



CONGRESS PRAISES LEAGUE COVENANT

Prominent Educators Talk at Opening Session.

WAR PREVENTION IS PURPOSE

Dr. Lowell Brands Claims of Critics Unfounded.

TAFT PARTY REACHES CITY

Leaders of National Thought Crystallize Sentiment in League of Nations Ideals.

EVENTS OF TODAY AT THE NORTHWESTERN CONGRESS FOR A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

All sessions of the congress are open to the public, and citizens are urged to attend. Place—the municipal auditorium, Third and Clay streets.

9 A. M.—State delegates' caucus.

10 A. M.—Open session. Speakers: William Howard Taft, president of the League to Enforce Peace; Edward A. Filene, chairman of commerce, U. S. A.; Henry Morgenthau, formerly ambassador to Turkey.

10:30 A. M.—Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell, at Reed college.

Noon—With Howard Taft and Frank P. Walsh, at Chamber of Commerce; Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell, Dr. Charles R. Brown and Henry Van Dyke, at University club; Henry Morgenthau, at Benson hotel, Jewish war relief; Edward A. Filene, Imperial hotel, Portland Ad Club.

2 P. M.—Open session. Speakers: Henry Van Dyke, formerly minister to the Netherlands; Dr. George Grafton Wilson, Harvard university; Mrs. Philip North Moore, president American Council of Women; W. J. Kerr, president Oregon Agricultural college.

3 P. M.—Open session. Speakers: William Short, president Washington State Federation of Labor; E. J. Stack, secretary Oregon Federation of Labor; William Howard Taft, joint chairman war labor board.

Unqualified endorsement of the league of nations covenant, as promulgated at the Paris peace conference by President Wilson and his fellow counselors of the allies, was voiced last night at the opening session of the northwestern congress for a league of nations, held in Portland for the states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

For the purpose of crystallizing national-wide sentiment in the league of nations ideal, and that comprehensive understanding be afforded of its principles and purposes, ex-President William Howard Taft, champion of the cause, and many other notable leaders of national thought, are in Portland where the two-day congress is held, closing its sessions tonight.

Leaders Held Innovators.

"The critics of such a league," declared Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell, president of Harvard university, in his address before delegates and public, at the auditorium, "object that it is not in accord with the advice of Washington and other statesmen of his day.

"These men are among the greatest innovators the world has ever known," pursued Dr. Lowell, "and they looked the facts of their day fairly in the face. We follow their example if we, in turn, are innovators, and look the facts of our day boldly in the face."

Two of the most distinguished educators in America addressed the opening of the two-day session—Dr. Lowell of Harvard and Dr. Charles R. Brown, dean of the Yale school of religion. Their advent in Portland preceded that of William Howard Taft, president of the League to Enforce Peace, and other members of his party by a day.

Taft Party Reaches City.

The party of ex-President Taft, who speaks at the auditorium this morning and tonight, arrived last night at 7:45 and was met at the Union station by a reception committee of prominent Portland citizens.

Members of the Taft party are Mr. Taft, Edward A. Filene, director of the chamber of commerce, U. S. A.; Henry Morgenthau, formerly ambassador to Turkey; Henry van Dyke, formerly minister to the Netherlands; Dr. George Grafton Wilson, professor of international law, Harvard university; and Mrs. Philip North Moore, president of the American Council of Women. Frank P. Walsh, formerly joint chairman of the war labor board, did not arrive, being called back to Washington.

Peace Problem Explained.

Following the introduction by Henry L. Corbett, chairman of the congress committee on investigation, and who presided last night as a result of a desire on the part of Mr. Taft to spend the evening working on his speech, Dr.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOYS REACH AMERICA

EIGHTEEN WAR BRIDES ABOARD TRANSPORT LOUISVILLE.

Cruiser Huntington Reaches Port With 1700 Officers and Men of 41st Division.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The United States cruiser Huntington and the transport Matsohia and Louisville docked here today, debarking 7101 officers and enlisted men of the American expeditionary forces. The steamers Dante Alighieri with 1588 officers and men aboard, and the Sixoia with 47 reported off the coast by wireless and were expected to arrive tonight.

On board the Huntington were more than 1700 officers and men of the 41st division, comprising former national guard organizations from Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. These included the supply company, machine-gun company, 3d battalion headquarters and companies I, K, L and M of the 145th Infantry of the 41st division; the 1st battalion headquarters and companies A, B and C of the 161st Infantry of the 41st division and the 164th ambulance company.

The Louisville brought 1773 troops and 391 other passengers, the latter including 18 "war brides" who are wives of army and navy men. The troops included colored national army men of the 92d division and several medical and convalescent detachments and a number of convalescing, the wounded and sick of the Louisville numbered 217 officers, men and nurses.

The Matsohia brought 3345 officers and men, including the 68th coast artillery, made up of former national guardsmen from Connecticut and several western states and casual companies from Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Iowa, Massachusetts, Washington and Alabama.

All the vessels reported encountering severe storms. The men of the Huntington had the added discomfort of a mild influenza epidemic which sent 45 of their number to the sick bay.

MISSION OF MERCY SAILS

Doctors and Relief Workers on Way to Holy Land.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—Sailing as an army of life and hope to the four million destitute people of the Holy Land and other regions of the near east, the steamship Leviathan left this port today with the largest contingent of missionaries, doctors and relief workers ever sent overseas at one time on such a mission. They will reach Constantinople, their destination, about March 15.

The party, comprising 250 members, chiefly women, has been preceded by equipment for 15 hospitals, food, clothing and other supplies. It also carries trucks and other material donated by the American Red Cross and the American committee for relief in the near east.

The supplies are valued at more than \$3,500,000. A number of men workers who sailed overseas at one time on such a mission, engaged in the relief of thousands of starving Syrians, Armenians and Persians. All American religious creeds are represented.

HORSES ARE SOLD FOR FOOD

American Army Animals Supply Meat to Hungry Germans.

COBLENZ, Feb. 16.—(By the Associated Press.)—Eight hundred condemned American army horses and mules were sold at auction to a German butcher near Coblenz last week with the understanding that all the animals must be killed to help relieve the meat shortage within the occupied area. All the animals sold had been found unfit for military use, owing to age or because they had been gassed.

Inquiries are being made in Coblenz from Cologne, Mayence, Frankfurt and other cities asking when the next sale takes place.

GOMEZ' OVERTHROW HOPED

Venezuelan Exiles in New York to Foment Revolution.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—A Venezuelan alliance designed to work for the removal of President Gomez of Venezuela last night from Sidney Australia, was organized yesterday by Venezuelans who have fled their country during Gomez' regime.

Nicanor Bolet, former secretary to the Venezuelan legation at Washington, who presided, said the organization would co-operate with similar bodies in Latin-America and other countries, representing more than 15,000 voluntary exiles from Venezuela.

SINGER REACHES VICTORIA

Madame Melba Arrives From Australia Bound for London.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 16.—The Canadian-Australian liner Niagara, with General Pau and members of the French commission board, arrived at quarantine last night from Sidney, Australia, and will dock at 9 A. M. tomorrow.

Madame Melba, the noted prima donna, is a passenger on the Niagara on her way to London to sing at the official peace celebration.

MILITARY TRAINING FOUGHT

Sophomores and Freshmen at the Northwestern University on Strike.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Two hundred and fifty sophomores and freshmen at Northwestern university are on strike in opposition to compulsory military training.

They presented a petition to President Holgate asking that the training be made optional with the students.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PLEASES MR. TAFT

Real Clincher Seen in International Plan.

EX-PRESIDENT GIVES VIEWS

League to Enforce Peace Will Back Up Wilson.

SENATE URGED TO APPROVE

National Drive to Be Made to Arouse Public Sentiment in Favor of Great Document.

"It looks like a covenant with a real clincher in it for a league of nations."

In this manner William Howard Taft, former president of the United States and president of the League to Enforce Peace, last night summed up his opinion of the proposed covenant made public at the Paris peace conference.

Mr. Taft gave his impression of the covenant at the national headquarters of the League to Enforce Peace, which at the time happened to be a special car on the North Coast limited as it sped down the Columbia river bringing a number of world-prominent men to Portland to attend the northwestern congress of the league which began last night and will continue through today.

Public Sentiment to Be Aroused.

That the league will approve the covenant and recommend that the United States senate approve it, and that the league will make a national drive to arouse public sentiment in favor of the instrument, was the assertion of ex-President Taft.

The league president went directly from his train to his hotel last night to complete the preparation of a speech which will deal exhaustively with the covenant and when it is delivered here will be the first searching discussion of the instrument since its text was announced.

The world will hear from Portland the opinion of an international authority.

League's Ideas Followed.

Mr. Taft declared that the document has furnished the first real basis on which the league to enforce peace could work, and that in many respects it follows ideas advanced by the league.

Although the covenant does not go as far in some respects as he would like to have had it, it does go farther than he had even dared to hope for, Mr. Taft said.

Unwilling to pass on the respective articles of the measure last night, Mr.

SEATTLE SHIPYARDS RESUME WEDNESDAY

WORKERS WILL BE EMPLOYED AT GATES AT OLD SCALE.

Owners of Plants Deny Report That Industries Will Be Operated on "Open-Shop" Basis.

SEATTLE, Feb. 16.—Seattle's shipyards will resume operations next Wednesday after having been idle since 25,000 metal trades workers walked out on a strike for a higher wage scale January 21. Announcement to this effect was formally issued tonight by the shipyard owners. The workers will be employed at the yard gates at the same rate of pay as existed January 21.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 16.—Replying to a request by Matthias Erbsberger, head of the German armistice commission, for a delay in the signing of the armistice terms until Monday noon, Marshal Foch declared that the armistice expired at 5 o'clock Monday morning and that the last hour for signing would be 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon, in order to be able to issue the necessary orders to the troops.

FLAT REFUSAL TO CHANGE TERMS MADE BY GRAND MARSHAL.

GERMANS GET ULTIMATUM

Armistice to Be No Longer in Force if Huns Fail to Sign by 6 P. M. on 16th.

NO CHANGE TO BE MADE.

ANSWERING ERBSBERGER'S COUNTER DEMANDS, MARSHAL FOCH SAID THE NEW ARMISTICE TERMS HAD BEEN FIXED BY THE HEADS OF THE ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS AND THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO ALTER THEM.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 16.—A Weimar dispatch under date of Saturday, February 15, says the German government requested an extension of 24 hours' time in which to reply to Marshal Foch's proposal for a prolongation of delay is forecast.

IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT, OWING TO THE DELAY IN RECEIVING THE ARMISTICE COMMISSION'S REPORT A REPLY COULD NOT BE RETURNED BY 6 O'CLOCK, AS FIXED BY MARSHAL FOCH.

A HAVES DISPATCH FROM BASLE SATURDAY NIGHT REPORTED THAT THE ARMISTICE HAD BEEN EXTENDED INDEFINITELY AND THAT THE GERMANS ARE REQUIRED TO CEASE THEIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE POLES AND CARRY OUT THE PREVIOUS TERMS OF THE ARMISTICE UNTIL COMPLETED.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The invitation of the peace conference to the various Russian factions to meet at Prinkipio may be withdrawn, as none of the parties have complied with the condition that they cease fighting each other, according to Reuter's Paris correspondent.

THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS, THE CORRESPONDENT SAID, WERE DISCUSSED BEFORE PRESIDENT WILSON LEFT PARIS.

BOCHE REFUSES TO EXTEND ARMISTICE

Boche Given Until Sunday Afternoon to Sign.

ALTERNATIVE IS SERIOUS

Flat Refusal to Change Terms Made by Grand Marshal.

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IF NOT SIGNED THEN, MARSHAL FOCH SAID, HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO LEAVE TREVES AND THE ARMISTICE WOULD NO LONGER BE IN FORCE.

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JAPAN'S ATTEMPT TO BRIDLE CHINA ALARMS

EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IS SENT TO DELEGATES.

Notice of Agreement of Japanese Envoys to Publish Secret Documents Is Received With Interest.

PEKING, Feb. 16.—(By the Associated Press.)—Excitement prevails throughout China over reports concerning Japanese efforts to induce the Chinese government to modify the action of its delegates to the peace conference. Despite the statement of Yukichi Obara, Japanese minister to China, that he acted on his own initiative and not on instructions from Tokio, Chinese alarm continues. It has not been allayed by the declaration of the foreign minister that Obara's visit to him was a friendly one.

PRESIDENT HSUI SHIH CHANG, BACKED BY HIS PREMIER, HAS TAKEN A STRONG STAND INDEPENDENTLY OF THE CABINET AND HAS TELEGRAPHED AN EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE TO THE CHINESE PEACE DELEGATES.

THE NEWS THAT BARON MAKINO, OF THE JAPANESE PEACE DELEGATION, HAS AGREED TO THE PUBLICATION OF SECRET DOCUMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH INTEREST IN PEKING, BUT IT IS BELIEVED HERE THAT NOT ALL THE AGREEMENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED, AS THERE ARE DECLARED TO BE SEVERAL WHICH THE CHINESE MILITARISTS DO NOT DARE DISCLOSE.

IT IS FURTHER ASSERTED THAT OTHERS WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED ON THE GROUND THAT THEY RELATE TO COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS ONLY. UNLESS THE FOLLOWS INVESTIGATION IS ORDERED, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS WILL REMAIN SECRET, BECAUSE CHINESE MILITARISTS ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED.

IT IS EXPLAINED IN COMPETENT CIRCLES IN PEKING THAT THERE IS A STRUGGLE NOW PROCEEDING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT, WHOSE AIMS ARE DEMOCRATIC, AND THE CABINET, WHICH HAS MILITARY INCLINATIONS.

PEKING, China, Feb. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—Premier Chin Nungshun, under instructions from President Shih Chiao-chang, yesterday sent a dispatch to the Chinese peace delegation instructing them to disclose to the peace conference the Shantung railway agreement and other secret agreements with Japan. It is reported that the president is encountering opposition from his pro-Japanese cabinet at every step.

THE JAPANESE ARE SAID TO DESIRE THE PUBLICITY OF THE SHANTUNG AGREEMENT IN HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL RECOGNIZE ITS VALIDITY WHILE THE CHINESE HOPE THAT AS THE AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN RATIFIED AND IT WOULD GIVE JAPAN A PERMANENT POSITION IN SHANTUNG, THE CONFERENCE WILL RECOGNIZE ITS INJUSTICE.

EISNER DEMANDS CHANGE

Suspicion of Allies Expected Unless Old Leaders Go.

GENEVA, Feb. 16.—(By the Associated Press.)—Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian premier, on his return to Munich from the recent socialist conference held at Bern, made reply to attacks in the German press concerning his speech at Bern.

EISNER SAID THE GERMANS DID NOT REALIZE TO WHAT A DEGREE THEY WERE ISOLATED FROM THE WORLD AND WHAT TERRIBLE MISTRUST THERE WAS OF GERMAN POLITICS OUTSIDE OF GERMANY. THE GERMANS, HE ADDED, DID NOT REALIZE TO WHAT EXTENT THE ALLIES CONSIDERED THE GERMAN REVOLUTION A PURE COMEDY AND SAID THAT IT WILL BE THIS WHILE THE GERMAN LEADERS REMAIN THE SAME AS THOSE WHO CONDUCTED GERMANY'S ODISIOUS WAR POLICY.

HERR EISNER DEMANDS AN ENTIRE CHANGE OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

FRENCH WIRES RESTORED

Communication, Suspended Since Opening of War, to Be Resumed.

PARIS, Saturday, Feb. 15.—Telephone communication between departments of France, suspended since the beginning of hostilities, will be resumed Monday.

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65TH TROOP TRAINS CROSS OREGON LINE

Ontario People Treat Boys to Apple Feast.

HEROES ANXIOUS FOR RETURN

Warriors Expected to Arrive at 3 This Afternoon.

DEPARTURE MAY BE STAYED

Reception Committee Convenes and Outlines Plans for Meeting Unexpected Situation.

BY HARRY M. GRATSON.

NAMPA, Idaho, Feb. 16.—(Special.)—The first section of the train carrying the 65th regiment, coast artillery corps, reached Nampa at 3:30 o'clock tonight. It will be followed by the second, which is scheduled to arrive at 9:50.

Batteries C and D and the headquarters company are on the first section, making in all 27 officers and 433 men. Both sections are made up of one baggage car, one kitchen car, one standard sleeper and one tourist car.

The second section has on board batteries E and F, supply company and the band, making in all 13 officers and 467 men.

The late arrival here is due to the fact that the first section was held up at Glenn's Ferry, Idaho, for almost three hours for the second section to catch up. On this account railroad officials here announced that the two trains will not be impossible to reach Portland before 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Trains to Come in Together.

After passing Huntington where the boys will be given a lunch the first section will be delayed long enough at various points so that the two sections will reach Portland about 10 minutes apart.

The first section will reach Ontario, the first stop in Oregon, at 9:25 o'clock where Oregon apples will be given them by the Ontarians, then take another little jog through Idaho and into Huntington at 10:30 P. M.

Home—soul-satisfying word! From across the mighty Atlantic they come—these Portland and Oregon boys who were willing to make the supreme sacrifice that right should triumph over might. Are their thoughts on victories at Post-A-Monson, the Argonne, before Verdun and at Boise de Traves, or the discomforts suffered? Perish the thought. When I boarded the first section at Nampa, Idaho, and commenced to ask them of their experiences "over there," I felt as out of place as a fero layout in a church, for instead of obtaining the information I found myself answering a volume of questions about home.

Boys' Only Thought Is "Home."

First Lieutenant Vern N. Walton, a Portland man with battery C, gives you pretty well the big idea in every man's head when he said: "I've only room for one thought, now I'm going home, going to see my wife and folks dear to me. Been away a year. Seen a lot of country, and believe me, pal, there's no place like the banks of the Willamette."

Boys as Fresh as Ever.

You who have waited so long and so anxiously for their coming are wondering if the struggle has left its stamp Not a bit of it. As one looks over the ruddy faces of these artillery experts who are as fresh as an apple bloom, listens to their talk and hears their hearty laughter they remind one not so much of war-scarred veterans as of very happy boys released from school to the joys of a well-earned vacation, and they are thinking of you, too. You hear it on all sides:

"Wonder how the folks look?"

"Bet you won't know your sis," and "Just received a telegram that mother will be at the station."

Their great hope is to find you just as they left you when early last year they vanished from your gaze like a beautiful dream over to the tears in your eyes, but this time they will be tears of joy, and pride from a heart overflowing with happiness at their safe return.

Men Impatient to Reach Portland.

The men are impatient to get to Portland.

"Philadelphia and other cities en route have given us a wonderful reception," said Colonel Kerfoot, "but there's something about the westerner that's different."

The men endeavor to analyze the easterner and the cast and compare with the westerner and the west but find it impossible. "One can't lay his finger on the difference," asserted one youth whose eyes glittered like a basilisk's, "but it's there. Maybe it is because the west is home."

Further Delay Possible.

Owing to the late arrival in Nampa the trains will have to make record time to reach Portland by 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Officials of the Oregon Short Line here are unable to say how fast the O.-W. R. & N. company will handle the troop trains after Huntington is reached, but it is expected that they will be hurried along to the homecoming. Men will be able to have as much time in the Ross City as possible. The general reception and well-

(Concluded on Page 1, Column 1.)

