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BLIGN THEATRE

COVENANT IS MADE CLEAR BY PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1.)
now at Versailles were being delayed until the world learned what would happen to the treaty with Germany. He said no reasonable objection to senate reservations but thought it unwise to incorporate them in the ratification itself.

Moral Obligation Defined

In replying to a long series of questions by Senator Brandegee, Republican, Connecticut, the president was led into an exhaustive discussion of the comingling of moral and legal obligations in treaties.

"A moral obligation," said Mr. Wilson, "is of course, superior to a legal obligation, and if I may say so has a greater binding force. In every moral obligation there is an element of judgment; in a legal obligation there is no element of judgment."

Senator Brandegee suggested there was no important discussion "because we are obliged in any event."

"I think it is of the greatest importance," replied the president, "because of the element of judgment that enters into it."

"But I am assuming," returned Mr. Brandegee, "if the council should advise us to do a certain thing, and congress refused to do

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China made nine requests of the Peace Conference
(His neck is still very sore)

it, and if every other nation's representative assembly can do the same thing, it seems to me like a rope of sand and not an effective tribunal which would result in promoting peace."

Stands by Congress
"The reason I do not agree with you," Mr. Wilson replied, "is that I do not think such a refusal would likely often occur. I believe it would be only on the gravest grounds—in case congress is right, I am indifferent to foreign criticism."

Senator Harding, Republican, Ohio, suggested there was no necessity of a "written compact for this republic to fulfill its moral obligations to civilization" to which the president rejoined:

"But it steadies the whole world by its promise beforehand that it will stand with other nations of similar judgment to maintain right in the world."

Rumanian Case Sidestepped
When Senator Brandegee asked the president's opinion on the concrete case of the present trouble between Rumania and Hungary, the president said he could not answer because that would involve passing a judgment on a foreign political question in a way he considered inadvisable.

Senator Brandegee also called attention that many authorities on international law had differed as to the meaning of various provisions of the treaty and that Charles E. Hughes, William Howard Taft and Elihu Root had suggested reservations, but the president insisted that he thought it perfectly safe to leave the present language to the interpretation of the future statesman without fear that the United States would suffer by their construction.

Date of Effect Questioned
When Senator Fall, Republican New Mexico suggested that any amendments to the league covenant would not require German's assent as she was not a member of the league, the president replied he never had thought of that feature. He disagreed with Senators Brandegee and Knox, Republican, Pennsylvania, who asserted that the treaty would come into force among all the signatories as soon as three had ratified it.

For more than three hours the committee members questioned the president and afterward they stayed for lunch at the White House. When the recess was taken there had been no discussion whether the meeting was to be resumed during the afternoon but later it was decided not to do so. There was no intimation tonight whether the committee would seek a further conference. Tomorrow it will resume its open hearings at the capitol.

Fall Submits Questions
Senator Fall left with Mr. Wilson a list of questions which the latter said he would reply to at length later. They concern the powers of the president or congress to declare a state of peace, details of the resumption of trade and diplomatic relations with Germany, what disposition is to be made of the German colonies and the need for American representation on various European reconstruction commissions.

The president's declaration of a

compelling moral obligation under the league was emphasized in a statement issued jointly tonight by Senators Borah, Idaho, and Johnson, California, Republican members of the committee and two of the bitterest opponents to the treaty in its present form. They declared the day's testimony had borne out their claim that the league would lead to interminable foreign complications. They also pointed out that Senator Johnson had developed in the day's meeting that a good part of the territorial settlement resulting from the war was yet to be determined.

The president in his statement at the opening of the conference said he believed only the meaning of certain parts of the league covenant stood in the way of ratification of the treaty. Later Senator Brandegee told him he had been wrongly informed as there was much serious opposition in the senate to the ratification provisions and other features.

Covenant Not Surrender
When the question of moral obligation was raised Senator Harding suggested that the covenant provisions might amount to "surrendering the suggestion of a moral obligation for this republic to the prejudices and necessities of the nations of the old world."

"I do not understand that we do surrender," replied the president.

"Would you not understand a decree by the council to be a suggestion of this moral obligation?"

"Certainly, I would, but we would have to concur in that before it had any force of any kind."

"Then what permanent value is there to this compact?"

"The great permanent value is the point that I have raised. We are assuming that the United States will not concur in the greatest moral judgment of the world. In my opinion she generally will."

British Empire Has One Vote
Asked whether all the British dominions would be barred from voting on any question affecting the British empire, the president said that in such a case the entire empire would have but one vote.

Referring to the clause in the special defensive treaty with France which provides that it can come into force only if approved by the league, Mr. Brandegee asked whether it was constitutionally proper for the senate to approve a treaty with the decision of its validity left to a body not yet organized. The president said he saw no objection.

"It is true, is it not?" asked Senator Brandegee, "that if difficulties arise as to the construction of any provision in the treaty with Germany after we have passed from the scene, what we thought the provisions meant will not be very powerful in the construction that will be placed upon it by those who then have to determine what it means?"

Vote of America Essential

"The vote of the United States will be essential," Mr. Wilson replied.

"I do not mean that. The fact that you think now that everything in the treaty is plain, and the fact that I think there is grave doubt about some of the provisions, will it not seriously affect the opinion of the council?"

"No, but the plain wording of the

treaty will have a great deal to do with the meaning of the wording is plain."

"That is simply another way of stating, is it not, that you are clear in your opinion?" queried the senator.

"No sir; it is a question of being confident what language means, not confident of an opinion."

"But the language is in dispute now between you and certain lawyers of the country and certain senators as to its meaning."

Article 10 Is Clear
Senator Brandegee added that with regard to article 10, his own understanding of the league was quite clear, continuing that the provision was "an obligation in a contract and I know of but one way to perform an obligation that you have contracted to perform, and that is to perform it."

The president then made this statement of his understanding of the obligation under that article to follow the advice of the council:

"I take it for granted that in practically every case the United States would respond. I quite agree with you that a moral obligation is to be fulfilled and I am confident that our nation will fulfill it, but that does not remove from each individual case the element of judgment which we are free to exercise in two stages: We are the first three to exercise it in the vote of our representative on the council, who will of course, act under instructions from the home gov-

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ernment, and, in the second place, we are to exercise it when the president, acting upon the action of the council, makes his recommendations to congress.

Congress to be Power
"Then congress," Mr. Wilson added, "is to exercise its judgment as to whether the instructions of the executive to our member of the council were well founded or not and whether this is a case of distinct moral obligation."

Asked by Senator Johnson whether the obligations assumed under the treaty "go to the extent of compelling us to maintain American troops in Europe," Mr. Wilson replied:

"Such small bodies as are necessary to the carrying out of the treaty, I think."

"And will those troops have to be maintained under the various treaties of peace until the ultimate consummation of those treaties?" persisted Mr. Johnson.

Occupation Not Long
"Yes, but that is not long. In no case, as I remember, does that exceed 18 months."

"I was rather under the impression that the occupation of Germany was to be for 15 years."

"Along the Rhine, yes. I was thinking of upper Silesia and the other places where plebiscites are to be carried out. It is the understanding with other governments that we are to retain only enough troops there to keep our flag there."

Troops on Rhine 15 Years

"Will we be maintaining American troops upon the Rhine for the next 15 years?"

"That is entirely within our choice but I suppose we will."

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Two Lads Are Committed for Theft and Burglary

The three lads, still in their teens, who were found in possession of the stolen Ford auto of E. F. Smith, which was taken from the front of the Elks temple in Salem last Saturday night, and were taken in custody by the Vancouver officers, also confessed to burglarizing a store at Lincoln on their joy ride north. They stopped in Vancouver at 2:30 Sunday morning and when starting on their way again failed to turn on their lights. A Vancouver policeman stopped them and the quantity of cigars, cigarettes, candy and chewing gum in their possession aroused suspicion and they were taken to the police station and confessed to the burglary of the Lincoln store and theft of the auto.

After an examination here Ernest Lind and Floyd Cochran, aged 17 and 18 respectively, were sent to the reform school, and F. Baker, aged 16, is held awaiting the arrival of relatives before action is taken in his case. He gives his age as 16 years.

Harry Willson, Harold Forshner, Orville Merchant and Jan Farmer of Oregon City and Portland, the young teabaker auto, some tires and money from a Woodburn garage last week are held in the Marion county jail to await the action of the grand jury. Three of them made a confession the other waiving a hearing at Woodburn Monday and he was held to the grand jury with his bonds fixed at \$10,000. These young men were apprehended and arrested at Gladstone Sunday and were brought back to Salem and Woodburn by Deputy Sheriff Oscar Bowers and Constable Walter De Long Monday evening. The Salem officers are determined to stamp out auto thievery on the part of boys and young men and will hereafter how such offenders very little leniency so far as their authority extends.

SCOTTS MILLS BRIEFS

SCOTTS MILLS, Ore., Aug. 16.—Mr. and Mrs. Merle Scott have returned from a pleasure trip to California, having made the trip by automobile.

Mrs. E. E. Hickox and two children of Portland are visiting relatives at Scotts Mills and Noble.

Miss Nellie Kilburn who has been a Portland the past few months under a doctors care returned home Monday very much improved.

H. Dunagan of Eureka, Calif., is visiting relatives near Scotts Mills.

E. S. Sultz was an over Sunday visitor in Scotts Mills.

Mrs. Emma McCown is visiting relatives at Molalla.

Miss Bonnie and Robert Scott of Woodburn are visiting their aunt and uncle, Mrs. and Mr. J. S. Koob.

Miss Elsie Walbel is visiting friends in Silvertown.

Mrs. Ivan Bellinger and small daughter Jane Elizabeth have returned to Salem after visiting at Noble.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson

Prince of Wales Soon to Be America's Guest



The Prince of Wales, Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David, is now on his way to America on H. M. S. Renown. After visiting several cities in Canada he will go to Washington and New York before returning to England. The prince resembles in many ways his very popular grandfather, the late King Edward. He has made many friends among Americans, especially among our army and navy men he has chanced to meet during the war.

Rear Admiral Sir Ionel Halsey, third sea lord, who is shown in the circle above, is entrusted with the safety of the prince on his trip, and General Currie, commander of the Canadian forces, shown below, will have charge of all military demonstrations and functions for the prince while he is in Canada.

have gone to Itelknap springs for an outing.

Most everyone has finished cutting grain in this vicinity, and threshing will be pretty well under way in a week or 10 days.

Hank Landerwig of Silvertown visited his parents at Noble Sunday.

B. F. Shephard and son Louis were Silvertown visitors Monday.

Mrs. L. M. Bellinger and son Allen and Mrs. Ivan Bellinger were over Sunday visitors in Portland.

Miss Emma Larson of Silvertown visited several days at Noble this week.

Miss Larson will teach the Noble school this winter.

Floyd Gray has returned home from Bermington, Wash., having received his discharge from the navy.

William Wellman and son Otto were Salem visitors Tuesday.

Too Transparent.—Teacher: "We call a thing 'transparent' when we can see through it. Who can name such a thing?"

Peter: "A ladder."

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