

MODE OF SCRAPPING WARSHIPS PROBLEM

"Big Five" Encounter Difference of Opinion.

HEADWAY, HOWEVER, MADE

America, France and Italy Would Render Warships Useful: Britain and Japan Hesitate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 11.—(By the Associated Press.)—"The big five" made further progress today in their revision of the naval treaty, but encountered a difference of opinion when they came to laying down rules for the scrapping of proscribed battleships.

For the American delegation it was proposed that the surplus vessels be rendered useless. France readily supported that view, with Italy indicating a similar attitude. Great Britain and Japan withheld assent, however.

The suggestion being made that the dismantled ships might be used as harbor guards or training vessels.

When the five delegation heads adjourned after several hours of debate the question remained unsettled and will be taken up again tomorrow.

During their two sessions today, however, they completed approval of the first of the treaty annexes, embodying a replacement chart and they expressed hope that all five annexes might be disposed of tomorrow or Friday.

Except for the article dealing with Pacific fortifications, all of the text of the treaty proper had been virtually approved and, should Tokyo's reply on the fortifications provision be received in time, a plenary session may be held Saturday.

Agreement Counted Sure. Indications that an agreement will not be difficult were supported by a declaration of a Japanese spokesman tonight that he saw no objection to including Bonin Island and the Oshima group in the "status quo" agreement on fortifications. It is said to have been over these islands that the issue referred to Tokyo arose.

While the delegation chiefs were continuing discussions today, the Japanese and Chinese negotiators interrupted negotiations over Shantung and reached a tentative agreement regarding withdrawal of the Japanese troops within the province.

Meanwhile, also, some members of the delegations began to lay plans for resumption of the treaty negotiations which will follow completion of the naval treaty.

For the Japanese, it was predicted that the Chinese plea for consideration of the "21 demands" would be quickly ruled out by the far eastern committee, a view that seemed to be supported by American official opinion, despite a minority effort in the American advisory committee to instruct the delegation to support China's request.

There was increasing evidence, however, that the American delegates regard settlement of other pending Chinese questions as of great importance and that actual signing of the naval treaty would be delayed until the far eastern treaty also is ready for approval.

U. S. Position Made Plain. It is presumed that all the other engagements growing out of the conference, including the treaties and agreements relating to Siberia, submarines and sea warfare, will also be brought to conclusion at the same time. Definite decision is said to have been reached to exclude the submarine and gas resolutions from the naval treaty and to make them the subjects of one or more separate agreements.

Today's differences over methods of scrapping apparently were regarded by all the delegates as interposing no serious barriers to an agreement. The American view was said to be that of the abandonment of warships as harbor station ships or for gunner training would not accord with the spirit of the scrapping agreement, since it would in a measure permit the vessels to continue as naval units. To this other delegations countered with the argument that absolute scrapping would mean a useless financial waste, but there was no indication that the argument had developed any evidence of insistence by either side.

All questions involved in the annex, in fact, were declared to be merely collateral and temporary.

"21 Demands" Heavily. It was said by conference officials tonight that should any element arise making it possible to take the attempt to limit submarines and auxiliary craft, the naval treaty would be held up to permit possible inclusion of such limitations.

In forecasting the trend of the far eastern negotiations tonight, Mr. Hanabara said the Chinese "21 demands" request would be called up as soon as the discussions were resumed and that "so far as Japan is concerned, it would be disposed of in a few minutes." He said Japan's answer to the Chinese memorandum would be very brief.

The basis of Japan's objection to consideration of the "demands" is said to be the reservation she expressed when she accepted the invitation to the Washington conference, setting forth that she did not intend to discuss "closed incidents."

All of the agreements and treaties growing out of the "21 demands," it is pointed out, were formally and duly accepted by China in her capacity as a sovereign power, making it impossible to go behind them except on the plea that they were extorted under duress.

JAPANESE LIKENED TO HUNS. Chita Envoys Tell of Alleged Atrocities in Siberia.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 11.—(By the Associated Press.)—Representatives here of the far eastern republic of Chita made public today a memorandum which they said had been submitted to Secretary Hughes as chairman of the Washington conference, and to each delegation, comprising copies of the correspondence alleged to have passed between the Tokyo and Paris governments relating to Siberia.

Most of the documents dealing with an alleged agreement as to the establishment of a Japanese protectorate over eastern Siberia already have been published. Their authenticity has been denied by both of the interested governments.

Members of the Chita delegation said they had not received a reply to their request for a hearing before the conference when Siberia is reached. The request was reiterated in the memorandum, with the statement that the interests of the world, as well as of Siberia, are involved in the equitable adjudication of that country's claims.

Reviewing conditions in Siberia

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"Naturally if the railroad becomes Chinese property by subsequent negotiations at Washington or later," he added, "we have nothing to say about the withdrawal of troops. We are talking now about an actual and not a future situation. We are not presuming or assuming as to what will be done concerning the railroad."

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The question of salt mines in Kiao Chow was touched on at the morning session, but further consideration was put over for a time owing to lack of information concerning the amount of salt being exported to Japan.

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Unless some means are taken to reproduce the Christmas tree, the holly and the mistletoe, which go far toward making the "holiday atmosphere" Christmas time, will have to sacrifice one more bit of romance to commercialism and get along without the cheering greenery.

The state of Vermont alone furnishes 5,000,000 trees a year for the holiday market. With such an enormous demand for the trees wasteful methods of cutting are indulged in by vendors who never do any forestry work except at Christmas time.

Destructive methods of gathering the mistletoe will tell on the supply of that proper time also, the bulletin states. It clings tightly to the branches of the trees on which it grows and oftentimes the entire top

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The reserve funds are made up by assessments on the various industries of the state to insure employees against accidents.

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He appeared as the first of several railroad presidents who will sum up the case of the common carrier in defense of existing rate levels. He was preceded by several statisticians, who presented figures tending to prove insufficient earnings from railroad operations during recent months and meager prospects for appreciable improvement even if present rates are maintained.

Mr. Willard said, however, that railroad rates would "participate in the downward movement of all prices." Lower cost of operations, which must be attained before rates can be cut, he said, largely depend on lower labor costs or on investments of large amounts of capital in betterments.

L. B. Wetterling, appearing for western roads, fixed \$273,713,000 as the amount by which carriers in that district had failed to earn a 6 per cent return.

When the hearing opened the United States chamber of commerce asked the commission to call Secretary Hoover as a general representative of commercial interests, and the commission so ordered. Mr. Hoover will appear later.

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Temperature Drops at Hood River. HOOD RIVER, Or., Jan. 11.—(Special.)—A minimum temperature of 10 degrees above zero was reported last night by Co-operative Weather Observer Dowd of the upper valley. The night was the second coldest of the winter and following a chinook wind and heavy thaw of the day before.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

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