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REPUBLICAN DEATH BLOW. Mountain Republican Writes President Harding that Johnson Kills Party in the South.

The nomination of Henry Lincoln Johnson for recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia has not yet been considered by the House of Representatives. The Lexington Dispatch, but it is expected to be taken up soon, when a fight is expected on the part of the Democrats to prevent his confirmation.

J. E. Bursleson, a prominent Republican of Spruce Pine, Mitchell county, North Carolina, has written an open letter to President Harding, not only protesting the nomination of Henry Lincoln Johnson as recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. You have killed the republican party in the south by this one move. Last November, if Henry Lincoln Johnson had not been a national committeeman from Georgia, you would have received 100,000 more votes in the south, and would have carried the state of Georgia and probably North Carolina. I have been a lifelong republican.

"In 1874 I cast my first republican vote, and I have voted the straight republican ticket ever since. Had it not been for the negro in politics, North Carolina would have been a republican state years ago, and no doubt several other southern states. I have been mining in the state of Georgia for the past three years and have become acquainted with a great many prominent people there—lawyers and business men—and in conversation with these men they have expressed their feelings and sympathy as being with the republican party, and both lawyers and business men have stated to me that they would join the republican party if it was not for having to humiliate themselves by equalizing themselves with the negro in conventions and all political gatherings. Several prominent newspaper men have made this same statement to me.

"Now, Mr. President, suppose you had daughters working in the recorder's office, how would you like for your daughters to be bossed by a colored man? I know if I had a daughter working there I would order her home when the negro came into the office, and any other man with the right thought would do the same. I am in favor of the negro being treated right, but the more you try to ally the two races politically, the more crime and lynchings occur all over the country, and it is best for the negro to remain in his place. If he is given an office let him be sent to represent this country where no white people come under his control.

If the election was coming off next November, after this appointment you have made, your vote would be at least 200,000 less in the south, and if you had not done this, at the next election we would have carried several southern states." So if the senate confirms Henry Lincoln Johnson the republican party of the south is doomed for all time to come.

Sugar Plant Destroyed.

Beaumont, Texas.—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Morshan sugar factory near New Iberia, La. About one million pounds of sugar was burned, with an estimated loss of \$800,000, the report said.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Harding's Plan for Armament Reduction Conference Is Well Received.

INVITED NATIONS ACCEPT

Pacific and Far East Problems Also Will Be Discussed—Irish Peace Meetings Begin—President Asks Senate to Defer Soldier Bonus Bill.

By ET WARD W. PICKARD.

The United States last week resumed its leadership of international affairs, and President Harding's world policy unfolded in a way that leads his warm supporters to believe his plans for an association of nations to preserve the peace of the world are on the eve of fulfillment. This comes about through the President's invitation to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan to send representatives to a disarmament reduction conference in Washington, and his suggestion that the meeting, if held, also undertake a settlement of the Pacific and Far Eastern problems, China being asked to participate in that part of the conference.

Of course, the invitation was informal in nature, but the nations named have received it with acclaim, and all have signified their willingness to accept the formal invitation when it is issued, so it may be considered certain that the conference will be held, probably in the coming autumn or possibly early next year. All the world is evincing intense interest in the plan, and certain of the lesser powers are eager to take part in the great conference. That the discussion will not be limited to the subjects mentioned is almost beyond doubt, and there is reason to believe that the association of nations with which President Harding hopes to supplant the League of Nations will be born at the Washington conference.

Not only did the President forestall the action of congress, which was passing finally on the naval bill containing the Borah amendment asking the President to negotiate a naval holiday with Great Britain and Japan; he also went further than Borah and his followers desired and broadened the proposition to include land armaments. It was feared by many that Italy, and especially France, would refuse to reduce their military strength. France feels that she must be guaranteed against another attack by Germany, and Italy's main strength is her army. Borah and others thought the inclusion of land armaments might defeat the whole plan, but the administration thinks their fears are groundless and that an agreement for naval reduction may be reached if the question of reducing armies is found embarrassing. Indeed, the governments of France and Italy were as prompt as that of Great Britain to accept Mr. Harding's invitation. China's approval of the plan came next, and Japan, after carefully considering the Far Eastern phase of the matter, instructed its embassy at Washington to accept, so far as armament reduction is concerned.

Before President Harding issued the informal invitations, the leading statesmen of Great Britain were consulted by Ambassador Harvey and also by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, who was reported to be unofficially assisting Mr. Harvey in the matter. It is said they informed Washington of the psychological moment for taking action. Then Doctor Butler went to Paris and talked with French leaders, and told correspondents that President Millerand was highly enthusiastic over the American plan. "French and British statesmen agree with me that President Harding's proposal marks a turning point in the history of the world," said Doctor Butler.

Premier Lloyd George's announcement of the project to the house of commons and of the government's approval of it was greeted with prolonged cheering. A few days later there was talk in London of a separate conference there on Pacific matters before the Washington meeting, because the premiers of Australia and New Zealand said it would be impossible for them to go home and return to America almost immediately. When this suggestion reached Washington the administration let it be known that efforts to divert any part of the proposed conference from the American capital would not be acceptable.

It was said Lloyd George and Lord Curzon, foreign minister, would come as the representatives of Great Britain, and this stirred up an amusing row over there. The Times declared editorially that neither of those men

is fitted "by his position, his temperament, and his past career to take a direct part in these negotiations.

The premier retorted with an order that representatives of the Times, the Daily Mail and the Evening News, all controlled by Lord Northcliffe, should be denied access to information given out to the press generally at the foreign office and by the prime minister's secretaries at 10 Downing street. How Lloyd George can justify such a blow at the liberty and independence of the press remains to be seen. Perhaps he will not try to do so.

It is interesting to note that a committee of the League of Nations met in Luxembourg on Saturday, under the presidency of M. Viviani, to consider disarmament. Officials of the league at Geneva assert the league is not yet considering abandoning its disarmament plans because of the action of the United States. It will be still more interesting to see what will happen if both the league and the Washington conference adopt different disarmament projects.

While the great powers are thus moving toward peace for the world, England and Ireland are moving toward peace for the British Isles. Eamon De Valera and other Irish leaders journeyed to London, and there the "President" and Premier Lloyd George on Thursday held a private preliminary conference to prepare the way for further discussions. The good intentions of both sides to put an end to the age-long discord were made evident, and there was a general feeling of hopeful optimism. "I am sure the atmosphere in England and Ireland is right for peace," said Mr. De Valera. "The only thing that is necessary now is for us to get down to rock bottom. This is simply a private conference with Mr. Lloyd George, instead of a long-range bombardment, to see what can be done at close quarters."

Sir James Craig, premier of Ulster, also went to London to act as spokesman for the northern Irish in case he is called upon. However, he has been bitterly opposed to any parleys between the British government and Sinn Fein. In Ulster alone the truce agreed upon has not taken effect. There has been a lot of fighting in Belfast and a number of persons have been killed since the rest of the island abandoned hostilities.

Only 12 members of the southern Irish parliament attended its session Wednesday in Dublin, and the lower house adjourned "until his majesty shall be pleased to declare his gracious will." Under the home rule act the parliament might now be dissolved and a crown colony government set up, but the British government will take no such step until the result of the peace negotiations is seen.

The god of war is devoting his attention these days mainly to Asia Minor, where the Greek offensive against the Turk nationalists is fairly getting under way. The wings of the Greek army advanced respectively from the Bursa sector on the north and the Ushak sector on the south. The movement converged on Kutah, on the main line of the Bagdad railway, and at last accounts the two forces were engaged in a desperate battle for possession of that town and the mountain heights nearby. The Greeks are using bombing planes with effect. Kemal Pasha, leader of the Turk nationalists, went to the front from Ancora. He has warned the allied high commission at Constantinople that if there should be any evidence that the Greeks are making use of that city or of other points in the neutral zone in their operations, the nationalists will be obliged to avail themselves of the same privilege. Kemal told an American correspondent the nationalists would welcome arbitration by Secretary of State Hughes or some other American.

There was a report that White Russian volunteers, well armed, were restoring the old Polish-German battle lines and that the Polish irregulars under General Zeligowski were attacking them with armored automobiles. In the Vilna district, it was said, the entire peasant population was in revolt against Zeligowski's rule, and was making successful attacks on his forces.

Backing up the statements of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, President Harding went before the senate and urged that action on the soldier bonus bill be deferred indefinitely. The reasons given by both the President and the secretary were purely financial, and both of them declared in effect that if the bill were passed the financial stability of the country would be imperiled.

"I know the feelings of my own breast and that of yours and the grateful people of this republic," the President said. "But no thoughtful person possessed with all the facts, is ready for added compensation for the healthy, self-reliant masses of our great armies at the cost of a treasury breakdown, which will bring its

hardships to all the citizens of the republic."

At the same time the President declared himself most emphatically in favor of the fullest measure of relief to the disabled veterans of the World War. He asked that the bonus bill be recommitted to the finance committee, and suggested that congress concentrate on tax and tariff revision especially the former. He told the senate that "there is confessed disappointment that so little progress has been made in the readjustment and reduction of the war-time taxes."

The Democratic senators began a fierce fight against the motion to recommit the bonus bill, Senator Robinson of Arkansas assuming the leadership because Senator Underwood is opposed to the bonus. However, it was taken for granted that the motion would prevail.

The Sweet bill, providing for adequate relief for disabled veterans and for the consolidation of relief agencies was favorably reported by the subcommittee to the senate finance committee, but its progress was halted again when the senators heard Mr. Smoot's prediction, based on official estimates, that the probable increase of expenditure to carry out the provisions of the measure would be close to \$500,000,000 annually.

Though the French declare the Leipzig trials of alleged war criminals are farcical, and have withdrawn from the commissions watching the proceedings, the trials are going on, and last week there was revived interest because two German lieutenants were arraigned charged with submarine frightfulness. They commanded the U-boat that sank the British hospital ship *Landover* Castle, and are accused of attempting to murder the entire personnel of the vessel, including the wounded and the Red Cross nurses, after they realized their mistake in sinking the ship. The defendants refused to testify, but members of the crew told how it was decided to hide all traces of the crime and how the overcrowded lifeboats were shelled and sunk. The court then surprised the allied watchers by calling a dozen Germans who testified to alleged British atrocities at sea, and made the charge that the steamship *Baralong* flew the American flag when it sank the German submarine U-31. Some of them swore the British used lifeboats as decoys and carried troops and munitions aboard hospital ships. All of this was intended to justify the acts of the submarine commanders.

HARDING MAY HAVE TO FORCE ACTION

BRAKES MUST BE APPLIED TO CONSERVE MONEY, BUDGET COMMISSION SAVED.

NO SIDETRACK FOR SENATE

President Finds Himself in Awkward Situation of Again Pointing Out to Congress Former Advice.

Washington.—President Harding may have to take another trip to the capitol or in some other way apply the brakes to the tendency of Congress to appropriate for new purposes all the money that has been saved.

The Senate is in a snarl again. Although Mr. Harding pleaded with his former colleagues to sidetrack not only the bonus but other legislation excepting the tariff and taxation, the bill providing \$1,000,000 to finance farm exports now is up for consideration. It means, if passed, a spending of exactly the amount which C. G. Dawes, director of the budget announces has been saved. In other words, just as fast as a saving is accomplished at one end of the national capital, means of spending an equivalent amount are found at the other end. And on top of it all the new shipping board finds it necessary to ask for \$300,000,000 to salvage the wreck on its hands. Thus the President finds himself in an awkward situation of appealing to Congress directly or indirectly to concentrate on the tax program and let alone other matters.

To Sell Club House.
New York.—The National Democratic club authorized its ways and means committee to sell its Fifth avenue club house, bought for \$175,000 about 25 years ago and for which \$1,000 has been refunded.

Further Credit for Farmers.
Washington.—Further credit for the purpose of harvesting and marketing the coming cotton crop will be extended in whatever amount may legitimately be required, it was announced by the federal reserve board.

HAS NO INTENTION TO IGNORE LEAGUE

INVITATION FROM THAT BODY RELATING TO WORLD COURT DULY ACKNOWLEDGED.

OFFSETTING PUBLIC STORIES

Secretary Hughes Powerless to Deal With League Because of Position of President and Senate.

Washington.—The United States government is not intentionally ignoring communications from the league of nations and has not failed to note the invitation to this government to become a member of the world court of international justice, created by the league.

This attitude was made known at the department of state, to offset the public stories giving the impression that the United States was somehow offending the league of nations by refusing to deal with its letters and communications. In the first place, the permanent secretary of the league has been sending out printed circulars to various governments of the world and it was but natural that one of the government bureaus filed the circulars without regarding them in the same light as formal communications.

But what the secretary of the league of nations hasn't evidently taken into consideration is that while all communications are duly received and filed Secretary Hughes is powerless to deal with the league because of the expressed desire of the President of the United States that America stay out of the league and the evident concurrence of the senate in that viewpoint.

Central American Assembly.
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.—The Central American constituent assembly, the legislative body of the recently formed federation of Central American republics, convened here. Representatives of Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala were in attendance.

Student Training at Jackson.
Columbia, S. C.—Eleven hundred high school young men of the South, all between 16 and 21 years of age, are camped at Camp Jackson, near Columbia, in the second annual civilian training camp for the South since the world war.

Nationalists Pursued.
London.—With the important railway junction point of Eskid-Shehr in their hands, the Greeks are conducting a rapid pursuit of the Turkish Nationalists, dislodged from that city, and other points.

Convention Gazetted.
Madrid.—A convention between Spain and the United States for the exchange of postal parcels was gazetted. The convention was the result of negotiations carried on during the course of last year's postal congress.

Hard on Newspaper Readers.
Rio Janeiro.—Work in newspaper offices in Rio Janeiro between the hours of 8 o'clock Sunday morning and 8 o'clock Monday morning is prohibited under the provisions of an act passed by the municipal council.

Packing Concern Big Loser.
Austin, Minn.—The actual shortage in the accounts of R. J. (Cy) Thomson, former comptroller of George A. Hormel & Co., local packers, is \$1,189,000, according to official figures.

Floating Bar-room Reported.
Washington.—Investigation of the reported operation of a floating bar off Long Island, outside the three-mile limit, was ordered by Prohibition Commissioner Haynes.

Form German Consortium.
Paris.—The Intransigent is authority for a report that a German consortium has been formed under the auspices of the Dresdner Bank and will be installed shortly in Paris.

No Tax on Long Staple Cotton.
Washington.—Compensatory duties on textile manufactured from long staple cotton were denied by the House in line with its action recently in refusing compensatory duties on leather products.

Mexican Oil Fields Burning.
Mexico City.—The Amatlan oil fields are on fire, with drilling towers falling off like chaff and workmen fleeing, according to reports received here describing the "greatest catastrophe in the history of the oil fields."

SHIP SUBSIDY IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE

HARDING AND ADVISORS HAVE NOT YET FORMULATED A MARINE PROGRAM.

WAR HAS WROUGHT CHANGES

Former Bitter Opponents to Subsidy Propositions Now Apparently Want a Subsidy for Themselves.

Washington.—The revival of the Emergency Fleet Corporation has raised some important questions as to the future of the American merchant marine. While President Harding and his advisers have not yet reached a definite program or policy, the significant thing about the informal discussions which are now taking place is the shift toward government subsidies of ships flying the American flag.

For years the subsidy idea has been warmly espoused by shipping men, not only to be bitterly denounced by members of Congress from agricultural states. Years ago no American President would have felt warranted in recommending a subsidy to any class of American enterprise. But the war has wrought many changes, and it would not be surprising if before the end of the Harding administration a ship subsidy bill, not only is proposed but actually put through Congress.

It is felt that the chief source of opposition has vanished, for the political element in Congress has recently come forward with a request for a subsidy themselves. The proposition that a hundred million dollar appropriation be made by the government to finance agricultural projects is based upon by advocates of the ship subsidy as an established precedent which agricultural senators and members of the house will not be able to ignore.

Potash Users Enter Protest.
Washington.—Potash users of the South are protesting against the prohibitive duty of \$50 a ton imposed by the new tariff bill. It is understood the purpose of this tax is to protect the potash mines of Utah. Ninety percent of the potash used is used by Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Irish Situation Deadlocked.
London.—The Irish situation, it was declared in responsible quarters, has developed into virtually a deadlock between Premier Lloyd George and Sir James Craig, the Ulster premier, and the latter has been given an opportunity to go to Belfast to see if anything can be done in the circumstances.

Fire and Riot in Penitentiary.
Pittsburgh.—Six persons were injured and ten factory buildings destroyed in a riot and fire at Western penitentiary here. Police and deputy sheriffs from all parts of the city assisted the prison guards in holding the prisoners while the firemen put out the flames.

50,000 Pounds Offered.
Florence, S. C.—First curings of tobacco on the local market averaged about 7 cents and about 50,000 pounds were offered. There were many buyers.

Another Republic Proclaimed.
Belgrade, Jugoslavia.—An independent republic has been proclaimed by the Mitras, a Christian tribe inhabiting upper Albania. A president, Marce Djoni, has been named.

Auto Bandits Get \$7,000.
Warren, Ohio.—Five masked automobile bandits held up the Orangeville Banking company at Orangeville, 25 miles east of here, and escaped with \$7,000.

Greek Forces Pressing Turks.
Athens.—The Greek troops in the region of Kutais, to the southeast of Brussa, Asia Minor, have forced the Turkish Nationalists to retreat in such a manner as to give hope of a complete investment by the Greek forces.

20,000,000 Russians Starving.
Berlin.—Twenty million persons are on the verge of starvation in drought stricken sections of Russia, subsisting mainly on moss, grass and bark of trees.

Rise in Sam Browne Belts.
Washington.—With the war department's order restoring the Sam Browne belt for all commissioned officers, prices of this article of equipment, which had been a drug on the market, immediately began to soar skyward.