

REPARATION PARLEY OF PREMIERS BEGUN

Briand and Lloyd George
Come to No Decision.

REPORT IS DUE TODAY

General Economic Questions Given
Over to French and British
Experts to Study.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—Premiers Lloyd George of Great Britain and M. Briand of France today had a conference lasting several hours, discussing almost exclusively German reparations and Germany's plea that she will be unable to pay in full the January and February installments.

No official information is obtainable as yet as to the attitude of France and Great Britain toward Germany's plea. The official communiqué asserted that the conference was on general economic questions. These questions were given over to French and British experts, who will submit a report tomorrow. As far as can be seen now there is no prospect that a meeting of the supreme council will follow the information conference, but possibly one outcome will be an economic conference on the stabilization of European exchanges to which German and Russian representatives presumably would be invited. The belief is expressed that Dr. Walter Rathenau, German financial expert, may be called in after the present conversations.

M. Briand declared his conversations with Lloyd George opened with extreme cordiality. The conversations will be continued tomorrow. There will also be a meeting between M. Loucheur, financial expert of the liberated regions, and Sir Robert Horne, chancellor of the exchequer, regarding reparations.

FRANCE TO YIELD SOME

(Continued From First Page.)
replace their own ships with ships with vessels of the post-July 20 limit so far as they can build them within the specified tonnage limit. Because of the war the French navy has been reduced to a skeleton. A replacement provision would not be a surprise in the final French program accepted by the other powers.

Diver Problem Is Next.
The submarine problem which is to be taken up when the five-power ratio for capital ships is settled, presents increasing complications. Great Britain wants to abolish the submarine and has asked to present her case against it at a public session of the conference. There is no expectation even by the British, however, that they will carry the point, but they do hope to cut in half the submarine tonnage tentatively suggested for the United States, Great Britain and Japan in the American plan.

As the capital ship problem verges toward a decision the naval experts are giving more and more of their attention to the submarine question as one likely to present a troublesome knot.

Although the French capital ship discussions simmered down at their crucial stage to direct exchanges between Mr. Hughes and Premier Briand, it was learned today that the American delegates repeatedly had sought to impress on the French representatives in informal conferences the necessity for a recession from the 35,000-ton plan.

French Told Basis Wrong.
In these behind-the-scenes consultations the French were told they were proceeding on a false basis which should be destroyed before it would be possible to build a sound structure to shelter the conceptions of relief of the world from the heavy burden of naval armaments. It was pointed out that there was no disposition whatever by America to question the right of France to build any number of ships as she cared to construct to meet the needs of naval defense. America did not challenge that inherent right if France chose to exercise it, it was explained.

But, on the other hand, it was pointed out that America had the right to recall to the French mind the primary principle of the conference to which France had subscribed. That principle was said to be to fix what should be the naval strength of the various nations, but simply to get them to agree to stop the ruinous race for naval supremacy.

It was pointed out that America had voluntarily undertaken to scrap ships to the value of \$300,000,000 and Great Britain had met this proposal by agreeing to duplicate it. Then it was asked what sacrifice was France to make to compensate the concessions.

LIGHT VESSELS INSISTED ON
France Has No Desire to Have More Capital Ships, It Is Said.
LONDON, Dec. 19.—In an interview tonight with Reuters, M. Briand is quoted as saying France's standpoint on naval disarmament is unchanged. France is quite ready to come to an understanding on armaments of offensive, he said, and she is especially interested in the question of cruisers, torpedo-boat destroyers, submarines and defense vessels, which are inexpensive to build.

He ridiculed, says Reuters, insinuations that the French naval plans are against Great Britain. France, he said, would never compete in the building of capital ships.

He added that the reason that had led France to increase her demand for tonnage was not a desire to build capital ships, but to have sufficient of the lighter vessels for coast defense and to keep in connection with the colonies.

HARVEY TOLD FRANCE AGREES
Briand Said to Have Notified Ambassador of Ratio Acceptance.
LONDON, Dec. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—France will accept the original naval ratio laid down by Secretary Hughes at the Washington conference, Premier Briand informed George Harvey, the American ambassador, at their meeting last night. He authorized the ambassador to notify the American government to that effect.

Although Premier Briand's authorization, which has already been conveyed to the French delegation in Washington and the American state department, makes no mention of submarines, there is reason to believe that the French proposals regarding undersea craft were discussed by M. Briand and Ambassador Harvey. It

is hinted that the French may have more to say on this subject.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—A dispatch from London to the semi-official Havas agency today said that Premier Briand had informed Ambassador Harvey in London that France accepted Secretary Hughes' proposals concerning capital ship tonnage as follows: United States, 35; England, 35; Japan, 35; France, 170; Italy, 165.

The interpretation put upon Premier Briand's interview with Ambassador Harvey in official circles here was that France's acceptance of the American view as to naval tonnage was an acceptance, "in view of principle," only so far as capital ships were concerned, and that it did not alter the French insistence upon adequate allowances of submarines and cruisers.

Minister of Marine Gustau was quoted as saying that Premier Briand since reaching London has expressed a desire that France adopt the American view concerning the limitation of capital ship tonnage, but that no figure was laid down. "Any information on this question," M. Gustau was quoted as saying, "would be premature and inexact."

In official quarters today it was said that France desired to do everything she can to hasten naval accord at Washington and to contribute her share in the sacrifices being made.

She must, however, it was said, do all in her power to make America understand her vital necessity for submarines and cruisers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—Secretary Hughes was understood to have received a cablegram today from London stating that as a result of conferences between Premier Briand of France and George Harvey, American ambassador, that France was expected to accept the American proposal for limitation of capital ships.

The advice to Secretary Hughes was said to bear out unofficial reports from London that Premier Briand had advised the French delegates to accept the American proposal of 175,000 tons of capital ships for France and Italy.

The French acceptance, it was reported, was on a tonnage and not a ratio basis.

WRECK VICTIM IS FOUND

Body of Mrs. Pearl Willis Recovered From Mud and Debris.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—The body of Mrs. Pearl Willis, one of six victims of the Clemons logging railroad wreck Sunday night, December 11, when a locomotive was caught in a landslide and plunged from the track 400 feet into a canyon eight miles east of Melbourne, was found about 10 o'clock Sunday morning under several feet of mud and debris, and 1600 feet below the track. Search for the body had been conducted the entire week and practically had been abandoned.

A boom crew working under Arthur Elmgren, a contractor for the Clemons company, found the body while digging a ditch to elude off mud and water from a jam of debris which had formed almost at the bottom of the canyon.

MURDERER PLEADS GUILTY

Earl Throst Confesses He Beat School Teacher to Death.

WAUKON, Ia., Dec. 19.—Earl Throst, confessed slayer of Inga Magnuson, a school teacher, near Decorah, last Monday, pleaded guilty to the charge of first degree murder before Judge Taylor in district court here this morning.

He will be sentenced the latter part of the week. Throst had confessed that he beat the teacher to death with a club in the basement of the school after a quarrel last Monday. He claimed that she had broken her promise to marry him.

War Hero's Body En Route.

KELOSO, Wash., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Word has been received that the body of Artie Crumb of Kelso, who was wounded fatally in action in France, has arrived in New York and is being shipped to Kelso for burial. He was wounded July 19, 1918, and died in a hospital July 24, 1918. The body will reach here some time this week and a military funeral will be held December 26 or 27. His mother, Mrs. Little Brownell, lives at Peardale, just south of Kelso, and his father, E. F. Crumb, resides on the west side.

Oregonian Stated for Job.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Henry O'Malley of Portland, Or., seems to be in line for appointment as commissioner of the bureau of fisheries to succeed Dr. Hugh M. Smith. The appointment is in the hands of Secretary of Commerce Hoover, who is said to have slated Mr. O'Malley for the place. As head of the bureau of fisheries Mr. O'Malley would have supervision of all of the fishing grounds in the United States and Alaska.

No soot, no cinders, no fires to kindle. Southport coal. Bdwy. 79.—Adv.

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Last twice as long and taste much better when blended with this delightful drink.
For cocktails—superb!

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SHANTUNG QUESTION IS NEAR SETTLEMENT

Japan and China Are Reaching Agreement Over Line.

21 DEMANDS ARE NEXT

Americans Take Hand by Suggesting to French That They Get Out of Occupied District.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—As the Japanese-Chinese negotiations over Shantung approach a decision, the arms delegates are turning their attention to other features of the far eastern situation. The committee meetings were postponed to give the Shantung problem a clear field.

It appeared tonight that the central question of the Shantung discussion, withdrawal of Japanese control from the Tsingtao-Tsinanfu railway, was near a solution and that the Japanese and Chinese might be brought into complete accord shortly.

Among other far eastern questions the Chinese request for abrogation of the 21 demands and the Japanese withdrawal of powers from occupied territory in China are attracting interesting notice. The Chinese delegates who are maintaining that they still represent the Chinese people, even though the Peking cabinet has been overthrown, issued a statement today declaring that the 21-demands agreements must be abrogated if the decisions of the conference are to amount to "more than scraps of paper."

Japanese Want to Stay.

At the same time the Japanese attracted added attention to the question of occupied territory by revealing their desire to keep their troops in Northern Saghalien as well as in the Port Arthur district.

Overthrow of the Peking cabinet has gained wide attention in conference circles, but it apparently has not changed the far eastern negotiations. The Japanese will not comment on it and plunged into the discussion of the internal troubles. Ma Zou, Washington representative of the rival government at Canton, said in a statement tonight that the Peking delegation knows it does not represent the people of China and that the fall of the Peking cabinet long had been expected.

Taking it first hand in the far eastern negotiations, the American advisory committee adopted today and sent to the American delegation a report on far eastern questions generally, drawn up by a sub-committee. Both the Japanese and Chinese seemed tonight to regard settlement of the Tsingtao-Tsinanfu railway in Shantung as in sight. Apparently only decision regarding a proposal by the Japanese to have certain administrative positions filled by Japanese

nationals, is awaited before Japan agrees to turn the road back to the Chinese.

Cash Payment Offered.
With the railway question out of the way both Chinese and Japanese delegates expect little difficulty with other details of a final Shantung settlement.

Several Chinese organizations joined in a statement today which was given out by the official delegation, purporting to speak for the Chinese people. The Chinese people, the statement said, were able and willing to redeem the railway by cash payment within nine months and insisted on having complete and "unqualified" ownership, control and management. They would oppose any arrangement other than this.

In the opinion of the American delegates, one of the most difficult of the remaining far eastern questions is that of the proposed return to China of various territories taken from her by other nations. The French took the lead by offering to relinquish Kwang Chow Wan, adjacent to the French possessions in Tonquin, China, conditioned on the abandonment by other nations of all the land occupied by them in China. They have been asked by Secretary Hughes if they will insist on that condition. In view of the Japanese declaration that while willing to abandon Japanese barracks and settlements in other parts of China they could not surrender their lease of the railroad on the Liao Tung peninsula nor give up some measure of control of the Chinese eastern railway.

French Move Is Puzzler.
These holdings the Japanese regard as vital to their defense against attack by way of Manchuria from Russia directed against Korea initially and against Japan ultimately. Moreover, the Japanese hold that their tenure in that quarter, dependent as it was on leases acquired from Russia and representing the sacrifice of 100,000 Japanese lives in warfare, was different from the titles held by European nations to lands in China.

As the American delegates believe the French were well aware of the Japanese attitude before M. Viviani made his offer, they are at a loss to fathom the purpose of the move and are awaiting with interest any further communications that the French delegation may make.

The American delegates fully understood the Japanese position on Manchuria and the leased railroad property and while acting as the "big brother" of China, are not disposed to such unreasonable requests in her behalf. "The Japanese have held that China profits by the presence of Japanese in Manchuria."

At any rate the American delegates

tion is inclined to regard the proposition as quite separable and probably will be found urging a relinquishment by the other powers of occupied Chinese territory even if the Japanese hold on Port Arthur and the Liao Tung peninsula cannot be shaken off.

BARGE GOES UPON ROCKS

Big Transfer Carrier in Danger of Going to Pieces.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 19.—Canadian Pacific railway transfer barge No. 8, ashore at Portlier Pass, B. C., tonight, was reported battered on the rocks by a northeasterly gale and in danger of going to pieces.

The barge had a list of 35 degrees, with 17 freight cars loaded with general merchandise aboard. The salvage steamer Argonne and the steamers Leebro and Trader were standing by.

INTEREST RATE CUT DOWN

Reduction Announced by Sixth Federal Reserve Bank.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 19.—The reduction of the interest rate from 5 1/2 per cent to 5 per cent was announced today by M. B. Wellborn, governor of the sixth federal reserve bank.

The reduction affects all classes of paper.

Evangelist Converts 50.

BROWNSVILLE, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Milo B. Bentley, evangelist, has now been preaching at Brownsville three weeks and the results of the meetings are gratifying. Over 50 persons have been converted, something like 27 of these have been taken into the Baptist church, with more to follow, and it has already been decided by the pastor. Many converts have signified their intention of uniting with other churches in the city. The meetings will probably continue right up to Christmas.

Dry Act Not to Be Revoked.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—Constitutional prohibition will not be revoked notwithstanding efforts of Robert A. Widenman of New York to have the supreme court compel the secretary of state to withdraw the proclamation announcing its ratification. Such a request today alarmed the decision of the courts of the District of Columbia, which held Widenman had no interest which would benefit if his request was granted.



"Begin" exclaimed Roosevelt

A thrifty man thinks and plans. He must have a program. He attains independence, self-control, foresight. He needs no fervent resolution to acquire the virtue of thrift. *Begin* is his device.

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Southern Pacific expenditures for keeping up roadway, bridges and structures on its 1310 miles of line in Western Oregon this year... \$ 5,000,000.00

Southern Pacific payrolls in Oregon, year 1920 (1921 figures not yet available)..... 11,083,754.93

Southern Pacific purchases in Oregon, year 1920 (1921 figures not yet available)..... 4,519,888.00

Southern Pacific taxes in Oregon, year 1920... 1,110,038.86

The Southern Pacific, as a "going concern" closely identified with all of the commercial and agricultural development of Western Oregon, solicits your patronage.

Christmas Holiday Fares
Are in Effect
Between All Points in Oregon and Including Points as Far South as Sacramento.

Round Trip—One and One-Half Fare
Minimum Round-Trip Fare \$2.50.
Sale Dates December 22, 23 and 24. Final Limit January 4.

Winter Excursion Fares
Are in Effect to
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Sale Dates Daily to March 31. Final Limit April 30.
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New One Way Fares
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Without Additional Cost, Will Appeal to You.
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flowers are blooming
and Summer's warmth
obtains---

THE MEMORY of chill gray days, with some loved one left to sleep alone in frozen earth, is not for those who choose for their sacred dead either cremation or vault entombment.

Instead of such a desolate memory, the living find comfort in recollections of a beautiful last service under roof, where there is always summer's warmth, singing birds and magnificent blossoms. If our dead have any claims upon us at all—they have the right to tender protection and lasting care.

Phone the Portland Crematorium, Sell, 967, and we will send you one of our beautifully illustrated booklets, free, by return mail.