

## French Were Making A Magnificent Gesture

### National Pride Of France And International Politics Behind Audacious Proposals Which Have Caused Those Who Took Them Seriously Useless Loss Of Sleep

Washington, Dec. 19.—The first crisis of the arms conference has slowly evaporated.

France is not blocking the parley any longer but is gradually revealing the why and the wherefore of her amazing request for an immense battleship program.

The national pride of the French naval experts who had been slighted while Great Britain, Japan and the United States, have for weeks taken unto themselves the regulation of naval ratios, the desire of the French for more submarines and the natural effort of the French diplomacy to win a more influential position in the reparations negotiations in London, have all been interwoven in the policy which France has been pursuing here for several days.

Those who have been taking the French tactics seriously have lost sleep needlessly. Talk of imperilling the conference itself has been heard in many quarters where the French demand has been like a blanket of ice suddenly thrown over an otherwise enthusiastic and happy gathering. As the head of one of the delegations expressed it today, "things were going too well." He called attention to the fact that such rapid progress had been made thus far that it was too good to be true—and something dramatic had to happen. He was one of the delegates at Paris, too, and he recalled how the impulsiveness of the French and their peculiar method of negotiating had kept both the British and American delegations on the anxious seat day and night. Nobody knew what M. Clemenceau would do next. So nobody had known here what the French delegation had up its sleeve.

Aside from intrinsic interests which the episode possesses as an example of continental diplomacy, the truth is the French have not intended to go so far as to prevent an agreement on naval questions.

They have sought only to show the world and Great Britain, in particular, that while it may be a fact that French naval strength is relatively small, this was no reason to regard France as a second rate power. The inclusion of France in the four power pact was an effort to appease French pride but the true explanation of the French maneuver in thrusting upon the conference at the last moment a demand for a big battleship program may be found in the strained relations which for months have been noticeable between Great Britain and France. Prime Minister Lloyd George and the British generally have felt that French policy was mistaken in negotiating a separate peace with the Turks. France on the other hand had felt that British policy in the Near East was a menace to French economic interests. The controversy had not proceeded very far when Premier Briand told the Washington conference that France expected to ask for a large number of submarines. When he left for Europe, a reporter in New York asked him what France wanted so many submarines for and he was quoted as replying in cynical vein that France wanted to "fish for sardines" and investigate under-water vegetation. This remark enraged British opinion. Lord Curzon made his famous speech warning France that a policy of isolation on her part was dangerous. Immediately, therefore, the British began having conferences with the Germans about reparation payments and it began to look to France as if the British were playing closer to Germany than to France in economic matters. What more natural thing, therefore, than for Premier Briand to make a gesture which would indicate to Great Britain that only by French assent could the armament agreement be made? Some compensation for French approval had to be made. The prevailing view is that M. Briand instructed his delegates here to stir up the naval issue at the very moment when he was about to negotiate with Prime Minister Lloyd George on other questions of far greater importance to France than the building of ten battleships six years hence with funds which no French economist can possibly locate in the future revenues of France for generations to come.

Naturally, however, the American and British delegations have been worried. Keared up in a tension

## DENTAL CLINICS DO GREAT GOOD

### First Month's Report Of Work In Colored Schools Shows How Badly They Were Needed

The report of Dr. F. C. Cooke who on November 7 began to look after the teeth of the colored school children of the city and County, gives an idea of what this work means in the schools and community. This report was sent to the State Board of Health and is for services from November 7 to December 12.

During this time, about five weeks, Dr. Cooke examined the teeth of 720 children and treated 618.

The attendance at his lectures was 1,390, and the conservative estimate of the cost of the work done by him, if it had been done in a private office, is \$1,398.55.

He put in 357 amalgam fillings, 500 cement fillings, 232 gutta perch fillings, gave 26 silver nitrate treatments, treated 10 abscesses, extracted 376 teeth, cleaned the teeth of 400 children, gave five miscellaneous treatments, and gave 30 lectures on oral hygiene.

Dr. Cooke found 100 children who needed nothing done to their teeth, and found 25 unmanageable children.

## Bloodstained Auto Found—Man Missing

Corbele, Ga., Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—The police today are searching for G. M. Rogers, business man, whose blood-stained automobile was found on the outskirts of Pensacola, Florida, with indications of a struggle.

which is inevitable in these conferences, the majority of the delegates have been irritated beyond measure at the French policy. Some harsh things have been said. One delegate who has a transcendent admiration for Mr. Hughes told this correspondent that he marvelled that the conference had not broken up for the head of the American delegation had mined no words in expressing himself in private and the French knew exactly the depth of his feeling. This delegate said it was because Mr. Hughes had given an impression of complete sincerity that he was able to argue so vehemently against the new proposal without offending the French.

But when the incident blows over as seems inevitable now after the conference in London between Prime Minister Lloyd George and Premier Briand, the French will find that they have made a colossal blunder. They have only strengthened what was previously a suspicion of their erratic policies in world affairs and have driven the British and Americans closer together—something the French have never been anxious to see happen.

The chances are that if the truth about the latest episode were fully known in France and the effect on American opinion minutely examined, it would be found by the French that they have lost in prestige more than they ever could have gained by an absolute assent to their ideas of naval expansion. Some delegates have even gone so far as to express a fear that the French tactics might endanger the success of the four power treaty by giving its opponents in the Senate ammunition for attack on the ground that the ink on the treaty is hardly dry before the French have reversed their earlier promises of acceptance in principle of the American naval proposals. Still that's the way of the French in diplomacy. It's no surprise to those who attended the Paris peace conference but the French upon reflection will find that the Harding administration has not failed to take note of the affair and will not be as likely in the future to take French protestations at their face value.

## Bomb Explodes In New York

New York, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—A bomb exploded in the hall of a Grand Street building early today causing great excitement as it was feared that it was a part of the plot to blow up Wall Street. Residents fled in scanty attire. The damage was \$5,000.

## Robbery Suspect Arrested

Chicago, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—George Rogers, Toledo million dollar robbery suspect, was arrested today.

## Woman And Man Killed In Rioting

Belfast, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—Scattered shooting killed one woman and one man and another was wounded here today.

## GRIFFIN URGES RATIFICATION

Dublin, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—Dall Eireann met today with Arthur Griffith and the Sinn Fein delegation urging peace treaty ratification and De Valera opposing it.

## Visited County Home Taking Christmas Cheer

The C. M. B. Class of Blackwell Memorial Sunday school visited the County Home Sunday afternoon, taking fruit and other gifts for the people there. A devotional service was led by C. J. Ward and R. T. Venters.

## Terrible Charges Made By Soldier Witnesses

### Say Saw Twelve American Soldiers Hanged In France, A. E. F. Man Lynched And Others Sent To Front Without Guns Or Gas Masks

Washington, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—Sensational pictures of atrocities alleged to have been committed by officers of the American Expeditionary Forces in France during the World War are being drawn by witnesses before the Senate investigating committee today. George H. Taylor, of Philadelphia, told the Senate committee that he saw twelve American soldiers hanged in France, but he was unable to say whether they had been convicted by court martial.

Robert A. Harrison, of Wilmington, N. C., said he witnessed through field glasses a soldier lynched who was charged with a crime against a woman. He said he was told that the man was hanged to save certain officers. Harrison also declared that he saw men taken to the firing line without guns or gas masks as a means of punishment. He admitted that he himself had been court martialed after cursing a colonel.

Henry L. Scott, of Ohio, said that he saw Major Opley, of the Third Battalion, shoot a sergeant and later a messenger, because they refused to show a message. He declared that there was no trial.

## Five Eskimos Killed In A Pistol Fight

Edmonton, Alberta, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—Five Eskimos, three men, one woman and a child, were killed and a sixth was wounded in a pistol fight at Wager Bay today.

## ANTI-LYNCHING DEBATE CONTINUES IN HOUSE

Washington, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—Debate on the anti-lynching bill continues today in the House.

## GREAT INCREASE IN METHODIST CHURCH

Chicago, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—The membership in the Methodist Episcopal church increased 90,404 last year.

Francis Seyfert is at home for the holidays from Chapel Hill.

## Now May Hire Out County Chain Gang

### New Law Just Passed By General Assembly May Solve Pasquotank's Convict Problem

C. A. Cooke, representative of Pasquotank County in the General Assembly, writes that a law proposed to solve the chain gang problem has been passed by the State lawmaking body. Under this new law, the County Highway Commission may either work the convicts on the County roads, or may hire them to any street or road-building governing body in any city or county of North Carolina. The text of Representative Cooke's letter follows: To The Advance:

I am happy to inform you and the citizens in general of Pasquotank County, that there is now a law on the statute books of North Carolina, that will in my opinion solve the long since perplexing chain gang problem to the absolute satisfaction of everybody.

House Bill No. 89, Senate Bill No. 77, of the extra session of the General Assembly, provides that the County Highway Commission may maintain and work the convicts of Pasquotank, on the County roads if it can do so profitably. If not, it may hire said convicts to the governing body of the city of Elizabeth City, to work on its streets and sidewalks, or to any other street and road building governing body in the State of North Carolina for road and street building purposes only, by making application to the resident judge, or judge presiding in said County.

In the event that the convict force can be used on the county roads profitably, by being permitted to hire them to the city government a part of the time, said city is to have one month service out of every twelve, free from any and all charges.

Respectfully,  
C. A. COOKE.

## TO JURY TONIGHT

Montross, Va., Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—Eastlake case is expected to go to the jury tonight.

## General Assembly Adjourned Tuesday

The State Legislature adjourned early Tuesday morning after a stormy session on Monday, the twelfth day of the special session, over the tax penalty law, which was held in force, and over a bill which would give special tax school districts the right to apply to the State Board of Education for the right to operate under the general law, rather than under special acts. This measure was killed. The early adjournment was made possible by night sessions of both Senate and House.

## Peoples Bank Closes After Run On Monday

Savannah, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—The Peoples Bank failed to open today after the run on the bank yesterday.

The Realty Savings & Trust Company posted notice that they would suspend payment on further demands on account of unusual withdrawals.

## Colder Weather Is Predicted By Thursday

Washington, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—The Weather Bureau announced today that colder weather would overspread the Atlantic States by Thursday.

## British Request Plenary Session

Washington, December 20.—The British delegation has formally requested a plenary session of the Washington conference tomorrow or Thursday to permit the British to present the case for the abolition of the submarine.

## Elks' Minstrels Pleased Local Theatergoers Well

### The "Jollies Of 1922" Fully Up To Standard Of Previous Performances By Popular Fraternity Here, And Novelty Numbers Introduced This Time Are Really Good

Fully up to its advance reputation was the annual Elks' minstrel and musical comedy, the "Jollies of 1922," presented in its opening performance at the Alkrama Theater here Monday night.

## MANY IN NEED AS XMAS COMES

### Welfare Council Finds Homes Where There'll Be Real Misery During Glad Holiday Season Unless Citizens Help

(By the Publicity Committee)

The Welfare Council met last night and the things that were done and said will be of interest to every citizen of Elizabeth City for the true heart of the city was exposed and that heart was found good.

There is more suffering among those of the city whom fortune has frowned upon than the average citizen imagines. As we walk the streets and look into the lighted store windows and plan to buy this and that for ourselves or a friend for Christmas, there are many families here in the city, as worthy as we are, who will not even have sufficient to buy necessary groceries and sufficient clothes to keep them warm, much less special Christmas joys.

It perhaps is asked why the fraternal order or the church in which these may belong does not look after them. In the majority of cases they belong to neither order nor church. The reply is sometimes thoughtlessly heard that these unfortunates bring their conditions on themselves. In the majority of cases this is not true, in a very few it is—by those who are as liable to mistake as you and I. The cause of the great majority of cases needing help is on account of sickness, death of the family provider, lack of steady employment, and children in the family too young to be left alone while the mother works.

Information is at hand showing that there are in the city many children who will be unable to attend school after Christmas unless help in some form is given, and given at once. We have sung in our comfortable churches that beautiful hymn "Throw Out the Life Line" and now the opportunity presents itself where we may put that song into deeds, a form more acceptable to the God who made us.

At no time has Elizabeth City ever failed to respond to a cause that was worthy. We know that there are many people of kind hearts here today who want to give help, not only the necessary things of life but some Christmas joys, too, but know not where it is needed and worthy. The object of this article is to give this information, that the heart of Elizabeth City may prove itself good and true.

Arrangements have been made whereby duplications of gifts will now be impossible. Look over the list below of opportunities and select one or more you would like to help and then get in touch with Mrs. Lewis, the Welfare Officer, and she can give you all the information about each case. She wants your interest, you want the opportunity, they need your help.

**Opportunity No. 1**  
Father of six children, the oldest 12 years, is unable to do active work on account of sickness.

**Opportunity No. 2**  
Mother with three children, oldest 7, unable to do steady work on account of sick baby.

**Opportunity No. 3**  
Two orphans, aged 12 and 6.

**Opportunity No. 4**  
Three children soon to be taken to the Children's Home need clothing.

**Opportunity No. 5**  
Widow with three children unable to do steady work to support them account unable to leave very young child.

**Opportunity No. 6**  
A carpenter with large family desires to support himself and family but has been unable to secure employment.

Sinclair Bailey has returned from Wake Forest College to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bailey on Riverside Avenue.

The show will be repeated tonight so that those who failed to attend the opening performance may have a second opportunity to enjoy the two hours of fun, music and sprightly dances.

The Alkrama was filled practically to capacity for the opening presentation of the "Jollies of 1922" and the attending crowd was of the appreciative sort that brings forth the best efforts of the performers. The inter-locutor, as in numerous Elks' minstrels of the past, was D. Guy Brockett, and numerous were the harmless shafts of fun poked at various citizens, dignified and otherwise, of Elizabeth City.

Following the prelude and the opening overture, both catchy, appropriate numbers, there came numerous catchy song numbers in the first act, one of the most popular of which was "O, Brethren, What a Peelin'," by D. Walter Harris, as a blackface comedian, "You're Talkin' To The Wrong Man Now" by H. A. Brownley, "I'm Free, Single, Disengaged," by F. F. Gosden, director of the show called forth numerous encores.

"Where the Lazy Mississippi Flows" sung by Earl Thompson, a former Elizabeth City boy who now lives in Norfolk, but who came out especially to take part in the Elks' minstrel, and "Mother, I Didn't Understand" by L. E. Skinner, were among the most popular of the sentimental songs of the show.

In the second act, following the opening chorus, a bit of novelty was introduced in the telephone song, "Hello America," by Miss Annie Lee Cahoon and Guirkin Cook. The two singers exchanged verses over the phone on a darkened stage, illuminated only by the occasional flashes of electric torches.

Then came the olio, "In Roman Days," a burlesque number in which the stars were Senator W. C. Sawyer, his dainty daughter, Penny Ante, played by Evans Blades, and Thomas J. Markham in the role of the terrible, muscular, savage Gilding Gladiator. In scene two of the same act, Miss Pauline Skinner, supported by the company, captivated the audience with the song and dance novelty, "Loving." The girls danced down the theater aisles during the song, just as it is done sometimes in the regular musical comedy in the big cities, scattering packages of cigarettes over the house.

In scene three, a dinner scene, the star unquestionably was Mills E. Bell, the almost human son of Mrs. Stivesant G. D. Waldorf. His ladylike mannerisms brough the house down time after time. Toward the close of the evening, numerous song numbers by the Curbstone "4" quartette were highly applauded by the audience from start to finish. There wasn't a dull moment from the opening number to the last line of the grand finale.

## Harding Will Not Come To New Bern

Washington, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—President Harding will remain in Washington for the next three months on account of the arms conference affairs. He has cancelled his New Bern, North Carolina, engagement.

## Two Are Killed In Auto Accident

Atlanta, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—Two persons believed to be R. L. Jones and wife of Fitzgerald were killed today when their automobile ran off the bridge to the Southern Railway tracks below and was struck by a passenger engine.

## Owners Of Autos Are Asking Charity

Newport News, Dec. 20 (By The Associated Press)—The Associated Charities report owners of big automobiles and fur coats here without food or money and asking for charity.

Miss Grace Sanderlin spent the week end in Norfolk with Mrs. Irving B. Sawyer.