

Valera attempted to beg the immediate issues by proposing that his amendment should not be read until such time as he might direct. Immediately the electrified air began to rumble as Mr. Griffith jumped to his feet and shouted:

Griffith Arouses Applause.

When the Speaker declared against Mr. de Valera Mr. Griffith proceeded to deliver a powerful, lucid address, moving for ratification of the London settlement. He brushed aside idealism without attempting to reconcile it with the agreement, but he strongly defended the practicability of the plan.

We went next to London to make a bargain reconcilable with Irish aspirations," he said. "I hold that we have done it."

Mr. Griffith stirred the members when he cried: "It is on a quibbling of words that Ireland is asked to throw away this treaty and go back to war. This is the first time that the British and Ireland have signed on an equal footing. We have brought back the evacuation of Ireland by the Crown forces and the right to organize our own army."

This brought the house to its feet in a tremendous wave of applause.

Commander John J. McClellan, "the blacksmith," one of the most daring of the men who seconded Mr. Griffith's motion, declaring "the Irish people want substance not shadow," but his rhetoric had nearly ceased to echo when Mr. de Valera sprang to his feet and in a long, forceful speech condemned the treaty as "signing away Irish freedom." He declared that rather than sign a document which would give the British authority to send Irish men to be ready to "go into slavery" until Almighty God dotted out the tyrant.

He emphasized his mistrust of the British and told the Assembly they might sneer at the words in the treaty but that the words meant something. Like Mr. Griffith, he went into the past and said that by acceptance of the treaty they would transgress the words that mean a right to self-determination to the onward march of a nation. He provoked great enthusiasm, but while the cheers for him were as loud, the volume of voices was not as abundant as that which greeted Mr. Griffith.

Michael Collins spoke for less than half an hour but he had a great effect on the hall, especially when asserting that the charge that he had killed the Irish delegates, shouted:

"The British put up a pretty big bluff in Ireland these last few years and I don't break through it. I stand with you. He dramatically emphasized that rejection of the treaty meant the adoption of a policy of war until England was beaten and asked:

"Are we going to keep ourselves in slavery forever in order to maintain an impossible fiction?"

The feeling here to-night is that the treaty, with all its firewords, has not changed the Irish prospects, and predictions that the treaty will be ratified continue general.

Something of the Dal's temper was shown when a woman member offered to charge the press representatives agree to report the speeches verbatim or be forced to stay away. The point was adjusted by the suggestion of a Desmonds, a Sinn Féin Minister of Propaganda, consult the newspaper correspondents, which he attempted to do, but the writers from all countries here refused any dictation.

STRENGTH OF OPPOSING FORCES UNDERMINED

Leaders Cannot Forecast Outcome of Treaty Debate.

DUBLIN, Dec. 19 (Associated Press).—Immediately after adjournment the correspondents interviewed four prominent Sinn Féin leaders—Deputy Duggan, Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington, Tom Johnson, secretary of the Irish Labor movement, and Col. Maurice Moore. All of them declared it was impossible to make any estimate of the relative strength of those favoring and those opposing the treaty or to hazard a guess as to which side would eventually gain a majority.

An outstanding feature to-day was the attempt by the delegates to the London conference to deprive Mr. De Valera of his claim of adherence to the republican principle by demanding the publication of his plan for an alternative settlement, which it was revealed had been submitted at last week's private sessions of the Dal's. The argument was that the nation had a right to know what were the two policies they were expected to decide upon, and that as a matter of fact, neither was republican.

Mr. De Valera resisted publication of his alternative plan, explaining that it was put forward only in an attempt to secure unanimity in the Dal Eireann, and was now irrevocable. He promised, however, at a later stage, to indicate in his own way the alternative proposal.

The division in the Sinn Féin Parliament cuts across all ordinary lines. It is not a case, as to-day's proceedings clearly showed, of Irish army leaders arrayed against civilians. The notable army leaders were found both for and against the treaty.

The main objections to the treaty were in the hands of Mr. De Valera and Erskine Childers were the absorption of Ireland in the British Empire, the belief in continued British control through the Governor-General and military and naval forces.

The women members of the Sinn Féin Parliament were to a large extent against the treaty, and an appeal was frequently made during the private sessions to the women to support the treaty. This was countered to-day by Deputy Higgins, who called attention to the men who had died risked their lives and were now being recruited through the acquisition of Irish banks, railways, mining and factories.

Erskine Childers declared, "This treaty" was not signed under the personal initiative of any delegate. The people, he said, did not understand the immense powers the treaty had given the Irish people. Irish aspirations were satisfied with security and independence, and the removal of the British army and the establishment of the republic had been established, he argued.

As to the demand for recognition of the republic by the British, the Minister of Finance declared that if all concerned had taken a stand for recognition of the republic as a prelude to the conference in London the members of the Dal should have said so in advance, and there would have been no conference.

Speaking of the economic penetration of Ireland by England, Mr. Collins said that it was a thing we must not let ourselves be lulled into a false sense of security, and that is what the treaty does.

Mr. Collins said he stood by the decision of the Dal not to coerce northern Ireland, and that in framing the treaty he had desired above all to insure the good will of Ulster and bring it into the Irish Parliament.

"This may be the last time I will have the chance to address the Dal," remarked Collins at one point in his remarks.

As for his own part in the negotiations, he said he had known that as a representative of the fighting forces in Ireland his country would be offered better terms if he went to London than if he were not there.

Refers to America. Mr. Collins, referring to cablegrams he had received from America, said: "I am going to say, I make me unpopular in America for the sake of my life. I am going to hide nothing I think for the sake of American popularity."

He received a cablegram from San Francisco saying: "Stand fast. We will send you a million dollars a month." "My reply to this was to send half a million and send a thousand men fully equipped."

Conference Doings

SECRETARY HUGHES, M. Sarraut, head of the French delegation; M. Jusserand and Admiral de Bon held a long conference with a view to bringing about an adjustment that will permit the completion of the naval ratio program.

Instructions were received from Paris and London regarding the French proposals, but their precise nature will not be revealed until the naval committee of fifteen meets this morning.

Japan and China were believed to be at a parting of the ways on the terms over which the Shantung railroad is to be turned over unless a sudden change of attitude is developed at the conversations.

As the capital ship problem came nearer to a decision the naval experts turned their attention to the submarine, and it was expected that definite action on that branch of naval armament would be taken soon.

As the treaty is being eagerly scanned by the press, the situation in Washington and the progress of Anglo-French negotiations in London. Up to Sunday evening the French delegation here had received no fresh instructions, but they were hourly awaited. An extremely outspoken note from Secretary of State Hughes, which the American Ambassador in Paris probably had handed to M. Briand on Saturday afternoon, or a similar communication that Ambassador Harvey may have been instructed to make to him in London on Sunday night, certainly left the French Government under no illusions as to the effect of the French naval proposals upon the American Administration.

Asperities Softened. The news from the Naval Disarmament Committee of fifteen members to the Grand Naval Committee, which all the principal delegates attend, the Grand Committee was to have met this morning when it was expected that Admiral de Bon would place before it a somewhat less startling interpretation of the French claims than was put forward on Friday. But, instead, the committee adjourned until to-morrow.

A friendly interchange of views took place during the weekend between some of the chief delegates. It should have helped to soften asperities and to prepare the way for harmonious discussion. Moreover, the leading French delegates may by this time have perceived how sorely they have been misled throughout the conference in regard to the degree in which America would be disposed to acquiesce in the French claims or suggestions. Provided that instructions from M. Briand facilitate a readjustment of the French proposals, the conference may therefore safely surmount the most dangerous episode that has hitherto marked its proceedings.

Pending developments here, the news from London is being eagerly scanned. A despatch to one prominent American journalist suggests that, in addition to a moratorium for German reparations payments, the British Prime Minister will submit to M. Briand the following general propositions:

1.—England to forego her claim on the German indemnity, except in regard to services which Germany alone can render.

2.—Great Britain to cancel the French war debt, provided she receive an equivalent amount in German indemnity bonds, which she would also cancel.

3.—The Anglo-French Entente to be recast in the form of an alliance between Great Britain and France, which would reduce armaments and undertake not to build against England at sea, and England would guarantee France against attack.

American Impulse Stimulated. The despatch adds that the British Prime Minister had hoped to get American cooperation, but abandoned the idea because he had not the support of the United States was not ready to consider matters involving the war debts; and until an initiative comes from the United States it was held incompatible with British dignity and self-respect to invite the American creditor to a conference on this subject.

If those statements bear any relation to the views of the British Government, such views would be certain to commend themselves to American public opinion. Nothing could do more to facilitate eventual American cooperation with British claims and self-respect to remove discord and to set their own houses in order. Just as any suspicion that Europe may be waiting for the United States to lift the economic European wagon out of the rut tends to discourage any American initiative, just so great an effort be required of the United States, so an initiative from Europe, nations are being their shoulders to their own wheels, and that the wagon may not be so ramshackle after all, stimulates the American impulse to lend a hand.

But for the moment the American business is with the Washington conference, and the Washington conference has been held up by the French naval demands. However rapidly the differences arising out of these demands may be composed, it will probably be found that the slackening of the pace of the conference has encouraged resistance in the East. Signs of Japanese obduracy on the Shantung railway question are becoming unpleasantly frequent. They will doubtless disappear if the French are not rapidly overtaken.

But no power represented at the conference should imagine for a moment that it can depart from the spirit in which the conference was convened and was hitherto being conducted, without imperiling interests that are world-wide.

Tree Venders Warned. Christmas tree venders were warned not to peddle their wares in February by Magistrate Max Levine in West Side court yesterday. Dismissing a charge of obstructing the sidewalk made against Frank Paster, who had a display of evergreens in front of his store at 426 Amsterdam avenue, the Magistrate said:

"If you are brought before me on similar charges two months from now I will send you to the workhouse for life."

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FRENCH PROPOSALS NEAR ADJUSTMENT

English Editor Finds Interchange of Views Tends to Soften Asperities.

OTHER SNAGS FEARED

Japanese Obduracy on Shantung Railway More in Evidence.

BRITISH OFFER HELPFUL

European Readiness to Solve Economic Tangle Stimulates American Impulses.

By WICKHAM STEED, Editor of London Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Interest today is equally divided between the situation in Washington and the progress of Anglo-French negotiations in London. Up to Sunday evening the French delegation here had received no fresh instructions, but they were hourly awaited. An extremely outspoken note from Secretary of State Hughes, which the American Ambassador in Paris probably had handed to M. Briand on Saturday afternoon, or a similar communication that Ambassador Harvey may have been instructed to make to him in London on Sunday night, certainly left the French Government under no illusions as to the effect of the French naval proposals upon the American Administration.

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LOOKING ON the conference

American Delegates Keep in Touch With Drift of Public Opinion by Reading Daily Digest of Articles in Important Papers of Country.

By EDWIN C. HILL, Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

It is a safe assumption that no world conference was ever so sensible or so sensitive to public opinion. The delegates of the Powers here consider themselves in a very real sense the servants of their peoples. You will be interested as to how they keep in touch with public opinion through newspaper comment, news reports and editorial expression. Daily, therefore, a distillation is made of the news and editorials concerning the conference in the form of a daily digest, which is distributed to the delegates throughout the country.

This duty is skillfully performed by a special committee of the American advisory committee after a system devised by Col. William Boyce Thompson. Every morning digests are made of the Washington newspapers and of New York city and are supplemented by daily telegraphic bulletins containing the gist of conference news and comment in distant publications. A tabulation of the whole in half a dozen typewritten pages is laid every morning upon the desk of every American delegate. They are accessible, of course, to foreign delegates.

The day following any proposal, such as Mr. Hughes's opening naval program, or any great decision, such as the agreement on the four-power treaty, the conference is accurately aware of just what the people in every part of the country think of its work. In this way the peace makers have been able to go along with public opinion with a certainty and confidence absolutely unique in history. It will have been noted, too, that the conference, before launching any important proposition or coming to any important decision, has tested the drift of public opinion with "trial balloons," usually released by Mr. Hughes or Mr. Balfour.

While this method has been frankly utilized by the American delegates, the foreigners have not held themselves free from the opinion of their own people. The Mutsaers have taken an eye on the comment in the influential journals of the British Isles and on the far flung empire. They receive a daily cablegram, and are doubtless guided by it. The Japanese work through the large number of their own correspondents here and are unquestionably swayed by what their people think. The French are especially held by the attitude. The Japanese people absolutely refused to give up their great battleship.

The French are praising enthusiastically the wonderfully vivid and effective modeling of the "Ten Commandments" of the new treaty by the Germans of the city through which the Germans could not break. Two undraped figures, half locked in desperate endeavor, man and woman, were held by the French and graceful defender—the work of John Flanagan, New York sculptor.

"American women do not realize how fortunate they are compared with women in Sweden here," she says. "Yet here, we are wives and mothers, not much interested in politics, though equal in rights, and the contract may be dissolved like any other business agreement, thereby obviating scandal and notoriety. Divorce is a matter of course, and as for us, thank God, one of the most vexatious problems Swedish women have to contend with is housing facilities. Houses are so scarce that people cannot even get married."

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FRENCH SEA RATIO IS BEING REVISED TO FIT U. S. PLAN

Continued from First Page.

and withhold comment on the French proposal until the atmosphere clears a bit. French spokesmen were less frank in some of their bitter criticisms of the methods which they alleged the British delegates had employed to "humiliate France."

While the nineteenth day of these deliberations yielded no definite conclusions, the American delegates said that "the negotiations are progressing favorably." They intimated that as soon as the assent of France to the naval program had been reached conclusions regarding Asiatic and Pacific matters would "move speedily and in a satisfactory manner."

There were no indications at the meeting of the naval sub-committee of fifteen, which is trying to complete the naval ratios for France and Italy by the United States, Great Britain and Japan that the French delegates would either withdraw or modify their request for authority to construct a navy which is regarded to be out of all proportion with its capital ship necessities.

Delegates from this and other countries participating in the conference expected a clear and definite statement from M. Sarraut and Admiral de Bon regarding the French claim and were prepared to meet it with counter proposals more in accord with the Hughes ratio formula. The French statement was not forthcoming. Instead of submitting one, M. Sarraut merely communicated the information that he had informed the Government as to existing conditions and requested instructions.

Sarraut's Request Granted. He said that up to the moment he had not received any reply. He therefore suggested an adjournment of the committee until the report of the request was granted and the capital ship program set aside for twenty-four hours.

The American delegates persisted in the policy of refraining from discussing the French proposal that the naval structure already agreed upon by the United States, Great Britain and Japan be revised to make allowance for the maximum privileges sought by France. There is no question that they viewed the French request in this respect with complete disfavor; nor did they deny that they had telegraphed a remonstrance to M. Briand at London through Ambassador Harvey.

The French delegates and officials of their mission expressed great surprise at the report that Secretary Hughes had resorted to direct negotiations with their Premier instead of conferring with M. Sarraut and Ambassador Jusserand.

The American delegates, while declining to confirm the London despatch stating that Ambassador Harvey had urged M. Briand to withdraw or radically modify the program submitted by M. Sarraut and Admiral de Bon, asserted that such a step would not involve any breach of diplomatic etiquette or propriety. The London press telegrams relating to the conference between Ambassador Harvey and M. Briand were therefore accepted as correct. The information was obtained from State Department officials that Mr. Hughes had decided to appeal directly to M. Briand only after he had been advised by M. Sarraut and Ambassador Jusserand that they were without power to accept the American suggestion for modifying the French naval request until they received instructions from M. Briand.

Still Are Optimistic. American delegates, while privately admitting irritation over the unexpected move made by the French delegates, still continued to hold an optimistic view of the situation. They expressed the belief that the demand of France for authority to build a navy potentially as large as that of the United States, Great Britain and Japan would either be withdrawn or the "figures cut down to a reasonable level." It seemed to be the impression of not only the American delegates but those from Great Britain, Japan, and, in fact, those from all of the countries at the conference except France, that the move made by the latter was really designed to influence favorable action on submarine armaments.

The Italian delegates, while privately expressing the hope that the French capital ship claims will be reduced, intimated they would support the position of their neighbor on the submarine issue which the delegates from Great Britain will oppose.

A canvass of the submarine phase of the naval controversy by naval experts indicates the acceptance of the American plan providing submarine tonnage and power which is far in excess of that favored by the British Government. American and Italian naval experts who accept as correct the theory that France is much more ambitious to obtain the maximum of auxiliary and submarine tonnage than capital ships were therefore mystified over the fact that British opposition to submarines will probably prove futile.

In other words, the American and foreign delegates asserted that the French would have won their point without recourse to so startling a proposition as that presented into the naval situation on Friday last.

British officials, who have made their position perfectly clear on the submarine issue, refused to discuss it further to-day. They displayed a tendency to follow the American lead.

Despite the modification of the American plan in one direction, it appears that it is unalterable in another, and that Secretary Hughes does not wish to move from the ratio of 1.75 which he considered right for France. In this he is supported by Britain which wants a fleet as large as France's, but which wishes to have a smaller fleet as possible; by Japan, which sympathizes with England, and by Italy, which wants a fleet as large as France's, but which wishes to have a smaller fleet as possible to support the smaller figure of 1.75.

France hopes that an agreement will be possible on a basis which leaves her approximately this figure at the end of ten years but she does not want to bind herself to naval impotency for a still longer period.

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INSPIRATION

Voltaire, the great philosopher, and Buffon, the eminent naturalist, drank a great deal of coffee.

To which habit is ascribed the wonderful clearness in everything the former wrote.

As well as the harmony and warmth which pervade the style of the latter.

Clearness, harmony and warmth—they still are found in the mellow coffee served at CHILDS.

And its steaming fragrance still inspires the mind to noble thoughts.



"Pretty Nifty Coats"

This from Pete the old circus horse now delivering Knickerbocker Ice. "The very best for warmth," said Ted, who teams with Pete. "We're kept warm in our snow white stalls, too, and our shoes—Oh boy—they're 'orthopedics' or something that helps to keep your feet steady over the icy pavements. Our customers must be served, so we can't take a holiday Christmas, but we'll be getting an extra course of oats. Not bad—this ice business—when you work for people that treat you like a human being."