

WATSON OFFERS 100 SOLDIER WITNESSES

Veterans to Be Called to Testify as Needed.

DEATH LIST IS BELITTLED

Picture of Hanging Produced and War Department Statement Is Declared Inadequate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 10.—Names of more than 100 ex-servicemen were presented today to a senate committee by Senator Watson, democrat, Georgia, who asked that they be brought here to testify in the investigation of his charges that American soldiers had been put to death in France without right of trial.

There was no intimation as to how many would be summoned. Assistant Secretary of War Watson, democrat, Georgia, who asked that they be brought here to testify in the investigation of his charges that American soldiers had been put to death in France without right of trial.

Senator Watson read extracts from many letters in which soldiers declared they saw or knew of the legal executions. One soldier wrote that on a transport going to France if men were drowned for no apparent reason.

List Declared Incomplete. The senator undertook to show, and indeed announced, that he would prove that the 11 executions did not include all men illegally hanged or shot by order of superior officers. A picture of what seemed to be a gallows in France, on which a rope was being hooked around the neck of a condemned soldier, with several officers on the platform and scores on the ground, was presented by the senator, who testified that it was taken by a colonel now in the service. The officer's name was not revealed.

Senator Watson stated that he desired to return the picture tonight, but by direction of Senator Shields, democrat, Tennessee, it was retained for the record, although the senator declared it was not worth while as evidence if the man who made it could not be found to testify.

Colonel W. E. Bethel, assistant judge advocate-general, from whom the committee obtained the list of the 11 legal executions, was instructed to check over the Watson list and see if any were the same.

Blunder Is Admitted. After presentation of a letter from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt denying he had first-hand knowledge of the killing of a soldier by an officer and the subsequent transfer of the officer to another command, Senator Watson explained that use of Mr. Roosevelt's name was due to a blunder. The letter, he stated, was written by Colonel William Hayward, federal district attorney of New York, and a former officer overseas.

Quoting from his letter to Chairman Brandegee, the senator said it was no surprise to him that the American Legion "composed principally of the officers who organized themselves in Paris to perpetuate militarism in this country should whitewash themselves."

The commander of a legion post at Westville, Okla., the senator said, had sent him the name of a man ready to testify that 21 Americans were executed in France without trial. Another soldier wrote that more than 600 had been illegally killed in France.

"Did these men tell you why the soldiers were killed?" Senator Brandegee asked.

"In every case of ruthless killings," the senator replied, "it was stated that men were shot down because they tagged and were unable to walk."

FIGHT ON PACT LOOMS

(Continued From First Page.)

States. Moreover, I will never give my consent that the vote of Japan shall ever determine an American policy. I can never give my consent to a treaty by three foreign powers outwitting the United States. I cannot call for the sacrifice of the blood of our sons and our treasures in controversies thousands of miles from our shores.

"The proposed treaty is, in my judgment, treacherous, unreasonable and damnable. It will be repudiated by the American people when it is understood. This conference was called for the alleged purpose of agreeing on limitation of armament, and, therefore, met with the good will of all lovers of peace and of America, but it has hatched an adroit's egg. If it is sanctioned by President Harding then he has repudiated all his public declarations during this campaign. The American people in due course will know how to deal with that kind of perfidy."

Senator Sterling, republican, South Dakota, predicted the vote for ratification would be "overwhelming."

"The treaty marks a great step forward," he said, "and will provide for an alliance and does not cripple us. We have removed considerable danger by entry into this conference because our insular possessions might become subjects of serious disputes."

Senator New, Indiana, a republican member of the foreign relations committee, said that the treaty was a "most complete assurance of peace and the greatest security of further economic stability that could have been devised."

Senator Norris, republican, Nebraska, said he did not attach so much importance to it as Secretary Hughes does, yet I think it is a very valuable step toward peace.

Senator Jones, republican, Washington, praised the treaty as "a great achievement which will be very effective in making for peace in the Pacific."

SIGNING OF TREATY BY AMERICA IS SUBJECT TO YAP NEGOTIATIONS, DECLARES LODGE

Reservations Are Made Also in Respect to Mandated Islands in Pacific Ocean South of Equator—Terms of Four-Power Compact Are Simple.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 10.—By the Associated Press.—The fourth plenary session of the arms conference opened promptly at 11 o'clock when a statement by Secretary Hughes that "most satisfactory progress has been made by the committee of the whole on the far eastern questions."

Secretary Hughes then presented Senator Lodge to the conference. Protracted applause greeted Senator Lodge when he arose to present the four-power treaty and deliver his address.

After announcing and reading the treaty, Senator Lodge continued: "The signing of this treaty is on the part of the United States subject to the making of a convention with Japan concerning the status of the Island of Yap and what are termed the mandated islands in the Pacific Ocean, north of the equator, the negotiations in regard to which are almost concluded, and also to the reservations with respect to what are termed the mandated islands in the Pacific Ocean south of the equator."

Treaty Called Simple. "It should also be observed that the controversies to which the proposed treaty refers do not embrace questions which, according to jurisdiction, are within the domestic jurisdiction of the respective powers.

"The conference will perceive that I spoke correctly when I referred to the terms of the treaty as simple. To put it in a few words the treaty provides that the four signatory powers will agree as between themselves to respect their insular possessions and dominions in the region of the Pacific and that if any controversy should arise as to such rights all the high contracting parties shall be invited to a joint conference looking to the adjustment of such controversy.

"They agree to take similar action in the case of aggression by any other power upon these insular possessions or dominions. The agreement is to remain in force for ten years and after ratification under the constitutional methods of the high contracting parties the existing agreement between Great Britain and Japan which was concluded at London on July 19, 1911, shall terminate. And that is all.

Each Signer Is Bound. "Each signer is bound to respect the rights of the others and before taking action in any controversy to consult with them. There are no provisions for the use of force to carry out any of the terms of the agreement, and no military or naval sanctions lurk anywhere in the background or under cover of these plain and direct clauses.

"The surest way to prevent war is to remove the causes of war. There is an attempt to remove causes of war over a great area of the globe's surface by reliance upon the good faith and honest intentions of the nations which sign the treaty, solving all differences through the processes of diplomacy and joint consideration and conciliation. No doubt we shall hear it said that the region to which this agreement applies is one most unlikely to give birth to serious disputes and therefore an agreement of this character is of little consequence.

History unhappily has shown that there is no corner of the earth so remote or so valueless that it is not capable of giving cause for controversy or even for war between the tribes and the nations of mankind. But the islands of the Pacific, although remote from our eyes, are in places of the mass of humanity, are far from valueless.

Islands Cover Vast Space. "The islands of the southwestern Pacific extend over a vast space in that great ocean. They reach from the Marquesas on the east to the Philippines on the west; from the Aleutian Islands on the north nearly to the Antarctic circle on the south. They are far more numerous than is generally realized. I do not know what the total number is, but I am informed as to the Philippines and it appears that this group alone contains over 7,000 islands, of which only a few have names. We have probably heard of the remark of Robert Louis Stevenson, when on leaving one of the Pacific islands, he was asked how he was going to Samoa. He replied that he should just go out and turn to the left. These islands are, comparatively speaking, so dense that we might describe them in the words of

Browning as the "sprinkled isles, lily on lily that o'erlace the sea."

"And yet the region through which they are scattered is no vast that the isles of Greece and the Aegean sea, so famous in history and poetry, could easily be lost therein and continue unnoticed except by wandering seamen or stray adventurers. They range from Australia, continental in magnitude, to Atollis, where they are no dwellers but the builders of the coral reefs or lonely rocks marking the peak of mountains, which rise up from the ocean's floor through miles of water before they touch the air. Although to the western and the eastern world alike most of the islands of the southwestern Pacific are little known, there still lingers about them the charm so compelling and so fascinating which an undiscovered country has for the souls of men who are weary of main traveled roads and the trampled highways of trade and commerce which cover the surface of the patient earth.

Drama of Romance Seen. "Upon these islands still shines the drama of romance in the stories of Melville and the writings of Robert Louis Stevenson, to whom the south seas have both a grave and a monument imperishable as his own fame. But the Pacific islands are much more than this. They possess certain qualities other than natural beauty and romantic charm which to many minds are more enticing. The larger ones are rich in many ways, fertile in the gifts of soil and climate, and in other forms of material wealth, largely untapped by the untold mineral resources of Australia to the pearls which are brought from the depths of the ocean. There are among them all great areas of forest and of plain fit for the support and prosperity of civilized man. In a word, they have a very great material value, largely undeveloped, and where this condition exists the desires of men will enter and conflicting human desires have throughout recorded history been breeders of war. Thus far the wastes of the Pacific ocean, with all the provisions of nature except on the edges of the continents, have not been the scenes of the great wars, and not many years have passed since three great nations sent their warships to Samoa because there was a dispute in regard to those distant islands.

Therefore, an agreement among the nations controlling these islands has a very serious importance to the peace of the world.

Experiment Is Made. "We make the experiment here in this treaty of trying to assure peace in that immense region by trusting the preservation of its tranquillity to the good faith of the nations responsible for it. The world has just passed through a war, the very memory of which makes us shudder. We all believe in our hearts that such a hideous destruction of life, this suffering and ruin which still beset us, must not be permitted to come again if we can prevent it. If the nations of the earth are still, in the innermost recesses of their consciousness, planning or dreaming of coming wars and longing for conquests, no treaties of partition and no alliance can stay them; but if, as I firmly hope, the world has learned a frightful lesson from the awful experiences of the great war of 1914, then our surest appeal in order to prevent wars in the future lies in the hearts and sympathies, the reason and the higher impulses of mankind.

Appeal Is Made by Pact. "Such an appeal we make today by this agreement among four great nations. We rely upon their good faith to carry out the terms of this instrument, knowing that by so doing they will prevent war should controversies ever arise among them. If this spirit prevails and rules, we can have no better support than the faith of nations. For one, I devoutly believe the spirit of the world is such that we can trust to the good faith and the high purposes which the treaty I have laid before you embodies and enshrines. Agreements of this kind, I know, have often been made before, only to fail. But there has been a far-reaching change in the mental condition of men and women everywhere. That which really counts is the intention of the nations who make the agreement. In this hour of trial and darkness which has followed the war with Germany the spirit of the world

is no longer the same. If we enter upon this agreement, which rests upon the will and honor of those who sign it, we do at least the great experiment and appeal to the men and women of the nation to help us sustain it in spirit and in truth."

Other Addresses Are Made. Other addresses made at the session were as follows: The chairman (Secretary Hughes): "Gentlemen, the minutes of the last session have been distributed and corrections have been given to the secretary-general, and unless there is objection it will be assumed that the minutes as thus corrected stand approved."

"I have the honor to report to the conference that most satisfactory progress has been made in the work of the committee appointed to deal with Pacific and far-eastern questions. That committee, in accordance with the procedure recommended by the standing committee on programs, proceeded at first to a general discussion of the questions before the committee and then took up the topics especially indicated under the head of Pacific and far-eastern questions in the tentative agenda proposed by the American government."

China Considered First. "The first subject considered was China. In the course of the general discussion, most important declarations were made on behalf of the powers represented, expressing their intention to respect the sovereignty, integrity and administrative independence of China and also to extend to it as among themselves the principle of fair and equal opportunity.

"It seems to the committee advisable that before proceeding to a consideration of the particular matters indicated by the agenda, to which I have referred, this general statement of intention, that is the sense of the committee with respect to the matters which had been discussed, should be formulated in a definite statement of principle.

Accordingly, at the request of the committee, Mr. Root prepared a statement of these principles and the committee, in a resolution, adopted them, recommending a statement for formal adoption by the conference.

General Discussion Held. "There was a general discussion in the committee, and all the delegates are members of that committee, but I assume that it is not desired, there should be a general discussion. But in this opportunity, the first one that has been presented since the action of the committee, adopted them, the resolution adopted by the committee, I take it, observe that it is hardly necessary to point out the great importance of this declaration. It is, in truth, a charter of protection from acts in derogation of the principle of free and equal opportunity in matters relating to China and that no one will seek special advantages or privileges at the expense of the rights of other nations. As I have said, this has been so fully discussed by the delegates that

I assume that all that is necessary is to have your formal assent recorded here in the proceedings of the conference and while this declaration is a declaration of the powers other than China, I think it would be quite appropriate, as it is a resolution presented to the conference, to invite China's assent as well, and if this course is agreeable to you, I shall ask for the assent of the powers through their representatives."

After this assent had been given, Mr. Hughes continued: "The committee on Pacific and far eastern questions, after the adoption of this recommendation, proceeded to deal with the matters listed on the agenda proposed by the American government."

Integrity Is Given China. "The first of these in relation to China were territorial and administrative integrity. The first principle adopted, fully covered, so far as a general statement could cover it, that matter, the committee proceeded to deal with special instances which were brought to its attention. This is to say, special matter which seemed to call for consideration in the application of this principle. In the course of the discussion before the committee, that is the general discussion, there had been presented on behalf of China, a series of propositions for the consideration of the committee. One of them, the fifth proposition, would remove immediately or as soon as circumstances would permit, existing limitations upon China's political, jurisdictional and administrative freedom of action. Special instances of limitations in contemplation in the presentation of these propositions were referred to the attention of the committee by the representatives of China.

Extra Territoriality Discussed. "The first of these was the subject of extra territoriality, or, in other words, discussion of that matter a resolution was adopted by the committee as follows: . . . and may I interrupt to say that I should like to have it appear in the record that the resolution embodying the four principles prepared by Mr. Root, as I have stated, was adopted by the committee on November 21, as that is a date to which reference is made in other action of the committee.

"The committee, as I said, considered this special action of limitation of the autonomy of China and after a full discussion on November 21, adopted the following resolution with respect to extra territoriality: (Mr. Hughes read the resolution.) "This resolution has been fully considered and adopted by all the delegates in the committee and I take it that if there is no objection we are ready to proceed to its formal adoption at this conference."

(Assent of the powers was given and Mr. Hughes continued):

Economy Problem Viewed. "Under the same heading, that is, under the same heading, that is, the administrative economy of China, other matters have been considered and are still in the course of discussion. Certain action of the committee, taken by the committee, but I am advised that it is premature to make a report upon those points at this time.

"Following this discussion, there was a further discussion under the same general heading of the third proposition made by the representatives of China's rights as a neutral area to be fully respected in future wars to which she is not a party, and that full committee."

(Assent then was given.) "Then followed the consideration under the heading of general topic of paragraph five, of the proposal submitted to the committee by China, as follows: "With a view to strengthening mutual confidence and maintaining (Continued on page 16.)"



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