

## SYRIA, REBUFFED BY ALLIES, LOOKS TO U.S.

Nations Aided by Arabs Dear to Independence Plea.

### ITALY'S ATTITUDE DEFIAINT

Trouble Looms at Peace Parley as Result of Latins' Position Towards Serbs and Jugo-Slavs.

BY HENRY HYDE.  
Copyright by the Chicago Tribune. Published by arrangement—(Special)—The peace conference inevitably faces many complications and difficulties, some of them seem most serious, some merely perplexing and picturesque.

Perhaps the most amazing involves the future of the ancient land of Syria. Back in the early days of the great war Great Britain and France made a secret treaty agreeing on the division of the Turkish empire in Asia, under which Syria was to become a French colony. Later the Arabs of Syria went to war with Turkey and became the gallant ally of Great Britain. The Arabs fought with brilliancy and it was an army under command of Sherif Feisul which actually captured Damascus. Now that the war is won the Arabs are bitterly opposed to Syria becoming a French colony. They have sent Sherif Feisul to Europe to beg, almost to demand, that independence be given their country.

The Sherif is a son of the Amir of Mecca and a lineal descendant of Mahomet and a most exalted personage to all followers of the prophet.

#### Appeal Made to Wilson.

To the two great powers involved he has appealed in vain. France is unwilling to give up promised possession and Great Britain is willing, but bound by treaty with her French ally.

Now the Arabs have sent Sherif Feisul to Paris to appeal to President Wilson to intervene in their behalf.

This crazy world produced any more amazing spectacle than that of this Arab chieftain coming from Asia to the palace of Versailles there to ask the President of the Americas Britain and France in the interest of the independence of Syria?

More mind-boggling curiosities, if not dangerous, in the situation which involves the Italians and Serbs and Jugo-Slavs. At a preliminary conference held in London three weeks ago, attended by Premier Clemenceau and Marshal Foch on the part of France, and Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino, on that of Italy, and participated in by Lloyd George and other members of the British Cabinet, it is understood that Italy was told it must modify and lessen its demands in the Balkans and the Dalmatian coast. But Italy was not willing, and has now announced it will not fix a date for demobilization of the Italian army.

The most formidable difficulty of all seems to be what will be called the Anglo-American differences over President Wilson's freedom of the seas plank and the final disposition of former German colonies captured and now held by the allies.

#### Britain's Policy Fixed.

Opportunities which I have had to talk with Englishmen of importance have convinced me that Britain will never consent to any diminution of her sea power. The British position is that the very life and existence of the islands and their people depend on control of the seas. The war with Germany has made the whole English people more determined than ever to keep the white ensign of British sea-power nailed to the top of the mast. On the disposition of German colo-

nies, British policy is equally fixed. The British Empire, say leading Englishmen, does not want any more colonies, but in the war with Germany the great self-governing English dependencies played a heroic part. Australia, South Africa and Canada sent splendid armies overseas to fight for the mother country. The empire owes them a debt which has been sealed in blood. Now Australia says it must have the German islands in the Pacific as a bastion of safety and protection against future attacks. Great Britain says it must accede to these appeals because the dependencies have earned the right to make them, to say nothing of the fact that refusal might

Paris to learn what they can concerning the President's trip.

**Field Marshal Haig Is Welcomed Home**

Commander-in-Chief and Generals Get Ovation.

### KING GREETS WAR CHIEFS

Scene at Buckingham Palace Notable One; Vote of Thanks From the Empire Is Expected.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—(British Wireless Service)—Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British armies in France and Belgium, attended by Generals Plumer, Rawlinson, Birdwood, Byng and Horne, who gave his mainstays in aiding to defend the Germans, reached London today and was accorded notable welcome.

The train bringing the field marshal to London was accompanied from Dover by about 20 airplanes, which also hovered over the procession which passed through the dense and crowded thoroughfares from the station to Buckingham Palace, where King George welcomed the returning warrior.

**NEED FOR ACTION IS NOTED**

Manchester Paper Speculates on Why Wilson Changed Plans.

Generals meet at Station.

At the station the Generals were met by the Duke of Connaught, representing the King, the Prime Minister, the Secretary for War, members of the army and air councils, representatives of the Admiralty and many other distinguished persons.

The Royal Guards, with their regimental colors and bands, were drawn up at the station to act as an escort to the field marshal and amid loud cheering as the band played "See the Conquering Hero Comes," the crowd cheered him down. Douglas to the royal carriage in waiting to take the field marshal to the palace.

As the carriage emerged from the station yard the bells of St. Martin's rang out and the crowds again broke into tumultuous cheering. Thronghs had taken over the streets. The King, long before the royal carriage bearing the field marshal and his generals came into view. When they came abreast the historic square, mighty cheer, such as had rarely if ever been heard there, rose.

**ENTHUSIASM IS UNBOUNDED.**

All the generals clearly evinced delight at the cordiality of the reception.

As the carriages passed along Cockspur street, Pall Mall and St. James street, the enthusiasm was unbounded.

At Marlborough House there was a wild cheering when Sir Douglas saluted Dowager Queen Alexandra,

who was standing outside her residence.

Piccadilly and its approaches were densely packed with people and the Field Marshal again was cheered to the end as he drove along the famous thoroughfare. Like Hyde Park, down Constitution Hill and onward to Buckingham Palace there were stirring scenes. Many soldiers and sailors on leave participated in the demonstrations.

The carriages passed along the front of the palace to the entrance at the southern gates, where they drove up to the grand entrance. Here Field Marshal Haig and the generals passed into the palace and were received by King George, Queen Mary and the members of the royal family. After the reception they were entertained at luncheon in the stateroom.

**LUNCHEON FORMAL FUNCTION.**

The luncheon was an entirely formal luncheon. The guests numbered about 100. The crowds which remained outside with Sir Douglas and his aides left the palace frequently sang the national anthem.

The commander-in-chief is to spend Christmas at his home at Kingston.

It is said that one of the first acts of the new Parliament will be to bring to it a vote of thanks from the entire empire to Sir Douglas Haig and his Generals and the troops serving under them.

It is understood the vote of thanks will be followed by the usual monetary vote.

**SAILORS SEIZE AUTHORITY**

Control of German Navy Department Reported.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 19.—Herr Lansberg, secretary for publicity in the German government, is quoted as telling the Berlin Congress of Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils that 53 German sailors have assumed control of the German Navy Department.

The sailors, he is declared to have added, have prevented necessary work being carried on and have released prisoners convicted of treason.

**WHEELS OF PEACE SLOW**

(Continued From First Page.)

grave concern. There is a report that Foreign Minister Pichon may be sent to Rome to confer with Premier Orlando on certain aspects of the situation. It is the opinion of French publicists that there must be thorough understanding between the United States and the United States concerning measures to be taken to reconcile the aspirations of the Jugo-Slavs with those of the Italian Irredentists on the Adriatic littoral.

**ITALY NOT IN AGREEMENT.**

It has become evident that Italy is not altogether in accord with some features of the Paris peace program.

The arrival of Baron Sonnino, whose long tenure as Italian foreign minister lends special weight to his opinion, has aroused keen interest.

Undersecretary of State "Light Clouds," Gustave Harve, who has been serving as an ardent helper of President Clemenceau, writes in part as follows:

"There is a bit of bad humor in Parliament against our National Tiger."

At the start he was against him only.

Now 40 Bolsheviks and others whose opinions were negligible.

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