

BRITISH OPINION HAS FORMED ON INDEMNITY

Public Sentiment Inclines to Moderate View of German Reparations

By GEORGE N. BARNES
(Special Cable Dispatch to The Star, Copyright 1921)

LONDON, Feb. 6.—British public opinion, in the belief of the writer, would have favored a more moderate settlement of the reparations question than that reached at Paris—one which would be capable of fulfillment by vigorous enforcement, enabling the more speedily to get Germany into the league of nations, and permitting the world to settle down the normal relations.

Instead, the conference again put reparations on an ascending scale, providing for an indemnity of 55 billion dollars spread over a period of 42 years, plus a tax on the paying ability of Germany as reflected by her exports. Progressive demands predicate such a re-organization of German internal life and labor as would make her the world's most efficient productive country and this raised the question of the effect of her exports on other countries.

Two schemes have been formulated to enable impoverished countries to buy goods on credit. One is the work of Lloyd George, the other was planned by Sir Edward Mountain and approved by the federation of British industries.

A condition precedent to the operation of the first plan would be to ascertain the gold value of the assets of the countries concerned, the latter being required through their governments to issue bonds for the purchase of goods from the countries possessing them.

The second plan could be put in operation immediately, providing only that governments would share the risk with the trading and banking interests of their respective countries. Sir Edward Mountain proposes pooling that risk by the British government putting 13 million pounds in the pool and the merchants' bills to be covered by insurance policy.

The league should consider both plans and get one of them at least, in early operation, otherwise there will be precious little gold or even human value left in the countries concerned.

Although the draft of the Russo-British debts and a reciprocal abstention from provocative acts—Russia agreeing to desist from her propaganda in the orient and Britain undertaking not to initiate proceedings for the attachment of gold or goods imported from Russia, it is not a promising document. Nothing in it prevents an individual claimant from initiating a seizure for former debts.

Trade is not likely to progress much under such conditions. Nor are the Serbians likely to abandon their propaganda in the east or elsewhere. It is their only chance of success. Any contrary agreement, however, would simply be a scrap of paper. Trade might even be used to stimulate propaganda, which contingency is figuring strongly in the Japanese deliberations on Russian trade.

I maintain my view, already expressed, that the prospects of Russo-British trade are not good and will not improve unless both sides are induced, by urgent necessity, to make far greater concessions and give far greater assurances than has heretofore been the case.

Interest in the South African elections is intensifying, apparently as the chances of General Smuts are improving. The Dutch nationalists, realizing that "cutting the painter" is not so popular a slogan as they expected, already are disclaiming their intention to force the severance question, even if successful at the polls. Smuts, however, is forcing them to face the issue.

Labor's unemployment proposals have been found to be somewhat conservative. Although emphasis is laid on the resumption of trade with Russia and central Europe, there are no helpful suggestions toward removing the difficulties. Parliament will be asked to adopt the proposals as will the labor convention scheduled for February 23. Meanwhile, the impression prevails that labor failed to score.

IS THERE A FARMERS' LOBBY IN WASHINGTON

By HARDEN COLFAX
(Staff Correspondent of The Star, Copyright 1921)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Is there a farmer's lobby? Is it working in the interest of agriculture or in co-operation with other industries?

The answer to these questions are sought by the house committee on banking and currency which has started a thorough investigation of all the various farmer organizations who maintain headquarters in Washington.

"We wish to know the scope and outside connections of these organizations," says Chairman McFadden of the investigating committee. "We want to know the extent to which they represent real farmers and how far they may be associated with other interests that have a direct or indirect relationship to the agriculture of this country."

The national board of farm organizations, affiliated with 15 farm associations in the country, and engaged in urging a system of land banks in each of the states that will be owned and controlled by the farmers, was under the committee's searchlight when Charles A. Lyman, secretary, was called as a witness. Mr. Lyman said that the income of his association last year was only \$1,000, contributed entirely by the groups of farmers, and devoted to meeting the legitimate expenses of the association in Washington, including the purchase of a permanent office building.

"Our board is not in reality an organization, but a clearing house through which our members may present a common front and speak in one voice," said Mr. Lyman. He added that the board does not engage in lobbying but admitted that it is interested in many of the agricultural measures pending before congress, including the Capper-Volstead bill, which is designed to facilitate the organizing of co-operative marketing facilities among the farmers.

Ben March, of the Farmers' National council, denied improper activities on the part of his organization. He said that it is interested in matters of transportation and railroad rates that affect the farming interests and also that it believes in the public ownership of railroads.

Differences existing in the Grange societies of the farmers in the eastern states were revealed to the committee by John A. McSparran, master of the Pennsylvania Grange. He charged the county agricultural agents in his state with trying to set up a counter organization, known as the Farm Bureau Federation.

"We believe that county agents are needed," said Mr. McSparran, "but they are exceeding their official duties in trying to establish a counter organization. The work they propose to do would be a duplication of that which is performed by our own organization. I do not object to the organization of other farmers' societies, but federal employees should not use their time and effort to create rival societies where the farmers already have associations of their own."

Mr. McSparran insisted that the department of agriculture manifested "undue friendship" to the Farm Bureau Federation movement and suggested that the county agents should sever all connections with it.

"The county agent should be the servant of all of the farmers," he continued, "and not merely the servant of some one organization in which he appears to have a personal interest."

The American Farm Bureau Federation, with representatives in Washington, is created for the purpose of "supplementing the work of other farm organizations," said Gray Silver, chief of the Washington office. He denied an intention on the part of his association to "swallow up" other farmers' societies or to arouse discord and animosity within their ranks.

"We never thought of such a thing," he insisted. "Neither do I know of any 'inside agreements' between our association and the department of agriculture to the effect that we are to be recognized as the extra-governmental organization of farmers of the country."

Chairman McFadden wanted to know about the work of his association in Washington and Mr. Silver replied that it is "purely legislative." He asked however that J. R. Howard, president of the federation be called before the committee to tell of its policies and purposes. A summons for Mr. Howard was issued by the committee.

Representatives of the states' relations service of the federation will be called before the committee. Mr. Mc-

FADDEN INTIMATED THAT HE WISHED TO KNOW IF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS LENDING ITS INFLUENCE TO A PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS TO THE POSSIBLE DETRIMENT OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

The investigation of the committee has developed the fact that many agricultural communities in the country are engaged in bitter controversy over the relations of the county agents to farm organizations. It has brought out further that the salaries of the county agents in about 80 per cent of the cases are paid with public funds and most of the money is provided by branches of state governments. In some of the states the salaries of the county agents are paid by the county farm bureaus.

The house committee has been told that the effect of so many farmers' organizations has been to cause irritation among farmers as well as confusion in the handling of their legislative interests.

GERMANS DEBATE OVER THE QUESTION OF REPARATIONS

BERLIN, Feb. 6.—The premiers of the several federated states of the German nation were in session with the Berlin cabinet here until late this evening over the reparations question, the meeting being followed by the announcement that complete unanimity prevailed among all the participants in the conference. The speech of Foreign Minister Simons in the reichstag had been given unqualified endorsement by the representatives of Bavaria, Baden, Wuerttemberg, Saxony and other states, it was stated.

The conference was presided over by Chancellor Fehrenbach. Dr. Simons spoke at length and was followed by other members of the cabinet, after which the visiting premiers were heard, the debate lasting until 7 o'clock.

The invitation extended by the entente to send representatives on March 1 to London convention on reparations is construed here as indicating that the allies expect Germany to submit counter proposals and that the negotiations at Brussels by the experts on financial and economic affairs are therefore superfluous for the time being. (The postponement of the Brussels conference during the past few days, after the London conference was recently announced from Paris.)

Leaders of German industry, shipping and finance have been arriving in Berlin during the past few days for consultations with the government's staff of economic experts who under the direction of Undersecretary Bergmann of the ministry of economics, are engaged in the drafting of the German counter proposals.

Much of the press comment in regard to the situation warns the government against pinning its faith on the possibility that the attitude of the new Washington government will supply Germany with moral backing. These commentators urge the government to present Germany's case strictly on its own merits.

WEEK'S FINANCIAL MARKETS

NORFOLK, Feb. 6.—The second month of the year in the financial markets opened with a perceptible uptick in the stock market, a negligible volume of business and consequent impairment of quoted values throughout the list.

Call or demands rose to 3 per cent, their highest figure in almost three months. The advance was primarily due, according to the well informed to the steady reduction of local reserves by interior banks. There were concurrent advances in interest and discount rates by federal reserve banks. Lower prices for raw and refined products suggested a market readjustment of estimates in the oil trade.

Unsatisfactory earnings, threats of labor troubles and interminable delay in the settlement of claims of transportation systems against the government militate against the railway shares, a part from occasional upward spurts in the transcontinental groups.

Increasing credit strain added to the heavy tone of various steel, and equipment stocks. Companies controlling miscellaneous specialties submitted financial statement which suffered in comparison with similar exhibits of the corresponding period last year. Pre-war bond issues of the important railways also improved but liberty and victory bonds eased.

Movements of foreign exchange were again observed by views arising from the proposed reparational terms imposed upon Germany. It is understood that plans for refunding French obligations in this country are gradually crystallizing.

GOWNS AND GODLINESS DISTRACT GOTHAMITES

New York Getting Cross-Eyed Watching Mrs. Harding and Zion Archdeacons

By JESSIE HENDERSON
(Staff Correspondent of The Star, Copyright 1921)

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—Gowns and godliness have contended for first place in the thoughts and emotions of Gothamites this week. With the arrival simultaneously of the wife of the President-elect and of the two lady archdeacons from the late "Prophet" Dowie's city of Zion, Ill., public vision has become slightly cross-eyed in the attempt to focus on activities both at the Ritz and along Broadway.

Mrs. Harding came, of course, to select her inaugural wardrobe. The ladies from Zion were not attempting anything so intricate; their task was simply to prove to New Yorkers that the earth is flat and to cleanse Broadway of tobacco, theaters, and other symptoms of worldliness. They plan to accomplish this by means no more spectacular than the distribution of pamphlets. But out of Illinois has come a hint that if pamphlets fail, the leader Voliva himself may descend on this town with a regiment of reformers in flowing white garments. Brown at least still wearing short skirts and a look of expectancy.

It is a curious thing that the two inaugural shades which stand forth from the rainbow of modifiers and markings at the Ritz are those in which the city administration is at the moment draped. Gendarme blue has been the prevailing tint at police headquarters since Whitman, investigator-in-chief, declared that "graft room" exists where a man whose car has been stolen may force gifts into the quivering palm of the officer who found it.

As to Florence lavender, it looks as though several members of several municipal departments might expect to be—in the words of the colored phrase—laid out in lavender when the Whitman criminal process gets under way. The old-fashioned idea hereabouts was to take a citizen's valuables with some appearance of stealth; at least to wait until the policeman's back was turned. Like other clumsy processes this custom has yielded to modern efficiency. Two men in broad daylight and in a downtown thoroughfare boarded a taxi which was carrying a woman to her hotel and deprived the passenger of a \$4,000 sable cloak before the meter could jump from 40 to 50. On the same afternoon a closed car stopped for the traffic signal at Madison avenue and 42nd street, one of the most congested spots in the world; and while thousands of people and hundreds of other cars also waited, the traffic officer closed the door of the closed car, spoke pleasantly to the lady within and helped himself to the purse in her lap. There's something Homeric about a thing like that.

People who said that all this crime was due to prohibition received a shock from both Attorney Whitman and Federal Prohibition Agent John F. Kramer. It seems that prohibition has not come to New York yet. Between them, Messrs. Whitman and Kramer discovered a police boat suspected of carrying liquor for certain favored dealers; and a remarkable leakage through the customs of liquor purchased abroad. One New York character inadvertently boasts just before the Whitman-Kramer revelations that he had made a million dollars since the country went so-to-speak dry. And there is some ground for believing he did not make it in milk.

FORMER ADMIRAL DEAD

BERLIN, Feb. 6.—Admiral Count Friedrich von Baudissin, former chief of the German admiralty staff, is dead. He was at one time personal admiral to the German emperor and for three years commanded the imperial yacht. He entered the navy in 1873 and was retired in 1913. He was 63 years old.

DEMPEY TO NEW YORK

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 6.—Jack Dempsey, heavyweight champion, said tonight he would leave tomorrow for New York in response to a telegram from his manager, requesting that the champion join him in the metropolis.

ORGANIZE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Bill to Be Offered General Assembly Creating Prohibition Commission

(Special to The Star)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—This correspondent was informed today that a bill for a state prohibition enforcement commission would be introduced at Raleigh in a few days. The measure will provide for a chief officer, five assistants and 40 field men to cover the various counties.

The bill provides for a department of special law enforcement to be directed by a commission consisting of the governor, as chairman, the attorney-general and three other citizens of the state to be appointed by the governor.

"The primary object of the department," it says, "shall be the enforcement of the laws of the state prohibiting, regulating, affecting or concerning the manufacture, sale and transportation of intoxicating liquors, and at least one of his officer assistants, each of them shall have with respect to arrests for violation of said laws, all the powers rights, privileges, emoluments, authority and obligations, duties and liabilities now reposed in or imposed upon sheriffs by chapter 26 of the consolidated statutes of North Carolina, provided the said powers, etc., shall obtain in said officers, regardless of county lines and throughout the state, provided all fees or rewards received by such officers shall be paid over to the department hereby created."

The bill gives the chief officer and his field officers "power to seize and confiscate the use of the state any and all personal property and material found to be in the use, manufacture, sale and transportation of intoxicating liquors in violation of the law, including animals and vehicles, and to all same." Common carriers are exempted from the seizure provision "unless it be made to appear that such common carrier was knowingly engaged in transporting such liquors in violation of law."

RED ARMIES ARE HOLDING ERIVAN, REPORTS SAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—Red armies are occupying Erivan, capital of Armenia, and Alexandropol, the railway center of that republic, a cable message received by the Near East relief today reported.

Americans in Armenia, the message said, interpret the advance of Bolshevik troops to mean that Armenians are so bitterly opposed to the soviet form of government imposed by the treaty of last December, that the Moscow radical leaders decided to occupy the entire republic and either abolish or control the government by military force. Turkish nationalist troops which were in Alexandropol, evacuated the city before the advance of the Bolsheviks, the message said. It numbered the Moscow troops occupying Erivan at 3,000.

Forty thousand refugees have fled from the Mosul region because of the combined movement against the British by Bolsheviks, Turks and Kurds, it added. Near East relief workers suggested that 10,000 of these homeless people emigrate to the United States in chartered transports. This question is to be taken up with the state department, it was announced at the organization headquarters.

TRAINMEN ARE INJURED

MACON, Ga., Feb. 6.—Engineer G. W. Pearcall, and fireman T. W. Vann of this city, were seriously injured today when a northbound Georgia Southern and Florida freight train crashed into a locomotive that was switching in the yards at Ashburn during a dense fog.

MAKE A MOONSHINE RAID

GREENVILLE, S. C., Feb. 6.—As a result of a "moonshine" raid in the upper part of the county yesterday, Sam Montgomery and Fred White were arrested by federal and county officers on charges of operating an illicit distillery, while the whiskey outfit they are accused of having operated was destroyed. The still was fired up and ready for a "run" when the officers arrived.

CONGRESSIONAL WORK WILL RUN FOR MONTHS

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ate, has been allowed to sleep here until this good day."

Bills have accumulated in the senate to such an extent that now within a few weeks of the end a choice between finishing the appropriation measures of the emergency tariff virtually has had to be made. This tariff legislation is written to cover only a ten-months' period. During the last few days the trend has been toward continuing with the tariff discussion in the hope of bringing it to a vote within a week or ten days. This will delay appropriations so that it is doubtful if all can be completed at this session. So far the senate has voted only on the District of Columbia appropriation. For the sake of farmer relief, Senator McCumber, Republican of North Dakota, who has charge of the tariff measure, has kept before the senate every day the primary claims of this legislation to protect American industries.

"When it comes to a question between appropriation bills and the pending measure (tariff), I shall favor allowing the appropriation bills to pass over," he announced. "To my mind the emergency tariff bill can not wait; it will be ten months before we shall be able to get through both branches of congress the general tariff bill."

No one can study this congress without realizing how successfully farmers have demanded recognition. The history of the discussion in the upper house of this session has been upon some phase of farm interests. The senate has passed for days, and finally passed a long-standing bill appropriating about \$100 million dollars for improvement in the great Muscle Shoals nitrate plant in Alabama, expecting thereby to begin the fertilizer situation. Legislation controlling the food packers, and to exempt producers of agricultural products from prosecution under the trust law, further advanced farmer demands. These, with the one appropriation bill, a welfare measure providing aid for maternity hospitals, the act reviving the war income corporation constitute the senate's accomplishments of note.

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