

PARENTS CLAIM GARDNER ACTED IN HOT TEMPER

Fathers of Suspended Boys Make Formal Complaint to School Board.

Attack on Principal. Contend That He Has Lost Hold Upon Students by Reason of His Conduct.

Washington, Dec. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Japanese Government has accepted the proposal for a quadruple understanding in the Pacific, an authorized British spokesman said today.

The British spokesman said the 5-3-3 ratio proposition with regard to capital ships was in some way related to a complete settlement and that this proposition had not yet been accepted by the Japanese Government.

Calling attention to an Associated Press dispatch from Honolulu quoting a Japanese newspaper as to acceptance by the Tokyo Government of the quadruple plan, the British spokesman said this was correct and that the Washington conference knew it to be correct.

The proposal for a new four-power treaty, as a substitute for the Anglo-Japanese alliance and providing for a period of peaceful discussion before resort to arms over any dispute involving the Pacific islands, was generally viewed today as a definite shaping of developments along important lines of accomplishment. While President Harding, in declaring in a public address yesterday that the negotiations promised to “succeed beyond our fondest hopes,” made no direct reference to the proposed four-power agreement, his expression was everywhere accepted as evidence of the optimism with which the American delegates view the present trend of the negotiations.

The discussions among the delegates are known to have reached a well-advanced stage. Affecting in its proposed terms neither Chinese problems or Pacific fortifications and the naval reduction program, the project is regarded by American delegates as establishing neither a alliance nor an entente, but merely as applying to the Pacific islands the principle of the numerous Bryan treaties, to which this country already is a party, and providing a “cooling off” period of discussion before going to war over international disputes.

CABLE COMMUNICATION POOR.

Washington, Dec. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—Difficulties in cable communication with Tokyo were said today to have delayed receipt of the Japanese Government's answer to acceptance of the American proposal for a limitation. Portions of a dispatch from Tokyo were understood to have been received but some portions of it, which explained officially, had not yet arrived.

The American delegates, who met again today, were said to have been advised of the extent of word received from Tokyo, but was said not to be conclusive in view of the fragmentary receipt of the Tokio answer.

Optimism among the American delegates was manifest, however, over the naval phase of the conference. It was probable, American officials said, that a plenary session of the conference will be held early next week for a public statement on the naval program.

SENATE COMMITTEE IS NOT YET AGREED

Washington, Dec. 8.—The Senate Committee failed again today to reach an agreement with respect to provisions of the House bill for refunding the war loans to the Allied powers. Only a brief session of the committee was held and it was said afterward that there had been little change in the lineup of members from the previous division of opinion developed Tuesday.

Changes in the House revisions creating a supervisory commission to negotiate bases of payment of the debt proposed by Senator Simmons, North Carolina, ranking Democrat of the committee, were said to have gained some support since the last meeting. Senator Simmons was understood, however, not to have been successful yet in getting all Democratic members behind his suggestion. Two Republicans were said to have informed the committee they would agree to the Simmons' plan which substantially would reserve to Congress some of the power bestowed on the commission in the House bill.

AMERICAN DELEGATION MEETS.

Washington, Dec. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—The American delegation to the arms conference held a meeting early today in Secretary Hughes' office at the State Department.

More Days to Do Your Shopping.

Big Sale of Safety Razors.

Portland, Me., Dec. 8.—Glady's M. Rhodes, seeking a divorce from Roy Rhodes, of Easley, S. C., testified yesterday that she married him when she was 13 years old, only as a means of avoiding attendance at school. She was a big girl and other pupils plagued her, she said. The marriage took place in Philadelphia in 1916. She charged cruelty and non-support, adding that she had left the home of her husband's parents in South Carolina without shoes. Decision was reserved by the court.

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(Reported by Chamber of Commerce for the week ended December 30, 1921)

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December 7, 1921 \$6,354,084.28

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NEW SYSTEM OF DEMOCRATS ARE ORGANIZED FOR CAPITO WRONG

ALSTON D. WATTS

May Divide the Country Into Hostile Factions or Groups, Says Weeks.

NOT PARTY CONTROL.

Change Has Had Tendency to Weaken Effective Government, He Says.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The present system of organization in Congress, whereby control is divided between numerous committees, may, “if carried to its logical conclusion,” divide the United States “into hostile factions or groups” or leave the country “powerless to defend or maintain its interests, national or international,” Secretary of War Weeks said today in an address before the Executive Council of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents.

Contrasting the present situation with a recent Administration characterized by reference to “a big stick,” Mr. Weeks said:

“It was not many years ago that we heard stories about a ‘big stick’ which was supposed to be used in driving Congress into a state of tractability and force the enactment of laws desired by the executive. Now, however, it is that, while the executive was a masterly man of dominating personality and characteristics, he was a party man and those in the legislative branch of the Government were equally so. They believed in government by party and that the responsibility under such government should be observed even by those who might doubt the wisdom of the proposed action. The result was that the leaders in the Senate and in the House consulted the Executive and together they formulated the policies to be followed. Quite frequently, no doubt, the Executive in some instances urged, and perhaps imposed, his views on the Congressional leaders; but invariably these men returned to the capitol to carry out the decision reached at the conference, and the members of that party in the Senate and House, recognizing the necessity of responsible action, supported them in their endeavors.”

“Then came a reform, or it was so heralded, in the conduct of the House of Representatives. The power of action, which had largely rested with the Speaker and through him with the committee on rules, was taken away and divided among committees. The result—I think it has been clearly demonstrated—is that it is impossible to get the type of legislative action which comes from party regularity and responsibility.”

CZARIST POWER NEEDED.

“I can recall,” said Mr. Weeks, “in the days of so-called Czarism, when Mr. Cannon was called a well-organized man, that he had the strength of the Speaker's chair under those conditions, that the Speaker found ways, perfectly legitimate under the rules, to prevent the enactment of legislation. More than that, he had the power, and he used it, to prevent appropriations intended for local purposes which were not needed, and which were not for general good.”

“To my mind the change has had a tendency to weaken effective government, has resulted in irresponsible legislation, prevented both parties from carrying out pledges made in their platform, and, in time, will divide the legislative branch of the Government into groups, each group championing a special cause, and we will see one group contending with another for a control of legislative action in the interest of a particular faction.”

The former—the backbone of the country—was the first to feel the effects of post-war deflation. The Secretary said, but added that “the farmer could not be entirely absolved from blame” for his present situation, as he should have foreseen the inevitable collapse of values.

HAS IT HELPED FARMER?

“I shall not take the time to criticize the legislation Congress has enacted for the benefit of the farmer,” he said, “but I do think that a combination of members of the two great political parties which had sufficient votes to obtain the result desired. Some of this legislation may benefit those for whom it is enacted, but it is unsound, however, from an economical standpoint, and I very much doubt if it will be of any benefit even to the farmer.”

“One of the least excusable of the laws passed, it seems to me, was that increasing the interest rate on farm loan bank bonds to 5-1-2 per cent and leaving the rate to the farm borrower the same as it had been. Under the present law, as I see it, the Government is financing the farmer and is producing a vast volume of non-taxable securities, so that, in effect, the farmer is borrowing his money at a much lower rate than the current market warrants. What would be said as an offset if the Government undertook to finance all the manufacturing industries of the United States by loaning them money at a fixed rate and no taxes were paid on this indebtedness, and then extending that policy to every industry? We should soon find ourselves without taxable property and complete transfers of the Government's large estates into non-taxable securities.”

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DEMOCRATS ARE UNANIMOUS FOR

TAX EXEMPTION BILL.

Burgwin Measure Defeated by Vote of 24 to 19; May Come Up Again.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

Staff Correspondent of The News.

Washington, Dec. 8.—All the questions relating to battling construction work in the Pacific and the Eastern questions have been tied together and will be embodied in a general agreement.

This is the latest development in the armament conference and with it goes an explanation of the talk of a four-power “treaty” or “alliance” as well as the various steps that will be taken in the immediate future.

Instead of making a separate arrangement on the ratio of strength in battleships the Japanese are being instructed to accept the American proposal on the understanding that there will be an agreement forbidding any increase in fortifications in the Pacific, an agreement covering submarines and auxiliary craft, and an agreement embodying the principles that shall apply to Chinese and Pacific problems.

The authority for the foregoing is Kotaro Mochizuki, head of the opposition to the Japanese proposal, who by arrangement with the Japanese embassy, had a long conversation with President Harding on Wednesday at the White House. Since he is not an expert on the subject of fortifications with less restraint. His conception of what is ahead in the conference is based, of course, upon intimate relationship not only with the Japanese side but upon open called information from Japan.

This correspondent has checked up on some of the views expressed by Mr. Mochizuki and finds that the American side of the political situation in Japan is as much responsible for the turn which the program has taken as anything else. Originally, it will be remembered, the proposal was to be submitted to the Senate for ratification. The latter idea is still only a general suggestion without any final authority back of it, though British, Japanese and French delegates are ready to accept it. The United States has such an investigation treaty with Great Britain, France, Italy and about 25 other nations, but not with Japan. When it comes to a discussion of this point, Mr. Mochizuki hints that the Japanese delegation may ask for a reaffirmation of the Root-Takahira agreement, the Lansing-Ishii agreement and the arbitration treaty with the United States and Japan. He believes the Anglo-Japanese Alliance will be automatically abrogated by the convention agreed upon at the Washington conference.

COINCIDENTALLY, however, the American pressure for an acceptance of the 5-3-3 ratio developed a delicate situation in the Japanese cabinet, which has hoped for an opportunity to prevent any appearance of conceding directly to the American view. The suggestion of an agreement covering all the points being discussed in the Washington conference was seized upon as the way out. Hence the Japanese are ready to accede to the naval ratio on battleships and a plenary session

THE SENATE SESSION

By a strictly party vote, 36 to 7 the Senate on Wednesday morning confirmed the nomination of Col. A. D. Watts as Commissioner of Revenue.

The Democrats in the chamber at the time the vote was taken voted for the confirmation, and all of the Republicans voted against it. The general understanding is that all of the Democrats present voted for confirmation and they had been there.

The Republicans, through Leader Burgamer, asked for the record vote roll call and the following voted against: Colonel Watts, Senator Woodson, Reinhardt, Robinson and Raynor.

The Governor sent up a special message to the Senate, asking for confirmation. When the Senate went into executive session Senator Scott, of Iredeil, made the motion to confirm and it was seconded by Senator Woodson, of Rowan. Senator Bencher Cameron, of Durham, made the only talk about the matter. He referred to the tobacco cases, saying that if any man had a right to vote against Colonel Watts, for the action of Mr. Watts and other members of his board in lowering values of tobacco held by the big companies several million dollars increase in the tax rate on property owners of Durham. But he believed Watts did right in following the report of the special committee which investigated these values and he was consequently going to vote for him.

The suggested opposition to confirmation which has been talked for months absolutely failed to materialize. Some of the Democrats who fought Colonel Watts during the regular session when the Senatorial districts bill was up, raised no protest against him today. In fact the confirmation of this appointment caused less talk than anything which came up during the day.

Sumner Burgwin's bill lowering the property tax exemption from \$300 to \$50, finally amended to \$100, thereby putting a tax on the tax rate on property owners of Durham. But he believed Watts did right in following the report of the special committee which investigated these values and he was consequently going to vote for him.

(Continued on Page Nine.)

ABE MARTIN

Washington, Dec. 8.—The American schooner Mabel, which was seized by Mexican patrol vessels last Sunday, on a charge of illegal fishing, still is being held at Ensenada, Mexico, the State Department was advised today in a dispatch from Consul Burdette. The dispatch made no reference to the three members of the crew of the Mabel, who were reported to have been held by the Mexicans as hostages for payment of fines.

The State Department has received no advices from Mexico City today in connection with its representations in the seizures to President Oregon last night. Officials of the Department stated that they felt sure the Mabel would be released as soon as the authorities at Mexico City understood just what had taken place. They added that this government would take no further action until the Mexican authorities had an opportunity to investigate the seizure.

NO OPPORTUNITY FOR CHARACTER BUILDING

New York, Dec. 8.—“Quantity production” of college students by American institutions of learning was criticized today as an “unfortunate condition, giving little or no opportunity for character building” by Professor A. G. Christie, of Johns Hopkins University, in an address before the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He said that the factory organization idea, when applied to colleges, caused a breakdown of educational standards and resulted in instruction staffs being overworked and underpaid.

HENRY D. FLOOD DIES SUDDENLY

Congressman from Tenth Virginia District Dies of Heart Trouble.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Representative Henry D. Flood, Democrat, of the tenth Virginia district, died at his home here today.

Heart trouble was the cause of Mr. Flood's death. He had been ill for several weeks. His death occurred shortly before noon.

Mr. Flood was serving his eleventh term in Congress. As chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he introduced the resolution declaring the existence of a state of war between the United States and Germany and Austria-Hungary. His home was in Appomattox, Va., and he was 56 years of age.

On convening at noon, the House immediately adjourned in respect to Mr. Flood after adopting resolutions of regret over his death.

Representative Flood was also chairman of the State Democratic committee, and he had been active in the vigorous campaign there this fall. He served in 1920 as chairman of the national Democratic Congressional committee.

He was married in 1914 to Miss Anna Porter, of Manassas, Va. He was educated at Washington and Lee and the University of Virginia and, prior to coming to Congress, served in the Virginia legislature.

AMERICAN SCHOONER STILL IS BEING HELD

Washington, Dec. 8.—The American schooner Mabel, which was seized by Mexican patrol vessels last Sunday, on a charge of illegal fishing, still is being held at Ensenada, Mexico, the State Department was advised today in a dispatch from Consul Burdette. The dispatch made no reference to the three members of the crew of the Mabel, who were reported to have been held by the Mexicans as hostages for payment of fines.

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WINSTON-SALEM MAN KILLED IN OFFICE

Winston-Salem, Dec. 8.—H. B. Ashburn, 40, local life insurance agent, was found dead in his office at an early hour this morning. The discovery was made by his wife and the colored janitor, who said they found some small change lying on a table and a deck of cards strewn around the room. A loaded pistol found in the dead man's pocket