

VIVIANI'S MISSION VIEWED AS FAILURE

VISIT HAS HASTENED STATEMENT OF POLICY AGAINST TREATY, LEAGUE.

By Fred S. Ferguson

(United News Staff Correspondent)
NEW YORK, April 8.—Viewed as a diplomatic mission—and it really amounts to this—the visit of Rene Viviani, French ambassador extraordinary, has resulted in nothing less than one of the most complete diplomatic failures of recent years, when regarded from the French viewpoint. Sufficient information has now drifted into financial and semi-official circles in New York, where there is more or less freedom from official Washington restraint to gain a real estimate of the effect of Viviani's visit.

It is described in one quarter as an "extremely unhappy affair," throughout.

While Viviani has been shown every courtesy in Washington, and official pleasantries have been properly exchanged, reports to well informed quarters here are that the visit of the French envoy, who has been described as being cloaked with extraordinary authority, is resented by republican leaders. Resentment is felt especially by members of the foreign relations committee, it is stated.

Viviani arrived in this country while the republican foreign policy was still in the formative stage and at such a time, the republican leaders are declared to feel—behind their diplomatic smiles—that we have the right to be let alone. The Viviani visit is regarded by some as nothing short of attempted foreign interference.

There is a well defined belief in some quarters that instead of improving the situation from the European standpoint Viviani's visit actually hastened some of the statements regarding the new administration's policies. Sensing the possibility of such a result, Ambassador Jusserand, it is understood here, advised against the visit of Viviani at this time, when it was first proposed. An interesting sidelight is presented, however, in a further report that Premier Briand was willing to take the chances Jusserand pointed out because he was anxious to get Viviani out of France

for a time, owing to domestic political conditions.

Summed up, the results of Viviani's visit, when viewed from the standpoint of actual events, are about as follows:

"The primary object of his visit was to prevent the declaration of a separate peace with Germany."

It is now announced that the first step in re-establishing our international affairs on a normal basis will be the establishment of peace with Germany by resolution.

Convinced that this was inevitable, Viviani sought to bring about the adoption of a resolution which would declare specifically that the United States would regard herself as concerned in event of another attack upon France by Germany.

In this, according to best reports, he has failed.

Viviani's next concern was naturally for the treaty of Versailles. He had hoped to save it, and that the new administration might be brought to accept it, with such amendments as might be deemed necessary and thus swing the full force of American support to the French reparation demands.

But President Harding has indicated that the Versailles treaty is definitely scrapped.

The Anglo-Franco-American treaty, pledging aid to France in even of another German attack, also goes to the scrap heap with the strong declaration against any foreign alliances.

Considering the reparations problems, France hoped for speedy policy.

But even while various conferences with Viviani were still in progress it is stated that tangles arising from the Versailles treaty will be straightened, but before other steps are taken, the entire course will be pursued "slowly and prudently."

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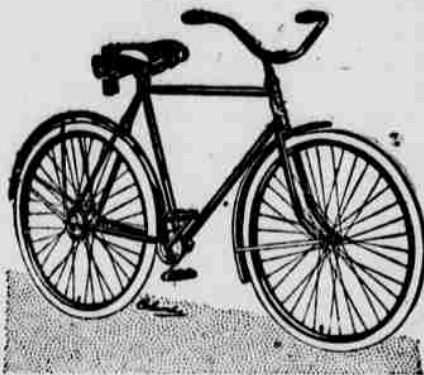
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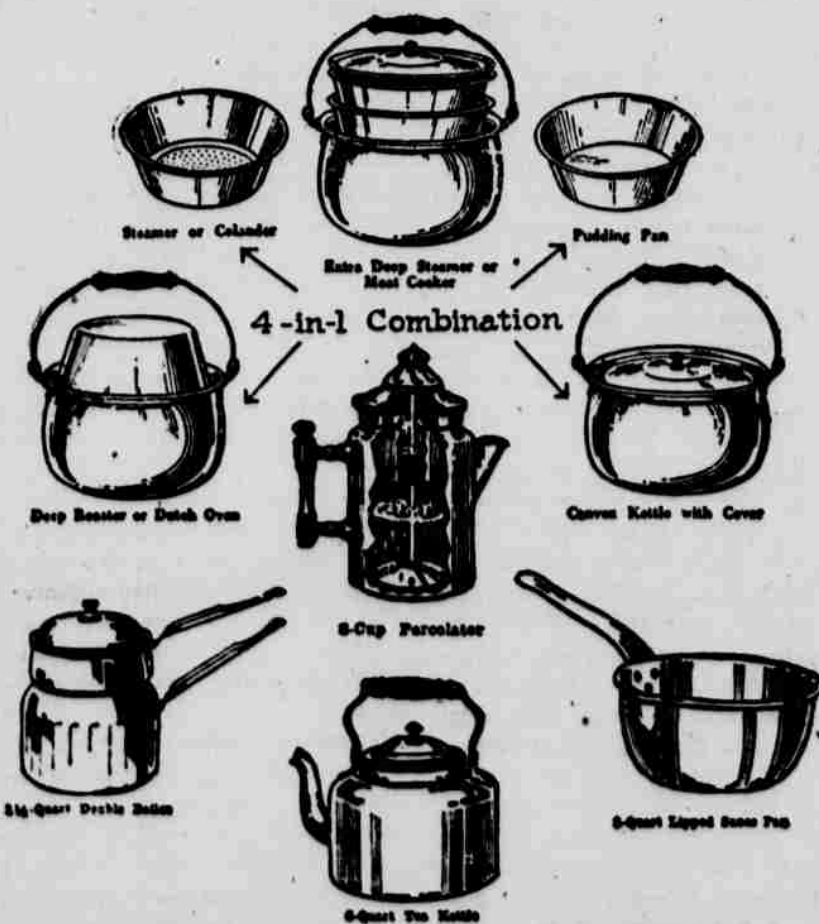
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