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CHOLERA SWEEPS 24 RUSSIAN DISTRICTS

English Credit Premier, Idea Of Conference

CLAIM BRITISH JUGGLING OF RECORD RELEVANT TO CONFERENCE

'INNER CIRCLE' AVOIDS RECORD REFERENCES

BELIEVE LLOYD GEORGE SAID TOO MUCH ON THE ANGLO-JAPANESE QUESTION

LONDON, Aug. 6.—Who initiated the pending Washington disarmament and Pacific conference? President Harding or Lloyd George?

This is a problem which is being very freely debated here, and one which is likely to prove a contentious subject for future historians.

The average member of the British public doesn't vastly care either way, but he readily concedes that Lloyd George, with characteristic "Welsh wizardry" and acumen, has managed to get in first and rake off in advance a good share of any credit which may accrue to the promoters—without, however, incurring much blame if things fall through.

Records Juggled

Disinterested officialdom say that the question can only be honestly answered by the select few who thoroughly understand the inner meaning of the little diplomatic juggle with the staid pages of "Hansard," the British parliamentary official record—a few weeks ago.

July 7, Lloyd George, rising in the house of commons, to answer a harmless-looking question about the Anglo-Japanese treaty, said that he hoped to make a full statement on the following Monday (July 11), but that it would depend upon "replies received from the United States, Japan and China." This was the version given by every reporter in the press gallery of the house of commons. There were a few differences in the actual wording, some papers saying "United States and Japan," others only quoting "United States and China," while the majority included all three countries.

"Hansard's" report is never published until the following day, as the house of commons does not rise until 11 p. m. and very often sits into the early hours of the morning. But meanwhile, energetic American correspondents had cabled this quotation to the United States, and equally energetic colleagues in Washington had been around to the state department to find out about the presumed "note" to which the British premier was evidently expecting a reply.

Washington Professes Ignorance

Washington professed ignorance and said that there was nothing to reply to, and within a few hours of Lloyd George's statement in the house of commons, London editors and parliamentary experts were worrying themselves thin over the mystery. They naturally went down to the foreign office and No. 10 Downing street, and something had to be done.

The next day the foreign office spokesman blandly referred inquirers to the freshly-printed sheets of "Hansard," which contained no reference to the premier having mentioned expecting replies from the United States, Japan or China. "Any body quoting the premier differently must have misunderstood him," was all that could be extracted from the foreign office.

Depend on Foreign Replies

Leading newspapers, with implicit faith in their parliamentary experts were not satisfied with this and went to the premier's office. Soon afterward an official statement was issued, saying that somehow or other the words "would depend on replies from the United States, Japan and China," had been "omitted from Han-

sard, but that these words were actually used by the premier and had accordingly been inserted in the official record.

There the matter ended officially, and the newspapers did not press the point any further, for the average British editor has a very high sense of patriotic duty where delicate matters of foreign policy are concerned.

Premier Talks Too Much

The corrected proofs of Hansard for July 7 were not available for inspection, so nobody can say just who eliminated these important words from the premier's statement. That they were deleted was obvious, also that the deletion could only have been done by somebody close to Lloyd George, if not, indeed, the premier himself. The impression was that Lloyd George, who had been severely baited in preceding questions, had said rather more than he had intended when replying to the harmless looking Anglo-Japanese question, and that he had corrected the error as soon as possible. But the official reinsertion of these words had everybody guessing.

Then, in his promised statement on July 11, Lloyd George blandly stated that when he said he expected "replies from the United States, Japan and China," he meant that Curzon had had conversations with the United States and Japanese ambassadors and the Chinese minister, in which he had laid before them the views of the British cabinet, and that they had promised to report any replies they might receive.

The explanation generally favored was that Lloyd George, feeling compelled to do something about the Anglo-Japanese treaty and to meet the views of the dominion premiers, then in conference in London, had from Washington on the Far East, sought to provoke the talk of, but so far unmaterialized, invitation from Washington on the Far East, to a conference.

Washington "came across," and if this was the object, it was attained very nicely. And as Washington was the only capital that really mattered the question of a conference was happily launched.

But did Lloyd George invite Harding, or did Harding invite Lloyd George?

Pioneer Dies

W. E. Kahler, 64, well known pioneer of Jackson county, died yesterday evening at his home in Central Point after a prolonged illness of several months. Mr. Kahler is well known among old time residents of this city, having spent his boyhood and school days in this city. The body was taken to a Medford undertaking parlor. The funeral will be held on Monday, the time not having been decided. He is survived by his wife, and a son, Edward Kahler, who is now living in Los Angeles, Calif.

Injured in Runaway

P. L. Ashcraft, well known Ashland pioneer, who was slightly bruised and shaken up as the result of his team running away near Lake of the Woods last Sunday evening, is reported to be hale and hearty again. A small brown bear figures in the story of the accident. While Mr. Ashcraft was returning from a trip to Pelican Bay and Lake of the Woods, the small cub ran out on the road in front of the team, causing a runaway that ended with the horses and parts of the wagon various places along the road. Mr. Ashcraft was thrown to one side of the road. The outfit was repaired and brought into town the following day.

Week-end at Crater Lake

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Forget and little son, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Reader and family, compose a party leaving today for a week-end trip to Crater Lake.

Fleeing Car Thought to Contain Missing Priest

U. S. Outlines Principals For Pacific Conference

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 6.—The United States government is basing its Pacific questions program discussion upon the following three cardinal principles:

First, the recognition and firm establishment of the open door in the Pacific and the Far East. Second, the protection and maintenance of China's political and territorial integrity. Third, the safeguarding of Russia's integrity, principally involving Siberia.

November 11 has been practically agreed upon as the conference date for the disarmament conference to be held at Washington.

DeValera's Aides Meet With Craig; Effect Conference

LONDON, Aug. 6.—Eamonn De Valera's lieutenants are reported as conferring with Sir James Craig, premier of Ulster, who refuses to admit De Valera's status as representative of Ireland, and preparing the way for direct negotiations between the Sinn Fein and Ulster leaders. The meeting may effect the long discussed conference between De Valera and Craig in effecting the Ulster agreement to the Irish peace move.

There is fear of serious developments Monday when the government control over the Irish railways terminates. The workers are facing a wage reduction. De Valera has appealed to the railway workers to continue operations, although the known opposition to the present railway arrangement exists. There is fear of a break between De Valera and the wage earners.

FOREST THICKETS SEARCHED BY ARMED MEN

NOTE SAYS PRIEST IS HELD BY PERSONAL ENEMY IN A BOOTLEGGERS CELLAR

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—Heavily armed posses are today sweeping through the Big Basin country, in the lonely giant Redwood forest, in search of Father Patrick Heslin, whom kidnapers are holding for a \$50,000 ransom at peril of his life. A speeding automobile was seen near here last night containing four men, one of whom is believed to be the priest.

That Father Heslin, missing Colma priest, is being held by a personal enemy in a bootlegging cellar in Colma and will be killed if the ransom is not forthcoming, or if any attempt to rescue him is made, was the threat in the blackhand note received by Archbishop Hanna, the police revealed.

The letter stated that the exact conditions on which the priest would be released would be made known by a telephone call, but no such call has been received.

It is thought possible that the kidnapers hoped to obtain a large ransom from the Knights of Columbus, who have been in convention here.

It is also considered possible by the police that the demand for the ransom was made by swindlers and not those having anything to do with the case.

Reports were circulated that Father Heslin, on Tuesday night, was called to hear the confession of a murderer and then was removed by men who feared incrimination, despite the sacredness of the confidence. But no credit was given to such rumors.

The new auto camp grounds at Silverton is now ready for campers.

Think Brumfield One of 2 Escaped Highwaymen

LA PINE, Or., Aug. 6.—Two highwaymen, one of whom is believed to be Dr. R. M. Brumfield, wanted in Roseburg on a charge of murdering Dennis Russell, fled through La Pine early this morning, headed north. The men drove a roadster.

Members of the Mazama party, camped near here, who were robbed by the men, claim that the larger of the two closely resembled pictures of Dr. Brumfield. Officers are following the men and other officers are coming south from Bend in an effort to apprehend the fugitives.

Interstate Commerce Commission Denies R. R. Compensation

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 6.—The interstate commerce commission has denied the railroad claims that the government should compensate the roads for the alleged loss of efficiency resulting from government control. Although a comparatively small sum was involved during the twenty-six months in question, the ruling will probably serve as a precedent for determining other claims accruing during the time that the government operated the railroads.

Motoring Trip to Canada

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barnhouse and family leave in the morning on an auto trip extending as far north as Victoria, B. C. They expect to be gone two or three weeks.

Leaves for Richmond

Miss Gertrude Engle, who has been spending her vacation visiting her mother, Mrs. Angie Engle, and brother, Fred Engle, of this city, will leave tonight for Richmond to resume her position as principal of the Stege school at that place.

Plans Under Way For Modern Store At Camp Grounds

Thomas Hill, former well known proprietor of a grocery store on East Main street, has "come back" into the business life of Ashland. With the purchase of the C. J. Foster residence and Park store at the corner of Granite and Pioneer streets, Mr. Hill has launched plans for the construction of a cement store building to replace the wooden structure now at the entrance to the auto camp grounds. The purpose of his enterprise is to supply what is felt to be an urgent need for a modern store to supply auto campers with food, auto accessories, gasoline and other traveling necessities.

Mr. Hill purchased the grocery stock of the Park store from Sam Saunders, and the store property from Mrs. Elgin, Dorris, Calif. Purchase of the Foster residence was made through a separate deal.

A definite day for starting construction of the new building has not been decided on. When completed it will have a large storage plant on the first floor. The second floor, flush with the roadway, will be entirely given over to a complete stock of groceries, auto supplies and other incidentals in demand at the camp ground. An up-to-date gasoline and oil service will be installed at the entrance of the store, near the bridge leading to the park. It is planned by Mr. Hill to not only supply the needs of the tourist, but also accommodate residents in that vicinity.

Mr. Hill left Ashland a few months ago, after selling the Ashland Trading store located on East Main street, for southern California, where at that time he intended to make his home. After several weeks sojourn in the southern clime, however, Mr. Hill returned, a greater booster for Ashland than before he left.

Mr. Foster, who sold the residence property to Mr. Hill, is at present located in Weed, Calif., where he is connected with a lumber company of that city.

150,000 DIE OF PLAGUE IN TWO CITIES

FIVE NEW DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY DISEASE WHICH IS STILL SPREADING

MOSCOW CLOSES ITS GATES TO HUNGRY

LOOTERS HARD ON TRAIL OF BURNING HOMES; RAIDERS ARE GASSED

REVALD, Aug. 6.—A cholera death wave is sweeping five new Russian districts and taking a heavy toll, making a total of twenty-four provinces now affected by the disease. Approximately 150,000 victims of the plague resulting from the famine prevailing in Russia are reported dead in two cities. Fifty thousand of the dead are children.

In the wake of the death dealing cholera terror follow looters hard on the trail of burning homes and ruined farms that have been fired when left by the occupants. Armed bands of despoilers are entering homes that are intact, stealing food to satisfy the hunger to which they have been subjected for many weeks.

Authorities at Moscow, realizing the danger of riots and depredations from the starving hordes, have closed the city gates to the fugitives, refusing them entrance.

Poison Gas Used

A report received here states that the throngs clamoring for admittance to Moscow have been driven back by troops with poison gas.

Russian leaders of the soviet government are utilizing all available means to arrange relief for the situation.

Move to Hold Up Timber Land Exchange Stopped

SALEM, Or., Aug. 6.—(Special.)—The effect of a resolution and memorial introduced by L. E. Bean, speaker of the house of representatives, and adopted by the last legislature providing for an investigation and urging the secretary of the interior at Washington to hold up all applications for exchange of privately owned timber lands for Oregon and California grant lands of equal value, pending approval by the state of Oregon, was knocked into a cocked hat through receipt of a letter at the executive offices here today from William Spry, commissioner of the general land office.

"The federal act of May 31, 1918," said Commissioner Spry's letter to Governor Olcott, "places upon the secretary of the interior the responsibility that exchanges made thereunder shall be of approximate equal value, and shall also be advantageous to the government in that its timber holdings shall be consolidated thereby."

Responsibility Not Divided

"This responsibility, placed upon him by the present act of congress, is one that he should and must accept, and which he cannot divide with the state, even should he desire to do so. Nor is there any reason seen for the amendment of the present law so as to make an exchange of these lands of the United States dependent upon the approval by the state of Oregon."

"The regulations governing exchanges of land under the act of May 31, 1918, afford ample protection to the interests of the government. Under these regulations, ap-

plications filed are given a preliminary examination in the general land office, and only in the event that they are found to offer some apparent advantage toward the consolidation of government owned timber are they submitted to the secretary of the interior for his tentative approval for the purpose of ordering field examination.

Procedure Is Outlined

"Following such tentative approval, a demand is made upon the applicant for the deposit of a sum sufficient to defray the expenses incidental to a very complete examination, by smallest legal subdivisions of both the land and timber involved in the application. The regulations require that the special agent in charge, shall, as the result of said examination, submit a comprehensive report as will enable this office to determine whether the proposed exchange is advantageous to the government as to the consolidation of its timber lands. Also whether the timber is of approximate equal value."

"Nothing whatever has been brought out, in any way reflecting on the work of the employees of this office, on such exchanges as have been favorably reported upon by the special agent in charge. It is believed that a careful carrying out of the regulations in the future as in the past, will prevent any just criticism as to the action taken by this office on exchange applications under said act."

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