

FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR MORE UNDERSEA BOATS ENDS PARLEY PROMPTLY

BRITISH AND FRENCH SWAP SHARP WORDS AS DESIRE IS ANNOUNCED

Paris Delegates Want to Treble Present Size of Under-water List

OTHER DELEGATES ARE SURPRISED BY PROPOSAL

Balfour Says France Must Not Prepare for War at Her Back Door

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—Efforts to limit the naval strength of the powers in submarines and auxiliary warships came to an abrupt end today, after they had drawn the French and British arms conference delegates into a plain spoken exchange of the possibilities of a future war between France and the British empire.

The French, acting under renewed instructions from their government, opened the conference on a committee with an air of finality that France must remain free to build a submarine fleet nearly three times as great as that now possessed, and to construct in addition, cruisers, destroyers and other auxiliary craft up to a tonnage of 330,000.

To the proposal the Americans, Japanese and Italians replied with expressions of surprise and regret, while the British charged openly that such a building program must be regarded as a menace to British shores. Arthur J. Balfour added that he had no doubt, if equal to it, but only if she reserved complete freedom of action as to the construction of all types of auxiliaries which might be useful against under-water warfare.

Agreeing that further argument would be useless, the committee turned its attention to collateral subjects, including regulations for limitation for the size and armament of individual auxiliary vessels and details of the agreement already sealed in principle regarding capital ships.

For the American delegation, Elihu Root, proposed a joint declaration affirming the obligation of submarine commanders to refrain from sinking vessels whose crews and passengers could not first be placed in safety, and to conform in general to all the established practices of international law.

In addition, Mr. Root also suggested a change in existing usage to prohibit attacks on merchant vessels altogether and to make submarine commanders who violate the regulation liable to trial in prize courts.

General sympathy for the purpose of these proposals was expressed by the representatives of all the powers, but definite action was deferred. Should an agreement be reached, it is to be submitted to all civilized nations with an invitation for world wide adherence.

Under a further proposal presented by the American delegation and given general, but not final approval by the other plenipotentiaries, no auxiliary vessel of more than 10,000 tons, or constructed by any of the powers, shall be permitted to carry more than 2,000 tons of maximum airplane carrier tonnage of 50,000 for the United States, 80,000 for France and 100,000 for Great Britain.

The net result of the day's deliberations, so far as an agreement that in future no gun of more than 16 inch calibre shall be mounted on a capital ship and none of more than 8 inch calibre on any auxiliary vessel or airplane carrier, along with their demand for increased submarine and auxiliary tonnage, the French delegation presented to the committee in definite form, but with a reservation attached, their acceptance of the capital ship ratio under which France is to have a first-class battleship fleet of 175,000 tons, and the reservation provide that the ten-year naval holiday so as to begin construction of replacement tonnage in 1927, four years before the holiday ends.

Not Dangerous. In most quarters this exception was regarded as likely to endanger in any way the capital ship agreement, but was criticized by Mr. Balfour in the committee session as a serious interference with the holiday plan. The proposal is under consideration by the naval experts of the other powers, and is expected to reach a decision regarding the matter probably will be made in the near future.

Albert Sarraut, head of the French delegation, presented the submarine tonnage estimates of his government to the committee in a speech which he said the figures suggested a minimum required for national defense. He emphasized that highest naval authorities as well as the French public are in definite opinion on the point and indicates that further attempts to secure recessions will be futile.

These estimates, France would have a submarine tonnage of 90,000, as against 30,000 which she now possesses and which it was proposed that she retain unchanged under status quo of the compromise. The United States has only 92,000 and Great Britain 100,000 tons, and each had offered to accept the compromise proposal to reduce tonnage.

All Disappointed. All the powers expressed their disappointment over the French decision, which the Japanese, who had themselves

BICKETT HOME FLOODED WITH MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE AT NEWS OF GOVERNOR'S DEATH

By BROCK BARKLEY. RALEIGH, Dec. 28.—From every section of North Carolina messages today poured into the home of former Governor Bickett, mourning his loss to the state and extending sympathy to his family. In Raleigh the love of the people for him was evidenced by the hundreds of callers at the home and the expressions from state officials, private citizens and public men.

The state Democratic executive committee, meeting tonight, passed resolutions in memory of him and the Rotary club of Raleigh adjourned its noon day meeting in his memory after passing appropriate resolutions. Those sending telegrams of condolence included the state's congressmen and senators and North Carolinians in many parts of the country, in addition to citizens now residing within the state. Many messages were also received from friends in national affairs.

Two of the state's officials, Governor Morrison and State Treasurer B. F. Lacy, received the news of his death while in New York city on business and they promptly telegraphed their expressions of sympathy to Mrs. Bickett. Both were fond friends of the former governor.

J. D. Norwood is Named Chairman of Democratic Executive Committee

By BROCK BARKLEY. RALEIGH, Dec. 28.—J. D. Norwood, Salisbury banker and manufacturer, was elected chairman of the State Democratic executive committee tonight, succeeding Thomas D. Warren, of New Bern, who has held the position for the last eight years.

The committee accepted the resignation of Mr. Warren after adopting resolutions extending the thanks of the committee for his services. Aside from the election of his successor and the election of W. A. Graham, Jr., of Lincoln county, as a member of the committee to succeed the late Edgar Lovv, no business matters of importance were handled by the committee, the session lasting only about 30 minutes.

In a brief address following the tendering of his resignation, Mr. Warren expressed appreciation for the opportunity of serving his party as its leader for eight years.

He declared it no crime to be active in politics and appealed to the young men and women of the state to devote a part of their "time and energy to the unselfish service of the Democratic party. Their reward will be the good that will come to others and the consequences of having contributed something to the public good."

Mr. Warren said in part: "The Democratic and progressive government is worth all that it costs. If this is accomplished it must come through the instrumentality of some political party. The party that deserves to live and to administer the affairs of state and nation is the party that stands for principles and not for privileges, the party that stands for equality of burdens and benefits for the S. R. O. sign was put out. Never has such a gathering of representative farmers been seen in Whiteville at such a meeting.

FARMERS OF COLUMBUS WILL MARKET TOGETHER

(Special to The Star.) WHITEVILLE, Dec. 28.—After Mr. Will Collins of Kentucky had explained the methods used in Kentucky for organizing the co-operative association, growers in Columbus county decided that it was better to be on the inside looking out than to be in the outside looking in, so they met at the county fair to market the marketing of their tobacco in 1922 to the tune of 671,000 pounds. About 700 farmers attended the meeting and crowded in the court room overflowing into the halls until the S. R. O. sign was put out. Never has such a gathering of representative farmers been seen in Whiteville at such a meeting.

Today's sign up makes a total of 671,000 pounds of tobacco and 5,985 bales of cotton signed in Columbus county for co-operative marketing. They issue a challenge to any county in North Carolina to equal this record. Officers for the permanent county association were elected consisting of Messrs. A. R. Waller, president; R. H. Burns, vice-president; C. D. Harrebon, secretary and T. F. Collier as treasurer.

TWO FLYERS KILLED WHEN AIRPLANE FALLS

ARCADIA, Fla., Dec. 28.—Lieutenants Samuel H. Davis and William C. Sinclair were instantly killed and their bodies burned when the airplane in which they were flying crashed five miles from here today. The officers were stationed at Carlstrom field at this place. Lieut. Davis' home address was Augusta, Arkansas, and that of Lieut. Sinclair was Atlanta, Georgia. The machine is said to have gone into a tail spin a few feet from the ground when the officers were descending from a practice flight. Farmers saw the accident and the machine burst into flames and then fell to the ground. Both bodies were badly burned.

CHAIRMAN HULL HOLDS ACTS OF REPUBLICANS UP TO BRIGHT LIGHT

Contrasts G. O. P. Progress With Achievements of Democrats

NOW IS TIME TO TALK PLAINLY, HE ASSERTS

NASHVILLE, Dec. 28.—Declaring that "the time has come when patriotic citizens and Democrats should indulge in plain talking," Judge Cordell Hull, chairman of the Democratic national committee, in his first public address since election to that position, tonight reviewed the Republican administration of national affairs since March, 1921, and contrasted this with the "unparalleled achievement" of the Democrats in the previous eight years.

The address was delivered at a dinner given by the state Democratic executive committee in honor of Chairman Hull and attended by party leaders from every part of the state. It was accepted generally as the opening of the congressional pre-election campaign by the new chairman who went into the public question which he said now faced the government and explained the attitude which his party would take on them.

Further relief for farmers, adequate aid for veterans, reduction of taxes to compensate for the "panic condition" now obtaining, and a remedy for the situation resulting from the flood of tax exempted securities were among the issues outlined by the new chairman for the Democratic party.

"Democrats are the loyal and consistent friends of the ex-service man," he declared. Turning to the farmer's condition, he added that "ever solicitous of his welfare x x x the Democratic party when in power did more to advance the interest of the farmer abroad than has been done in all the previous history of the nation and had planned to do much more, if it had remained in power."

Would Relieve Taxpayers. "The burden of our public debt should be adjusted so as not to be oppressive to the American tax payer laboring under panic conditions. The states, rather than the federal government, should be urged to deal by uniform policy with the growing evil of local tax exempt securities."

The results of the national election, Judge Hull asserted, were secured by "criminal malignity and reckless falsehood" on the part of the Republican leaders.

"It was not so much the Democratic party; it was the American people who suffered the colossal and incalculable losses that resulted from Democratic rule," he declared.

"It is beyond the power of wholesale abuse, falsehood and detraction long to dim the glory of the eight year's unparalleled achievement of the national Democracy. The work of constructing a patriotic state and a republic completed by that party will stand out in clearer perspective during the coming years. The Democratic party emerged from that almost superhuman effort with a flag untrampled, its doctrines sound and pure, with a record of undying fame, and with cheerful hope for the future.

Development of the American people, the chairman said, American foreign commerce "has slumped six billion dollars in the last twelve months" and an "almost vertical slump in prices in America" of from thirty to fifty per cent, and in purchasing power of farm products, of sixty-six per cent, quickly followed.

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Blames Politics. "The disappointed farmer now reads the account of his industrial ruin by the light of his burning corn. Millions of laborers are frequenting the soap-houses, bread lines and the auction block as in the days of chattel slavery. Business has discovered that it was crucified on the cross of politics."

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FORMER GOVERNOR BICKETT IS DEAD



ATTACK ON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS BY NEWSPRINT MANUFACTURER BEFORE SENATE BODY IS RETURNED BY EDITOR

Value of Farm Crops Is Estimated at Far Below Figure for 1920

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The country's important farm crops were valued this year at \$5,675,377,000 based on prices paid to farmers on December 1, the department of agriculture announced today in its final estimates. The same crops, which comprise about 90 per cent of the value of all farm crops, were valued last year at \$9,075,388,000.

The area devoted to important crops this year was 348,338,000 acres, compared with 349,867,000 acres last year. Final estimates of production and value announced included: Corn: Production 3,081,251,000 bushels, value \$1,305,624,000. Winter wheat: 587,032,000 and 558,725,000. Spring wheat: 207,861,000 and 178,343,000. All wheat: 794,893,000 and 737,068,000. Oats: 1,060,737,000 and 921,540,000. Barley: 151,681,000 and 163,788,000. Rye: 57,918,000 and 40,680,000. Buckwheat: 14,078,000 and 11,433,000. Flax seed 8,112,000 and 11,732,000. Cotton: 29,653,000 and 33,189,000. Potatoes: 346,823,000 and 338,512,000. Sweet potatoes: 98,660,000 and 88,910,000. Hay: (tame) 81,567,000 and 989,593,725,000. Hay: (wild) 15,235,000 and 101,083,000. Tobacco: 1,117,632,000 and 207,570,000. Cotton: 8,340,000 and 674,877,000. Cotton seed: 3,704,000 and 1,07,972,000. Beet sugar: 2,024,764,000. Cane sugar: 534,000,000. Peanuts: 816,465,000 and 332,288,000. Beans: 9,118,000 and 24,298,000. Apples: 96,881,000 and 163,215,000. Peaches: 32,739,000 and 352,176,000. Oranges: 30,700,000 and 63,850,000.

SUGAR PRICES SLUMP TO NEW LOW LEVELS

Raw Product Drops Lowest in Fifteen Years

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Raw sugar today plunged to the lowest level in 15 years and within a quarter of the price for Cuban, cost and freight, was 1-2-4 cents a pound.

Refined sugar slumped at 4-90 cents a pound for fine granulated. This was the first time in many years that it sold for less than five cents.

While nearly all farm products since the war have recovered from their low levels, new low prices have been recorded almost daily in the sugar market.

During the war, with sugar under control, there was little variation, but when in 1920 this control was withdrawn, raws sold for more than 23 cents in May and June and granulated passed the 25 cent mark. These prices naturally attracted sugar from all parts of the world, eventually demoralizing the market and leaving Cuba with huge unsold supplies.

Efforts were made to market this sugar in an orderly manner through the Cuban sugar finance commission, but with little success because of big offerings at lower prices from other sources. Therefore the commission is to be dissolved and after January 1 Cuba becomes a free and open market, with private competition which the trade believes may bring still lower quotations.

EX-GOVERNOR BICKETT IS DEAD; STATE MOURNS LOSS OF GREAT LEADER

THOUSANDS CALL AT HOME OF PRESIDENT WILSON TO PAY RESPECT ON BIRTHDAY

(Special to The Star.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Woodrow Wilson had another good day today. Thousands of people paid tribute to him on his 55th birthday. Streams of men and women called at the S. street home and left cards without hope or thought of seeing their hero. They went up to do their bit.

Many signs here indicate that the stricken war president is coming back in the minds of honest, fair Americans. The drift is toward him and those who helped to create sentiment against him for political purposes realize it, and see great danger to their groups and parties. There is no apprehension that Mr. Wilson will ever loom large as a presidential possibility or anything akin to that, but a storm of public sentiment may sweep the republic and the office of business does not improve and the foreign situation clears up.

Premier Lloyd George Says England Has Gone Far Enough With Irish

LONDON, Dec. 28.—(By the Associated Press.)—The government has gone to the utmost limit in the Irish treaty and therefore it is impossible to reopen the discussions, Premier Lloyd George declared in a statement issued here today.

Following is the text of his statement: "The British statesman could go further than we have gone; no British statesman could consider any proposal involving Ireland being out of the empire."

"The treaty places Ireland on an equality with the other states of the empire and gives Ireland the same claim to membership in the league of nations and every right that Canada has in law, fact and constitutional practice; and not merely rejection, but alteration even, of the treaty would render it null and void. This would be a deplorable loss in the interests of both countries."

"The British government have gone to their utmost limit in the treaty and to reopen the discussion, which would mean only a transfer of the responsibility to the British government, would be a fruitless proceeding and impossible."

"A committee consisting of British ministers presided over by the cabinet secretary has been set up to deal with the evacuation of the British forces the settling of all necessary arrangements on the Irish side and transferring full executive responsibility to an Irish Provisional government. The work of this committee, which had been in continuous session up to Christmas last, is now being completed. It is now undoubtedly held up pending approval of the treaty; but on approval it would be carried through with the utmost dispatch."

"It is the intention of the British government to hand over without delay their responsibilities to a provisional government which will function during the period of transition required for setting up the Irish Free States administration."

MISSING MARSHALL'S BODY IS FOUND IN 'GLADES'

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 28.—The body of Adam W. Oberlin, deputy United States marshal for southeastern Florida, who disappeared on December 15, was found in the Everglades 18 miles from here this afternoon by searchers led by two Seminole Indians. A revolver beside the corpse told the story of his death.

Oberlin, in his efforts to cover all trace of his movements, had made his way through swamp and dense brush to a thickly covered little island three miles from the spot where his automobile was found several days after the disappearance. The Indians, who helped in the first search for him, who made their home beside a canal in that section of the Everglades, yesterday in their wanderings chanced upon tracks through the bushes. They made known their finding to Argyle Henry, a hunter and tracker, who informed the sheriff's office. Today with a deputy sheriff they set out to follow the tracks which finally brought them to the corpse.

Members of the family tonight reiterated their belief that worry over financial matters caused Oberlin to take his life.

WILSON PLANTERS TOLD OF MARKETING SYSTEM

(Special to The Star.) WILSON, Dec. 28.—To a mixed assembly of between about 400 planters, tobacco warehousemen and buyers, Dr. Kilgore, head of farm demonstration work in North Carolina, and Larry I. Moore, of New Bern and Dr. Crooker of Statesboro, spoke in the interest of the co-operative plan of marketing, telling the planters that the plan was not a new one that it has been tried out and is working successfully to the interests elsewhere as will soon be worked in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, that in the three states 90 per cent of the farmers have signed up and that in Kentucky all but six of the warehousemen would turn over their property to be used as receiving stations for the association. Details were gone into as to the manner of conducting the warehouses and how the crop will be financed.

KITCHEN IMPROVING. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Representative Stedman received a letter from Representative Kitchin today saying that he was greatly improved and is on the way to complete recovery. There is a feeling here that Mr. Kitchin may be all right again.

'WAR GOVERNOR' DIES IN MANNER HE HOPED FOR; FUNERAL TODAY

Had Confided to Friends He Wanted Short Illness and Peaceful Death

REMAINS UNCONSCIOUS AFTER SEVERE STROKE

Body Will Lie in State Two Hours Today in Draped Capitol

By BROCK BARKLEY. RALEIGH, Dec. 28.—Death claimed Thomas Walter Bickett at 9:15 o'clock this morning. Official North Carolina and all the people of the state are mourning the loss of the war governor, statesman, peace-loving progressive citizen and Christian citizen as the draped capitol, the drawn shades in the public buildings and the flood of telegrams which have poured into Raleigh today attest.

He did not regain consciousness after suffering a stroke of paralysis shortly before 9 o'clock last night. He had frequently confided to friends that he would like to go the way; a short illness and a peaceful passing. He was in his law office yesterday, worked in his garden in the afternoon and prepared a supper for himself and Mrs. Bickett last evening.

His body has been at the home in Hayes Barton today. It will be taken to the capitol in the morning to lie in state from 9 until 11 o'clock. The funeral will be held in Christ Episcopal church at 11:30 and the body will be taken to Louisburg in Franklin county for burial.

His pastor, Rev. Milton A. Barr, will officiate and Bishop Joseph Blount Chesire probably will assist. Mr. Bickett had been a member of Christ church during his residence in Raleigh. The trip to Louisburg will be made in motor cars. That town was his home from 1895 until he came to Raleigh in 1916 to become Governor, and it is the home place of Mrs. Bickett.

State officers had just opened for the day when the former governor died. They were immediately closed and will remain closed through tomorrow. The North Carolina flag on the capitol was draped. The shades in the offices were drawn and the governor's private office, which Mr. Bickett left two weeks less than a year ago, was not entered during the day.

Associated Press bulletins and special dispatches announced his death and from every general section of the state early came the news. From citizens in all walks of life, mourning the loss of the man and offering their sympathies to his widow, Governor Morrison, who is in New York on pressing business of the state, was the first to telegraph his secretary. It was not known here if he could return for the funeral owing to the importance of the business he is transacting. State officers in the city, called at the residence of Mrs. Bickett, several relatives of the former governor, notified of his illness last night were with him when he died. Mr. Bickett, himself ill, watched at his bedside throughout the night. William Hickett, the only son, reached Raleigh this morning from the latter town. He had returned to his work yesterday after spending the Christmas holidays with his parents.

Had Humble Start. Governor Bickett was another of the state's great men who worked their way to the top from an humble beginning. He was born in Monroe, Union county, February 28, 1863, the son of T. W. and Mary Covington Bickett. His father was a physician. He died when young Bickett was 13, paralysis having also caused his death.

He attended the Union county schools and then went to his way through Wake Forest college. In college he distinguished himself by his gift for oratory, a gift for which he was widely noted in the latter years of his life. In fact, Mr. Bickett was considered by many as the best speaker of recent years in North Carolina.

He studied law at the University of North Carolina, but for two years after leaving college he taught school in Winston-Salem. Taking up the law, he went to Stokes county and there opened his first office. When Judge Timmerman then came to Raleigh, he sat on the bench in 1895. Mr. Bickett moved to that town and took over his practice. There he resided until 1916 when he came to Raleigh to enter the governor's office.

Governor Bickett first gained statewide prominence as a speaker and a public man at the famous Democratic convention in Charlotte in 1907 when he nominated for Governor Col. Ashley Horn. His eloquence and his sincerity attracted wide attention and at that early date predictions were made that some day he himself would be governor.

He was elected to the legislature from Franklin county in 1907 and a year later he was elected attorney general. After two terms in that office he offered for the governorship in the 1916 primary defeated Lieut. Governor Daughtridge by 26,000 votes, winning in the regular election over his republican opponent by a 40,000 majority.

Was Fame During War. As the state's war governor, Mr. Bickett won for himself a national reputation as a patriotic citizen and war worker and as a public speaker. He was constantly on the go during the world war and he was ever re-energized by patriotic affairs, taking a leading part in liberty loan drives and war relief campaigns. His administration as governor achieved much in a progressive way. He advocated that Mr. Kitchin may be all right again.