

U. S. AID OFFERED TO AVERT NEW WAR

Pacific Settlement of Reparations Sought.

TROOP ISSUE IS MET

If Americans on Rhine Are Attacked, Nation Might Be Drawn Into New War.

BY ARTHUR SEARS HENNING.

(By Chicago Tribune Leased Wire.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—The United States is endeavoring to bring about a pacific settlement of the German reparations dispute which has produced the present threatening situation in Europe.

A discussion of plans of procedure already in progress between Washington, London and Paris and the outcome may be the entry of the United States into European affairs for the purpose of exercising stabilizing influence, avoiding the threatened clash between France and Germany and saving Germany from economic collapse.

Although American troops are to be retained on the Rhine a while longer, it is expected that the United States does not contemplate furnishing armed forces to back up its present program of committing itself to the employment of armed force in the future.

Reparations Cut Expected. If the plans under consideration which were discussed at the cabinet meeting today work out successfully, it is expected that the amount of reparations Germany is obliged to pay the allies will be materially reduced and that a huge loan to Germany will be made by American, British and French financiers to stabilize the German republic financially and enable it to make immediate payments.

The delicate tension of affairs in Europe is recognized, particularly with Clemenceau and other foreign statesmen predicting another European war and France threatening to occupy the Ruhr district of Germany. The president and the cabinet have discussed with concern the dangers inherent in the presence of American troops on the Rhine and the policy being pursued has been adopted with full recognition of those dangers.

Conflict Is Held Possible. If war should break out again in Europe and the American troops on the Rhine should be attacked the United States would be compelled to reinforce them of swallow the affront and in that manner would be likely to be drawn into the conflict.

According to one view the United States soldiers in Europe are virtually hostages in the hands of the allies to insure American participation in any further outbreak of war.

On the other hand, it is pointed out that if the American troops are hostages in the hands of France and England it is a situation that is entirely acceptable to Germany for the Berlin government specifically requested Washington to retain the armed forces of the United States on the Rhine. France and England also expressed their desire that the American contingent should be kept in Europe.

Present Force About 1200.

Notwithstanding these representations, President Harding decreed that the American soldiers should be brought home and the movement began not long after the peace treaty between the United States and Germany was signed. The withdrawal continued until the present force of 1200 officers and men under command of General Allen remained.

At that juncture the withdrawal was halted for a number of reasons pertaining to the reparations of the United States with the allies and the general situation in Europe. The president came to the conclusion that the complete withdrawal of the American force and the disappearance of the American flag from the Rhine would have an unfortunate effect upon the consummation of certain plans to which the assent of France and England is necessary.

Another Reason Arises. Soon after another reason for delay in withdrawing the troops was furnished the president. The row over reparations broke out afresh and grew until it reached the present proportion. Mr. Harding regarded the situation so delicate that any move by the United States to get out of Europe completely might upset the efforts being made to settle the reparations dispute amicably.

That is the status of the situation today. The danger of the presence of American troops in the heart of inflamed Europe is recognized, but the president is disposed to sit tight and bide every effort to effect a pacific settlement of the reparations controversy, after which the American soldiers will be brought home.

Just how far the administration will be able to go in the direction

of intercession to avert a European catastrophe even the administration does not know. Ambassador Harvey has been in Paris endeavoring to bring his knowledge and wisdom to bear on the problem. It is hoped, however, that a plan can be worked out by the allied premiers are due to meet in Paris January 2 to resume discussion of the reparations issue.

Movements Are Apparent.

It is apparent that the allies have been maneuvering for some time to bring the United States into the negotiations on a basis of cancellation of all war debts as an offset to the reduction of Germany's reparational obligations. The administration, however, is keeping clear of any entanglement of this sort. In the first place President Harding and his advisers regard the war debts and reparations distinct questions each of which must be dealt with independently on its own merits. In the second place congress has pronounced against cancellation of the debt to the United States and has provided for its refunding, as a consequence of which the president has no authority to enter into any negotiations involving cancellation.

The indications are that the administration would not be disposed to go farther than participation in European conferences designed to stabilize European affairs by reducing the German reparations and providing for the financing of Germany by an international loan.

Bankers Willing to Lend.

J. P. Morgan and his associates of international bankers here and abroad are ready to undertake a loan of \$1,000,000,000 or more to Germany provided it is secured on any other conditions are satisfactory. When these bankers studied this question the first time, they came to the conclusion that a loan would be unwarranted by the conditions at that time.

Mr. Morgan, it was learned today, had not changed his opinion. The conditions still are unsatisfactory and no loan will be forthcoming for Germany unless the situation is stabilized. It is stated that he told government officials when he was in Washington a few days ago. The situation can be altered and conditions be made favorable to the flotation of a loan to Germany only by a settlement of the reparations question by Germany and the allies. If the United States is able to bring about a settlement the way will be paved for the proposed loan.

Deep Interest Unavoidable.

At the White House it was stated that the United States government is taking "every constant interest" in the European situation, but that any disclosure at this time of a specific nature would tend to defeat the government in its attempts. It is now making to be of assistance. The United States, it was stated most emphatically, cannot avoid taking a deep interest in the situation which has resulted from the deadlock of the allies over the question of German reparations. That interest, the White House spokesman declared, is entirely an unselfish interest. It is unavoidable and could not be shaken off if every one in the United States were "irreconcilable," the spokesman said. In reply to queries as to whether the interest of the American government in European affairs would take the form of calling an economic conference or participating either officially or unofficially in such a conference to be called by the other powers, the White House spokesman stated that any disclosures along that line would only lead to embarrassing negotiations.

Mr. Root Visits White House.

The American government, it was stated, most emphatically at the White House, has no desire to avoid its obvious interest in the present European tangle. It was intimated also that some time in the near future there probably would be developments which can be disclosed and which will be of great interest to the public.

Elihu Root, ex-secretary of state, was a caller at the White House today.

The White House spokesman declared that Mr. Root's visit had been purely one of courtesy.

Dr. Otto Wiedfeldt, the German ambassador, is entirely expected to stay in the city today and spend some time in conference with Secretary Hughes before the latter left for a cabinet meeting at the White House.

HARVEY IS CALLED HOME

Consultation With Ambassador Is Declared to Be Object.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—Ambassador Harvey has been called home for consultation. It was stated at the American embassy this afternoon that the ambassador would be accompanied by Mrs. Harvey, who will leave the preceding day for a visit to the United States.

The nature of the consultation for which the ambassador was summoned was not known at the embassy, where it was said, the message calling him to Washington merely said it was "for a consultation." It is assumed the discussion with Secretary of State Hughes will cover the whole range of European affairs, including the allied debts, reparations and kindred subjects.

Ambassador Harvey has been confined to his bed with a cold for two or three days, but his condition is not sufficiently serious to prevent him from making definite plans for sailing.

Stanley Baldwin, the chancellor of the exchequer, and the other members of the British cabinet which is to visit Washington for discussion regarding the British debt to the United States December 27.

POINCARÉ POLICY UPHOLD

Deputies Give Vote of Confidence After Long Session.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—The chamber of deputies early this morning after a long debate on the general policy of the Poincaré government, gave it a vote of confidence. The vote was 212 to 75.

Premier Poincaré after sketching briefly and optimistically the progress of reparations and Turkish peace negotiations told the chamber of deputies yesterday that he was ready to withdraw "graciously" if the chamber thought it had ready any other cabinet member qualified than his work for France.

Premier Poincaré told the chamber that the general situation had recently grown better instead of worse and expressed surprise at the feeling of fear and anxiety he had found when he returned from the London conference to premiers. He asserted he had followed faithfully the programme he had laid down for the government when he took office.

Italy to Grant Amnesty.

ROME, Dec. 15.—The Italian cabinet today approved a proposal for far-reaching amnesty. The terms of the proposal will be announced officially prior to Christmas.

PHYSICAL RESEARCH AND RECENTLY

required by the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to devote his time to laboratory work and inventions; Walter Franklin Pierce, Ph. D., principal research officer for the American Society for Psychological Research; Howard Carrington, Ph. D., widely known for his psychic investigations, having been one of the committee that investigated Houdini and Harry Houdini, the vaudeville magician, who has had much experience in séance work and in detecting fraudulent mediums.

J. Malcolm Bird, an editor of the Scientific American, and formerly of the staff of the department of mathematics at Columbia will be the secretary of the committee and will receive the entries.

In announcing a few general principles to cover both tests, the announcement says: "The committee will be very reluctant to sit in absolute darkness and will not unless assured of adequate observation by other means than the visual. We shall divide fraud into two categories," the statement continues.

"That carried out with arms, legs etc., and without external aid of external apparatus, will carry no penalty save a greater rigor of on the part of the judges." "Seances that carried out with the aid of any object brought into the séance room, however, will be necessarily penalized and will result in disqualification. The medium will be subjected to a competent search before and after the seances."

HERRING ATROCITIES DESCRIBED IN COURT

Four Defendants Identified as Men Seen With Guns.

WATER DENIED WOUNDED

Chicago Newspaper Man Tells of Seeing Rioter Spurn Victim With Foot.

MARION, Ill., Dec. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—The attack on the Herring "strip" mind the death march through the town with the captives and the hunting down of a few fugitives was described today by witnesses at the trial of five men in connection with the killings. All but one of the defendants were named as having been in the possession of a gun during the progress of the rioting, but all the witnesses so far heard have declared that they could not identify any persons they had seen in the act of shooting at the victims.

REPORTER GIVES TESTIMONY.

Donald M. Ewing, a Chicago newspaper man, who wrote the first account of the killings for the Associated Press, picked out Grace from among the defendants as a man who had threatened him with a gun when he attempted to bring a drink of water to two injured men who were lying on a sun-baked road surrounded by a crowd of armed men just outside of Herring.

The witness said there were six dead or wounded men lying in the road, all of them bound together by a single rope tied about their necks.

"Grace put his foot on one of the wounded men and pushed," the witness declared and quoted the defendant as saying with a curse: "You'll get no water here."

Another witness, Henry Graves, a mine pump man, said he had seen a group of armed men chasing two fugitives through the fields near his house.

"I heard the sound of shots," he testified, "and could see the bullets kicking up the dust behind the fleeing men."

Shortly afterward, he said, a wounded man had taken refuge on his porch, but two men who said they were "officers" came and took him away.

Under cross-examination Mr. Ewing explained that some variation between his printed report and his testimony today were due to slight typographical and telegraphical errors—such as the changing of the words "scored" to "sawd" and "often" to "then."

At the close of the afternoon session Judge Hartwell announced an adjournment of court over Saturday and Sunday.

KELLER IGNORES CALL TO TESTIFY

No "Excuse" Is Given House Committee.

POWER HELD LACKING

All That Inquiry Body Can Do Is Report Back to House, in Opinion of Members.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—

Another surprise was furnished before the house judiciary committee today with the failure of Representative Keller, republican, Minnesota, to appear in response to a formal summons to give under oath the information on which he based his impeachment charges against Attorney-General Daugherty.

Mr. Keller gave no explanation other than that contained in a letter from his counsel, Jackson H. Ralston, which stated that Mr. Ralston was unable to appear today because of imperative business engagements.

Without submitting at this time

to the jurisdiction of the committee with regard to the subpoena," the letter said, "I am expecting at your next meeting, tomorrow, or later, to take such position before the committee with regard to the subject as then may seem appropriate."

Committee Delays Action.

Arguing that the letter contained no "excuse" for the failure of Mr. Keller to respond to the summons, some committee members favored an immediate report to the house, recommending that he be taken before the bar there in contempt proceedings. Finally, however, the committee decided to hear his counsel as to his future position, but no announcement was made concerning the conference. Earlier in the day some of his friends stated that he would not submit himself to the jurisdiction of the committee.

Members said the committee was without authority to compel his attendance, that its only course in case of a final refusal to respond to a summons would be to report back to the house. That body, they said, had all the authority of a court in holding a member in contempt and could enforce its rulings. Irrespective of the action with

HERRING PLANT ASSURED

British Columbia Coast Industry Important One.

YANCOOVER, B. C., Dec. 15.—

(Special.)—One of the largest herring plants on the coast of British Columbia is under construction and will be ready for next year's fishing season.

Heretofore herring packing, which is large in the aggregate, has been carried on by a number of small plants, some owned and operated by Japanese and others owned by white men, but operated by Japanese.

No firm, however, has specialized in the herring-salting industry on a scale to make the product important. Under the new scheme the plant will employ about 50 men in the plant.

THEATER MANAGER DEAD

Charles O. Kupper Is Victim of Heart Disease at Salem.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Charles O. Kupper, for the past four years manager of the Oregon theater here, died of heart disease. Before coming to Salem Mr. Kupper lived in Portland where he was engaged in the real estate business.

He is survived by his widow and three children, Oliver, Francis and Parnell. He also leaves two brothers, Frank Kupper of Portland and Robert Kupper of St. Louis, Mo.

Funeral services will be held here December 18.

CROP LOAN PLAN BROAD

(Continued From First Page.)

appearance before the senate banking committee, it appears really the national co-operative conference will broaden its rural credits recommendations to include the establishment of regional banks, and possibly credits on grazing crops.

Jewett System Preferable.

The representatives of the wheat growers' associations, who announced to the conference that while they will not oppose the federal reserve board plan outlined by Mr. Jewett, they will nevertheless continue to advocate the broader system outlined by Mr. Jewett. The co-operative conference will adopt a farm credits resolution Saturday morning, for which congressional committees are waiting before bringing proposed legislation to congress.

Senator McNary Acts.

In connection with C. A. Harth of The Dalles, representative of the Oregon co-operative grain growers, Senator McNary yesterday prepared for introduction into the senate a resolution directing the department of agriculture to investigate conditions determining or influencing the export and domestic prices of agricultural products, to report on or before next March.

The resolution, if adopted, will empower the department of agriculture to recommend "the most practicable method of adjusting conditions so that prices will compare favorably with the price of other commodities."

SPIRIT TEST TO BE GIVEN

PRIZE OFFERED FOR PROOF OF PHENOMENA.

Scientific American Announces Judges and Conditions of Contest.

(By Chicago Tribune Leased Wire.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Scientific American, which in its December issue announced a plan for an investigation for psychic phenomena in the form of a contest with prizes offered, in its January number lays down the conditions of the test and names the committee of judges who will preside over it.

The magazine offers a prize of \$2500 to the first person who produces a psychic photograph under the test conditions and a prize of \$2500 to the first person who produces "an objective psychic manifestation of physical character" that can be made the subject of "permanent instrumental record."

In the latter category are included raps, the production of ectoplasm, "psychic lights," if possible, and other manifestations that can be recorded by the camera, microphone and other instruments.

The committee of judges will consist of William McDougall, D. Sc., formerly of Oxford and the British Society for Psychological Research, now occupying the chair of psychology at Harvard and the presidency of the American Society for Psychological Research; Daniel From Constock, Ph. D., member of the advisory scientific council of the Society for

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2:30 ELLY, The Little Marvel 8:30

2:40 FRANK WARD & DOLLIES 8:40

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3:21 Chas. B.—MIDDLETON & SPELLMEYER—Leora 9:21

3:57 WALTER C. KELLY 9:57

THE VIRGINIAN JUDGE

4:17 Guy and Pearl MAGLEY 10:17

4:37 Pathe News 10:37

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suggestion that the committee was not going fully into it was "misleading." Watchman Who Flew Is Found. AUSTIN, Tex., Dec. 15.—Joseph D. Smith, watchman, who is held responsible by a railroad board of inquiry for the train wreck at Humboldt, Tex., Wednesday night, and who disappeared after the wreck was located late today at Hockley, Tex., by his son, Ervin J. Smith, according to a telegram to Mrs. Smith received at the Smith home here, Mrs. Smith said the telegram stated that her husband was suffering from shock and was unable to account for his presence in Hockley. Phone your want ads to The Oregonian. All its readers are interested in the classified columns.

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Your Government To Cost You Less

With the help of the Budget Bureau, with the co-operation of Congress, with the aid of continual prodding from the White House, the United States Government seems at last to be in a happy way financially. When the newspaper editors read the message President Harding submitted to Congress along with the budget for the next fiscal year, even the Democrats promptly sat down and wrote cheerful, happy and congratulatory editorials. For they learned that this prodigal Government of ours has in three years cut down its spendings from a six-billion-dollar to a three billion-dollar basis; that it is going to spend half a billion dollars less in the next fiscal year than in the present; that the expected \$600,000,000 deficit for 1923 has already been cut down by half and since it is only December, may very well be wiped out altogether by the end of the year on June 30; and finally, that the official Budget Bureau estimates for the fiscal year ending in 1924, indicate a substantial surplus of \$180,969,125.

You will read in THE LITERARY DIGEST this week, December 16, how the reduction in government expenses has been effected, what activities have been curtailed, and what the probable effects upon the tax-payer may be. Other instructive news-articles in this week's issue of THE DIGEST are:

- Misgivings as to Progressive Bloc's Intentions
Uncle Sam's Prosecutor Prosecuted Christians Ordered out of Turkey
Hidden German Arms
Japan's Exit from Siberia
Holiday Food
Why Do Radio Waves Hug the Earth?
The Degradation of Christmas
The "Esprit" of France's "Old Tiger"
What the Breweries and Distilleries Are Doing
Why Navies Do Not Melt Away

What They Say About the Motion Picture Novelty, "Fun From the Press"
"The Literary Digest's 'Fun From the Press' proved a novelty that gave genuine enjoyment."—Weekly Film Review, Atlanta, Ga.
"Fun From the Press' proved one of the most delightful laugh-provokers of the season."—Atlanta Constitution.
"An entertaining bit is 'Fun From the Press,' a collection of short humorous squibs which have been exceptionally well chosen by the editors of The Literary Digest and are not only comic, but in a finer sense, humorous."—Philadelphia Record.
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