

GREAT PEACE CONFERENCE FORMALLY STARTED THIS AFTERNOON BY TALK MADE BY PRES. POINCARÉ OF FRANCE

The American Delegation Met Without President Wilson, Who Remained at the Murat Mansion All Through the Morning, to Rest and Get Ready for the Main Conference.

CONFERENCE OF MOMENTOUS IMPORT IS UNDER WAY

PRESIDENT WILSON WAS NOT INCLUDED

The Only Other Formal Address During the Opening Session Was by Premier Clemenceau, Who Is to Preside.

Paris, Jan. 18.—The peace conference was formally opened this afternoon with a speech by President Poincaré of France.

Paris, Jan. 18.—With the assembling of the first full session of the peace congress to-day, the prospects of the notable assemblage of statesmen making rapid progress with its work seem enhanced by the apparent defeat of bolshevism in Germany, thus opening the way to the stabilizing of the government and the prospect of its being able to send responsible representatives to the conference.

The congress is expected to devote itself single-mindedly to the creation of a league of nations, and the first steps towards formation of that league, it is understood, will be taken to-day. A study of the methods by which the league can be organized will be committed formally to an inter-allied commission, sitting contemporaneously with the congress, which will present the result of its labors for ratification at the end of the congress.

Paris, Jan. 18.—All the peace delegations held final meetings this morning before the assembling of the peace congress this afternoon. The American delegation met at 10 o'clock, but President Wilson did not attend, remaining at the Murat mansion throughout the morning to rest.

While there had been some expectation that President Wilson might address the opening session on behalf of the foreign delegates in response to President Poincaré's address of welcome, it was finally determined that there would be no speeches except those by President Poincaré and by Premier Clemenceau when the premier takes the chair as the presiding officer of the congress.

ONE OPEN SESSION AND FIVE SECRET

That Is the Proposal Understood to Be Pending Before the Supreme War Council.

Paris, Friday, Jan. 17.—It is understood that when the supreme war council adjourned to-day there was pending a plan for one open and five secret sessions a week. American press representatives decided at a meeting this evening to continue their efforts to have the publicity feature of the peace congress absolutely unrestricted. Another call was issued for a meeting to-morrow for all press representatives.

It now seems that the concessions made by the supreme council to-day constitute what might be called "half a loaf." It is understood that these concessions were made after a vigorous discussion led by President Wilson, who was supported by British delegates. Mr. Wilson has received many cablegrams from the United States, almost all of which have urged him to contend for the fullest publicity consistent with the success of the congress.

AIMS NEARLY IDENTICAL

Great Britain and United States Are Nearly in Accord.

Paris, Friday, Jan. 17.—Careful investigation here has made it possible to give more concretely than previously an outline of the war claims of Great Britain and her general desires regarding the making of the peace.

There are some minor differences of opinion between Great Britain and America regarding the final adjustment of the world's affairs, and these differences remain to be reconciled. In the whole, however, the aims of the two nations are considered by British commentators as identical.

Great Britain believes first, it is declared in these sources, that a league of nations is desirable and attainable, and none of the British war aims will be considered practicable unless they conform with the tenets of such a league as is contemplated to realize and govern the affairs of the universe. She also believes that things should be so adjusted that the war aims of every country will conform with those of the others—in other words that there should be a compact of give and take.

As to indemnities, Great Britain expects to enter a pool with other nations. Her claims are comparatively small, it is said, but she wants her air raid damage and her shipping losses paid for.

In addition to the league of nations,

AMERICA LEADING IN SHIP BUILDING

During the Last Quarter of 1917 There Were 997 Ships Under Construction, Against 424 in Great Britain.

London, Friday, Jan. 17 (British wireless service).—During the last quarter of 1918 there were begun in Great Britain 424 ships, having a tonnage of 1,929,952, compared with 395 ships, with a tonnage of 1,866,591, during the same quarter in 1917, according to authoritative figures.

Ships now actually under construction in the United Kingdom last quarter total of about 233,000 greater than during the quarter ending in September, and about 113,000 greater than one year ago. The large majority of these vessels are between 5,000 and 6,000 capacity. Ships constructed for other than mercantile purposes, as well as ferro-concrete vessels and those of less than 100 tons, are not counted in the totals.

In all the neutral countries there were when last available figures were compiled, 2,189 merchant vessels having a gross tonnage of 6,821,980. Of these 1,722 were building in countries other than Great Britain.

The United States led, with 997 ships, with a tonnage of 3,647,919. The figures for other countries are: Canada, 195 ships, 278,711 tons; Japan, 118 ships, 275,140 tons; Holland, 113 ships, 212,512 tons; Italy, 50 ships, 133,010 tons; Sweden, 75 ships, 99,829 tons; Spain, 35 ships, 77,597 tons; Denmark, 51 ships, 72,143 tons; Norway, 71 ships, 67,738 tons; and France, 12 ships, 51,690 tons. The grand total includes fourteen ferro-concrete ships, having a tonnage of 26,370.

WILL TRY TO ENFORCE LABOR BOARD AWARD

Sec. Daniels Says That Every Power of the Department Will Be Exerted Against the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—Every power of the navy department will be used to force the acceptance by companies, with which it has contracts, of awards made by the war labor board. Secretary Daniels said to-day, after a conference with Joint Chairman Taft of the board, on the situation growing out of the Bethlehem Steel company's refusal to put into operation one of these awards.

Mr. Daniels said he was taking up at once the question of how the department should proceed. It appeared, he said, that the Bethlehem company had agreed some months ago to permit collective bargaining and the establishment of shop committees among its employees, but as soon as the armistice was signed, "the company lost interest."

No hint was given as to what form the navy department's action might take, but Mr. Daniels pointed out that every contract let by the navy included a cancellation clause. The war department has more and larger contracts with the Bethlehem company than the navy.

HUMBERT CHARGES FALSE

He Was Accused of Communicating Information to Germany.

Paris, Jan. 18 (Havas).—Investigations have established the falsity of accusations made against Charles Humbert, who was charged with communicating to Germany the contents of two documents relative to the national defense.

Charles Humbert, a member of the French Senate, and former editor of the Paris newspaper Le Journal, became involved during the trials of Bolo Pasha, who was executed for treason, and the directors of the Germanophile newspaper Bonnet Rouge. Revelations during the inquiry into the Bolo Pasha case led to the arrest of M. Humbert, in whose newspaper Bolo Pasha had bought an interest with money that came from the German foreign office through banking houses in New York. While the case was pending it was alleged that fresh evidence of communicating with the enemy had been discovered. This was early last August, and the court-martial of M. Humbert, fixed for Aug. 26, was postponed. Late in September a formal demand was laid before the French Senate for the consent of that body to prosecute M. Humbert on a charge of treason, the penalty for which under the French code is death. No authoritative outline of the evidence said to have been found in the case was ever given out.

AGREEMENT REACHED

By Producers and Distributors of Milk in New York.

New York, Jan. 18.—Operations between producers and distributors of milk will be resumed under agreement reached in conference here to-day. Prices to the farmer under the agreement, per hundredweight, are: For January, \$4.01; for February, \$3.54; and for March, \$3.31. The legal price for January to consumers per quar is fixed at 16 cents.

PROTEST AGAINST CIVILIANS

Who Marched into Boston After Being Discharged by Government.

Boston, Jan. 18.—Mayor Andrew J. Peters to-day telegraphed Secretary of War Baker, protesting against the discharge of civilians recently employed as truck drivers and laborers at the depot quartermaster's base. Several hundred men, all of whom claimed to have been discharged without notice, marched from the base in the Back Bay section to the city hall shouting and cheering. Because of the crowd, the doors of the building were closed and only a few of the men were received by the mayor.

J. R. Silliman Dead

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—John R. Silliman, United States consul at Guadalajara, who figured prominently as a representative of the American government during the Huerta regime in Mexico, died at Guadalajara yesterday noon.

TEUTONS NEAR STARVATION

Their Cry of Famine Is Not Exaggerated, Marshal Foch Thinks

THEY MUST FULFILL ARMISTICE TERMS

Marshal Foch Does Not Fear Bolsheviek Invasion of France

Paris, Jan. 18 (Havas).—Marshal Foch, according to the Matin, will immediately break off the armistice with Germany if the conditions of the armistice are not fulfilled. The allied commander-in-chief, the paper adds, does not believe that the Germans exaggerate when they cry "famine." The situation of the populations of Austria and Prussia, the marshal is quoted as saying, is near the starvation point.

Germany still possesses an army, the marshal declared, but the allies hold the Rhine, which constitutes a formidable strategic barrier. Marshal Foch is said to have declared he did not believe that a bolsheviek invasion through Germany to France was possible.

ALLIED TROOPS WILL OCCUPY DUISBURG

Will Take Up Position on the East Bank of the Rhine, Holding the Harbors and Landing Places.

Amsterdam, Jan. 18.—The commander of the neutral zone east of the Rhine in the region of Duisburg, British Prussia, announces that allied troops will occupy the harbors and landing places on the right bank of the Rhine. Duisburg will be occupied by two companies of troops.

REDUCING CURRENCY DESIGNS

To Minimize the Danger of Counterfeiting and "Bill-Raising."

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—Gradual reduction of the great variety of designs of United States currency to minimize the danger of counterfeiting and "bill-raising" is under discussion between treasury officials and members of Congress. The United States now has 54 different designs for bills of various denominations, and officials believe the resulting unfamiliarity of the public with the designs enables counterfeiters to operate more easily than if the designs were standardized.

There are now in circulation five different kinds of one dollar notes, five kinds of \$2 bills, six \$5, seven \$10, seven \$20, six \$50, six \$100, four \$500, five \$1000, one \$5000 and two \$10,000.

OUT OF GERMAN PRISONS

Many New England Soldiers Have Been Returned to France.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—The war department to-day published the following names of Americans held prisoners in Germany, who have been returned to France.

William A. Neitrel, Meriden, Conn.; Seth R. Waldbridge, Staffordville, Conn.; Edgar J. Goguen, Gardner, Mass.; Ernest A. Burt, Westfield, Mass.; Rosato Minichella, Hartford, Conn.; Tony D. Potenzi, Hartford, Conn.; Czeslaw Switrowski, Ansonia, Conn.; Jack N. Korda, Hartford, Conn.; Leon Dimick, Holyoke, Mass.; Edward Chevalier, Fair Haven, Mass.; Edward Chevalier, Fair Haven, Mass.; Pierre Lesperance, Woonsocket, R. I.; Leo H. Boyanowski, Terryville, Conn.

CONFESSED MURDER OF YOUNG WOMAN

Patrick O'Donnell, 30, Arrested for Graciously in Yonkers, N. Y., Declares He Killed Elizabeth Mary Riddell, 17, in New York City.

Yonkers, N. Y., Jan. 18.—While the police of New York were still searching to-day for the man who murdered 17-year-old Elizabeth Mary Riddell, a stenographer, in the borough of Queens in that city on Wednesday night, Patrick O'Donnell, 30 years old, confessed in court here to-day, after his arrest, that he was guilty of the murder.

O'Donnell was held for the arrival of New York detectives. He was taken into custody by the local police yesterday on a charge of vagrancy while wandering in the outskirts of the city. Questioned as to his possible knowledge of the Riddell murder, he broke down and confessed to the police and to-day repeated his confession to a magistrate, saying he had killed the young woman with an iron bar, after she had fought him and made an outcry.

Miss Riddell, a high school graduate, was struck down last Wednesday night while on her way home from work in a Manhattan insurance office.

CLERIC THE STAR

Enabled Waterbury High School to Defeat Burlington, 17 to 16.

Waterbury, Jan. 18.—Burlington high school sustained its first basketball defeat of the season here last night, Waterbury high school winning by the score of 17 to 16. Cleric of the winners made 13 of the 17 points scored by his side.

The line-up was as follows: Waterbury. Burlington. Cleric, rf. O'Keane, Salls. O'Brien, lf. O'Brien 2. Harrington 4. Johnson, Carpenter, Salls; fouls; Cleric, Harrington 4; referee, Egan; umpire, Wilkins; scorer, Flynn; timer, R. Luce.

FORD CONTEST HELD UP

But Senate Elections Committee Orders Documents Preserved.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—In the Ford-Newberry Michigan senatorial election contest, the Senate elections committee to-day decided to have the Senate sergeant-at-arms take possession of all ballots, poll books and other documentary evidence, to be held for future examination. An immediate investigation is not planned.

MUSTER OUT ALL BUT REGULARS

Army Units in United States Are Ordered to Be Demobilized

REDUCE FORCES IN EUROPE TO LIMIT

"Consistent With Our National Obligations," Says March

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—American forces in France and in the occupied territory of Germany are to be reduced to the minimum strength, "consistent with our national obligation," General March said to-day. He added that Marshal Foch had been informed of this policy by General Pershing.

What strength is to be maintained is under discussion now by American military officials and the allied military leaders. No report has been received indicating the number of divisions to be supplied by the United States, but General March was positive that it would be far less than thirty divisions given in unofficial reports as the probable American military contribution.

The American force for the occupied zone was fixed by international agreement at the time the armistice was signed. General March said Marshal Foch undoubtedly would refuse to permit a reduction of his total strength to a point where it would be inadequate to handle any possible disturbances.

Demobilization of all army units in the United States has been ordered, General March announced, except the regular army regiments needed for camp guard purposes and various detachments necessary to continue the demobilization process. The total now listed for demobilization is 1,177,000.

Troops actually returned from France for demobilization now number 104,000. This gives a grand total ordered discharged of 1,281,000, of which 768,826 men and 51,993 officers have been discharged to date. The rate of discharge again is nearing the maximum capacity of one thousand men per camp per day, after an interruption by the holidays.

In addition to the regular regiments, the exceptions from the blanket demobilization order included the cavalry on the southern border, coast artillery troops in the coast defense detachments at posts, and the medical personnel. The last force now numbers 5,000, but General March said it would be reduced gradually as the number of men it had to care for was reduced.

MORE ASSIGNED FOR HOME

War Department Reveals Units Comprising 250 Officers and 6,500 Men.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—Assignment to early convoy home from France of units comprising 250 officers and 6,500 men was announced to-day by the war department. The units include the 11th engineers, complete; 372d infantry, medical department and second battalion; 371st infantry; 15th and 16th engineers; and third evacuation ambulance company.

U. S. REGULARS RETURNED HOME

Steamship President Grant and Battleship South Dakota Brought Troops from Europe to-day.

New York, Jan. 18.—The American steamship President Grant and the battleship South Dakota arrived to-day from Brest with troops. The liner's passengers were largely from the field artillery and comprised more than 4,000 men. On the warship were 16 officers and 1,372 men, representing the entire 56th coast artillery except battery F, and 30 officers, and the 47th air squadron, seven officers and 143 men.

The coast artillerymen, recruited in the vicinity of Danbury, Conn., were welcomed by a large delegation of officials and citizens from Fairfield county, who went down the bay on police and private boats. With the aviation outfit, they went to Camp Mills.

Troops aboard the President Grant included the headquarters company of the 8th field artillery brigade, two officers and 41 men, and the following field artillery regiments: 2d, 32 officers, 1,434 men; 91st field artillery complete; 83d, 23 officers, 1,371 men. Company H, 347th infantry, four officers and 297 men, also was aboard. All these troops are regulars. The artillerymen went to Camp Mills and the infantry to Camp Merritt.

WAR PROFITS TAXES CONTINUED TO 1920

Senate Conferees on Rates Agreed, the Rates Applicable Only to War Contracts Which May Still Remain.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—Senate conferees on war excess profits of corporations in 1920 and thereafter, estimated to raise about \$1,000,000,000 annually, were agreed to-day by conference on the war revenue bill. A decision on the 1919 rates was deferred. Senate conferees agreed to extension of the 80 per cent war profits levy in 1920, applicable only to war contracts which still may remain.

FUNERAL WILL BE SUNDAY

That of Miss Mary Rizzi, Who Died in Washington, D. C.

The funeral of Miss Mary Rizzi, who died in Washington, D. C., Friday morning, will be held from the home of her parents, Alderman and Mrs. Stephen Rizzi, on North Main street, Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. This is in correction of an item on another page of today's paper stating that the funeral would be held Monday afternoon, a change of arrangements having been made.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION LASTED HALF A MINUTE

Speaker Dana Did Not Wait for Question of Quorum Yesterday Afternoon—Other State House News Summarized.

The shortest session of the present legislature occurred Friday afternoon, and probably one of the shortest in history of the general assembly, when the House was in session only half a minute. Speaker Dana called the House to order at 2 o'clock, and the adjournment was all completed, upon motion of Mr. Austin of Weybridge, half a minute afterward. There were less than 50 members in the House when the action took place. Speaker Dana made the decision fast enough so that it was impossible for anyone to raise the question of a quorum, which might have complicated matters.

Gov. P. W. Clement will have to appoint the five justices of the peace in the town of Waterville. The joint assembly started to elect them Friday afternoon, when Senator M. P. Maurice called attention to the fact that the general laws provide that the joint assembly can only elect in case of a tie vote. This condition did not exist relative to Waterville, so that the five justices will be appointed by Governor Clement.

Secretary of State Harry Black this morning received a message from the federal government directing that no federal-owned automobile be licensed this year unless special authority is given by the automobile department of the federal government. This will settle the trouble which has existed each year at Fort Ethan Allen, where there are about 100 machines; and it is almost impossible to ascertain whether a government machine is being licensed or a privately owned car.

The general understanding about the State House is that shortly a bill will be introduced in which the drawing of orders will be transferred from the auditor's office to the state treasurer's office, which will probably transfer John Wallace from the former to the latter department and materially decrease the work in the auditor's office. It is also understood that a portion of the state purchasing agent's work is to be placed in the state treasurer's office and that the director of state institutions will have charge of the buying for the institutions of which he has supervision, by which there can be a material saving accomplished over the present system.

Major Harvey E. Goodell is making a nice recovery from grip at Heaton hospital.

Francis Shaw, executive messenger, and W. S. Fenton, executive clerk in the governor's office, went to their homes in Rutland this morning.

Bank Commissioner Frank C. Williams will on Tuesday morning lay before the members of the general assembly a report which is supplementary to the report of Jan. 17, 1919, in which he criticized the action of the auditor in allowing so small bonds for the amount advanced to state departments. Only eight departments give bonds for advances, according to the supplemental report. He states that he called attention of the auditor to the importance of changing the method of payment of bills against the state, asking that all bills be presented monthly instead of quarterly and paid only on properly itemized vouchers, but that the practice of advances has been continued until the present time. Eight officers have furnished bonds, but the amount of the bonds in some cases is ridiculously small in comparison with the amount advanced. The officers who have furnished bonds, according to the report, are: Mrs. Brigham, Weeks, Kiddle, Bates, Beards, Hillier, Fleetwood and Leavens." He states that more should furnish bonds. The report also deals to some extent with the interpretation of the laws as differing from that of Attorney-General Barber. The report also deals with the departmental and itemized vouchers, the commissioner disagreeing with the experts upon their interpretation of the laws. He also states that the report of the previous auditor shows that the record of the advances to state officers was shown in the report to the legislature as made by H. F. Graham.

Another name is being suggested as a candidate for the appointment of bank commissioner to succeed Frank C. Williams, whose term of office expires the first of the coming month. It is John Branch, jr., of St. Albans. Mr. Branch has some considerable banking experience. However, if the usual allowance of time before the appointments is made, it will not be looked for until the middle or last of next month, for the governors in the past have generally made their appointments during the last half of the session of general assembly.

The only contested election in the legislature will be that in the town of St. George, where something like 20 votes were cast. Max E. Parcher, Republican, is contesting the right of Earl Ayer to a seat in the House. He claims that in the primary he and Ayer received six votes apiece and that the town committee of the Republican party selected Ayer as the party nominee. T. E. Hinckley, the only candidate in the primary, received three votes. The town clerk certified that Ayer was elected in the biennial election.

WANTS EMBARGOES OFF

Vermont Fuel Administrator Appeals to Washington.

The recent order of the fuel administration in Washington does not affect Vermont to any extent, for it only relates to the regulations of soft coal and coke, while most of the coal used in the state is hard coal. The Vermont state fuel administrator is having more trouble regulating the supply this year than was expected after signing of the armistice. It has been claimed that an embargo had been placed on Burlington. This is not so. It was placed on one dealer in that city who had a great deal more than his allotment, but that has been relieved.

The administrator has urged the federal administration to relieve all embargoes in Vermont because conditions appear to warrant it. The smaller places have been most affected by the embargo, but the administrator claims a carload to one of these places is more than a trainload to some larger centers. The relieving of the embargo includes three places which had exceeded their allotment.

JOSEPH BARTLETT APPEALS

Losing Case as Plaintiff He Takes It to Supreme Court.

In the last few days before the adjournment of Washington county court took place, a few entries were made affecting the status of cases on the docket. In the case of Lee C. Hill vs. Sarah (McPhee) Hill a bill was granted for desertion. The case of John E. Nash vs. Ernest Longren has been discontinued with costs. The case of Joseph Bartlett vs. the estate of E. D. Bartlett goes to supreme court, the judgment on the verdict having been made, exceptions stayed, and the cause passed on to supreme court. The plaintiff takes the case to the higher court, the defendant having received a verdict, upon the direction of the court to the jury. This case was tried early in the term. G. W. Cole vs. Ann Kelley et al discontinued with costs.

BANKS SHOW GAIN

Have Reserve in Excess of Legal Requirements.

New York, Jan. 18.—The actual condition of clearing house banks and trust companies for the week shows that they hold \$66,028,550 reserve in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$8,028,280 from last week.

NECK BROKEN IN RUNAWAY

E. Curtis of St. Johnsbury Was Killed Last Night

HE WAS HURLED OUT OF HIS SLEIGH

And Head Struck Against the Steps of His House

St. Johnsbury, Jan. 18.—John E. Curtis of St. Johnsbury was killed in the yard of his home last night. He was returning home and, as he neared his place the horse, which he was driving, became frightened. Mr. Curtis, who had lost his right arm two years ago, was unable to control the animal and it ran into the yard. As it turned, the sleigh struck the steps leading to the house and Mr. Curtis was thrown out, striking his head on the steps. His neck was broken and he lived but a few moments.

He was 52 years old and until he lost his arm had been a farmer in Waterford and Passumpsic. He leaves his wife only. The funeral will be held Monday.

BARRE WAR CHEST MAKES URGENT APPEAL

At the Same Time Setting Forth Definitely Just Where the Funds Have Been Disbursed to Date.

In order that the subscribers to the Barre war chest may know just where the money thus far disbursed has gone, Treasurer V. E. Ayers reported to-day that the total collections to date are \$27,256.56, out of a total subscription of \$53,000. Of the amount collected, the sum of \$20,035.49 has been disbursed, all of it to various war drives, except for the cost of administration of the work.

There is a balance in the bank of \$7,221.07, but this amount will be practically wiped out by the completion of the city's quota for the "seven-allied" drive many months ago and for the city's quota in the Near East campaign which has been held this week. In addition, the national Red Cross is making inquiries relative to a contribution from Barre in a prospective campaign of nationwide proportions. So it will be readily seen that the war chest must be replenished at once in order to meet the demands.

A large number of subscribers have paid up their subscriptions in full; others are maintaining their payments by the month or the quarter, whichever course they decided to pursue when they subscribed; and still another large number of subscribers are in arrears, chiefly, it is thought, because of negligence. It is to this latter class especially that a most urgent appeal is made by the War Chest association. They are earnestly requested to come forward and keep their subscriptions up to date, so that Barre may be able to meet its obligations. Let each subscriber pay attention to this matter at once.

The financial statement as presented by Treasurer Ayers is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Total collections to Jan. 1, 1919: \$27,256.56. National Red Cross: \$5,080.00. Local branch Red Cross: 2,550.00. Belgian soldiers' tobacco fund: 20.00. "Seven-allied" drives: 12,000.00. Clerk: 200.50. Supplies: 74.03. Printing and advertising: 192.46. Telephone: 21.08. Postage: 39.22. Miscellaneous: 67.80. Cash in bank: 7,221.07. Total: \$27,256.56.

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