

SETTLEMENT OF REPARATIONS MAY BE UP TO AMERICA

By David Lawrence
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Washington, Dec. 29.—Settlement of the entire reparations problem in Europe, even though the powers themselves agree on a settlement, may be technically blocked unless the United States senate grants the request made first by former President Wilson and now by President Harding that consent be given to American membership on the reparations commission created by the Versailles treaty.

When the United States senate ratified the separate treaty of peace with Germany a reservation was adopted requiring the consent of both houses of congress before an American could be authorized to sit on the reparations commission and act under those clauses of the Versailles treaty which were accepted as a part of America's pact with Germany.

CAREFUL EXAMINATION
Careful examination of these sections of the treaty shows that unanimous decision by the allied and associated powers before any changes can be made in the manner of payment by Germany. While it is true that a conference of premiers, or an unofficial bankers' commission may make recommendations which all the allied and associated governments might approve, the steps cannot be legally put into operation except by unanimous consent of the interested powers and the United States in one of them. Absenteeism from voting is regarded as a negative vote.

REGARDING VOTE
"Absention from voting is to be treated as a vote against the proposal under discussion."
"On the following questions unanimity is necessary: (A) questions involving the sovereignty of any of the allied and associated powers, or the cancellation of the whole or any part of the debt or obligations of Germany; (B) questions determining the amount and conditions of bonds or other obligations to be issued by the German government and of fixing the time and manner for selling, negotiation or distribution of such bonds; (C) any postponement total or partial, beyond the end of 1926, or the payment of installments falling due between May 1, 1921, and the end of 1926 inclusive; (D) any postponement, total or partial, of any installment falling due after 1926 for a period exceeding three years; (E) questions of applying in any particular case a method of measuring damages different from that which has been previously applied in a similar case; (F) questions of the interpretation of the provisions of this part of the present treaty."

CRUX POINTED OUT
"All other questions shall be decided by the vote of a majority. In case of any difference of opinion among the delegates which cannot be solved by reference to their governments, upon the question whether, in a given case which requires a unanimous vote for its decision or not, such difference shall be referred to the immediate arbitration of some impartial person to be agreed upon by their governments, whose award the allied and associated governments agree to accept."

The crux of the international situation today is Germany's capacity to pay. World opinion agreed that Germany cannot pay now the original sums specified by the London conference of a year ago and even French opinion has conceded the idea of a deferred payment but seeks guarantees.

It is inevitable that some modification will be ultimately approved by all the allied and associated governments. Then it will become necessary to put the modified arrangement into effect. It will have to be done through the reparations commission and America's

consent will be needed to make the decision unanimous.
The Versailles treaty and the special treaty between the United States and Germany definitely fixed the membership of the reparations commission as the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy as permanent, while Japan, Belgium and the Serb-Croat-Slovene state were to have a vote when matters directly affecting their interests were up for consideration.

WILL PRESS RESOLUTION
The Democratic administration, which went out of power in 1921, and the Republican administration, which has come in since, have believed American membership on the reparations commission essential, but in view of the apparent inability of the European governments to reach a decision on what the amount of German reparations should be, it has been felt that the delay was not yet embarrassing. But a settlement is now demanded by all governments and the chances are some modification will be agreed upon in the next few months.

A resolution authorizing the executive to send an official representative to the reparations commission where until now an unofficial observer with no vote has been sitting, is bound to be pressed by the Harding administration from now on.

CHAIRMAN OF L. C. C.
Washington, Dec. 29.—(L. N. S.)—Balthazar L. Meyer of Wisconsin was today selected chairman of the interstate commerce commission for a term of one year. Meyer is the senior member of the commission. He succeeds Charles McChord of Kentucky.

INJURED IN FALL
Milton, Dec. 29.—W. Jones of the North Forks, while working this week with the construction crew near the intake of the Walla Walla river fell from the trestle and caught on a beam when about nine feet from the ground, dislocating his shoulder.

DAUGHERTY HITS BACK AT CRITICS OF GOVERNMENT

(By Universal Service)
Washington, Dec. 29.—Attorney General Daugherty struck back at his critics today in a message to the Philadelphia Board of Trade asking for united support of the nation in maintaining and preserving the orderly processes of government. Minority elements are still striving to tear down constitutional government "through viciously founded theories and violent attacks upon public servants," he said. Issuing his message as a reply to resolutions of commendation recently adopted by the Philadelphia organization, Mr. Daugherty said that it is important that the hands of the government shall be zealously supported against the attacks by hostile or destroying interests.

"Our government is passing through a critical stage," he added. "Not since the Civil War has this nation been confronted with economic conditions so acute, so complex, so fraught with danger. We are not isolated in this respect. All the nations of the earth have felt the blight, some more seriously than others. Some have recovered, others are recovering and a few possibly never will recover."
"At this period in our history, especially, the economic or substantial basis of constitutional government must be preserved and fostered at all hazard, for out of unstable economic substances pour the funneer of unrest,

Lovell Quits State Employment for Health

Salem, Dec. 29.—Frank K. Lovell, state tax commissioner, left this morning for Portland and plans to depart tonight for Los Angeles to spend the remainder of the winter for the benefit of his health. Although Lovell's resignation has not yet been formally accepted by the state tax commission, it is understood that it will be as soon as a successor can be decided upon, and Lovell is leaving the employ of the state at this time. E. L. Fisher, present secretary, is understood to be slated for the commission. Only the absence of Governor Olcott, due back next week, delaying his appointment.

Rich Man's Son Is Given Prison Term

Los Angeles, Dec. 29.—(L. N. S.)—A forged check for \$45 caused A. E. Charlesworth Jr., son of a wealthy and prominent Detroit family, to be sentenced by Judge Revere to from one to 14 years in San Quentin penitentiary. Charlesworth has spent seven of his nine months in California in jail for forgery, but has previously been able to escape long sentences because his father made good the checks.

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