

BRITAIN RELIES ON PUBLICITY TO WIN FRANCE OVER

By David Lawrence
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Washington, Dec. 21.—Great Britain is making a desperate effort to take the conference out of the meshes of private conversation and secret debate and force the discussion into the open in the hope of winning up the moral forces of the world behind her demand that the submarine be abolished.

The tactics of the British in pressing for a plenary session of the conference by the whole question of submarine warfare is a desperate one. It is a gamble which might be won or lost. Arthur Balfour and Lord Lee with the entire press present is a sequel to another and much more significant incident in connection with the French proposal to build 10 battleships.

The French have complained to members of the American and other delegations of the press of the campaign conducted by the British against them in the last few days. They insist that the British broke faith in permitting the public to know what the French battleship proposals were and that it had been agreed that this would be kept secret as between Mr. Hughes, Mr. Balfour and the other members of the international committee of the powers in conference here.

The question of whether the British did or did not break faith hinges largely upon whether Lord Riddell in his capacity of representative of Great Britain at this conference or simply a private citizen engaged in newspaper work. Every day for many weeks Lord Riddell has been telegraphing to all parts of the United States by the press associations and cables to the four corners of the world. He has been the most communicative man at the Washington conference, a source of information on everything.

NO OFFICIAL CAPACITY

Now Lord Riddell in response to the French attack on him and the British for "leaking" about the French proposal has declared that he never was in any sense official, but that he came here solely as the representative of the British Newspaper Proprietors' association, and that his primary purpose was to get British journalists in getting news from the British delegation.

While performing this task he was quite willing, indeed anxious, to have American correspondents attend and take whatever news he was giving out. He didn't say he was an official spokesman. Nevertheless it was a fact that Lord Riddell said in his conference in Paris. He is an intimate friend of Prime Minister Lloyd George and is said to have been making private reports by cable to the prime minister separate and distinct from the reports sent by Mr. Balfour and to the officials of the British delegation. He is a sort of Colonel House for Lloyd George.

He now claims his status is simply that of a publisher.

Lord Riddell departs tomorrow for England, and when he goes there will be a sigh of relief, not from the correspondents who have obtained so much information from him, but from the members of the various delegations who have felt ill at ease over his anomalous position.

OBSERVES NO LIMITS

There is no objection to publicity representatives or propaganda agencies at this conference. Most of the powers seem to have them. The Japanese, Chinese and

BRITAIN IS APT TO BE BEATEN ON SUBMARINE ISSUE

By Wickham Steed
Editor of London Times
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Washington, Dec. 21.—All the information emanating from French sources points to the conclusion that modification of the French battleship program will be linked up with the abolition of France of what the French experts may consider adequate submarine tonnage, together with a provision for sufficient light surface craft. It is therefore possible that final establishment of the French and Italian ratios of capital ship strength may be deferred until the submarine issue has been publicly debated. This may happen shortly.

The British standpoint on the submarine issue has not yet been fully made known. It is desirable that it should be exhaustively and publicly set forth, if only in order to counteract suppositions that British opposition to submarines is inspired by petty or selfishly interested motives. But it is well that people at home should understand that on this issue the British delegation is likely to be beaten, handsomely, gloriously, or, if not, it may be, but beaten nevertheless.

It is also well that other nations should do, her no credit. Even now she

Flour and Music to Be Donated Hungry Vets by Dr. Coe

Flour and music will be provided for hungry World War veterans by Dr. H. W. Coe.

"Many ex-service men out of work haven't enough to eat and others have no money for entertainment," said Dr. Coe in explaining his offer.

He has arranged with the Daddies' club to distribute 400 sacks of flour to married ex-service men in want, and with Judge Kanzer to give away 400 tickets to members of the American Legion for the next symphony orchestra popular concert.

Memorial Asks for Battleship Oregon

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