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WILSON PURSUES OPEN POLICY OF TALKING PEACE

Plans To Talk Directly To People Of Allied Countries Through Speeches.

WILL TALK IN ITALY AS WELL AS ENGLAND

Small Countries Of Europe Are Seeking Furthering Of Own Interests.

By Robert J. Bender.
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Paris, Dec. 23.—President Wilson pursuing his policy of the freest discussion of peace covenants, will deal directly with the people of the allied countries. Thus will millions participate in the preliminary conference and make their influence felt at the Versailles congress.

To reach this vast audience the president will make public speeches in England and Italy, it became known today, in addition to the medium of the press. He will pursue this course while conferring with the allied statesmen.

Receives Many Letters.
That President Wilson already is getting the ear of the allied peoples is indicated by the hundreds of letters he has received from all classes, expressing sympathy with his policies and promising him support.

The situation of the small European nations is deeply perplexing. Many factions are seeking the president's ear, believing he can best serve their particular interests. The president will adhere to the principle of self-determination, pointing out that these factions should get together and determine their united aims.

The conflicts between the aims of Italians and Jugoslavians and the Poles and Lithuanians stand out as perhaps the most unsettled conditions in Europe.

WILSON ON WILHELM'S TRAIL

London, Dec. 23.—President Wilson surely is on the trail of the Kaiser.
The president is reported to have occupied the suite on the George Washington that the Kaiser did several years ago and to have been served by one of the Kaiser's old waiters.
And now, it developed today, the president is expected to be given the suite at Buckingham palace in which the Kaiser stayed during his visit here in 1911.

SLAYER OF FRIEDA WEICHMAN, SUICIDE

Defense Of Piper Claims He Was In Reality Not Mur- derer, But Robber.

Muskegon, Mich., Dec. 23.—With Miss H. Piper dead, a suicide, authorities indicated today they will sift further the mysteries of his life.

Piper, an insurance agent, strangled himself to death Saturday night, just as officers were ready with an announcement that they were ready with proof that he had murdered, two years ago, Miss Frieda Weichman, his alleged bigamous bride.

Today those close to him and to his defense claimed Piper was not a murderer, but a robber. Piper really murdered Miss Weichman, they said, then embarked on a bandit tour with men named "Sheldan" and "Goldberg." The murder of Miss Weichman by one of the party, they said, grew out of the fear that the girl, horrified by post-office robberies which paid expenses of the trip, would squeal.

In apparent verification of the story, neighbors recalled today that Piper finally paid coal and grocery bills with stamps.

Wilson At Work On His Speech For Soldiers

Paris, Dec. 23.—President Wilson was hard at work today upon the speeches he will deliver in London and Manchester and to the American soldiers Christmas.

He interspersed this work with a conference with Colonel House and a walk with Mrs. Wilson.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN AMERICAN HOSPITAL AT NEUILLY SEE PRESIDENT

Wilson's Visit To Doughboys Was Unannounced And Without Formality.

By Robert J. Bender
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Paris, Dec. 23.—Twelve hundred men in the American hospital at Neuilly today regarded their injuries with even more contempt than usual. They had shaken hands and talked with the president of the country for which they went down into the valley of the shadow. They felt that in no better way could that country have revealed its appreciation of their deeds.

The words which best expressed the spirit of President Wilson's visit to the hospital yesterday were spoken to Hugh McNair, of Michigan, a graduate of Brown university, who wore the croix de guerre and the distinguished service cross.

"If I had won those," said the president, "I would be the happiest man in the world."

Didn't Wish Ceremony.
The president came to Neuilly unannounced. When he was greeted at the door by hospital officials he said:

"I came over to visit the boys. I don't wish any ceremony."

He passed from bed to bed, shaking hands and giving a Christmas greeting to each man. He saw one soldier whose face had been shot away months ago and who had been patched up by a miracle of surgery. Some of the men had lost an arm or a leg. Others had mangled faces. Many presented pitiful sights and the president was deeply affected. He tried to maintain a cheery attitude, but the strain on him was evident before he left the hospital.

One soldier with a shattered arm arose in bed and saluted with his good arm.

"I am mighty glad, old man, that you are able to get up," the president said.

Had Saluted Him Before.
The man smiled and replied:
"I have saluted you before. I was traffic policeman at Grand Central Station in New York."

SEN. KENYON THINKS TAXES ON LUXURIES SHOULD BE INCREASED

Committee Amendment Eliminating Such Taxes From Revenue, Defeated.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Luxury taxes will stay in the revenue bill.
The senate by a vote of 38 to 32 today defeated the committee amendment that would have eliminated a large number of such taxes from the house bill.

The vote followed a bitter attack on the amendment led by Senator Kenyon Iowa progressive republican.

Senator Kenyon bitterly attacked the finance committee for eliminating many of the luxury taxes as provided in the house bill.

"You've been thrashed completely," said Kenyon, referring to the election, "and when you do this you'll be wiped off the map."

"Why this change?" asked Kenyon. "I hope that some reason will be given for the change of attitude."

Should Increase Taxes.
Kenyon said that instead of cutting out and reducing luxury taxes he would increase them.

"Do you want to send word through the country that we are protecting big business and levying taxes on those less able to bear them?" he asked.

"When we are taxing everything under the sun, except the air we breathe, the taxes on luxuries are dropped," he said sarcastically.

Senator Johnson, California, another progressive republican, declared \$2,000,000,000 taxes had been lost by not levying an 80 per cent tax on war profits in the 1917 bill.

Johnson insisted that we had been far more tender toward big business than was England, where a straight 80 per cent war tax was paid.

Attempt To Provide Cots For Soldiers In Portland

Portland, Or., Dec. 23.—Mayor Baker and other city officials are holding a conference today to provide cots, in some suitable quarters, for soldiers who are temporary visitors in Portland while en route home after demobilization.

FRENCH MAY ASK ANNEXATION OF HUN RHEINLANDS

Annexation Rivalries Tend To Re-Establish Materialistic Policies.

EXPANSION DESIRES OF ITALY ARE IMPLICATED

Publicity Will Be Democracy's Greatest Aid At Versailles Conference.

By J. W. T. Mason
(Written for the United Press)

New York, Dec. 23.—Growing imperialistic sentiment in France favoring the annexation of the German Rhineland may become a part of the French government's formal peace demands if Italy's trans-Adriatic expansionist ambitions are recognized by the allies and America.

Imperialism and the balance of power are coming more and more into prominence at the preliminary discussions of the European representatives at Paris. It is a natural development, for national ambition must inevitably find spokesmen after a victorious war.

But, unless the better judgment of the peace congress finally rejects these annexationist rivalries, Europe will return to the same materialistic policy that existed before the present conflict. Instead of being a peace congress, the Versailles conference will have done no more than fix the territorial reasons for the next war. In the midst of the present conflict, the French government made a secret pact with Russia whereby the latter recognized France's right to the German territory north of Alsace-Lorraine and west of the Rhine. This area includes the German districts now occupied by American, British and Belgian troops. The treaty was negotiated while the late czar was in power. It was made public by the bolsheviks and later was renounced by a succeeding French ministry. There are indications that a return to this claim is now being urged by certain French interests. If the peace conference were to recognize France's right to the Rhineland, France herself would undoubtedly be prepared to put no obstacles in the way of Italy's desire to dominate the eastern shore of the Adriatic. The most effective way to assist the French and Italians who oppose a trade of this sort would be to throw open to the world the deliberations of the peace conference. Democracy's greatest aid at Versailles will be publicity.

WERE ACCOMPANYING POLICE OFFICERS ON LATE AT NIGHT BURGLARY CALL

Portland, Or., Dec. 23.—Private Hedder was instantly killed and Corporal James Jordin lived only a few hours as a result of the wrecking of a police patrol automobile early yesterday morning.

Both were soldiers stationed at Vancouver barracks. A companion, Private Roy E. Barnes, medical corps; three policemen and two civilians were slightly injured.

The accident occurred when the patrol was returning from a burglary call in Montaville, a suburb of Portland. All of the occupants of the police wagon, except the officers, had been picked up that they might ride into the city, none being under arrest.

Officer Reklahl stated today he was driving at the rate of 30 miles an hour when an unidentified automobile suddenly appeared just ahead of him. The patrol, in being swerved to avoid a collision, skidded on the wet pavement and was wrecked against a telephone pole.

Railroad Telegraphers To Stay Till January 1

Portland, Or., Dec. 23.—Six hundred railroad telegraphers of the Portland district will remain at their keys until January 1, it was announced today.

Even if Director General McAdoo does not keep his promise to respond to their grievances by the first of the year, the keymen will not participate in the contemplated strike unless ordered to do so by the national organization.

Representatives of the telegraphers met here Sunday. E. J. Manion of St. Louis, Mo., vice president of the national order, addressed the men, urging them to await McAdoo's action.

"GOOD GERMANS" SHOCKED RUDELY BY WILSON SPEECH

Do Not Favor Punishment For War Makers Other Than Already Received.

By Frank J. Taylor
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Berlin, Dec. 21.—(Delayed.)—Germany received a rude shock when it heard of President Wilson's speech in Paris favoring punishment for war makers. The fact was made clear today that "good Germans" fear peace conference will confound them with the guilty.

The Germans have been getting ready to have their delegates at the peace conference receive Wilson's terms with enthusiasm, believing him the only man capable of saving the world from future wars. Hence the jar when he mentioned punishment. Wilson's attitude was the biggest topic in Berlin today.

German peace delegates, it appears, will object to any penalty for the Kaiser which would make him a national hero. They don't want a "return from Elba."

Now Unpopular.
All the war makers are now unpopular in Germany, with the exception of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg. General Ludendorff is the worst hated. The militarists are blamed for the present situation, but the general feeling today appears to be "let bygones be bygones."

Sentiment is very bitter toward the Kaiser and crown prince, as institutions but there is little personal feeling against them. Many people seem to feel that the loss of their thrones was sufficient punishment.

Representative Germans express a willingness to pay a nominal indemnity, but realizing their total defeat, fear the allies will dismember the empire. The bolsheviks are another bugaboo. It is becoming more apparent, however, that the Spartacists and other extreme radicals are mere troublemakers and that many of their demonstrations are only bluffs. The country appears to be getting solidly behind the Ebert-Haase government and the disorders are expected to decrease as the food situation improves.

LOCATION OF U. S. TROOPS IN FRANCE ANNOUNCED TODAY

War Department Also Names Commanding General Of Each Division.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Location of all American divisions in France on November 28 and the names of commanding generals were announced by the war department today. The statement follows:

- Combat Divisions.**
1. Canach, Luxembourg, Major General E. F. McLaughlin.
2. Modersach, Luxembourg, Major General J. A. Lejeune.
3. Remich, Luxembourg, Major General R. L. Howze.
4. Hayange, Germany, Major General M. L. Hersey.
5. Longueyon, France, Major General H. E. Ely.
6. Ancerville, Major General W. H. Gordon.
7. Evzevin, Major General E. Wittmeyer.
8. Montigny Le Roi, Major General H. C. Hale.
9. Corbie, Major General J. R. Ryan.
10. Heudicourt, Major General Wm. H. Hay.
11. Bourboulon Les Bains, Major General C. C. Morton.
12. Lemans, Major General E. H. Lewis.
13. Consoy, Luxembourg, Major General Wm. Lassiter.
14. Treyon, Major General Bell Jr.
15. Lerauvillo, Major General P. E. Traub.
16. Trechey, Major General W. R. Smith.
17. Oostrosebeke, Belgium, Major General C. S. Farnsworth.
18. Lemans, Major General C. A. P. Flagler.
19. Mersch, Luxembourg, Major General C. A. P. Flagler.
20. Les Vignettes, Major General R. Alexander.
21. Semur, Major General J. H. Moore.
22. Yacherauvillo, Major General J. E. Kuhn.
23. Ancy Le France, Major General F. L. Wynn.
24. Maryville, Major General L. S. Lyon.
25. Denterghem, Belgium, Major General M. H. Johnson.
26. Marbache, Major General C. D. Martin.
27. St. Aignan, Brigadier Gen. E. Cole.
28. Lemans, Major General E. F. Glenn.
29. St. Nazaire, Major General H. F. Hodges.
30. Toul, Major General Chase W. Kennedy.
31. St. Florent, Major General H. C. Hodges, Jr.
32. Hevigny, Major General F. S. Strong.

ABE MARTIN

Speakin' o' marryin' young, I see where a bride of a year wants a divorce from a man o' sixty. Miss Myrt Pash is th' hog killin' guest o' friends in th' country.

SERBIA UNITES WITH MONTENEGRIN PEOPLE

Declares Officially That All Relations Are Broken With Nicholas.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23.—Union of Montenegro with Serbia was officially proclaimed by the Montenegro Skupshtina (parliament), A Belgrade dispatch announced today.

In response to the denial of King Nicholas that he had been dethroned, the newspaper Ramon Prava publishes an official statement, declaring that the national assembly which met at Podgoritz was elected by a majority of the people.

"The former king, by his flight from the country, has flung away his crown and we have broken all relations with him," the statement said.

U. S. IN DANGER OF LOSING BRAZIL'S SHIPPING TRADE

Lack Of Ships And Means Of Direct Communication Disrupted Business.

CENSORSHIP OF CODES IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE

United States Competitors Have Lower Freight Rates With South America.

By H. B. Robertson
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Rio Janeiro, Dec. 23.—Drastic measures must be taken by the United States government particularly by the shipping board, if the American business situation in Brazil is to be saved, according to the unanimous opinion expressed today by Americans doing business here.

Unless regular steamer service for freight, mail and passengers is re-established at once with sailing ships being used to carry cargoes that are not urgent and unless the present censorship handicaps on private telegrams are removed and a more direct channel of news communication between Brazil and the United States is opened, the American competitors will be able to seize Brazilian trade and American business firms will suffer a staggering blow.

Gloomy View Deepened.
This gloomy view of the situation has been deepened by the fact that in Rio and Sao Paulo alone orders for more than \$10,000,000 worth of American goods have been cancelled during the past month. The limit has not yet been reached and the prospects for future orders are fading.

The lack of ships to Brazil disrupted business, not only because of the fact that no freight was coming in, but also because there was practically no freight and passenger service. It has been seven weeks since the last mail reached Rio from the United States and the present cable congestion is adding to the difficulties.

American business men complain that the censorship, which forbids private codes, is hampering their work and they also charge that messages destined for the United States are being sent by way of competitor countries, furnishing information which should not reach these countries. Attempts to send messages by land wires to Buenos Aires and thence via Panama to New York have been effectively blocked by still worse delays.

Reasons for Cancellation.
An official inquiry here and at Sao Paulo to ascertain the reasons for cancellation of American goods revealed that many Brazilian firms bought for speculation, and others, fearing they would be unable to get delivery, ordered the same goods simultaneously from two or more firms. Others declared they were able to get better delivery from competitors of American firms.

The investigation also revealed that American trade was further injured by the assiduous spreading of reports that the United States was preparing a new "black list" to punish firms which had cancelled American goods.

In the meantime it is authoritatively reported that German agents have been visiting American buyers urging that orders be withheld and declaring that cheap German goods would be delivered as soon as the peace treaty is signed. Many buyers are holding back to see what will happen.

Other Difficulties.
Other difficulties are also confronting the American firms. The freight rate from New York to Rio is \$35 a ton, while the rate for the same goods from Liverpool to Rio is only \$15. In addition, the British vessels are maintaining regular schedules, enabling the British salesmen to promise delivery of goods on a certain date, while American salesmen are unable to promise delivery because no ships are scheduled from American ports.

Recent announcements in the United States regarding American shipbuilding accomplishments raised Brazil's hopes for ships from the United States to a high point and as a consequence of the failure of American ships to appear now in Brazilian ports there has been greater than it would otherwise have been.

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