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FRANCE BACKED ON REPARATIONS

Germany Declared in Default on Wood.

ISSUE ITSELF UNIMPORTANT

Britain, However, Is Left Backing Teutons Alone.

ITALY SUPPORTS PARIS

Indication of Mussolini's Attitude to Swing Nation Is Seen in Attitude.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—France gained an important victory in the allied reparations commission today when the commission by a vote of 3 to 1 declared Germany in voluntary default in her wood deliveries for 1922.

France, Belgium and Italy voted in favor of the declaration while Great Britain cast its ballot against it.

The decision of the commission was immediately communicated to the allied governments for their action. It may have a vital effect on the reparations problem if France can retain the support of Italy and Belgium when the reparations question is discussed at the January 2 meeting of the premiers.

British Policy Followed.

The late vote cast against the declaration by Great Britain was in accordance with British policy, which has been opposed to declaring Germany in default in fear that such action might have a disastrous effect on the already precarious state of German finance.

France is considered to have scored an important point by reason of the fact that the decision of the commission was arrived at on a majority vote. France had been alone for a long time in the contention that Germany could be placed in voluntary default by a simple majority vote. Italy's support of France in the balloting came as a surprise and as an indication that Premier Mussolini was swinging over to the French side in the reparations controversy.

About 60 Per Cent Delivered.

Germany has carried out more than 60 per cent of its schedule of wood deliveries for this year. When the German experts were before the commission several weeks ago they announced that Germany had been unable to deliver more than she had and that the deliveries for 1922 must be greatly reduced.

There was much comment tonight over the fact that Great Britain had declined to vote in favor of declaring Germany in default, in view of the approaching meeting of the premiers. Although the deliveries of wood in themselves are of less importance than other matters connected with reparations, the French pointed out that today's decision was of real value to France's position on reparations, since it reversed the order of things and placed Great Britain in an isolated position on the issue.

Some of the French observers affected tonight to see in the vote an indication that France, Italy and Belgium may present a united front before Great Britain on the question of reparations at the coming meeting here of the premiers.

CUNO HOLDS CONFERENCES

New Proposals on Reparations to Be Made to Allies.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—Chancellor Cuno, who had been passing the Christmas holidays with his family and friends in Hamburg, returned to the capital today and at once resumed discussion of the reparations programme with the few ministers who were passing Christmas in Berlin.

Although the government has not yet been officially advised from Paris that the entente premiers will be prepared to receive fresh or amplified proposals, the chancellor is determined to be equipped with ammunition of this sort, and he proposes answering any summons with amplifications of his previous propositions, and also with a carefully formulated offer for the definite fixing of the reparations total based upon his present survey of Germany's economic and financial capacity.

The chancellor, together with Finance Minister Hermes and Johannes Becker, minister of economics, has been occupied during the last ten days with intimate conversations with industrialists, bankers, shipping leaders and representatives of importing and exporting industries, and has also kept the Reichstag leaders and the officials of the general federation of labor unions informed of the nature and progress of these consultations.

The chancellor also has called in

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CHRISTMAS WHISKY EXACTS AWFUL TOLL

SCORES IN HOSPITALS, MANY DEAD AND BLIND.

Fifty Victims Reported Suffering in Boston, 20 in New York and Many Elsewhere.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—More than 50 persons were in hospitals here today suffering from alcohol poisoning as a result of drinking liquors obtained during the holidays. Two deaths due to this cause occurred. Eighteen of the patients were listed as in a critical condition.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Eight deaths were attributed today to drinking poisonous Christmas liquors. A score or more of victims were confined to hospitals. Of those who died two were women. A woman was arrested as the seller of whisky which caused the death of one of the women.

Prohibition Director Yellowley, whose aides succeeded in keeping the white lights dimmer than usual, declared that while the dry navy was busy in holding rum-runners outside the three-mile limit, land rum-runners succeeded in an old ruse, smuggling liquor into the city under thousands of Christmas trees.

This liquor, however, apparently was reserved for the consumption, as little of it was to be found in the white light cabarets.

DETROIT, Dec. 26.—Poisonous liquor obtained over the Christmas holidays was declared by the police today to have been responsible for one death and the illness of more than a score of persons here.

SHELBY, O., Dec. 26.—For five minutes Phillip Weigant and Lester Elston stood at the bar of Robert Longley today, sobbing and shaking their bodies. Wordless, they gazed upon the still form of Longley, who died yesterday after drinking whisky.

Police conducted Weigant and Elston to the coffin and compelled them to gaze upon the body of Longley as a "moral example."

The two men are held on charges of murder. Two other men who drank some of the same liquor are totally blind today, and little hope for recovery of their sight is held. The liquor is said to have contained wood alcohol.

CHINESE WEDS WHITE

California Pair United in Marriage at Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—C. K. Young, a Chinese rancher of Calif., was said to be wealthy blind today, and little hope for recovery of their sight is held. The liquor is said to have contained wood alcohol.

Even with 14 ships reporting in, quarantine did not have as many as were expected. Five ships, including La Savoie, were overdue. La Savoie reported she would be in Thursday, but the owners heard nothing from the Lord Byron, the Eastern City and the York Castle, all of which were expected at their docks today. The President Moore will arrive tomorrow.

Cable and wireless messages told of the ravages on the European side. Falmouth, England, reported three D'Alfred at Fasset last night.

OREGONIAN MAN WINS HONOR

Reed College Graduate Receives Coveted Oxford Prize.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Frank Curworth Flint of Salem has been honored with the chancellor's prize for English essay at Oxford, according to a message received here today. This prize, it was said, is one of the highest honors in the gift of the educational institution.

Young Flint is a graduate of Reed college, Portland, and was appointed Rhodes scholar from Oregon in 1919. He is the first American to merit the English prize and the first American ever to win an honor high enough to entitle him to participate in the encaenia, as the commencement ceremony is called.

"The Post-Victorian Epoch of English Literature" was the subject for this year's chancellor's prize competition.

SIXTY ENGINES ORDERED

Burlington to Expend \$3,150,000 for New Locomotives.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—An order for 60 fast freight locomotives of the latest type has been placed for early spring delivery by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. Vice-President Bracken announced here today, saying the order approximates \$3,150,000.

This is in addition to 2600 reconditioned steel coal cars, 500 new automobile cars, 500 reconditioned box cars and 200 reconditioned refrigerator cars recently received, he said.

KITTEN CAUSES TRAGEDY

Woman Dead as Result of Playful Animal's Antics.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A small gray kitten playfully sprang at a rubber hose that connected up the gas stove in the Brooklyn home of Mrs. Catherine Carey today.

A few hours later Mrs. Carey and the kitten were found asphyxiated. Three neighbors were saved by the use of pulmotors.

ATLANTIC STORM BATTERS SHIPS

Gigantic Liner Caronia Forced Into Halifax.

14 CRAFT ENROUTE NEW YORK

Hurricanes Seem to Shake Ocean to Bottom.

VESSELS IN BAD SHAPE

Five Are Overdue With Nothing Heard From Three Which Were Expected Yesterday.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Battered and scarred by heavy weather, 14 ships plowed slowly into quarantine from early morning until late afternoon today, the skippers of them all reporting a never-ending battle with a series of lashing hurricanes which seemed to shake the Atlantic to the bottom.

One ship—the gigantic liner Caronia—put in at Halifax because she was steadily losing her fight with the storm. Another liner reported to her owners that she would be two days late. A third reported that she couldn't reach New York until tomorrow, although she had apparently gone safely through most of the storm.

Center of European Coast.

The center of the storms, which have been ruling the waves for the last three weeks, appeared to be about 1600 miles off the European coast. Skippers of the liners said they crashed into them at this point and fought steadily through terrific gales until within 500 miles of the United States.

All of the ships which came into quarantine today were freighters. Some of them had parts of the bridges gone. Small boats on their decks were crushed and torn. In one or two instances hatches were pounded in, and all of them reported their crews had been in all skins almost steadily for from five to 14 days.

Five Ships Are Overdue.

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Cable and wireless messages told of the ravages on the European side. Falmouth, England, reported three D'Alfred at Fasset last night.

BERNHARDT WINNING BATTLE FOR LIFE

CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IS SHOWN BY ACTRESS.

"Divine Sarah" Sits Up in Bed and Talks of Time When She'll Return to Stage.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—The household of Sarah Bernhardt was jubilant tonight over the remarkable improvement shown in the condition of the famous actress. The deep gloom which had settled down upon the family and faithful followers of the star was almost entirely dispelled by the continued optimism of the doctors, who have permitted Madame Bernhardt to sit up in her room twice during the last 24 hours.

Madame Bernhardt had Christmas dinner last night with the members of her family and a few intimate friends. She ate a small piece of turkey and talked cheerfully and hopefully of her return to the footlights. She was beginning to believe, she said, that she would be spared to act ten years more. She confided to several friends that she expected to assume her role in the new Gaiety play that was about to be produced when she was stricken, within three weeks.

The physicians smiled when Madame Bernhardt indulged in these three weeks talk, merely saying "Perhaps." They frankly stated, on the other hand, that the divine Sarah's condition was very weak, her long years of hard work on the boards had told on her and that it was quite possible it would be many months before she was able to appear in public. There are not lacking, indeed, those who think Bernhardt may never act again.

The few old and faithful servants who have followed Madame Bernhardt around the world, through fortune and adversity, presented a touching picture tonight. They were overjoyed at the prospect of their mistress's return to health.

"Just think, Madame Sarah sat up tonight," said the old butler. "I will make a bet that Madame will be back on the stage in a month—and such an ovation as she will receive!"

Scores of prominent people continued to call at the Bernhardt home today to express their happiness over her improved condition and there was unrestrained rejoicing among the actors and actresses of Paris, many of whom went to her residence with flowers and filled her room with roses. Many cable messages arrived from American friends and admirers, including actors and actresses on the American stage.

ANOTHER CHURCH GONE

Tenth Catholic Edifice in Canada Reported Destroyed.

MONTREAL, Dec. 26.—Word was received today that the tenth fire to sweep a Catholic edifice in Canada this year had destroyed the parish church of Saint Thomas D'Alfred at Fasset last night.

VETERAN'S FUNERAL SET

Survivor of Custer Massacre to Be Buried Today.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—John Martin, who said he was the last survivor of the Custer massacre on the Little Big Horn, will be buried tomorrow in Cypress Hills cemetery. He died in a Brooklyn hospital Sunday at the age of 69.

DROP OF WHISKY COSTLY

Negro Waiter in Senate Restaurant Loses Job.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—The drive to keep bootleggers out of the capitol building severed from the government payroll today a negro waiter, said by senate officials to have dropped a flask of Christmas whisky on the floor of the senate restaurant.

Senator Curtis of Kansas, chairman of the senate rules committee, who recently ordered the capitol police to arrest all bootleggers found in the building regardless of what influence they might invoke, deprived the waiter of his job.

LANDLORD GOES TO JAIL

Failure to Heat Homes of Tenants Brings Penalty.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Charged with failure to warm the homes of his 72 tenant families, Jacob Solotoroff, owner of four east side apartment houses, today was sentenced to the toms for 90 days when he was unable to pay a \$600 fine imposed by Magistrate Simpson.

The magistrate refused to entertain the landlord's plea that he had been unable to buy coal.

Health department inspectors testified that only seven tons of coal had been used for heating the homes of the 72 families this winter.

GROGER, IN HIDING, IS SHOT BY ROBBER

WIFE SEES OUTLAW FIRE AT HUSBAND'S REFUGE.

Edgar G. Wright Flees When Pair Enters Store and Demands Cash From Till.

Edgar C. Wright, 55-year-old grocer at 414 Hall street, was shot in the right arm early last night while attempting to trick a pair of holdup men who were after the contents of his cash register. After the shooting both escaped, but got no money. Mrs. Wright was standing close to the man who shot her husband.

The Wrights live in quarters in the rear of the grocery. Mrs. Wright was preparing supper and Mr. Wright was in the store with a customer when the two robbers entered. Both were about 25 years old and were well dressed. One stood idly by the door while the other stepped to the cigar counter, immediately in front of the door, and asked for a package of cigarettes. He tossed a quarter on the counter to pay for them. The grocer served out the cigarettes, went to the cash register for change and encountered the menace of a .38 caliber automatic pistol when he turned again. The robber was resting it upon the counter and shielding it with his other hand.

"Hand over your money!" he ordered in a low voice.

"All right," returned Wright. "I'll go get it for you."

Wright walked behind the counter to the door opening into the living quarters, paralleled by the holdup on the other side of the counter. When Wright got into the kitchen he began shouting for help as he dashed into a bathroom and closed the door after him.

Mrs. Wright, hearing the commotion, stepped into the room just as the gunman entered. For a moment the pistol's muzzle threatened her. "I thought I was gone," said the diminutive, silver-haired wife. "I expected him to shoot me then, but instead he wheeled and fired two shots through the bathroom door at Edgar. Then he ran out the way he had come without waiting to see if he had hit Edgar."

The customer watched the two men flee east on Hall street. The police immediately combed the district, without result.

Wright was taken to the city emergency hospital, where it was found the bullet had penetrated deep into the fleshy part of the arm about midway between elbow and shoulder. The bullet being in the wound. Two bullet holes in the bathroom door and a scuffed bullet dug from the bathroom wall identified the caliber and type of weapon used.

BRITISHER TO BE SHOWN

Ambassador Invited to Inspect Immigration Station.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—Secretary Davis of the labor department left today for New York and Sir Auckland Geddis, the British ambassador, will go there tomorrow night to join him in a personal inspection of the Ellis island immigration station. The ambassador was invited last week to accompany the secretary on his invitation because of criticism of conditions at Ellis island voiced in the British parliament.

Mr. Davis previously had announced that steps were being taken to determine what improvements could be made for handling and accommodation of immigrants, especially with reference to their segregation by races.

SUGAR PRICES ARE CUT

Refined Cane and Beet Products Down 10 Cents Hundred.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—The California and Hawaiian refinery and the Western Refinery announced a 10-cent drop a hundred pounds in the price of refined cane sugar to \$7.40, effective today.

A cut of 10 cents a 100 pounds in refined beet sugar to \$7.20 was announced by the Spreckels Sugar company, also effective today.

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SAVANTS DEFEND DARWIN'S THEORY

Teaching of Evolution in Schools Upheld.

ATTACKS CALLED MISTAKE

American Scientific Body Issues Statement.

3000 ATTEND MEETING

Council of Association for Advancement of Science Acts at Cambridge Session.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—A resolution affirming that no "scientific generalization is more strongly supported by thoroughly tested evidence than is that of organic evolution" was adopted today by the council of the American association for the advancement of science. The resolution expressed the conviction that any legislation attempting to limit the teaching of the doctrine of evolution would be a "profound mistake."

It cited an attempt in several states to prohibit the teaching of evolution in the public schools and the wide publicity given to assertions that the theory of evolution was a mere guess which leading scientists were abandoning. It called attention to the fact that the American association had a membership of more than 11,000 persons, including the American authorities in all branches of science.

Theory Is Defended.

"There is no ground whatever," the resolution said, speaking of the scientific evidences of the evolution of plants and animals and man, "for the assertion that these evidences constitute a mere guess."

It affirms that evidences in favor of the evolution of man are "sufficient to convince every scientist of note in the world," that the theory of evolution is "one of the most potent of the great influences for good that has thus far entered into human experience" and that to limit its teachings "could not fail to injure and retard the advancement of knowledge and of human welfare by denying the freedom of teaching the theory which is essential to all progress."

The resolution was drafted by a committee consisting of Edwin Grant Conklin of Princeton university, chairman; Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the board of trustees of the American museum of natural history; and Charles B. Davenport, director of the Cold Spring harbor station of the Carnegie institution.

Council's Power Extensive.

The council consists of the president of the American association, the permanent secretary, general secretary and treasurer, the vice-presidents and secretaries of the various sections, representatives of each of the 40 or more affiliated societies and eight elective members.

The council is empowered to make formal pronouncement on behalf of the association. It is not customary for the delegates to take further action on any such resolutions.

The meeting of the council marked the opening of the 76th annual meeting of the association here at the joint invitation of the Massachusetts institute of technology and Harvard university. Its sessions for the remainder of the week will be held chiefly in technology buildings.

Every branch of science is represented among the 3000 delegates at the meeting.

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ONE MAN ENDS LIFE BUT 2 OTHERS FAIL

SUICIDE FIRES FATAL SHOTS AT SIXTH-STREET CLUB.

Another Victim Takes Strychnine and Third Slashes Wrists in Hotel Furnace Pit.

One man ended his life and two others failed in their attempts at death yesterday in a post-Christmas epidemic of suicide.

E. L. Collins, about 45 years old, shot himself twice through the heart in a lavatory at the Metropolitan club, 103 Sixth street, at about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The two reports were heard by Jack Stovall, proprietor of the establishment, who went to the back of the place and found Collins unconscious on the floor, an automatic pistol, newly purchased, beside him. Collins was sent to St. Vincent's hospital, where he died within five minutes.

In his pocket was found a card directing that Mrs. Clara Schenck, Gasco apartments, Linnton, be notified in case of accident. The corner's office failed to reach her last night.

G. R. Osland, about 40 years old, staggered into a grocery store at 40 North Third street at about 3 o'clock and gasped that he had taken strychnine. Emergency hospital doctors were called and gave him an emetic. He was taken to St. Vincent's hospital, where he was thought last night to be out of danger.

Papers he carried indicated that his home was in Scenic, Wash., and that he was an employee of A. Guthrie & Co., contractors. No motive was found for his deed and police had not discovered last night where he took the nearly fatal dose.

Alfred Denning, 40 years old, a retired farmer living at the Ryan hotel, 269 1/2 Sixth street, was found in the furnace pit of the hotel just before noon with his wrists cut. Indications were that he had attempted suicide, although friends could think of no possible motive.

He was taken to St. Vincent's hospital and was said to be on the road to recovery. He is a widower.

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