

### BRITAIN IS IN HOPEFUL MOOD

#### New Political Developments Fill British Isles With Optimism.

By EARL C. REEVES.  
International News Staff Correspondent.  
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London, Dec. 10.—A mighty wave of optimism is sweeping Great Britain. British officials declared tonight they are positive that this nation has "turned the corner" and is leaving behind domestic and industrial crisis which have afflicted it continuously since the armistice.

Despite the recalcitrant attitude of Camille de Viana, British officials, from Premier Lloyd-George down, are convinced that the Irish peace treaty will be ratified at Dublin about the same time it is approved by the British parliament in London.

The keynote of the roseate castle building by the leaders of the government is based on three improvement developments.

"First—The Irish question. "Second—The navy-pact treaty negotiated at Washington to allay Far East friction.

"Third—Agreement between England and France to relieve the German indemnity situation.

#### WILL LOWER TAXES.

"It is argued that, taken collectively, these important developments will enable a reduction of military establishments, abatement of taxes, deflation of currency and gradual correction of the exchange rates—all incentives to business improvement.

The improvement in the financial situation was reflected this week in the improvement of the exchange. The English pound sterling went to 115 1/2, the highest price it had touched in more than two years. Bankers said they expected this improvement to be maintained until the pound sterling reaches par—\$4.86.

Financial circles, however, chanted their song of hope in a lower key than the political leaders. They admitted, however, that big projects which had been held up for many months by the uncertainty of the Irish situation can now be gotten under way.

Several railways have obtained authorization bids including lines to the English channel ports. The blueprint stage has been reached in other proposed improvements for industrial development.

#### NEW INDUSTRIES.

Funds have already been secured for improvement of territories that Britain obtained under the Versailles treaty. It is understood that millions will be spent developing railways and oil lands in Mesopotamia—the Kingdom of Iraq, as it is now known.

The Irish priesthood which was previously accused of being "the backbone of Irish rebellion" is becoming a decisive factor in the Irish peace situation.

It is believed in Government circles that the meeting of Roman Catholic bishops on Tuesday at Maynooth, virtually assured ratification of the treaty by Dal Eiseann. The faith of the Roman Catholic church is the strongest hope now behind the peace agreement.

### ATTORNEY FOR MRS. OBENCHAIN RESIGNS

Chicago, Dec. 10.—Charles E. Erbstein, noted Chicago criminal lawyer, today resigned as attorney for Madeline Obenchain, accused in Los Angeles, with Arthur C. Burch, of the murder of J. Belmont Kennedy.

An "unfair and felicitous attack" upon the character of District Attorney Woolwine, of Los Angeles, and former State's Attorney Hoynes, of Chicago, which hindered the defense of his client, was given as the reason.

Though through with the Obenchain case, Erbstein announced he had just started to fight Hoynes and Woolwine "face-to-face, with weapons and resources employed by lawyers."

### CRAZED WITH DRUGS SHOOT STEPMOTHER

Denver, Colo., Dec. 10.—Crazed with drugs, Harry Schligman, 32, entered the home of his parents here tonight and shot down his stepmother, Mrs. Martha Schligman. He then turned the revolver upon himself, inflicting serious wounds, according to police. Mrs. Schligman is expected to die. Schligman has a chance for recovery.

The shooting occurred in the luxurious Schligman home. The family has long been prominent in business and social circles here.

### HIP HOOPS ARE FEATURES OF LATEST EVENING GOWNS



Pictured here are three charming dance frocks for wear during the holiday festivities. One always feels the need of a new frock at holiday time for the dances, teas, dinners and receptions which always fill those festive days. When so many affairs come all at once one or even two evening gowns were scarcely sufficient. These are charmingly youthful models all featuring the hip hoops and all combining chiffon with some other fabric. Any of these models would make a lovely Christmas gift for the college miss who is always in need of "another" dance frock.

### PACT DRAWN IN ROOM OF HOTEL

#### Big Four Met Secretly in Quiet Room to Complete the Document.

BY WEBSTER K. NOLAN.  
International News Staff Correspondent.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The four-power pact, which tonight takes its place among the most important documents of history, was not framed in impressive diplomatic ceremonies, but was done after the fashion of American business men engaging in a contract.

The pact, it was learned tonight, was finally drawn last Thursday night in a Washington hotel room. It was a secret session of the "big four," but it was without solemnity.

Baron Admiral Kato and Prince Tsubuawo of the Japanese delegation were the hosts. Secretary of State Hughes walked in a side-door and went up in the elevator unnoticed. A. J. Salfour of Great Britain strolled in a little later, wandered aimlessly to the "litt" and ascended to the upper chambers. Finally came Rene Viviani, hustling and bustling. The doors were closed. Secret service men paced the hall.

There was no oratory behind the closed doors. There was some earnest discussion. Suggested documents were presented. There was much editing. Little quibbling, but some earnest argument.

It was not long before there came sounds of chuckling and laughter from behind the closed doors. The deed had been done and the world statesmen were in relaxation.

Magic had been performed, for a step had been taken toward world peace and this may have caused the thoughts of the statesmen to turn to things magical. At any rate they wanted entertainment and they sent for a world known entertainer, Maimie, the magician, who has appeared in European courts and has been a frequent performer for President Harding.

Maimie did his "stuff." The statesmen latched and chatted and frolicked much after the fashion of collegio freshmen. A treaty of world import had been concluded and a "pleasant time was had by all."

When the milk wagons were rattling

### Meeting Calendar

- MONDAY.  
1 p. m. Charlotte Automobile Association, Chamber of Commerce.  
6:15 p. m. Advisers of Girls department, Y. W. C. A.  
7 p. m. Men's Club, Second Presbyterian church.
- TUESDAY.  
3:30 p. m. Young Matrons Club, Charlotte Country Club, with Mrs. Dolph Young.  
1 p. m. Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce.  
7:30 p. m. Big Brothers' dinner, Chamber of Commerce.  
8:30 p. m. Walter Hampden, City Auditorium.  
7:30 p. m. W. O. W., Rocky River Camp, No. 94, Chamber of Commerce.
- WEDNESDAY.  
11 a. m. Board of directors, Y. W. C. A., at building.  
6:30 p. m. American Legion, Chamber of Commerce.
- THURSDAY.  
1 p. m. Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce.  
3:30 p. m. Girls' high school club, Y. W. C. A.  
7:30 p. m. Boy Scout court of honor, Chamber of Commerce.
- FRIDAY.  
11 a. m. Virginia Dare Circle, Woman's Club, Mrs. C. W. Tillott.  
1 p. m. Civitans, Chamber of Commerce.  
3:30 p. m. American War Mothers, Chamber of Commerce.  
7 p. m. Old Fellows' Chamber of Commerce.  
8 p. m. American Association of Engineers, Chamber of Commerce.

in the streets below, a negro porter was mumbling about "men what don't know what a ashes tray is," as he swept the room where the four-power pact was drawn. The negro porter didn't know. The hotel manager knows tonight and he is talking of putting a silver plate on the door of that room which bids fair to be the most popular guest room in the house in the future.

### ALLIED LEADERS TO HOLD PARLEY

#### Lloyd-George and Briand to Meet in London to Discuss German Debt.

By WEBB MILLER.  
United Press Staff Correspondent.

Paris, Dec. 10.—Premier Briand tonight accepted the invitation of Lloyd-George to a conference in England for the purpose of discussing Anglo-French differences on reparations.

The meeting, which probably will be held December 20th, was called primarily to decide the Allied attitude on the effort of Germany to alleviate her reparations burden.

The announcement of acceptance followed a day of lengthy conferences between M. Louis Loucheur, President Millrand, Premier Briand and General Nollet, president of the Disarmament Commission.

Loucheur outlined the British viewpoint as he obtained it in his recent conferences with Lloyd-George and British treasury officials. It is understood he learned of a plan of reorganization of the payments which is being supported by London.

#### FRANCE OPPOSES SCHEME.

France, it is known, is entirely against any change in the present scheme. She looks upon any effort of Germany to obtain further postponement of payments or to secure a reorganization as an evasion of her promises to France.

That Briand will cling to that view in his conference with Lloyd-George was indicated from his conference with General Nollet. It was said General Nollet told him of increasing discoveries of hidden arms in Germany and it was believed that Briand may base his argument against further trust of Germany on this. It is felt he cannot subscribe to any plan whereby Germany might defer her payments.

Meanwhile, Dr. Walter Rathenau, German financial expert was on his way from London to Berlin with a message for the German Cabinet on the outcome of his visit to London, where he has pleaded the case of Germany, basing his arguments on the fact that payments of the January and February reparations will plunge his country into bankruptcy and thrust economic and financial chaos on the whole of Europe.

#### WATSON CLAIMS 100 WITNESSES

#### Reads Samples of the Testimony They Will Offer; Defends Own Record.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Three army officers of the general staff, unimpaired of the threats of Senator "Tom" Watson to slap the face of one of them, today sat in a Senate committee room and heard the Senator read into the committee records more than 100 charges of outrages against American soldiers in France.

Killings of soldiers by their officers or the orders of the officers, illegal hangings, and acts of brutality that did not result in death were charged. Senator Watson laid aside for a time his own abstract of charges against the army chiefs, to reply in detail to letters that had been sent to other Senators, most of them attacking Watson and his charges.

In commenting on one of these letters he took occasion to defend his own war record and the record of the State of Georgia.

"Georgia sent her full quota of soldiers to the war," he said. "I personally declared that the United States should enter a naval war at the time the Lusitania was sunk. My son went to war with my full consent," he declared.

Watson read a letter written by Cochran Supplies, of Chicago, to Senator Lodge, charging that two negroes had been hung at Brest.

"The record of the War Department makes no mention of any soldiers having been hung at Brest."

"Then here is a letter of W. A. Dempsey, of 535 Charlton Road, Westfield, N. J., written to Senator Washington, of New York, referring to the execution of two men of the second division for cowardice. But the War Department makes no mention of these cases."

#### SAMPLES OF TESTIMONY.

Here are samples of the testimony which Watson declared could be obtained from the 112 men and women offered as witnesses if they were summoned:

Millard H. Sewell, 2300 East Preston street, Baltimore, will testify that men were shot down by their officers.

Miss E. Hanson, 1812 East Marshall street, Richmond, Va., will testify that officers of the army subjected nurses to personal indignities.

Walter S. Robins, Joplin, Mo., knows that a soldier was executed at Gievres, France, and will swear that the Gievres gallows "were extensively used."

Marion J. Willis, Athens, Ga., saw a soldier shot and killed at Camp Wheeler by a corporal who gave him life duty when he was sick. The corporal was acquitted.

H. S. Cocheley, Birmingham, Ala., will testify he saw a major shoot and kill a soldier because the man was completely fatigued and had to fall out.

Samuel R. Fierbaugh, 1303 Fourteenth street, Detroit, Mich., is willing to testify in several hangings at Istur-Tille. He saw two negroes hanged and one white. The latter was from Indiana, and it was reported that another soldier, convicted later, confessed to committing the crime for which the innocent man gave his life.

Captain A. D. Nicholson, Transportation building, Atlanta, writes that he hung a white American soldier who was tried by courtmartial but denied his guilt to the last.

Harry K. Walmer, 55 West Fifty-second street, New York city, personally knows that men were murdered in cold blood at Shells and Hotel Rue St. Anne, France. They had no trial. Their officers killed them.

C. H. Elliott, 390 Cooper street, Atlanta, offers to "walk to Washington if necessary" to give evidence of brutal treatment of soldiers in France. This witness helped to build the gallows and he saw soldiers shot down by officers.

### MACK'S PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE SPURNED

New York, Dec. 10.—Peggy Joyce, former chorus girl, etc., today declined (by wire) a proposal of marriage from Willard Mack, former husband of several actresses, (also by wire).

"Mr. Mack wired me from Los Angeles 'let's get married,'" Peggy said. "I replied 'no.' It was very kind of Will—I mean Mr. Mack. He is a clever man, brilliant and an artist. But no, never again; not soon anyway. Too much is enough."

Peggy said she had received 783 mailed proposals of marriage since she left her millionaire husband, Joyce. "Of course," she said, "if some one comes along who is very nice, very, very nice, well—you understand."

### THOUSANDS SAIL FOR EUROPE FOR HOLIDAYS

New York, Dec. 10.—More than 10,000 persons sailed for Europe aboard 21 steamships today, marking the height of the Christmas season for the United States. Twenty-one vessels also cast off their lines for European ports.

Among the distinguished passengers aboard these departing liners are General Armando Diaz, Italian military chief, who sailed for Naples; Ley Field Malone and his brother, General William C. Mitchell, assistant chief of staff of the army military academy.

#### DEFINITE PLAN OF ACTION.

Rome, Dec. 10.—The Italian Cabinet today outlined a definite plan of action to follow regarding German reparations either in event of a moratorium is decided upon or the Allied Supreme Council summoned.

This was done for the purpose of "systematizing the question." It was said.

In event the council is summoned Treasury Minister Bonoz de Nava will represent Italy.

### FORMER PRIEST SENTENCED.

Lemars, Iowa, Dec. 10.—Father Wrenn, former priest at Akron, Iowa, convicted of having attacked a 15-year-old girl, was today sentenced to an undetermined term in the Fort Madison prison, Motion for a new trial was denied. Counsel for Father Wrenn will appeal to the Iowa Supreme court.

### COUNTY SCHOOLS TO HAVE WEEK HOLIDAY

The rural schools of Mecklenburg county will dismiss Friday afternoon, December 23, to be closed until Monday, January 2, according to announcement of J. M. Matthews, superintendent of Public Schools of the county.

### SQUIRE COBB OUT AGAIN

Squire J. W. Cobb is back at office at the court house and being confined to his home on Belmont avenue, Piedmont Park, after recovering his usual health.

## Christmas Saving Club Checks

Will be ready for delivery DECEMBER 10th

## Please Call For Yours

All Checks not called for by the 15th will be mailed.

## Commercial National Bank

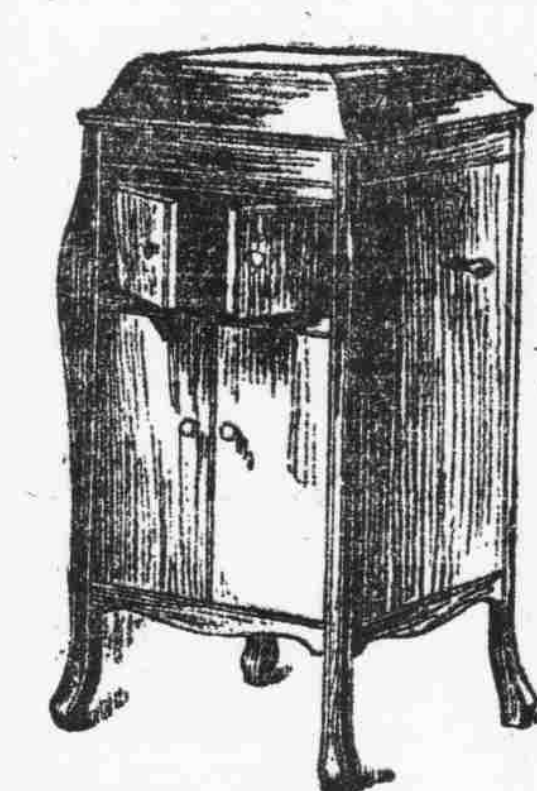
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  - 64424—WHO KNOWS..... JOHN McCORMACK
  - 64623—LOVE, HERE IS MY HEART..... JOHN McCORMACK
  - 64900—THANK GOD FOR A GARDEN..... JOHN McCORMACK
  - 64901—HONOUR AND LOVE..... JOHN McCORMACK
  - 74236—KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN..... JOHN McCORMACK
  - 74423—WHEN MY SHIPS COME SAILING HOME..... JOHN McCORMACK
  - 74435—ADESTE FIDELIS (Chorus and Chimes)..... JOHN McCORMACK

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**BULK CHOCOLATES**  
Milk Chocolate Coated.  
Fruit centers, lb. 60c, 80c, \$1.00.  
Nut centers, lb. 50c, 60c, \$1.00, \$1.25.  
Hard Centers, lb., 60c, 80c, 90c.

Our chocolate line has been developed to meet the tendency toward confections having the highest quality centers. Obtainable in bulk or fancy packages.

**STUFF HARD CANDIES**  
Satin Finished—Bulk.  
Solid Stick Candy and all kinds of hard filled goods, lb., 40c, 50c, 60c, 80c.

Also hard goods (fancy stick candy) is obtainable in all sizes of airtight jars, per jar 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 50c, 60c, 80c. This includes a novel and attractive mixture of brightly colored filled hard candy. A delight to the eyes and palate of the little folks as well as the grown-ups. These confections are made, first of all, to incorporate pure and desirable ingredients into a candy of most agreeable flavor and eating qualities and, second, to give to these confections the utmost in charm in appearance, color, form and texture.

**HARD BRITTLE CANDIES**  
Peanut, cocoanut, plain taffy, lb. 30c.  
A variety of standard bright confections.

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