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NAVAL DECISIONS TO BE SPEEDED UP

Old Committee of Experts Is Scrapped.

DELEGATES ON NEW ONE

Instructions Are Received by Japan's Envoys.

NATURE NOT REVEALED

British Spokesmen Describe Action as Means "to Short-Circuit" Delays.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—New machinery to expedite final action on naval limitation agreements was set up today by the arms conference. At the suggestion of the American group the former committee of experts was "scrapped" in favor of a "committee of 15," including both delegates and civil and naval experts of the five powers. The naval subject, including the 5-5-3 ratio, was turned over to the new committee to be put in shape.

It became known that the Japanese delegation had received instructions from Tokyo regarding the 5-5-3 ratio. The nature of the communication was not disclosed. There were many indications, however, that it marked a long stride toward final acceptance of this vital point.

Delays to Be Prevented.

The committee of 15 was described by a British spokesman as a means "to short circuit" delays. The new committee can reach decisions as to direct recommendations to the conference.

There were indications, however, that the new step was based on an informal communication from the Japanese delegation that Japan stood ready to accept the 5-5-3 ratio, subject to certain modifications in detail.

It appeared likely that it would become the business of the "committee of 15" to write into treaty form for signature by the five powers the definite agreement based on the 5-5-3 proposal, but carried out in detail.

The new steps throw in prominence for the first time in the conference the question of the French and Italian place in the naval ratio. That must be worked out by the "committee of 15."

Submarines Are Discussed.

A point particularly stressed by all British spokesmen was the firm conviction that submarines should be abolished as naval weapons. It was asserted, however, that British acceptance of the 5-5-3 ratio was not conditional on such action. Great Britain does hope, however, her spokesmen say, for a chance to "state her case to the world" as to submarines before the conference.

The "big three" Secretary Hughes, A. J. Balfour and Admiral Baron Kato met today and were understood to have considered the naval ratio problem, but no announcement of what was decided was made.

They will confer again tomorrow and it was regarded as probable that they were shaping up the programme for deliberations of the "committee of 15" in the light of the Tokyo instructions to its delegates.

Message Held Favorable.

That the Japanese communication was regarded as most favorable to a complete agreement as to naval strength was apparent in both American and British circles. One American official said matters seemed to be rapidly coming to a "head."

Secretary Hughes will head the American group on the committee of 15, aided by Assistant Secretary Roosevelt as civilian adviser and by a naval officer.

Mr. Balfour will head the British, aided by Lord Lee, as civilian adviser, and Rear-Admiral Chatfield, chief of the British naval staff as expert.

Baron Kato Will Head the Japanese Group.

STATUS QUO FACT FAVORED

Japan's Stand on Navy Ratios Hinges on Pacific Bases.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—It was regarded as probable that Japanese acceptance of the "5-5-3" ratio hinges somewhat on an agreement as to naval bases in the Pacific. Whether this is to be worked out in a separate treaty was not disclosed. There is a disposition in American circles, however, to accept a status quo understanding on Pacific bases and fortifications and indications are that Japan would be content with this.

British interest in the fortifications problem would be represented by British spokesmen as being indirect and growing out of a friendship for both the United States and Japan as the parties chiefly concerned. Great Britain was said to be very hopeful that an agreement could be reached.

The British group strongly presents the case of Great Britain in the abolition of submarines. There is little doubt that an effort will be made to bring British arguments for such

HOMESTEADER SLAIN; BLOODY AX IS FOUND

EVERETT E. DAVIS, EX-SERVICE MAN, MURDERED.

Deed Done Evidently While Victim Was Asleep—Purse Found Near by, Open and Empty.

MOLALLA, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Everett E. Davis, a homesteader living seven miles south of Molalla and a lieutenant overseas during the war, was found to have been murdered with an ax when neighbors investigated today following his non-appearance around his farm for about two weeks.

Davis apparently had been killed while asleep. His head had been cut twice with the ax, which was found about 40 feet from the house, and his purse was lying open on the bed, empty. There was no evidence of a struggle and nothing in the house had been disturbed.

Neighbors became curious about Davis when they noticed that he had not called for his mail for two weeks and that his car had stood in front of his house for about that time. He was not well known in the neighborhood and had come to the district only a few months before from Montana. He was about 32 years old, a member of the Elks' lodge of Helena, Mont., and a substantial amount in one of the Molalla banks. At the time of his arrival here friends from Portland visited at the farm home, but he was not known to have many acquaintances in the neighborhood. An inquest will be held at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

MEXICAN VOLCANO ACTIVE

Popocatepetl Bursts Into Violent Eruption—Natives Flee.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—Popocatepetl, the great volcano southeast of this city, burst into violent eruption yesterday afternoon, a column of smoke and ashes being thrown 2500 feet above the mountain summit. President Obregon was entertaining a party of friends at Chapultepec castle and had strolled with them on the balcony when he observed the eruption. He called for strong field glasses and after closely observing the column of smoke rising 40 miles away, directed that two aviators be sent to the mountain to ascertain the seriousness of the outbreak.

The aviators reported upon their return that they had heard heavy rumbling in the mountain and that lava was flowing down the slopes below the crater. Warnings have been sent to the residents of villages near the mountain, but reports indicate that these small towns have been deserted for weeks.

EUGENICS LAW HELD VOID

Prisoner at Penitentiary Escapes Intended Operation.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Oregon's sterilization laws were held unconstitutional in an opinion of Percy E. Kelly and G. G. Bingham, judges of the third judicial district, which was forwarded by Judge Kelly today to the clerk of Marion county. The act of 1917 was held unconstitutional because it designates inmates of state institutions only as subject to sterilization and that legislation. The 1917 act was held invalid because it provides no court of procedure for the disposal of cases.

The ruling was made in a case filed by Attorney Tom Garland of Portland in behalf of Jacob Cline, an inmate of the state penitentiary, on whom an operation was to be performed by order of the state board of eugenics.

WARM WAVE IN DENVER

All Records for December Weather Broken in Section of West.

DENVER, Dec. 12.—A warm wave, almost without precedent, according to the weather forecaster, is sweeping this section of the west. All records for the month of December days were shattered this morning in Denver when the mercury recorded 50 degrees above zero. There is no "relief" in sight, according to F. W. Brist, district forecaster.

The warm wave began Sunday in the Canadian northwest after a series of low barometric pressures came along the Canadian border and has spread over most of the United States, Brist said.

OCTETS BORN TO WOMAN

All of Infants Die, But Bother Is Reported to Be Well.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 11.—From Tampico comes a report, published by El Universal, that Senora Enriquez Rubeo, at that place, gave birth yesterday to eight children, but none of them survived. The mother is well.

The Mexico City Medical association is showing much interest in the report and will institute an investigation as to its authenticity.

\$11,500,000 DEAL IS UP

Bill for Purchase of Cape Cod Canal Property Before House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Chairman Winslow of the house commerce committee today introduced a bill authorizing purchase by the federal government of the Cape Cod canal property for \$11,500,000.

Purchase was recommended by Secretary Weeks, Denby and Hoover, who informed congress that \$11,500,000 would be a "reasonable price for the property."

JAPAN KEEPS YAP; CABLES GIVEN ALL

U. S. Fight for Rights on Island Declared Won.

COMMUNICATION IS OPEN

Rights Are Granted to All Nationals Alike.

MANDATE IS TO STAND

U. S. Nationals to Be Free From Taxes, Licensing and Censorship in Keeping Communication.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—The American and Japanese governments have completed their differences over the Pacific island of Yap and are preparing to sign a treaty by which Japan retains administrative control over the island and the United States secures the cable and wireless privileges there for which she has contended since the Paris peace conference.

Japan's league of nations mandate over Yap and all other northern Pacific islands formerly under German sovereignty, is recognized by the United States on certain conditions. These include provisions for free admission of missionaries and protection of American interests in the mandated territory, and require that Japan shall report to the United States as well as to the league on details of her administration.

Equality in Cables Won.

The Yap cable and wireless rights, regarded as highly important because of the island's advantageous position in the Pacific, are accorded to the American and Japanese governments and nationals alike, on terms of equality.

In the exercise of these rights, American nationals are to be free from taxes, licensing, censorship and every form of discriminatory supervision, and in addition are to be aided by the Japanese government in securing needed property and facilities. The immediate value of the arrangement to the United States lies in the concession on cable communications, because they insure complete American control of the existing cable between Yap and Guam.

HUNGARY LIKES TREATY

National Assembly Gives Unanimous Vote on First Reading.

BUDAPEST, Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—The bill ratifying the peace treaty between Hungary and the United States passed its first reading today.

The vote in the national assembly was unanimous.

SEATTLE CABARETS OUSTED

LICENSES REVOKED AND LAW GOVERNING REPEALED.

One U. S. However, Not Disheartened—New Ordinance Regulating Resorts Promised.

PUGET SOUND BUREAU, Seattle, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—All Seattle cabarets were put out of business today by action of the city council, which revoked all their licenses and repealed the ordinance under which the licenses had been granted. For the time being there is no way in which a cabaret can operate here except on sufferance by the police, and if the orders of Chief Searing are carried out there will be no such opportunity.

The sweeping change in council policy came as a result of the demand of Chief Searing, backed by Mayor Caldwell, that certain resorts alleged to have violated the provisions of the cabaret ordinance be declared renewal of their licenses. When the council proceeded to grant some of these renewals they were promptly vetoed by the mayor.

The declared purpose of a council majority to grant the licenses over the veto brought a storm of protest from church societies, women's clubs and civic organizations, which rallied to the support of the mayor and his chief of police.

When the matter came up for consideration in council this afternoon representatives of all these organizations were there to overawe the rebellious spirit of the council, with results that surprised even the most ardent opponent of the cabarets. In a day or so they will learn that the fight is not over.

What the council now purposes is to draft a new cabaret ordinance, more stringent, it is said, but which may or may not suit the mayor and chief of police. Cabaret operators look upon the closedown as only temporary and will keep their musicians and performers at hand ready to resume entertainment.

MR. KING TO BE PREMIER

Office in Canada to Be Handed Out as Christmas Present.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—The premiership of Canada will be handed as a Christmas present to W. L. Mackenzie King, leader of the liberal party, which triumphed at the polls last week over Premier Meighen and his conservative following.

Premier Meighen in a few days will present his resignation to the governor-general, Lord Byng of Vimy. The reins of power will be handed over to Mackenzie King a few days before Christmas.

PAY GUARANTEE IS AIM

Union Pacific Asks Commission's Authority to Take Action.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Formal application was made by the Union Pacific railroad to the interstate commerce commission today for authority to guarantee payment of interest and principal of an issue of \$16,424,000 in Oregon Short Line railroad bonds.

The money will be used to pay off a maturing obligation of the Oregon Short Line, which is a subsidiary of the Union Pacific.

NEW YORK STARTLED WHEN WOMAN STRIPS

ONLY SILK STOCKINGS AND GARTERS ARE RETAINED.

Just Then Policeman Arrives and Buttons Cabaret Singer Into His Overcoat.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Strip poker is an old game. It took Betty Landers, a 21-year-old cabaret singer, to ring in a variation of the game by inaugurating a moving spectacle entitled strip solitaire.

It would not have been so startling if Betty had not selected the uptown platform of the Lexington avenue subway at 9th street.

It was 3 A. M. when Betty entered the subway station and began to sing and dance. Under ordinary circumstances, there are few travelers at that station at that hour. Betty drew a crowd. She paused, took a bow and then, with no preliminary, she started to undress.

Betty is a quick worker. In 20 seconds there she stood in a pair of silk stockings and two garters decorated with pink silk rosettes.

This is a difficult story to write just about here. We want to give you the facts, and we don't know how to do it.

Well, anyway, a cop came along, and put his overcoat around Betty, and took her away. She was arraigned before Magistrate Corrigan in the Harlem court later in the day, and in the middle of the proceedings, she suddenly unbuttoned her overcoat and let it drop to the floor.

It was very embarrassing.

Later Betty was committed to Bellevue for more observation.

TREATY SIGNING IS TODAY

Four-Power Pact Ceremony to Be in State Department.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—The four-power treaty dealing with the Pacific islands will be signed at the state department tomorrow by representatives of all the nations party to it.

The seven representatives of the British empire will sign the treaty. It was announced by a British spokesman. The formal signing of the treaty, it was explained, involved agreement on the Yap question, which was reached today.

The ceremony incident to the signing of the treaty, which was initiated only when presented to the arms conference will not be public. A British spokesman said it was found today that some of the dominion representatives had come here without their official seals, but that this would cause no delay.

“KEEP OFF THE OCEAN!”



4 KILLED, 3 HURT IN TRAIN WRECK

Track Gives Way Under Logging Train.

RESCUERS CAUGHT BY SLIDE

Victim Races for Camp to Get Aid for Others.

CARS FALL INTO RAVINE

No Warning of Impending Disaster Is Given and Five Are Caught in Cab of Engine.

ABERDEEN, WASH., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Two men, a woman and a baby are dead and three men are injured, one perhaps fatally, as a result of two slides on the Clemons Logging company's railroad, about 16 miles south and east of Aberdeen last night.

The first slide carried a logging train engine and a number of cars 200 feet down a steep embankment, killing outright the engineer, his wife and 2-year-old baby, and injured two brakemen. The second slide, half an hour later, killed one member of a railroad construction camp rescue party, which had been hurried to the scene, injured another, and left a third as yet unaccounted for.

The Dead.

Gerald Willis, 26, locomotive engineer, Melbourne.

Mrs. Pearl Black Willis, 25.

Geraldine Willis, 2-year-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Willis.

Ernest Olson, 39, construction camp laborer, Montezuma.

The Injured.

A. W. Hussey, 33, brakeman, right leg broken below the knee, right hand and both legs badly burned.

John Lind, 35, construction camp laborer, crushed by debris, leg fractured, unconscious, perhaps fatally injured.

Ira Mellott, brakeman, acting as fireman, two fingers cut off right hand, cut and bruised.

Missing.

W. T. Labelle, steam shoveling engineer, construction camp, Hoquiam.

The bodies of Willis, his 2-year-old daughter and Olson were brought to Aberdeen about 1:30 today. The injured also were brought on the same train and are now at the Aberdeen general hospital. The bodies of Mrs. Willis and of Labelle, also supposed to be dead, have not been recovered. A large crew of men are now engaged in clearing away the debris.

Train Carried 200 Feet.

The slide occurred between 10 and 11 o'clock last night at a point eight miles southeast of Melbourne. A 7 o'clock train, carrying between 40 and 50 men to camp, passed over the track safely. When the second train entered the stretch at the top of a high embankment, the earth slid from beneath it carrying it down 200 feet. Willis, his wife and child were killed outright.

Elliott, the only member of the crew able to go for aid, ran to a construction camp a mile away and returned with a rescue party. Hardy had the work of rescue begun when the second slide occurred carrying the rescuers and wreckage down the steep slope.

Because of the high water, Melbourne is cut off from all road communication. A special train was rushed from Aberdeen and brought here the injured who had been taken to Melbourne station. The dead were brought here late this afternoon.

Members of the crew of the wrecked train had no warning of the death that lay in wait for them, declared Ira Elliott, who was firing the engine, and who was in the cab with the engineer, his wife and baby. The train was proceeding slowly and the headlights, in perfect order, showed a solid track ahead. Then the track and the ground beneath it suddenly sank beneath the locomotive.

Elliott was the hero of the disaster. He was the only person of the five crowded into the small engine cab who was thrown clear of the wreck. He ran a mile to a construction camp for aid as soon as he gained his feet, despite the fact that one finger had been slashed from his left hand, while a second dangled by a shred of flesh, and despite, too, the fact that he was severely bruised and stunned by the fall. Reaching the camp, he brought back with him the entire construction camp crew of 40 men. As soon as first-aid attention had been given his mangled hand, he helped with the work of rescue and search in the debris.

Bottom Falls Out of World.

Elliott was the only person today able to describe his harrowing experience of last night. He told a simple, clear narrative and was unwilling to take any credit for his heroic part in the tragedy.

"None of us had any feeling of disaster ahead," he said, "but we were going slowly because tracks at this time of the year are treacherous. When we came to the stretch of track atop the embankment, where the ravine falls below perhaps a thousand feet, we saw solid and even rails

\$1,000,000 IS VOTED FOR AID OF VETERANS

SENATE HEARS HUNDREDS OF EX-SOLDIERS ARE DYING.

Some 952 ex-Servicemen Said to Be Succumbing to Tuberculosis in Phoenix.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Told by Senator Ashurst, democrat, Arizona, that hundreds of ex-servicemen were dying of tuberculosis "on the deserts of Arizona," where they went seeking a cure for disabilities resulting from gas attacks of the Germans, the senate tonight voted an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for additional hospitalization.

The funds, which are carried in the first deficiency bill passed by the senate, would be expended by the veterans' bureau.

There are 952 ex-servicemen dying of tuberculosis on the streets of Phoenix, Ariz., Senator Ashurst declared. He had "benchmarked" the senate appropriation committee, he said, to relieve the sufferings, but that committee, "while agreeing to an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for American participation in an exposition in Brazil," had refused.

Ex-servicemen, he explained, were flocking to Arizona under the belief that the climate would aid them in recovery from tuberculosis and the effects of gassing. Present hospital facilities are overtaxed, he stated.

CLUBMEN ARE HAPPY NOW

Liquor Business in Vancouver, B. C., Is Flourishing.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 12.—The sudden growth in the number of Vancouver clubs licensed to sell malt liquor to members has resulted in the reopening of about 18 hotel bars with similar licenses as a test of the prohibition restrictions. Membership in the hotel "clubs" costs 10 cents and business is flourishing.

The police have decided they cannot interfere until February 1, when a new charter giving the city control and regulation of all clubs becomes effective.

3 HURT IN AUTO WRECK

Indian Girls and Brother of One of Victims in Crash.

PENDELTON, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Maude Craig, young Indian girl of the Umatilla reservation, is at the point of death; Louise Martin, another Indian girl, is severely cut and John Craig, a brother of the fatally injured girl, is also seriously hurt, as a result of an automobile crash, just east of this city today.

Miss Martin was driving and was making speed to bring the girls to school on time, it was reported. The machine was a total wreck.

AUTOS FASCINATE INDIANS

Annual Report of Board of Commissioners Made Public.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—The automobile "seems to possess the same irresistible fascination for the Indian that it does for many of his white brethren," said the annual report of the board of Indian commissioners, made public today.

The report recommended that citizenship be conferred on all non-citizen Indians, but that the government continue its "protective supervision over their property affairs."

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FLOOD CONDITIONS RULE WASHINGTON

Rivers Are Swollen and Trains Are Tied Up.

SLIDES ARE FATAL TO TEN

Property Damage in Many Districts Reported Heavy.

RAILS ARE BEING CLEARED

Conditions in Seattle Declared to Be Worst in City's History. Wires Ar Down.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 12.—Western Washington, with rivers running over their banks, rail traffic irregular and in some cases suspended, and telegraph and telephone communication seriously impaired, tonight was in the grip of flood conditions which threatened to become more serious as the water from snows in the Cascade mountains, melted by warm rains and winds, found its way to the lower levels. Ten persons were known to be dead and a number injured as the result of rail accidents and slides, and property damage in several districts was reported to be heavy.

Increased rains which began early Saturday and continued Sunday and throughout today filled rivers to the flood stage, causing serious washouts and landslides. Weather bureau officials said tonight that pressure indications were for further heavy rains.

Debris Is Being Cleared.

On the Great Northern line near Skykomish, north of here, workers were attempting to remove debris from the wreckage of fast mail train No. 27, which plunged through a weakened bridge over the Miller river yesterday, resulting in the death of two persons and injury to two others. A jam formed behind the debris threatened to give way, and inundation of a large territory was feared.

Flood conditions here were said by C. H. Carr, superintendent of streets, to be the worst in the history of the city. Four persons were killed by slides, which carried away two houses. Parts of Columbia City, Youngstown, West Seattle, Ballard and the Rainier valley were under from two to five feet of water and scores of families fled before the waters, which threatened to carry away their homes. City firemen rescued marooned families in the Rainier valley district.

Four Killed in Accidents.

In the Grays Harbor region, flood conditions were said to be the worst in years. Near Aberdeen four persons were killed and several injured in two logging railway accidents caused by landslides. Highway bridges were washed out and rail traffic seriously hampered by washouts. Rail traffic between Olympia and the Grays Harbor district was halted by a washout at Belmore.

Streams in Pierce county were reported high and rail and wire communications were out in many instances. Between Seattle and Tacoma floods covered portions of the Pacific highway, and the town of Kent, midway between the two cities, was under water in some cases four feet deep.

Rivers Are Rising.

Rivers in Skagit county were out of their banks and reported rising. The Skykomish river at Index reached its highest level in years.

Northern Pacific and Great Northern trains into Bellingham were suspended and Mount Vernon and neighboring towns were said to be facing serious floods.

Heavy rainfall was general over the western section of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Canadian Pacific bridges were reported