

ALLIED PREMIERS WILL INVITE AMERICA TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEM

But It Is Becoming More And More Apparent That That Initiative Must Come From The European Governments For America Refuses To Assume Role Of Dictator To Europe

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, Dec. 22.—When the Allied premiers meet in Paris on January 2nd, they will in all probability invite the United States Government to help solve the economic situation of Europe. Possibly an American diplomatic representative may be summoned to attend the meeting.

But it is becoming more and more apparent that the initiative must come from European governments as the United States doesn't want to be placed in the position of assuming responsibility for the execution of its suggestions nor does it want to be forced into the position of having tried to dictate to Europe.

This explains to some extent the vehemence of Secretary Hughes in denying the story that a commission of American business men were to act with the unofficial sanction of the American Government in trying to fix the amount of German indemnity. Mr. Hughes was perturbed today because some of the press reports took his statement as the usual "diplomatic denial." The plan to have a commission of American business men co-operate in fixing the sum that Germany can pay has many sponsors here and business men of prominence are trying to get this Government and European governments to assent to it but the Department of State is not connected with the proposal either officially or unofficially any more than it was with J. P. Morgan's visit to Paris last June and the meetings of the international bankers committee. It is an interested onlooker but not a promoter of these plans.

The truth is the United States Government is feeling its way. Thus far it has not done any more than make plain informally to the European governments that it stands ready to help them with its influence and advice whenever it shall be sought. This in itself is a step forward because Europe has been clamoring for three years for American help and has pointed to the number of invitations which have gone unaccepted.

What America wants Europe to understand now is that the United States will sit in the councils of Europe and discuss these matters.

The thought of an international economic conference still is in the minds of many governments but it may be said at this stage of the proceedings that the United States will not call it. There are certain obligations imposed on the host to lay down a program and to set forth what can be done by the nation calling the conference. An illustration of this was the naval armament conference a year ago when America felt compelled to announce its own sacrifice at the very beginning. Europe would expect the United States to announce how much of the Allied war debt would be cancelled or whether the interest would be forgiven or some such concrete suggestion for a solution of the whole problem.

What the United States Government would like to see is a conference either of premiers or ambassadors which would bring to the front all the phases of the European economic situation and America would be ready to give its advice along with the other governments. It will be recalled that when the premiers met in London recently they reached a deadlock and decided to postpone their meeting until January 2nd with the understanding that in the interval informal approaches would be made to Ambassador Harvey to see what the American Government would suggest. It has already been told from London that Mr. Harvey informed the Allies he believed America was opposed to the invasion of the Ruhr. This, too, has been confirmed by despatches from this side of the Atlantic. Whatever the Allies said to Mr. Harvey was deemed of such importance that President Harding and Secretary Hughes decided to call him to Washington for a personal conference. The hope is that the situation will be maneuvered so that if an economic conference is called it will be at the initiative of some European govern-

NEW BERN SENDS THANKS TO CITY

Mayor Goodwin Receiving Resolutions Expressing Appreciation Of Help Given

Mayor W. Ben Goodwin is in receipt of resolutions from the board of aldermen of New Bern expressing to Elizabeth City appreciation of the help rendered by this community recently.

The resolutions, which are signed by Mayor Edward Clark of New Bern and stamped with the official seal of that city, follow:

Whereas, during the disastrous fire of December 1, 1922, the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth City, N. C., in behalf of the citizens of said city, graciously and promptly offered to send firemen and apparatus to help our firemen fight the peril which threatened the destruction of this city and to render our citizens all other aid and assistance within their power, and the residents of said city have generously contributed money and property to relieve the distress of our unfortunate people,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of New Bern:

1.—That the gratitude of the inhabitants of this city is due and the same be and hereby is cordially extended to the Mayor, city officials, firemen and citizens of our sister city for the very timely offer of aid and for the assistance and relief so generously given us in time of danger and distress.

2.—That the clerk certify a copy hereof and that the Mayor transmit the same with our profound appreciation to the Mayor of Elizabeth City, N. C., with the sincere hope that our kindly relations with the officials and citizens of said city, strengthened with our recollection of their neighborly help, may be everlasting.

Unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of New Bern, N. C., held December 12, 1922.

EDWARD CLARK,
Mayor.

Attest:
F. T. PATTERSON, City Clerk.

ment and that if America is asked her advice it will be as given advice and not as a proposal that this country undertake the execution of guarantees or some other political entanglement which might be contrary to American public opinion. The Harding administration believes it can render advice without entangling itself in any obligation to guarantee the security of France or Germany or any other power.

But until Europe asks for American advice formally, all talk of an American plan to solve Europe's ills must be considered as premature. Secretary Hughes is afraid that the press reports will give the impression abroad that the United States stands ready to do a great many things which American opinion as well as sound business judgment might not approve. He doesn't want Europe to feel that America will do it all or that it is trying to foist a program on Europe. Already there has been a somewhat unfavorable reaction from France to the earlier press reports from America which were predicated on unwarranted assumptions. For diplomacy sake and for ultimate success in the negotiations itself, the American Government would like to have European governments ask the United States for advice and suggestions. The United States Government has made known its readiness to receive them and to help in whatever way it can. The moves must come from Europe in the next few days.

FIFTEEN HURT NEAR LUCAMA

Two Of Injured Taken To Hospital At Rocky Mount—Coast Line Derailed

Rocky Mount, N. C., Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Fifteen passengers were injured when eight cars including four sleepers and the engine of Atlantic Coast Line No. 82 were derailed near Lucama today. Two of the injured were brought here. The other slightly hurt were given attention by physicians at the scene.

Report Biggest Oil Transaction

Los Angeles Promoters Obtain From Mexico Blanket Concession On Lands

Los Angeles, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The Times has reported the announcement from promoters that a group of local manufacturers, bankers and oil operators have obtained from the Mexican government "what amounts to a blanket concession on all government lands in the oil district of the coast. It is by far the biggest oil transaction in Mexican history and probably the most important deal of the kind in the world."

Four Bandits Get Miners' Payroll

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Four bandits shot Ross Dennis, paymaster of the Pittsburgh Coal Company today, and escaped with a satchel containing about \$20,000 in currency. The hold-up occurred in the hills near Mount Lebanon while a party of company officials was taking the Christmas pay to the miners.

Mutilated Bodies Further Identified

Mer Rouge, La., Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The wire-bound mutilated bodies of the two men recovered from Lake LaFourche by state troops were further identified today by Thomas Richard's widow and Watt Daniels' aged father and other relatives and friends. The men disappeared after being kidnapped by masked and white robed men last August.

REV. R. F. HALL IS "POUNDED"

The ladies of Berea Baptist church gave Rev. and Mrs. R. F. Hall a "severe" pounding one day this week, not as an expression of ill-will, but as an expression of love and appreciation for their faithful services. Mr. and Mrs. Hall knew nothing whatever of what the ladies of the church had previously planned until a Ford car, driven by Mr. and Mrs. Willie L. Pritchard and Mrs. W. S. Stafford drove up to the door of their pastor and unloaded the good things. A little later Mrs. Paul Harris and Miss Vette Harris brought in another load, and still later others followed these. Some of the gifts consisted of a whole flock of chickens, country sausage, butter, eggs, lard, potatoes, sugar, jelly, preserves, canned fruit and vegetables, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are very grateful for these material blessings.

Send Gifts To Orphans

The Fidelis Class of the First Baptist Church sent a Christmas box this week packed full of attractive gifts to the boys and girls of Thomsville Orphanage.

CLAIM NEW CLUES

Denver, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Authorities investigating the mint hold-up still face a blank wall in their efforts to apprehend the bandits but detectives claim to have new clues.

CONVICTED OF MURDER

New York, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Abraham Becker has been convicted of the murder of his wife, whose lime covered body was found in the auto repair yard of Reuben Nordkin.

The murder occurred last April. Nordkin is awaiting trial. Becker will be sentenced Tuesday, the penalty for the crime being electrocution.

KILLED BY NEPHEW

Winchester, Va., Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Taylor McBride, aged fifty, is dead and his nephew, Clarence McBride, is held on a murder charge as the result of a fight in Hampshire County.

TRINKLE CALLS EXTRA SESSION

And Special Election In February To Fill Vacancies In Virginia Senate and House

Richmond, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Governor Trinkle today called a special session of the Legislature to meet Wednesday, February 28, and a special election to be held Tuesday, February 29, to fill five vacancies in the State Senate and one vacancy in the House.

The Assembly will be asked to consider the question of providing funds for the Highway Department to take care of its immediate and reasonable needs, the question of correcting the error of the last session in connection with redistricting the state, and to consider any matter that may come up relative to enlargement of the new office building now under construction.

The Governor said he will suggest that the extra session provide only temporary funds for needs of the Highway Department and that the question of bonds or any other method of financing be referred to the people at the general election in the fall of 1923.

What King Said Was Little Noted

London, Dec. 24 (By The Associated Press)—The pomp and ceremony attending the opening of Parliament probably attracts more attention in the House of Lords than do the words of the King's speech, but the last address from George V, delivered a short time ago, contained no interpolation such as was once made in a speech from the throne by George IV.

It is asserted that when he was regent George IV made a bet with Richard Sheridan, the dramatist, that so little attention would be paid to the reading of his speech that he could interpolate any nonsense he liked without any one showing surprise.

The bet was accepted. The Regent paused in the course of the address and said distinctly, "Baa, baa, black sheep," and then went on. No one took notice of the strange words. Chagrined at the loss of his wager, Sheridan asked George Canning, the Premier, if he had noticed anything strange.

"Oh yes," said Canning. "I heard the Prince say 'Baa, baa, black sheep,' but as he was looking straight at you at the time I took it for a personal allusion."

Profiteers Are Only Taxi Patrons

Moscow, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Automobile taxicabs operated by private owners have appeared in Moscow, but the tariff is so high that on several occasions the government has issued warnings to the public to beware of extortion. The street cars, about the cheapest thing in Moscow, are always crowded to such an extent that foreign visitors never consider riding in them. The carfare is now 500,000 Soviet rubles, or about two cents.

The four wheeled drosky, drawn by one or two horses, which never ceased operation even during the revolution, and the sleigh when snow is on the ground, continues to be the most popular way of getting about the city. The drosky drivers insist upon a fare about fifteen times more than the street car charge. The taxicabs are patronized chiefly by speculators who are interested in daily transactions of billions or trillions of rubles, and who care little about what they spend.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET

New York, Dec. 22 (By The Associated Press)—Spots closed today, middling, 26.20. Tone, steady. Futures closed: January 25.96, March 26.28, May 26.39, July 26.17, October 24.39.

New York, Dec. 22 (By The Associated Press)—Bids at 11:45 a. m. were: January 25.88, March 26.19, May 26.28, July 26.04, October 24.32. Tone, steady.

POPE TO CALL MEET

Rome, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The probability that the Pope will call a meeting of the entire Catholic Episcopacy in Rome during the next jubilee year was announced in the papal encyclical issued today. The meeting would be a continuation of the Ecumenic Council of 1829.

BALLOTS OUT FOR DIRECTORS

Chamber of Commerce Members Asked To Sign Card Enclosed With Ballot

The primary ballots for the nomination of directors of the Chamber of Commerce for 1923 are now out and the time limit for their return expires at noon Tuesday, December 26.

The eight receiving the highest number of votes will then be placed on a second ballot and the four highest will be declared duly elected directors for the next year.

In the envelope with the primary ballot mailed to each member this week was placed a membership card and members in filling out their ballots will please sign the card and return that with the ballot, so as to save the membership committee the trouble of having to call on them.

Farmers Are Saying It's Too Cold To Dip

A new batch of cases growing out of failure of cattle owners with quarantined herds to dip their cattle appeared on the docket of recorder's court Friday as a result, it seemed, rather to reluctance on the part of farmers to dip in cold weather rather than to opposition to dipping per se.

There were three defendants; James Chory, F. P. Markham, Jr., and Joe Riddick, the last named being colored. Mr. Markham and Riddick paid the costs, though it appeared that the darky had come late and dipped his cattle after nightfall with the assistance of a white neighbor after the inspector had left. Mr. Markham had judged the day too disagreeable, saying that the weather though mild was threatening or even, part of the day, rainy. Mr. Markham, the third defendant, asked for a jury trial and the case will come on for trial on January 4th.

This Liquor Must Have "Just Grown"

A five gallon jug containing, according to the testimony of Chief of Police Holmes, more than one gallon of liquor, was smashed under the nose of Chief Holmes and Traffic Officer Smith last Wednesday in the woodshed of the residence at 537 Chestnut street without the court's being able to get a verdict out of a Pasquotank recorder's court jury against anybody, though not a single defendant in the case took the stand to explain his connection with the liquor.

The residence in question is occupied by Willie Warren and Mrs. Warren and had been under suspicion for some time. On information and belief Chief Holmes swore out a search warrant an going to the house 'phoned Warren, as the occupant, to come home. "I want to see you," was all the chief told Mr. Warren.

But when Warren came he was accompanied by a lawyer who objected to the search of the premises on the ground that a Mrs. N. H. Baynor living there and not Warren paid the rent. The search warrant was accordingly changed as against Mrs. Baynor instead of against Warren. Meantime, however, while the police officers were awaiting the arrival of Mr. Warren and after Chief Holmes had 'phoned to him, Herbert Thornton entered the Chestnut street residence by the back way, walked straight to the woodshed, opened the door and picking up a sack inside, struck the bottom of it a sharp blow and then passed out within a few feet of Chief Holmes who was awaiting Warren at the front. Chief Holmes stepped quickly to the woodshed and found liquor still running from the sack in question. No liquor was found in the residence when search subsequently was made.

Willie Warren was accordingly in court Friday morning charged with illegal possession and Thompson for obstructing an officer. Both were acquitted by jury trial. The State attempted to secure conviction of Mr. Thornton Saturday morning on a charge of illegal possession and transporting; but again a jury trial resulted in a verdict of acquittal.

ADJOURN FOR CHRISTMAS

Washington, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Naval disarmament was discussed in the Senate today without action when virtual adjournment was taken over Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Twiddy left Saturday to spend Christmas with Mrs. Twiddy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Warren at Cape Charles.

SANTA TO VISIT ALL HOMES HERE

No Empty Stockings In Elizabeth City Thru Efforts Of The Welfare Council

More than sixty Elizabeth City families are on the list of the Welfare Council to receive gifts and necessities of life on Christmas day.

In these families, of course, many children will be made happy on Christmas morning by the filled stockings of good things to eat and toys and other gifts.

With every church in the city and every order or lodge co-operating, plans have also been mapped out to provide for those in the city who are in need of clothing and food.

Through the efforts of the Welfare Council the giving of necessities to those in need will be handled more efficiently than ever before, the Welfare Council suggesting work to be done by various orders and religious bodies to avoid duplication.

"Donations in money, wood and baskets from wealthy citizens of Elizabeth City and from those with limited means have far surpassed what has ever been contributed before and prospects are for a happy Christmas for every one," Mrs. Anna Lewis, County Welfare Officer, said Saturday morning.

The Welfare Officer still desires to be notified of need in any instance that may have been overlooked. Of course the Welfare Council is cautious not to extend aid in cases where those concerned are not deserving.

The heart of the whole city has evidently been stirred by the appeals of little children for a visit from Santa Claus, and joy will come on Christmas day to the hearts of those who give as well as those who receive.

SIX MEN HELD AT SANTA FE

Suspected Of Being Denver Bandits Who Robbed Federal Reserve Bank

Santa Fe, New Mexico, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Six men with heavy suitcases who arrived here from Las Vegas in automobiles today have been placed in the county jail pending an investigation in connection with the robbery of the Federal Reserve Bank at Denver. The men were taken in custody on a tip from Las Vegas.

FIND BANDIT BILL

Baltimore, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Discovery was made here today of a five dollar bill stolen by armed bandits in the raid on the Denver Federal Reserve Bank. The bill was passed at a down town restaurant last night.

Prisoners Freed From Mount Joy

Dublin, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Two hundred and sixty-four Republicans, held prisoners in Mount Joy, were released today after signing allegiance to the Free State.

Harris Of Georgia Wants South To Be Represented

Washington, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Appeal for representation of the South on Supreme Court and semi-judicial agencies of the Government such as trade and commerce commissions was made in the Senate today by Senator Harris of Georgia.

SENATOR HEFLIN SCORES COTTON SPECULATORS

Washington, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Declaring that cotton consumption figures for November indicated the possibility of exhaustion of the American cotton supply by next June, Senator Heflin of Alabama asserted in the Senate today that present prices of twenty-five cents a pound showed "conclusively that speculators had control of the market and are depressing the price."

INVESTIGATE FIRES

Quebec, Dec. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Recent fires in Catholic institutions were brought before the legislature here today.