

Lane Declares That Secretary Lansing Not All to Blame

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reading from a diary, quoted Secretary Lansing as having told him he was out of sympathy with the league of nations covenant and as predicting that the treaty would fall if the American people ever learned of its full import.

Break Brought Closer.

Mr. Lansing, obviously in a very difficult position, did not repudiate Bullitt's statements although it was momentarily expected in Washington that he either would repudiate them or resign his office. President Wilson was at the time on his speaking tour in the west. To say that he was upset by Bullitt's story and his quotations of the secretary of state puts it mildly. Officials in the president's party who knew the workings of the president's mind expected to see the secretary's resignation asked for when the president returned to Washington. These same officials believe now that the breakdown which sent the president home a very sick man was the only thing which prevented it.

Mr. Lansing, however, never saw the president again, and did all his business with the chief executive in writing. The relations between the two men remained very much strained, and then Mr. Lansing's action in calling the cabinet together brought them to the breaking point.

Those who were present at the first cabinet meeting describe a rather tense and dramatic scene. Congress was full of rumors that the president was so disabled as to be constitutionally unable to discharge the functions of his office. There was talk of what might be done to place Vice-President Marshall at the head of the government and how congress might go about doing it. Nobody knew the full extent of the president's illness. It had not then become known that he had partially lost the use of his left arm and leg through an accumulation of blood in one of the arteries in his brain. There were even ugly rumors that the president might not be in possession of all his faculties. Some senators were even contemplating some action to find out whether we have a president or not "as one" of their number put it. These ugly stories were, of course, all disposed of and shown to be pure and unfounded gossip by the later development, but they were being circulated and widely credited last November when the cabinet assembled for its first conference at the call of Secretary Lansing.

Precedent Is Cited.

The secretary of state, it should be said, believed he was supported by precedent in calling the cabinet together. Looking up the historical record he found it had been done when President Cleveland lay ill for weeks after having been shot by an assassin and that it had been done before when President Taylor had a long illness and ultimately was succeeded by Vice-President Fillmore.

The Wilson cabinet assembled the first day with a feeling of apprehen-

sion, for none of the members knew the extent of the president's illness, but expected to be informed of it. Secretary Tumulty has informed the president that Mr. Lansing had called the cabinet together, and the president, somewhat disturbed, gave his personal physician a message to deliver to the secretaries.

The secretaries assembled at their usual places that day and Mr. Lansing sent for Dr. Grayson. The president's chair at the head of the table was left vacant until the physician arrived and he was asked to occupy it.

Meeting Caused Tilt.

"Dr. Grayson," Secretary Lansing is reported to have said by those who were present, "we wish to know the nature and extent of the president's illness and whether he is able to perform the duties of his office, so that we may determine what shall be done to carry on the business of the government."

The president's physician is quoted by some of the other secretaries as having replied in substance: "The president is doing as well as could be expected; he is in full possession of all his faculties, and he has directed me to inquire of you by what authority this cabinet was called, what business is before it and what business it is expected might be transacted at a cabinet meeting without his participation."

According to the story told at the time, Secretary Lansing had no opportunity to reply because some of the other members stepped into the breach and asked Dr. Grayson to say to the president that the only purpose of the meeting was to inquire the state of his health and to send him a message of loyalty and encouragement. At that point the meeting broke up without having transacted any business, but it did not end the so-called cabinet conferences.

It has not been made plain whether President Wilson knew since then that the cabinet members had been assembling and talking over inter-departmental affairs, but the meetings have been held in the cabinet room in the executive offices and if the president did not know it probably was because those surrounding him did not think it wise to tell him.

Wilson Not Advised.

The best opinion of those "on the inside" is that the president did not know until last week of the regularity with which the cabinet was meeting at about the time at which the president's first letter to Mr. Lansing is dated, the White House offices. It is known that the president had ended the cabinet conference and there was an inference that he might preside at the next one himself. There was, however, no hint that the ending of the meetings marked a separation between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lansing.

Now that the break has come and Mr. Lansing has left the cabinet, much may be revealed of the extent to which

the secretary of state and the president differed in matters of policy. Quite aside from the differences at the peace conference, there were other differences in foreign policy, and some of Mr. Lansing's friends say he would have left his office some time ago but for the fact that he wished to spare the president an upheaval in his official family at a time when Europe was watching the fight over the treaty in American and especially when the president was ill and unable to look after the affairs of the state department himself.

Mr. Lansing became head of the state department when William J. Bryan and the president had their differences over the Lusitania notes. Mr. Lansing was counselor, an office in which he had succeeded John Bassett Moore. It has been common knowledge that while Mr. Lansing's name was signed to the succeeding notes to Germany and the notes which preceded the armistice, Mr. Wilson wrote them himself, in fact, he practically acted as secretary of state in all important business. It was the president's conception of his relation to the foreign policy of the nation.

Mexican Differences Unknown.

How much Mr. Lansing and the president differed on the Mexican policy has never been fully revealed, but officials who sympathize with Mr. Lansing's views say that they differed a great deal. It has generally been believed in official circles here that the sharp notes which Mr. Lansing sent to Carranza in connection with the Jenkins case are what the president referred to in his letter to the secretary when he spoke of the secretary of state having taken action to forestall his judgment. It is known, however, that Henry Prather Fletcher, former ambassador to Mexico, who recently resigned wrote a letter to the president in which he extolled the administration's Mexican policy, and the general belief in the state department is that Mr. Lansing and Mr. Fletcher agreed pretty generally. Mr. Fletcher's letter of resignation never has been given out at the White House. But aside from his difficulties with the president, it has been common knowledge in Washington that Mr. Lansing has not been on good terms with Secretary Tumulty and from time to time there have been apparently well grounded reports of friction with Secretaries Baker and Daniels.

In the senate foreign relations committee, where Mr. Lansing was in frequent touch with senators, he is regarded as a trained diplomat. Senators remarked when Bullitt gave his sensational testimony that they regretted it very much on Lansing's account.

Secretary Lansing gave out the correspondence between himself and the president last night and stipulated that it was for publication in morning papers today. Some news agencies, however, other than the Associated Press, violated their pledges to the state department and published the letters in some parts of the country yesterday afternoon.

There will be no more resignations from the cabinet as a result of the Lansing incident, it was said at the White House today.

"I am not going to discuss the Lan-

ing-Wilson controversy—the letters speak for themselves," Secretary Tumulty said.

Successors Discussed.

There was no information available at the White House as to a probable successor to Mr. Lansing, but the appointment is expected to be made soon. John W. Davis, ambassador at London and Under Secretary Polk, are being discussed.

Cabinet meetings will be resumed "very soon" and as announced a few days ago President Wilson will preside. White House officials reiterated today he was making rapid strides toward regaining his health.

Chairman Porter of the house foreign affairs committee, commenting today on Secretary Lansing's resignation said:

"I am not inclined to accept this new and novel interpretation of organic law.

"There is nothing in the constitution which prohibits members of the president's cabinet from meeting and discussing any departmental matter. If we accept the president's construction of the constitution, it would be a violation thereof for two of the secretaries to hold a conference in the absence of the president.

President Criticized.

"Mr. Lansing has faithfully served Mr. Wilson during both of his terms as president, and in due consideration for his rights I think the president should have asked for his resignation on the ground that they did not agree on the policies to be pursued by the state department and not to have dismissed him in this harsh way."

Notification of Mr. Lansing's resignation was sent to all foreign govern-

ments today by Under Secretary Polk. It was said at the state department that Mr. Polk would serve as acting secretary for a period of thirty days unless a successor to Mr. Lansing is chosen sooner.

GIRLS GLEE CLUB TO TOUR IN WASHINGTON

The ladies' glee club of Willamette university will depart from its usual custom of having only one concert, that in Salem, and will make a trip similar to that taken by the men's organization. A two-weeks' tour of Washington and eastern Oregon is being planned by the manager, Miss Mildred Garrett. The dates and towns visited have not been fully set as yet.

The club is making faithful preparation, and their finished concert will rival in interest that of the men's club. There will be a ladies quartet, and several solos and duets will be featured. The club will also make several week-end excursions to nearby cities before starting on the long tour.

Members of the club are Misses Lorelei Blatchford, Lea Briggs, Margaret Bowen, Marie Corner, Marguerite Cook, Mildred Garrett, Mary Elizabeth Hunt, Faye McKinnis, Helen McInturff, Vivian Isham, Sadie Pratt, Gene Sevy, Mildred Strevoy, Emma Shanefelt, Mary Spaulding, Laura Shipley, Vera Wise and Evelyn DeLong.

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REV. SMITH TO HEAD ENDOWMENT DRIVE

The committee from the board of trustees of the Kimball School of Theology has selected Rev. Clarence D. Smith as their field secretary for the Kimball endowment fund. A campaign will be launched to raise \$200,000. Mrs. Henry D. Kimball of California has already donated \$25,000 for the Dunlap chair of exegetical theology, and several hundreds of dollars are in hand to endow the John Flinn chair of systematic theology.

Leon Berard, former minister of instruction, was elected vice-president of the French chamber of deputies yesterday.

Canadian Shipyards Turn Out 80 Vessels in Year

Montreal, Feb. 14.—Eighty vessels with a total net tonnage of 33,340 were built in Canada during the last year and sent overseas without being registered the department of marine and fisheries announced today. The ships were constructed for French interests, the Imperial navigation board, and Norway.

Sixty were wooden steamships with a total tonnage of 68,522, eight were steel steamers with a tonnage of 30,971 and there were two wooden sailing vessels totalling 742 tons.

The University of Pennsylvania will add aviation to its sports roster according to an announcement yesterday.



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