

WEATHER
Cloudy tonight and Sunday. Moderate East to South winds.

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Lord Curzon's Speech Sensation of the Day

Englishman Warns France Of Danger Of Policy Of Isolation—American Officials Cautious About Explaining Significance Though Admitting It May Prove Turning Point

Washington, Nov. 25—Lord Curzon's speech warning France that a policy of isolation on her part may constitute a danger to the peace of the world is the sensation of the day here.

American officials were cautious about explaining its significance though they admitted it may prove a turning point in the history of the Washington conference on limitation of armament.

The speech of the British foreign minister is the direct outgrowth of what transpired at the secret session of the armament committee of five powers last Wednesday on the day after Premier Briand delivered his impassioned speech to the full conference. It develops that Premier Briand expecting a resolution of endorsement of French military policy turned to the representatives of the other powers and in a speech that somewhat dismayed them proceeded to interpret the remarks of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Hughes in a way that carried a much more thorough approval of French policy than was intended by the carefully qualified words of both the heads of the British and American delegations.

To offset any exaggerated impressions which the French people might possibly have of the responses made to Premier Briand's speech, the British government through Lord Curzon, foreign minister, has now issued a warning in such unequivocal terms as is expected by the British government to prevent any misunderstanding when Premier Briand gets back to France.

Indeed, the tendency of France to play a lone hand outside the family of nations and particularly the intimations of an unwillingness to subscribe to a definite ration on naval armament as well as a refusal to agree to a reduction of land armament while Germany and Russia are uncertain quantities has irritated the British very much. Lord Curzon's warning that the strength and protection of the French cause does not consist of French arms "but in the conscience of the world" in which he included the United States as well as European powers was interpreted here as a direct contradiction of Premier Briand's argument last Tuesday that the French army alone was keeping France from an invasion by Germany. Even more significant, however, is the pointed prediction of the British foreign minister that "we shall convert Germany into a peaceful member of the international court of Europe only if the great powers combine not merely to enforce the treaty but to make it clear that no policy of retaliation or revenge will be tolerated by them and that they will assist Germany to play her part, provided she shows sincerity and good faith."

There is talk of inviting Germany to send a representative to this conference or one to be held in Europe at which Germany will have a chance to announce her position. American officials, of course, do not wish to discuss the enforcement of the Versailles treaty but they would not be averse to a discussion with Germany which might bring out pertinent facts and lead to a better understanding between Germany and the rest of the world. In this connection it is recalled that before the Washington conference began there were intimations from White House quarters that before the armament sessions were over, the nations represented here might "talk to Germany" in an effort to relieve France of her fears and apprehensions.

Premier Briand has called for Europe but he has left behind him a trail of political embarrassments from which the conference has not yet recovered. The Italian delegation at the now famous Wednesday meeting which was held in secret insisted upon seeing something done about land disarmament to which of course Premier Briand objected. When the French premier too asked in a rhetorical pause if the United States and Great Britain would give France defensive guarantees and his speech was answered by an ominous silence, he promptly faced about and outlined the necessity of a policy of isolation on the part of France which he hoped the other powers would not disapprove. In other words, he indi-

Sees Peep Holes From Purgatory

Mayor Goodwin Says Deep Fissures Look That Way, With Smoke Boiling Forth

Hundreds of acres of burnt over farm lands in the Moyock Drainage District, on both sides of the main drainage canal that runs through the Guinea Mill section, were observed by Mayor W. Ben Goodwin on a Thanksgiving Day visit to his sister, Mrs. Herbert Jones of Moyock.

"The land is burned away to a depth of two or three feet," says Mr. Goodwin, "and the fire continues to spread. Down at the bottom of the burned area in many places one sees the trunks and roots of old trees, buried perhaps for several hundred years, over which the loose, peaty soil, full of dried vegetation has been completely consumed by the flames."

"Where the clay from the bottom of the canal has been piled into banks by the sides of the big ditch," Mr. Goodwin declares, "the fire has burned away the inflammable soil underneath, and is still smouldering there. The upper clay has caved in, and in numberless places there are deep fissures whence the smoke pours forth all day long. These seem to the observer almost like chimneys from the infernos of hades."

Mattamuskeet Lake, in Hyde County, recently drained and converted into farming land, is believed to have been formed by just such a fire as is raging in upper Currituck County; and were the latter area insufficiently drained, a few heavy winter rains might quickly convert it into a similar lake. Lake Drummond, in the Dismal Swamp, is thought also to owe its origin to a forest fire of centuries ago.

Will Be Held At Y

The buttermaking contest and nutrition booth will be at the Chamber of Commerce quarters of the Y. M. C. A. instead of at the court house as was previously announced. The date is December 1 and women of the community are urged to attend.

cated that France unhelped by Great Britain and the United States must have a free hand on the continent of Europe. The American delegation made no comment but the British felt the occasion should not pass without instant action by their government. London cablegrams say flatly that the Curzon speech was made with particular reference to the Washington conference and the assumption here is that the British cabinet acted upon advices from the this capital after what occurred at the Wednesday meeting. Incidentally this incident is the first in which a controversy has arisen over the true meaning of an utterance in the confidential sessions and that school of thought which advocates open sessions even for the committees is contending that misinterpretation would never have been possible if the meetings were open to the press to which, of course, the answer is made that the British government has promptly exposed the whole affair to the air of public opinion through the widespread publicity given the Curzon speech.

Anglo-French relations are hardly improved after the clash between the Briand and Curzon views as to how Germany may be treated and it would not be surprising if the French declined to adhere to the program of defensive submarines being suggested for them. This is also a sore point with the British who hardly will agree to grant France the right to build an unlimited number of submarines.

The friction between France and Great Britain is disconcerting to the other governments, and it is predicted that before the conference is over the mediating influence of the United States will have to be exercised to obtain a harmonious agreement.

Third Attempt To Salvage Cargo Fails

New York, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—The third attempt to salvage the four million gold and silver cargo of the steamer Merida sunk ten years ago off the Virginia Capes has failed, it was admitted at the office of the salvaging company today.

Suits Against Five Treasurers

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—Suits for accounting against five former state treasurers were started here today by Attorney General Brundage, which include Governor Small and Lieutenant Governor Sterling.

Explosion Wrecks Negro Picture Show

St. Petersburg, Fla., Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—Two explosions of dynamite wrecked the interior of a negro motion picture theater here today.

New Entanglements Develop Over Law

Pasquotank Now Legally Has No County Welfare Officer, It Appears

A hitch has developed in the enforcement of the law requiring all pool room keepers and jitney drivers to have their applications for licenses accompanied by a certificate of good character signed by the Mayor, the City Attorney and the County Welfare Officer of Pasquotank. The difficulty lies in the circumstance that, under the law, there is no regularly qualified County Welfare Officer here.

Preston S. Vann, formerly superintendent of schools of Pasquotank County, was the first County Welfare Officer elected for the County. He resigned in the early summer of 1920 after serving some eight months, to accept the presidency of Chowan College, and temporarily the welfare work was divided between County Superintendent of Schools M. P. Jennings and Chief of Police Leon Holmes. The duties of these two men, in the County and city respectively, were practically confined to the enforcement of the compulsory school attendance law.

After a few months Chief Holmes resigned as Welfare Officer, or more properly school attendance officer, of Elizabeth City, and Mrs. Anna E. Lewis was elected to fill his place. Mrs. Lewis has been very active in welfare work in the city, as well as in enforcing the school attendance law, and has carried her work into the County to a considerable extent. But it appears that she has never been duly inducted into office as County Welfare Officer.

The result of the whole mixup is that the pool room proprietors and jitney drivers of the city will probably be allowed an additional extension of a few days past December 1, the date by which they were recently ordered to comply with the character certificate law. The Board of County Commissioners and the County Board of Education will meet on Monday, December 5, to pass upon Mrs. Lewis' status as County Welfare Officer, and it is indicated that the two boards will carry out any provisions that the State Welfare Board may require in order that the County may have a regularly qualified Welfare Officer.

No question of Mrs. Lewis' work, or of her fitness for the position, has been brought up. The entire difficulty lies in the fact that the legal technicalities incident to her assumption of the office have not fully been complied with, through no fault of her own. A representative of the State Welfare Board, perhaps Mrs. T. E. Johnston, the State Welfare Officer herself, will be here at the next meetings of the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education to help straighten out the matter.

Meanwhile, the few jitney drivers who have had their character certificates properly filled out and signed, as they thought, find themselves no more secure in the possession of the required papers than they were beforehand. Any time extension granted them as the result of this latest development will be given full publicity through the press.

Protest Against Renewal Of Warfare

London, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—A chorus of vigorous protest against renewal of warfare in Ireland in the event that present peace negotiations collapse was raised by morning newspapers here today.

TROOPS CALLED RESTORE ORDER

Anti-French Demonstrations In Turin, Italy, Caused By Alleged Harsh Words Used By Premier Briand

Turin, Italy, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—Anti-French demonstrations precipitated last night by newspaper accounts of alleged harsh words used by Premier Briand to Senator Schanzler, head of the Italian delegation at Washington, continued today. Three hundred troops were called out to restore order.

GRIFFIN-THORNTON

The marriage of Miss Linda Thornton, popular Elizabeth City girl, to Mr. George W. Griffin was quietly solemnized at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Ida Thornton, on Ehringhaus street, extended, Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. R. F. Hall was the officiating minister. Following the ceremony, the couple left on the afternoon train for a tour of Northern cities, and upon their return they will make their home here.

The Thornton home was attractively decorated for the ceremony, which was performed in the presence of only a few friends and close relatives of the bride and groom. Mr. Griffin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Griffin of the Corinth section of Pasquotank, just outside the city limits.

Five Bodies Found In Drifting Boat

Watertown, N. Y., Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—The bodies of four men and one woman were found in a life boat ten miles southwest of Stony Point on Lake Ontario yesterday by the Isabella H. Lake, freighter.

FURTHER DEFENSE TESTIMONY IN ARBUCKLE TRIAL TODAY

San Francisco, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—Further defense testimony formed the program in the manslaughter trial of Roscoe C. Arbuckle. A delegation of witnesses from the Los Angeles Film Colony headed by Alice Lake are expected to testify in Arbuckle's behalf.

Liquor On Board Men Under Guard

Portsmouth, Va., Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—The United States mine sweeper Rewing with a complement of sixty men are under naval guard following the discovery and removal of a large quantity of liquor.

For the Red Cross

The public is urged to attend the Roanoke Island pictures Sunday afternoon for the benefit of the Red Cross. The hour for the grownups is 3:45. There will be singing, and an opportunity for everybody to help the Red Cross.

The children are asked to go at 2:30 and there will be no offering or subscriptions taken at this performance.

Funeral Mrs. Etheridge

The funeral of Mrs. Clarke Etheridge, wife of John A. Etheridge of Roper, who died at the Community Hospital at five o'clock Thursday afternoon was conducted at Columbia Baptist church Friday afternoon and interment was made in the family burying ground.

Mrs. Etheridge is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Sam Leigh, of Elizabeth City, and Mrs. Martha Combs of Columbia; by three sons, D. W. Brickhouse, B. C. Brickhouse, and E. L. Brickhouse, of Columbia; by three sisters, Mrs. Kate Nichols of Portsmouth, Mrs. Alice Whitehead of Norfolk, Mrs. Sue Snell of Columbia; by two brothers, Ed Hopkins and J. S. Hopkins of Columbia.

Mrs. Sam Leigh, daughter of the deceased, and Mrs. John Pinner, a stepdaughter, were among those from Elizabeth City attending the funeral.

Big Fire Rages In Augusta, Ga.

Number of Big Buildings In Ruins Before Flames Brought Under Control—Thousands Witness The Scene

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—The loss of two million dollars was caused by the fire which early today laid nearly one-half of the seven hundred block of Broad street in ruins before being brought under control and caused appeals to nearby towns for aid.

AGREE TO POINT REGARDING CHINA

Withdrawal Of Postoffices In China Settled Informally By Far Eastern Committee Of Conference Today

Washington, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—The withdrawal of foreign postoffices in China was informally agreed to in principle by the Far Eastern committee of the conference today.

Washington, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—With the Armament Conference negotiations proceeding in an atmosphere of friendliness, increasing importance is attached to the outcome as the result of the informally expressed hopes of President Harding that the concave might lay the foundation for continuing a series of conferences with the aim of perpetuating closer international accord.

So much progress has been made by naval experts examining the details of the American reduction plan that some of the arms delegates expect another plenary session may be held soon to permit Japan and Great Britain to submit their counter proposals in concrete form.

Tickets For Esther On Sale In Few Days

Sacred Opera Is Described As Wonderful In Perfection Of Musical Theme

Tickets for the sacred opera Esther, to be presented at the High School auditorium here on Thursday and Friday nights, December 8 and 9, will be put on sale at the Duff Piano Company in the next few days. The first two days of the ticket sale will be devoted entirely to the selling of season tickets. H. A. Brownley, president of the Choral Society, which is putting on the great sacred opera, states that there are numerous advantages in the purchase of these season tickets.

"In the first place," says Mr. Brownley, "the season tickets are sold at a greatly reduced rate; but an even greater advantage is that, after the season ticket holder selects his seat for the first performance, that seat is his throughout the season. The plot of the theater will be on display at the Duff Piano Company's store for season ticket holders for three days prior to the beginning of the sale of tickets for the one performance."

"The opera Esther has been pronounced by many of those who have heard parts of it in rehearsals as being the most melodious blending of musical sound that they have ever heard, and while it may not reach the profound depths of the grand operas of the German and Italian schools, yet for pure beauty of conception and perfection of theme, it stands unsurpassed."

"Esther is Biblical, but not dogmatic. It is spiritually instructive, but entirely non-sectarian. The music itself is so interpretative of the theme that one could close his eyes and in fancy stand at the court of the great Persian king, listening to the beautiful Esther's plea for her race. The commonplace bromide 'treat' is entirely inadequate to express the delightful harmonies that will be rendered for the public in the presentation of Esther. It is in every sense a treasure of golden thought, expressed in motion, script and music."

The Johnson and Harrison buildings, the Albion Hotel, and the Augusta Chronicle building were totally destroyed and the Genesta Hotel was partly burned. The J. B. White & Company store was partly burned and heavily damaged by water.

Another fire two blocks away on Jackson street also gutted three buildings owned by Harry Cummings.

The origin of the fire has not been determined. Thousands witnessed the scene.

Movable Steel Dam Nearing Completion

Described By Government Officials As Most Remarkable Engineering Feat

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—A movable steel dam, placing of which is described by government officials in the office as a remarkable engineering feat, is of the United States Engineer here nearing completion in the north canal at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The most remarkable feature of the work, the engineers say, is the swinging of the entire framework of the dam, weighing approximately 80 tons, into place at one time. This was accomplished by means of a stiff leg derrick on either side of the canal.

The dam will have been installed by December 1, the engineers say, work of placing the gates being under way at present.

The dam was desired to afford protection to two locks in the Soo Canal. When the dam is completed it will be possible to shut off the water supply through the canal entirely. Placing of the structure is a precautionary measure entirely, it is pointed out. If at any time any of the gates in the locks become out of order it would be impossible to stop the flow of water, which might flow through the canal at a high rate of speed, imperiling shipping and carrying away other locks. It is to prevent such an occurrence that the dam was authorized by the government.

The new dam is said by engineers to mark a new step in such construction, the entire framework and gates being built of steel.

The dam is to be operated much like a draw bridge, being divided in the middle. It will be possible to close either or both sides at a time, keeping the water from one or two locks, as desired. The dam will be tested each month.

Veteran Educator Celebrates Birthday

George Cathey Taught In Georgia And North Carolina Schools Eighty Years

Raleigh, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—George Cathey, who taught in the Georgia and North Carolina school for eighty years, celebrated his hundredth birthday at the North Carolina Home for Confederate Soldiers today. He was a captain in the Civil War.

BANDITS GET JEWELRY

St. Louis, Nov. 26 (By The Associated Press)—Four armed bandits entered the office of the St. Louis refining Company and escaped with diamonds and jewelry said to be valued at \$60,000 today.