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BREAKDOWN OF CONTROLS CAUSE OF AIR DISASTER

THIS IS BELIEF
Chief of the Lighter Than Air Service Expresses Surprise at the Statement Attributed to Lieut. Smythe in Which He Said Roma Was Unsafe; Had Stood Every Test.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 23.—Members of the army investigating board continued today their efforts to determine if possible, the definite and primary cause of the disaster which overtook the giant army semi-dirigible Roma over the army base here Tuesday in which 34 of her passengers and crew met death and the world's largest semi-dirigible air ship was demolished.

That the fatal crash followed a breakdown of the controls regulating the altitude of the craft appeared today to be definitely established.

Of the eight injured in the accident all were said to be making good progress toward recovery with the exception of Chas. Devorack, superintendent of construction at McCook Field, Dayton, O., who was still reported to be in a critical condition. The condition of five of the injured had permitted them to be removed from the hospital to Langley Field.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 23.—"Knowing Lieutenant Clifford E. Smythe as I did, I cannot believe that he has been correctly quoted by a Chicago relative in his letter to his father in which he is said to have declared the Roma unsafe."

This statement was officially made this morning by Lieut. Col. A. S. Fisher, chief of the lighter than air service at Langley Field.

"Relative to the Washington trip of the Roma I desire to say she behaved very nicely under trying weather conditions. There was nothing wrong except our speed which was a little slow at the time owing to the Italian engines not working well in this climate. These motors were replaced and there was nothing wrong with the craft when she left here Tuesday.

"Lieutenant Smythe returned from Washington by steamer after making the flight from Langley Field, because he was ordered to do so. See (Continued on page 8)

AMERICA WILL NOT PAY FOR ZEPPLIN

She Will Accept Ship if it Comes to Her Without Cost as Under Versailles Pact.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The navy department it was stated today has notified the state department that it does not want the German Zeppelin now being constructed by Germany for the United States under the reparations clause of the Versailles treaty unless it comes to America without cost.

The question has arisen, it was said, as to whether the amount of money allotted for this purpose by the allies under the reparations agreement was sufficient to complete the Zeppelin, and there is a possibility the United States may be required to make up the difference if she cares to have the ship. This, it is stated, Secretary Denby is not willing to do.

IRISH INVITED TO LONDON.

London, Feb. 23.—The British government has invited the Irish signatories to the Anglo Irish treaty to come to London for an early conference it was announced in the House of Commons today by Winston Churchill.

TEN HOUR DAY IS VIRTUAL RESULT OF CUT IN WAGES

FIREMEN GET CUT
The United States Labor Board Eliminates Extra Pay for Railroad Workers Until After Ten Hours, Pay Pro Rata Wages After Eight Hours, Effective March 1st.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Another pay slash this time hitting 10,000 railroad firemen and oilers was made by the U. S. labor board when it announced rules effective March first eliminating extra pay until after the 10th hour and setting up a "split trick" of eight hours within a spread of twelve without any over time pay.

Following several other decisions which virtually restored the ten hour day for railroad men the board authorized the roads to pay only pro rata wages after the eight hours which the board denoted as constituting a day's work. Time and a half will be paid after ten hours. In the case of the split trick straight time will be paid for the first ten hours whether it is included in the twelve hour spread or not, and time and one half will be given thereafter.

Formerly the firemen and oilers were paid time and one half after eight hours. Sundays and holidays will be paid for at the pro rata rate, a minimum of three hours pay being made for two hours work or less. Monthly rated employees wages are to be adjusted to eliminate the old time and one half provisions.

The board's new rules supplant the national agreement made during federal control which has been in effect since 1916.

SAYS POOR FARE BADLY IN COURT

Washington, Feb. 23.—Equality before the law is impossible so long as the rich and powerful are represented in the court by highly educated lawyers, while a large portion of the poor and ignorant are represented by incompetent men, Judge Goodwin of Chicago declared in his opening address at a conference of the bar association here. Until such is corrected there will be little justice he said.

The shrewd and powerful men and interests of large means are able to know who are competent and who are not, Judge Goodwin asserted, adding it was difficult for the poor and ignorant man to make a just estimate as to who was capable of properly advising him.

"During my years as a trial judge I was frequently distressed by the fact that one side or the other in the case before me was so incompetently represented by counsel or represented by such ignorant counsel that owing to the skill and learning of attorneys on the other side it seemed impossible to get the case properly before the court or to keep error out of the record," Judge Goodwin said.

WEATHER.
For North Carolina, probably rain tonight and Friday, colder Friday and in west portion tonight fresh southerly winds.

GENERAL NFWS

The German government is soon to discuss with party leaders the election of a new president for Germany.

An authentic authority states that Premier Lloyd George will go to Paris Saturday to confer with Premier Poincare on various matters affecting the relations between France and Great Britain.

J. L. Armfield, former president of the Bank of Thomasville, charged with improper handling of the bank's funds will probably remain in jail until his case comes up on March 3.

HACKNEY BROTHERS SUFFER ANOTHER BIG FIRE LOSS

WITIN TWO MONTHS
Paint Shop Burned Yesterday Afternoon With Loss of \$50,000 Covered by Insurance. Fire Quick and Hot. Four Workmen Were Injured. Two in Hospital.

One of the fastest and hottest fires ever seen in this city occurred yesterday afternoon about five o'clock when the paint shop of Hackney Bros. in this city burned, and four workmen came near losing their lives before they were able to escape from the building. This is the second fire suffered by the Hackney buggy and automobile plant located on Green street and running back to an alley between this property and their store property which fronts on Nash street since Christmas. This was the fifth fire yesterday.

The fire at Christmas caused a loss of around \$400,000. That fire burned two buildings fronting on Green street and stopped at a double wall. (Continued on Page Eight.)

MARKETS

COTTON.
New York, Feb. 23.—Cotton futures opened firm, March 18.50, May 18.10, July 17.65, Oct. 17.03, Dec. 16.86.

New York, Feb. 23.—The feature in the cotton market early today was the small number of March notices. So far as could be learned only 17 representing 1700 bales were issued and there was active covering by May shorts with the market opening firm and soon showing net advances of 30 to 37 points.

N. Y. COTTON OPENED
Mar. 18.45, May 18.18, July 17.64, Oct. 17.06, Dec. 16.86-B.

N. Y. COTTON CLOSED.
Mar. 18.20, May 17.95, July 17.33, Oct. 16.66, Dec. 16.65.

12 O'CLOCK MARKET
Mar. 18.52, May 18.31, July 17.70, Oct. 17.00-B, Dec. 16.82-B.
Spots, Wilson market 17c.

LIVERPOOL OPENED
Mar. 10.29, May 10.33, July 10.29, Oct. 9.96.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED
Mar. 10.32, May 10.35, July 10.31, Oct. 9.98.

CHICAGO GRAIN OPENED
Wheat, May 1.46 7-8, July 1.27 1-4
Corn, May 63 3-4, July 65 3-4.
Oats, May 41 3-8, July 42 7-8.

WHEAT CLOSED.
May 144, July 124 3-4.

CORN CLOSED.
May 65, July 67 1-8.

OATS CLOSED.
May 41 7-8, July 43 1-8.

CALL MONEY
Closed at 6 percent.

12 O'CLOCK MARKET
Wheat, 1.46 7-8, July 1.27 1-4.
Corn, May 66 1-8, July 68.
Oats, May 43 1-2, July 43 7-8.
Money 5 per cent.
Sterling 440 5-8, France 914 1-2, Lire 503 1-2, Marks 46 1-2.

STOCKS.

New York, Feb. 23.—Accumulation of buying orders over the holiday gave momentum to further advance of prices on the stock market today. Foreign oils especially Royal Dutch were the strongest issues. Southern Railway and St. Louis and San Francisco featured renewed inquiry for rails.

NATIONS EXHIBIT AN UNWILLINGNESS TO PAY WAR DEBTS

COMPLICATED SITUATION
America Has Appointed a Funding Commission But Italy and France Say They Cannot Pay Because of High Tariffs England Refuses to Cancel French Debt.

(By David Lawrence.)
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Washington, Feb. 22.—World finance is threatening to develop a "vicious circle" involving not merely the payment of American Liberty Bonds but the height of the tariff wall being constructed by the American Congress.

France says through former Minister Loucheur that she will not be able to pay America the war debt because of the high customs duties imposed against her.

Italy through Ambassador Riccio who is a famous economist as well as a diplomat says the tariff wall will prevent Italy from paying what she owes the United States.

Great Britain says she will not cancel any of the debt owed her by France unless the United States cancels an equivalent amount of British debt.

France says she cannot pay Great Britain until money is forthcoming from the German indemnity.

America has just appointed a funding commission and has yet to speak her policy. But certain fundamentals can be taken for granted. One is that the new commission composed of Secretary Hughes, Secretary Hoover, Secretary Mellon, Senator Smoot of Utah and Representative Burton of Ohio will not cancel any of the European debt. No such power is vested in the commission. The most that can be done for Europe is to spread the payment of interest and principal over a period of years and here too Congress has imposed a limit of twenty five years. This may have to be extended but that's a subject for bargaining across the table.

In fact, the appointment of the American funding commission has been the signal for pointed expressions from both France and Italy. The cry that neither can pay unless the tariff wall is removed is regarded here as having some basis of plausibility from the viewpoint of sound economics but the belief prevails that Europe will look around for many an excuse to postpone or repudiate payment until finally compelled to meet the question directly in the official negotiations.

The action of Great Britain in announcing that she fully intends to pay interest and principal and that she had already set aside approximately \$110,000,000 to pay 6 months interest on her indebtedness to America has produced a profound impression here and is another evidence of the betterment of Anglo-American relations.

There are of course three ways by which Europe can pay her debts to America—in gold, in goods and in service such as freight carrying. Gold can be transferred only if America buys of Europe. Should the American people indulge in the purchase of securities of foreign enterprises, this would tend to help the situation but Americans have been slow in the past to invest heavily in European business.

The export of goods which would be payment for debts to America would help Europe but the tariff laws under consideration in Congress will tend to reduce the amount that Europe can sell here. If it ever comes to a question of permitting foreign manufacture to flood American markets and hurt American industries, the tendency would be to forego payment of foreign debt and keep American industries going.

But there is a mean between two extremes—a line below which Americans (Continued on Page Eight.)

MUCH OPPOSITION TO RESERVATIONS ON PACIFIC PACT

PRESIDENT FAVORABLE
The New Reservation Provides That Nothing in the Pacific Treaty Shall be Construed as Committing the Nation to Armed Force Without Congress' Consent.

Washington, Feb. 23.—A modified blanket reservation to the four power Pacific treaty made before the Senate foreign relations committee after a conference with President Harding met with immediate opposition from several Republicans as well as Democratic committeemen.

The new reservation intended as a substitute for that proposed several days ago by Senator Brandegee of Connecticut provides that nothing in the treaty shall be construed as committing the United States to an exercise of armed force without the consent of Congress.

After more than an hour's delay which failed to win over to the new proposal any of the senators who had supported the Brandegee reservation the committee adjourned.

Although Senator Lodge did not inform his colleagues specifically as to the attitude of the President the other members understood that the reservation would be acceptable at the White House. It had been discussed at the earlier conference between Mr. Lodge and Mr. Harding, but it was not formally offered to the committee with administrative backing.

Senators Borah, Republican of Idaho, and Johnson, Republican of California, both pronounced the modified draft as unsatisfactory, while Senator Brandegee and his followers withheld a decision and indicated by their attitude in the discussion that they did not find the new proposal readily acceptable.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Advice of President Harding as to the acceptance of the reservations to the four power Pacific treaty was sought by Senators Lodge of Massachusetts and New of Indiana, of the foreign relations committee.

The conference generally was regarded as having an important bearing on the progress of the Pacific pact toward senate ratification, action of the foreign relations committee having been held up pending ascertainment of the President's views.

Foremost among the proposed reservations discussed by the two senators was that of Senator Brandegee, Republican of Connecticut, providing that every adjustment reached under the treaty shall be subject to the review of Congress. This has been favored by the Indiana Senator, while Senator Lodge has not committed himself. Mr. New reiterated his opposition today after seeing Mr. Harding, but gave no indication of the President's views.

LEAGUE MEET ON MARCH 1ST

Richmond, Va., Feb. 23.—Acting President Bradley of the Virginia League announced a meeting of the league directors had been called for March 1st in Newport News for election of officers and acceptance of a schedule.

NEW DORMITORY PLANNED FOR DAVIDSON COLLEGE.

Davidson, Feb. 23.—The trustees of Davidson College in annual spring session yesterday approved plans for a second four story dormitory to duplicate the one contracted for last year and for a new and larger heating plant.

Trustees from five Southern states, were in attendance, Dr. W. L. Pringle of Richmond presiding.

ELDER S. B. DENNY CHOSEN PRESIDENT BY THE MERCHANTS

STATE SECRETARY TALKS
Mr. R. L. Patrick Selected for Vice President, and Mr. Clarence Stokes Second Vice President. Mr. M. B. Lewis Treasurer. Miss Culpepper Was Re-elected Secretary.

Election of officers, a splendid speech from State Secretary Paul Leonard, announcement of dollar day March 15th, and arrangements for the annual banquet, March 7th were the outstanding features of the Merchants Association meeting held last evening.

The members of the Association were especially grateful to Mr. Mr. George Starr, the retiring President, for his energy and activity in looking after the interests of the Association during the time he has held the reins as president, and upon his retirement last night, he was given a vote of thanks, every member springing to his feet, when the motion was put Mr. Marvin Lewis also came in for words of commendation. He was reelected treasurer, and there has been money in the treasury all during his administration, it was announced. Some one said that he should have a life time job as the carrier of the purse. Miss Culpepper, the efficient secretary of the Association also came in for commendation. The opinion was expressed that she should be made secretary for life.

Upon motion of Mr. C. P. Clark, seconded by every member present, President Starr sent a round robin, regarding a dollar day March 15th. The last dollar day brought so many people to town, and gave them so (Continued on Page 8.)

RIVAL OFFERS ARE BEING CONSIDERED

Gray Silver Has Completed a Statement Urging Acceptance of Mr. Ford's Offer.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Rival offers of the Alabama Power Company and of Henry Ford for the purchase and lease of the government nitrate and power project at Muscle Shoals, Ala., were officially before the house military committee today. That body received the Alabama proposals from the House while it prepared to complete study of the Ford bid this week.

Chairman Kahn estimated actual work on the Alabama offer would begin next week.

Gray Silver, Washington representative of the American farm bureau federation, completed a statement advocating acceptance by Congress of the Ford contract leaving only two others to be considered, W. B. Mayor, chief engineer for Mr. Ford, and Thos W. Martin, president of the Alabama Power Company. These will probably be disposed of tomorrow.

CRAWFORD GETS HIS FREEDOM

Salisbury, Feb. 23.—Judge J. B. Ray in Rowan Superior Court today suspended sentence upon the payment of costs of Capt. R. E. Crawford railroad conductor who submitted to a charge of manslaughter during his trial last week for second degree murder in connection with the killing of Engineer Sam Hinton last December. The jury which was trying Crawford asked for his pardon.

Crawford killed Hinton by striking him over the head with a catsup bottle for alleged improper remarks concerning Crawford's wife.