

DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN LANSING AND WILSON ON FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES DATE BACK BEFORE WAR--CABINET MEETINGS ONLY INCIDENT

BREAK WAS EXPECTED IN PARIS DURING WILSON'S VISIT TO EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—Rebuked by President Wilson for calling cabinet meetings during his illness, Secretary Lansing has resigned.

The President has accepted the resignation "with appreciation" and Mr. Lansing becomes the second secretary of state to leave the administration over a disagreement with his chief.

Although the correspondence between Mr. Lansing and the president makes the calling of the cabinet meetings the incident which leads directly to the secretary's resignation, persons "on the inside" of the administration who know what has been going on say that was only an incident and that the real reasons for the break go back over a period of many months and come from fundamental differences of opinion in policy.

The disagreements between the President and the head of the state department even ante-date the entry of the United States into the war. The relations between the two men almost reached the breaking point early in 1917 when Mr. Lansing issued his celebrated statement saying the United States was daily being drawn nearer and nearer the war. By some, it was taken to forecast the entry of the United States. The President made every effort to overtake the statement after it had been given out at the state department, but it was impossible.

When Mr. Lansing went as a member of the American peace delegation to Paris more differences developed. With other members of the American mission he was not in accord with the President's idea of making the treaty of peace and the covenant of the league of nations one and the same inseparable document.

It was Mr. Lansing's idea that such a plan would delay the ratification of a peace treaty and in this he was supported by Henry White and E. M. House.

It may be said with a great decree of authority that while the President and Mr. Lansing were together in Paris other differences of more than minor nature developed and this is confirmed by the reference which the President makes to it in one of his letters.

When President Wilson went back to Paris last March and found that during his brief absence in the United States Mr. Lansing and the others of the American mission had agreed, tentatively, at least, to have the peace terms and the league of nations covenant separated, the situation came very near a breaking point and probably was avoided only because the President thought it more important not to let European statesmen see a split in the American peace delegation. While Mr. Lansing probably saw and conferred with the President in Paris as much as any other members of the American mission, it was a matter of remark that he saw him very little.

However, the incident which came nearer causing a break than any other was the sensational testimony of William C. Bullitt, one of the experts attached to the American peace mission, before the senate foreign relations committee. Bullitt as will be recalled, reading from a diary, quoted Secretary Lansing as having told him he was out of sympathy with the league of nations covenant and as predicting that the treaty would fail if the American people ever learned of its full import.

Mr. Lansing, obviously in a very difficult position, did not repudiate Bullitt's statements, although it was momentarily expected in Washington that he would repudiate them or resign his office. President Wilson was at the time on his speaking tour in the west. To say that he was upset by Bullitt's story and his quotations of the secretary of state puts it mildly. Officials in the Presidential party who knew the workings of the President's mind expected the secretary's resignation asked for when the President returned to Washington. These same officials believe now that the breakdown which sent the President home a very sick man was the only thing which prevented it.

Mr. Lansing, however, never saw the President again, and did all his business with the chief executive in writing. The relations between the men remained very much strained, and then Mr. Lansing's action in calling the cabinet together brought them to the breaking point.

Those who were present at the first cabinet meeting describe a rather tense and dramatic scene. Congress was full of rumors that the President was so disabled as to be constitutionally unable to discharge the functions of his office. There was talk of what might be done to place Vice-President Marshall at the head of the government and how congress might go about doing it. Nobody knew the full extent of the President's illness. It had not then become known that he had partially lost the use of his left arm and leg through an accumulation of blood in one of the arteries of his brain. There were even ugly rumors that the President might not be in possession of all his faculties. Some senators were even contemplating action to "find out whether we have a president or not," as one of their number put it. These ugly stories were, of course, all disposed of and shown to be pure and unfounded gossip by the later developments, but they were being circulated and widely credited last November when the cabinet assembled for its first conference at the call of Secretary Lansing.

The secretary of state, it should be said, believed he was supported by precedent in calling the cabinet together. Looking up the historical record he found it had been done when President Garfield lay ill for weeks after having been shot by an assassin and that it had been done before that when President Taylor

had a long illness and ultimately was succeeded by Vice President Fillmore. The Wilson cabinet assembled that day with a feeling of apprehension, for none of the members knew the extent of the President's illness, but expected to be informed of it. Secretary Tumulty had informed the

TWO MODIFIED DRAFTS OF TREATY COME UP

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Republican senators had before them today two modified drafts of the article ten reservation of the peace treaty with a request from Senator Hitchcock, the acting democratic leader, to accept either one they choose. He promised that about 40 democrats would support either.

Both of the reservations previously have been rejected by the republican leaders. One was that drafted by former President Taft and rejected by Senator Lodge, the republican leader, in the bi-partisan conference, when it was offered by the democrats. The other was drawn up in the bi-partisan conference, but was not accepted.

Although the republicans withheld a formal reply pending consideration of the democrats' offer, small hope was held out that either reservation would be acceptable to the majority party now. A declaration of the republicans' stand on the democrats' proposition was expected today.

President that Mr. Lansing had called the cabinet together, and the President, somewhat disturbed, gave his personal physician a message to deliver to the secretaries.

The secretaries assembled at their usual places and Mr. Lansing sent for Dr. Grayson. The president's chair at the head of the table was left vacant until the physician arrived and he was asked to occupy it.

"Dr. Grayson," Secretary Lansing is reported to have said, "we wish to know the nature and extent of the president's illness, and whether he is able to perform the duties of his office, so that we may determine what shall be done to carry on the business of the government."

The president's physician is quoted by some of the other secretaries as having replied in substance:

"The president is doing as well as could be expected. He is in full possession of all his faculties and he has directed me to inquire of you by what authority this meeting of the cabinet was called, what business is before it, and what business it is expected might be transacted at a Cabinet meeting without his participation."

According to the story told at that time Secretary Lansing had no opportunity to reply, because some of the other members stepped into the breach and asked Dr. Grayson to say to the president that the only purpose of the meeting was to inquire the state of his health and to send him a message of loyalty and encouragement. At that point the meeting broke up without having transacted any business, but it did not end the so called cabinet conferences.

It has not been made plain whether President Wilson knew since then that the cabinet members had been assembling and talking over inter-departmental affairs, but the meetings have been held in the cabinet room in the executive offices and if the president did not know it probably was because those surrounding him did not wish to tell him.

The best opinion of those "on the inside" is that the president did not know until last week of the regularity at which the cabinet was meeting at the call of the secretary of state, because at about the time at which the president's first letter to Mr. Lansing is dated, the white house offices "let it be known" that the President had ended the cabinet conferences and there was an interference that he might preside at the next one himself. There was, however, no hint that the ending of the meetings marked a separation between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lansing.

Now that the break has come and Mr. Lansing has left the cabinet, much may be revealed of the extent to which the secretary of state and the President differed in matters of policy. Quite aside from the differences at the peace conference, there were other differences in foreign policy, and some of Mr. Lansing's friends say he would have left his office some time ago but for the fact that he wished to spare the president an upheaval in his official family at a time when Europe was watching the fight over the treaty in America and especially when the president was ill and unable to look after the affairs of the state department himself.

Mr. Lansing became head of the state department when William J. Bryan and the president had their differences over the Lusitania notes. Mr. Lansing was counsellor, an office in which he had succeeded John Bassett Moore. It has been common knowledge, that while Mr. Lansing's name was signed to the succeeding notes to Germany and the notes which preceded the armistice, Mr. Wilson wrote them himself, in fact, he practically acted as secretary of state in all important business. It was the pres-

S. M. ROBINSON BUYS MILL AT BISCOE

Together With Jno. C. Rankin and A. Q. Kale, Lowell Men Acquire Valuable Mill Property at Biscoe—Will Also Head Mill at Monroe.

Messrs. Sloan M. Robinson and Jno. C. Rankin of Lowell, have bought the Francis Cotton mills at Biscoe, according to the following announcement in today's Charlotte Observer:

The Francis cotton mills at Biscoe, N. C. have been sold through Hill, Clark & Co., of Charlotte, to John C. Rankin and Sloan M. Robinson, of Lowell, N. C., and their associates, it was officially announced last night.

The mill will be reorganized as the Aileen mills, incorporated, with John C. Rankin, president; S. M. Robinson, vice president and A. Q. Kale, of High Shoals, N. C., as general superintendent.

The Francis cotton mills have 7,680 spinning spindles and 4,000 twister spindles and have been operated upon 16-2 yarns. The mill is about eight years old and has been very successful. It is equipped with Whitin machinery throughout with the exception of roving machinery, which was manufactured by the Woonsocket Machine and Press company, and all the machinery is said to be in splendid condition.

The mill also has a large dyehouse, as it was originally intended to manufacture colored yarns, and it will probably be operated upon either colored yarns or 30's two-ply white yarns.

It is an electric driven mill and although it now secures its power from the outside, it has a Westinghouse turbine generator that it uses in any emergency.

In this connection the following from The Monroe Journal will be of interest in Gaston county where Mr. Robinson has such extensive holdings:

"A \$150,000 cotton mill, headed by S. M. Robinson, millionaire cotton mill magnate of Lowell, is in process of organization here. \$118,000 worth of the stock has already been pledged, leaving only \$32,000 worth more to be disposed of in Monroe. Promoters of the mill believe the entire issue will have been subscribed before the week is out.

The mill is to be under the management of Mr. Robinson, who operates ten mills in this state and Georgia. He has two mills at Charlotte, one at Dallas, three at Lowell, two at Gastonia, one at Spencer Mountain, and one in Georgia. Mr. Robinson is reputed to be worth over a million dollars, all of which he made out of the mill business.

Mr. J. E. Stack was instrumental in interesting Mr. Robinson in the proposition here. It is understood that he agreed to take stock to the amount of \$50,000 if Monroe business men would subscribe \$100,000 worth. Citizens here had subscribed for \$68,000 worth by late yesterday afternoon, making a total including Mr. Robinson's \$50,000, of \$118,000.

Featured by three carbon plate electrodes an electric heater has been invented for warming the water in a bath tub. New method of producing dyes from inorganic matter.

dent's conception of his relation to the foreign policy of the nation.

How much Mr. Lansing and the president differed on the Mexican policy never has been fully revealed, but officials who sympathize with Mr. Lansing's views say that they differed a great deal.

It has generally been believed in official circles here that the sharp notes which Mr. Lansing sent to Carranza in connection with the Jenkins case are what the president referred to in his letter to the secretary when he spoke of the secretary of state having taken action to forestall his judgment. It is known, however, that Henry Prather Fletcher, former ambassador to Mexico, who recently resigned, wrote a letter to the President in which he excoriated the administration's policy and the general belief in the state department is that Mr. Lansing and Mr. Fletcher agreed pretty generally. Mr. Fletcher's letter of resignation never has been given out at the white house. But aside from his difficulties with the president it has been common knowledge in Washington that Mr. Lansing has not been on good terms with Secretary Tumulty and from time to time there have been apparently well grounded reports of friction with Secretaries Baker and Daniels.

In the senate foreign relations committee, where Mr. Lansing was in frequent touch with senators, he is regarded as a trained diplomat. Senators remarked when Bullitt gave his sensational testimony that they regretted it very much on Lansing's account.

THERE WILL BE NO MORE RESIGNATIONS FROM CABINET SAYS TUMULTY

Frank L. Polk Becomes Secretary of State Ad Interim Today—Davis and Polk Discussed as Successors to Lansing—Porter, of House Foreign Affairs Committee Talks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—Frank L. Polk, under-secretary of state, became secretary of state ad interim today and will serve until Mr. Lansing's successor has been appointed by the President.

While the names of several men were being mentioned in connection with the office, officials conceded that their suggestions were mere guess work. Mr. Polk was regarded as the logical selection, but his friends said he would not consider it because of the condition of his health.

There will be no more resignations from the cabinet as a result of the Lansing incident, it was said at the white house today.

"I am not going to discuss the Lansing-Wilson controversy—the letters speak for themselves," Secretary Tumulty said.

There was no information available at the white house as to a probable successor to Mr. Lansing, but the appointment is expected to be made soon. John W. Davis, ambassador at London, and Under Secretary Polk are being discussed.

Cabinet meetings will be resumed "very soon" and as announced a few days ago President Wilson will preside. White house officials reiterated today that he was making rapid strides toward regaining his health.

Chairman Porter, of the house foreign affairs committee, commenting today on Secretary Lansing's resignation, said:

"I am not inclined to accept this new and novel interpretation of organic law."

"There is nothing in the constitution which prohibits members of the President's cabinet from meeting and discussing any departmental matter," he said. "If we accept the President's construction of the constitution, it would be a violation thereof for two of the secretaries to hold a conference in the absence of the President."

"Mr. Lansing has faithfully served Mr. Wilson during both of his terms as President, and in due consideration for his rights, I think the President should have asked for his resignation on the ground that they did not agree on the policies to be pursued by the state department and not to have dismissed him in this harsh way."

LONDON PAPERS GIVE MUCH PROMINENCE TO LANSING'S RESIGNATION

(By The Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 14.—This afternoon's London newspapers print the news of Secretary Lansing's resignation under a variety of prominent captions, such as "United States political bombshell," "Washington sensation," "Great United States sensation."

The Pall Mall Gazette says: "President Wilson's return to political activity has been announced by a sensational stroke." During his illness, the newspaper adds, all kinds of reports were current as to where the real seat of authority lay in the conduct of the American administration. "The curtain now has been thrust aside," the article continues, "and we have the lively spectacle of the president not only using his prerogative but employing it to discharge his chief legal adviser."

The newspaper considers the president's self-assertion "emerges all the stronger for his enforced rest, and he is evidently going to take up the reins of government again in a spirit that will not parley with opposition."

The Westminster Gazette says: "The dismissal of Secretary Lansing by the president is a dramatic illustration of the peculiar power assigned to the head of the government by the American constitution. What it is, exactly, that Secretary Lansing has done is not very clear, but he would appear to have applied on his own account what has been described as the American principle of one-man management, while President Wilson insists on a monopoly of the idea."

Tests are being conducted in England of what is claimed to be a noiseless and fireproof airplane engine.

STILL PLAN TO SELL GERMAN LINERS

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Despite efforts in various quarters to prevent the shipping board from offering for sale Monday the thirty former German liners, Chairman Payne was proceeding today with the original plans to receive bids for the vessels. He explained, however, that bids only would be received and that before acceptance the results would be laid before the senate.

The sharp opposition that developed in the senate yesterday over the proposed sale subsided after Chairman Payne had appeared before the senate commerce committee and outlined the policy of the board for the disposal of the vessels. No action was taken in the senate to restrain the shipping board from carrying out its program.

The only remaining visible opposition to the auction of the liners Monday was an application for an injunction filed in the District of Columbia supreme court by William Randolph Hearst, of New York, in the capacity of a tax payer. The court issued an order for the board to show cause why a temporary injunction should not be issued.

An Englishman is the inventor of a flameless, fireproof tamping plug to prevent blown out shots in mines.

A motor driven machine to split apart cakes of ice that have frozen together in storage has been invented.