

SETTLEMENT OF WORLD PROBLEMS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY AT PARLEY

Bundle of Big Decisions Likely to be Made Public in Course of a Week—Anglo-Jap. Alliance Will be Scrapped.

A despatch from Washington says:—The biggest men at this Conference on the Limitation of Armaments seem to have but one fear as to the outcome. They fear they are proceeding too rapidly. They say they do not want to spin out the job for a protracted period, but they are anxious lest, in the hurry, some points are being overlooked and some decisions made which will breed repentance later. In that respect alone the gathering of the nations in Washington is unique. No diplomatic conference, so authorities claim, ever moved at such speed, unless it was a meeting at which some power was eager to hurry itself into war.

In a week or ten days the world is likely to be handed such a bundle of decisions as to make it reel with amazement. Many of these decisions are practically complete now, but no formal announcement is being made of them for various reasons.

However, the attitude of the Japanese is lessening the speed appreciably. One British delegate claimed that this was due to the Japanese psychology. They did not like to make one decision at a time and by slow, methodical means reach the important final conclusion. The Japanese desired to hold back on points until all the problems were assembled, and then make their agreements in a heap. That is one reason for saying that a bundle of decisions will be handed out.

This same British delegate summed it all up something like this:

- (1) The Japanese will undoubtedly accept the 10-10-6 ratio for capital ships as proposed by Mr. Hughes.

(2) The British will likely gain something in their attitude toward submarines. The Hughes proposals allow 90,000 tons of submarines each to Britain and the United States. This tonnage will be cut appreciably.

(3) There will be an end to the Anglo-Japanese alliance, the first move toward its abrogation coming from the Japanese themselves.

(4) There will be substituted for it an agreement for Britain, the United States and Japan. This agreement—not a treaty—may be extended soon to other powers, though the matter is not pressing, because a tripartite understanding is calculated to ensure the peace of the world.

It was explained by this same British delegate that the British came here with only two simple business objectives: One, to make secure the friendship of the United States; the other, to prevent war, or the possibility of war, between the United States and Japan. When the decisions such as are outlined above are arrived at these two objectives will have been achieved, he thought. Outside of the general desire for peace between the United States and Japan, the British were gravely concerned over a possible tangle in the manufacture of munitions in the event of a war between those two powers. Britain, Canada and Australia, it was pointed out, again would become munition centres, and the chances of trouble with either belligerent would be immense.



ADMIRAL BEATTY'S VISIT TO CANADA
Admiral Beatty making a speech while he was in Montreal. Beside him is a proud little member of the Boys' Naval Brigade.

Five British Officers Arrested in Galway

Belfast, Dec. 4.—During evolutions of the "Republican Army" at Kiltrekil, Galway, Saturday, in the presence of "Chief of Staff Mulcahy," five British officers engaged in photographing the scenes were arrested by order of Mulcahy. They were deprived of their arms and cameras and films, then liberated. The protests of the officers were met by the reply that their action was a distinct "breach of the truce."

The Farmers' University.

Enquiry at the Extension Office of the University of Toronto this week elicits the fact that requests for application forms for the Short Winter Course are being received "in bunches." This means that, in a good many localities, parties of men and women, young and old, are being organized by some leading spirit to go in a body to the Provincial University for the two weeks commencing February 6th. Last February there was a good deal of friendly rivalry as to which county had the largest number of students present. York, Simcoe, Halton and Peel, on account of their proximity, were, of course, ahead in numbers, but Huron, Oxford, Ontario, and Wellington had each a large representation. Of the thirty-three counties and districts from which students came last season Essex, Renfrew, Rainy River, Haliburton, and Muskoka were the most distant. Last February, too, the men in attendance greatly outnumbered the women and this will probably be the case again even though household science has been added to the list of subjects. The Executive Board of the United Farmers of Ontario is anxious to see the attendance doubled this year and the authorities of the provincial university are making all arrangements to provide two weeks of profit and pleasure for all who attend.

TO PREVENT CRASH ON GERMAN BOURSE

Country's Biggest Bankers May Control Market Till Credits Are Arranged

Berlin, Dec. 4.—No reassuring word has reached Berlin from Walter Rathenau, former Minister of Reconstruction now in London, indicating more than a hope that he can amalgamate various private interests and credits into a big enough entity to establish a shorter loan and carry Germany through the next two payments of reparations. Meantime, Chancellor Brüning called a meeting at noon today of a credit committee of nine of the biggest German bankers, whose first duty will be to try to do something to prevent a crash on the bourse.

The latest reparations note, written in what the newspapers were surprised to find sharp language, has shaken Germany completely out of the notion of a moratorium it has been nursing and the country knows the worst.

The Government, it is believed, made a successful play on the Bourse during the temporary furore for a moratorium and, it is reported, bought enough foreign notes to give a reserve on which to construct credit. Confirmation on this point is obtainable only through unofficial admissions in the Ministry of Finance. But this cannot prevent a big fall of the mark, unless the bankers decide to control the Bourse until they get into satisfactory form, the credits which unquestionably are being arranged between London and Berlin.

China-Japan Debates Point to New Era

A despatch from Washington says:—The opening of conversations between the representatives of China and Japan on the Shantung question has caused great satisfaction in Japanese circles where, it is believed, it may mark the inauguration of an epoch of better understanding between the two nations.

The Japanese viewpoint was explained as one of conviction that Japan should insist, in the negotiations, upon an agreement to conduct the Shantung railroad from Tsingtau to Tsinan-Fu as a joint Sino-Japanese enterprise.

Canadian Product Cheapest on Market

A despatch from London says:—In some things Canada can beat Germany at her own game of cheap production. According to the Mercantile Guardian, after going the rounds of the world's markets, buyers for the first time in many months find Canadian aluminum the cheapest, selling at 1 shilling 2½ pence per pound, while the German product, despite the depreciation of the mark, is 2 pence dearer. The Canadian product, which is often called American because it is shipped from New York, is said to be of exceptional quality.

LATEST PROPOSALS OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT REJECTED BY SINN FEIN

Collapse of Negotiations Due to Action of the Dail Eireann Cabinet—Irish Representatives Still in London.

A despatch from London says:—A draft of alternative proposals for an Irish settlement was given by the Government on Thursday to the Sinn Fein leaders. Mr. Barlow left London Thursday evening with the documents which will be considered by the Sinn Fein Cabinet. If the Sinn Fein indicates readiness to discuss the new scheme, then the Government will submit it to Ulster; it is hoped, by Tuesday.

The alternative proposal has already been described in general terms. It would create Ireland a Dominion, Ulster exercising her option to remain out of the Dominion Parliament and to retain her present powers and Imperial representation, but on this important point Ulster would at any time have the option at her own request of joining the Dominion Parliament. The Sinn Fein are to give their allegiance under a form to be agreed.

Part of the new proposal is a boundary commission to re-examine the frontiers of Ulster and the South, with a view to some changes which would be advantageous both to the North and the South during the period they are separated. Such a boundary commission, it is thought, might get rid of some of the difficult problems in Tyrone and Fermanagh, and if in those counties some of the Sinn Fein population were allotted to the South, perhaps in exchange Ulster might be allotted some territory in County Donegal, which would render the geographical position of Derry City less anomalous.

The Government's undertaking to submit fresh proposals to Ulster before next Tuesday, the time limit set by Premier Sir James Craig this week in his declaration to accept the Government's previous proposal, is understood to be conditioned upon the acceptance of the new proposals by Sinn Fein, and upon the inclusion in such possible acceptance of an agreement on the part of Sinn Fein to swear allegiance to the Crown. Should this agreement not be reached it is understood Ulster will not be approached again, and that negotiations with Sinn Fein would then terminate.

London, Dec. 4.—Premier Lloyd George hurried back to London from Chequers Court to-day to receive the report of the representatives of the Dail Eireann on the latest proposals of the British Government respecting the Irish settlement. In the conference between the British Ministers and the Sinn Fein delegates, which followed, the Premier and his colleagues were informed that the proposals were not acceptable. They had been given full consideration by the Dail Eireann at Dublin, but no way had been found to reconcile the differences which had arisen.

The future is not considered promising. The members of the special committee of the British Government who took part in the original conference are to meet to-morrow for the purpose, it is believed, of taking some definite action. Unless an agreement is reached by to-morrow at another meeting with the Irish delegates, it is understood that the Government will not submit its proposals to Sir James Craig. The Ulster Premier will speak at Belfast on Tuesday, and if no proposals have reached him by that time, will announce the negotiations ended.

Eamonn de Valera, who was present during the consideration of the British proposals at Dublin, spoke significantly at Belfast to-day, declaring: "Freedom has never been won without sacrifice; the country must be prepared now to face sacrifices as it has been in the past."

There is this to be said about the situation: that the Sinn Fein representatives are still in London, and Mr. Lloyd George has on many previous occasions shown himself capable of overcoming what appeared to be an almost insurmountable barrier. No official word has yet been given out that an end has come to the negotiations.

Germany and Switzerland Sign Arbitration Pact

Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 4.—Germany and Switzerland have signed a treaty of arbitration under which each country is compelled to submit almost all questions in dispute between them to arbitration.

DARING ROBBERY AT NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

Armed Robbers Secured \$40,000 While People Looked On.

A despatch from Niagara Falls, N.Y., says:—Armed robbers secured loot valued at \$40,000 in a holdup of three express company employees here on Thursday night, shortly after six o'clock. The robbers loaded two strong boxes into an automobile and drove away, while many persons watching them thought it was all a joke.

The three expressmen were moving the two strong-boxes from the express company office to the train shed of the New York Central across the street. As they reached the train shed, four men stepped out, armed with revolvers. Three of the bandits covered the expressmen, while the fourth bandit put the strong-boxes, which contained \$40,000 in currency and valuables, into the auto.

One of the bandits took a revolver from one of the expressmen, and the four escaped without a shot being fired.

No one ever advances who constantly waits for directions.



Viscount Lascelles
Whose engagement to H.R.H. Princess Mary has been officially announced.

Lord Mount Stephen, who died on Nov. 30, at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, England, in his 93rd year, was formerly President of the Bank of Montreal and first President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, of which he was one of the chief promoters.

ABOLITION OF SUBMARINE IS STRONGLY ADVOCATED BY BRITISH AT CONFERENCE

A despatch from Washington says:—Complete abolition of the submarine as an instrument of warfare, still is regarded by the British delegation as the most preferable decision to be reached by the armament conference when the question of the submarines is brought up.

While the British delegates realize that their views as to the unsuitability of the submarine for warfare might not prevail in the conference, they felt certain it would receive much sympathy in the world at large.

In anticipation of a lively discussion on this subject before the conference, one of the highest British authorities to-night set out the British attitude as follows:

The submarine hardly can be used without being abused; in the past it certainly was a gross abuse of every rule of war; it destroyed the innocent and the non-belligerent as well as the crews of warships. There might be a legitimate use for the submarine if it could be confined to operations against warships; it could not be used

against merchant ships without violation of the rules of war.

Moreover, the British spokesman said he doubted seriously whether the submarine was the weapon of the weaker power against the stronger.

In response to an inquiry as to whether the same objection made to the submarine might not with equal force apply to the use of poison gas or to the dropping of bombs from airplanes, the British spokesman declared there was a great difference.

It would be impossible, without great injury to industrial life, he said, to end the manufacture of chemicals capable of being turned into poison gases in time of war. As to airplanes, which are now a valuable means of transportation in times of peace, it would be impossible, he added to check the development of these new means of communication. While these airplanes, capable of carrying large cargoes in times of peace, might carry bombs in time of war, he contended, the submarines could not be turned to any other useful purpose than that of a weapon of war.

Unlikely That Lloyd George Will Visit Washington

London, Dec. 4.—It is held now, in view of the Irish deadlock, that it is unlikely that Premier Lloyd George will find it possible to make a trip to Washington this year. Although the Irish negotiations are not actually broken off, the means whereby they are to be continued are not clearly visible, and, in any case, a continuance of the truce can probably be imperiled, and in these circumstances it is considered impossible for the Prime Minister to leave the country.

Meeting of International Court Early Next Year

A despatch from Geneva says:—The League of Nations has issued a call for the members of the International Court of Justice to meet at the Hague on January 30. Formal opening of the court is expected early in February.

