

PRELIMINARY PACT ABSORBS 'BIG FOUR'

Snag Struck in Considering Polish Question.

MONROE DOCTRINE PUZZLES

Allies Not Decided Where to Meet Hun Financial Body.

FOOD QUESTION SCANNED

Blockade of German-Austria Will Be Lifted When It Is Certain Food Will Not Get Imports.

PARIS, March 28.—(Havas.)—The condition of a preliminary peace with Germany is still being considered by President Wilson and the premiers of Great Britain, France and Italy.

The four government heads today deliberated on the question of the Polish frontier, according to the newspapers, who believe that there will be some difficulty in reaching an agreement on the principle of the annexation to Poland of territory containing 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 Germans. The papers believe that the council will reach a decision sooner on the question of reparations than on the Polish question.

The meeting today was held at President Wilson's Paris residence.

Meeting Place Undecided.

No decision has been reached, it appears, regarding the place where the German financial mission, which is to hold consultations with allied representatives, shall be received. It is said, however, that the report that the Germans would arrive at Versailles on Sunday is incorrect. It is considered more probable that they will be directed to proceed to Brussels or to Spa, where the place for the holding of the conference will be made known to them. That place, it is declared, will probably not be Versailles.

The Australian peace delegates have pointed out that the proposed amendment to the league of nations covenant regarding the Monroe doctrine, providing for recognition of the binding force of the policies heretofore applied, would validate and confirm claims to preponderance in China and the orient.

Fear is expressed in some quarters that the opposition which has developed on this account may jeopardize the amendment. Experts are trying to find a formula that will overcome this objection, and meanwhile the amendment has been withheld from insertion in the covenant.

The blockade of German-Austria will be lifted as soon as measures can be perfected for preventing imports into that territory being exported to Germany, it was decided at a council of the foreign ministers of the powers held here this morning.

Inquiry to Be Made.

The council named a commission to inquire into the Moroccan question and then took up the question of the frontiers of Schleswig.

These announcements were made in an official communique given out today as follows:

"A meeting at which Mr. Lansing, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Pichon, Baron Sonnino and Baron Makino were present took place March 28 at 11 A. M.

"In regard to the blockade of German-Austria, it was agreed that all restrictions on commerce should be raised in that region as soon as the necessary machinery had been established in order to prevent re-export to Germany.

"A commission was appointed to study the removal of servitude of Morocco as established by the act of Algiers.

"The council then considered the question of the frontiers of Schleswig."

BERLIN, March 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—The German financial commission will leave Weimar for Versailles tomorrow at noon equipped with the fullest instructions and powers. It hopes to arrive at noon Saturday.

Roche Press Speculates.

Verisimilitude is believed to have been chosen for the place of meeting with the allied financial experts, because the members there will escape any unpleasantness they might be subjected to in Paris. Part of the German press, however, considers the choice of Versailles as an indication that the delegates will not be allowed to participate as equal negotiators.

Some of the papers maintain, on the other hand, that the entente has no such intention, since such a move would upset things from the start. These journals point out that the economic council repeatedly has met at Versailles.

The press, in part, is convinced by the tone of the entente invitation that the German financial commission will be given questions of considerable importance to work upon and that it will be regarded as a regular and permanent financial and political connecting link between the economic council and the German peace delegation.

Austrian Views Given.

It is anticipated that important financial and economic questions which will start immediately on the arrival of the commission will lead directly to genuinely political negotiations with which the peace commission will deal.

PARIS, March 28.—(Havas.)—A sym-

MORE CARE TAKEN OF WILSON AND PREMIERS

PEOPLE OF PARIS TOO WELL INFORMED OF MOVEMENTS.

No Chances to Be Taken of Some One Attacking 'Big Four' and Secrecy Veils Actions.

PARIS, March 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—Increased precautions have been taken to safeguard President Wilson and the premiers with whom he is in daily conference. So carefully have the plans been made that not even the chief of the American secret service squad is informed as to when the meetings will take place.

Up to the present some of the newspapers have carried in their morning editions a schedule of the movements of President Wilson with the result that crowds invariably have gathered to witness the arrival of the president and his conferees.

The time of the meeting today at the "White House" was not announced and the premiers arrived seemingly in a casual manner.

There has been no special incident to bring about this extraordinary care, but it is obvious that the people of Paris are becoming too well-acquainted with the time and place of the meetings and that this caused a determination to adopt a course that would reduce to a minimum any chance of danger. President Wilson himself appears to be entirely unworried.

The enormous amount of work President Wilson has undertaken has forced him to reduce the time prescribed by Rear-Admiral Grayson, his personal physician, as necessary for relaxation, but in every 24 hours he takes a short walk either with Mrs. Wilson or Rear-Admiral Grayson. Social affairs are entirely lacking in the president's daily routine.

CUBE SHOWS WAR'S COST

Eight Feet Eight Inches of Gold Represents Nations' Loss.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—The actual price of the war to all nations estimated in bulk of gold bullion is a solid cube of gold eight feet eight inches in each dimension, and weighing 325,690 tons, plus 692 pounds. These figures were read to a meeting of "thrift" stamp directors today by Samuel Hubbard, federal reserve director of savings of the 12th district.

They are based on the recent statement of Secretary of War Baker here that the cost of the war was \$197,000,000,000, exclusive of damages in France and Belgium.

FRENCH GIRLS NOT WANTED

Americans Protest at Plan to Import Beides From Abroad.

ABERDEEN, Wash., March 28.—(Special.)—There will be no importation of French girls to the harbor this year to satisfy the matrimonial needs of Aberdeen bachelors.

The chamber of commerce, since publication a short time ago of a rumor that such a project is being considered, has been deluged with letters from homeseking American women, who protest the injustice of foreign competition and catalogue charms which lay in the shade the claims of French beauties to consideration.

PRICES CHECK BUILDING

Chicago Architects Make Reports to Legislative Commission.

CHICAGO, March 28.—Chairman John Dailley, of the legislative commission investigating the high cost of building material, announced today when the body resumed its inquiry that reports received from 14 leading architects showed building operations aggregating \$25,000,000 were being held up in Chicago because of existing exorbitant cost of construction.

This estimate covers office buildings, factories, flat buildings and dwellings and is exclusive of public buildings.

COREAN RIOTS CONTINUE

Forty Reported Killed in Disturbances in Last Few Days.

SEOUL, Corea, March 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—Riots continue in the provinces and it is estimated that 40 Koreans have been killed in the last few days.

New demonstrations by the Korean nationalists have occurred in Seoul and many Koreans were arrested by Japanese. Business houses here remain closed.

The general situation here is causing anxiety among foreign residents.

10,000 PERISH EVERY WEEK

Relief Agent Tells of Urgent Need of Food in Armenia.

PARIS, March 28.—(Havas.)—The need for food in Armenia is urgent and thousands are threatened with starvation, according to a telegram from Mr. Heim, an American relief worker in Tiflis, sent to the Armenian delegation here.

The relief agent estimates that 10,000 persons will die weekly until sufficient food is received.

RAILROAD TROOPS ARRIVE

First Detachment of Americans Reported on Murman Coast.

ARCHANGEL, March 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—The first detachment of American railroad troops destined for work on the Murman railway, have arrived on the Murman coast.

GERMANS PREPARE TO RESIST ALLIES

Increase in Garrison at Danzig Ordered.

LANDING OF POLES IS OPPOSED

Allied Demand for Use of Port Displeases Weimar

LATEST ACTS SIGNIFICANT

Refusal by Germany of Peace Conference Requirement Considered Breach of Armistice.

PARIS, March 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—News was received here today that the Germans are increasing the garrisons at Danzig. This is taken as indicating an intention to resist whatever disposition the peace conference may make of the port.

COPENHAGEN, March 28.—The German government at Weimar has received from the allied high command a demand for permission for Polish troops to land at Danzig and to march through German territory to Poland, according to a dispatch received here from Weimar.

AMSTERDAM, March 28.—The allied note to Germany demanding that Polish troops be allowed to land at Danzig declared that refusal by Germany would be regarded as a breach of the armistice, a Berlin dispatch said.

The German government replied that it could not take the responsibility for permitting the Poles to land at Danzig, but was prepared to facilitate a landing at Stettin, Koelnberg, Memel or Libau.

For several weeks negotiations have been in progress to send the three Polish divisions in France under General Haller to Poland. It was proposed to land them at Danzig and then send them into Poland, but Germany objected to this plan and offered other ports as substitutes. These Polish divisions saw fighting in France and are fully armed and equipped. The German attitude against their landing at Danzig has been that the Poles might remain there and hold that port, which the Poles claim as their outlet to the Baltic.

BERLIN, March 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Lokal Anzeiger thinks that a serious situation has arisen through the exchange of notes between General Nudant and the German government. While it does not abandon hope that General Nudant will accept the German reply as a concession.

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1.)

50,000 MEN WANTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

CALL FOR NEW CONTINGENT TO BE ISSUED SOON.

Purpose Is to Replace Men Now Serving on Other Side Who Wish to Return Home.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—An immediate call for 50,000 volunteers for service in Europe has been prepared by the war department and probably will be published tomorrow. As an incentive to enlistment the men will be offered early duty in France as a relief for men in the expeditionary forces who wish to return home.

Enlistment in this special force will be for three years. The men will be concentrated at Camp Meade, Md., and probably will be sent overseas in contingents of 1000 strong.

War department officials expressed confidence that no trouble would be experienced in raising the 50,000 men or an even greater number if it should be found that additional increments were necessary. The bulk of the men are expected to come from recently discharged troops who, after a short "vacation" as civilians, desire to return to army life.

Another incentive expected to have a decided effect on the recruiting campaign is looked for among the men who, after having been drafted and trained, were prevented from going overseas by the armistice. Opportunity to see service in Germany, it is thought, will lead many of these to enlist.

A number of officers, probably ten or 12, will be sent overseas with each increment of 1000 men leaving Camp Meade.

These will be needed at the concentration camp to give the preliminary training necessary to whip the men into casual organizations and to make the required examinations. On arrival in Europe they will take the places of officers who are eligible for discharge.

15 INJURED BY EXPLOSION

240 Millimeter Bombs Fired at Proving Grounds.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Fifteen men, including a number of enlisted men of the army, were injured by an explosion today at the ordnance proving grounds at Aberdeen, Md.

Reports to the war department said the original explosion was started by a fire of undetermined origin in a shed in which 240 millimeter bombs were being loaded and the concussion was transmitted to other sheds with resulting property losses estimated at \$50,000.

None of the men was seriously injured.

REDS DRIVEN FROM UFA

Admiral Kolchak's Army Threatens to Envelop Bolsheviks.

LONDON, March 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—A dispatch from Omsk army, as a result of a brilliant attack and much hard fighting, has recaptured the town of Ufa, which recently was occupied by the bolsheviks.

The dispatch adds that the red army is now threatened with envelopment.

ENTRANCE TO RIVER DEFENDED BY PILOT

Columbia Held Safer Than Other Coast Harbors.

OFFICIAL RECORDS PRODUCED

Naval Committee Hears Proof of Astoria's Claims.

PLANT LUNCHEON PLEASURES

Proposed Base at Tongue Point Inspected From Lighthouse Tender. Support Is Pledged.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

ASTORIA, Or., March 28.—(Special.)—"I hold a license to San Francisco bay and entrance. This is what I wish to say: I consider the Columbia entrance to be safer to navigate than 1 to the San Francisco bay or any other Pacific coast harbor entrance."

Thrusting forward this outright comparison of the great Columbia river port with one of the ports that are famed over the seven seas, Captain M. Nolan, bar pilot of the port of Astoria, presented an array of facts and figures of the most convincing character, in a talk before the house naval affairs committee this afternoon.

Falseness Are Bared.

His brogue a delight, and his delivery an equalized prescription of earnestness and strong logic, Captain Nolan drove home his argument with specific answers to all objections, and with the direct declaration that fearome stories about the Columbia river entrance are falsehoods framed by foreign skippers. He talked as a seafaring man talks and the congressional committee sat up to take notice.

The official party, comprising Representatives Hicks, Britten, Oliver, Browning and McArthur, accompanied by the members of the special committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, returned to Portland tonight after a two-day tour of inspection of the Columbia harbor, of local facilities, and of the proposed naval base site at Tongue Point.

Visitors Pledge Support.

All four of the naval affairs committees, through the convincing representations made by the combined Astoria and Portland committees, have tacitly pledged themselves to support the proposal to establish a naval base at the entrance to the Columbia, though the extent of the project was not definitely discussed by them. Astoria wants a major base.

Representative Browning said: "I am very favorably impressed with the address."

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

JAPAN WANTS LEAGUE GIVING RACE EQUALITY

TOKIO RESIDENTS OPPOSED TO COVENANT AS DRAWN.

Large Numbers of Japanese Newspapers Suspect U. S. Motives in Respect to Far East.

TOKIO, March 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—At a mass meeting of prominent residents of Tokio a resolution was adopted opposing any league of nations covenant which does not contain a clause abolishing racial discrimination. The resolution also urged opposition to the abolition of conscription, the acquisition by Japan of the German rights on the Shan Tung peninsula and opposition to the international labor agreement, which, it was declared, is not adapted to the constitution of Japan and to Japan's international condition.

A large number of Japanese newspapers recently have printed editorials looking with suspicion on the motives of the United States and Americans in world politics, especially concerning China, Siberia and Corea.

The editorial campaign is attributed in some quarters to displeasure over the league of nations covenant.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER OPEN

450 Persons Join Chamber of Commerce in Drive.

Although the membership drive of the Portland Chamber of Commerce has closed, Max S. Hirsch, chairman of the campaign, announced last night that a permanent membership organization has been adopted and that new members will be sought and taken in as in the past.

"Our slogan of 1000 in three days," said Mr. Hirsch, "was just a little more than we could do for the reason that we couldn't see that many in that length of time. As it was secured almost 450 new members to the Portland Chamber of Commerce and so encouraging was the work, we have decided to keep our roster open. We will solicit members just the same even though the time for the regular drive is over."

OLD CHAIR HIGHLY VALUED

Ancient Piece Is Said to Conceal Bonds Worth \$4000.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—An old mohair chair concealing bonds worth \$4000 is part of the estate of Mrs. Helen Saunders which was sought today by C. E. Ward of this city. The will left the estate to a daughter, Georgiana Saunders, who disappeared 25 years ago, and Ward claims the estate through his wife, her sister.

More than 150 women have presented themselves as the lost Georgiana.

HERBERT MEYER RESIGNS

Assistant Secretary of Interior Accepts Oil Firm Position.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Herbert A. Meyer, assistant secretary of interior, today announced his resignation to accept a position with a Texas oil company.

Mr. Meyer formerly was in charge of Alaskan railroad work in which he will be succeeded by Assistant Secretary Hallowell.

RED TROOPS FALL BACK

Bolshevik Evacuation of Vilna Expected by Leaders.

STOCKHOLM, March 28.—(French Wireless.)—The bolsheviks continue to fall back along their entire western front north of the Priepet marshes, according to a report from Kovno.

It is expected that Vilna, the capital of Lithuania, will soon be evacuated by the bolsheviks.

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REPLY OF ANSELL TO BE WITHHELD

Secretary of War Baker Is Opposed to Publicity.

SUGGESTIONS ARE DESIRED

Letter on Court-Martial System Returned to Writer.

OREGON SENATOR HAS COPY

Colonel Says He Has No Statement to Make—Senator Chamberlain Desires Publication.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Lieutenant-Colonel Ansell's reply to statements by Major-General Crowder, judge advocate-general, on the subject of military justice, will not be made public by the war department.

Secretary of War Baker announced today that he had returned the letter to Colonel Ansell with the suggestion that its publication would not be helpful, and that if the officer had any suggestion or recommendation as to the changes in the court-martial system, he could make it either to his superior officers or to the secretary of war.

Colonel Ansell's reply.

Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the military committee, had obtained a copy of Colonel Ansell's reply to the charges and telegraphed Secretary Baker urging him to make public the statement.

Colonel Ansell said he had no statement to make. His friends asserted it was improbable that he would take any steps toward making public the reply himself, as such action would be construed as insubordination and would render the officer liable to court-martial proceedings on that charge, but the proceedings would not necessarily involve either the controversy over the legal system in the army or the personal relations between Colonel Ansell and General Crowder.

The reply of Colonel Ansell was forwarded to Secretary Baker while the secretary was absent from Washington on an inspection tour of army camps. Acting Secretary Crowder was also instructed by Mr. Baker to withhold the reply from publication until the latter's return.

Oregon Senator Has Copy.

Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the military committee of the last senate, obtained a copy of the reply in confidence from Secretary Crowder and later telegraphed Mr. Baker urgently requesting that the communication be made public, declaring it was a document of public interest and fair treatment for Colonel Ansell demanded it be placed before the country as had General Crowder's statements.

Officers at the war department have said that so far as known the only copy of the reply leaving the department was that given to Senator Chamberlain, but from a statement made public simultaneously with the senator's telegram, some officers received the impression that Colonel Ansell challenged the action of the department in submitting to Inspector-General Chamberlain the investigation of the controversy on the ground that General Chamberlain was prejudiced by long association with military life.

CROWDER HELD REACTIONARY

Senator Chamberlain Scores Present System of Army.

NATCHEZ, Miss., March 28.—Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the senate military affairs committee, upon learning of Secretary Baker's announcement that Lieutenant-Colonel Ansell's reply to Major-General Crowder's statement in regard to court-martial would not be made public, tonight declared General Crowder represents the "reactionary element" of the army and that Colonel Ansell is an exponent of the "progressive element." Senator Chamberlain said he had nothing further to say in regard to the Ansell-Crowder matter, other than what he wrote Secretary Baker March 18, requesting that the Ansell letter be made public. He stated, however, that he still held to the view that "infamous injustices" had been worked by the court-martial system in the United States army.

"It is an infamous system," he said, "that will permit a commanding officer who has no knowledge of law to send back the case of an enlisted man for retrial following an acquittal, and then a new verdict of guilty be found." Senator Chamberlain added that a copy of the letter written by Colonel Ansell to Secretary Baker was in his possession.

"This letter, however," he said, "was received in confidence by me as chairman of the military affairs committee."

Carmen Win Higher Wage.

SPOKANE, Wash., March 28.—Wage increases of 6 cents an hour, retroactive to August 8 last, have been awarded street railway employees of the Spokane & Inland Empire railway here by the federal war labor board, according to information received from the board, which recommends that the company be given permission to increase street car fares.

