

Pershing's Silence Balks French Hope of Answer to Clemenceau

By T. T. Topping
(Associated Press Staff Writer)
PARIS (AP)—The undisguised hope of the French, albeit tinged with alarm, that General Pershing would hop aboard the Clemenceau-Foch controversy beyond the tank, in which former President-Premier Poincare recently joined, was dashed to the ground when the commander of the A. R. P. landed at Cherbourg recently.

"I have nothing to say," General Pershing told reporters, "and if I did have something to say I should prefer to say nothing."

Interviewers pointed out that two entire pages of Clemenceau's book "Grandeur and Miseries of Victory" described the state of affairs behind the American army's lines in the Argonne, as "chaos" but General Pershing refused to comment.

A few days after Marshal Foch died, a book written by M. Raymond Recouly, a noted French author, purported to quote Foch in some statements which left no doubt as to the allied command-in-chief's opinion concerning Georges Clemenceau, generally known here as the "Father of Victory."

This was in March, 1929, and Clemenceau immediately began to work on his book, "Grandeur and Miseries of Victory," laboring so hard that he came to an untimely death—so the doctors say—at the age of 88.

"I hate to start a controversy over a coffin," the Tiger wrote, "but my silence would be construed as acquiescence."

Lambasts Foch

Thereupon he proceeded to lambast the daylight out of Foch, incidentally taking pot shots at Poincare and Pershing.

The reference to the American army which caused interviewers to try and obtain General Pershing's comment read: "Foch himself demanded supreme command of the allied armies, and suddenly stricken with paralysis of the will power failed to exercise it. He refused in September, 1918, to give Pershing the orders imperiously necessary to the good of the country. I had to enjoin him in writing to enforce his authority."

Foch as quoted by Recouly had already replied to this attack:

"I never so much sought to command as I did to bring those around me to concur with my ideas. To command is nothing; what is required is to understand the character of those you are dealing with and to make yourself understood by them. To understand one another, that's the whole secret of life."

Misunderstood
One commentator, rather mellancholy, says: "Foch and Clemenceau never understood one another and there is the whole secret."

Some of the amenities exchanged between the command-

er-in-chief of the allied armies and the French war premier are in the following order.

Foch: "Clemenceau is going to the United States to whimper and sentimentalize, like the old dotard he is." This is alleged to have been said when the Tiger visited the United States during the French-American debt controversy.

Clemenceau: "Foch was an insubordinate soldier."

Out of the flood of comment which this post-mortem duel is creating in France, there emerges a general feeling of regret that such a situation should have arisen.

Poincare summed it up by saying that Foch and Clemenceau "both greatly served their country, and in time, this alone will be remembered."

Hoover To Review Naval Maneuvers

WASHINGTON, May 14 (AP)—President Hoover has determined to review the battle and scouting fleets of the navy off the Virginia Capes next Tuesday.

The president plans to leave Washington Monday night to board the Salt Lake City at Hampton Roads Tuesday.

The review will take place off the capes. A review of the navy air fleet will also be held.

Germersheim, Germany—Martial law established after 5,000 protest fines imposed on 400 growers of American hybrid vines.

10,000-Ton Light Cruiser At Sea

NEW YORK, May 14 (AP)—The first of the navy's new 10,000-ton light cruisers, the Salt Lake City, was at sea today to undergo its final acceptance test.

With the board of inspection and survey aboard, the cruiser was to make a four run under full power off Ambrose Lightship.

Fisherman Hooks Sax Near Eugene

EUGENE, Ore., May 14 (AP)—"Boop-poop-pa-doop." The biggest catch of the fishing season wasn't fish at all.

J. W. Jordan, casting into the waters of a fork of the Willamette east of here, hooked a "C" melody saxophone. Having no use for it, he turned it over to the sheriff, who says he is now conducting a "rigid investigation" of the case. How the sax happened to be in the river the sheriff could not say. He admitted he was uncertain whether the motive was "criminal or humanitarian."

Two Cents A Day For Candy
WASHINGTON (AP)—The individual expenditure for candy in 1929 totalled a little more than two cents a day. Annual per capita consumption for the world was reported approximately 12 pounds.

Sholapur, India—Martial law administration issues, 7 p. m. to 6 a. m., curfew order.

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