

Special Cables From The Journal-Chicago Daily News Correspondents

FRENCH-BRITISH SECRET PACT IS HELD IMAGINARY

Professor Murray Says Countries Have No Agreement to Combine Against Germany as Charged.

DIPLOMATIC NOTES ARE CITED

Red Agent Claims Secret Treaty Is Still in Operation; Reply to Him Clarifies Situation.

By Edward Price Bell

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News. (Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.) London, England, Sept. 22.—Professor Gilbert Murray, whose knowledge of British diplomacy, like his integrity, is of the first order, is indignant over the efforts in Germany and in certain quarters in England to make out that there was a secret treaty or agreement between England and France, pledging England to support France in a war against Germany and that the denials of the Asquith government on this subject were untrue.

"The facts are well known," said the professor today. "In 1905 the French government, alarmed at what seemed to be an aggressive attitude on the part of Germany, directed Ambassador Paul Cambon to ask Sir Edward Grey, then minister of foreign affairs, for definite promise of military support in case of an unprovoked attack by Germany.

"Grey refused, both on the constitutional ground that no British foreign minister had the power to give such a promise, and on the ground that in the event of danger of war arising the commonsense and the country must be free to decide at the actual time whether or not they would have war. Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, whom Grey consulted, took the same view, and M. Cambon entirely accepted it.

you wish to come to our aid—you will not be able to do so unless we have made beforehand some joint study of the situation. Do not ask you to agree to help, but I do ask you to consider with us beforehand what form your help may most effectively take if you do give it. It will be too late to consider such questions when the time comes.

"Grey agreed again, after consultation with Campbell-Bannerman, that it would not do in case of a German attack to be taken unprepared.

"Conversations followed between the French and English staffs, and plans were made for the landing, if necessary, of an expeditionary force. At the same time Secretary Grey wrote a formal letter and received a similar letter from Ambassador Cambon, stating definitely that the conversation and discussions of contingent plans in no way constituted a pledge. If an English force was ever sent it was to consist of six divisions.

"Now comes a statement by M. Pokrowsky, official Bolshevik editor, that in a private interview between Secretary Grey and the Russian minister of foreign affairs, M. Sazonof, in 1912, Grey assured Sazonof that England was bound by a secret agreement to support France in case of war with Germany. Pokrowsky was not present, and omits to say what is his authority. As a matter of fact his statement is demonstrably wrong. It is clear from the diplomatic correspondence of July, 1914, that the French government knew of no such agreement. As late as July, 1914, two years after the alleged interview described by Pokrowsky, Paul Cambon was asking Grey to make such an agreement, and Grey was refusing. It is equally sure from the diplomatic correspondence that M. Sazonof knew of no such agreement, simply, of course, because there was none.

Admiral Kolchak Is Target for Assassin

London, Sept. 23.—(U. P.)—A wireless dispatch from Moscow today reported that an attempt had been made to assassinate Admiral Kolchak, head of the Omsk government. A bomb was thrown into a guard room, killing six and injuring 12 soldiers, the message said. The admiral escaped uninjured.

Blackmailers Are Operating in France

Paris.—(By Mail.)—A secret Chinese society, known as the "White Wolves," and similar in its workings to the Italian "Black Hand," has been unearthed by the police. The society is said to deal in robbery and murder and that the victims were strangled when they failed to pay tribute to the society. The organization extorted money from the Chinese coolies and its ramifications extended into Algeria. The "White Wolves" have been operating chiefly among the coolies near Toulon, Marseilles and Nice.

SHANTUNG ISSUE AROUSES INTEREST OF FRENCH HEADS

Reported News That America Had Asked Japan for Definite Withdrawal Date Discussed.

CHINESE VIEW IS GIVEN

More Certain Promise of Japan Needed to Promote Harmony Between the Oriental Nations.

By Henry J. Smith

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News. (Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.) Paris, France, Sept. 23.—The Shantung question is having its day here as the result of a five line dispatch quoting a Japanese newspaper to the effect that America had asked Japan to fix a definite date for the return of Kiauchau to China. The report is credited in Paris the more because of the fact, not known to many, that efforts are being made to influence the Japanese delegation to urge the Tokio government to fix such a date. A Japanese official confirmed this, saying plaintively: "We have promised to withdraw and now they want us to say when."

DEFINITE PROMISE DESIRED

It is recognized that a more definite promise by Japan would go far to remove the alleged odium of the Shantung clause and if harmony were accomplished between the two Oriental nations the clause would no longer figure as one of the leading subjects of the Washington wrangle. Hence everyone who can by argument and persuasion influence the situation is busy. But the mere fixing of the date of the withdrawal will not satisfy the Chinese. The view of that nation's representatives here is as follows: "It is not enough for Japan to say when she will give us Kiauchau. We must have also a definite statement of her political and economic intentions. There must be a clear distinction made between these, for Japan is likely to say in the future that such and such is

political, when we supposed it merely economic. We believe that America is really friendly to China and hope she will not agree to any half way settlement.

More fuel has been added to the discussion by a conspicuous article in Le Figaro by Denys Cochin, a member of the French academy, who reviews history to the disadvantage of China. He cites the special interest of Japan in China and refers to the agreement between Secretary Lansing and Ambassador Ishii of November 2, 1917, in which the "United States realized" that Japan possesses such special interests. The occasion of this article is incomprehensible to the Chinese, who declare that their territorial rights are not connected with their attitude early in the war. The Japanese hall Cochin's word gleefully and reason that Lansing could not have said the unkind things about Shantung credited to him by William C. Bullitt.

GERMAN FACTORIES UNABLE TO PROMISE DELIVERY OF GOODS

Uncertainty of Importations and Unrest of Workers Keeps Conditions Unsettled.

By Gordon Stiles

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News. (Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.) Berlin, Germany, Sept. 14.—(Via Copenhagen, Denmark, Sept. 19.)—American business men who are seeking to buy goods in Germany are having their troubles. Today I had a talk with Elmer R. Murphy, president of James H. Rhodes & Co. of Chicago, who arrived last night from Copenhagen. His firm, previous to the war, bought large quantities of chemicals and other supplies from German manufacturers and now wish to obtain the same line of goods.

"The trouble is," said Mr. Murphy, "that while we are ready to buy an enormous amount of goods we can get no satisfactory information as to quantity, price or date of delivery. The German manufacturers can promise nothing. One factory from which we once bought regularly two carloads a month can at present let us have only 10 cases or one twelfth of a carload, and cannot say when the second shipment can be made.

"The industrial people to whom I have talked today were all at sea. The uncertainty as to influx of raw materials, the steady decline in the value of the mark and the shifting scale of wages combined to turn their hair gray and to render it impossible for them to make agreements on which foreign buyers can depend."

Mr. Murphy was favorably impressed by the willingness of German workmen to do their utmost to achieve an output and he thinks that it points toward the eventual settlement of the war liabilities. He remarked on the great numbers of British who are here for commercial purposes, but was rather skeptical about German goods finding favor in England for some time to come. He is leaving for London on Tuesday by way of Holland.

Conference Between Dutch and Belgian Delegates Peaceful

By Leopold Altrino

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News. (Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.) Amsterdam, Holland, Sept. 22.—From a competent person who maintains close relations with the Dutch delegation in Paris I am told that the negotiations between the Belgian and Dutch delegates which were resumed last week will soon be brought to a happy conclusion. The supreme council succeeded in finding a modus vivendi. The main argument of the Dutch delegates was that the Belgian demands were in contradiction to the conclusion of the allied commission on June 4 to the effect that the revision of the treaties of 1839 should not imply the transfer of territory or the creation of international servitudes. As to the first question the Belgian delegates adhered to the decision of June 4, but the question of international servitude remained. My informant said that the Dutch delegates again emphasized the fact that the Belgian interpretation was rather elastic and that they considered any restriction in the use of Dutch sovereign rights as being in contradiction to the June decision. It has been decided now that the negotiations will be carried on by the Dutch and Belgian delegates in Paris and not by the authorities in Brussels and The Hague. The Dutch government expects that the Belgian delegates will give up any veiled claim to Dutch districts (a secret note from the Belgian foreign office to general headquarters showed that Belgium unofficially insisted upon the annexation of Dutch territories) and will bring their demands concerning international servitude into harmony with the allied conclusions.



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KING VICTOR OF ITALY RENOUNCES \$600,000 AND ROYAL PROPERTY

Gift to the Nation Represents Several Million Dollars and Includes Historic Palaces.

By Mario Borsa

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News. (Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.) Milan, Italy, Sept. 22.—The reading in the chamber of deputies by Premier Emanuele offers to give the nation a part of the royal property produced a fine impression. The king, who has always been respected for his democratic

temperament and severe domestic virtues, became popular during the war for sharing the soldiers' struggles and emotions during three years.

Besides the 3,000,000 lire (\$600,000) renounced by him in the civil list, the patrimony given to the state now embraces one large chateau, 12 royal palaces, four villas, 14 farms and private houses, hunting lodges and six large properties comprising parks and gardens. The gift represents several million dollars.

'How Long, O Lord, How Long?' Dutch Authorities' Query

By Leopold Altrino

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News. (Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.) Amsterdam, Holland, Sept. 20.—The visit of the former German crown prince to Wieringen and Amerongen has brought to the foreground the question of how much longer the crown prince and Kaiser are to remain compulsory guests of Holland. I understand that the Dutch authorities intend to approve the views taken by the allies concerning the royal refugees. They are wondering if interment is still necessary, as the extradition of the Kaiser has not been discussed for some time. If the allies renounce the trial of the former emperor for his interment will become unnecessary as soon as the peace treaty becomes effective.

Chain Company Files Suit

Declaring that it does not maintain

offices in Oregon but sells through mail and express, the American Chain company of Bridgeport, Conn., has filed suit in the United States court to restrain Sheriff T. M. Hurlburt of Multnomah county from collecting a \$218.48 tax based on a \$10,000 assessment on money, notes and accounts here.



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