

SINN FEIN LEADERS PREPARING TO AVOID WRECKING OF TREATY

Progress Is Being Made Despite Fact No Compromise Is Reached.

APPROVE DE VALERA'S RATIFICATION VIEWS

Many Now Believe Dail Has No Power to Ratify Peace Pact.

DUBLIN, Dec. 29.—(By Associated Press.)—Although no compromise between the opponents and advocates of the Anglo-Irish treaty in the Dail Eireann has yet been attained, future plans designed to avoid wrecking the agreement are being considered. It is generally held now that Eamon de Valera was right in stating that the Dail has no power to ratify the treaty. The treaty itself prescribes the mode of ratification to be used by the members elected to sit in the house of commons of southern Ireland, which was constituted under the home rule act of 1920, but which actually never met and which, except for the purpose of ratifying the treaty, probably never will meet. Its membership is nearly, but not quite, the same as that of the Dail. The Dail includes some members from northern Ireland and excludes four elected to the southern parliament from Trinity college. The idea is that after the Dail approves of the treaty, which it is expected to do by a comparatively small majority, the ratifying body named in the treaty shall be summoned. The Dail members who are dissatisfied with the treaty need not attend this gathering. It is pointed out, thus their colleagues, plus the Trinity members, might ratify the document unanimously. The Dail would still function as Ireland's only recognized elected parliamentary assembly. A provisional government would be formed under the treaty, and the Dail Eireann could act as a check on its functions. It will take many months for the new Irish constitution to be put into working order; in the meantime it is hoped the differences between the Sinn Fein leaders might be adjusted. There is, however, a possibility that Mr. de Valera, Austin Stack, Charles Burgess and other children may see de Valera has said, regard the new provisional government as an usurpation and campaign against it. Some of Mr. de Valera's most influential and valued friends outside the Dail have seen him and urged the desirability of accepting the treaty. They are said to have come away convinced that on the whole, the treaty is an entirely uncompromising and will fight the matter out, whatever the consequences.

FAIL TO ROB BANK BUT MURDER TWO MEN

Third Wounded When Robbers Swoop Down on Town.

PEARL RIVER, N. Y., Dec. 29.—(By Associated Press.)—Four armed bandits today swooped down on Pearl River, failed in an attempt to rob the First National bank and fled in their auto-motors after slaying two men and probably mortally wounding another. One robber, wounded by one of the victims, left a slight trail of blood in the snow, but this was lost when he was shot by the police. The other three fled in their car, which was being driven by a man in a private machine, and the police were scouring the countryside. Just what occurred was told the district attorney by a man who was the driver of the car in which the robbers were. He said that the robbers were in the bank at the time—Selgriff Butz, a clerk, who, with Moore, was slain. Attracted to the bank by the prospect of obtaining \$7,000 from the Dexter Folder company plant across the street the robbers, without any preliminaries, began shooting. Butz was the first to fall. When Moore and Miller appeared from the inner office, the rain of bullets continued, with Moore returning the fire and wounding one of the bandits. The shooting was heard by girls in a hospital nearby. It was believed that the sufficing of their feet caused the bandits to flee through the window. Investigation showed the robbers had taken to the factory before their arrival and the inner doors to the vaults were locked.

ROME IS STIRRED BY CLOSING OF BIG BANK

ROME, Dec. 29.—(By Associated Press.)—The closing of the doors of Banca Italiana Di Sconto today created considerable excitement in the financial circles. The suspension of payments followed an issuance by the government of a modified moratorium permitting the withholding of payments by certain corporations. The bank is one of the largest in Italy. It includes in its holdings shares in the Ansaldo and Iva groups, which are among the great Italian industrial concerns. The suspension of payments did not cause any runs on other institutions, the depositors of which remained calm. The Stefani agency says that the Italian government has taken steps to guarantee the creditors of the bank and to eventually to place the bank in a more favorable position. There were no efforts made until the evening hour to save the institution from closing its doors by a consortium of other banks. The sum required was two hundred million lire, but all the banks did not respond for aid and the Banca Italiana Di Sconto closed its doors.

FUNERAL OF EX-GOVERNOR BICKETT IS ATTENDED BY THOUSANDS; BODY IS VIEWED BY THROUGHS AT CAPITOL

By BROCK BARKLEY. RALEIGH, Dec. 29.—North Carolina paid sorrowful tribute today to the mortal remains of former Governor Bickett and tonight his body rests in the family burying plot in the town of Louisburg. For two hours this morning his body lay in state in the rotunda of the capitol and a continuous stream of people filed past the flower-banked bier. Brief and simple funeral services were conducted in Christ church at 1:30 o'clock and at noon the funeral party left for Louisburg and the burial took place two hours later. The flags on the public buildings remained at half mast through the day and state offices were not opened. People spoke in hushed tones of the death of the man, and a silent crowd hung about the capitol until long after noon. Men and women in all stations of life filled the main auditorium and galleries of Christ church for the funeral. A gallery, reserved for negroes by request of Mrs. Bickett, was crowded. Many were unable to enter and throngs stood about the building as the services went on within. Hundreds went from here to Louisburg for the burial, there to join old friends and neighbors of Governor Bickett, who with tear dimmed eyes took part in a last look into the face of a man loved by the people. A mass of flowers, most of them sent to Louisburg ahead of the funeral procession, completely hid the place into which the body was lowered. The bier was removed from the home in Hayes Barton and placed in the center of the draped rotunda. From then until 11 o'clock, when it was taken to Christ church, an endless stream of people passed through from the east to the west doors for a last look into the face of a man loved by the people. There was a white rose and a little bunch of violets in the lapel of his coat. The violets came from Mrs. Bickett's flower garden. By his side,

PLEAS FOR AND AGAINST TARIFF ON CRUDE OIL MADE; CONTRACT GIVING GERMANY POTASH TRADE REVIEWED

American Producers in Mexico Oppose Making Levy on Oils. Contract Provides for Buying Greater Part of Potash in Germany.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Varying duties on crude oil were proposed before the senate finance committee today by spokesmen for mid-continent producers and all duties were opposed by American producers operating in Mexico and representatives of various classes of oil consumers in this country. Renewing the fight for a tariff levy which was lost in the house by an overwhelming vote, Senator Harrell, Republican, Oklahoma, said he was satisfied with the original rates proposed by the ways and means committee, 35 cents a barrel on crude and 25 cents on refined. Senator Curtis, of Kansas, Republican, said he was in financial committee, has introduced an amendment to the tariff bill proposing these duties. A duty of \$1 a barrel was urged by Harry H. Smoot, of Utah, secretary of the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas association, who said this would equalize the difference in the cost of production in Mexico and in the mid-continent field. W. W. Crenshaw, representing the National Association of Independent Oil Producers, suggested no specific rates, but urged that the president be empowered to assess a duty equivalent to the cost of the import and export levies imposed by Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela, from which the chief American imports come. Smoot then urged the domestic producers said, and some members of the committee agreed, that the mid-continent industry was in bad condition at this time. Mr. Smith said that 200,000 barrels would not continue in operation at present prices and that a tariff ought to be enacted both as a protection and a conservation measure. Opponents of a duty on oil said a tariff protection was unnecessary and would serve only to increase the price to all consumers. They laid particular stress upon what they said would be the effect on the farmers, the merchant marine, the navy, the coal mines, the manufactured gas, railroads and industries using oil for fuel and upon the users of automobiles, trucks and tractors. It was argued by the opponents that higher priced oil would increase the cost of and retard road building and building operations over the country and that since the government aided in constructing the roads it was attempted to pay the cost. This also was true, they said, with respect to oil used by the navy. READY TO COLLECT FINE FROM HAYWOOD CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Plans to collect the \$10,000 fine imposed on William D. (Big Bill) Haywood, convicted with several scores of others during the world wide espionage act during the world war, will be begun at once, according to an announcement of District Attorney Charles E. Clyne today. Haywood was sentenced to prison and upon a promise to appear at the Fort Leavenworth penitentiary. Haywood failed to appear and it was later discovered that he had gone to Russia. Collection of the fine will be attempted by the husband of Haywood's wife, who died recently, which left him her entire estate valued at \$60,000. Joseph Merensky, assistant district attorney, will go to Salt Lake City immediately, where the district attorney said, to start action. TO RESTORE BANK LONDON, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Rome to the Central News says a syndicate of banks there has collected \$30,000,000 lire to restore the Banca Italiana Di Sconto. The dispatch adds that El Epoca announces that an agreement has been reached with the current creditors of the bank.

NEW BERN TAKEN BY SHRINER THROUGHS IN ANNUAL CEREMONIAL LIVES OF EMPLOYEES

John H. Anderson of Fayetteville is Elevated to Office of Potentate.

WILMINGTON MEMBERS ARE GIVEN OFFICE

(Special to The Star.) NEW BERN, Dec. 29.—This city has today been in the hands of seven hundred Shriner, coming from every section of the state for the observance of the annual winter ceremonial and business meeting. Last afternoon and night and this morning wearers of the Fox were pouring into New Bern by rail and motor, and all through the streets have been dotted with masses of color of the uniformed nobles. The business session, which opened at 10:30 in the Masonic theatre, was marked especially by the elevation of officers. John H. Anderson, of Fayetteville, was elevated to the high office of potentate, succeeding William R. Smith, of Raleigh. The other elected officers of the Divan were Raymond C. Dunn, of Enfield, chief scribe; F. L. Lassiter, of Rocky Mount, assistant scribe; F. N. Bridgers, of Wilson, high priest and prophet; C. D. Bradham, of New Bern, oriental guide; W. W. Griffin, of New Bern, treasurer; and J. E. Rhem, of New Bern, recorder. Appointed officers for the year were announced tonight by Potentate Anderson as follows: F. D. Dean, orator; L. C. Robertson, Jr., of Wilmington, first secretary; E. W. Ayers, of Washington, second secretary; F. B. Crawford, of Goldsboro, marshal; H. S. Storr, of Raleigh, captain of guard; and J. B. Griggs, of Elizabeth City, grand scribe. In the business session, in which the matter of candidates' fee and the widows' fund and other matters of importance were disposed of, the temple voted to accept the Kingston Shrine club's invitation to host the spring ceremonial in that city. Washington made a strong bid for this event. Have Big Luncheon At 1 o'clock the meeting adjourned to the Dill warehouse for luncheon. An oyster roast and barbecue was served in the Eastern Star, directed by Worthy Matron Mrs. C. Whit Gaskins. The big warehouse was filled almost to capacity. In the afternoon the heavy work of the day was taken up. Seventy-five candidates furnished a generous amount of material for the ceremonial, which was put on in the temple warehouse. Members of the patrol stated tonight that the work was carried out in the best form of any ceremonial yet held here. At 6 o'clock the annual banquet was served in the Eastern Star chapter was again in charge and a well arranged supper of turkey and accessories was served to more than a thousand Shriner. A beautifully appointed home was prettily decorated for the occasion, the entire first floor had been thrown together to accommodate the throng. Bamboo, moss and other evergreen, Narcissus, American Beauty roses, carnations and other cut flowers were used profusely to give the handsome parlors their prettiest appearance. A distinct feature of the banquet was the program rendered by the music department of the Women's club. Solos and ensemble numbers were given under the direction of Mrs. Harry Barlow, chairman of the department, were thoroughly enjoyed. At 9 o'clock tonight the Arab patrol gave its regular exhibition drill at the banner warehouse and this was followed by the big social event of the day, the annual Shrine ball. The banner warehouse was transformed by elaborate decorations. Music for this affair was furnished by the O'Henry orchestra of Greensboro, and was attended by over 400 couples. It was the most elaborate ball Shriner have yet held here.

COUNTRY WILL INSURE LIVES OF EMPLOYEES

Number Likely to Follow Suit When Delaware and Hudson Acts.

COMPANY WILL PAY INSURANCE CHARGES

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—(By Associated Press.)—Many railroads of the country soon may insure their employees, it was indicated tonight after the Delaware and Hudson company announced it had taken out group life and permanent disability insurance for everyone who has been on its payrolls six months or more. Large insurance underwriters said that other railroads were negotiating for similar protection for their employees. Each Delaware and Hudson employee of two years' standing was insured for \$500 and those in the service six months but less than two years for \$250, the company to pay the entire cost, and the men to select their own policies. At death the insurance will be paid in a lump sum, and to permanently or totally disabled workers, in monthly payments. In addition the company said it had arranged for the workers to take out "at exceedingly low rates" insurance against accidents not covered by the workmen's compensation laws, also unemployment. No medical examination is to be required. Employees leaving the service for any reason can exchange their certificate for medical examination for policies of the same amounts, paying the regular rates for their ages at the time of substitution. Groups of employees, consisting of not less than three fourths of those in any one class, who desire insurance above \$500, must apply for it before March 31 next. For each additional \$1,000 the insured employee must pay fifty cents a month, the company the premium in excess of this amount. Sickness insurance and accident insurance are to be borne entirely by the employer, but the cost of the insurance to be paid beneficiaries for six months at \$15 a week, the sickness premium being \$126 a month and accident insurance at 24 cents a month. "The company," said the announcement, "will undertake directly to insure employees against unemployment by making contributions toward the cost of provident payments of \$15 a week for six weeks, or for so much of that time as a discharged employee may be unable to find employment, conditioned upon each employee having subscribed and contributed toward the cost of at least two or three forms of insurance provided under the group plan. "This provision for unemployment insurance is prompted by the desire of the company to provide continuing employment under conditions as favorable as possible to promote greater ease in conditions of employment by freeing the employee from anxiety, and to secure and maintain the most profitable and successful operation of the property which is obtainable only through interested co-operation."

NEW BREAK ON U-BOAT WARFARE LIMITATIONS HALTS A MOMENT TALK

Japan Wants U. S. and England to Mediate in Shantung Controversy

See No Other Way Out of Dispute; Japs Say They Have Reached Limit.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(By Associated Press.)—Mediation by Secretary Hughes and Arthur J. Balfour was suggested today as the only feasible way out of the Shantung question which has entered the stage of deadlock through the intimation of Japanese representatives that Japan has gone as far as she can in the way of concessions. The direct conversations between the Chinese and Japanese delegates were broken off because all efforts to agree on the major point—the manner of restoration of the Shantung railway—had proved futile. Apparently neither party sees its way clear to ask for a resumption of the suspended conversations, while both are putting forth the "strength of public opinion in their homelands" as legitimate justification for the impossibility of further compromise. Under these circumstances it was suggested today by persons connected with the negotiations that the only hope of a speedy solution of the Shantung problem lay in the friendly offices of neutral states whereby a modus vivendi of a nature to safeguard the prestige of both China and Japan could be worked out. AUTHORITIES GUARDING SUSPECTED "RUM SHIP" Investigate Activities of British Schooner. BOSTON, Dec. 29.—Customs officers tonight were standing over the British two masted schooner Golden West, alleged rum runner, seized by the coast guard cutter Acushnet, in Massachusetts bay and towed into harbor here early today. Officers were investigating the recent activities of the vessel, claimed by her skipper, Dennis Amoro of Tusket Wedge, N. S., to be a legitimate trader. The skipper of this schooner will be presented tomorrow to the United States district attorney in Boston, who will decide whether the schooner to be held or released. Captain Amoro has retained counsel. Explaining his presence close to shore and at anchor, when found by the Acushnet, he declared he had been having trouble with his sails. The manifest said the vessel was bound from St. Pierre, Miquelon, to Nassau, B. W. I. The captain of the Golden West revealed a number of steel drums, believed by the customs men to contain alcohol. Federal authorities had been informed that the schooner left St. Pierre with 15,000 gallons of alcohol. The present cargo is estimated at 8,000 gallons. According to Wilfred F. Lusk, collector of the port, the Golden West, formerly a Nova Scotia fishing schooner, was purchased in Halifax recently by a former Boston bar tender. The owner of the Golden West, customs men have other schooners engaged in traffic out of St. Pierre and move watched closely. PREDICTING CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THREE OFFICERS Political Talk Already Begun in State Capital. By BROCK BARKLEY. RALEIGH, Dec. 29.—Campaign against three veteran state officers of North Carolina in the next regular election is forecast here as the result of informal talks tonight at a gathering of political leaders for the State Democratic executive committee meeting that Alfred McLean, private secretary to Senator Overman, will be a candidate to succeed Secretary of State J. Bryan Grimes three years hence. Those forecasting the campaign put Mr. McLean down as the candidate against Mr. Grimes; State Senator J. D. Brown, of Burgaw, as a candidate opposing Commissioner of Agriculture W. A. Graham, and G. P. Woods, Elizabeth City, banker, as the opponent of State Treasurer B. R. Lacy. It is regarded as certain that Mr. McLean will enter the race against Col. Grimes. He has been in the city for the executive committee meeting and to attend the funeral of Governor Bickett. While not formally announcing his candidacy, Mr. McLean has admitted to friends that unless unforeseen developments occur he will come out at the proper time. State Senator Brown was pledged the support of numerous members of the House and Senate during the special session of the legislature. He is a practical "dirt farmer." The extent of Mr. Wood's consideration of coming out against Mr. Lacy is not known here. TOOK OWN LIFE WITH BULLET THROUGH MOUTH MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 29.—An autopsy on the body of Adam W. Oberlin, deputy United States marshal, who disappeared November 15 and whose corpse was found in the Everglades, 20 miles from here yesterday, developed the fact that Oberlin had shot himself through the mouth. The bullet fractured the skull and lodged inside. The fractured skull and the failure to find a bullet hole that would indicate he had taken his own life gave rise on first examination to the belief that he might have been murdered. A coroner's jury, after viewing the body at the spot where it was found, adjourned until Saturday afternoon. Funeral arrangements had not been completed tonight.

DELEGATES DIFFER ON WORDING RESOLUTION RESTRICTING SEA WAR

Session Adjourns and Subject is Laid Aside For Later Talk.

AIRCRAFT COMMITTEE ABANDONS EFFORTS

Japs Want U. S. and Great Britain to Mediate in Shantung Row.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(By the Associated Press.)—The arms conference naval committee spent all of today debating proposals to restrict submarine warfare against merchant craft but got no further than a general understanding to reaffirm existing principles of international law, and declare strict application of these principles in future to submarine operations. A dispute over phrasing blocked formal adoption of an advisory resolution, and the subject was laid aside for consideration by a special substitute committee on drafting. The naval committee itself then began what promises to be a prolonged debate over the American proposal to prohibit use of submarines against merchant vessels altogether. Aircraft committee to abandon any effort to limit the airplane strength of the powers and to recommend instead that an attempt be made to agree on restrictions that would conform to the humane character of the war. Even such regulations, however, were said to be considered as difficult of formulation. All the other naval and far eastern discussions before the conference remained at a standstill during the day except for an intimation from the Japanese that only Great Britain and the United States and Great Britain could save the Shantung negotiations from final deadlock. It was declared both for the Japanese and Chinese that their governments had been unable to reach a compromise and hope of a settlement was seen only in the possibility that some new element could be injected into the conversations. There were indications that the naval experts of the various powers were far from an agreement on the proposal that would limit submarine warfare, and all the foreign delegations were waiting on further instructions from the American proposal to establish 10,000 tons as the maximum size for any auxiliary warship. There also was a halt on remaining details of the capital ship agreement itself, a proposed meeting of experts to work out a replacement scheme being postponed until later in the week. Practically Settled. So far as the capital ship question is concerned, all the delegations appear to regard it as settled, although several details remain to be discussed and no draft of a treaty embodying the agreement has been prepared. France has accepted, subject to a reservation which she has not yet fully explained, so that once an able discussion may take place before the conference is ready for final approval. In regard to the other conference problem generally considered, the new four power pacific treaty discussion and the revived cause of the suggestion that some action be taken to clarify the meaning of the agreement in its relation to the many islands of the Japanese empire. Baron Goto, secretary of the Japanese delegation, after discussion of the subject with Secretary Hughes, took the Japanese request to Arthur J. Balfour, secretary of the British, and it clarification scheme might be brought forward formally in the near future. In view of the difference of opinion on the treaty, the American delegates to the Japanese think there at least should be an exchange of formal notes, the meaning of the pact being set forth. They are said to have brought the main Japanese group of islands that included under the treaty, but on the other hand the British desire that Australia and New Zealand shall be within its scope. Although the senate is not in session, echoes of the proposed fight on ratification to reach the power agreement formal statement today, Senator King, and set forth a summary of what he called the "monumental failures" of the Washington negotiations. The ratification fight also was discussed by the day between Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho, a leader of the anti-treaty forces, and Joseph P. Tumulty, former secretary of the senate, who in a conference which attracted wide attention and gave impetus to speculation as to what attitude may be taken by the former president. Wilson's View. Thus far no intimation of Mr. Wilson's opinion of the treaty or other conference issues has figured in conference circles. It is known, however, that he has taken a keen interest in all that has transpired, and some of his friends are said to believe that he may in some way make his position known before very long. Neither Senator Borah nor Mr. Tumulty would say whether the former president's purposes were discussed in their talk today. The debate over submarine regulations today centered about the resolutions presented yesterday by Elihu Root, of the American delegation. General approval of the first of these resolutions, expressing adherence to the principles of search and seizure as proposed, issued at an early date. (Continued on Page Four.)

At Last--The Whole Truth!

Ever since the days of the peace conference in Paris, America has wanted to know just what happened at the secret sessions of the peace delegates. Woodrow Wilson, the only man in America who could tell what took place, has declined to speak. But he has appointed Ray Stannard Baker, writer of note, to tell the story for him. Mr. Baker has been given access to Mr. Wilson's private steel boxes and trunks holding the former president's notes and papers dealing with the conference, and has written a series of articles divulging the truth of the Paris conference—the part Woodrow Wilson played. This series will be published in the Wilmington Morning Star weekly, beginning Sunday morning. In speaking of his series of articles, Mr. Baker says: At the present Washington conference, France is standing for exactly the same things she stood for at Paris; for she is France; and her position is inexorably dictated by her national fears and interests. So it is with Great Britain, and Japan, and Italy. So it is with America. But at Washington thus far we have been getting an oratorical expression of national points of view, while at Paris, now that we can look into the secret chambers and read the secret minutes, we have the real heart-to-heart purposes disclosed. We have the old secret treaties frankly discussed—and two of my articles set forth for the first time exactly and completely these masterpieces of the old diplomacy actually were—we know literally, in terms, what France demanded, what Italy and Japan demanded. We know, in their own language, what Wilson, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Sonnino, actually said and what they did. Sometimes they fought with all guards down, with each side hitting to hurt. And, above all, for the first time we shall be able to visualize fully the most discussed, most hated, most praised man in the world—and the most inarticulate when it comes to presenting his own case—Woodrow Wilson.