

### U. S. WON'T RECEDE IN RHINE DEMAND

Officials Reject Intimation It Involves New View of Versailles Treaty.

FIRM STAND IS TAKEN

America Will Not Recede From Position Held as Fundamental.

UNDERSTANDING ON COST

Explicit Agreement Reached Germany Was to Pay for Occupation.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
New York Herald Bureau,  
Washington, D. C., March 13.

The American position that \$241,000,000 is justly due this country for expenses of maintaining the force on the Rhine, a safeguard suggested by the Allies as necessary after the armistice, was elaborated to-day by high officials when further reports from abroad reflected an intention by the Reparations Commission to disregard the American claim.

Administration officials cast aside all intimations that the attitude of this Government involved a new interpretation of the Versailles treaty. They also rejected suggestions of foreign origin that the American claim brought into question the validity of the treaty of Berlin.

It was asserted that the American position is so fundamental that this Government cannot be expected to recede from it, and officials were confident the Allies would not entertain such a thought when once they fully grasp the meaning of America's position.

**Explicit Understanding at Start.**

Officials said that under the terms of the armistice the allied armies of occupation remained in Germany with the explicit understanding that the costs were to be paid by Germany. The United States Government saw no need of keeping its forces on the Rhine, but upon allied representations that the stationing of the forces was necessary to maintain good order the United States consented. It is contended now that the Allies would not be justified in taking all German assets without reimbursing the United States.

With regard to the contention that the United States has not assumed obligations imposed by the treaty of Versailles, it is noted that practically the only portions of that treaty now incorporated in the treaty of Berlin are those respecting boundaries in Europe and other matters purely of concern to European nations.

The contention that the American claim came as a surprise to the Allies is not seriously considered in official quarters. From the first this Government has maintained that the cost of maintaining the United States Army on the Rhine must be paid. The matter has been regarded as one entirely separate from the question of the foreign debts due to the United States for loans made to the Allies. Officials at the Treasury said to-day there was no purpose to link up the army occupation expense claim in the funding negotiations soon to begin with foreign Governments.

**Speculation Aroused.**

The intimation that the American claim brings into question the whole matter of rights under the treaty of Versailles, and therefore throws doubt upon the validity of such portions of the Berlin treaty as make reference to the Versailles treaty, aroused speculation, but no official comment.

It was pointed out that the Allies already have recognized, either tacitly or openly, the rights of the United States under that treaty by reason of the fact that they have accepted the American position regarding mandate territories, most of which were ceded to the principal allied and associated Powers by Germany in the treaty of Versailles.

Since the cession of this territory was made under that document, it is argued, and the Allies have practically admitted the American interests in those territories—that there can be little question as to their having admitted American rights under the treaty. The same line of reasoning would apply in the case of the former German cables, it is held.

### GERMANY REJOICES AT U. S. CALL FOR RHINE ARMY PAY

'We Don't Know Where We Are Going,' Says 'Tageblatt,' but 'We Will Have Good Company'—Hope for Reconstruction in American Pressure.

BERLIN, March 13 (Associated Press).

The German press continues to show satisfaction over the American request for reimbursement to cover the cost of maintaining the American troops on the Rhine.

"We don't know where we are going, but we will have good company en route," says the *Tageblatt*, which is particularly pleased that the demand followed immediately upon the refusal of the United States to participate in the Geneva conference.

"It must have been a dramatic moment," it continues, "when Mr. Boyden drew this memorandum from his pocket. There is a fine outlook for Geneva—from England comes a sick statesman and from France a sick logic."

Foreris says: "America does not desire to participate in a consultation over a dangerously sick patient when the physicians only intend to cut his hair and manure him. France's idiotic declaration that 'the German barbarian must pay' is being toned down by the American ice compress. When America begins to bring pressure to bear on political unreasonableness there is some hope for general economic reconstruction."

The *Deutsche Zeitung* says Boyden threw a bomb into the Reparations Commission, and adds: "Doubtless the United States wants more money, but she is after business. The attitude of France, supported by Great Britain and Italy, is interfering with her commercial aspirations in Europe. We Germans should not be deceived that America wants to help us; she wants to help herself."

The *Volks Zeitung* applauds "America's frank tactics," while the *Rote Fahne* describes the refusal to take part in the Geneva conference and the request for reimbursement as "a move of the American bourgeoisie to whip England into line."

High officials read of Sir Robert's plan with a degree of interest and merely placed it in the category of varied plans evolved at different times, having for their object the ultimate cancellation of the foreign debt of \$11,000,000,000 due to the United States.

There was no official comment upon the suggestion, as officials with authority to speak for the Administration declared that President Harding some time ago firmly put an end to debt cancellation talk from abroad, and his attitude is said to have undergone no change.

It is proposed regarding its character and relevancy, but the Times ventures to predict that it will not be determined upon technicalities.

**FRENCH MOVEMENT TO HELP WINE TRADE**

Minister of Agriculture Urges Increase of Exports.

PARIS, March 13.—National wine week opened to-day with great solemnity in the Sorbonne amphitheater under the presidency of M. Cheron, Minister of Agriculture. Members of the Chamber of Deputies, representatives from all the wine growing regions of France and of the Wine Growers Association and members of the foreign chambers of commerce in Paris attended. M. Cheron referred to the necessity for intensifying the exportation of wines, while Dr. Jacques Bertillon, chief statistician of Paris, spoke upon the healthful qualities of French wines.

Measures will be taken to facilitate the disposal of the enormous stocks of champagne and red and white wines which at the present time fill the French cellars to overflowing owing to the collapse of the American market. Tomorrow will be "American Day." A special committee will report on the sale of wine in the United States, Canada and Latin America and will advise the delegates how public opinion in the United States is disposed toward the present dry regime and the prospects of the modification of the prohibition laws so as to permit wines to enter.

**AMERICA'S DEMAND 'UNPLEASANT SURPRISE'**

London 'Times' Questions Proper Fund for Payment.

LONDON, March 14 (Tuesday).—The *Times*, while holding that the American right for repayment in full of the costs of the army of occupation is "clear and indisputable," questions whether it is due from any monies dependent upon the treaty of Versailles. It calls attention to the fact that the United States did not sign the treaty, the Spa agreement or the pact of London, and that the Allies were not consulted on its separate peace made with Germany.

It is undeniable, however, says the *Times*, that the Allies requested America to keep a contingent on the Rhine, and America may plausibly contend that she did not refuse to ratify the Versailles treaty because she differed with the Allies on German payments.

It was an unpleasant surprise, according to the *Times*, when all the difficulties between the Allies concerning the payments had been overcome, to have this new claim made upon the fund. All sorts of nice legal questions might read-

### TO CONTINUE INDIAN POLICY BY NEW MEN

Britain Will Retain Liberal Attitude but Likely Change Officials.

ALLENBY MAY BE VICEROY

Stands Well With Indian Moslems, Whom He Led in War.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
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New York Herald Bureau,  
London, March 13.

The Government made a great effort to-day to make it clear that the ousting of Edwin S. Montagu from the Indian Secretaryship does not mean a reversal of the Liberal Indian policy. Nevertheless, Westminster is buzzing with rumors of the coming resignation of the Earl of Reading as Viceroy of India, and the appointment of the Earl of Derby, a leading Tory peer, as Secretary of State for India, and either Field Marshal Viscount Allenby, High Commissioner for Egypt, or Field Marshal Earl Haig, or some other distinguished soldier, as Viceroy to replace Lord Reading.

The matter came before the House of Commons to-day, but the effort of the Government was handicapped by the illness of Marquis Curzon, Foreign Secretary, which prevents him from replying to Mr. Montagu's attacks upon the Government's policy until to-morrow. He will then speak before the House of Commons, which will probably read the letter which Mr. Montagu called "plaintive, hectoring, bullying and complaining."

Those interested in the efforts to continue a liberal policy in India are mostly inclined to hope that Gen. Allenby will be named Viceroy, even though his work in Egypt is far from completed. They say he has laid a firm groundwork there, which any other commissioner can build upon. Allenby stands very well with the Indian Moslems, many of whom he commanded in the Near East. Making a pun upon his name, "Allah Nebi" or "Prophet of God," they say he is destined to lead Islam to new glory. Allenby's supporters here say that is right, because few Occidentals, if any, possess military skill in combination with statesmanship and sympathetic understanding of Orientals, as those qualities are possessed by "Allah Nebi."

**Policy Not Harmed.**

LONDON, March 13 (Associated Press).—When the House met this afternoon Mr. Chamberlain, in reply to a question, declared Mr. Montagu's resignation had nothing to do with the merits of the policy advocated by the Government of India, but only with the publication on his sole responsibility, without consulting the Prime Minister or the Cabinet, of a telegram which raised questions the importance of which extended far beyond the frontiers of India.

The question to which Mr. Chamberlain replied was whether, in view of the effect upon the Mohammedans of Secretary Montagu's resignation, following the pronouncement of the Government of India, some decisive repudiation of lack of sympathy with the Moslems of India on the part of the Government might be expected.

The Government, Mr. Chamberlain added, had given careful and sympathetic consideration to the views of the Government of India and of the Indian Mohammedans with the object of securing a just and honorable peace between the belligerents in the Near East.

Discussing Mr. Montagu's speech of last Saturday, Mr. Chamberlain declared the former Secretary gave no hint to Marquis Curzon, that there still was time to stop publication of the telegram from the Government of India. Had he done so, continued Mr. Chamberlain, steps would have been taken immediately to prevent its publication.

Reviewing the sequence of events leading up to Mr. Montagu's resignation, Mr. Churchill said the first telegram

was received from the Government of India at the India Office March 1, and that Mr. Montagu appeared to have given instructions to circulate it to the members of the Cabinet two days later. The second telegram from the India Office March 4 asking permission for immediate publication of the first telegram.

Mr. Chamberlain said he believed Mr. Montagu was in the country at the time (it being a week end) and that the second telegram was communicated to him. Whereupon, he said, Mr. Montagu directed the India Office to send the telegram in his name authorizing publication that day. He said Mr. Montagu's message was a private telegram, owing to his absence from London, and it was stated that he would telegraph on March 6. At the Cabinet meeting of March 6, Mr. Chamberlain said, Lord Curzon spoke to Mr. Montagu about the question of publishing the Indian Government's first telegram and that Mr. Montagu replied: "Oh, I authorized it on Saturday."

### SWEDEN TO HAVE RADIO CONNECTING AMERICA

Communication Direct With United States Is Planned.

STOCKHOLM, March 13.—Direct radio communication between the United States and Sweden seems to be virtually assured through an agreement between the directors of the Swedish State Telegraph Board and the Radio Corporation of America, as a result of which the State Board has proposed to the Government that the building of the large radio station planned for the west coast of Sweden be immediately started.

The plans for the radio station grew out of the general desire to establish closer and more direct connections with the United States. Radio messages between Sweden and the United States have hitherto mainly been transmitted and received via the most powerful station of Scandinavia, located at Stavanger, Norway.

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