

# Minimum Price for Star

## LITTLE FIRST HAND TESTIMONY SUPPORTS CHARGES OF WATSON

Six Witnesses Examined Yesterday and Charges of Hangings Made.

## ALLEGES HE WITNESSED A DOZEN EXECUTIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—None of the six witnesses appearing today before a senate committee was able to give first hand evidence to support charges against Arthur Watson, Democrat, Georgia, that American soldiers had been hanged without trial in France.

George H. Taylor, of Philadelphia, and four other witnesses, who were called to the stand, testified that they had seen twelve soldiers hanged, or one more than the number officially listed by the war department in accordance with court martial verdicts, approved by General Pershing. Taylor, confused as to the number of victims, testified at first he had seen three, and then under direct questioning increased his figures to four. The other witnesses were put to death in and around Is-Sur-Tille in the period from April to June, 1919.

No instance could the witness say he knew whether any or all of the twelve were tried by a military court. Because of the evident physical weakness of the witness, Senator Watson suggested that army officers, including Col. Bethel, assistant commander of the 16th infantry, should advocate general, retire from the room, explaining that Taylor was subject to epileptic attacks and that the presence of officers might disturb him. But the former soldier announced he wanted the officers to remain.

Testimony by Henry L. Coott, 22 years old, of Kenmore, Ohio, that he had seen two soldiers shot down in cold blood by a Major Opley, commander of the 16th infantry, and that he had brought a quick and sharp denial from Hiram L. Opley, at his home at Stanton, Va., who was in charge of the organization and who announced he would be glad to be tried by a court-martial. Scott was positive in the assertion that he saw both men killed, at different times, that the first shooting of a courier was witnessed by several other men, and that he alone escaped the second.

Having Major Opley in mind as commander of the battalion, Colonel Bethel pressed the witness closely as to the names of the men, and later informed Chairman Brandegee privately that Scott evidently was referring to the Virginian. But Scott stuck to "Opley." In making sweeping denial of the charges, Major Opley, at Stanton, declared that he had never seen Scott, and that he was a private in the 16th infantry. He did not know of his own knowledge of any executions without trials. Robert A. Harrison, of Wilmington, North Carolina, told the committee he had witnessed two hangings, one conducted by "Hardboiled" Smith, and the other by "Red" Smith, who was refusing to sweep a stockade with tooth brush, that the killing, as he remembered, took place on December 19, 1918, at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, and that he saw the lynching from a distance of 300 yards, and that he was struck, he said, was a Mexican, who was strung from a tree by officers and men, for a crime against a woman.

In an effort to clear up what he regarded as the confusion in Taylor's testimony, Chairman Brandegee suggested that Colonel Bethel question the witness concerning the twelve executions he claimed to have seen with his own eyes. Early in the hearing Col. Bethel fled with the committee members to the hearing room, where he was held in custody until the hearing resumed. The committee members, with names out of consideration for the families of the dead, the department list showed that two men were hanged after trial at Is-Sur-Tille, and it was the committee's contention that Taylor was present, with other men and officers. Taylor's testimony was regarded in the nature of a confirmation of Colonel Bethel's confession in this respect, as he did not know the name of one of the two soldiers executed at that place.

After hearing witnesses tomorrow the committee will adjourn until after the holidays.

## MAY BE NO AGREEMENT IN DAIL EIREANN BEFORE AFTER HOLIDAY RECESS; NOT COME TODAY ANYWAY

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—(By Associated Press.)—At the close of today's session of the Dail Eireann it was clear that a decision on the treaty would not be taken before Thursday afternoon at the earliest. Some of the members were even of the opinion that adjournment over the Christmas holidays may be necessary, among them Michael Collins.

Arthur Griffith, head of the plenipotentiaries, and Eamon de Valera, who is strongly opposing the treaty, are agreed, however, that suspense would be bad for the country. As a matter of fact, judging by the attitude of the people in Dublin, the whole country is fairly sick with uncertainty and anxiety.

It was made evident today that the Dail Eireann will tolerate no form of cloture. Twenty additional members, the speaker announced, and probably others will desire to be heard, the idea appearing to prevail that each member is in duty bound to explain his vote to his constituents.

The trend of sentiment in the parliament is eagerly watched, and observers present throughout the days preceding the vote of ratification have improved. One speaker sharply criticized the attitude of some of the members, suggesting that though they really hoped it would be approved, this tended to confirm the reports that several deputies, though unwilling to expose the country to the consequences of rejection, wish to maintain their position as true Republicans.

The main force of the attack on them was based on the argument that even de Valera has abandoned the idea of a republic and framed an oath recognizing the king as head of the community of nations with which Ireland is to be associated.

The most exciting speech at today's meeting was that of Dr. Patrick McCartan, known as the "first ambassador of the Irish republic" to the United States who condemned everybody impartially and declared emphatically

that the republic had been abandoned in Dublin before the delegates crossed to London. He evoked great applause by expressing preference for Griffith and Collins, who, he said, did their best, over the "quibblers," among whom he included de Valera, who criticized the delegates in the Dail Eireann, while fighting them on no difference of serious principles.

Dr. McCartan denounced the whole Dail Eireann saying they all went into the boat of British imperialism. He was uncompromising republican, recognizing kings as out of date, and he objected to any association with the British empire. There was no real difference between the opposing sections of the cabinet, he asserted; they were all wrong. The men who died had died neither for this treaty nor for the de Valera document. The republic of which Eamon de Valera was president was dead.

In conclusion Dr. McCartan saw no way out for there was a divided cabinet and a divided country. He declined to vote for the treaty, or for chaos and therefore would abstain from voting.

The narrowing of the issue between the opposing sections in the Dail Eireann cabinet was the main feature of the debate. Several members endeavored to elicit the terms submitted in the private session last week by Mr. de Valera with the object of proving that his disagreement with Mr. Griffith was not worth fighting for.

One of the speakers suggested as a way out of the difficulty submission of the question to two typical constituencies, naming South Cork and East Clare, the latter being de Valera's own constituency. De Valera laughed loudly at this suggestion.

Was an alternative to the treaty was generally recognized by all the speakers, and it is understood that the retirement of the members into private session for an hour in the afternoon was for the purpose of settling the position of the Irish republican army in case the treaty was rejected.

## LITTLE ACCOMPLISHED ON REPARATION ISSUE AND OTHER QUESTIONS

British and French Premiers Discuss German Reparations and Kindred Questions.

## FRENCH AND ENGLISH IN ACCORD—LLOYD GEORGE

LONDON, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—Not much progress has been made thus far, it was learned tonight, in the conversations which are going on between Aristide Briand, the French premier, and David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, on German reparations and kindred questions.

The two premiers met again this morning at the official residence of Mr. Lloyd George, but did not get together this afternoon.

Talking to the Associated Press this evening, Mr. Briand said he was unable to give any details of the conversations, which ranged over a wide field, including reparations and the intentions of France should Germany fail to meet her financial obligations due to the conference.

Mr. Briand's recent statement did not square with the announcement of the French delegation in Washington, M. Briand replied warmly that there were no such divergences as had been insinuated. On the contrary, he declared, he was in full agreement with the French delegation and the claims they had put forward in France's behalf.

When he set forth an opposite view today, Mr. Harding was said by officials close to him to have acted without consultation with his state department advisers and without any definite purpose of announcing the attitude of the administration. It was declared that he merely was voicing a personal opinion, and had no thought of precipitating a clash in conference circles.

The effect on the delegates, however, was immediately apparent. None of them would comment, but among Americans, British, French and Japanese, there was evident a desire to have the attitude of the American government clarified at once. The American delegation held a meeting, and as Senators Lodge and Underwood and the other members of the American Legion with Canadian forces, and from the spring of 1917 to the end of the war with American forces, Seventh field artillery, first division.

He said that in the fall of 1917 he was in the company of a soldier from the limb of a tree at the insignia on the body showed he was a soldier of the sixteenth infantry. The man was a Mexican. "According to the information given me, a case of a soldier being shot dead, or else certain officers would have been cashiered," he said. He also witnessed an execution in rear of a prison stockade near Paris after the armistice. The victim was a young man, a member of the American Legion with Canadian forces, and from the spring of 1917 to the end of the war with American forces, Seventh field artillery, first division.

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## FRANCE ACCEPTS CAPITAL SHIP TONNAGE PLAN; CONFERENCE MOVES ON TO SUBMARINE ISSUE

Difference In Opinion as to What Constitutes Embarrassing Conference

## SETTLEMENT OF SHANTUNG CONTROVERSY IS NOW A MATTER FOR TOKIO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—President Harding, in a statement issued tonight, said that he had no objection to a construction by the armament conference delegates that the four power treaty includes the principal islands of Japan in its application. The statement said: "When the President was responding to press inquiries at the afternoon interview today he expressed the opinion that the homeland of Japan did not come within the words 'insular possessions and insular dominions' under the four power agreement except as territory proper of any other nation which is party to the agreement.

"This expression," the statement continued, "has been emphasized as a division between the President and the delegates to the conference in connection with the four power agreement. "The President announced tonight that the difference in view in no wise will be permitted to embarrass the conference or to prevent the signing 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 will 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 terms 'insular possessions and insular dominions' and has no objection to that construction." The language of the treaty thus brought into question has also been the subject of senate discussion, and in response to inquiries based on the assertions of the opponents of ratification, spokesmen for the American delegation have said repeatedly that the major Japanese group must be regarded as included within the provisions of the agreement.

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## What Constitutes Embarrassing Conference

## SETTLEMENT OF SHANTUNG CONTROVERSY IS NOW A MATTER FOR TOKIO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—Settlement of the Shantung controversy now rests with Tokio.

The conversations between the Japanese and Chinese delegates which have proceeded during the past three weeks outside of the Washington conference proper under the "good offices" of Arthur J. Balfour, of Great Britain, and Mr. Hughes, late today came to a sudden halt with both delegations far apart on the question of payment for and administration of the Tsing Tao-Tsinfan railway, the heart of the dispute.

After a session lasting more than three hours and a half, which conference circles hoped would bring about a satisfactory agreement between the two groups, the Japanese delegates announced they could go no further in the conversations without instruction from Tokio. The meeting was adjourned without agreeing on the major issues.

"We got to the point where we could not proceed further," said Dr. Koo, of the Chinese delegation, after the meeting.

The principal stumbling block, which was regarded tonight as threatening the entire Shantung negotiations, was the Japanese proposal that Japan should be appointed by the Chinese in the service of the railway.

"We have already gone beyond our instructions, and can go no further without receiving instructions from Tokio," said Mr. Hanhara, the principal Japanese delegate attending the conversations. "We have made concession after concession until we can make no more. The Chinese delegates have insisted on no point."

Replying to a question, Mr. Hanhara said that the Japanese considered the question of appointment of a Japanese trustee manager of the railway essential to an agreement, as a safeguard to efficient operation of the road and to assure protection to the Japanese financial interests involved.

Details of the "efforts of the Chinese delegates to meet the Japanese on every point" were given the Associated Press tonight by one of the Chinese delegates.

Decision of the Japanese to discontinue the discussions, according to the delegate, was made known to the Chinese in a formal statement ready to be made to the Chinese delegation. The Japanese delegation "could not recommend any settlement of the railway question" and that the whole matter would be put up to Tokio for decision on what basis. Continuing, the Chinese delegate gave an outline of the negotiations.

## Italy and France Get 175,000 Tons Under U. S. Plans

## British Want Plenary Session to Present Plan For Abandonment of Sub.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—Acceptance by France with reservations of the American proposal of 175,000 tons in capital ships each for France and Italy swept the arms conference forward tonight to its next major problem—the submarine issue. Italy, it was stated, already has accepted the 175,000 ton figure, conditioned only on its acceptance by France.

Formal announcement of French acceptance and details of the reservations apparently were reserved by the sub-committee of fifteen for the full naval committee of the conference, called to meet Thursday. The sub-committee had broken its silence, explicitly, however, to publish the messages exchanged by Secretary Hughes and Premier Briand which led up to the action of the French delegation. The messages were read and discussed by the sub-committee but the official communiqué disclosed no more than the texts of the cablesgrams.

The premier's message showed that reservations attached to acceptance of the 175,000 capital ship tonnage had to do with "light cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines. This has served to bring the conference to a standstill until the submarine issue can be solved. When the five power capital ship agreement will be completed automatically. It is anticipated that the full naval committee was called to order today for the discussion of submarine and anti-submarine craft as the two are interwoven in French and British opinion.

This implies that the auxiliary craft elements of the American plan must be shaped into agreement before the conference committees can return to ratify the capital ship agreement. A direct step toward bringing up the submarine issue in its first phase—the British proposal to abolish submarines—was appointed by the Chinese during the day. The British delegation asked that a plenary session of the conference be called to permit presentation of their case against submarines. The British proposal was to ratify the capital ship agreement.

At such an open session Lord Lee for the British proposed to set out in detail the technical and other reasons why the British believe that submarines should be banned by the world of naval weapons. He will read a statement, and the British press has having been taken in its preparation. But there are indications that even in that statement the British will show lack of conviction that the conference will share the British attitude of opinion. It will, it is understood set out also the secondary British proposal that if submarines are to be retained, the tonnage allotments of each power be cut far below the present principle of the American proposals.

There is also a suggestion in British views on submarines prevail, the British would deem it their duty to seek radical increase in their allotments of anti-submarine craft as a more light of the conference. That means possibly, airplane carriers, and other these weapons are used against submarines.

Mr. Hughes and Premier Briand shows that as conference chairman, Secretary Hughes dealt very frankly with the situation created by the French proposal to build new capital ships. "I regret to say," he said, "that after canvassing the matter thoroughly and taking the best information I can obtain, I am compelled to conclude that it would be possible on this basis to carry through the agreement."

Mr. Hughes added after pointing out that the retained fleet agreement between Great Britain, the United States and France was contingent on "an appropriate agreement on the part of Italy" and that "there will not be the slightest difficulty in making an agreement with Italy if we can reach a suitable understanding with France."

The American chairman stressed his view that the French proposal, "the particular situation of France with respect to land armament" seemed to point to "the very great importance of reduction in naval armament." "At this time," he added, "when we are anxious to aid France in full recovery of her economic life, it would be disappointing to be advised that she was contemplating putting hundreds of millions into battleships."

This portion of Premier Briand's reply is taken in acceptance of the American 175,000 capital ship tonnage proposal and beyond the strict letter of which, it is indicated, the French group in the committee of 15 did not go today, reads as follows: "With regard to the tonnage of capital ships, that is to say, attacking ships, which are the most costly, I have given instruction to our delegations in the sense which you desire. I am certain that I shall be sustained by my parliament in this view. "But so far as the defensive ships are concerned (light cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines) it would be impossible for the French government, without putting itself in contradiction with the vote of the chambers, to accept reductions corresponding to those which we accept for capital ships under this formal reserve which you will certainly understand."

## Eastlake Is Cleared of Charge Murdering Wife; Start Life Anew

Verdict Comes After 27 Minutes Deliberation; Miss Knox to be Tried Feb. 3.

MONTROSS, Va., Dec. 20.—Roger D. Eastlake, navy petty officer, charged with the murder of his wife, Margaret, at their home at Colonial Beach, Va., on September 30 last was this afternoon found not guilty by a jury in Westmoreland county circuit court here.

The verdict was returned at 5:09 p. m. 47 minutes after the jury was given the case.

When the words "not guilty" were pronounced, Eastlake smiled. His mother, Mrs. S. M. Eastlake, and his sister, Mrs. Mabel Chambers, who had occupied seats directly behind the defendant, rushed to his side and showered him with kisses. W. W. Butzner, chief counsel for the defense, thanked the court and Judge Chinn discharged the jury.

"I felt certain, those twelve men would not believe that I murdered my wife," said Eastlake. "I will ask to be transferred to another naval station and will start life anew."

Eastlake is said to be still a petty officer in good standing in the navy and under construction of the rifle is understood to be obliged to report immediately for duty at the Dahlgren proving grounds where he was with his wife and child, according to the testimony he gave at his trial. Lieut. Commander J. H. Green, Eastlake's superior officer, was in court and, at the request of defense attorneys, granted Eastlake a leave of absence for three days. Eastlake left tonight for Fredericksburg accompanied by his mother, sister, brother and a cousin.

## American Interests Want Two Cent Duty on Cuban Raw Sugar

Cane Sugar Interests of U. S. and Porto Rica Ask Duty of Senate Finance Committee

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—American beet and Porto Rican cane sugar interests asked the senate finance committee today for a duty of 2 cents a pound on Cuban raw sugar, while Louisiana cane producers and manufacturers urged that the duty be made 2 1/2 cents a pound. The rate proposed in the Fordney bill is 1.6 cents a pound, and the Underwood law set the same rate as is now in force under the emergency tariff act.

Spokesmen for the American beet sugar interests in concluding the presentation of their case declared their case, declared their industries would be threatened with destruction and would be forced to suspend if the present duty were continued. This would leave the entire American field open to the Cuban cane industry, they said, adding that events last year when raw sugar went to 22 1/2 cents a pound in Louisiana would happen to American consumers under such a condition.

The witnesses said the issue before congress was whether the American industry, which now supplies about half the nation's need, was to be sacrificed to aid Cuba. They said there was no disposition to injure Cuba, and that if production in that country was reduced to some extent near the present total of 2,000,000 tons, or half of the amount consumed annually in the United States, the Cuban industry could be put back on its feet.

In a brief filed with the committee, the American producers in Cuba were threatened with destruction and would be forced to suspend if the present duty were continued. This would leave the entire American field open to the Cuban cane industry, they said, adding that events last year when raw sugar went to 22 1/2 cents a pound in Louisiana would happen to American consumers under such a condition.

Representatives of the beet sugar industry said the two cent duty asked for was necessary because of the difference in costs in the United States and Cuba. Spokesmen for the Louisiana cane industry said the cost of producing their sugar was greater than that of producing the beet product and that consequently they were asking for a rate a half a cent higher than the beet interests requested.

## WILMINGTON MAN TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Robt. A. Harrison, of Wilmington, told the senate committee investigating Watson's charges today that he had seen lynching parties while in the service but never saw any hangings. He is a boilermaker and served two years and ten months in the military service of the American Legion with Canadian forces, and from the spring of 1917 to the end of the war with American forces, Seventh field artillery, first division.

He said that in the fall of 1917 he was in the company of a soldier from the limb of a tree at the insignia on the body showed he was a soldier of the sixteenth infantry. The man was a Mexican. "According to the information given me, a case of a soldier being shot dead, or else certain officers would have been cashiered," he said. He also witnessed an execution in rear of a prison stockade near Paris after the armistice. The victim was a young man, a member of the American Legion with Canadian forces, and from the spring of 1917 to the end of the war with American forces, Seventh field artillery, first division.

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## ARMAMENT CONFERENCE MUST BANISH SUB IF DUTY IS DONE

CHARLOTTE, Dec. 20.—Unless the submarine, that outlaw, that assassin of the sea is destroyed root and branch, and agreements reached for reduction of land armament and solution of the problem of air power, the greatest danger of any possible future war," the armament conference will not have lived up to the measure of its duty and privilege, declared Josephus Daniels, former secretary of the navy in an address today before the Charlotte Rotary Club.

In its achievement toward naval reduction the conference has made the "greatest gesture" pointing the way to world peace said Mr. Daniels, but thus far the conference has made no progress toward reduction of any armaments except dreadnaughts. While armies cost more than navies, armies have been the force upon which militarism has been based in the past, the submarine was a greater factor in the world war than all the capital ships and bombing planes will be the "greatest danger in any possible future war."

"Unless we take steps to reduce armaments on land," he said, "we shall not have gone far," adding that while dreadnaughts have been considered the backbone of a nation's fighting strength, "the backbone was tied up in harbor" during the world war.

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## POSTAL NOMINATIONS (Special to The Star)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—David A. Huffines has been appointed postmaster at Spout Springs. Nominations were submitted to the senate today, as follows:

Amelia B. Stepp, Black Mountain; George T. Whitaker, Franklinton; Joseph P. Jessup, Hertford; Wesley L. Norman, Banner; Thomas E. Harwell, Catawba; Walter Morgan, Ellerbe; Grover L. Harbinson, Maiden; Ell D. Byrd, Ronda.

PROMINENT MAN SUICIDES CLAYTON, N. C., Dec. 20.—Ernest L. Hinton, age 55, who was prominently connected with many business enterprises in this section, committed suicide at his home here tonight.

## LIQUIDATION OF LIBERTY ISSUES UPSETS BONDS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Liquidation of Liberty bonds at extreme overvalues of 20 to 30 cents above the \$100 face value, and from \$2 to \$3.70 above the high records of a month ago, tended to unsettle prices on the New York exchange today.

No explanation accompanied the rise, which was occasioned much surprise in quarters where only recently it had been predicted for some of the speculative features of the year's end. The speculative feature was evidenced, however, by the fact that most Liberty issues have recovered a considerable part of the losses before the close, on what seemed to be short covering. The declines in the entire bond list on Wednesday approximated \$20,000,000, and this total the turnover in Liberty bonds