

FRANCE SEES HANDWRITING

(Continued from page one.)

placement was understood to have been virtually agreed upon at the morning session today of the arms conference naval committee.

All of the powers' delegations accepted the American proposal except the French, who while holding formal approval in abeyance said such approval was expected.

The delegations of all the powers, however, were understood to have given their assent to the additional provision of the American proposal that the guns of auxiliary craft be limited to eight inches.

France May Yield

PARIS, Dec. 30.—(By Associated Press.) The French government will be glad to discuss the status of submarines with reference to merchant shipping as well as the humanitarian bearing of their use, it was said in official circles here this morning. Regulation of the uses of these craft might, it was added, affect the question of tonnage, but the question of the status must come first.

It was pointed out in these quarters, with reference to the tonnage issue that France, including her colonies, has a coast line of 15,000 miles to defend, while the United States, including Alaska, has about 11,000 miles.

Airplane Ratio Proposed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—(By Associated Press.) When the subject of limitation of naval airplane carriers is reached in the conference, probably today or tomorrow, it is stated that the British will propose the application of a definite ratio as in the case of capital ships.

The British are said to be ready to propose an allowance of five-five-three-two-two, which, translated means that Great Britain and America each would have a ratio of five, that Japan would have a ratio of three, and that France and Italy each would have a ratio of two. The British proposal also contemplates a maximum size of these ships of 25,000 tons. If British tons are meant by this, then the ships would correspond practically in size with the maximum proposed by the American delegation which was 27,000 tons, American measurement.

Hughes-Sarraut Clash

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—A rather emphatic exchange also was reported to have occurred during the morning session of the committee between Secretary Hughes and M. Sarraut.

During consideration of the second Root resolution M. Sarraut, it was said announced acceptance by France in principle. Immediately Mr. Hughes, as chairman, inquired with considerable emphasis what acceptance in principle meant and how France could accept a broad principle such as that embodied in the Root resolution in principle.

The French delegation's head, it was stated by one of the delegates, did not reply directly to the pointed inquiry but merely responded that the French delegation could not give its formal acceptance until after instructions had been received from Paris.

Papers Assail France

LONDON, Dec. 30.—(By Associated Press.) Efforts at the Washington conference to curb use of the submarine as a weapon and France's claim for

a large undersea fleet received much attention in today's newspapers. A majority of the editorial writers assailed the French attitude which the Daily Telegraph says faces the world with the "possibility of the world wide orientation of naval policy away from the capital ship and toward the submarine." The newspaper thinks the immense expenditures necessary for

the maintenance of large submarine fleets and "the armadas of auxiliary craft which must be built, manned and trained to cope with them" will wipe out all savings effected by adoption of the ratio for capital ships.

Elihu Root's proposals for regulation of the use of submarines receive much attention. The Daily Chronicle comments:

"It is difficult to believe Mr. Root is not in humane collusion with Mr. Hal four for the whole object of the proposals is to make it not worth while to build submarines for the destruction of commerce."

The newspaper asks, however, whether such rules could be enforced if adopted.

The Daily Mail thinks if the rules

are generally adopted they may be useful "for the humanization of the submarine means virtually the paralysis of the submarine."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—After disposing of the American proposal to limit tonnage and armament of auxiliary vessels the committee renewed discussion of the second Root resolu-

tion to prohibit the use of submarines against merchant vessels.

A decision was not reached owing to the lack of instructions by the French delegation from their government.

Some modifications of the Root resolutions were advanced and it was expected that they would be referred to the drafting committee for final

revision before disposal.

Members of the American delegation expressed much satisfaction over the virtual acceptance of the plan for the limitation of auxiliary vessels, tonnage and armament.

This, it was said, would work to prevent to a certain extent competition in naval construction of auxiliary craft.

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