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# BRITISH VIEW OF CONFERENCE

## Would Not Have Reporters at Peace Table

## But Hand Out Statements Regularly

Manchester Cable — "When we speak of eliminating secrecy, we do not, of course, mean that reporters should attend the Peace Conference, but that, though the discussions are private, the results should be published, and that not at the close of the negotiations, but throughout them."

This view was expressed today by C. P. Scott, editor of the Manchester Guardian, in a talk with the Associated Press on the question of secrecy at the Peace Conference.

"Naturally, there are drawbacks," continued the editor. "Delicate matters, involving special national interests and national pride, may in some ways be more difficult of adjustment when made the subject of public controversy, but on the other hand the only means of bringing effective pressure to bear in the general interest against particular interests is by publicity."

"Doubtless public discussion would need to be conducted with restraint and under a sense of responsibility and with unbroken friendliness. That would be the duty of the public everywhere, who would then become in a real sense parties to a negotiation in which the interests of all are involved. It would be the duty of the newspapers, so powerful in this matter, to assist. But the fundamental reason for breaking with the old tradition of secrecy arises out of the very conception and the primary object of the conference."

"The conference is, or ought to be, the coming together of the nations in the world in the common interests of the world and for the attainment of objects in which all are equally concerned. As long as this move and object are dominant there is no reason for secrecy. Publicity is the surest means of keeping them dominant. As the President has well stated, the international relation we now seek to establish is the relation of understanding and of friendship. We had better begin as we intend to go on. Again, though the primary object of the conference is to establish and maintain this relation of amity between the nations, there is no intention or possibility of overriding essential national rights. The nation, rightly regarded and defined, remains as the distinctive unit in the new order, even more definitely than in the old, but a League of Nations involves rightly and of necessity certain restrictions on independent national action subservient to the commonwealth."

"The nature and limits of these restrictions need to be deeply considered and carefully defined. Every nation has a right to know how much of its unrestricted and sometimes an anarchic freedom of action it is expected to surrender, and for this also frank and open discussion is needed in order to remove natural prejudice and meet all reasonable objections."

"Lastly, or perhaps we should put this consideration first of all, we are here concerned with defining the rights and building up the effective union of the free peoples — with making, to use a famous phrase, the world safe for democracy, the abiding home of freedom. But freedom implies free play of public opinion and popular forces. It would be wholly inconsistent with this conception of social organization and of Government to hide from the peoples the making of the structure of freedom in which they are hereafter to dwell. Such a procedure of concealment belongs to the era when sovereigns and statesmen were to ordain and people to obey and follow. All European saying good-bye to that and joining their voice to that of America. We must take counsel together on the ground of the future, not of the past."

# SERBIAN HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

## 15,000,000 of One Race Would Be a Nation

## Dispute Italian Claim On the Adriatic

Paris Cable — The aspirations of the Serbian Government for the future of its country were explained tonight to our correspondent by Dr. M. R. Vesnitch, Serbian Minister to France, who, in all probability, will be one of the Serbian delegates to the Peace Conference. M. Vesnitch was the head of the Serbian mission to the United States in the Winter of 1917. Dr. Vesnitch said:

"The Serbian people, composed of Croats, Slovenes, and Serbians living within the boundaries of what hitherto has been called Serbia, and in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, number about 15,000,000. These are an ethnological whole, and they elect to become one nation under the principles laid down by President Wilson and accepted by the Governments of Great Britain, France and Italy as conditions precedent to the armistices signed with Austria and Germany."

"Approximately seventy per cent. of our people are Orthodox in religion, twenty per cent. Catholic and ten per cent. Protestant, Jewish or Mohammedan. As the Montenegrins have decided to become a part of Greater Serbia, we being of the same race, the frontiers of our country are Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and the Adriatic. That is our country."

# LET THE ALLIES HANDLE RUSSIA

## Bernstorff Says "We Wash Our Hands of Her."

## Opposed to Surrender of ex- Kaiser.

Paris Cable — "All the belligerents have accepted President Wilson's 14 points, and the only question to be discussed is their interpretation," said Von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador to the United States, in giving opinion of what Germany's attitude would be at the Peace Conference, according to the German correspondent of the U. S. A.

"Germany," said the count, "will keep to the President's programme which grants each people of an ethnical group the right to dispose of itself."

Asked if he thought the President's programme would furnish the basis for a lasting peace, Count von Bernstorff shrugged his shoulders.

"This is the only one which can be proposed at present," he added, "and the attempt must be made to apply it. At any rate, we shall support it."

When he was asked by the correspondent what attitude Germany would adopt toward the East, he replied:

"All the questions concerning the new states which have sprung up on the Russian frontier are the affair of the Allies. Let them disentangle things as best they can. We wash our hands of Russia. We are content to safeguard as far as possible the integrity of our territory, consulting at the same time the will of the population."

Asked about the White Book which Carl Kautsky is said to be preparing in Berlin, Count von Bernstorff said:

"I don't think the book will reveal the individual responsibilities of the persons who directed Germany in 1914. It will rather show the collective faults of the regime."

"I do not favor handing over the Kaiser to the Allies. A sovereign is not responsible for the policy of his government."

# EX-EMPEROR IS GETTING BETTER

## Stays Indoors, but is Miss- ing No Meals.

## Gets Hundreds of Letters From All Over.

Amsterdam, Holland Cable — William Hohenzollern's health shows a marked improvement but he is still compelled to exercise the greatest precautions owing to the penetrating and damp cold weather. Since Saturday the former Emperor has not left his suite of apartments in Amerongen Castle, but has been able to join the members of his retinue at all meals. He occupies other periods of the day in reading hundreds of letters reaching him from all parts of the world. He receives only an occasional telegram and these rarely evoke a reply. Several days during his illness the ex-Emperor saw only his wife and his immediate attendants.

The former Empress also remains in her apartment, not even going into the gardens within the surrounding moats.

Tuesday morning a Christmas tree was brought into the Castle for tonight's celebration, which will be a most unpretentious affair. Those participating besides the ex-Emperor and Empress will be a number of officers who resigned their commissions in the German army in order to remain in the vicinity of their former ruler's retreat and household servants and orderlies. Several of the officers were busy throughout the day arranging the details of the celebration, in which Count von Benthin will participate. They purchased presents which the former Emperor and Empress will exchange according to custom and also gifts for their attendants.

The ex-Emperor is as yet undecided about making a public declaration and still declines to receive any correspondents.

# WOULD BECOME PART OF ITALY

## Italian Deputies From Re- deemed Provinces

## Gives Their Grounds for Their Demand.

Paris, Tuesday, Cable — Italian deputies of the redeemed provinces who represented their districts in Vienna and Budapest Parliaments and came to Paris expressly for the purpose of submitting their case to the American mission, have been received by Col. E. M. House. Through Col. House the deputies presented a memorial to President Wilson. The deputies are Pittaeco for Trieste, Bennati for Istria, Zanella for Fiume, and Ghiglia Anovich for Zara. The memorial recites that their country has been for 2,000 years Italian; that Trieste has suffered under Austrian oppression for five centuries, and Dalmatia since 1917 has stood all kinds of persecutions to defend its nationality. The people of the districts, says the memorial, have fought in all wars for Italian independence and participated in the present war with 4,000 men. Regarding the annexation of Trentino, Trieste and Istria the memorial says there is no question that can be raised, but adds that Fiume being a free city, similar to Bremen and Lubek, has the right to decide its own government and any contrary decision would be against the principles proclaimed by President Wilson. Fiume already has shown by a plebiscite her determination to be united with Italy.

## THE DALMATIA COAST.

Dalmatia has 310 miles of coast, of which Italy claims less than 100 miles, comprising the cities of Zara, Sebenico and Spalato, besides the greatest part of the Dalmatian Isles. Austrian statistics, says the memorial, shows that the majority of the population are Slave in Spalato and Sebenico, but they are actually at markedly Italian as the population really is predominantly French in those districts of Alsace-Lorraine, where German statistics show 87 per cent. of the population as German. Besides the ports of Antivari and Delcigno, formerly belonging to Montenegro, and eventually that of Scutari, the districts will have the excellent ports of Portore, Buzari, Sogli, Metovitch, Ragusa, Gravosa, and the military port of Cattaro capable of sheltering the entire Italian army. Furthermore, it says in conclusion that Italy — in reply to make Trieste and Fiume free ports for every country.

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# BOLSHEVISM IS SPREADING

## Chiefs Are Buying Up Re- leased Huss Prisoners.

## Sending Emisaries Into Poland Now.

Warsaw Cable — The floods of released Russian prisoners who are making their way homeward through Poland, all of whom appear to be tainted with Bolshevism and are recognized as a danger in this respect by the Polish authorities, are in fact already causing much trouble by their lawlessness in their search for food.

The Bolsheviks are taking advantage of the penniless plight of these first thousands of released prisoners, whose total number is estimated at 2,000,000, and have picked up several thousand of them for their army by offering them money, food, and money, of the last of which there is plenty, since the Bolsheviks control the printing presses for the production of rubles.

The first important arrests have just been made of Bolshevik emissaries who are arriving from Russia with millions of rubles for the purpose of agitation and are spreading several thousands of rubles daily. Four men were taken in custody on this occasion. They claimed they had the right to spend their money as freely as they pleased. They are declared to be for the most part Russian Jews, nearly all of them having passports issued by Count Kozlov, who was expelled from here a week ago as representative of the Berlin Government. They were sent here by Leon Trotsky as members of an alleged Red Cross delegation, claiming that their mission was the care of Russian prisoners. With the Russian money flowing freely, the Polish police are attempting to find the source of the paper ruble epidemic.

"Only American interference can destroy Bolshevism," declared Count Alexander Leluchin to-day, in talking with the correspondent. "It will not be done by mere hunger. It is a mistake to assume that it will die with hunger, because that is what it started with. At the present time there is no food in the cities and towns, no tobacco, no salt and no sugar."

"The Bolsheviks began by robbing and killing the nobles and the bourgeoisie. Then they attacked the Bourgeoisie, the merchants. Now they are reaching the bottom and trying to rob each other."

Relief, however, seems to be coming from the south. "Gen. Skoropadski, the deposed Hetman of the Ukraine, and French troops are advancing from Odessa, and it is believed the Ukrainian situation will soon be under control. Petura, with his army of peasants, and also the French are moving upon Kiev, where order is soon expected to reign."

## THEY NEED HELP.

## Czecho-Slovaks in Urals in Bad Shape.

Washington Despatch — Unless the Czecho-Slovak forces on the Ural front of Russia are soon given reinforcements by the allies their situation may resolve into one similar to that of General Gordon at Khartoum, in the opinion of the Czecho-Slovak information bureau, which to-day issued a statement declaring that the Czechs should either be relieved or reinforced. The statement asserts that, despite a promise by the allies to reinforce the Czechs, those on the Ural front have received neither stores nor men from that source, and by this time more than half of them are casualties.

# TO ASK RETURN OF GIBRALTAR

## Spain is Said to Be Anxious to Get It.

## Would Cede Ceuta, Morocco, in Exchange.

Paris Cable — During the recent visit here of Count Romanones, the Spanish Premier extended consultations are reported to have been held by the Premier with French and American statesmen regarding the Moroccan question, which was discussed in both its military and financial aspects. The future status of Gibraltar is said also to have come up for consideration. On his arrival at Madrid, Premier Romanones is understood to have expressed great satisfaction over the result of his conference.

It was reported in Paris on December 23 that Premier Romanones planned to return to Paris in the near future to confer with the allied and American representatives over questions vital concerning Spain. In connection with the status of Gibraltar, it was declared in some quarters that the Spanish Premier contemplated raising the question expressing willingness, if necessary, to concede Ceuta, on the Moroccan side of the strait, to Great Britain in exchange for Gibraltar, holding that possession of Ceuta by the British would afford equal strategic advantage in modern warfare.

## Tantalum's Great Value.

Tantalum, owing to its hardness, makes good material for writing pens, which are less expensive than iridium-tipped gold nibs. Pens from this metal, treated with a special hardening process, prove superior to all others, and are not corroded by any ink.

# KAROLYI KINGS Says Allies Not Carrying Out Agreement.

## Budget Cable — Count Karolyi, the Hungarian leader, in addressing the People's Assembly to-day, com- plained that the Allies were not carry- ing out their part of the armistice agreement. He declared that it was impossible to maintain order while the most necessities of the country re- mained unsatisfied.

Count Karolyi told the assembly he had sent a message to President Wilson expressing adherence to the President's principle and protesting against what he declared were violations of the conditions of the armistice. He was confidently awaiting the President's decision, he added.

## "Germ-Proof" Money.

To a bank in Spokane, Wash., belongs the distinction of circulating the first antiseptic germ-proof national bank notes. The United States treasury is still experimenting with devices to laundry dirty bank notes to brighten crisp ones, but the Spokane bank has the first sanitary money on record. Fifty thousand dollars in bills, put out by the bank, were signed with an ink said to consist largely of carbolic acid. The result is the bills are saturated with an agency which means death to the most vigorous germ who'd live there.

# PRINCE LVOFF AIRS HIS IDEAS

## Additional Ally Forces Needed in the East.

## 200,000 Soldiers Would Be Adequate.

Paris Cable — Prince Lvoff, who is the guest of Basile Maklakof, Russian Ambassador to France, and who is participating in the lengthy conference being held here by Russian statesmen, discussed his views of the immediate future in Russia with the representative of the Associated Press. He said:

"Additional Entente military forces are necessary to restore order and check anarchy in Russia. It is impossible for the disorganized country to right itself otherwise." He said, when asked how many troops would be necessary, "and my opinion on that subject would be of little value, but in my judgment 200,000 soldiers would be adequate. The opposition is weak. Petrograd practically has ceased to exist, and could be taken with slight resistance."

In reply to a question as to what form of government would be best for Russia, Prince Lvoff said that it must be a republic.

Paul N. Milukoff, former Russian Foreign Minister, who was ordered to leave France because of alleged passport irregularities, has gone to London. He was accompanied by several politicians from Ukraine, who came from Odessa with him.

# TWO MAIN PLANS OF NEW LEAGUE

## Compulsory Arbitration, Limitation of Armaments.

## Economic Penalties for Vio- lation Discussed.

Paris Cable — It is expected three separate English societies for the establishment of a League of Nations will be consolidated under the presidency of Sir Edward Grey.

Three Italian societies at Rome, Milan and Turin will be similarly constructed.

An initial meeting was held last night for the purpose of arranging plans for the harmonizing of viewpoints into one joint declaration of principles. A telegram already has been forwarded to the American and British societies with the purpose of establishing a common agreement.

It is understood the representatives of all nations have virtually agreed on the principles of compulsory arbitration and the limitation of armaments, and that the chief differences requiring reconciliation are the economic penalties to be enforced against nations making war and whether the maintenance of peace shall be enforced by military measures. These latter points are the main ones on which the international organizations now are endeavoring to establish a common ground.

# COMMON FRONT AT PEACE TALK

Paris Cable — An international organization has been formed to secure uniformity of principles respecting the Peace Conference. This action follows Premier Clemenceau's recent suggestion to Leon Bourgeois and Baron d'Estournelles de Constant that the advocates of a league of nations should reconcile their differences and present a common front before the Peace Congress. An international bureau accordingly has been established with offices in the Boulevard St. Germain, for the purpose of reaching an accord between the British, French, American, Italian, and all other national organizations supporting the league.

# U.S. WELCOMES PART OF FLEET

## Ten Battleships From War Zone at New York.

## Great Reception to Return- ed Heroes.

New York Wire — Led by the super-dreadnought Arizona, ten battleships, in command of Admiral Henry T. Mayo, the vanguard of the United States fleet in European waters, steamed up New York harbor to-day in review before Secretary of the Navy Daniels, and was greeted with a tumultuous reception by harbor craft and hundreds of thousands of persons who lined the shores. The fleet reached Ambrose Channel late yesterday afternoon, and rode at anchor within sight of the city's limits late night.

The ships weighed anchor at 7:30 o'clock, and escorted by a fleet of 23 airplanes, proceeded slowly up the harbor to the Statue of Liberty, where Secretary Daniels and a party of distinguished guests, on the Presidential yacht Mayflower, reviewed the inspiring procession.

The ships welcomed home were: The Pennsylvania, the Arizona, the Oklahoma, the Nevada, the Utah, the New York, the Texas, the Arkansas, the Wyoming, and the Florida.

In addition to Secretary Daniels and other members of the Cabinet, the reviewing party included Admiral Grand of the British navy, and the senior naval attaches of the Allied nations.

After the parade this afternoon the men will be given shore leave, and a number of entertainments and dinners will be given in their honor.

# KING GREETS THE WAR'S VICTIMS

## Message to Disabled, Sick, and Wounded.

## Cheered by Visions of Days of Peace.

Ottawa Report — The Governor-General has received the following telegram from his Majesty the King, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

Buckingham Palace, Dec. 25.

"Another Christmas has come around, and we are no longer fighting. God has blessed your efforts. The Queen and I offer our heartfelt good wishes for a Happy Christmas and many brighter years to come. To the disabled, sick and wounded, we send a special greeting, praying that with returning health you may be comforted and cheered by the vision of those good days of peace for which you have sacrificed so much."

"(Signed) GEORGE R. I."

To which his Excellency has replied to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

"Ottawa, December.

"I respectfully beg you to convey to his Majesty the grateful thanks of the people of Canada for his Majesty's most gracious message and Christmas greetings. The special reference to the sick and wounded will be deeply appreciated."

"(Signed) DEVONSHIRE."

# HAD CLASH IN BERLIN STREETS

## Sailors and Soldiers Ex- changed Shots

## When Navy Men Were Be- ing Displaced.

Berlin Cable — The German Foreign Office and the Chancellery adjoining it, which at present is the seat of the Government, were blockaded for an hour and a half this afternoon by a squad of sailors which had been doing guard duty there for the past month.

The navy men, who were about to be replaced by a republican soldier guard and sent back to Kiel, objected to the new ruling. As a protest against the action of the military commander small squads of sailors attempted demonstrations in the various parts of the downtown districts.

At a guard house in the Unter den Linden the sailors clashed with members of the new republican guard. Shots were exchanged, and it is reported there were a number of casualties.