



1-Turkish bridge being blown up by engineers of the Greek army at Negharos. 2-The battleship Mutan which the arms conference permits Japan to retain under the naval reduction agreement. 3-Mrs. Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte of New York, who will become a queen if her husband accepts the tentative offer of the throne of Albania.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Arms Conference Seeks Agreement on Submarines and Light Cruisers.

FRENCH DEMANDS THE CRUX

British Want U-Boat Abolished in Warfare—Allied Supreme Council to Call for Commission on Rehabilitation of Central Europe

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

SUBMARINES, light cruisers and torpedo boats occupied most of the attention of the conference delegates and naval experts in Washington during much of the week. The way the controversy, if as it may be designated, developed, is interesting. First France asked that she be allowed to have about 350,000 tons of capital ships, which would give her a ratio of 3.5. She said she wanted to build from five to ten battleships, though not at once, and supported her claim by showing how her navy had been neglected during the war.

That the difference in view in nowise will be permitted to embarrass the conference or the ratification of the agreement. He had assumed all along that the spirit of the conference contemplates a confidence which pledges respect of territory in every way which tends to promote lasting peace.

He has learned from the United States delegates to the conference that they have agreed to the construction which includes the homeland of Japan in the term "insular possessions and insular dominions," and has no objection to that construction.

NOT until after the holidays probably will the Shantung question be settled. The Japanese and Chinese delegates reached an impasse in their negotiations and the whole matter was referred to Tokyo for further instructions. Dr. Alfred Zee said the deadlock was over the demand of the Japanese to retain the traffic management of the railroad, and Mr. Hanibara said it was over questions concerning payment for the road and the employment of Japanese experts.

A WEEK ago it looked as if Great Britain and France were about to reach a complete agreement on German reparations. Both Lloyd George and Briand, as well as their expert advisers, were of the belief that Germany could and must pay the sums due. Then it appeared they could not agree upon the method of payment, and the whole matter was referred to the allied supreme council, which will meet at Cannes, France, during the first week of January.

ate that they had their effect on the emotional Irish. On Thursday Michael Collins moved that the Dail adjourn over the holidays, ressembling on January 3. The motion was carried, despite the opposition of De Valera, by a vote of 77 to 44. At this writing the correspondents in Dublin are predicting that the vote on ratification of the pact will be exceedingly close, and a tie vote is not improbable. De Valera signified his willingness to have the matter settled by a plebiscite, and that course may be adopted. Miss Mary MacSwiney and other determined foes of the treaty, asserted openly that whether it were ratified or not, the war in Ireland would continue, since the Irish republic is far from dead.

The Sinn Feiners last week resumed their violent operations in County Tyrone and County Londonderry. One of their bands kidnaped 15 men and the special constabulary tracked them to Sperrin valley, where a battle was fought in which six Sinn Feiners were killed and a score wounded.

WAR has broken out between the Far Eastern republic in Siberia and the faction led by Merkuloff in Vladivostok. The latter, it is alleged, has the support of the Japanese, and soviet Russia is sending troops and material to help the Chita government. The Siberian commander of Primur province has warned Japan to remove the White Guard and other armed units from the Russian zone before noon of January 1.

IN COMPLIANCE with the recommendation of President Harding, both the senate and the house have passed a bill authorizing the President to spend \$20,000,000 in the purchase of corn, seed grain and preserved milk for the relief of the starving people of Russia and for spring planting in areas where the seed grains have been exhausted. In the debate Senator Borah made a fierce attack on the American government's Russian policy.

The Russian revolution in many respects has been indefensible, said Mr. Boyah, but it has resembled practically all the other great revolutions in history. Our policy towards it has been indefensible, brutal, unmanly, cruel, and intolerant. The United States should recognize the existing Russian government. Whatever we may think about its form, it is the government de facto and as such it should be recognized.

THE bill should be passed purely as a measure of charity. It won't help the farmers of this country. I don't believe we have a constitutional right to pass it. It sets a bad precedent, but I have not the heart to oppose it. I simply want to voice my protest against the policy of our government towards the Russian government.

A NOTHER "bloody revolution" occurred in Portugal some days ago, opening with heavy banding along the Tagus and fighting in which severe casualties on both sides were reported. Cunha Leal, who has just formed a temporary ministry, was driven into flight with his followers. And then apparently the Portuguese cabinet got busy, for up to date no further information about the revolt has come.

IN THE death of Col. Henry Watter-son, which occurred in Jacksonville, Fla., on Thursday, the United States lost the last surviving exponent of personal and individual journalism. For more than half a century his brilliant, powerful editorials in the Louisville Courier-Journal were read by his fellow citizens with delight, whether or not they agreed with the views. For a great many years he was an influential leader in the Democratic party and a prominent figure in the national convention.

Washington.—Feasibility of raising funds for a soldiers' bonus by a tax on beer and light wine will be considered by the house ways and means committee, Chairman Fordney announced, after the Christmas recess, adjusted compensation question, particularly the phase relating to the raising of revenues to finance it.

The possibility of a tax on beverages with small alcoholic content will be looked into, Mr. Fordney said, to determine whether it would be advisable and constitutional to lift the prohibition ban sufficiently to permit their sale.

Mr. Fordney conferred with Secretary Mellon but said later the bonus question had not been discussed. Other suggestions put forth by the members of the house for financing a bonus include a variety of sales taxes on different commodities and different classes of manufacturers and business men.

In an address in the house, Representative A. P. Nelson, republican, Wisconsin, commenting on the proposed payment of a bonus by a tax on light wines and beer, declared former service men would not look with favor on any such plan to raise revenue. In an outlaw traffic in order to meet their legitimate demands for adjusted compensation.

Even if congress attempted to permit the manufacture and sale of beer and wine, Mr. Nelson said, approximately forty state prohibition laws would prevent its sale. Friends of prohibition enforcement, he predicted, will present "a united front against this scheme for nullifying prohibition."

Declaring there were plenty of sources of revenue open for actual needs without trying to "legalize what the constitution prohibits," Mr. Nelson asserted that "any attempt to tie the veterans of our country's battles to the dead body of the liquor traffic is an outrage."

Crop Smallest in Two Decades. Washington.—World production of commercial cotton for 1921-22 was placed at 15,533,000 bales by the department of agriculture in a report made public. This is the smallest crop since 1900, the report stated, and compares with 20,650,000 bales produced in 1920.

Two of the most important cotton producing countries—the United States and Egypt—suffered crop "disasters" during the years, the report asserted, producing only 51.4 per cent of their total production of last year, or 5,587,000 bales less than was produced in 1920. The cotton crop in China, South America, Mexico and other countries, while said to be not so important commercially, was reported smaller than usual. Russia, which immediately before the war produced around 1,800,000 bales annually, has practically ceased to grow cotton, the report stated.

RAISE FUNDS BY A WINE-BEER TAX

FEASIBILITY OF PLAN WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE.

TO PROVIDE SOLDIERS' BONUS

Possibility of Tax on Beverages With Small Alcoholic Content Will Be Looked Into.

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Army Airship Christened. Washington.—The 408-foot army airship Roma fought her way for five hours and a half against a head-wind from Langley Field, Va., to Washington to be christened and put in commission officially by Miss Florence Wainwright, daughter of the assistant secretary of war, who broke a bottle of liquid air on the great semi-rigid airship's prow.

French Army Total. Paris.—France's total army strength of white and colored troops was 675,000 after May, 1921, according to a statement made by General A. Castelnau, former chief of the general staff, to the Associated Press.

Postal Savings at New Figure. Washington.—Total deposits in the United States postal savings December 1 were approximately \$134,000,000. It is officially announced in the smaller postoffice a steady increase in deposits is noted.

Eastern Declared Not Guilty. Montreal, Va.—Roger D. Eastlake, navy petty officer, charged with the murder of his wife, Margaret Eastlake, at their home at Colonial Beach, Va., on September 26, was found not guilty.

Stop Pullman Subcharge. Atlanta, Ga.—The 20 per cent surcharge allowed railroads on seats and berths in Pullman cars was discontinued on traffic operated within Georgia, by order of the state railroad commission.

Plan National School. Washington.—The establishment of a national school for the training of teachers is being considered by the United States Education Department.

RETAIL PRICES WILL BE PROBED

PRICES IN MANY LOCALITIES ARE FAR TOO HIGH, SAYS ATTORNEY GENERAL.

DIRECTOR BURNS IN CHARGE

Retail Prices of General Foodstuffs, Fuel, Clothing and Shoes Will Be Closely Studied.

Washington.—Federal investigation of retail prices charged in various parts of the country for food, fuel, shoes and clothing was initiated by Attorney General Daugherty. He gave orders to Director Burns of the bureau of investigation of the justice department to assign a force of men at once to the duty of obtaining data on retail prices in different localities.

Mr. Daugherty declared that prices of necessary commodities were too high and that in some instances the profits of retailers were "unconscionable." It would never be possible, he asserted, to get prices down to the pre-war level, but with wages lowered and the costs of foodstuffs reduced, he was determined to learn, whether the present "badly proportioned" retail prices should be maintained.

Mr. Burns was instructed to put his men to work simultaneously to obtain the variations in various localities in the retail prices of general foodstuffs, such as meats, provisions, beans, bread and butter, fuel, shoes, and clothing and to make schedules of the comparative prices. Reports will also be gathered on the wholesale prices of wheat, beef and meats of all kinds in order, Mr. Daugherty explained, that comparisons might be made of the costs of these commodities with the prices charged by the butchers and grocers. The department's agents are to be instructed to do their work carefully and as rapidly as possible.

Action to remedy price conditions, Mr. Daugherty declared, would be taken through several channels. In the main, he said, the situation was a local one and the states would be asked to do as much as they could to solve it with federal co-operation.

Secretary Hoover, he added, would be invited to join with the justice department in its effort to lower prices, while it was believed that the publication of the comparative wholesales and retail prices would do much to remedy high prices by conveying to the housewives of the country accurate knowledge of actual conditions.

Henry Waterson Dead. Jacksonville, Fla.—Colonel Henry Waterson, known to the American people as one of the last surviving members of the old school of journalism and to his friends as "Marse Henry," died at a hotel here.

Death came peacefully, the venerable editor retaining consciousness almost to the end and conversing during his last half hour with his wife, son and daughter.

Colonel Waterson came to Jacksonville several weeks ago in accordance with his annual custom of spending the winter in Florida, usually at Fort Myers.

The immediate cause of his death, his physician said, was heart failure.

To Lower Freight Rates. Omaha, Neb.—The railroads of the country will put into effect on January 1, or as soon thereafter as possible, a voluntary 10 per cent freight rate reduction on cotton, butter, poultry and other commodities, as well as the reductions ordered by the interstate commerce commission for western territory on grain products and hay, according to a statement issued by P. W. Robinson, freight traffic manager of the Union Pacific system.

Penance Is Alarming. Augusta, Ga.—United States Commissioner C. J. Skinner, Jr., announced that penance conditions in Richmond and the other counties in this federal district are most alarming and that he will recommend a federal investigation.

Regret Mrs. Balcan Insane. New York.—A committee of four alienists appointed by counsel for the defense diagnosed as insanity the mental affliction of Mrs. Lillian S. Balcan for months before and at the time when she shot and lustily killed Dr. Abram Hekstein.

Ship in Trouble. Baltimore.—The steamer Camille, bound from Baltimore to Charleston with a large number of passengers, was blown around by a north-west gale off Wedd's Point.

Supreme Council to Meet. London.—Another meeting of the supreme council of the League of Nations in Paris is expected to be held in London.

Plan National School. Washington.—The establishment of a national school for the training of teachers is being considered by the United States Education Department.

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