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WAGE DISCUSSION HELD IN CHECK BY PRESIDENT WILSON

Negotiations Definitely Suspended Until Roads Have Been Returned to Owners

SIX-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT WILSON

Conservative Leaders Urged That Railroad Employees Bide Time For Present

Washington, Feb. 13.—Negotiations of the union railroad employes for an increase in pay practically were suspended tonight until the rail properties again are in the hands of their owners. There remained as a finale only the presentation to President Wilson of the union reply to his statements given earlier in the day, and this likely will be sent to the white house tomorrow morning.

Union officials conferred for six hours on the President's statement, but they steadfastly refused to divulge its contents, on which white house officials likewise maintained absolute silence. Nor would the union chiefs give any information as to their reply.

Conference With Lee

Director General Hines conferred briefly today with W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Employees and a committee from his organization. This conference, so far as the railroad administration is concerned, was said to conclude the series of meetings on the wage question.

Mr. Hines also late today next a letter to the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes re-stating his attitude toward that group's strike. He did not make public the nature of his communication, but it was hinted by informants that the maintenance workers could expect nothing in the way of advances from the railroad administration. Members of the commission which has been representing the maintenance employes, however, had been to decide to call off the strike, which has been set for Tuesday.

Hines' Final Word

After Mr. Hines had given the administration's final word to Mr. Lee's organization, the trainmen's president said his union would accept the decision "as binding on our union as well as on the others." Although Mr. Hines declined to discuss the move he would make, it was understood he would not break from the other organizations.

The general attitude of the union officials after being made acquainted with the President's statement in a conference on the south lawn of the white house was plainly one of disappointment. Some of them were openly dissatisfied, but the more conservative leaders urged that the union bide its time in the hope of success along other lines.

PIEDMONT LEAGUE ADOPTS SCHEDULE

Season Will Start April 21 Instead Of 22

Durham, N. C., Feb. 13.—Following his return today from a meeting of the board of directors of the Piedmont League, held in Greensboro, President G. B. Bramham announced that a schedule has been adopted.

The season, according to the new schedule, which will be made public tomorrow, starts April 21 instead of April 22, as arranged by the tentative schedule. It also provides that teams play only two game series and keeps each team making two-day jumps. The league directors also announced that children under twelve will be admitted for fifteen cents, and passed resolutions of respect for Leon J. Broad, well-known Greensboro baseball enthusiast and team backer, who died this week.

POLK TO ACT IN LANSING'S PLACE

Nobody Knows Who Will Be Named

Washington, Feb. 13.—Frank L. Polk, under-secretary of state, will be named secretary ad interim tomorrow to act until President Wilson appoints a successor to Robert Lansing. This is expected to be in the very near future.

Several names were suggested to-day in administration circles, but officials frankly admitted that they had no definite information as to who President had in mind for the post.

Chief among those suggested was Mr. Polk, but his friends say that he is not accepted because of the state of his health. In fact, he has long had to resign from the state department and to take a long rest, a course which his physicians have recently advised.

STEAMSHIP IN TOW

New York, Feb. 13.—The steamship *Albatross*, reporting yesterday in distress and asking assistance about five hundred miles east of Sandy Hook, has been taken in tow by the steamer *Albatross*, wireless message to the naval communication service here today advised. The position of the vessel was given as approximately 360 miles east of the Virginia capes.

LEAGUE COUNCIL SENDS NEW NOTE ON EXTRADITION

Switzerland To Be Admitted As Original Member Of The League Of Nations

JUGOSLAVIA INFORMED REGARDING FIUME

Non-Delivery Of Coal By Germany Referred To Reparations Commission

London, Feb. 13.—The council of the league of nations concluded its sessions today. The next meeting of the council was fixed for March 15, at Rome. On motion of Baron Matul, the Japanese representative, the council agreed to place under the guarantee of the league the stipulations of the treaty between the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, on the one side, and Poland on the other, in so far as they affected persons belonging to racial, religious or linguistic minorities in Poland.

To Admit Switzerland

The council voted to admit Switzerland as an original member of the league of nations, accepting the Swiss government's condition for maintaining Swiss neutrality and her refusal to participate in any military operations undertaken under the auspices of the league, or to permit the Swiss army troops through Swiss territory, but agreeing to participate in any economic pressure applied by the league. Switzerland's admission to the league, however, is dependent upon a Swiss referendum confirming these conditions.

Arthur J. Balfour, the British representative, who presided at the meeting, announced that a commission composed of members of the council would be instructed to summon a conference of the states concerned to study international exchange and finance difficulties.

Saar Basin Commission

A Saar basin commission was appointed, consisting of M. Rault, member of the French council of state, chairman; Alfred von Bock, head of the Saar, and Count de Meirhae, head of the Belgian. A fifth member of the commission will be announced later. Each member will be paid 100,000 francs yearly, the chairman receiving an extra 50,000 francs for entertaining.

The council agreed on a note to Yugoslavia regarding Fiume, which, it is intimated, plainly informs the Yugoslavs that some agreement must be reached soon if quiet is to be expected in the Adriatic. Premier Nitti, of Italy, is reported to be satisfied with the note prepared today.

Although M. Trumbitch the Yugoslav minister, is in London, he was not called into a conference today. The council note probably will be handed him tomorrow.

New Note to Holland

Notes to Holland and Germany, the former emphasizing the unanimous view of the Allies that the presence of the former German emperor in Holland is a danger to the peace of Europe and appealing to Holland not to create greater difficulties by insisting on his right of asylum, and the latter dealing with the allied extradition demands, have been completed and will be dispatched immediately. The council considered the question of not making public the texts of the notes until replies to them had been received, but nothing definite was decided.

The council referred the vexing question of the non-delivery of coal by Germany, as provided in the peace treaty, to the reparations commission.

DEMPESEY'S RECORD CONDEMNED

Petersburg, Va., Feb. 13.—Petersburg Post No. 2, American Legion, have a resolution tonight condemning the war record of Jack Dempsey.

GOVERNOR BICKETT GIVES FREEDOM TO WINSTON RIOTERS

Believes That Certainty Of Punishment Is Sufficient To Demonstrate Law

(Special To The Star.) Raleigh, Feb. 13.—Governor Bickett today commuted the sentences on all men convicted of engaging in the Winston riots more than a year ago who have not already been commuted or pardoned.

Fifteen men were convicted of engaging in the riots. Fourteen of them have previously been commuted, pardoned or pardoned. The sentences were from fourteen months to six years in most instances. The governor cut the court sentences.

Before taking Winston-Salem and talked to city and county officials and the solicitor, and as result of this conference decided "it would be in the interest of public justice to modify the punishment imposed." While impressed with the fact that the conviction of these men for attempting to break into jail to lynch a negro was a triumph for law and order, the governor believes that certainty of punishment rather than its severity demonstrates the efficiency of the law.

CAROLINA OFFERS DISMAL PROSPECTS TO G. O. P. HOPES

Republicans Whistling As They Pass Through Political Graveyard

FORMER SENATOR BUTLER AT CAPITAL

Ability To Do State To Their Party Is Better Than Doubtful

(Special To The Star.) Washington, Feb. 13.—North Carolina republicans are whistling as they pass through their dismal and uninviting political graveyard. They endeavor to be cheerful over the outlook, but the future is so dark for them that they can only promise to do their best in their efforts to turn the state over to their party.

Marion Butler's Activity

Marion Butler, former senator from North Carolina, who of late years has been making his home in Washington, and still takes a deep interest in party affairs in North Carolina, has become active in the republican organization of the District of Columbia. It is the pronounced policy of this organization to have a variegated delegation to the national convention, as at the meeting of the league of republican clubs it was announced that there would be no "illy white" delegation, but that will be composed of an equal number of whites and blacks. Former Senator Butler was present at this meeting, but he encouraged intermixture with the hopeful assurance that North Carolina would not go republican in the forthcoming presidential election.

Other republicans, however, who are just as deeply interested in their party in this state, express grave doubts as to the ability of the republicans to carry North Carolina. Col. O. T. Collins, of New York and North Carolina, said that while there is a chance, it is not probable that the republicans can carry North Carolina. In giving his view of the situation in that state, he said:

Southerners Independent

"Southern delegations to the republican national convention this year will have a different character from those of the past. They will go to carry North Carolina. Col. O. T. Collins, of New York and North Carolina, said that while there is a chance, it is not probable that the republicans can carry North Carolina. In giving his view of the situation in that state, he said:

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LANSING IS THIRD MEMBER OF CABINET TO QUIT HIS POST

Bryan And Garrison Both Resigned Following Differences With President

TO RETURN TO PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Mr. Lansing Entered State Department As Counselor In The Year 1914

Washington, Feb. 13.—Secretary Lansing is the third cabinet officer appointed by President Wilson to quit after differences with the executive. William Jennings Bryan was the first. He resigned on June 9, 1915, because of his disagreement with the President over the handling of diplomatic correspondence with Germany growing out of submarine warfare.

The second was Lindley M. Garrison, secretary of war, who gave up his post on February 13, 1916, because of differences with Mr. Wilson over the question of independence for the Philippines.

Mr. Lansing was appointed secretary of state in 1914, after the resignation of Mr. Bryan and served until June 23, of the same year, when he was made secretary. He has not announced his plans for the future, but it is expected he will return to the practice of international law, as did his father-in-law, John W. Foster, when he completed his term as secretary of state.

DOUBLE LAUNCHING AT NEWPORT NEWS TODAY

Newport News, Va., Feb. 13.—A double launching will be seen tomorrow morning at the plant of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company, when the torpedo boat destroyer Abel P. Upshur and Hunt take to the water. The Upshur is named for the famous Virginia lawyer of that name, who at one time was secretary of the navy and was later secretary of state upon the resignation of Daniel Webster. The Hunt is named for Timothy H. Hunt, a native of Connecticut, who was a naval commander.

INFLUENZA OUTBREAK AT GEORGIA ARMY POST

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., Feb. 13.—Due to the outbreak of influenza at Fort Oglethorpe a strict quarantine has been placed by military officials which will keep all soldiers within the limits of the reservation for ten days, at least. While the number of cases of the malady has not been announced, it was reported today that there had been three fatalities among the troops.

SENATOR SIMMONS SEES DESTRUCTION MERCHANT MARINE

Fears That Proposed Sale Would Mean Operation Under Foreign Flags

(Special To The Star.) Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—Speaking in support of a joint resolution in the senate, today deferring the sale of passenger ships by the United States shipping board until congress can agree upon a permanent policy with respect to such ships, Senator Simmons expressed the fear that if this sale should be permitted it would be opening wedge to destroy the merchant marine built up by the government under the war emergency, and that the sale would mean that the ships would eventually be operated under foreign flags.

Selling at Low Value

The charge has been made that the ships were to be sold at the agreed price of \$38,000,000, which it is claimed is not more than one fourth of their value and that the purchaser would operate them under the British flag.

After the exciting debate in the senate, in which vigorous protest was made against the sale, Judge Payne, chairman of the shipping board, appeared before the senate committee on commerce, of which Senator Simmons is a member, and stated that the board contemplates merely receiving bids to be sold at the agreed price, and to bring about a final policy.

He said it was proposed to write into the contract of whatever sale was made a specific condition that the ships were to fly the American flag and that they were to operate in established lanes of trade. He said it was not intended that the ships should go to any one except to Americans of unquestioned Americanism.

Future of Merchant Marine

In his protest against the sale Senator Simmons said that permitted such disposal would mean the end of American ship building, that now is the best opportunity the government has ever had or will ever have in the future to establish the American merchant marine on a permanent basis that would answer the growing needs of the country in coastwise and foreign trade.

SECRETARY LANSING RESIGNS; PRESIDENT MAKES ACCUSATION OF USURPATION OF POWERS

TEXT OF CORRESPONDENCE PRECEDING RESIGNATION

PRESIDENT SAYS SECRETARY USURPED PRESIDENTIAL POWERS AND MR. LANSING'S DENIAL LEADS TO DISCLOSURE THAT HE CONTEMPLATED STEP

Washington, Feb. 13.—The state department has issued the following statement: Secretary Lansing has resigned and his resignation has been accepted, taking effect today. Following is the correspondence between the President and Secretary Lansing:

Wilson's First Letter "The White House, Washington, 7 February, 1920: "My Dear Mr. Secretary: Is it true, as I have been told, that during my illness you have frequently called the heads of the executive departments of the government into conference? If it is, I feel it my duty to call your attention to considerations which I do not care to state until I learn from you yourself that this is the fact. Under our constituted law and practice, as developed hitherto, no one but the President has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments into conference, and no one but the President and the congress has the right to ask their views or the views of any one of them on any public question."

"I take this matter up with you because in the development of every constitutional system, custom and precedent are of the most serious consequence, and I think we will all agree in desiring not to lead in any wrong direction. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of writing you to ask you this question, and I am sure you will be glad to answer."

"I am happy to learn from your recent note to Mrs. Wilson that your strength is returning. "Cordially and sincerely yours, "WOODROW WILSON."

Honorable Robert Lansing, Secretary of State

Mr. Lansing's Reply "The Department of State, Washington, Feb. 9, 1920: "My Dear Mr. President: It is true that, frequently during your illness, I have been consulted by the executive departments of the government to meet for informal conference."

"Shortly after you were taken ill in October certain members of the cabinet, of which I was one, felt that in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you, it was wise for us to confer informally together on inter-departmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them. Accordingly, I, as the ranking member, requested the members of the cabinet to assemble for such informal conferences, and in view of the fact that you were denied communication with you, it was wise for us to confer informally together on inter-departmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them."

"During these troublous times, when many difficult and vexatious questions were pending, and when in the circumstances I have been deprived of your guidance and direction, it has been my constant endeavor to carry out your policies as I understood them and to act in accordance with them as I believed you to wish me to act. If, however, you think that I have failed in my loyalty to you, and if you no longer have confidence in me and prefer to have another conduct our foreign affairs, I will resign at once, ready, Mr. President, to relieve you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation in your hands."

"I am, as always, faithfully yours, "ROBERT LANSING."

President Disappointed

"The White House, Washington, 11 February, 1920. "My dear Mr. Secretary: I am very much disappointed by your letter of February ninth in reply to mine about the so-called cabinet meetings. The fact that you were denied communication with me, and that I have failed in my loyalty to you, and if you no longer have confidence in me and prefer to have another conduct our foreign affairs, I will resign at once, ready, Mr. President, to relieve you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation in your hands."

"I think, Mr. President, in accordance with the frankness which has marked this correspondence, and for which I am grateful to you, that I cannot permit to pass unchallenged the imputation that I am calling an informal conference the heads of the executive departments I sought to usurp presidential authority. I had no such intention, no such thought, I believed then, and I believe now, that the conference was for the best interests of your administration and of the republic, and that belief was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe the conferences were proper and necessary in the circumstances, and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had failed to act as I did."

Foretelling Judgment

"I also feel, Mr. President, that candor compels me to say that I cannot agree with your statement that I have tried to forestall your judgment in certain cases by formulating action and merely asking your approval when it was impossible for you to form an independent judgment because you had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with an accurate independence. I have, it is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action, advised you what, in my opinion, that action should be, stating at the same time the reasons on which my opinion was based. This I considered to be a function of the Secretary of State, and I have followed the practice for the past four years and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decisions, however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs."

"I need hardly add that I leave the office of secretary of state with only good will toward you, Mr. President, and with a sense of profound relief. "Forgoing our differences and remembering only your many kindnesses, you are ready to relieve me of any embarrassment by placing your resignation in your hands."

Meeting Called Off

Before this letter was written the date for the regular cabinet meeting—last Tuesday—had passed, and the correspondence discloses why the cabinet did not meet. On the same day that he received this letter from the President, Mr. Lansing announced he had written the cabinet officers that he would not call any more cabinet conferences for the present, but no explanation was offered. Inquiry at the white house brought only the statement that Mr. Wilson himself probably would call and preside at the next session of his official advisers.

But the differences between the President and the secretary long predated the first cabinet call by Mr. Lansing, which was issued last October fifth, seven days after Mr. Wilson returned from his western speaking tour and took to his bed. They began at the peace conference in Paris, as Mr. Lansing disclosed in his final letter to the President, under date of yesterday, and had continued since that time—one of the chief differences being over the government's attitude toward Mexico.

When the cabinet met on October 5, Joseph P. Tumulty, private secretary to the President, issued a formal statement explaining the reasons for the conference. He said:

"The cabinet meeting was called to consider questions in which more than one department was concerned, and also to discuss the industrial conference."

He referred to the first conference called by the President with the hope of allaying the industrial unrest. In his statement Mr. Tumulty said that Rear Admiral Grayson, Mr. Wilson's physician, was present, and suggested that the cabinet be called again.

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President Took Offense At Action of Secretary Calling Cabinet Meetings.

FAILED IN LOYALTY

Lansing Maintains He Would Have Been Derelict If He Had Failed To Act.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Robert Lansing ended his career as secretary of state today after President Wilson had accused him of usurping the powers of the President by calling meetings of the cabinet during Mr. Wilson's illness.

Mr. Lansing denied he had sought or intended to usurp the presidential authority. He added, however, that he believed then, and still believes, that the cabinet conferences were "for the best interests of the republic"; that they were "proper and necessary" because of the President's condition and that he would have been derelict in his duty if he had failed to act as he did.

As the record stands, Mr. Lansing tendered his resignation and Mr. Wilson accepted it. The resignation was offered, however, only after the President, under date of February 7, had written asking if it were true that Mr. Lansing had called cabinet meetings and stating that if such were the case he felt it necessary to say that "under our constitutional law and practice as developed hitherto, no one but the President has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments into conference."

Acted for the Best. Mr. Lansing answered two days later—last Monday—saying he had called the cabinet conferences because he and others of the President's official family "felt that, in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you, it was wise for us to confer informally together on inter-departmental matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them."

The secretary concluded by saying that if the President believed he had failed in his "loyalty" to him, and if Mr. Wilson on longer had confidence in him, he was ready to "relieve you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation in your hands."

The President replied last Wednesday that he was "much disappointed" by Mr. Lansing's letter regarding the so-called cabinet meetings. He found nothing in the secretary's letter "which justifies your assumption of presidential authority in such a matter," and added that he "must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion to resign."

"I must say," continued the President, "that it would relieve me of embarrassment, Mr. Secretary, the embarrassment of feeling your reluctance and divergence of judgment, if you would give up your present office and allow me to select some one else whose mind would more willingly go along with mine."

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