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## BRITISH VISITORS HERE FOR MOST IMPORTANT CONFERENCE IN HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Members of Empire's Most Prominent Men, Headed By Foreign Minister Arthur J. Balfour, Arrive to Take Part in War Conference to Convene in Washington As Soon As France's Representatives Arrive—Part of Arrival Kept Secret.

The Balfour Party.—Great British high commissioners to the inter-war council to begin in Washington this week set foot on American soil and made their way to the capital.

Arthur James Balfour, secretary of state for foreign affairs of the empire, premier and often called the father of the world's elder statesmen, the central figure of a party that included some of Great Britain's most eminent men. With a genial smile and a brief interview, warmly expressing his appreciation of all the work done as a neutral in Belgium and relief work in German prisoner camps, his gratification that England and the United States were now allied for a common cause, and his conviction that this war in its war efforts would assist the world, particularly Germany, in the object of the commission, Mr. Balfour said, was to "make co-operation easy and effective between those who are striving with all their power to bring about a lasting peace by the means that can secure it, namely, a successful war."

Mr. Balfour, in a most apt and concise phrase, Mr. Balfour added, proclaimed that the world must be made safe for democracy. That governing communities are not to be treated as negligible simply because they are small, that the ruthless domination of one unscrupulous power imperils the future of civilization and the rights of mankind are truth of politics which the bitter experience of this war is burning into the souls of all loving peoples."

Received With Honors.—England's leading statesmen, having safely evaded the German submarine mines which sent Lord Kitchener to his death, were received with the highest honors as guests of the American people when they arrived at the pier in America which cannot be described.

A delegation of state, war and navy department officials welcomed the commission in the name of the government, and set out with them the capital for what is admittedly the most vital conference in American history.

The commission was received with the utmost simplicity and cordiality, with every recognition of the fact that Great Britain had given of her best. It is said, indeed, that no minister has left England for so long a time that Mr. Balfour was away since the Congress of Vienna a century ago.

The formal welcome was extended by the Third Assistant Secretary of State, Winthrop D. Jordan, through the presentation to Mr. Balfour of a letter of greeting from Secretary Lansing, in which the British statesmen acknowledged with equal simplicity while British and American officials mingled to the accompaniment of a band.

A special train of five cars, which had been waiting with steam up and ready for five days, at once got away for the capital, guarded as it is by no other train ever has been in this country. Double protection had been afforded at all tunnels and bridges, and every mile of track had been gone over within the previous 24 hours to guard against possible fanaticism. No detail of any whatsoever which could betray the place of arrival or route of travel was allowed to escape.

Break Into Groups.—Immediately when the train broke up into its three parts, of army, navy and state department officials to begin at once the formal conversations which are expected to sketch out America's part in the world fight against German autocracy. Mr. Balfour and Secretary Lansing, Gen. T. Bridges, who drew the blood for England in August, 1914, and Gen. Leonard Wood and

others called to Washington City.

Members of all States are asked to send representatives to Washington May 2 for a conference on measures of State co-operation in the event of the war. Military affairs of the food situation will be the important questions taken up.

The Governors also were requested to send as delegates the heads of the State Defence Councils, where they have been created. The national defence council, it was announced, that the States will have named county committees by the time the meeting is held. The conference will be opened at the War Department by Secretary

Rear Admiral Sir Dudley de Chair and Rear Admiral F. F. Fletcher and soon in deep conversation on the various phases of American participation.

On all sides it was reiterated that the British had come in a spirit of service and appreciation, and that it was their hope that lessons they had learned in the war at such cost might be of service to this country in avoiding similar mistakes. Similarly, as one official expressed it, the commission was moved by exactly the same feelings which raised the Stars and Stripes to the flag tower of the Parliament building in London for the first time a foreign flag has ever flown there in history.

Secretary Balfour, a tall, slim white-haired man of 69 years, has held the highest posts in the empire since he first entered parliament 43 years ago, saw today the completion of one of his life hopes expressed under vastly different circumstances on January 15, 1896, when he was largely instrumental in averting war between England and America over the Venezuela dispute.

## NATION-WIDE ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN DECIDED UPON.

Best Means of Disposing of War Bonds Department Flooded With Offers.

Washington.—A nationwide advertising campaign of extraordinary proportions has been decided upon by Secretary McAdoo as the most effective means of disposing quickly of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue soon to be offered to the public.

So many patriotic offers of aid have poured into the Treasury Department recently that practically every method of publicity in the country will be at the Government's disposal, without a charge, in helping to make the issue a success.

Newspapers, magazines, street car advertisements, even the billboards, soon may be proclaiming the issue in big type and summoning every American to his duty to his country by subscribing. Large advertising agencies have offered their services, free of cost, in writing the advertisements and otherwise assisting in the campaign.

Many newspapers have opened their advertising columns, without charge. Officials have welcomed such offers and expect others of a similar nature. There will be no general campaign of paid advertising, it was said authoritatively, nor the incurrence of any items of expense whatever that are not absolutely essential.

Five million dollars will be available for all items of expense. A force of approximately 1,000 persons will be added to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, already working night and day, to meet the present heavy demands of the Government, and at least 200 clerks will be employed in the clerical work incidental to the big bond issue. This force will be obtained through the civil service.

Offers of assistance have been received from many unexpected sources. Department stores have offered not only to accept subscriptions, but to solicit them.

There probably will be at least 150,000 places in the United States where bonds may be purchased.

## REPORT IS ALSO RECEIVED AT BASAL.

Basel, Switzerland, via Paris.—A dispatch from Constantinople dated April 21 says the Ottoman Government has notified the American Embassy that following the example of its Ally, Austria-Hungary, it has broken diplomatic relations with the United States.

Chair as head of the defense council. Definite recommendations will be presented to the State executive concerning co-ordination of defence work throughout the land. The defence council will propose that all State bodies have uniform organizations and that defence societies be formed in counties and localities.

It may cost more to live in these stirring times, but it's worth more.—Indianapolis Star.

Mr. Charles Kistler returned Monday from Asheville where he underwent a slight operation on his nose. Mrs. A. M. Kistler spent Sunday in Asheville.

## GREAT BRITAIN TO GET FIRST MONEY

United States Will Make First Big War Loan to That Country—Amount to Be Made Public Later.

Washington.—The first American loan to the Allied Nations will go to Great Britain.

The amount and other details probably will be made public by Secretary McAdoo within a few days.

Whatever the sum, the amount will be available out of the proceeds of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue soon to be offered to the public, of which \$3,000,000,000 will be loaned to the Allies.

Announcement to this effect was made at the treasury department after a day crowded with conferences between Secretary McAdoo and Federal Reserve Board officials and American bankers and bondholders and official representatives of Great Britain and France. Another development was the announcement that the size of the first issue of bonds authorized under the \$7,000,000,000 war finance measure will depend largely upon the immediate needs of the Allies. Reports as to this have yet to be received in detail.

The entire \$5,000,000,000 of authorized bonds will not be offered in one lump sum, according to present tentative plans, but probably will be called for in several installments or issues. By this course, it is believed that financial disturbances which might result were the country called upon to absorb the whole issue at once, will be averted.

Details as to the amount of the first issue, its distribution among the Allies, the character and terms of the bonds, methods of disposing of them, and other questions will engage the attention of the treasury department and Federal Reserve Board officials during the next ten days.

The first of these conferences began with the visit of Lord Cunliffe, Governor of the Bank of England, upon Secretary McAdoo and Governor Harding of the Reserve Board. Negotiations will be conducted with a view to disposing as rapidly as possible of details so that the bond issue may be offered without delay.

## SENATE BEGINS WRESTLING WITH FOOD PROBLEMS.

Hearings By Agricultural Committee.—Houston Outlines Plans.

Washington.—Congress took up the food problem in public hearings by the Senate Agricultural Committee, at which Secretary Houston set forth the Administration's food control program. At the same time, the Federal Trade Commission, directed by President Wilson to investigate with the Agricultural Department the causes of high food prices, asked all state governors to send representatives to Washington April 30, for a conference on state co-operation in the inquiry. Before appearing at the commission hearing, Secretary Houston put his plans before the heads of five of the leading farmers organizations and received assurances of support for any measures the Government contemplates for getting a firmer grasp on food production and distribution. The farmers' representatives promised even to give their endorsement to legislation giving the Government power to fix maximum and minimum prices in emergency. As its part in the Government's plan, the Department of Labor announced that it had undertaken the mobilization of a million boys throughout the country as active farm workers for the summer. An organization will be formed to be known as the United States Boys' Working Reserve. Its operations will be directed from Washington.

## GERMANY TO TORPEDO ALL HOSPITAL SHIPS.

Paris.—"Contrary to all the rules of international law and humanity," says an official note issued by the government Monday, April 23, "the Germans have announced that they have decided that they will torpedo all hospital ships without warning. Under these conditions, the French government gives notice that German prisoners will be embarked on the vessels."

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS

Washington.—Official notification of the Turkish government breaking off diplomatic relations with the United States was received by the state department in a dispatch from American Minister Stovall of Berne, Switzerland. The communication came from G. Cornell Tarler, secretary of the American legation at Constantinople, acting for Ambassador Elkus, who is ill. It was sent to the American legation at Berne and forwarded

## FOOD CONTROL IS PUT UP TO SENATE.

Government Control of Production and Distribution is Proposed—Extra Appropriation Asked.

Washington.—The Government's program for food control during the war was put before Congress by Secretary Houston in a communication to the Senate asking power for the Department of Agriculture to take direct supervision of food production and distribution in the United States and requesting a \$25,000,000 appropriation for putting the plan into operation.

Authority was asked for the Council of National Defense, in an emergency, to buy and sell foodstuffs and to fix minimum or maximum prices.

As outlined to the Senate, the Government's plan is first to make a complete survey of the country's food supply to determine its ownership and distribution, then if necessary to license and control the operations of all concerns engaged in the manufacture of foods or feeds, agricultural implements and all materials required for agricultural purposes. Authority is sought for the Agricultural Department to take over and operate the concerns if it appears at any time that course is demanded by the public interest.

Giving the Government power to deal directly in foodstuffs probably would make its application unnecessary, Secretary Houston declared, as its very existence would tend to keep conditions normal. Market grades and classes for farm products, Secretary Houston said, is one of the chief needs of the country to insure proper conditions in producing and marketing farm products.

Authority also was asked for the Department to require of transportation companies preference for the movement of farm machinery, seeds, fertilizers and materials that enter into the processes of food production. The Department wishes to allow its market service division to assist in obtaining rerouting of foodstuffs to relieve congestion on transportation lines.

In its plan for an investigation of the present food supply, the Agricultural Department has arranged for the help of the Federal Trade Commission, which, with the Department, was directed by President Wilson early in the year to make an inquiry to ascertain the amount of food stocks and determine if the anti-trust laws have been violated in food production, storage and distribution. As soon as Congress makes the necessary appropriation for this specific inquiry, the Trade Commission will proceed.

Some officials believe the Trade Commission has enough power to make unnecessary the use of extreme legislation in regulating the control of food, although additional powers should be given for an emergency.

Officials of all Departments and divisions of the Government realize that the facts of the situation existing must be learned before remedies can be planned.

## STEADY PROGRESS BEING MADE BY THE FRENCH

Driving Back Germans in Soissons and Rheims.

Steady progress is being made by French troops in driving back the Germans in the regions of Soissons and Rheims. In a new offensive, the French also have entered the German second line in the Argonne forest. German counter attacks on the Vaucluse plateau, south of Laon, have been repulsed.

Since the beginning of the French offensive last Monday, more than 19,000 Germans have been taken prisoners. Guns captured exceed 100, not including machine guns.

## OFFICIAL ROUTE OF BANKHEAD HIGHWAY

Birmingham, Ala.—The official route of the Bankhead Highway from Washington, D. C., to Little Rock, Ark., will be selected by a pathfinding committee, which will make the trip in the next 30 days, the Bankhead Highway Association in convention here decided. Points to be reached by the Bankhead Highway include Lynchburg, Va., Reidsville, Greensboro and Charlotte, N. C.; Atlanta, Ga., and Holly Springs, Tenn.

## MANY GERMANS IN THE COUNTRY ARE BEING WATCHED.

Washington.—Approximately 3,000 German residents of the United States are under close surveillance. Department of Justice officials announced, because of their activities in behalf of the German Government. The Department's field force of officers is keeping so close a watch upon the suspects that it would be possible to arrest virtually every man under suspicion within 24 hours.

## NATION'S BUSINESS MUST KEEP GOING

Ill-Advised Economy Dangerous—Time to Make Even Greater Business Efforts.

Washington.—Warning to the nation against a real danger in hysterical and ill-advised economy and interference with normal pursuits of the people, is given by Howard E. Coffin, of the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense, in a statement just made public.

Just returned from a trip through several Middle Western States, Mr. Coffin deprecates the fact that conditions of unemployment and close factories should arise as a result of indiscriminate efforts, public and private, toward war time economies.

"After nearly three years of refusal to take the European war and its lessons seriously," Mr. Coffin said, "we suddenly launched forth in a most feverish activity to save the country overnight. Patriotic organizations almost without number are milling around noisily, and while intentions are good, the results are often far from practical.

"Because of an impending and possible shortage of foodstuffs, we have hysterical demands for economy in every line of human endeavor. Waste is bad, but an indiscriminating economy is worse.

"Some states and municipalities are stopping road building and other public work. General business is being slowed down because of the emotional response of the trading public to these misguided campaigns for economy; savings are being withdrawn from the banks; reports show that some people have begun to hoard food supplies and thousands of workers are being thrown needlessly out of employment. All this is wrong.

"We need prosperity in wartime even more than when we are at peace. We need more business, not less. There is real danger in hysteria. Indiscriminate economy will be ruinous. Now is the time to open the throttle.

"It seems to me, therefore, that a plain statement of general policy is most desirable.

"Upon the industrial side of the war three great problems, or perhaps I should better say tasks, confront us.

"First and foremost, we must facilitate the flow of raw materials and finished products to our Allies and must provide the means of rail and water transportation therefor.

"Second, we must meet our own great military and naval building schedules.

"Third, we must plan to do all this with the least possible disarrangement to our vast commercial and industrial machines.

"Through it all we must keep a close eye upon the possible conditions of peace following the present war. We must insure the business process and general prosperity of the country during the war, if we are to hold our present strong place among nations in the commercial competition of the future."

## ALL PARTY LINES WIPED OUT BY HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Ways and Means Committee Consider Methods of Raising War Revenue.

Washington.—With party lines obliterated, the entire membership of the House Ways and Means Committee began consideration of methods for raising new revenue with which to meet this country's share of the war expense. The initial problem will be the raising of approximately \$3,000,000,000 to meet half of the estimated cost of the first year of war, for which certificates of indebtedness soon are to be issued.

The committee also probably will lay a ground work for the collection of such other part of the war cost that Congress may determine is to come from direct taxation.

Careful consideration will be given to a list of suggested new sources of taxation sent to the committee last Sunday by Secretary McAdoo after conference with various members of the Administration. He suggested the raising of about \$1,800,000,000 from various sources, including income excess profits, liquor, etc. His list will meet with strong objection in many instances.

## SIX ARE KILLED BY EXPLOSION ON FILMS.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Six persons are dead and a score of others are suffering from minor injuries as a result of a fire which is thought to have resulted from an explosion of moving picture films in the office of a film exchange in the Colfax office building and apartment house in the downtown district here. Forty persons were in the building when the explosion followed by a wave of flames, occurred and a score of women were hurt.

## STARS AND STRIPES HONORED IN PARIS

"United States Day" Observed When American Flag Was Flung to the Breezes.

Paris.—The Stars and Stripes were flung to the breeze from Eiffel Tower and saluted by 21 guns. This marked the opening of the ceremonies of "United States Day" in Paris. The French Tri-Color and the Star Spangled Banner were at the same hour unfurled together from the residence of William G. Sharp, the American Ambassador in the Avenue D'Eylau, from the American Embassy, from the City Hall and from other municipal Government buildings.

It was a great day for the Red-white and Blue. Over all the Capital, street vendors did a thriving trade in the colors of both Allies, while 40,000 American flags, handed out gratis by the committee, were waved by the people who thronged the vicinity of the manifestations.

Jules Cambon, General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; General du Bail, Military Governor of Paris; the members of the committee and others were received at 1:30 o'clock by Ambassador Sharp at his residence where they proceeded to the Place d'Iena, where a bronze plam was deposited at the foot of the top of Eiffel Tower.

Members of the American Lafayette flying corps, a delegation from the American Ambulance at Nully, and the American field ambulances, with a large representation from the Association of Veterans of the Marne, were the guard of honor before the Lafayette statue at the Tuilleries Gardens, where the official procession halted to deposit a bronze plam.

## WASHINGTON WELCOMES ARTHUR BALFOUR AND PARTY

Greeted at Station by Lansing and Other Officials—Soldiers Guard.

Washington.—The American capital extended a simple, but heartfelt welcome to the British minister for foreign affairs, Arthur Balfour and the other members of the British commission which has come to Washington, "to make co-operation easy and effective between those who are striving with all their power to bring about a lasting peace by the only means that can secure it, namely a successful war."

There was no music to greet the visitors, the original plan, including the presence of the Marine Band, having been amended to conform to the view expressed by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing that this was a grave and serious event in American history, and not to be lightly treated, or regarded as a social affair.

On the Union Station plaza were gathered some 5,000 people waiting patiently for a glimpse at the nation's guests, restrained at a proper distance by hundreds of blue-coated policemen and by two troops of the Second cavalry, commanded by Colonel Fenton, part of the garrison at nearby Fort Myer.

Within the station lines had been drawn separating the traveling public from the space at the eastern end of the concourse across which the visiting party was to pass on the way from the train shed to the president's room. All of the police captains of the district had been ranged here in a double line as a guard of honor to keep back intruders. Two score newspaper men, standing to the east of the concourse, were the only unofficial persons permitted in this section of the station. Detectives swarmed everywhere through the crowds and at various angles where any danger might lurk. Altogether, the precautions taken to insure the safety of the nation's visitors exceeded anything ever known in the history of the District.

## BIG BRITISH GUNS HAMMER GERMAN LINES.

Apparently a big battle is brewing along the front between Arras and Lens, where the British guns are again hammering the German lines. Except for this artillery activity and some gains south of Loos and between Arras and St. Quentin, in the region of the Havrincourt woods.

Likewise on that part of the front held by the French, artillery duels predominated, being intense between the Somme and the Oise.

## BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIP SUNK, MANY WOUNDED.

London.—The British Hospital ship Donegal and LanFranc, with many wounded aboard, have been torpedoed without warning. They were sunk on April 17. Of those on the Donegal, twenty-nine were wounded men and twelve of the crew are missing. The LanFranc carried German wounded as well as British. Of those aboard, nineteen British and fifteen Germans are believed to have perished.