

FRANCE ONLY ASKS RIGHT TO SURVIVE

Clemenceau Accuses Allies
of Deserting Comrade.

MILITARISM IS DENIED

Reparations Policy Is Justified
in Face of Terrible Scourge—
Inflicted by World War.

(Continued From First Page.)
iron by 92 per cent, linen by 70 per cent and wool by 80 per cent.

If I give these figures, it is because they illustrate the reason of our indebtedness. Were we not obliged to buy from outside the raw materials which failed us? Were we not compelled to construct substitute factories of all kinds far removed from the front, once the war had settled down into a conflict of slow attrition instead of a conflict of three months or three months, as foretold. Incidentally, we had no reserve of guns or of munitions. What better could there be of our pacific intentions? Had we only been able to continue shipping shells for our ties, perhaps our pursuit of the German after the Marne might have been much more efficacious.

No expense was spared in order to manufacture with a minimum of delay all the arms possible. By the end of March, 1918, our daily shell production had grown to 35 times what it had been in December, 1914, and we were turning out machine guns at a rate 85 times quicker. We had a hundred old heavy guns upon mobilization; we possessed 230 heavy pieces two years later.

How did we finance this effort? Without a murmur, the civilian population did its duty by bringing to the treasury in the year 1915 alone 18 milliards of francs, largely in national defense bonds. We obtained credit in the United States, permitting us to pay for the orders for war materials which we placed there. In October, 1915, the Anglo-French loan placed 1,250,000,000 francs at our disposal.

England, Japan, Germany, France and England, solidly linked on the battlefield, guaranteed this loan. It was the first economic scheme of the war, affecting the three allied countries, and it was an urgent and necessary one for solidarity. In 1916 France seemed her old self again. She gave such an impression of resolve, of vitality and energy that Germany decided to strike her to the heart, to kill her before she and England could get together to ward off the decisive attack. Verdun followed.

They did not pass! Despite their furious attacks, continuing for five months; despite a massing of guns such as history had never before known, they did not penetrate over the Vaux-Douaumont line, on the right bank of the Meuse, nor did they take hill 264 or Dead Man's cress, on the left bank. Every division in our army came to Verdun to be decorated. France lost there the best of her blood. Enfeebled to a point of exhaustion, yet she remained on her feet, sustained by those young soldiers "entering upon their careers" as our "Marseillaise" says, their elders, no more. Sending back our wounded to the firing line directly they left the hospital, sacrificing without considering a moment, an irreparable elite of character and brain, leaving the cultivation of the soil to women, old men and children. France succeeded in mobilizing 96 per cent of her male population between the ages of 18 and 50. A prodigious effort and one only equaled in the domain of war material production.

Dawn of Freedom Breaks.
Meanwhile, on their side our English comrades were organizing themselves powerfully. The spring of 1917 was to witness the dawn of freedom. Well, I shall omit retrospective criticism. Let each one make his own examination of conscience. I only mention the offensive of the Chemin des Dames to illustrate the terrible shock France sustained. Germany thought that the moment had come to finish us, though circulating treacherous peace offers the while. Defeatism among us worked havoc. But Poincaré restored confidence to the armies as he had restored the situation at Verdun. The nation dealt with the pusillanimous and silenced bad citizens. France breathed and lived again.

In 1918 America had entered the war. The enemy grasped that the arrival of our troops would mean the knockout blow for him. He would have to act beforehand. Hindenburg announced to the world that "France had dug her own grave" and brings back half a million men from the east troops liberated by the Russian debacle. He bombarded Paris. He deluged the English lines with mustard gas. He breaks through. We hurriedly stem the flood that threatened to submerge us. None the less we are paralyzed by the loss of vital railroads. In that terrible danger to our ally and ourselves we assemble all our forces under a single command. The troops are as always admirably heroic and the nation retains its calm. The German would cross France made large strips of territory before Paris and Calais pass into their hands. But the hour of victory is about to ring for the entente. In two months all the lost ground is regained.

Such are the trials we have been through. At the armistice France was "all in," as you say, but she was alive because she had willed that she should survive.

Cost of War Huge.

The war cost our country 200 milliards of francs and a further 200 milliards in damages to property and individuals. Almost all our foreign investments, constituting a goodly portion of our national wealth, had had to be realized. From being largely a creditor and lending nation, we became heavily indebted. Above all, we lost 1,400,000 of our children and 800,000 were maimed and 1,500,000 wounded. France made all these terrible sacrifices with one heart because she knew that defeat would imply destruction. Germany had proclaimed the fact through its emperor, through its chancellors, through the declaration of its great industrial and agricultural associations, through its intellectuals, that, victorious, she would annex the iron mines of Briey, the coal of the north and the Pas de Calais, the coast line from Belgium down to the mouth of the Somme, plus the hinterland, in order to give the ports involved their full importance economically and strategically; finally, Toul, Verdun and Metz.

possessed. Nor did it suffice to dismember France, to take from her the provinces providing a third of her wealth; she was to be left without resource of any kind. "In the interests of our own existence we must weaken this country politically. It is necessary to impose a big war indemnity on France without exhibiting any regard for her." I recall this phrase—taken from a secret memorandum forwarded to the German chancellor by the League of Industrials and Agriculturists, the League of the middle classes, in order to emphasize their own moderation. Not an inch of German territory annexed, not a protesting deputy in our parliament, no economic servitude, no war indemnity. Nothing but reparation.

Peace Must Be Realized.

A nation like France that has proved in a superhuman way her desire to live has the right to obtain from her allies the co-operation necessary for the execution of the peace conditions. It does not suffice to sign peace; you must realize it. So long as the last shock of war have not trembled away, there is no room for an individualism putting into question once more all the victories won by the allies. The peace conditions must be common to all. France will not as much as remind her allies of the promises made to her, and which have never come to anything. She declares herself proudly decided to keep all the engagements entered into by her. She asks only that things that she shall not succumb through the passiveness of her friends. Reconstruction and security are for France necessities of France. If not possible, the devastated areas are not rebuilt, there is no chance of her economic regeneration. If her frontier may be reached by a neighbor who dreams only of revenge, there is no more national life. It would be suicide for France to renounce this dual policy of reparation and military security. The treaty of Versailles will only have marked a trace in the tragic history of the world, ruined by allied distrust, allied negligence and indifference. If it smother in the ruin France, symbol of justice, of democracy and of liberty. No imperialism, but no oligarchy. Such should be the order of the day. If it is intended to consolidate the peace in allied harmony, we must go quickly.

France Returns to Work.

And now let us consider the post-war French effort. Immediately from the armistice and despite the sapping of her strength by 62 months of war, France returned energetically to work. The dimensions of the work and the speed with which the work was accomplished deserve the world's admiration in equal measure. In the 18 months following the armistice, 1918-19, the allied soldiers for their magnificent bravery. Take the number of inhabitants brought back to their homes. Of 4,500,000 residents of 1914, 4,000,000 had been re-established in the devastated areas on July 1 last. Railways had been entirely reconstructed and roads ready. 19,000 factories had been rebuilt out of 22,000 destroyed; 80 per cent of the war-scarred countryside had been rid of buried shells and put into cultivation; 776 schools had been reopened out of 833 in existence previously. Finally, out of 600,000 houses destroyed or damaged, 600,000 had been repaired either provisionally or definitely. That is what we have done!

How did we manage to afford all this expenditure? By means of the heaviest taxation imaginable and, simultaneously, by raising money through internal loans as exacting as a lottery on record. No parliament has voted such new taxation as the French chamber did in 1920. We were paying barely four milliards of francs in taxes the year preceding the war. We have paid 21 milliards this year and next year we shall pay 25 milliards. An income tax substantially of 2 per cent was successively raised to 10, 12, 20 and even to 50 per cent. Taxation per capita is about 25 per cent heavier in France than in the United States.

German Tax Rate Low.

The conqueror, Germany, paid the equivalent of \$13 per capita in taxation; the conquering French pay \$45. Sums lent the state by subscribers to loans between 1914 and 1921 amounted to 100,000 milliards of francs. The total internal debt is 232 milliards of francs; the foreign debt at the present rate of exchange totals about 80 milliards. Payment of interest and amortization of debt will take up 12 milliards in our next budget, or 51 per cent of our total expenditure. We paid back 182 milliards of the debts incurred by us, 12 milliards of this sum having been paid out abroad. We have been compelled to consolidate our credit by reducing our fiduciary circulation of 37 milliards 400 millions in 1920 to 26 milliards 400 millions in 1921. Meantime we are reacquiring the gold that we had placed in the Bank of England during the war.

In another field we have not only signaled our desire for peace by reducing our duration of military service from three years to 18 months, and by the suppression of army organizations; we have written these naval and military modifications into our budget as follows: In 1919 naval and military expenditures stood at 18 milliards; in 1921 they totaled 6 milliards 300 million francs. This year there has been a further reduction to 4 milliards 900 millions. Compared with 1912 and taking into consideration the divergence in the cost of living then and now, these last figures show a reduction of 3 per cent. Meanwhile, in England, this same expenditure remains 19 per cent higher and in Japan 71 per cent.

We have made a similar serious effort in civilian expenditure. From 11 milliards 800 millions in 1920 this fell to 9 milliards 900 millions in 1921 and to 7 milliards in 1922. During the opening six months of this year 25,000 Government employees were dismissed.

In the existing state of things,

who in the world is going to say that we could have done better? Is France destined to succeed through the indifference or under the criticisms of her allies? France vigorously aided herself. What have the allies done to help her? What have they done to assure her of that reparation without which she cannot exist? What have they done to assure her of her security? One may well ask if France is not more isolated today than she was back in 1914 when she had a formal alliance with Russia. Has the peril diminished? Who can sincerely imagine so when they assassinate with impunity in Germany such architects of peace as Erzberger and Rathenau, the Catholic deputy and the Jewish industrial, and to the applause of the crowd; when Ludendorff remains the master of ultra-militarism in Bavaria—no one will deny the fact; and when Hindenburg is seriously spoken of as a candidate for the presidency of the republic.

France symbolizes and stands for victory on the frontiers of Germany. Should she disappear, then all the victorious nations will be threatened. Who can sincerely imagine this ground, what becomes of your own security? The same applies to reparation. It was England which showed her the most intractable in this regard. It was she who insisted that Germany should pay for war pensions as well. England's general election was fought to the cry of "Make Germany Pay!" Yet less than six months later, under the influence of her business men and on account of strikes, of coal, of cotton, of wheat, she began to draw us along the path of concessions.

France Aids Germany.

France has advanced to Germany 66 milliards of francs and she has received back, in return, but seven milliards. And our reconstruction is a long way from being finished. And with the collapse of the mark they are talking freely of German bankruptcy. Is it not already announced that the reimbursement of private pre-war debts by allied states allied to Germany is postponed to 1928? Meanwhile German industry is going at full steam and the big banks pay bonuses and are extending their activities. All the depositors hold foreign investments, but the Reich, stepping forward, gives as its reason for demanding a further five years' delay in the payments due since the armistice the fall of the mark. Is it not ridiculous?

If our allies of war continue to disinterested themselves in this manner of reparation, they will be called upon to support the consequences as well as ourselves. In the last analysis, strikes, financial chaos, economic confusion. How can those doctrines who expound theories of "economic solidarity" in favor of Germany dare to refuse its benefits to our country?

living an address of welcome had paid a cordial tribute to France and said that France, England and America could bring perpetual peace to the world.

Mrs. Nelson J. Brown of West Virginia, had added a further word of greeting from the Daughters of the American Revolution, mentioning the three countries, and Clemenceau in beginning his address said that in her reference to the three she had uttered his programme. "America gave her blood and money," he said. "I've come to ask you if you attained one aim? If you tell me you did, I'll stop."

WILL CONTEST IS HEARD

Prejudice Against One Brother Is Charged to Executor.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—The will contest of James Nelson, brother of the late Charles Nelson, who left his entire estate to another brother, B. H. Nelson, was heard today in superior court, the hearing lasting from early morning until late tonight. The contestant charges undue influence and prejudice against the other brother by B. H. Nelson, named executor in the will.

Many witnesses were called by each side. Judge Simpson took the case under advisement.

TREATY PAYMENT MADE

United States Hands to Colombia \$5,000,000 Installment.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6.—The United States today gave the republic of Colombia a check for \$5,000,000, its first payment under the \$25,000,000 treaty ratified in 1921 to cover certain damages incurred in the construction of the Panama canal. The payment was due September 30, but for some unexplained reason Colombia has not been ready to receive it until today.

Under the treaty the remaining payments will be made yearly in \$5,000,000 sums.

Elmer Rancher Drops Dead.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Frank Dunn, 43, dropped dead here this afternoon, evidently from heart disease. Coroner Austin will perform an autopsy tomorrow morning to determine the cause. He was a rancher in Elma, where his widow lives, and was evidently on his way for an afternoon of shooting along the bay, for he carried a shotgun.

Suffragan Bishop Consecrated.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 6.—With ten visiting bishops taking part in the ceremony, Rev. W. Blair Roberts of Dallas, S. D., today was consecrated as suffragan bishop of the Protestant Episcopal district of South Dakota, succeeding Bishop Remington. The youth has been transferred to the district of eastern Oregon.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

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DRY AGENT CONVICTED

WILMOT FOUND GUILTY OF BRIBERY EXTORTION.

Plot in Which Seven Witnesses Testify Falsely for Defense Is Disclosed.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6.—Roy Wilmot, suspended prohibition agent, was in custody of the United States marshal's office tonight, waiting sentence to Leavenworth penitentiary upon his conviction by a federal jury today of charges of extortion of bribery.

It took the jury only 45 minutes to return a verdict finding Wilmot guilty on the three counts on which he was charged. The maximum penalty on each count in three years and a \$2000 fine. He will be sentenced Saturday morning.

During Wilmot's trial, which ended at noon today, the government disclosed a perjury plot engineered by the defendant in which seven witnesses from Fresno were importuned to give false evidence favorable to the defense. The principal alibi witness, Mrs. Stanley Scott, admitted tearfully on the stand that she had committed perjury at Wilmot's behest.

Wilmot's trial grew out of a raid on the drugstore here of J. J. Kolburn. Wilmot, testimony showed, secured 1200 quantities of whisky and the use of Kolburn's automobile

in return for a promise to use his influence to have the case against the druggist dismissed.

PUNITIVE COSTS ASKED

\$1950 Damages Sought as Result of Auto Accident.

OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—One of the first cases on record here where punitive damages have been asked in addition to actual damages as the result of an automobile accident was filed in the circuit court Monday by A. T. Kilne against Fred Cool. A total of \$1950, of which \$1000 is punitive, is asked against Cool.

In an action in the justice court Monday Cool was convicted of reckless driving and fined \$25 and \$31.34 costs. He has appealed the case to the circuit court.

The suits are the outgrowth of an accident on the Pacific highway south of Canby November 10.

Husband, 20, Is Released.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Clarence Van Dale, 20-year-old husband, arrested a few days ago for failure to support his wife and baby, was released today upon condition that he pay \$15 each month toward the support of the family. Van Dale's brother signed a bond guaranteeing the payment. The youth was arrested upon complaint of his wife.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian. All its readers are interested in the classified columns.

BASIN HEARINGS BEGUN

HOUSE IRRIGATION COMMITTEE CONSIDERS BILL.

Measure Would Authorize Survey of Columbia Project; Project Urged by Goethals.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6.—Hearings were begun today by the house irrigation committee on a bill to authorize the government to survey and determine the feasibility of the Columbia basin irrigation project which General George W. Goethals, one of the witnesses said, would reclaim immediately 1,753,000 acres of land in the state of Washington.

Assistant Secretary Goodwin of the interior department, State Hydraulic Engineer Goodner of Washington and Fred Adams, supervisor of the Columbia basin, also urged favorable action on the bill.

General Goethals said the state already had made a survey at a cost of \$150,000, but that the project was too big for the state or for private enterprise. He compared it in magnitude with the Panama canal and the Alaska railroad, saying that the "gravity system" which he favored in connection with the project, would cost \$147 an acre or an aggregate of \$250,000,000.

Mr. Goodwin said the interior department approved the project from an economic standpoint, because the

population of the country would increase in 20 years by 25 to 30 million persons and a very large increase of tillable acreage would be necessary. Like the Colorado basin, he said, the Columbia basin project was a part of the national reclamation plan in which the government was interested.

Committee members questioned Mr. Goodwin and General Goethals at length on the merits of the two proposed systems for the project, the gravity and the pumping methods. General Goethals said the survey of the government should determine which should be adopted.

"PEON" TROUSERS SCORE

Advocates Win Victory in University of Omaha.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 6.—Advocates of "peon pants" have won a victory at the University of Omaha.

Threats of war heard on the campus for the past week after several students announced the intention of wearing the wide bell-bottomed trousers, materialized into action when a student appeared on the campus wearing a pair of them yesterday. He was immediately "rushed" and unceremoniously carried to the gymnasium, where he was left shivering, sans peon attire. Advocates of the peon trousers then rallied forces, rushed the gymnasium, rescued their fellow-peon and defeated the opposition forces in physical combat.

Dean Jones announced that 6000 materials would follow further violence.

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