

Harding

Is Taking-Up Idea of
Economic Conference

For Big

Problems With Other
Powers Interested In

Parley

By David Lawrence
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Washington, Dec. 25.—Opposition to Senator Borah's proposal for an international economic conference is not aimed at the principle of a conference to restore economic normalcy in Europe, and the world generally, but at the timeliness of the measure.

Administration senators who are lining up against the Borah resolution which would authorize the president to summon an international economic conference have been advised by executive branch of the government already has been discussing the project with other powers and that action by the senate at this time might be construed as committing the United States government to a course of action which it might otherwise be free to avoid.

Curiously enough, Borah's proposal and the circumstances which surround it are almost identical with the situation which existed before Mr. Harding called the conference on Pacific problems and reduction of armament.

NOT AGAINST IDEA

The president was in negotiation with other governments when Mr. Borah's resolution was projected and looked to the outside world as the Idaho senator had driven the president into the course he finally took. The record at the department of state will show that the subject was being discussed in diplomatic channels long before it was mentioned in the senate.

Mr. Harding is not averse to the idea of an international economic conference. He would gladly have American participate in one, but hasn't made up his mind whether or not he will be a good thing for America to take the initiative.

Upon the country calling any international conference rests the responsibility for the program.

When the armament conference met in Washington, Secretary Hughes laid before the assembled nations the United States' sacrifice. America was willing to make. Such an obligation might seem to be imposed again in an international economic conference, but the Harding administration has no such program to offer at this time.

It feels that the European nations have problems which must first of all be solved which depend on the political relations of France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Greece.

The nearest thing to a suggestion of a solution for that phase of the matter which the United States has made was contained in President Harding's last address to congress wherein he proposed that the four-power pact idea be applied to other aspects of the world.

WOULD AVOID PARLEY

The belief for the moment at any rate, is that an economic conference would be futile unless it is preceded by a conference of plenipotentiaries or ambassadors empowered to discuss the political relations of Europe. Until such an atmosphere prevails the bickering over the economic problems probably would go no further than they have heretofore.

The United States would be glad to attend a conference to discuss the political relations of European and American nations through an agreement to limit land, armament, etc. It would go completely against the grain to rush headlong into a political conference which would merely arrange another balance of power. But the question of economic relations is not merely a European matter.

Its expense is directly affecting the prices of American products. If Europe's currency were stabilized and the purchasing power of the European people would be greater and the export trade of America would be improved—that is admitted beyond question in official quarters here.

If land armament were reduced, European business would be balanced and the currencies of all nations would correspondingly increase in value.

So on the broad ground of reducing land armament, a conference on Atlantic problems, limit construction of airplanes and submarines, and at the same time discuss land armament, which was held a year ago—is being discussed by the powers.

POWERS APPROVE IDEA

America wants such a conference held in Europe where European problems can be better discussed and where American disinterestedness can come into full play. It is hoped here the conference will be called for London or Brussels or the Hague, and, conversely, it is hoped the conference will not be called for either Paris or Berlin, where the atmosphere is not as productive of reconciliation as it might be elsewhere.

An American delegation, consisting of Republicans and Democrats, probably would be selected by President Harding. Because of the combined political and economic problems involved, Secretary of State Hughes, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and Secretary of Commerce Hoover are being talked of for at least three places on such a commission. But the idea is growing that a political conference must either precede or run concurrently with an economic conference. That is why Senator Borah's resolution is being discussed and what shall be the scope of its discussions.

'MOVIES' NAUGHTY

QUEST HAYS, SAYS

RUBINOW

Protests Against Pardon of "Fatty" Arbuckle Makes the "Czar's" Position Shaky, It Is Said; He "Spills Pottage."

(Special Despatch to The Journal.)
(Copyright, 1922.)

Los Angeles, Dec. 25.—"Fatty" Arbuckle is not coming back in the movies and Will H. Hays, chief of the industry is just about on his way.

These are the two best bets which Hollywood insiders began to pass out today with Christmas behind them. To their way of reading the done—and in the past they have been wizards at it—both wagers look like a cinch.

The Rev. Dr. Gustav Bruegel, pastor of the Westlake Presbyterian church of Los Angeles, who has studied the industry inside and out during his long stay here, declared, on hearing that the movies had acquired a czar, that "Will Hays has sold his Presbyterian birthright for a mess of pottage." Now, not alone to clergymen but to laymen, the belief is growing that Mr. Hays has spilled the pottage.

UP TO HAYS

Putting aside the fact that Los Angeles, motion picture capital of the world, with its jealous and material interest at stake has been stirred as never before through the action of Hays in restoring Arbuckle to good standing, that the pulpit of the city, on the "day of good will to men," thundered against this clemency; that the mayor, the city council and scores of welfare clubs have voiced vigorous protests, there are separate, hardboiled facts that will alone settle and settle for good, whether Arbuckle can come back and make motion pictures, or continue to indulge in the pretty fiction of a czar and that is to be Mr. Hays.

Hays has accepted a divorce even at \$100,000 a year.

Being popular as a politician, and standing well with the administration, it was felt he would be useful if the Sherman anti-trust law, or something equally serious, should pop up to hamper the game. But from the day of his appointment his exact status never has been defined. Now his refusal to continue to indulge in the pretty fiction of a czar and that is to be Mr. Hays.

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(Continued on Page Fourteen, Column Five)

Ex Mayor of Mer Rouge Is Arrested

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 25.—(U. P.)—Dr. R. M. McKoin, former mayor of Mer Rouge, La., was arrested in Johns Hopkins hospital here this afternoon. The arrest was made on the order of Governor Parker of Louisiana, who in a telegram asked that he be "arrested at once and held for murder."

Detectives Porter and Quirk left headquarters as soon as the telegram had been received and arrived at the hospital a moment after Dr. McKoin, who had described an attempt made on his own life last August, told a reporter that he would not go back to Louisiana unless the militia came after him.

The words were hardly out of his mouth when the detectives arrived. The doctor was wearing a surgeon's coat and waiting only to change to street clothes. He left the hospital for police headquarters at 3:45 p. m.

Asked if he were a member of the Ku Klux Klan, he said he refused to make any statement at all.

Dr. McKoin was located at the Johns Hopkins medical school, where he was taking a postgraduate course. He said he knew nothing of the murder of F. P. Richards and P. W. Daniels which was the first chapter as far as the publication of the disorder of the town. He left Mer Rouge last August after he had been shot at one night as he was returning from having paid a sick call on an old negro.

"The trouble, so far as I was concerned, began six years ago when I was elected mayor of the town, a position I did not want. I did not want to stop the association of white men with negro women, gambling and other evils. Mer Rouge is a town of between 750 and 1000 people. It is surrounded by a prosperous farming community. You know how things are in a small town when any change is attempted. One half is with those who are in, the others are against them."

"Were the church people with you when you were mayor?"

"Yes, generally," he answered.

"Was the Ku Klux Klan active in the neighborhood?"

"Well, they used to parade around a great deal with their robes and masks on, but I never knew of anything like this did."

NOTE OFFERS SOLUTION OF THEIR CASE

"Jane Doe" Writes Police She Wasn't Attacked by the Elder Weir, but by Helen Leary Because of Jealousy Over Son.

A letter from a girl who signs herself "Jane Doe" was made public this morning by Chief of Police Jenkins, in which the writer declares that she is the girl who was in Cash Weir's house on the night of September 23 and the one supposed to have been murdered.

"Helen Leary is a liar," the letter says. "The girl says she did not want to go to the police station in person for fear of breaking her mother's heart."

At almost the same hour the letter came out, Helen Leary, the state's star witness against Cash Weir and Colonel Earl, the former charged with murder and the latter with being an accessory after the fact, was in an automobile down the Linton road, four miles below Linton, saying to Detectives Schulpus and Moloney:

POINTS OUT SPOT

"This is where Earl and I were riding a few days after the murder, when Earl leaned over to me so that the two in the rear seat wouldn't hear, and he whispered, 'Across there is where I have that Jane's body weighed down with rocks.'"

Helen Leary claimed to be able to identify the spot by two trees standing alone beyond a fence. She had described the place before she reached it.

The detectives were surprised. They had been led to believe the body lay there was one, was in the Columbia river, and the spot that Mrs. Leary indicated was four miles from the Columbia, with the Williams and the Columbia about the same distance.

More bewildered than ever, they returned to Portland and on top of their present troubles discovered the letter from "Jane Doe."

Mrs. Leary had not yet been shown the letter when Deputy District Attorney John Mowry and attorneys for the two Weirs were preparing for an extraordinary hearing before Municipal Judge Ekwall at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Both Weirs, however, had declared that there was no girl on the houseboat the night of September 23 and that they couldn't even make a guess as to the author of the note.

Police, who have held the theory throughout the investigation that Mrs. Leary and her husband had been holding something back, were inclined to take the letter rather seriously.

Chief Jenkins is now asking that the writer of the letter get in personal touch with him, that Earl Weir may be settled once and for all. "Tell her that I will protect her identity," he said to the author of the note.

The writer said she had seen her mistakes, the change of living precipitated by the events of the houseboat. It appeared an unidentified writer had been an infatuated lover Earl Weir's son of the riverman, and she was in the houseboat with the father, waiting for the arrival of her son, who was Leary appeared. A bitter quarrel ensued, the letter stated, and Mrs. Leary was left there.

(Continued on Page Fourteen, Column Five)

Apartment Dwellers Flee From Fire

DRIVEN out in their night clothes, nearly 100 tenants of the Lillian apartments, Sixth and Montgomery streets, fled down the fire escapes early today. At the left are Mrs. Guy McAdams and her little son, Bobbie, among those who had narrow escapes. At the right is the fire escape on the Sixth street side, showing the long drop from the escape to the sidewalk, which tenants had to take or await rescue via firemen's ladders.



FIRE ROUTS TENANTS OF APARTMENTS

Men and Women, Many Scantly Attired, Flee From Lillian Apartment Building in Early Morning; Cling to Fire Escape

Ninety or more scantily clad persons in night clothes, congregated in the rain on the lower level of the fire escapes of the Lillian apartments, which stood below the second floor, and were rescued early today by firemen on ladders when fire of uncertain origin partly destroyed the building at Sixth and Montgomery streets. There were 26 apartments in the building which was four stories high.

Mrs. L. J. Hobson and her daughter, Mrs. Mary Newham, jumped from the second story fire escape, landing into the arms of a crowd of spectators on the sidewalk. Neither was injured. Twenty or more persons on the same landing were preparing to follow the two women and jump in the same way when men in the crowd yelled to them not to. Instead, warnings kept them waiting there until the arrival of ladders.

WOMAN OVERCOME

Mrs. R. Thurber, 60, was exhausted by fumes and smoke and was found by a rescuer early almost overcome and apparently partly paralyzed on the floor of her apartment. She was taken into the fire escape and rescued.

An early check of the residents of the apartment house made by the police and firemen accounted for all persons who live in the building. The loss is estimated at \$40,000. Most of the engine company No. 4 report defective wiring in the basement as the probable origin of the fire.

CORROBORATES NEWS

Many residents of the apartment house reported when they were first aroused and rushed to the doors of their rooms they were forced to retreat by the face of a terrific blast of flame and smoke and sought escape out of the windows to fire escapes. Apparently, the corridors, acting as draft passages, carried the flames and smoke up the stairs and around the building, cutting off any escape by elevators or stairways.

The building is a four-story brick shell around a wooden frame, and according to the report of the fireman, it is in class six, which is not even considered semi-fireproof. It is constructed in a T shape, around the old Lillian building, which is connected to the new building by passage ways.

FINDS BABY

The flames starting in the basement spread out in all directions and ate up the structure.

(Continued on Page Fourteen, Column One)

MOONSHINE FATAL TO 8 IN THE EAST

BOOTLEGGERS SOB
Shelby, Ohio, Dec. 25.—(U. P.)—Two bootleggers sobbed like broken-hearted children as they viewed the corpse of a fellow bootlegger, a victim of moonshine, at the morgue here today.

"They confessed to making and selling moonshine," a police officer declared, "which brought a Christmas eve revelry to a tragic climax, killing Lantry and least temporarily blinding two others, but declaring their innocence of the murder charge that has been placed against them."

The bootleggers, Philip Weigand and Lester Eckert.

New York, Dec. 25.—The death toll from poison liquor drunk here during Christmas celebrations was brought up to eight this afternoon. Two of the victims were women. All were poisoned by drinking "booth" containing wood alcohol.

The victims were: Thomas McNamara, Minnie Schreiber, John Glendon Joseph, John J. Burns, Elizabeth West, Frank Held and Charles Bennett. According to the police, the last was a police statement declaring that the bright light district was a Sahara on Christmas night, not a single intoxicated person being brought into the West Side police court. Most of the drinking that formerly formed a part of the revelry in the district was done in homes.

All the dead and ill persons were found by pedestrians, police or friends in alleys, streets or apartments here.

SMYTH IMPROVES STEADILY

Chicago, Dec. 25.—(U. P.)—The condition of Dan Smyth, Pandemonium, who was shot in the chest today. His nurse said he is improving steadily and an operation probably will be performed the latter part of this week.

HURRICANE WASHES ATLANTIC VESSELS

New York, Dec. 25.—(U. P.)—The worst hurricane that has swept the North Atlantic in many years was abating today after causing terrific damage and loss of life. The report that all vessels were delayed, but that none was missing. The delayed steamships were reporting by wire that they would be refitted before they can get out for the return voyage. They told the Cedic Zealand and the United States.

Reports of the 100 miles an hour gale that lashed the ocean into mountainous waves, led to the fact that several vessels had been lost.

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Prominent Quaker Of Newberg Passes

Newberg, Dec. 25.—E. H. Woodward, prominent Quaker, Pacific college official and for 29 years editor and publisher of the Newberg Graphic, died here today of cancer of the stomach, which had suffered for years with a cancerous growth on his neck caused by a long abscess. This led to his death. He was 62 years old. A daughter, Mrs. W. A. King, resides in Portland, and a son, Walter Woodward, is here on a visit from Indiana.

Ezra Meeker Will Be Mine Host for 90-Year-Old 'Boys'

New York, Dec. 25.—The old quip about the good dying young will explode here on December 29 when Ezra Meeker will entertain the youth of New York who have reached 90 years of age, at his birthday dinner. Meeker is 92.

The object of the dinner will be to prove to the world that men and women should live to be over 100, or rather that they should live to be at least 200.

Bara, who went over the Oregon trail in an ox cart in '52, founded Pullman, Wash., and wrote books in long hand, will give the world a Christmas present at the coming dinner by telling his secret of life.

Cheney, who was a member of the baby at the table, he being only 85. It is because he is such a good story teller that Meeker has let down the bars a little in his favor.

Meeker was born in Butler county, Ohio, and started traveling when he was 21. He spent most of his life on the Pacific coast. He came East to aid the cause of the Oregon trail, a bill for which will soon come up in the senate committee.

Five Are Injured In Auto Mishaps

Five persons were injured, none seriously, and another was killed, as a result of four automobile accidents that took place in the city late Monday night.

R. L. Mullins of Oregon City suffered cuts and bruises when his machine collided with a streetcar on the east approach of the Hawthorne bridge. Mullins' machine was knocked through the front of a restaurant and he was arrested for being intoxicated. The police state there was an odor of liquor on his breath.

Charles Millholland, a painter of No. 120 Sherman street, suffered a fractured hip and wounds to his head when he was struck by an automobile driven by F. A. Doern of Collins View. He was taken to the emergency hospital, and later to St. Vincent's. His wounds are not serious.

Rose Aplanalp of route No. 6, Portland, was injured when her car was struck by a truck.

(Continued on Page Fourteen, Column Five)

Sen. McNary For World Conference

Washington, Dec. 25.—(U. P.)—Three members of the Progressive Republican group in the senate—Senator McNary, Oregon; Brookings, S. D., and Ladd, North Dakota—today expressed strong approval of Senator Borah's proposal for a world economic conference and disarmament conference, and announced their intention of voting for it as an amendment to the pending naval bill.

Senator McNary said: "I believe that such a conference as Senator Borah proposed would be of great benefit. I intend to support it as it is. I see no necessity for any amendments, reservations or modifications. It is clear to me that unless something is done soon to stabilize economic conditions in Europe the American people are going to suffer therefrom."

McNary said he had received a number of telegrams in support of the Borah proposal from farmers and small bankers.

Senator Brookings said he was heartily in favor of Senator Borah's plan for an economic conference. Senator Ladd said he thought Senator Borah's proposal conveyed a constructive idea which should be encouraged.

SCHOOL PROBLEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED

Conferences on all the departments and divisions of teaching offered by the Oregon State Teachers' Association will occupy the remaining days of this week for several hundred teachers from all parts of the state who will be in attendance at the 22d annual convention of the Oregon State Teachers' Association, which is being held at the Lincoln high school.

Two special speakers for the convention who will appear on the program during the convention will be Dr. A. E. Whipple, editor of the Journal of Education, Boston, Mass., who is an educator of national reputation, and Will Wood, state superintendent of public instruction of California.

SPECIAL BRANCHES

During this convention the 19 departments and divisions of the association will hold separate sessions in class rooms at the Lincoln high school at which specialized branches of elementary grades, repeal of property qualification in school elections, and change the methods of adoption of textbooks.

The resolutions committee of which Professor J. F. Brumbaugh of O. A. C. is chairman, will present a set of resolutions.

(Continued on Page Eighteen, Column Five)

Cheer Is Provided for All Christmas Joys Are General

Christmas is Christmas, and neither leader, dripping cities nor rising temperature may detract a whit from it. The much Portland established to its own satisfaction yesterday when it celebrated the old, old day in the old, old way of happiness.

Snow, crisp air and sleigh bells bear no real significance. In other words, it makes no sense how your best beloved is attired—in dreamy white or somber gray; when she draws near, after a long absence, your heart beats faster. Much rain fell yesterday in the city and the mercury was high. But it was a city of gaiety and good deeds, nevertheless. Today the homes are strewn with boxes and long Mother's Day smiles, and not up early to begin the work of clearing the debris away. But the children, both to his aged when they had no many playmates, were up with her. It will be harder to get them out when school starts again.

STREET IN BOTTLES

Among the pastimes and the more modern of the attached, dull eyes and swollen heads are common; for it must be admitted that much of the Christmas spirit came in bottles and the most insignificant cause when prohibition entirely prohibited.

"Have another," rang out from windows and doorways.

But that was after the serious work of the day had been done and the children tucked away, full of good things and pains. Charitable organizations and individuals of the city saw to it that not a child was left homeless.

Most spectacular of the entertainments was the giant Christmas tree of the Elks at the Auditorium. Every matter of the floor of the great building was taken, and here were examples of all the needy of Portland. A description of them would suffice for all the merry Christmas trees.

Fatherless children were there, their mothers having died in the past, worried and uncertain. Lonely boys and girls, who seemed to have wandered in, no one knew just how. There were children under the command of their fathers, with the mothers not there. The fathers were left to guess the secrets behind the scenes in all these cases.

TREE IS SET UP

Mayor Baker, Dr. Earl V. Morrow, Frank Leonard and Monroe Goldstein were the directing spirits of the tree. Under the direction of Goldstein, a big tree was set up just as though it still was growing. The Auditorium was decorated with lights of blue, red and white, and

(Continued on Page Fourteen, Column Five)

Lightner Loses Last Chance to Dodge Prison Sentence

Thumbs down for Dave Lightner, narcotics smuggler, dealer and peddler.

Lightner lost the final round in his battle for freedom when Judge Federal Judge R. S. Bean overruled the motion of his attorneys for a new trial and arrest of judgment. The judge said that Lightner was a habitual offender and that he was a danger to the community.

Lightner was tried last week before Federal Judge F. S. Dietrich of Boise, Idaho, on two more indictments growing out of a second offense, convicted on both and sentenced to 18 months at McVet's island.

Counsel for the defendant moved this morning for a new trial on the charge, holding that it had not been proved that Lightner was a dealer in drugs. Judge Bean overruled the motion, stating that the jury, and not the court, were the judges of that contention. The jury, he stated, had decided Lightner was a narcotics dealer. The court said that the jury's verdict was the final word and that the court did not intend to interfere with the jury's verdict.

Well-Dressed Man Commits Suicide In Club Quarters

A neatly dressed man about 45 years old, believed to be E. L. Collins, killed himself at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon in the lavatory of the Metropolitan club, No. 102 Sixth street, by shooting himself twice in quick succession through the heart.

Lack Stovall, proprietor of the club, hearing the shot, rushed into the lavatory where he found Collins upon the floor.

The police emergency hospital was called, and Collins died within five minutes. The only means of identification was a notebook in his pocket bearing the name and a note that read: "Mrs. Clara V. Schneck, 102 Sixth street, Portland, Ore. in case of accident."

The body is at the morgue.

Three Killed in Christmas Fights

Trinidad, Colo., Dec. 25.—(U. P.)—Three men were dead here today after a series of gun fights Christmas day. William Jamison was shot and killed by August Malinda at the latter's roadside home after Jamison ran amuck, according to Malinda. Chandelario Aragon was killed and Jerry Salas was killed, charged with the crime, following a quarrel here yesterday. Malinda Aragon was slain by Tom Marlin after a quarrel involving Marlin's life.

Auto Rams Train; Waitsburg Banker Dead, Son Injured

Walla Walla, Wash., Dec. 25.—A. M. Waitsburg, banker and president of the Exchange National bank of Waitsburg, Wash., is dead, and his son, J. H. Waitsburg, 26, is in a local hospital, suffering from injuries sustained when his life, the result of a collision of the Waitsburg automobile with a Pullman-bound freight train at the intersection of the C. & N. tracks and Ninth street here this morning.

The Waitsburg banker and his son were coming into the city from their home, four miles south, and as the crossing at Ninth street was unobstructed, it is thought the rain on the windshield of the car prevented the elder Waitsburg, who was driving from seeing the train, which, according to C. & N. officials, was approaching the crossing at a rate of 15 miles an hour and signaling. The automobile was hurled to the side of the tracks, and the Pullman-bound freight train, which was carrying a load of lumber, was derailed.

The results of the collision, which occurred at 10:30 a. m., were that the father was killed and the son was injured.

Toledo Coming to Play Corvallis 11

Football enthusiasts of Toledo, Ohio, cannot understand why an attempt to arrange a football game between the team of Scott high school of that city and the team of the Toledo team in Toledo, failed, but the Eastern team is coming to the Pacific coast confident of a victory over Corvallis high school on New Year's day. This information was received by the Chamber of Commerce today from George E. Hardy of Toledo, former manager of the Toledo team.

Hardy asked the chamber to arrange a trip over the Columbia river bridge for the visiting football players.

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