

WEATHER FORECAST.

Unsettled and warmer with rain or snow to-day; to-morrow snow or rain. Highest temperature yesterday, 24; lowest, 7. Detailed weather reports will be found on editorial page.

THE NEW YORK HERALD

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THE BEST IN ITS HISTORY. The New York Herald, with all that was best of The Sun intertwined with it, and the whole revitalized, is a bigger and better and sounder newspaper than ever before.

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PRICE TWO CENTS

THREE CENTS WITHIN 200 MILES. FOUR CENTS ELSEWHERE.

FOX HILLS RATIONS CUT, HOSPITALS' PROTEST TO HARDING

Many Leave Dinner Table Complaining They Cannot Eat Food.

FIGHT ECONOMY BILL

600 at Mass Meeting Ask President to Be Chary of Saving \$750,000.

BOLOGNA 'DISTASTEFUL'

Soldiers Fear Restoration Will Be Prolonged if Doctors Are Shifted.

Bolognas were placed before the disabled patients of Fox Hills Hospital when they sat down to dinner last night. An ex-soldier raised a fork to his mouth, looked about him a moment and threw the fork's burden back on his plate with an oath of disgust. The same thing happened at other tables. The grumbling grew, and several veterans left without eating anything. There had been some complaint for several days because the rations appropriation does not allow meals of as good quality as previously, but the climax was about ended one of the patients entered a dining hall with a telegram he had just received from a friend in Washington. The telegram informed him that the efficiency bureau had recommended to Brig.-Gen. Sawyer, who in turn had recommended to President Harding, that the Medical Reserve Corps officers connected with public health hospitals be placed on a civilian basis and their pay be reduced 20 per cent, with a view to saving the Government \$750,000 a year. The order will be placed before the President to-day or to-morrow for his signature, according to the telegram.

Organize Rally to Protest.

When the message was read to the patients just as they were getting up from the Bologna a mighty roar of disgust was sent up. Six hundred of them—the other 200 could not leave their beds—went to the Red Cross auditorium near the hospital and after several speeches had been made, sent a telegram to President Harding asking him not to sign the order. The telegram said: "The entire body of patients at Public Health Hospital No. 61, New York, protests most vigorously against the proposed to place in the Public Health hospital civilian physicians at reduced pay, knowing the step means the inefficient care of the men whose health was wrecked in the world war. We urge you, as President of the United States, to refuse to sign an order which, for the sake of a few dollars, will imperil the lives and prevent the recovery of hundreds of ex-service men."

Doctors who attended the Fox Hills patients charged that the proposed order would mean the wrecking of the hospital service which has been built up and which already is suffering from lack of sufficient funds. The physicians of the Medical Reserve Corps, it was declared, are capable men and they cannot afford to stay at \$2,000 a year and pay their own living expenses. The hospital service, it was charged, will then be open to political graft and Representatives in Congress may carry favor by placing political friends in their home towns in the hospitals.

Complaints in New Haven.

Dr. Charles E. Lockhart, commander of New Haven post of the American Legion, visited the office of THE NEW YORK HERALD last night, accompanied by two officers of the Public Health Hospital. He said that the men at that hospital also were indignant at news of the proposed change. Protests have been made, he said, to Harding, McMiller, and to many other agencies, whose aid in fighting the order is being sought.

HARDING PHYSICIAN BACKS MOVEMENT

Sawyer Favors Reorganization of Health Service.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York, Jan. 3. (Associated Press.)—The majority of the members of the "Committee on Committees" are not affiliated with the agricultural bloc. The fact is that most of these statements are not associated with any group engaged in the promotion of class legislation as is the bloc. But the majority of the committee do not exercise the privilege of choosing a man who, in their judgment, would measure up to the standard established by the late Senator Penrose, who was conceded to have been one of the ablest and most liberal presiding officers of the committee that passes upon and provides the financial needs of the Government. Personally, Senator McCumber is a man of very high character, scholarly,

Continued on Page Four.

DRINK POLAND WATER. Nothing promotes health like pure water. Ado.

Theatrical and Hotel Restaurants. Advertising will be found on Page 4.—Ado.

AGRICULTURAL BLOC STRIVING TO CONTROL SENATE LEGISLATION

Bi-Partisan Group of 22, Using Old Time Platt-Tammany Tactics, Sees in Finance Committee Vacancy an Opportunity of Running Machinery in Upper House.

By LOUIS SEIBOLD. Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The bi-partisan "agricultural bloc" is planning to control and dictate national legislation by precisely the same processes employed by the Platt-Tammany alliance in the halcyon days of the "Black Horse Cavalry" at Albany.

The "bloc" is preparing to celebrate its most important individual victory by taking advantage of the showman's doctrine of seniority to compel the selection of a "dirt farmer" as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in succession of Senator Penrose.

The "agricultural bloc," which is the conception of adherents of so-called "progressive" politics, does not concede any surrender to the old guard and standpat policies. It aims at the triumph of the wheat interests of the Missouri Valley and cotton growers of the South over the Wall Street financier, the manufacturer and the small business man in industrial sections of the country.

It is the view of the progressives (in the "bloc") that the ends justify the means and that any combination is warranted by satisfactory results. Such, also, was the view of the promoters of the Platt-Tammany combination, which used to exploit the people of New York without caring a whoop for the consequences—to the average citizen.

The chief point of difference lies in the fact that the promoters of the new Senate alliance acclaim its purposes to be holier than was the old "Black Horse Cavalry" because the honest yeoman of the rural belt will be the winner, regardless of disastrous effects on the industrial life of the country.

The agricultural "bloc" already has made itself a power under the dome of the Capitol. It has wrung a proposal from the President of the United States, who appreciates the disastrous results that are certain to follow imposition of minority rule in initiating and accomplishing legislation.

The Presidential renaissance apparently has fallen on unheeding, skeptical ears and provoked derision rather than appreciation of the responsibility to the country of the organizers of the bloc that has elbowed its way into the United States Senate out of the control of Congress. So certain and full fledged with power are the promoters of the agricultural "bloc" that they have already started in to force upon the Government their program, and it is one that the thinking men of the country regard with deep concern.

The death of Senator Penrose has provided the "bloc" with an opportunity to convince the country that every Government undertaking for the benefit of the whole people must be approved by it. Unless some method is devised by the Senate, which, as a body, has the whole interest of the country and not any single part of it at heart, the "bloc" is going to score a tremendous victory within the next two or three days.

Machinery Set Into Motion.

The machinery has been set into motion for accomplishing this tremendous advantage through the selection of the successor to the Pennsylvania Senator Porter James McCumber of North Dakota as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Mr. McCumber is one of the charter members of the agricultural "bloc." He is now the senior member of the Finance Committee. Under the archaic and ridiculous system of seniority prevailing in the Senate he is "in line" for the chairmanship of the most powerful committee in Congress.

Mr. McCumber has served four terms in the upper house. When he was last a candidate, almost six years ago, he was supported by the Non-Partisan League, a political organization recently devised as an agrarian enterprise that has wrecked the Commonwealth of North Dakota.

The seniority system, under which Mr. McCumber is to be made chairman of the Finance Committee, does not take into account the question of temperament, fitness, breadth of vision, appreciation of the manifold interests that should properly be considered in connection with all legislative projects. The seniority rule merely prescribes that the man at the top of the list is alone eligible to succeed to a vacancy caused by the death or retirement of a chairman of a committee.

Automatic Operation of Rule.

Selections of new chairmen or members of Senate committees are dictated by "the Committee on Committees." This body has no choice except to heed closely to the line of seniority. Selections to fill vacancies are dictated by the automatic operation of this rule, regardless of anything else. The "Committee on Committees," which will select a new chairman of the Finance Committee and an additional member, is composed of Senators Brandegee (Conn.), Calder (N. Y.), Watson (Ind.), McNary (Ore.), Elkins (W. Va.), McCumber (N. D.), Curtis (Kan.), Moses (N. H.) and Sterling (S. D.). This committee will meet within the next day or two and, in accordance with the established obsolete process, select Senator McCumber as the new chairman and either Senator McNary or Senator Frelinghuysen (N. J.) as the additional member.

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TREBIZOND EXPELS GREEKS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 3. (Associated Press.)—Deportation of Greeks from Anatolia by Turkish Nationalists, which has been confined hitherto to the Samun area, has been extended to Trebizond. The Nationalists charge that Greeks represented at Trebizond in exchanging signals with Greek warships off that Black Sea port.

DELTA BOBBIA DINNER DANCES.

Yankeeville Hotel, Thursday evening, 7:30 during January. Price \$3.—Ado.

HOLDUP IN BROOKLYN STORE NETS \$8,000; POLICEMAN NEAR BY

Bandits Get Receipts of 16 Branches and 10 Customers' Valuables.

COLLECTOR FOLLOWED

Persons Buying Groceries, Including Two Women, Lined Up With Guns.

MAN IS ON GUARD AT DOOR

Robbers Escape Afoot, Block From Police Station, as Fifth Ave. Crowds Pass.

Four men armed with automatic pistols held up twelve men and women in the grocery store of Thomas Roulston & Co., 525 Fifth avenue, Brooklyn, yesterday and escaped with more than \$8,000 in cash and several watches and other jewelry, although the store is within a block of the Seventy-eighth precinct police station and a patrolman was on post not more than fifty feet away. The policeman, however, knew nothing of the holdup until two or three minutes after the bandits had left the place, when the customers and the employees ran from the store shouting that they had been robbed.

Detectives who immediately began an investigation believe that the four bandits had been following William Simmons, a collector for the Roulston company, which operates a chain of grocery stores throughout Brooklyn. Immediately behind Simmons came four men. Nothing unusual was noticed in their appearance, and no attention was paid to them.

DEALER'S SAFE BROKEN WHILE HE AND WIFE ARE OUT TO THEATER.

BURGLARS HAVE 6 HOURS

Enter by Second Story Window, Work Leisurely and Leave by Front Door.

Harry Arnov, a jeweler who lives at 1087 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, and has offices at 6 Maiden lane, returned home early yesterday with his wife from a theater and supper party in Manhattan to find that in their absence robbers had emptied a safe on the second floor of diamonds, emeralds and rubies valued at \$75,000.

Mr. Arnov told the police he ran the front door slightly ajar. He ran upstairs, where, in one corner of the living room, he kept a strong little safe, which had held the jewels over the holidays. He switched on the light when he reached the living room. The safe had been dragged to the middle of the floor. Its door had been cut off cleanly with what the police call a "can opener." His private papers were scattered about the floor and the jewelry, part of which belonged to his customers, was gone.

Acting Capt. Frank Carberry of the Atlantic avenue station took charge of the investigation. On the case with him were Detectives McLaughlin, Sickinger, Murphy and Fennelly. They said last night that whoever took the jewels apparently had worked leisurely and in the manner of experts in the six hours while Mr. and Mrs. Arnov were away.

A hole had been cut in one corner of a window on the second floor near the fire escape, the detectives found. A diamond cutter probably had been used for the job, so that by thrusting the hand and wrist through the hole the robbers could raise the window. The police believe the thieves entered through this window, and, after the job was finished, went out through the front door. The detectives said expert safe crackers apparently had put through the robbery after keeping a close watch on Mr. Arnov's movements for several days.

The closest search by the detectives failed to reveal any finger prints, tools, pieces of clothing or anything else which might be considered as a clue.

WANTS FREE BATHS AT CAPITOL CLOSED

Blanton Also Would Eliminate House Barber Shop.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—On the theory that the pay of a member of Congress is sufficient to provide a home with a bath, Representative Blanton, Democrat, Texas, to-day introduced a bill to close the free bath establishments, Turkish and domestic, in the House Office Building.

The measure would drop from the Government pay roll what the Texan described in his measure as "body rubbers."

Other bills introduced by the Texan would eliminate the House barber shop, where a member may have his hair cut at twenty-five cents, half the city price, and the House restaurant, run partly at Government expense, without a corresponding reduction in prices.

TREBIZOND EXPELS GREEKS.

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TWINS FREE MAN FROM JAIL.

HAMILTON, Ont., Jan. 3.—The stark got Oscar Spafford out of jail to-day. When the Magistrate heard that twins had arrived at the prisoner's home he dismissed a charge of petty theft.

"SALLY" Met. To-day, 5th to \$5.00. No Meher. Ziefeld production. Marilyn Miller, Leon Errol, at New Amsterdam Theatre.—Ado.

3,000 WOODEN CARS ON ELEVATED ROADS HASTEN BIG INQUIRY

Transit Commission Will Delve To-morrow Into Safety of Lines.

REPLACEMENT IS HARD

Structures Cannot Stand Steel Cars Which Cost \$20,000 to \$25,000.

HEDLEY WILL TESTIFY

Block System Never Used, as It Would Delay Trains, Is Contention.

Prompted by the train wreck last Friday night on the Ninth avenue elevated railroad, in which one man was killed and several persons injured, the Transit Commission will begin to-morrow morning in its headquarters, 40 Lafayette street, an exhaustive public examination into the adequacy and safety of the elevated railway's present and proposed equipment and operation.

Among the first witnesses to be examined will be Frank Hedley, president and general manager of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, which operates the lines of the Manhattan "L" under leasehold, and W. S. Menden, operating manager of the B. R. T. elevated lines under the receivership. Each is to be accompanied by members of his engineering and operative staffs, and these experts also will be sworn and questioned.

There are 3,000 wooden cars in regular use on the elevated lines of Manhattan and Brooklyn boroughs. Many are thirty, and even forty years old. The great majority were built more than a decade ago. Several of the cars involved in Friday night's collision, which resulted in one death and in the serious injury of four other passengers, were of ancient construction.

Obstacles to Replacement.

There are two major obstacles to the suggestion that old wooden cars be replaced with steel ones. A steel car now costs to build from \$25,000 to \$25,000. To retire and replace the 3,000 obsolete wooden cars, therefore, would mean a minimum expenditure of \$60,000,000. The other obstacle, which already is in a receiver's hands and the other of which, as its president, Mr. Hedley, testified recently, is "scraping" in, is the block signal system.

There is no block signal system in use on the elevated roads. When this lack has been agitated heretofore it has been argued that the use of that system would require the installation of a greatly increased traffic congestion. All these questions the Transit Commission expects to thresh out to-morrow and Wednesday in its headquarters, 40 Lafayette street.

It had been planned to present at this session the commission's plans and recommendations for the construction of the subway lines for which early provision must be made. In view of the immediate interest of the public, however, in the matter of the adequacy and safety of the elevated railway equipment and operations, that subject will be taken up first and the construction program will not be until the first part of next week.

Seek Data on Safety Devices.

The commission will not undertake to further into the matter of the immediate responsibility for the Ninth avenue wreck or to anticipate in any way the conclusions of the Grand Jury which is now conducting an investigation with relation to any possible criminal liability. It will, however, go thoroughly into the matter of equipment and of signal and other safety devices.

Judge E. Banton, District Attorney, said last night that the investigation of the Ninth avenue wreck had not been completed by his office. Benedict D. Fish is conducting an investigation in charge of the Homick's Bureau, is directing the inquiry.

"I don't know yet whether any crime has been committed," said Mr. Banton. "Unless investigation shows that a crime was committed it will not come under our jurisdiction. It is not enough to show that there was a wreck and that people were killed. There must be evidence of criminal negligence before we can ask for indictments."

Mr. Dinsen, when asked about his investigation, said he was serving as a crew of both trains to appear before him to-day and that he would make a report to the District Attorney after that.

BLACKS \$67,000 IN BONDS.

BLACKWELL, Okla., Jan. 3.—Leonard Hamble, employee of a local smelter, reported to officers of a bank here to-day that he had found an envelope containing \$67,000 in Liberty bonds and other negotiable papers, supposedly stolen from the Waldron State Bank at Waldron, Kan.

Greenlee, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

Greenlee, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., copyright by New York Herald for sale and recuperation. Bookings, Pa.—Ado.

FRANCE AGREES TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE RESTRICTION OF SUBMARINE WARFARE

FRANCE ISOLATED IN CANNES PARLEY

With Only Belgium's Aid Fears British on Reparations Question.

BRIAND'S PLEADING FAILS

England Likely to Demand Economic Aid to Russia and Germany.

By LAURENCE HILLS.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Jan. 3.

The eve of the Cannes conference of the allied Prime Ministers finds French political circles viewing the situation with gravest concern. Once more, and under peculiar conditions, France finds herself alone, save for the aid of Belgium, in facing the British on reparations, and with every indication that Mr. Lloyd George will demand concessions which France officially will refuse to pay.

Little doubt is expressed that the British intend to take advantage of France's virtual isolation, which has become apparent since her stand on the submarine question at the Washington conference, and that the British will make the economic rehabilitation of both Russia and Germany an essential factor for any better Franco-British relations, while the French delegation to Cannes is pledged to strive to make France's reconstruction the principle whereon the new Europe is to be rebuilt.

Premier Briand's interview published in the London Daily Mail, proposing an out and out alliance between Great Britain and France, shows clearly the plight in which the French find themselves in trying to stave off a rupture, but even the most optimistic at the Quai d'Orsay do not believe that the sessions would continue at least until the end of the week. Thus far nothing has developed openly to show any change in the lineup which will determine the fate of the treaty, although the supporters of Arthur Griffith claim they have converted at least a dozen during the holiday recess.

To-day proved, however, that Michael Collins is still the popular hero in Ireland. His entrances and exits into and from the hall never failed to have a dramatic effect and it was plain that he had lost none of his influence.

Worried by Siberia Fakes.

The giving out for publication in Washington by the representatives of the Far Eastern Republic of the documents alleging a secret understanding between France and Japan relative to Siberia has not bettered France's isolated position. Although the report concerning this alleged secret understanding and the documents it purported to present were strenuously disputed by officials at the Quai d'Orsay this morning, it was evident that they were greatly worried in connection with the possible effect of the Siberian statement on the British attitude at Cannes, political leaders here fearing that Mr. Lloyd George may picture France as trying to substitute itself for Great Britain in a Far Eastern alliance.

Premier Briand when he left for Cannes this evening refused to make any further comment on the coming conference, but other members of the delegation predicted that the Prime Ministers would take up at Cannes the whole gamut of European questions, even to a final decision as to whether the schedule of reparations payments by Germany would be changed and whether the system of penalties, such as the occupation of the Ruhr, in the event of further failures by Germany to make good her promises should be reinitiated.

Battle of the Premiers.

Don Solie to-night foresees a stiff verbal battle at Cannes wherein Mr. Lloyd George will stress economic help to Germany in order to open up the German markets to British goods and asserts it is Mr. Briand's duty to insist that France's just demands be given parallel importance with those of Germany and England, as "there certainly can be no economic rehabilitation of Europe as long as France's ruins are not integrally repaired."

Leon Bailly, editor of the Internationalist, sees no hope for a Franco-British alliance, as "Mr. Lloyd George's sole economic preoccupation does not confine himself to two nations, Jacques Bainville, writing in the Liberté, recounts France's sacrifices since the armistice and pictures Lloyd George as asking France's collaboration in his own program for a European congress, with the threat that the Cannes conference will otherwise be a final one, and adds: "The alliance is to be broken, and if France and Belgium wish to move against Germany England will intervene and prevent it." However, he thinks Lloyd George will be unable to carry out his threats, as "affairs will probably be arranged as previously, by compromise and barter, with no one satisfied and settlements merely delayed."

The Action Française admits that the temperature at the moment the Cannes talks are commencing is "cold" for France. "It would be useless to keep any illusions," it says, "for all our demands bother our allies, and whether it is a question of submarines, of reparations, of Germany or of Russia, France is now expected to abandon her viewpoint. We would be pleasing the universe if we would consent to become a great part, but satisfied to retire into history."

This is a solution of the problem which no Frenchman is willing to contemplate.

Continued on Page Two.

HOLDING THE Gates of Escape. NOW-KIB'S Palace.—Ado.

When you think of Writing. Think of Whiting.—Ado.

Chinese Approach Hughes and Balfour on Shantung

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (Associated Press).—The Chinese to-day, moving to break their deadlock with the Japanese over Shantung, took steps toward more direct employment of the proffered "good offices" of Secretary Hughes and Arthur J. Balfour.

The respective heads of the American and British delegations were approached personally by the Chinese representatives, and results are expected within a few days.

Following the example of the Americans, the British group indicated that it will have no objection to the Japanese proposal to clarify further the scope of the new four Power Pacific treaty, so that it will not apply to the homeland of the Japanese Empire.

NO YIELDING SEEN IN DAIL'S BITTER TALK

Accept Pact Without a Vote Install Government, Urges Collins.

FIGHT MAY THEN FOLLOW

De Valera Says Irish Will Do That Anyway if Ratification Wins.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. DUBLIN, Jan. 3.—When the Dail Eireann reconvened to-day to resume the discussion of the treaty creating the Free State of Ireland the same bitterness and the same sharp division that existed before Christmas were evident. All speeches were punctuated by displays of the touchy Irish temper and interruptions were frequent.

The indications to-night, with about forty more speeches scheduled, were that the sessions would continue at least until the end of the week. Thus far nothing has developed openly to show any change in the lineup which will determine the fate of the treaty, although the supporters of Arthur Griffith claim they have converted at least a dozen during the holiday recess.

To-day proved, however, that Michael Collins is still the popular hero in Ireland. His entrances and exits into and from the hall never failed to have a dramatic effect and it was plain that he had lost none of his influence.

That there will also be a fight after a vote has been taken in the Dail was made evident when Collins arose and said he wished to make a suggestion. Permission to do this was granted him after a noisy outburst had occurred, whereupon Collins explained that his plan was to have no vote at all on ratification of the treaty, but that the Dail should allow the treaty to be approved without a division so as to establish a provisional government, after which the opponents could carry on the fight for a republic.

He insisted that the Irish people endorsed the treaty and said that the Dail could not be weaker if it accepted it. If the treaty was rejected, he added, England would be absolved and there would be no question of an alternative agreement.

Amid a pandemonium, De Valera shouted something which later was found to have been: "We will do that anyway if ratification is carried."

De Valera offered no alternative while Griffith drove home his old arguments, backed up by the tremendous prestige of resolutions adopted by Irish associations political and otherwise, during the recess.

One of the boldest arguments for ratification was presented by J. J. Walsh, Deputy from Cork, and well known in New York, who claimed that he knew no principles and Ireland was "fed up" with his own explanations of the oath. He said that when a free state had been established and consolidated, if it felt strong enough it would make a republic of itself despite any oath which it might take now. He declared that the house knew well that oath like anything else in war might be merely a matter of time.

The debate this far to decide the result by a tally of the pro and con speakers, for it looks as if the side which is exhausted first will lose. Practically every member probably will speak. Griffith won certain backing by advocating a provisional government, without delay and leaving its life to the country for approval, or a plebiscite. The sessions will be resumed to-morrow.

PRINCESS MARY'S COLLINS DEFENDED BY NAME

Resents Countess Markievicz Alluding to Her Jokingly.

DUBLIN, Jan. 3. (Associated Press).—At the close to-day of the Dail Eireann's session the impression prevailed that ratification was certain, but that the majority would be small. The majority speeches were more frequently in-

Continued on Page Two.

FLORIDA-ATLANTIC COAST LINE. Pre-emptively the Florida coast line through the States daily. Office 1246 Broadway.—Ado.

HAS RESERVATION

Modification of Root Measures to Define Merchantmen May Be Sought.

APPROVE PIRACY LAW

Balfour Amendment for Five Power Prohibition of Horrors Indorsed.

FULL AGREEMENT LIKELY

Adhesion of Italy and Japan Expected to Be Announced Immediately.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (Associated Press).—The American proposal to prohibit use of submarines against merchant vessels, now the dominant issue of the armistice negotiations, has been accepted in principle by France, but her delegates have reserved final approval pending a discussion of the precise language of the declaration.

British acceptance previously had been given, and although neither the Italians nor the Japanese had received final instructions to-night there were indications that neither Rome nor Tokio would interpose serious objections if the proposal received France's full approval.

Status of Merchantmen.

The exact nature of the French reservation was not revealed, but the impression was gathered in some quarters that it might concern such a definition of the terms of the declaration as would make it clear just what conduct would be expected from merchantmen in view of their immunity from submarine attack.

Should that point be raised an interesting and many sided discussion might result, for in several quarters there has been apparent a tendency toward the opinion that the term "merchant ships" should be strictly defined with express stipulations as to whether merchantmen are to be permitted to arm and whether it is to be permissible to disguise warships as vessels of commerce.

The French delegation, however, in making known its acceptance in principle has emphasized that it not only agrees to the original proposal of Elihu Root that the new prohibition on submarine warfare become effective when all nations have agreed to it, but also to the amendment of Arthur J. Balfour, which would make the prohibition immediately effective as between the five great Powers.

At the same time the French have accepted the additional Root declaration under which any submarine commander violating the rules of international law would be liable to trial for an act of piracy. In regard to this also acceptance still are awaited from the other foreign governments. It is possible the French acceptances will be sufficiently complete, however, to permit a meeting of the naval committee of the whole to-morrow.

Activity Behind Scenes.

The French acceptance was communicated to Secretary Hughes by Ambassador Jusserand late to-day, while the formal proceedings of the conference were passing through another period of outward inactivity but while developments that touched on several other important issues of the Washington negotiations were passing through another period of activity.

In discussing to-night the French acceptance of the submarine restrictions, Mr. Sarraut declared that his Government "accepts frankly not only the resolutions but Mr. Balfour's suggestion in respect to the second or third article of the resolutions."

Asked if it would be necessary to discuss the resolutions, he said: "We accept fully the spirit of the resolutions, which includes also the spirit of the second one with Mr. Balfour's addition. The naval experts will give the resolutions a precise form so that there may be a clear understanding of them."

Previously strong misgivings appeared to have arisen in the minds of various delegates as to the wisdom of accepting Mr. Balfour's suggestion that the submarine prohibition be accepted now by the five Powers without waiting for the "university consent" which Mr. Root said was necessary to make a fresh addition to international law. Naval people were said to