

HARDING QUERIES EUROPE ON MEET

Negotiations Revealed by Lodge in Debate.

BORAH PLAN IS CONDEMNED

Fear of Embarrassing President Pointed Out.

LIMITS ARE ATTACKED

Administration Believes It Has Plan Outlined That Will Insure Amendment's Defeat.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—The first official disclosure that President Harding is negotiating toward an international conference for the consideration of European economic problems was made by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, the republican floor leader, during opening debate in the senate today on the proposal of Senator Borah, republican of Idaho, for the president to call an international conference to discuss economic conditions and disarmament.

In opposing the Borah proposal, which is in the form of an amendment to the naval appropriation bill, Senator Lodge urged that the president be not embarrassed "in the efforts... which he is now making as a man of fact."

Senator Lodge, in the course of an hour's address against the Borah amendment as presented, did not oppose the calling of an economic conference, but said it should be carefully and strictly defined with such questions as reparations, allied debts and immigration specifically excluded from consideration.

Harding May Give Facts.

The state department, which has consistently maintained silence as to any efforts the administration might be making in reference to improving economic and business conditions in Europe, declined to add anything to the statement of Senator Lodge, but it was learned that President Harding was considering most seriously transmitting a letter to the senate giving information of his negotiations and at the same time deploring any intervention from congress which might operate to hinder his efforts.

It is understood that through the state department it was learned that "sounding out" several new proposals regarding the desirability of holding an economic conference. Whether the proposed conference would be called by or held in the United States or whether this nation would be the principal sponsor, however, important details not disclosed.

Debate to Be Continued.

The Borah amendment was discussed for four hours in the senate today. Senators Lodge and Lammot, republican of Wisconsin, speaking in opposition, and Senators Borah and Williams, democrat, of Mississippi, in behalf of the proposal. No action was taken on the question and further debate went over until tomorrow.

CAVE USED FOR STORAGE

Farmers Utilize Natural Cooling Plant to Keep Perishables.

(By Chicago Tribune Leased Wire.) ST. JOE, Ark., Dec. 27.—Cold storage provided by nature the year round is one of the advantages enjoyed by the farmers of this section, and it has been utilized to the fullest extent this year in the storage of a record fruit crop and in caring for meat and vegetables.

WORKING HOURS CHANGE

Sofia Government Cuts Day for Office Employees.

SOFIA, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—A seven-hour day for office workers will be substituted by the government for the present eight-hour schedule beginning January 1.

Manson, Wash., Man Badly Hurt.

BAKERSFIELD, CAL., Dec. 27.—His car turning over when he struck a dog, J. S. Thompson of Manson, Wash., was seriously, perhaps fatally, injured today and taken to a local hospital for treatment. Two other occupants of the car escaped unhurt. Thompson was en route to Los Angeles when the accident occurred.

BERNHARDT RETAINS HOPE TO GET WELL

NO CHANGE NOTED IN DAY, DOCTORS ANNOUNCE.

Two More Physicians Called In for Consultation Regarding Actress' Condition.

PARIS, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—Medical men attending Madame Sarah Bernhardt said tonight there had been no improvement in her condition since morning, but neither had there been a change for the worse. The actress herself was optimistic as ever.

"Tell them in America," she said, "all my friends how much I appreciate their kind interest. I shall get well again, never fear."

This message was sent out through Madame Normand, the director of Bernhardt's household, as the doctors forbade their patient from receiving any visitors.

Two more doctors were called today besides Professors Obissier and Marot and after a long consultation they issued the following instructions to the household:

"The undersigned physicians insist upon the absolute necessity of letting no one enter the sick room. (Signed)

"Abbe, Demos, Obissier, Marot." "These orders are clear," said Madame Normand after scolding the butler for permitting the correspondent to enter the house, "but Madame insists upon seeing whomsoever she pleases."

The elderly nurse who is attending the actress said:

"Madame is a very headstrong patient."

The physicians have ordered that the doorbell be disconnected and that the telephone receiver be left off the hook. The doctors do not conceal their admiration for Madame Bernhardt's courage, declaring that she "is the most wonderful woman."

TWO MEN ROB GROCERY

Proprietor Seizes Day's Receipts of \$70 Into Hat.

The Vordahl Bros. grocery, 1442 East Glean street, was held up and robbed of \$70 by two armed men early last night. Both were about 40 years old.

Otto R. Vordahl, one of the owners, and his wife were in the store when the pair entered. Vordahl was counting money at the cash register. He understood them to call for cigarettes.

"Just a minute," he said, without looking up.

"No fooling, now, put your money in here and be quick about it," said one of the men, and he looked up to notice the revolver for the first time. The fellow shoved his hat over the counter and Vordahl scooped his day's receipts into it.

AUTO DEATH TOLL HEAVY

321 Die and 6393 Injured in Los Angeles During Year.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 27.—Three hundred and twenty-one persons were killed in traffic accidents in Los Angeles during the year 1922 and 6393 were injured, according to a report today to the police statistician. Last year the death toll was 285 and 6562 persons were hurt.

The police records charged the responsibility for injuring 691 persons to speeders and for 625 persons to incompetent drivers. Autoists who drove past standing street cars hurt 425 more. "Jay walking" accounted for 650 accidents. Nature of other accidents was diversified.

The total deaths from traffic accidents in city and county were 483.

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Plant to Keep Perishables.

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The natural cold storage plant is a mammoth cave located at Zack. It has been known for years as "The Blowing Cave," because a cool breeze always issues from its mouth, but it only lately has been fitted with doors and bins and used for commercial storage purposes.

It is probably the largest cold storage plant in the world so far as capacity is concerned.

WORKING HOURS CHANGE

Sofia Government Cuts Day for Office Employees.

SOFIA, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—A seven-hour day for office workers will be substituted by the government for the present eight-hour schedule beginning January 1.

The new shift will be from 8 o'clock to 2, eliminating the customary two hours for lunch. It is announced that hereafter time will be designated according to a 24-hour clock.

Manson, Wash., Man Badly Hurt.

BAKERSFIELD, CAL., Dec. 27.—His car turning over when he struck a dog, J. S. Thompson of Manson, Wash., was seriously, perhaps fatally, injured today and taken to a local hospital for treatment. Two other occupants of the car escaped unhurt. Thompson was en route to Los Angeles when the accident occurred.

BIG SUMS RAISED TO AID EX-MAYOR

Suspect in Mob Murder Opens Legal Battle

EXTRADITION IS CONTROVERSY

Friends and Wealth Rally to Assist Mer Rouge Doctor.

GANG'S TRAIL FOLLOWED

Governor Confers With Special Assistants Over Plans for Thorough Investigation.

BASTROP, La., Dec. 27.—A warrant for the arrest of Dr. B. M. McKoin, former mayor of Mer Rouge, and who is being held in Baltimore on instructions of Governor Parker of Louisiana, was issued late today upon the request of Attorney-General Cocco.

BASTROP, La., Dec. 27.—Civil and military authorities today followed through the red, low hills and swamps of Morehouse parish the trail they believe was taken by the masked and robed men on the afternoon and night of August 24 when five men were kidnaped and two murdered.

The trail covered a distance of about 25 miles from a point on the Bastrop-Mer Rouge highway where the men were kidnaped, to a ferry landing at Lake La Fourche, near where the bodies of two of them were found last week.

The reconnoiterers were seeking additional evidence implicating those responsible for the mysterious disappearance of the bodies from the bottom of the lake, where they had been weighted down four months.

Extradition Fight Started.

The day was without developments. All eyes were turned toward Baltimore where Dr. B. M. McKoin, ex-mayor of Mer Rouge was battling against extradition to Louisiana, where he is to face a charge of murder in connection with the case.

The legal fight to bring him back may develop another historic incident similar to the effort to get ex-Governor Taylor of Kentucky out of Indiana to stand trial for the murder of Governor Goebel in the Bluegrass state in Frankfort, Ky., two decades or more ago, in the belief expressed today by friends of the former mayor.

It developed during the day that there will be unlimited funds available and countless friends to assist the physician, who does not want to return here. His friends in Morehouse are determined to see that he is not removed from the state.

MAJOR NICHOLSON OUT

Officer Who Criticized Army Removed from Service.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 27.—Major Malcolm Wheeler Nicholson, recently court-martialed for his criticisms of the regular army, has been informed by the war department of his separation from the service.

In a letter to President Harding, he charged that "Prussianism exists in the army."

He later wrote a pamphlet entitled "Abolish the Army or Reform It."

3 MEN DEVoured BY TIMBER WOLVES

TRAPPER AND INDIANS FIGHT LOSING BATTLE.

Carcasses of 16 Animals Found Scattered About Human Bones and Bits of Clothing.

PORT ARTHUR, Ont., Dec. 27.—A great roving band of hungry timber wolves has devoured three men, according to meager reports sifting in today from the snow-covered trails of the Sturgeon river country. These reports told of a losing battle fought by two Indians and a white trapper had been downed and killed.

Last Saturday an elderly trapper left his cabin in the woods 70 miles north of Ignace to mush down to the settlement for his Christmas mail. He arrived in safety. There was no mail, however, and the old man said he would come back Christmas morning. At noon he had not arrived. The postmaster sent two Indians to follow the trail until they found him.

About two miles from the settlement the Indians found a spot pounded down in the snow and crimson hue. Bits of dog harness torn to shreds were scattered about. In the midst of them the Indians found human bones. They hastened back to report their discovery.

The lure of the bounty on wolves, however, urged the Indians to take the trail again, with extra ammunition. They sped behind their dog team into the woods as the villagers waved goodbye. They did not return. Yesterday a new searching party departed. They found another patch trodden in the snow about two miles beyond the first.

The two guns the Indians had carried were lying there and scattered about were bones, bits of clothing and empty shells.

The carcasses of 16 wolves lay stretched in a circle about the trampled patch of snow.

TRACE OF SHIP FOUND

Buoy Keg of Missing Seattle Craft Bears Sailor's Name.

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C., Dec. 27.—Captain Hansen of the fishing boat Iris reported today to United States Consul Wakefield here the finding of a buoy keg near Indian harbor, Banks Island, bearing in blue pencil the name of Ole Naamussen, a member of the crew of the missing fishing schooner Convention.

The Convention, which hailed from Seattle, was given up for lost several weeks ago.

WILSON 66 YEARS OLD

Ex-President to Spend Birthday Quietly at Home.

(By Chicago Tribune Leased Wire.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27.—Ex-President Wilson will be 66 years old tomorrow. The former president and Mrs. Wilson will observe the day quietly with a few close friends.

Intimates of Mr. Wilson say that he is in better health than he has been at any time since he became ill.

DEATH RATE IN 1921 LOWEST IN 21 YEARS

SUICIDE AND AUTO FATALITIES ARE ON INCREASE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—Deaths in the death rate from heart disease, influenza and pneumonia and tuberculosis in all its forms, the three principal causes of death in the United States, were the outstanding features of 1921, which shows the lowest death rate recorded in any year since the beginning of the annual compilations in 1900, the census bureau announced today. Increases were shown in the rate for cancer, automobile accidents and injuries, diphtheria, typhoid, suicide and homicide, and several other causes.

While the 1921 death rate was 11.6 per 1000, compared with 13.1 in 1920, a higher rate for 1922 is indicated in the reports for the first six months of this year, showing the rate to be 12.6 for that period. Those rates are for the registration area of continental United States, comprising 34 states, the District of Columbia and 16 other cities in non-registration states, with a total estimated population on July 1 of 88,667,982, or 82.2 per cent of the estimated population of the United States on that date, which was 105,245,252.

The total number of deaths in the registration area was 1,042,000, compared with 1,142,558 in 1920. The rate per 100,000 was 1,163.3, compared with 1306 in 1920. Based on the death rate for the registration area, the number of deaths for the whole United States for 1921 approximates 1,271,444.

Heart diseases were responsible for an eighth of 130,251 deaths in 1921, but the rate per 100,000 declined from 149.7 to 147. Influenza and pneumonia in all forms caused 38,458 deaths, compared with 32,295 in 1920, the rate declining from 39.3 to 38.8. Tuberculosis in all its forms resulted in 88,335 deaths, compared with 99,915 in 1920. Cancer and other malignant tumors were responsible for 76,274 deaths, compared with 79,931 in 1920, the rate increasing from 83.4 to 86.

Automobile accidents and injuries resulted in 19,153 deaths, compared with 19,027, the rate increasing from 10.4 to 11.6 per 100,000 of population. Suicide numbered 11,138, compared with 8559 in 1920, the rate increasing from 10.2 to 12.6. Homicides also increased, numbering 7545, compared with 6205 in 1920, the rate increasing from 7.4 to 8.5.

TURKISH-ALLIED SHOWDOWN NEAR

Outcome of Conference Causes Alarm.

LAUSANNE, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—Great uneasiness is spreading throughout near east conference circles as the time approaches when there must be a final reckoning on all important questions which have been passed by only partial agreement or no agreement at all between the Turks and the allied powers.

Lord Curzon's positive announcement today that Great Britain would not cede Mosul to Turkey and did not propose to discuss that question further was the forerunner of less positive statements from the other delegations on various questions, which indicated that the conference was reaching a climax and that preparations were under way for a final showing of strength.

ENGLAND WON'T CEDE MOSUL

British Make Formal Reply to Turkish Note.

The British position was outlined in a letter sent by Lord Curzon to Ismet Pasha, head of the Turkish delegation, covering the formal reply of the British delegation to the Turkish note of Sunday last, which insisted Mosul belonged to Turkey.

Lord Curzon stated that the British government had expelled the Turks from the Mosul area and occupied and administered it. The British had taken a pledge to free the area both from Turkish rule and establish the government of the Iraq and England since then had repeatedly given her word that the Arabs would not be interfered with.

Lord Curzon added that Great Britain had given her solemn pledge to let no foreign power take any part of the territory and that she would steadfastly adhere to her promise.

ALL SEEM TALKED OUT

Final Roundup of Near East Settlements Expected to Take Place Next Week.

The three leaders made no announcement as to what decision had been reached.

TURKS DELIVER TWO NOTES

Demand Made to Keep Warships Out of Smyrna Harbor.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—Dr. Adnan Bey, representative of the national government in Constantinople, today handed to the allied commissioners two notes from his government. The first of the communications stated that no warships or submarines exceeding 1000 tons shall be permitted to remain in Smyrna harbor; that no second warship shall be admitted to the harbor until its predecessor has gone and that no men shall be allowed to land in Smyrna without permission of the Turks.

The second note provides that the Turkish authorities must previously be advised of the intention of any arrival of a foreign vessel.

FILM MAN'S AUTO WRECKED BY BOMB

PANIC IS CREATED BY EXPLOSION IN SEATTLE.

Diners in Residence District Are Frightened by Blast, Which Is Charged to Labor Troubles.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 27.—The automobile of John Danz, who operates several Seattle motion picture houses, was wrecked by a bomb that was thrown into it while it was standing empty in front of his home tonight.

Mr. Danz attributed the explosion to labor controversies he has had recently. The explosion created consternation among diners in homes near the Danz residence, which is in a leading residence district. Children and pedestrians were on the street, but it is said that none was nearer than half a block and nobody was hurt. Mr. Danz had been in his home 20 minutes when he and his family were started by the explosion.

Police started an investigation.

TOWN DARKENED NEARLY 2 HOURS

Mishaps at Sub-Station Puts Lights Out.

A porcelain bushing, burning out at the Lents sub-station of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company yesterday afternoon, taught Portland the true worth of commonplace mechanical inventions.

For almost two hours the downtown district was in semi-darkness. Candles were the principal means of lighting. Elevators in many plants were stalled between floors and tenants and workers in many big office buildings used stairways. The high-power wire, carrying machinery in a few factories was stilled and the industrial and commercial Portland suffered as if suddenly paralyzed.

POWER ALSO IS SHUT OFF

Cars and Elevators in Parts of City Halted.

Power instantly cut off. The bushing burned out at 4:24 o'clock and it was 6:15 o'clock before power was fully restored. During this period, though, the steam plant of the Northwestern Electric company, in the sub-basement of the Piltcock block, was working and supplying light and power to that company's patrons.

According to power officials of the traction company, the exact cause of the trouble is unknown. The high-power wire, carrying "juice" from the Canadero power house, enters the walls of the Lents sub-station through the bushing. In some manner this bushing out. Instantly all power supplied by the traction company to its subscribers in the city was shut off. Provisions are made for such emergencies, and in a space of from 5 to 20 minutes the sub-stations supplying the outlying and industrial sections of the city were at work again.

AUTO BURNS ON HIGHWAY

Garage Man Lifts Hood.

ASHLAND, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—A five-passenger automobile was destroyed by fire while coming toward the city yesterday. When the driver, Walter Robison, garage man, lifted the hood to investigate the cause of a bit of smoke the engine burst into flames. Though little remains of the car, the gasoline tank did not explode.

Two autos collided on the Pacific highway south of here when a tourist, California bound, crashed broadside into a machine driven by John Crosslin. When called upon to stop, the tourist yelled that he did not have the time to spare. His number was not taken.

TRAFFIC VIOLATION QUITS

Judge's Rule to Show Off Lawless Drivers Effective.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—When Justice of the Peace Unruh, several weeks ago, announced that he would sentence all traffic violators to ride through the business streets of the city in an automobile labeled, "This man is being taught the rules of the road," he had little idea that the results would be favorable.

Since the judge issued the order not a traffic violator has been arraigned in court.

LIQUOR SHIP IS CAUGHT

Launch Captured After Chase by Coast Guard Cutter.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 27.—After playing hide-and-seek with the coast guard cutter Guard for several days, the speed launch 911-K, loaded with 39 cases of whisky, was run down and captured near Anacortes, Wash., today, according to word received by customs officials here.

Herbert Hodges and M. A. Nelson were arrested and were to be taken to Bellingham this afternoon for examination before a United States commissioner.

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POWER ALSO IS SHUT OFF

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CANDLES ARE IN DEMAND

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