times, but she is twenty-six years old now and hopelessly obsolete. With her go a group of even more ancient vessels, including the queer sea fighter sailors used to call "My Aunt Won't Know Me," the monitor Miantonomah.

"We accept in principle" is a now familiar diplomatic phrase. It is agreement with a hole left for the mouse to get out. Somebody asked a Chinese diplomat to-day what the significance of "in principle" is, used diplomatically. "I'll tell you," said the Chinese, smilingly. "When we say we accept in principle we mean what you Americans mean when you talk about prohibition."

Possibly the disappointment said to be felt by Latin American countries because they were not invited to take part in the conference is due to their ownership of twenty-twenty-firsts of the Pan-American Building where the important work takes place. It is natural for one to feel that he should be invited to a party in his own house.

HUGHES DENOUNCES DISSENSION REPORT

Declares Briand Did Not Speak Offensively of Italian Army.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov 28.

Formal official denial was made to-day in a communique from the armament conference of the reported criticisms levelled by Premier Briand of France against the Government and army of Italy. The report of this alleged interchange of views, published originally in a London newspaper, precipitated rioting in Italy and interfered with the harmonious work of the conference.

Formal denial of the rumor was made by Secretary Hughes, as chairman of the conference, and the denial was repeated by M. Viviani for the Frenche and by Senator Schanzer of the Italian delegation.

All agree that there had been nothing in the conference which could have been twisted into a criticism by the French Premier.

The official communique dealing with this diplomatic incident created by a false report says:

"The chairman, Mr. Hughes, at the outset of the meeting, called attention to the inaccurate and damaging press report which has been cabled abroad, in order that its unfortunate character, inaccuracy and even falsity might be noted. He referred to the report that during the discussion in the committee regarding land armaments, M. Briand had made statements of an offensive character regarding the Italian army, and that the representative of Italy did not appropriately resent the statement.

"Mr. Hughes said that, as every member of the committee knew, this report was absolutely false, that it was made out of the whole cloth, that M. Briand had said nothing whatsoever reflecting upon the Italian Government or the Italian army, that nothing occurred that called for any rejoinder by the representatives of Italy, and that the entire report had on existence whatever in fact. It seemed to be advisable that the chairman of the conference should make this statement in order that appropriate note should be made of it.

"In reply to the statement of the chairman, M. Viviani, on behalf of France, spoke as follows:

"'I thank the chairman for his kindness in adding with his high authority his denial to that of Mr. Schanzer and myself. Coming from his like, this denial has the greatest authority. Not only was the debate always courteous, but at no moment did it go beyond the bounds of becoming intensity, which, as a matter of fact, is perfectly legitimate even between allies when they have before them questions of the highest importance. It is perfectly certain *a priori* that M. Briand would never have said such things as have been put into his mouth. How could he have done so, when the closest bonds of friendship and alliance exist between the two countries? The two nations have always been been friends. France cannot forget the great extent of her cultural and spiritual debt to Italy. The blood of the two peoples has flowed on the same battlefields for the same cause. We are here for the good of humanity. Nothing should be allowed to turn us from the end of the goal to which we have set ourselves and which we must reach in closest harmony.'

"Mr. Schanzer then cordially thanked the Secretary of State for his fortunate idea in making this statement, which, he said, was quite necessary, because certain persons outside of the conference had made use of the press to disturb the good relations existing between the countries represented here. He was delighted that the chairman had used his high authority to close the unfortunate incident for all time, and expressed thanks to Messrs. Viviani and Briand for their sentiments of sympathy for Italy which are so well known to every one. He wished to state again that Italy cherished only the most cordial feelings toward France and was sure that he would be able to continue in the work of the conference in an unchanged atmosphere of cordiality toward France and all the other countries represented.

"The committee unanimously agreed."

ASSERTS JAPAN MUST DRAW FULLY ON CHINA

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (Associated Press).—If Japan has the right to exist as a nation, "she must be allowed to draw from China, as fully and freely as her legitimate needs go, the raw materials necessary for her national development," Baron Kanda, member of the Japanese delegation, declared in an address to-night before the Cosmos Club. The advantages of such an arrangement would not accrue to Japan alone, he asserted, and drew for his audience a word picture of the China of the future "transformed under the influence of modern industrialism."

Japan, he said, is waking up to the "simple and significant" axiom of business: "That the true business man gives satisfaction to his customers also."

"What Japan wants," Baron Kanda said, "is a prosperous and stable China, well organized and able to both buy and produce, and equal opportunity there with all nations for commerce and industry."

TONNAGE ESTIMATES BY U. S. ARE VERIFIED

Restudy With Standard Displacement as Basis Fixes Japan's Ratio.

NO ERRORS ARE FOUND

Tokio Prepared to Yield the Mutsu Rather Than Block Agreement.

JAPAN IS SAFEGUARDED

Experts Say 6 to 10 Basis Secures Her Against Aggressive Action.

By GRASER SCHORNSTHEIMER.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov 28.

Every doubt that America had made a mistake in figures when calculating the tonnage totals was dispelled by American naval officers to-day. The textbook statements about the Japanese warships have ben found to be quite a little out of the way.

It is understood that, in the same condition in respect to load as American warships, the Japanese vessels displaces quite a little more than the textbook figures indicate. And so it must be admitted that the American plan gives the true state of affairs.

Standard Adopted.

Some time ago it was reported that the Japanese intended calling on Mr. Hughes and presenting to him facts that would tend to prove that the American calculations for the total tonnage for the existing Japanese navy were in error to the extent of about 11,000. Had that error existed it would have been possible for the Japanese to scrap the Settsu of 22,800 tons, and on the total displacement include the battleship Mutsu of 33,800 tons without disturbing the tonnage figures to any great extent.

There are all kinds of ways to determine a ship's displacement. Such terms as normal displacement, "trail displacement" or "load displacement" are misleading because in each navy they mean something a little different. And so, in order to get a common basis for the estimation of the tonnage of the various nations a certain standard had to be set and then the various foreign warships had to be figured out with that standard as the basis. In making up the totals for the various nations American naval advisers took the normal load displacement for American battleships as the standard and worked out the displacements of the foreign warships accordingly.

Estimates Restudied.

Following is an authoritative statement of the case given exclusively to THE NEW YORK HERALD. It dispels all doubt of the ability of American experts to figure as to the tonnage and value totals of foreign navies:

"The American estimates of tonnage were reduced to a common rule, and therefore the tonnages assigned certain foreign vessels may not appear to be the same as those taken from different publications. Rules for fixing the displacement of naval vessels are not exactly the same in all countries, and it is necessary to reduce to a common rule in order to make a fair comparison.

"That may possibly account for the reported contention of the Japanese experts that the estimate on which the American plan was put forward is erroneous. A careful restudy of the estimates of tonnage does not bear out the Japanese opinion that existing naval strength is seven for Japan to ten for the United States, and does bear out the ratio of six to ten, which is the ratio put forward in the American plan. The ratios of the American plan are designed to hold for the future, based upon actual present conditions.

"In the belief of American naval officers the present ratio is ten to six, at which ratio the United States and Japan could each feel that its interests are entirely safeguarded. To increase Japan's ratio to seven-tenths from six-tenths could not be regarded by the United States with equanimity, considering the great distance of her exposed territories in the western Pacific from her continental coast. It would mean an increase of Japan's relative power over the present status quo which would be a permanent handicap, lasting through the life of any agreement that may be reached by the conference.

Tokio Ready to Accept.

"Laymen can hardly understand the immense bearing that the relative distances of the theatre of operation have upon possibilities of success. Technical experts must always have these distances in mind in estimating the possibilities of war.

"With a relative naval strength toward Japan of 10 to 6 the United States cannot hope to undertake aggressive action against Japan in the western Pacific, so that, conversely, with a relative proportion of 6 to 10 Japan can feel entirely secure against aggressive action in her own sphere of interest by the United States."

And so we may rest assured that America's figures will be acceptable to Japan.

It is now quite certain that the Japanese will have to give up the Mutsu in order that the American plan be acceptable. Instructions from Tokio to the Japanese delegation are understood to have contained advices to make an extreme fight for the retention of the vessel, but that in the end, if conditions should be adverse, to sacrifice the vessel rather than block the American plan.

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JAPAN UPHOLDS HER DEMANDS ON CHINA

Nippon Delegates Only Too Glad to Discuss Them, Says Kawakami.

USE OF FORCE JUSTIFIED

Japanese Declare Virtually All Treaties With China Were So Exacted.

By K. K. KAWAKAMI.

Special Correspondence of the Jiji Shimpo, Tokio.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov 28.

If any delegation to the conference wishes to discuss the "twenty-one demands," Japan will be only too glad to discuss them. The Japanese delegates take the stand that the treaties and agreements resulting from those demands contain nothing that encroaches upon the sovereignty of China or violates the principle of the open door.

The Japanese contend that the name "twenty-one demands" was arbitrarily coined by indiscriminate writers for the purpose of misleading the public. They assert that the actual demands were not more than fourteen, and that many of these were accepted with modifications or qualifications. Some were not accepted in formal treaty but were recognized in principle in a series of notes exchanged between the Chinese Foreign Minister and the Japanese Minister to Peking.

China contends that the agreements, based upon the "twenty-one demands," were exacted from her by force, namely, by means of an ultimatum. To this the Japanese reply is that, if China disputes the validity of those agreements upon that ground, she will find few treaties which were not signed by her in similar circumstances. Many, if not most, of these treaties, which China has accepted since she came into contact with Western nations, have been signed only after resort to force on the part of the nations which originated them. If China wants to nullify the Japanese agreements of 1915 upon the ground that they were forced upon her she will have to rake up numerous treaties that preceded them.

Much has been said and written about the "twenty-one demands," but their real substance and nature have been receding in the more or less dim past of history. The following resume gives a comparison between the original demands and the final agreements:

I.—Concerning Shantung.

1. China to assent to all agreements transferring to Japan former German rights and privileges. This proposal was accepted in treaty.

2. China not to cede any part of Shantung to any third Power. Not accepted in treaty, but thep rinciple recognized in note from Chinese Foreign Minister.

3. To allow Japan to build railway from Chefoo or Lungkow to a point on Shantung railway. Accepted in treaty, but Japan later turned over this concession to international consortium.

4. To open certain cities in Shantung to foreign trade. Accepted in treaty.

II.—Concerning Manchuria.

5. Extension of the lease of Port Arthur and Dalny and the South Manchuria railway to ninety-nine years. Accepted in treaty.

6. To allow Japanese to travel and reside in South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia and to lease or own land for farming and trade purposes in those countries. Partly accepted in treaty. Japanese are allowed to lease, but not own, land in South Manchuria. In Eastern Inner Mongolia only joint undertakings of Chinese and Japanese in agriculture are permitted. Likewise Japanese are allowed to travel and reside in South Manchuria, but not in Eastern Inner Mongolia.

7. To allow Japanese to operate mines in South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia. Accepted, not in treaty but in note whereby China permits Japanese to work mines in ten mining lots in South Manchuria, but not in Eastern Inner Mongolia.

8. China not to grant to a third Power or its subject railway concession in South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, or to mortgage to a third Power local taxes of those regions without consent of Japan. Accepted, not in treaty but in note.

9. China to hand over to Japan the management of Kirin-Changchun railway for ninety-nine years. Not accepted in treaty or note.

III.—Concerning Hanyehping (Iron Mining and Iron Works) Co.

10. China not to dispose of rights of the Hanyehping Company without Japan's consent, and not to object to any agreement that may be made with a view to joint undertaking between the company and Japanese capitalists. Not accepted the treaty, but the principle recognized in note.

11. The Chinese Government not to permit without the Hanyehping Company's consent the exploitation by any person not connected with the company of any mine in the neighborhood of the company's mines. This proposal was not accepted.

IV.—Non-alienation of Territory.

12. China not to cede or lease to any third Power any harbor or bay or island on the Chinese coast. This proposal was not embodied either in treaty or in note.

V.—Miscellaneous.

13. The Chinese Government to employ Japanese as political, financial and military advisers. Not accepted in treaty; but in a note China promises to give preference to Japan in the employment of advisers in South Manchuria, but not in other parts.

14. To allow Japanese hospitals, churches and schools to own land in the interior. This proposal was not accepted.

15. In certain large Chinese cities where Japanese reside in considerable numbers the police department to be jointly administered by Chinese and Japanese, or to employ Japanese police officers. Not accepted in treaty or note.

16. China to buy from Japan certain per cent. of munitions used by China, or to establish a Chino-Japanese arsenal. Not accepted in treaty or note.

17. China to permit Japan to build Wuchang-Nanchang and Nanchang-Hangchow railways. Not accepted in treaty or note.

18. China to consult Japan before raising foreign loans for mining, railway and harbor construction in Fukien province. Not accepted in treaty, but the principle was recognized in note.

19. China to permit Japanese subjects the same privilege of religious propaganda as enjoyed by other foreigners. Not accepted in treaty or in note.

SIX BILLION CARTRIDGES MADE IN FRANCE IN WAR

Figures Show How Nation Speeded Production.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Nov. 28.

How France speeded up her production of munitions in the war is shown by statistics of the Ministry of War setting forth that a total of 290,000,000 shells of all sizes had been turned out by France alone, of which 208,000,000 were for the "75s." Other war materials were:

Rifle cartridges, 6,000,000,000; rifles, 2,500,000; automatic rifles, 250,000; machine guns, 87,000; heavy artillery, 7,000 pieces; airplane motors, 90,000; asphyxiating materials, 49,000 tons; powders and explosives, 1,018,000 tons, and gas masks, 50,000,000.

All this was produced in France apart from orders for similar materials in quantities five to ten times greater placed in England, the United States, Italy and in South American countries.

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