

SUPREME WAR COUNCIL CONSIDERS DISPOSITION OF GERMAN COLONIES

Maps Out Program of Work For Committees in Dealing With Financial and Economic Subjects

QUESTION OF HOLDING TROOPS FOR GARRISON

Decision Will Not Affect Return of U. S. Troops Already Selected To Leave Soon, As American Quota in Germany and Russia Has Already Been Agreed Upon; Peace Conference Delegates Hold Meeting, But They Were Executive Sessions and Newspaper Men Were Not Admitted; Other Developments at Paris Monday

(By The Associated Press.) Paris, Jan. 27.—The supreme council at its meeting this morning laid out a program of work and the constitution of new committees for economic and financial questions. Questions concerning private and maritime laws also were discussed.

At the afternoon session the exchange of views on the former German colonies in the Pacific and the Far East were continued. Representatives of the Dominions and of China were heard. The official statement reads:

"The President of the United States, the Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of the Allied and Associated Powers and the Japanese representative met this morning at the Quai d'Orsay from 10:30 o'clock to 12:30 o'clock and defined a program of work and the constitution of new committees for economic and financial questions as well as questions relating to private and maritime laws.

"The afternoon session continued the exchange of views on the former German colonies in the Pacific and the Far East. The representatives of the Dominions and of China were heard. The next meeting will take place tomorrow at 11 o'clock in the morning."

Paris, Jan. 27.—The conference of representatives of the smaller powers adjourned at 5 o'clock this afternoon after a most agreeable and harmonious session. The delegates completed their representations to the conference committees without incident.

Troops for Garrison Purposes

Paris, Jan. 27.—The committee appointed by the supreme council to consider how many allied and American troops shall be kept on the Western front held a meeting today and received reports from experts concerning the situation on the Rhine and in Germany.

Progress, it is reported, was made in clearing up the situation but much remains to be done before the committee is in a position to make a final recommendation to the supreme council concerning the exact number of soldiers of each nationality required for garrison purposes in Germany. It is learned that the determination of the American war department to return the American troops now in Europe to their homes will not be affected by any decisions reached by the committee. There will be no departure from the plan arranged for the return of the troops, allowance having been made in advance for the retention in Germany and Russia of all American soldiers regarded as forming a fair quota for the United States.

Two Executive Sessions

Paris, Jan. 27.—Two simultaneous meetings of peace conference delegates were held at the French foreign office this afternoon. One was the session of the Supreme Council consisting of the five great powers while the other was attended by the smaller powers. Both meetings were executive and newspaper representatives were not admitted.

"COUNCIL OF TEN" DELVES INTO WEIGHTY SUBJECTS

Paris, Jan. 27.—At the meeting of the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference this morning there was a full attendance. A number of technical advisers on colonial matters, including three Americans, accompanied the various delegations as they entered the foreign office for the day's session.

The council of ten, as the French now call the ministers of the five great powers, has before it for consideration today in executive session among other things the questions of territorial adjustments, the abolition of conscription and the economic reconstruction of Germany. These questions, in accordance with the settled method of procedure, will be referred by the council to suitable commissions.

Prospects of Conclusion of Peace

There appears every prospect the Peace Conference will make rapid progress from now on with the work of fixing the peace terms for Germany, as the conference appears to have gotten into its stride. A high French diplomatic authority is quoted by the Paris edition of the London Daily Mail as estimating that the conference will have the peace terms ready for submission for ratification by the various national governments between the middle and the end of March. If this is as reported the German delegates

will be able to complete their work by the end of the month. The official statement reads: "The representatives of the powers with special interests met at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the French foreign office and appointed members of the missions, decided upon at the session of the Peace Conference on Saturday. Jules Cambon, ambassador and French delegate at the Peace Conference, to appoint members of the missions in accordance with the decisions of the plenary session of Saturday, January 25. The following were appointed:

LEAGUE OF NATIONS—Paul Hymans, Belgium, not yet appointed; Brazil; Wellington Koo, plenipotentiary; China; M. R. Vesulich, Serbia; Janne Batakha Reis, minister plenipotentiary, Portugal.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR—Belgium, not yet appointed; Serbia; Stobadan Yovanovitch; Rumania, M. Rosenthal; Greece, M. Politis; Poland, not yet appointed.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR LEGISLATION—Belgium, M. Vanderveelde and M. Mahaim; Cuba, A. S. Bustamante; Poland, not yet appointed; the Czechoslovak republic, M. Henes.

REGULATION OF PORTS, WATERWAYS AND RAILROADS—Belgium, not yet appointed; China; H. E. Thomas and C. T. Wang, plenipotentiary delegate; Greece, M. Coromilas; Serbia, M. Trumbitch; Uruguay, Carlos Blanco.

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REPRESENTATION OF LESSER POWERS ON EACH OF THE SPECIAL MISSIONS.

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CONFEREES AGREE ON REVENUE BILL

Possibility of Deadlock as Disappeared, Says Chairman Simmons

BASIS OF AGREEMENT ON CONTESTED QUESTIONS

Corporation Income and Excess Profits, Allowances to Oil and Gas Interests

Washington, Jan. 27.—A basis for complete agreement on the war revenue bill was reached late today by the Senate and House conferees. Senator Simmons, chairman of the Senate managers, announced that virtually all important questions remaining in dispute including the war excess profits rates, had been agreed upon and that all possibility of a deadlock and failure of the bill had passed.

Announcement of the conference agreement on the war profits and other basic disputes was deferred but it was said that it would be made Wednesday or Thursday. The conferees hope it will be adopted by both bodies next week and the bill sent to President Wilson for his approval.

Basis of Agreement. The basis of agreement on the measure was upon three bitterly contested questions—war excess profits taxes this year, the Senate allowance to oil and gas interests and the Senate amendment to repeal the existing zone system of second class mail rates. It was learned that in harmonizing differences on these basic disputes, the conferees agreed to an increase of the Senate war excess profits rates, adopted the oil provision substantially as provided by the Senate and eliminated the second class mail amendment.

The agreement on war excess profits rates for 1919, it was stated, provided for retention of the Senate rate of 30 per cent on corporations' net income in excess of credits and not in excess of 20 per cent of invested capital; for increase from 60 to 65 per cent on income in excess of 20 per cent and for retention of the 20 per cent tax on war profits. The higher rates were strongly urged by Representative Kitchin and others of the House managers.

The Senate conferees were reported to have won their fight for retention of the Senate provision for a tax exemption of 20 per cent on bona fide sales of oil and gas wells and mines.

Second Class Postage. Elimination of the second class postage amendment had been generally expected. The proposal has been bitterly opposed by Representative Kitchin and other of the House conferees.

The present rates have been vigorously attacked by publishers as unjust and in some cases confiscatory.

With the basis reached for settling these three vital disputes, agreement on other provisions of the bill still left open was regarded as certain. Among these are the amendment to prevent importation of intoxicating liquors into the District of Columbia for beverage purposes the amendment of Senator Thomas, of Colorado, levying a tax of 100 per cent on political campaign contributions in excess of \$500, and that of Senator Trammell, of Florida, to allow a bonus of one month's pay and uniforms to men discharged from the military service. Conferees said the "bone dry" amendment would be retained but the fate of the others was in doubt. Many administrative provisions remain for final action.

No U. S. Sailor Need Quit. Paris, Jan. 27.—American naval authorities here are doing everything possible to avoid adding to the number of unemployed in the United States by retaining in the service every able-bodied sailor who can be induced to remain. Instructions have been given to discharge no man who does not desire to leave and who has no prospect of employment.

INDIGNANT AT N. Y. COTTON EXCHANGE

Heflin Protests Over Gamblers' Work in Forcing Down Price of Cotton

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 27.—Representative Heflin, of Alabama, announced in the House today that he had asked the Department of Justice to investigate the New York Cotton Exchange, which he charged had violated the cotton futures act "in driving down" the price of cotton from 37 to 24 cents a pound.

"The South has been robbed of millions of dollars by this unjust speculation," Mr. Heflin declared. "At a time when the world demands for cotton is greater than ever before, the price has been forced down and down. No one is being benefited but the gamblers themselves. The spinners cannot obtain cotton at the present prices and the growers refuse to sell."

Mr. Heflin said governors of southern states had appealed to him to hold their cotton until the price goes back to 30 cents a pound and that at the close of the present session of Congress representatives from the south expect to go through their states to urge that cotton acreage be decreased.

British Advance From Baku. Amsterdam, Jan. 27.—British forces, according to a report received here from Baku today, have advanced from Baku and occupied the trans-Caucasian railway. The report adds that the British also have occupied Potrovak and Astrakhan at the mouth of the Volga river.

His Daily Routine. He rises at about eight o'clock and follows an ordinary routine. His bath, (Continued on Page Two.)

ASSESS PROPERTY AT ACTUAL VALUE

Joint Finance Committee Agrees On Broad Policy for New Taxation System

WOULD LOWER PRESENT TAX RATES IN STATE

Special Session of General Assembly To Be Called in Summer 1920 For Purpose

The reassessment of all property in North Carolina at its real value for taxation, and a special session of the General Assembly in the summer of 1920 to reduce the rate of taxation, form the basis of a plan agreed upon unanimously by the joint finance committee of the House and the Senate yesterday to put taxation in the State upon an honest basis.

Because of the short time left in which a revaluation could be accomplished, it is not the aim of the committee to have the reassessment completed by May of this year. But work of revaluation for May, 1920, will be under way in the immediate future if the plans of the Finance Committee work out.

To Establish Honest Basis. There is no purpose in the decision of the committee to increase the State's income in this way, but merely to establish a solid basis for the State's taxing system, a system which will insure fairness on the part of the State to the people and fairness on the part of the people to the State.

It is proposed that the tax rates in cities and counties will be lowered in the same ratio as that of the State.

To Use Present Machinery. While the committee has as yet agreed only on the general policy to be recommended to the General Assembly, no effort having been made to decide on the means to carry it out. Many believe that the existing machinery should be used as far as possible. This would place the gigantic task under the direct supervision of the State Tax Commission, which would be entrusted with the responsibility of securing equitable reassessments of all property in the State.

Senator Earle Humphrey introduced in the Senate several days ago a bill providing for a revaluation commission, which should begin its work not later than April 1st of this year and which would be charged with the task of securing an equitable revaluation of all property by the time the General Assembly meets in regular biennial session in January of 1921. This bill was considered of sufficient importance to be printed and has received the very serious consideration of many members of the General Assembly.

No Debt To Procrastinate. Members of the joint Finance committee, however, feel that this work of revaluation should be done at the earliest moment, as they realize there is danger in procrastination. They believe that the bill to permit the wife to testify in cases of criminal conversation was also passed by the House yesterday. The Senate having previously passed it, it is now the prerogative of the wife, in a suit for alienation of affection or similar action, to take the stand in her own behalf.

War on recorder's courts was continued yesterday. Powell, of Columbus, introduced a bill to wipe out eight in his county established by Mr. McRacken, a former member from that county, and to abolish the jobs of three rural policemen. Representative McNeill did as much for Cumberland county. So far, there have been no bills introduced creating a recorder's court in the State.

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HOUSE STRIKING MID-SEASON FORM

Close Vote On Cower Bill To Allow Investment of Ward's Funds

NO HEARING YET ON WRIGHT RESOLUTION

Bill To Create Office of Prohibition Commissioner Coming Up Today

In the longest working day of the session the House yesterday hit mid-season form and passed fifteen bills and resolutions including one to create a special suffrage committee and one in respect to the memory of the late Thomas Settle. Pharr, of Mecklenburg, threw in a resolution on top of a similar one by Wright to memorialize the Secretary of War to permit the 30th Division to parade in North Carolina and to be demobilized at Camp Greene. Adjournment came at 4:30 and was interrupted this morning so that Trustees of the University could attend the session and meet at twelve.

Chief interest centered around a bill introduced by Senator Cower and passed by the Senate to permit the sale of land belonging to minors and the investment of proceeds in Liberty Bonds. After considerable argument, the bill passed on second reading by 54 to 32, but on objection of Representative Mull of Cleveland, went over until today.

Mr. Mull was afraid that the bill would give too much latitude to guardians in handling funds belonging to wards. The provisions of the Cower measure was that lands left to minors might be sold and the proceeds invested in Liberty Bonds. Mr. Mull feared discrimination; he saw no reason why, if the bill was to pass, it shouldn't provide that the funds be invested in North Carolina bonds bearing the same rate of interest.

Governor Daughton and Representative Dawson insisted that the bill give to guardians no more latitude than they now enjoyed, only the proposed law, if enacted, would obviate court proceedings necessary to obtaining permission to sell property and make the investment. On that ground Mr. Mull protested because he thought it was the purpose of the bill to ratify acts of guardians already done.

House Kills Bill. The Dail bill, to prohibit the solicitation of passengers for automobiles or hacks on trains or as they alight from coaches, was killed in the House yesterday. Minority Leader Williams and Representative Fountain were strongly opposed to it, the former declaring it was a strike at personal liberties. Eckles, of Asheville, supported the measure because he thought the law as it is discriminates in favor of the man who can board a train and so-called passengers before the arrival at destination.

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(Continued on Page Three.)

WILSON'S VISIT TO CHATEAU THIERRY

Battleground Made Famous By Gallant Success of American Troops

THROUGH A DOZEN RAZED TOWNS ENDING AT RHEIMS

President Says Language Fails Him in Attempt to Depict Impression Made

(By The Associated Press.) Paris, Sunday, Jan. 26.—(By The Associated Press.)—President Wilson today made his first trip to the battle-ground and devastated regions, visiting Chateau Thierry and Rheims. At the close of a tour that took him through a dozen razed villages, ending in the ruins of the historic cathedral at Rheims, he made this comment: "No one can put into words the impressions I have received amongst such scenes of desolation and ruin."

That was Mr. Wilson's only expression of his feelings after a trip every Frenchman has been hoping he would make before he takes part in deciding what is to be exacted from Germany for the devastation of Northern France. Accompanied by Mrs. Wilson, Admiral Grayson and a very small party, Mr. Wilson left the Marais residence early this morning, foregoing attendance at church and the rest