

### HARDING'S ATTITUDE IS VITAL TO FRANCE

Everybody Waiting to See What Policy Will Be.

### FORECAST DECLARED HARD

Repeated Appeals Sent Ambassador Jusserand to Get "Inside Information" on Situation.

BY LINCOLN EYRE  
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PARIS, Feb. 12.—(Special Cable.)—Anxiety over the attitude that will be assumed toward the allies and particularly toward France by the Harding administration is weighing heavily on the French official circles these days. It is generally recognized that upon Mr. Harding's foreign policy will depend to a critical degree, the recovery of the French nation from the "agonies of war" and nobody in Paris has the slightest idea what, even in its broadest outline, that policy will be.

Repeated appeals have been made to Ambassador Jusserand by the French foreign office requesting him to seek "inside information" of the possible attitude as to the Versailles treaty and its numerous financial and political commitments, including allied indebtedness to the United States. Hitherto Ambassador Jusserand has been able to give his government only the most vague reports based on little more than rumor, concerning President-elect Harding's views on these matters.

Forecast Considered Hard. "There has never been an incoming administration whose international policy was harder to forecast," a high official of the foreign ministry told me despairingly the other day. I learned, however, that although France has virtually abandoned hope of getting a correct and comprehensive idea before March 4 of what Mr. Harding means, that although Briand is resolved that the president-elect shall be fully advised of the French government's aspirations as regards American collaboration in the domain of restoring peace and prosperity, Premier Briand is now searching for the best means of bringing the views of France officially to Mr. Harding's knowledge.

Obviously this cannot be done through Ambassador Jusserand for it would be a violation of diplomatic etiquette for an ambassador, accredited to the present American administration, to establish official contact with its successor at this time. The same objection applies to any existing medium of communication between the two governments, such as, for instance, the reparations committee.

Sending Envoy Considered. Consequently, M. Briand is considering the possibility of sending an envoy, who, although lacking diplomatic status, would be fully empowered to present the French government's case to the president-elect. There appears to be no reason why the French premier should not, if he sees fit, exchange views with any private citizen in America in this extra-diplomatic fashion, so long as nothing occurs to affect the relations existing between the Wilson administration and the French foreign ministry.

Should lack of time or other considerations render the dispatch of the special representative impracticable, it may be that the French premier will take a leaf out of the book of Sir Auckland Geddes—although doubtless in a more discreet manner. Geddes, the American people, including Mr. Harding, by means of a frank and comprehensive statement to the American newspapers. Hitherto the premier, in the brief interviews he has had with the American correspondents, has refused to discuss in any except the most general terms the future relations between France and America.

Relations Held Insufficient. In an apparently inspired article in this morning's *Parisien*, Philippe Millet, one of the best-informed French writers on international politics, suggested that Premier Briand might do worse than follow the example of the public announcement given by President-elect Harding himself in his letter on the world role of the Anglo-Saxon peoples. "Between the United States and France," M. Millet writes, "the relations of the chanceries are insufficient. There must be relations of people to people."

Ambassador Jusserand's laudable activities in defining the allied reparational programme, M. Millet declared, are inadequate. He pointed out that that programme may remain a dead letter if America refuses to accept it as security for credits to the entente. He declared that Americans must be shown how difficult will be the task of restoring European stability if Washington should reject the Versailles treaty and the league of nations.

Past Amendments Eyed. He added that the amendments to the treaty proposed by the United States doubtless will be approved by the allies. L'Homme Libre, Clemenceau's old paper, under the headline "Is France Going to Suffer From Anglo-American Rivalry?" discussed another phase of the same problem. Taking as a text the bill introduced in the American congress, authorizing the sale of guns and ammunition to Portugal, it observed that this was due to Portugal's "kindness" in permitting the United States to establish a naval base at Ponta del Sa da in the Azores, and will have the effect of threatening British prestige at Lisbon. As a result, Great Britain, L'Homme Libre averred, is flirting with Spain and revealing the tendency, despite France's claim to Tangiers, in favor of the coastal government's ambitions in Morocco.

### SLIGHT TELLS OF FIGHT

DETECTIVE DESCRIBES MINING DISTRICT BATTLE.

John McDowell Discloses Part He Played in Clash With Matewan Citizens May 19.

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Feb. 12.—Excited and confused, with pistols and rifles popping on every side, John McDowell, one of the Baldwin Felt detectives, fired three shots at Reese Chambers, a defendant, and then fled, he testified today concerning his part in the battle with the citizens of Matewan May 19. Several townspeople lay dead

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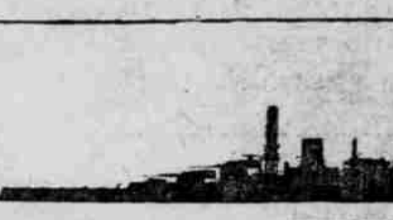
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here and then crossed over into Kentucky. Fully 100 shots were fired, he said. Miss Chafin was on duty in the telephone exchange, she testified. She heard Sid Hatfield call Tony Webb, who was chief deputy sheriff, and ask him when warrants could be obtained for the arrest of the detectives. She further testified that she heard Hatfield tell Webb "I'll get you out of Matewan" before they got out of Matewan. Miss Chambers testified to substantially the same thing.

### AID BY CONGRESS WANTED

AUTHORITY TO SHIP FAMINE SUPPLIES IS SOUGHT.

Secretary Daniels and Chairman Bentson Hold Conference on Transporting Food to China.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12.—Congress will be asked to enact special legislation authorizing the shipping board to employ vessels to haul to China grain donated by American farmers for the relief of the starving and giving the navy department permission to pay expenses of volunteer naval reserves to form crews. It was announced today, after a conference between Secretary Daniels and Chairman Bentson of the shipping board.

The decision was reached after a committee, headed by Carl Vrooman, ex-assistant secretary of agriculture, had said grain already had been given by farmers in the west and that members of the railroad brotherhoods stood ready to haul to the coast without charge for their service. Chairman Bentson agreed to ascertain what ships are available on the Pacific coast. He will meet again with Secretary Daniels Monday to draft the proposed legislation.

### BAKER HAS TO BE SHOWN

Ex-Soldier Can't Convince War Department He's Alive.

WALCOTT, N. D., Feb. 12.—Relative of Henry O. Magenton, former soldier, today received a citation from the war department, signed by the adjutant-general and by President Wilson, for bravery "in giving his life on the battlefields of France." According to the war department Magenton is dead. His efforts to convince a war department notice to his family early in 1918 that he had been killed in action have so far proved futile. Magenton is working here.

Father Is Arrested. CENTRALIA, Wash., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—On the complaint of Miss Z. May Melghen, county superintendent, W. E. Shortridge, of this city, was arrested Thursday on charge of keeping his son out of school. His hearing has been set for February 18. Shortridge said the boy had been expelled from school.

In Spain the people write on an average fewer than ten letters each a year.

Have fine young baby boy for adoption. Apply H 408, Oregonian—Adv.

Advertisement for Kimball pianos and Seiberling-Lucas Music Co. featuring a Kimball piano in a home setting.

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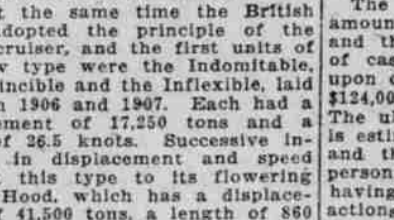
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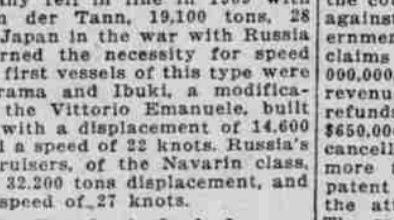
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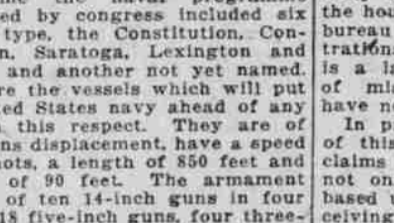
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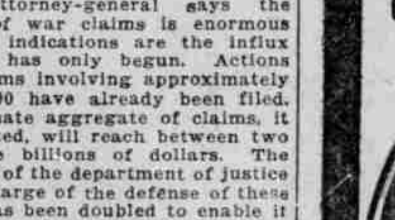
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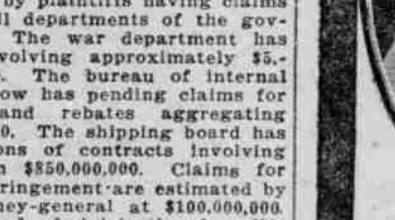
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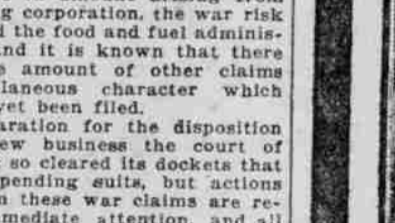
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