

## WITH LLOYD GEORGE AND WILSON BOTH ILL, ONLY ONE MEETING OF COUNCIL

Morning Session Abandoned, But Afternoon Meeting Held at Residence of the British Premier

### ISSUE OF REPARATIONS UP BUT NOT SETTLED; TENSION WAS EVIDENT

**"Responsible Authority" Quoted As Saying That American Participation May Be Brought To Early Close If Delays Over Details Are Carried Much Further; Grave Doubts Now Whether Treaty Can Be Made Ready in Next Fortnight As Predicted By Lloyd George Sunday; Developments in Peace Conference Circles and Elsewhere in Europe**

**Late Night Session.**  
Paris, April 7.—(Havas.)—The commission on the League of Nations will hold a plenary session late tonight and it is expected that the members will vote on the amendments on the Monroe Doctrine and racial discrimination offered by the Americans and Japanese, respectively.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Paris, April 7.—The peace conference has apparently reached the turning point between definite and speedy results and further prolonged delay. The indications today were toward action, but new doubts began to appear as to whether the desired results could be accomplished within a fortnight, as Premier Lloyd George and Col. House have predicted.

The council of four was to have met this morning at the "White House" where the President is still confined to bed. It developed, however, that Premier Lloyd George has been affected in a similar manner as the President which has confined him also to his bed. A morning session of the council was therefore impossible.

It was then determined to have the council meet at Mr. Lloyd George's residence, so as to be near him and here the session began at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon with Premier Clemenceau, Premier Orlando, Col. House and all the financial experts present. Reparations was again the chief issue and although settled in the main principle a number of essential details still remained open.

One of the American experts summed up the situation as he entered the meeting saying:

"The chances are favorable to an agreement, but we have not agreed yet."

**What's Considered "Settled."**  
The principles which are to be settled are that reparations and restoration shall be in accordance with the President's seventh and eighth points and the allies' reply to the President's note, and also that the actual damage and destruction shall be the main basis for estimating the damages and that the commission shall formulate categories or classes of these damages. Payment is to be spread over a period of years, without a specific total being fixed and the initial payments probably will be required within the first two years.

At the close of the council's session it was stated that no agreement had been reached on reparations or other subjects and that the discussion on reparations will be resumed tomorrow with President Wilson probably present.

**Extreme Tension.**  
Extreme tension was evident as a result of today's discussions and it is believed throughout the conference that another critical stage has been reached. One of the most responsible authorities associated with President Wilson said he would not be surprised if American participation was brought to an early close if the delays over details were carried much further.

**Differences Slight But Threatening.**  
The differences still remaining on the subjects of frontiers and reparations are comparatively light, he added, and yet these slight differences are so persistently maintained as to threaten to create prolonged delays, which the President and American delegation are not willing to accept.

**Wilson Is Firm.**  
The President was described by one who saw him during the day as standing firm in his determination to make no further concessions. He insists that the principles which were definitely agreed upon at the time of the armistice are at stake. There is little doubt that the President's stand had been made known to the other members of the council but since his illness he has not personally conferred with any of them, excepting Col. House.

The existing tension led to many reports of decisive action which the American delegation was said to be about to take. These reports were more or less exaggerated, yet all seemed

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## CONVOYING SCHEME DID IT, SAYS SIMS

Commander of U. S. Navy's Forces in Europe Returns and Tells About It

### GERMANY WAS WINNING WHEN U. S. ENTERED WAR

Hun Interference Was Serious Problem When Convoy System Was Worked Out

(By the Associated Press.)  
New York, April 7.—The convoy system, which many naval men had termed impracticable, overcame the German submarine menace and figured tremendously in the winning of the war, Rear Admiral William S. Sims, commander-in-chief of the American Navy's forces in European waters, declared today on his arrival here aboard the Mauretania.

Depth charges and listening devices, he said, contributed materially to success in maintaining practically unbroken the trans-Atlantic "bridge" of transports and supply ships essential to the allied victory, as did the "magnificent work" of the merchant seamen who "took their cargoes across, convoy or no convoy."

But it was the convoying scheme, worked out to a fine detail, the officer asserted, which made possible the transportation and supplying of the great American force.

Germany was winning the war, the Rear Admiral stated, when he arrived in England the day after the United States became a belligerent. Teuton interference with allied shipping, he added, was a serious problem, solved only when conferences of the British, American and allied commands worked out and put into practice the system of protecting vital ships.

A vice-admiral while he was abroad, under a temporary ranking, Sims returned in the uniform of a rear-admiral his rank before the war.

**Formally Welcomed Home.**  
After greeting his family the returning commander turned to Rear Admiral D. H. Burrage, who extended the formal welcome of the Navy Department.

To this was added by Mayor Hylan that of the city of New York. There also, greetings were extended by representatives of Rear Admiral Gleaves, of the naval transport service, and Bodman Wanamaker, chairman of the mayor's committee on welcome to the home coming troops.

The Mauretania entered the harbor in mid-afternoon, delayed since early morning by a fog which shrouded the coastal waters for many miles. A great fleet of airplanes, their wings flashing in the sun, heralded the approach of the transport, bearing the admiral and his staff and 3,000 troops, and escorted by a flotilla of destroyers and smaller naval craft.

From the battery the party went by automobile to an uptown hotel. The admiral passed through cheering crowds and was showered with confetti.

Admiral Sims termed his reception "wonderful." He had expected no formal welcome, he said, intending to go direct to Washington for conference with navy officials, afterward proceeding to his home at Newport, R. I.

**Worked Well With British Navy.**  
The admiral declared the relations between his forces and the British had been ideal.

"We went over there to get into the war in any way we could do the most good," he stated. "All maneuvers of the ground fleet were the result of conferences between the British and American staffs and there were no differences of opinion. We operated between 300 and 400 vessels, manned by 80,000 officers and men, in complete harmony with the British, and relations now with 150 vessels and 25,000 men remaining are just as cordial."

**Ranked With Best of Them.**  
He added that American naval craft had operated from the White Sea to Constantinople assisting the War Department, shipping board and relief commissions.

"We were a minority in the allied fleet," he continued, "but we had the satisfaction of knowing that in quality we ranked, ship for ship, with the best of them."

Of the merchant seamen the Rear Admiral spoke in high praise, declaring "they stood by us through it all, and some of them, it seemed, could not get torpedoed often enough to suit them."

**Effort to Abolish Dry Agent Peters.**  
Washington, April 7.—Abolition of the Virginia Anti-Saloon League commission and a State referendum on the question of prohibition is asked in a petition form, of which 125,000 copies will be distributed throughout the State for signature by the National Anti-Dry Referendum League. It was announced at the headquarters of the league today that distribution of the forms will be begun tomorrow. The petition is addressed to Governor Westmoreland Davis and reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, a citizen of the State of Virginia, respectfully petition the Governor, Hon. Westmoreland Davis, to abolish the Anti-Saloon League commission headed by 'Rev.' Sydney Peters, and transfer its duties to the proper county authorities, who are elected by the people. I am against 'search and seizure without warrant.'"

Annual Spring Steeple Chase and Flat Races, Pinehurst, Wednesday, 3:00 p. m.—Adv.

## 120 SHIPS BRINGING U. S. TROOPS HOME

With 300,000 Per Month Returning All May Be Back By Late Summer

Washington, April 7.—Approximately 120 ships now are engaged in returning American troops from overseas and additional vessels are being fitted out for this service with a view to increasing the homeward movement to 300,000 or more men a month. It was said today that at this rate the last of the Expeditionary Forces might be out of Europe by late summer, but that this would depend largely upon developments at the peace conference.

Of the ships in the transport service more than 100 are vessels commandeered or built during the war, former German liners, some few foreign ships held under charter and battleships and cruisers. All of these craft are manned by naval crews.

**Ship Stranded.**  
Lewes, Del., April 7.—A Norwegian ship, supposed to be the Drerago, with a cargo of manganese ore from Rio Janeiro for Baltimore, is stranded three miles southeast of Hog Island Station, Va. Her condition is unknown.

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## PEACE HEADQUARTERS WHILE PRESIDENT WILSON'S ILL



This is the Paris White House and for nearly a week it has been headquarters for the peace conference, for President Wilson, confined to his room with flu, and Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando have here agreed on the moves the congress should make. It is called Place des Etats Unis.

## EXCITEMENT IN PARIS OVER POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF WILSON FROM CONFERENCE

(By the Associated Press.)  
Paris, April 7.—President Wilson's order that the United States transport George Washington proceed immediately to a French port have aroused much comment here and are even construed by some officials as preliminary to a determined move to force an agreement at an early date by the conference.

As is usual in such cases, various rumors were soon in circulation, and before night one report was current that the President had delivered an ultimatum to the effect that he would withdraw from the conference unless an agreement was reached within forty-eight hours. It is confidently asserted by those close to the President that he did not contemplate any such action, but the same authorities have no hesitation in declaring that the President has made his position plain on the questions at issue and it is believed his determination to adhere to this position is fixed.

## REFORM MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM

Col. Ansell Directed By Secretary of War To Submit Bill To That Effect

Washington, April 7.—Lieutenant Colonel Ansell, former acting judge advocate general and one of the leaders in the controversy over courts martial procedure, has been directed by Secretary Baker to prepare and submit a bill which in his opinion would correct deficiencies in the existing military justice system.

The Secretary's order, under date of April 5, was made public today by the War Department. At the same time announcement was made that Secretary Baker had refused for the second time to make public the recent communication from Colonel Ansell replying to statements made by Major General Crowder, Judge Advocate General. The Secretary's order, which is in the form of a regular departmental communication, signed by the Adjutant General through whom it was transmitted, follows:

**Text of Order.**  
"The Secretary of War acknowledges the receipt through military channels of the first paragraph of the endorsement made by Lieutenant Colonel Ansell under the date of April 2, dealing with the subject of proposed changes in the system of military justice. The suggestions made by Lieutenant Colonel Ansell are entirely appropriate in form and substance and merit earnest consideration, which they will receive. With many of the suggestions the Secretary of War finds himself in hearty concurrence, if in fact, existing statute law is defective in the particular suggested by the proposed changes. In order that the subject may be fully considered and the views of Lieutenant Colonel Ansell adequately studied,

## HOW SIMS WENT TO ENGLAND INCOGNITO

Distinguished American Admiral Tells The Story On Arrival in New York

New York, April 7.—How Rear Admiral William S. Sims, accompanied by one aide, proceeded incognito into England under Navy Department orders issued him two weeks before the United States entered the war against Germany, was told The Associated Press by the Admiral here tonight on his return from overseas.

In reply to questions he gave the simple words a straightforward account of his mission, passing with dispassionate comment over many an incident of his adventure that well could be incorporated into the most romantic war stories.

On March 24 or 25, 1917, the Admiral said, while he was president of the Naval War College at Newport, he was ordered to report "without delay" to the Secretary of the Navy at Washington.

He was not notified of the nature of the business to be discussed. Upon his arrival there he was received in secret conference with Secretary Daniels and Admiral Benson, chief of naval operations.

He was told that it "looked as though we shall go to war," and it was briefly explained that he was to go at once "to see the people on the other side" and reach an understanding as to how the United States could co-operate with allied sea forces in operations against Germany. One aide would be allowed to accompany him, he was told, and his identity must not be known until it might be decided to reveal it after his safe arrival abroad.

**In Civilian Clothes.**  
Commander J. V. Babcock of New Hampton, Iowa, aide to Admiral Sims

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## ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS CHAMP CLARK IS A SURE WINNER

Palmer Says He Would Oppose Effort To Secure Executive Clemency

### WOULD BE STRIKING BLOW AT LAW ENFORCEMENT

Attorney General Issues Statement in Reply To Several Communications

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 7.—Attorney General Palmer announced in a statement tonight that he would oppose strongly any effort to obtain executive clemency for Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist leader, sentenced to ten years imprisonment for violation of the espionage act. The attorney general said he had received several communications urging him to recommend clemency for Debs.

Mr. Palmer said he believed his duty in the Debs case to be clear and was convinced that he "would be doing a grievous wrong to the country and striking a blow at law enforcement" should he adopt "any course which would interfere with the normal administration of justice in this case."

**Text of Statement.**  
The statement issued by the Attorney General follows:

"Eugene V. Debs has filed no petition with either the President or the Attorney General asking for the exercise of executive clemency. The fact in his case are such that until such petition is made by him I should not feel called upon to consider making any recommendations in his case. Debs was convicted not because of his political or economic views but because he plainly violated the law of the land.

"On June 18, 1918, during the most critical period of the war, Debs made a public speech at Canton, Ohio, in which he urged that wage earners refrain from giving any aid to the American nation in the war, asserting that the war was brought on and conducted solely in the interest of capitalists, told his audience that they needed to know that they were fit for something better than slavery and cannon-fodder, held up to admiration as martyrs to the cause of labor a number of persons who had been convicted for violating the draft act and urged wage earners to stand together as a class to prevent the success of our country in the war.

**Admitted Guilt.**  
"In his address to the jury Debs said: 'I have been accused of obstructing the war. I admit it. Gentlemen, I abhor war. I would oppose the war if I stood alone.'

"He was given a fair trial by jury. The charge of the trial judge was eminently fair and on appeal to the supreme court of the United States that court, by a unanimous decision affirmed the judgment of conviction.

"Both prior and subsequent to the delivery of the speech mentioned, Debs had on numerous occasions publicly urged wage earners to adhere to the so-called St. Louis program of the anti-war faction of the Socialist party adopted in April, 1917. This document asserted that participation of the United States in the war against Germany could not be justified, branded the declaration of war by the American government as a crime against the people of the United States, declared that in all modern history there had been no wars more un-

**Wife Take Desperate Action.**  
The belief is common that President Wilson will not hesitate to take definite action if a deadlock is actually reached.

If, however, the council of four succeeds in reaching an adjustment, and the presence of President Wilson for a longer time is deemed advisable, the George Washington would be available for the transport of troops to the homeland, and would then be ready to return at a later date for the Presidential party.

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## MAYOR M'NEILL LEADS WITH UNDERWOOD NEXT

Second Primary Will Be Held in Fayetteville Next Monday

Fayetteville, April 7.—With four candidates for mayor in the field, the municipal primary here today resulted in the necessity of holding a second primary between J. D. McNeill, incumbent, and John Underwood. McNeill, who led in the fight, beat Underwood by six votes. The balloting was light, only 731 votes being cast, as follows: J. D. McNeill 288, Underwood 282, W. D. McNeill 121, A. M. Moore 40.

A second primary for aldermen will be necessary between J. J. Malone and J. A. Barnes in second ward and W. W. Horne and T. S. Tolar in the sixth ward. The second primary will be held Monday.

## VICTORY BONDS RATE OF INTEREST NOT DECIDED

Suggestions of 4 1-4 and 4 1-2 Discussed; 5 Percent Apparently Unlikely

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 7.—The five per cent interest rate borne by the War Finance Corporation's new one-year bonds, approved by the Treasury, is not to be taken as an index of the rate on Victory Liberty Loan notes, it was stated authoritatively today.

The Treasury believes, it was explained, that securities which are not direct obligations of the government must bear from one-half to three-quarters per cent higher interest than government notes or bonds, and that consequently there can be slight relationship between the rates of the War Finance Corporation bonds and of the Victory notes.

Suggestions that the Victory issue should bear at least five per cent are reaching the Treasury. Rates of 4 1-2 or even 4-4, as carried by the past two issues of bonds, have been discussed by Treasury officials much more than the higher rate.

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Kitchin States That He Will Get Four-fifths of Vote For Minority Leader

### OTHER REPRESENTATIONS ARE NOT SO OPTIMISTIC

Webb and Kitchin Among Congressmen To Sail Saturday For Porto Rico

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 7.—"Champ Clark will receive four of every five votes cast for a candidate for minority leader," declared Representative Claude Kitchin today in an interview for this correspondence in which he discussed the assuming strength of the Democratic reorganization committee movement.

Here are the States polled as voting solidly for the former Speaker of the House of Representatives: Georgia, Texas, Florida, Missouri, Virginia, Colorado, New Jersey, Connecticut and New York. The States of North Carolina, Arkansas, South Carolina, Mississippi and Alabama will contribute one vote each to the strength of the Clark opposition.

Representative Kitchin is of the opinion that of the membership of the fourteen important committees in the House of Representatives eight of every nine votes cast will be for the candidate that polarized the song of "stop kicking my hound-dog around." He indicated that the strength of Mr. Clark has no sectional bearing—New York, New Jersey and other Northern States strongly favoring his candidacy.

When reminded that the alignment of Representative Henry T. Rainey, ranking Democratic member of the committee on ways and means, and Representative Asbury Lever of South Carolina, formerly chairman of the committee on agriculture, indicates a tower of strength for the anti-Clark movement, the friends of the Missourian claim that these two Congressmen are replete candidates for the position of minority leader.

Representatives Rancy and Lever are influential members of Congress and their ability cannot be gained as leaders in the Sixth-fifth Congress. Representative Lever's contribution of agricultural legislation has given him a nation-wide identity as a constructive Congressman. Representative Rancy is likewise influential and has contributed much in shaping legislation as ranking member of the committee on ways and means.

Only yesterday, the only Democratic Congressman from Kansas—Representative William Ayers—in a statement aligning himself with the anti-Clark movement, declared, "I am in favor of electing a leader who has stood 'four-square' representing the ideals of the Democratic party in the past. Such a man, when necessary, would go after Republican onslaughts with a cork-screw or a meat-axe."

That the anti-Clark strength is making headway cannot be doubted and when the test comes the closeness of the vote will give a surprise to the advocates of the former speaker of the House.

**Off to Porto Rico Saturday.**  
Representatives Claude Kitchin and Edwin Yates Webb of North Carolina will be among the twenty members of the House of Representatives that will sail from New York on Saturday, April 12, for a week's visit to Porto Rico. Representative Kitchin was today making plans preparatory to his leaving. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Kitchin. They expect to return to Washington April 28.

The members of Congress are visiting the island for the express purpose of studying economic and political conditions, the information to be used in shaping legislation that will confront the extraordinary session of Congress. The legislature of Porto Rico extended the American Congress an invitation to visit the island. Members of the insular affairs committee of the House of Representatives will be included in the official party.

Other than the two Tar Heel Congressmen, the following members of Congress have been designated to make the official visit:

Representatives Rodenberg and Mason of Illinois; Saunders and Bland of Virginia; Sanders and Agwell, of Louisiana; Anthony and Campbell, of Kansas; Young, of North Dakota; Tomner, of Iowa; Garrett, of Tennessee; Dyer, of Missouri; Moore, of Pennsylvania; Crisp, of Georgia; Tilson, of Connecticut; Mansfield, of Texas; Dominick, of South Carolina, and Platt of New York.

Representative Kitchin stated today that the duration of their visit would perhaps embrace seven or eight days. He expects the extra ordinary session of Congress to convene early in May, and the party will return about April 28.

## ONTARIO TO VOTE ON LIQUOR REGULATION

Ontario Will Hold a Plebiscite on the repeal of Ontario Temperance act and upon measures permitting the sale of liquor, it was announced in the legislature today by Premier Hearst. The date will be announced later. Questions to be voted on are:

1. Repeal of the Ontario Temperance Act.

2. Sale of light beer in sealed packages under government control.

3. Sale of light beer over the bar.

4. Restrictive sale of spirituous liquors generally under government control.

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