

PUBLIC BEGINS TO DISTRUST PARLEY'S SECRET SESSIONS

By Norman Haggood
United News Staff Correspondent.
Washington, Nov. 17.—China's demand that the door of opportunity for trade be left open to all nations alike was the outstanding development of the big conference Wednesday. All proceedings were behind closed doors.

Next in interest was the announcement last night by Premier Briand of France that he is prepared to make his statement to the conference on France's position with respect to land armaments just as soon as Secretary Hughes can call the next public meeting. The premier had no indications as to the exact date of this session, but still expected it to be on Friday. He said: "I will open France's book of records for the inspection of the whole world and show that in the face of Germany in front and Russia behind her, France finds itself obliged to maintain her armed forces at least at their present strength."

LAND ARMAMENTS

The question of land armaments, however, will not be settled at the present conference, but at another convocation to be called next year, according to a well-grounded report here. The American delegation wants an agreement on the naval armament plan, and the ground-work laid for a Far Eastern settlement as speedily as possible.

Briand's statement would involve protracted discussion, since it will interlock land armaments with the question of fulfillment of the Versailles treaty and the political situation in Europe generally. Therefore it is generally accepted that while land armaments may be discussed in the conference, no definite action will be taken at this time.

SECRETARY DISTRUSTED

Significant as are the Chinese terms, it is true, nevertheless, that the most important news of today is not the official announcements. It is in the manner in which public opinion is acting in regard to the secret sessions.

That not every committee meeting can be held in the presence of several hundred correspondents is obvious. That delegates must have a chance to ask questions and make proposals that do not commit them to anything also is obvious.

Secretary, to some extent, must be the public obviously distrusts it. The public obviously believes it may carry us back to the old diplomacy.

Nothing is clearer in this town, just now than the center of the world's attention than that if the administration is to hold the enormous success scored on Saturday, the cards in the Far Eastern game as well as in the disarmament game, must be laid on the table day by day. Otherwise the public is capable of swinging away from the administration's program as suddenly as it swung to it.

PROGRAM IS FRANK

This is comment not on what happened Wednesday, but on the public attitude as felt here. What happened, in actual practice, was all to the good. The Chinese program was laid on the table, fully and frankly. Those who have been reading my forecasts will find no difficulty in observing that in my opinion this Chinese program is also the American program.

It would be absurd to call this a Peking program. It is a program, not of a pro-Japanese or pro-Chinese government, but of very able delegates, whose independence of the Peking government that appointed them was shown at Paris, and who work in absolute sympathy with the American delegates.

BRITISH VIEW CLEAR

The British view of developments up to now was made perfectly clear in the course of the day. According to that view the alliance between Japan and Great Britain is by no means touched by the Chinese proposals, but the British will be very glad to give up the treaty provided some agreement can be substituted, either tripartite or with even more than three nations participating.

In reply to some comments on the proposed modifications in the naval holiday idea, it was made clear that no proposal whatever of the British government could be interpreted as resulting in a larger total building than proposed by Mr. Hughes.

DEBTS NOT TO COME UP

The British do not expect the debt question to be raised. They have brought two financial experts with them. They will be glad, however, to discuss that or any other question that United States or any other nation cares to bring up.

In regard to one aspect of the Chi-

nese proposal it may be said that the British look upon the whole scheme of spheres of influence as quite antiquated. The committee on Far Eastern questions, after its morning session, lunched with the secretary of state. The Chinese proposals were handed in at the morning session. The committee met again in the afternoon and decided upon the best way to deal with them. There was no discussion of their merits.

SUB-COMMITTEE CHOSEN

A sub-committee of nine was appointed, consisting of the experts of delegations, to decide on the best way the larger committee should take up the various points. The smaller committee will report to the larger committee tomorrow.

The Japanese group, at which many of the proposals strike directly, was very evidently taken back by the manner of their presentation, and refused to comment on them last night, but will express today, through Ambassador Shidehara, its views for the benefit of the press.

Through an official of the Japanese government it was stated, however, that the Chinese proposal to swing back the "open door" without qualification in any way and to extend it to all parts of the Chinese republic was "an absolutely new principle."

DESIRES ARE APPARENT

I have already forecast in these dispatches what the Chinese position would be, and that it would be the basis of the American position. Also I have forecast that it would be the central fact in the final plan agreed upon by the five powers.

Although the Chinese say that certain specific applications of their principles will be made later, what they say today is clear to all who know the game that is going on.

The announcement was made Wednesday that the Chinese proposal had been received. In fact, it was said that it was discussed. In addition to this it was hinted by some of the delegates that no particular attention would be paid to the program, as it was deemed impossible to fulfill.

As a purveyor of news I am not inclined to take those hints too seriously. I know perfectly well that neither the British nor the Japanese care to go so far, but I am convinced they will have to do so, if they are to get any settlement backed by American opinion.

PROGRESS DESIRED

Notice in clause 5 the expression, "as soon as circumstances will permit." The Chinese program is fully drawn, not to put everything into effect at once but to mark a line of development.

The open door is defined, according to American policy, as equal commercial opportunity. It shuts out exclusive holds by other governments. It does not prevent any tariff for Chinese development.

The significance of the fourth clause is largely in the fact that the present method of Japanese penetration is gradual and furtive. This is to some extent also true of the British hold in South China. Hereafter any agreement not announced at the time is to be void.

Clause 5 also shows the spirit of working things out gradually. China wants to get hold of her own government, economically and politically, but she does not expect to do it all at once. A clause like this will not be likely to be executed at this conference, but it will be part of the future agenda. Clauses 5 and 10 prepare for these future meetings.

AGREES WITH U. S.

This, again, is in accord with the administration's policy. What it wants to bring about is double in nature. It wishes to get settled as many specific questions as it can and then wishes to leave the road open and prepared for taking up and carrying further the remaining questions at a future time.

All this fits in with the news sent out by this service Tuesday, that the British were likely to bring in sweeping suggestions of their own for the lessening of the grip of other powers on China. That news is unofficially confirmed today. Just as Mr. Baifour countered Mr. Hughes by going even further and mentioning the submarine, so the British are working on a plan to make an offer about China so sweeping that it will be accepted as a long step ahead.

It is generally believed that the Japanese are prepared to give up Shantung, provided they are left alone in Manchuria. One school of Japanese thought is also determined to get a strangle hold on Eastern Siberia, but it is not generally believed such a claim will be pressed.

In that connection it may be noted that Eastern Siberia is at present under the control of an interesting and independent de facto government, known as the Chita government, and that two representatives of that government are now in Washington waiting for a hearing.

BEHIND TIMES

At this point the American policy, in the main so solid, runs into its insupportable stupid and academic Russian policy, which prevents it from having

any dealings with the actual and excellent government of Siberia, while it keeps up a hollow relation to a Russian government as dead as that of Hannibal. The remaining point of importance was that after the meeting of the Far Eastern committee, Secretary Hughes announced further steps in the direct negotiations between this country and Japan in regard to Yap.

Japan is to continue to administer the island, but is to allow to apply to it all treaties between the United States and Japan, and is to cede to the United States a site for her wireless plant.

Some of the delegates are so optimistic as to think there may be a general agreement on the Pacific policy reached within 10 days, leaving many details to be worked out in committee—a branch of the work that may take several months.

Non-partisans in North Dakota Likely To Ask for Recount

(By United News)
Fargo, N. D., Nov. 17.—Demand for a contest of the recall election is growing. A. A. Leidebach, chairman of the North Dakota state executive committee of the Non-partisan league, said today:

"If the league members demand a contest there is nothing for us to do but go through with it. We are the servants of the league," he added.

Taxpayers in half a dozen counties have started a movement and employed counsel to seek an injunction against the state canvassing board to prevent it certifying the election of independents who won in the recall October 28. Reports late today were that the injunction would be sought in the supreme court. The injunction, to be effective, must be secured before November 25.

Lineman Is Killed By Electric Shock

Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 17.—Eldred Harris, 50 years old, electric power lineman, was killed here Wednesday afternoon when cutting a live wire. He received the full effect of the voltage on the city power lines. Improper insulage of his cutting instruments is attributed as the cause of his death.

"Hootch Holiday" Is Proposed Corkage to Depend on Thirst

By Ring Lardner
(Copyright, 1921, by the Bell Syndicate.)
Washington, Nov. 17.—While we are waiting for the different committees to get ready with their reports it looks to me like this will be a good time to open up the discussion of a subject which to my mind is pretty near as important as international disarmament, namely de-alcoholization of the neighborhood reduction of family liquor supplies. Just like the League of Nations failed to prevent war so has prohibition failed to even slow up drinking and not only that but it has made same 5 or 6 times as expensive so that now days the average family don't know where their next bootleggers coming from.

Now gentlemen and friends, I am in the same position regards to drinking which the U. S. is in with respects to war namely, I don't want nothing for myself and I haven't no intentions of invading a neighbors home and attacking their supply, but for defensive purposes I have got to keep enough in my own home so as callers can't set around the living room and make funny cracks about how dry they are.

So it looks like it was my duty to take the leadership in regards to hootch reduction the same as it was Mr. Hughes duty to make the first suggestion about navies, and with the above few lines of introduction I will go ahead and present my ideas as I believe the time for dreams and flowery phrases has past and the time for action has come.

Well friends the Japan and England of my neighborhood on Long Island is two families who we call the Smiths and Browns and they are both married couples like myself and got pretty near the same tonnage of children which we may leave the latter out of the present calculations as none of our kiddies has yet reached the age when people starts drinking these days, namely 11 years old.

Once or twice per week the Smiths and Browns comes to our house or vice versa. The ladies of these three great powers is satisfied with a couple cocktails apiece and personally I don't touch nothing but Smith and Brown has always got their tongues hanging out. My motive is therefore unselfish in offering the following suggestions which I hope that Smith and Brown will give them careful consideration and talk them over with their wives and give me their answer at the next plenary session before anybody gets too plenary.

Article 1—It is proposed that the first 10 days of every month shall be a 10 day hootch holiday during which no party to this agreement shall buy, manufacture or drink liquors of more than 1 of 1 per cent displacement.

Article 2—Scrap all bottles which has already been opened and all or a part of their contents removed.

Article 3—At the beginning of each holiday the corkage of the three families shall of been reduced to an amount just sufficient to take care of transients and vest of Pittsburg.

Article 4—At the end of the holiday the three families may buy such new corkage as will maintain them till the

next holiday and it seems only fair that the amount to be purchased by each family shall be in accordance with that family's thirst. In other words if the Browns is a thirstier family than my family why the Browns is entitled to buy a whole lot bigger supply and on evenings when the party aint held at their house, they can bring along as much of their own supply as they think necessary to the success of the evening.

Article 5—Getting down to actual corkage I would submit the following figures as adequate to the needs of the three parties to this agreement:

Destroyers, Brown 8 quarts Scotch,

5 quarts gin. Smith—4 quarts Scotch, 5 quarts gin. Lardner—1 quart gin. Auxiliary cruisers and chasers: Brown—24 quarts vermouth, 18 quarts charged water. Smith—24 quarts vermouth, 4 quarts charged water. Lardner—1 quart vermouth, 15 quarts charged water.

This is my proposals friends and while I am asking them in a spirit of good fellowship and amity towards all and not backing them up with anything in the nature of a threat still I am in hopes that they will be found acceptable with few or no changes as an agreement in this matter is essential to the future friendship of the three great powers.

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