

## CLEMENCEAU IS NAMED AS THE PRESIDENT

Paris, Jan. 18.—(By the Associated Press)—Premier Clemenceau announced that the league of nations would be the first subject taken up at the next full meeting of the conference.

Paris, Jan. 18.—(By the Associated Press)—The peace conference, destined to be historic, and on which the eyes of the world are now centered, was opened this afternoon in the great Salle de La Paris. The proceedings which were confined to the election of George Clemenceau, the French premier, as permanent chairman of the conference, an address of welcome by the president of the French republic, Raymond Poincare, and speeches by President Wilson, Premier Lloyd George and Baron Sonnino, were characterized by expressions of lasting friendship and the apparent determination of the representatives of the various nations to come to an amicable understanding with respect to the problems to be decided by the conference.

When President Poincare spoke, the entire assembly stood, and the fact that, according to custom, no applause greeted his presence gave greater solemnity to the scene.

M. Clemenceau's acceptance of the presidency of the congress was both a feeling expression of personal gratitude and a definite outline of the great questions immediately ahead. Three of these large general subjects he defined as responsibility for crimes during the war and international labor legislation. The league of nations, he declared, was at the head of the program for the next full session.

Our ambition is a great and noble one," said M. Clemenceau, "to avoid a repetition of the catastrophe which bathed the world in blood. If the league of nations is to be practical, all must remain united. Let us carry out our program quickly and in an effective manner."

Referring to the authors of the war, he said he had consulted two eminent jurists on the legal responsibility of the former German emperor, and each would receive a copy of the report.

All 72 seats were provided for the opening session of the peace conference. On the outer side of the great horseshoe were arranged the Japanese, the British and colonial delegates and the seat of the fifth British delegate. A chair for the fifth American delegate also was reserved immediately to the right of the table of honor.

The Italian, Belgian, Brazilian, Cuban, Haitian, Peruvian, Portuguese, Serbian, Czech, Slovakian and Uruguayan delegates sat in order named. Across the end of the table sat the American, British, Polish, Lithuanian, Yedjan, Guatemalan, Czechoslovak, Chinese and Bolivian delegates.

Delegates of Trumpets, and accorded military honors to the troops. The Japanese followed by the British and the East Indians in pictures.

At Wilson's arrival at the signal for a demonstration from the crowds. The president entered the assembly where M. Pichon, foreign minister, conducted him to the main room.

At 5 o'clock a ruffle of stars of trumpets as the approach of M. Clemenceau. The French president was escorted by the group to the head of the

## TAR HEEL OPERATED ON DURING WILD STORM

New York, Jan. 18.—Coast artillerymen from Connecticut and scattered states and troops from Pennsylvania, Iowa and Oklahoma who reached port today on the armored cruiser South Dakota went through a storm two days out from Brest described by naval officers as one of the most tempestuous they had ever experienced.

Mountainous waves buffeted the vessel and one demolished the pilot house, injuring Captain Luby, Commander Caldwell and a number of officers and sailors. In the midst of the storm, with waves at times running 40 feet high, two army surgeons performed an operation for appendicitis upon a soldier aboard the South Dakota.

When the condition of Corporal E. O. Williams, of the 56th coast artillery, whose home is in Airle, N. C., was pronounced dangerous, the war vessel lay in order to facilitate the operation. Lashed to the table, the surgeons accomplished their delicate task between lurches of the ship and today the artilleryman was removed to a hospital, on the way to recovery.

## FRENCH JURISTS HOLD EX-KAISER IS LIABLE

Paris, Jan. 19.—Some points in the report to which Premier Clemenceau referred yesterday when he said he had consulted two eminent jurists on the penal responsibility of the former German emperor were made public tonight. The report was drawn by Ferdinand Laroche, dean of the Paris law faculty, and Dr. A. G. DeLapradelle, professor of rights of nations in the same faculty.

The object of the inquiry was to investigate from a purely judicial point of view if the crimes committed by the German government and army involved the penal responsibility of the former German emperor, what tribunal should judge him and whether his extradition could be demanded.

The two French jurists prove that the extradition of the former German ruler cannot be refused as he is not a political refugee. The report says: "It is anti-judicial to assimilate war with conspiracy. Crimes of war are crimes of public law and international law, not political crimes."

At 5 o'clock when M. Poincare began his address and the peace congress came into being. The entire assemblage stood as the President spoke. President Wilson stood at his right and listened attentively. M. Poincare spoke in an earnest, easy manner without declamatory effect, and, following usage, there was no applause or interruption.

M. Poincare spoke in French, and when he had concluded an interpreter read the discourse in French.

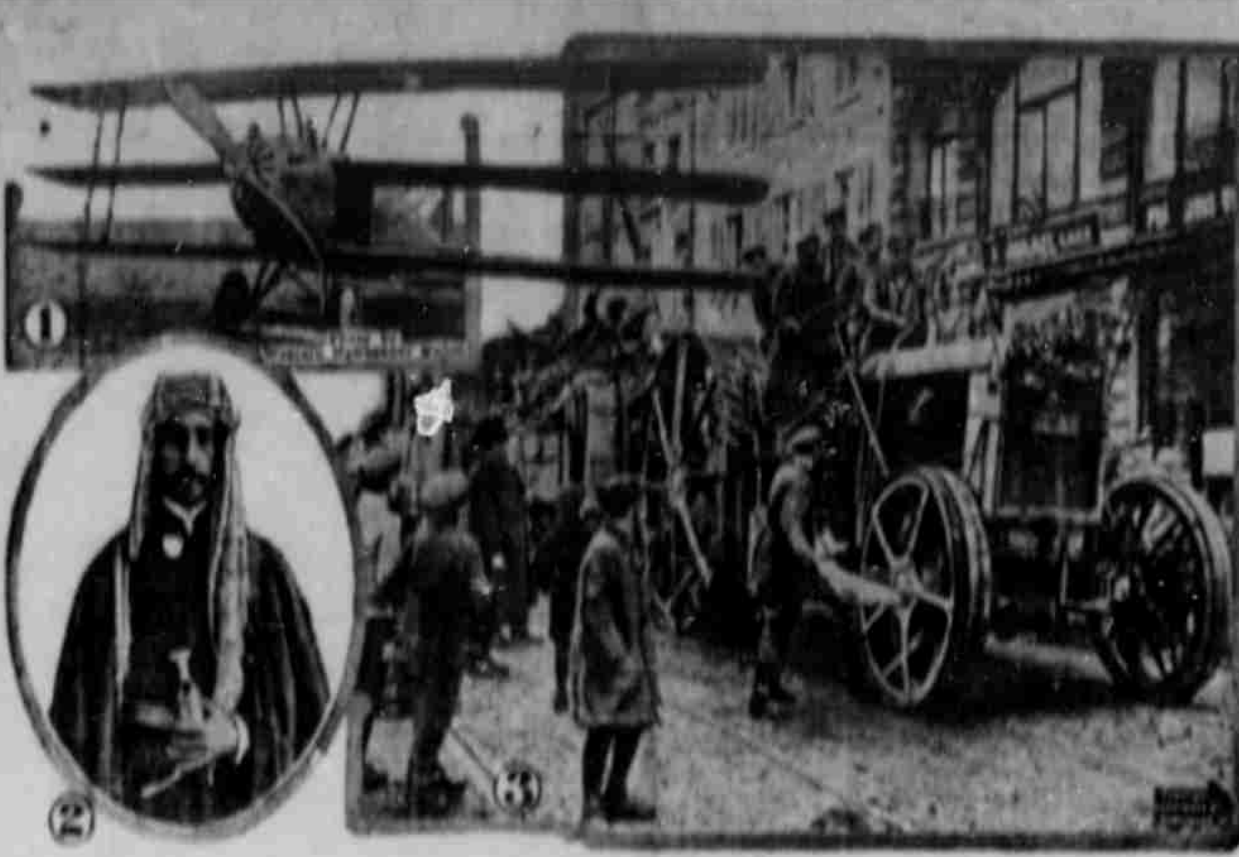
As M. Poincare closed he turned to receive the congratulations of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George, and then withdrew, greeting each delegate as he retired.

Wilson Speaks. President Wilson rose as M. Poincare made his exit. "It gives me great pleasure," he said, "to propose as permanent chairman of the conference M. Clemenceau."

President Wilson spoke in conversational voice, which, however, carried throughout the chamber, as he paid eloquent tribute to the French premier.

Premier Lloyd George seconded the nomination of M. Clemenceau, speaking earnestly of the distinguished services of the French premier had rendered in war and peace.

Baron Sonnino the Italian foreign minister



1—New Captives airplane, fastest in the world, built for the American navy. 2—The Emir Faisal, son of the King of the Hedjaz, who has been in England to present his father's respects to King George. 3—Government troops in Cologne celebrating the order to reconstitute to combat the Spartacists.

## INSOLENT HUN SAULERS TAUGHT GOOD MANNERS

London, Dec. 31.—One British naval officer showed a German naval captain how to handle his undisciplined sailors during the surrender of the German warships to the allied fleet off the Firth of Forth.

It is related that when the British officer boarded a German battleship to make the official examination he found numbers of German sailors lolling about in the captain's lobby and some of them making themselves very much at home in the captain's cabin. Many were wearing armlets inscribed "Soldaten und Arbeiter," indicating their allegiance to the soldier's and workers' councils which brought about the revolution.

"You will need no explanation, sir, by my presence here," said the German captain approaching the Englishman. "You see how things are."

"You will please converse with me in your own language," replied the British officer, returning the salute. "You will also order these men out of these quarters before we do anything else."

"What would be the good to command them?" asked the German.

"Very well," snapped the Britisher as he swung around. "Look here, you man," he thundered in German. "If I have any more of this insubordination, I'll put all of you in irons. Attention!"

Every man sprang to his feet. Cigars and cigarettes disappeared and the talking ceased.

"Fall in there," ordered the British. "And you"—he indicated a petty officer—"you take these men away. And clean the lobby too. See that they behave themselves, or I'll know the reason why. That'll do, Carry on."

The petty officer stiffened, saluted and rapped out a word of command. In a moment the cabin was cleared.

"Now," said the English commander. "I'll give you your orders."

## PRESIDENT WILSON SOON WILL VISIT BATTLEFIELD

Paris, Jan. 19.—All arrangements have been made for President Wilson's visit to the American battlefields and to some of the devastated regions of northern France but the time has not been fixed. The visits will depend wholly on the procedure of the peace conference and the turn of affairs in the meetings.

President Wilson probably will travel by train having army motor cars meet him at different points for a tour of the region surrounding the stopping places.

It now appears the President's visit to Brussels will be deferred until he is ready to depart for home. One plan under consideration is for Mr. Wilson to leave Paris on a special train which will carry the whole presidential party to the Belgian capital.

From there the President will go direct to Calais without returning to Paris, crossing the English channel and sailing from some English port.

## MINISTER OF WAR HERO WINS HONOR

Dodging along mad swept by Hun machine guns thence across a field mowed by bullets from Boche guns and incessantly rained upon by gas and shrapnel shells from hostile airplanes, crept a party of three men, two bearing a stretcher.

Foot by foot they made their perilous way until finally they reached their objective, the front line trenches, there to rescue Col. Albertus W. Batlin commanding officer of the 6th Regiment of Marines. John H. Clifford, Baptist minister in times of peace but since the war a worker for the Y. M. C. A., was one of the stretcher bearers and for his part in the heroic deed he wears the French Croix de Guerre with a star, a decoration given only for extraordinary heroism. Not satisfied with this for one day's work the same night he accompanied the Marines "over the top" in an assault on the Boche trenches and was wounded in the left shoulder by shrapnel, completely paralyzing his left side, but from which he is now recovered.

Born in Oxford, Eng. fifty-one years ago, the Rev. John Clifford was educated at Oxford and Manchester for the ministry and served as a missionary in Jamaica and the West Indies. The next seven years were spent in the Dutch leper colony in Java, where he was twice stricken with typhoid fever in 10 months. From there he went to Alberta, Canada, and later to Arizona, where he spread the gospel among among the miners, cowpunchers and railroad men.

"When you run up against men," he said, "they want a man's religion." This is the rule he has followed. In December, 1917, Mr. Clifford went to France as a worker for the Y. M. C. A. and two days after arriving in Paris he was assigned to the 5th Regiment, United States Marine Corps.

In telling of his experiences with the marines in their period of training in the Vosges Mountains he said: "My starting point with the boys was made during a night hike. We had marched from 11 o'clock at night until the next morning with only ten minutes rest each hour. As we were on our way back I heard a young fellow back of me say: 'I wish that old guy would fall out so that we could have a chance to rest.' Turning to him I asked him if I should carry his rifle, to which he replied: 'Hell, no.' After that I was one of them."

"That same night my coat and cap disappeared from my hut and when I found them the next morning they bore the buttons and insignia of the United States Marine Corps. When I attended inspection the next day and the button and cap device were noticed by Col. Doyen, I explained to him how they came there and he said that if the boys put them there that I had a right to them.

He still wears them, too.

## AMERICAN TARNS SLEEP IN A HISTORIC BUILDING

(Correspondence to Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 5.—Seven hundred American bluejackets were nightly the guests of the people of London, after the armistice was signed and they could be spared from the duty of chasing submarines for a look at the city.

The hotels were so crowded that the only bedroom the city could offer the sailor boys was some vaulted hall in a public building. The favorite sleeping place was the handsome building known as the law courts where the Strand joins Fleet street, a central location. Here, as the Chronicle describes it, "Uncle Sam tucked himself to sleep in the great hall."

It was a strange picture these sailor lads made lying comfortably in the room where British justice had so long been administered. But they were not impressed with the dignity of their surroundings. One corner they dubbed the "divorce court." One of their more dignified members they dubbed the "Lord Chief Justice." Laughing and joking they made the great building ring with their fun.

"It's not as good a hammock but a darn sight more stable than a destroyer," remarked one to his mates as they ate their breakfast. And the rest agreed.

The arrangement was made by order of the lord chancellor, who, learning that the Young Men's Christian association and the American Red Cross had been had put to find quarters for the boys, tendered the use of the law courts. Cards were hastily printed, and dispatched to the stations where the sailors were expected to leave their trains.

Each card clearly explained how the law courts could be reached, and in addition told the story of the building from the time the cornerstone was laid. As the sailors entered each man was told to sign the register, with his home address, and it is the purpose of the officers to have these registers bound and placed among the archives of the law courts.

The movement for the entertainment of the Americans also included the use of Westminster hall in the parliament building if it became necessary.

## KAISER APPEARS YEARS OLDER SINCE DOWNFALL

Amerongen, Holland, Tuesday, Jan. 14.—(By Associated Press)—William Hohenzollern's illness which manifests itself principally in the form of chills, is being aggravated by his constant weariness, the effects of which are plainly visible in his features and his general physical condition.

The former German emperor looks to be perhaps 15 years older than when he crossed the frontier of Holland. Although he is only about to complete his 60th year his birthday coming at the end of the present month, his appearance suggests a man of 75. He wears a short grayish beard and a drooping mustache, and his hitherto firm back is now sagging.

## MYSTERY SHIP MANNED BY COURAGEOUS CREW

London, Dec. 28.—A "Q" ship has come to London. She is a gray, dingy nondescript kind of ship, perhaps a collier or a coastal tramp. But all London is flocking to St. Katherine's dock to see her, for the frowsy old tub represents a development of naval warfare which produced some of the finest heroism in the history of sea fighting.

According to Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty, nothing could be more inspiring than the conduct of the officers and men on the "Q" ship—"those mystery ships were for hours the men lay, and were shelled and killed and lay unattended until the opportunity came to sink the enemy."

"This 'Q' ship is certainly not what she seems. At a signal hatchways can disclose glistening 4-inch guns, and her harmless looking stays rap out wireless messages. For more than two years her skipper, Lieutenant Commander Auten, V. C., and her crew, all of whom remain with her, have been hunting U-boats.

Gunner Cunningham, wears a distinguished service medal, shows visitors to the ship how they tackled submarines. Leading the way to the forecabin, he points to a hawser-reel lying on the deck. "That's a dummy," he says. "It's the skipper's lookout when a submarine is sighted. This little smokestack is also a dummy—it hides a periscope. The skipper from the lookout would give the range to the hidden gun crews.

"No sign of life was to be seen on the ship after a 'panic party' had put off in an open boat until the order came—'Fire!' Then this forecabin flew open and the sides of that dummy cabin fell outward, and the two four-inch guns got to work. He settled one U-boat with 12 hits out of 14 from one gun and seven out of eight from the other."

The crew of this decoy ship hunted submarines in an old steamer called the Stock Force until the forepart of that vessel was blown away by a torpedo. It was in the Stock Force that Lieutenant Commander Auten won the Victoria cross.

## SYRIAN ARRESTED FOR FIRING HOTEL REDDILL

Statesville, Jan. 18.—As a result of a quiet investigation which has been in progress here for several days, conducted by Sheriff M. P. Alexander and Deputy Insurance Commissioner W. A. Scott, of Raleigh, Joseph Hamoy, young Syrian was arrested here last night and tried today before magistrate W. C. Moore, and bound to the next term of Superior court, in the sum of \$5,000 charged with having set fire to the Hotel Reddill building which was consumed by flames about two months ago.

It will be recalled that Hamoy operated a cigar store and candy kitchen in the hotel building prior to its having been destroyed by fire and as the fire was first discovered in the basement of Hamoy's place, suspicion naturally pointed towards him. Evidence introduced at the preliminary hearing today showed that about a month before the fire occurred Hamoy took out additional insurance which, according to witnesses was equal to or possibly in excess of the stock of goods he had on hand. Hamoy recently left here with the intention of taking up his residence in Brooklyn, N. Y., and had returned to Statesville to dispose of his real and personal property when he was placed under indictment. The next term of court convenes here Monday week and it is expected that his case will be disposed of at that time.

Three wounded heroines also were aboard the Comfort. All were struck and one of them, Miss Marie Smith, of Berkeley, California, was wounded in the foot by shrapnel at Cluteau-Thierry while attached to a medical unit with one of the 16-inch naval gun crew. Members of the gun crew declared the kept on attending to the wounded until ordered from the field by an officer.

## SOLDIERS IN BANDAGES BACK FROM OVERSEAS

(By Associated Press)

New York, Jan. 10.—Four steamships, their decks crowded with American fighting men, hundreds of whom gazed upon the homes shores from cots and convalescent chairs, passed the Statue of Liberty today amid a din from harbor craft, bringing home 4,992 heroes.

The climax of the demonstration came when the hospital ship Comfort, bearing 871 sick and wounded, entered the upper bay and was hailed by cheers from the throngs on shore and the strains of "Home, Sweet Home," from a band on board a vessel carrying Mayor Mylan's committee of welcome. As the Comfort came abreast the Statue of Liberty a great shout arose from her decks, crowded to the rails with soldiers in bandages, supported by crutches and canes or seated in easy chairs. Through the port holes of the hospital ship glimpses were caught of the more seriously wounded.

The other steamships were transports—the Lapland, which brought 2,065 soldiers, the Sierra, with 1,515, and the Wilhelmina, with 1,941 aboard. Of the sick and wounded brought back by the Comfort, 129 were naval men and four were marines.

The troops on the Lapland for the most part were casual companies made up of men from base hospitals in France and England and most of whom were convalescent. One other detachment, the 114th trench mortar battery which had not seen service at the front, was on its way back to Camp Beauregard, La.

The casual companies and their destinations are: Numbers 211, 212, 213, Camp Dix; 214, Upton; 215, 216, 338, 419, Meade 417, Gordon. The Lapland also carried 56 casual officers.

Among the troops on the Sierra were the 337th regiment of field artillery and 237 casual officers and enlisted men, the latter from hospitals in France. The artillery regiment was trained at Camp Dodge, Des Moines, and comprised selected men from Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. It has been in the Claremont section of France.

Of the men on the Wilhelmina, 405 were from the radio station near Bordeaux, where they were engaged in constructing four radio towers. There were also 200 men of the naval aero squadron, with a base in northern France.

Also on board were the 284 and 336 divisions of the medical supply unit, the 311 sanitary train of the 86 division, the headquarters field hospital and three hospital units and 172 wounded.

Among the wounded officers on the Comfort were Lieuts. Joseph F. Smith, Waterloo, S. C. and Benjamin F. Malone, Monticello, Ga.

The Comfort left Plymouth January 5, and five days later put into the Azores after a stormy passage.

Germany was in dire straits when the war ended, according to Captain Robert W. Hudgens, of Laurens, S. C., who arrived in the Comfort. He was attached to the 118th Infantry, 30th division and when the town of Bellecourt was captured the captain said the Americans found the bodies of German soldiers being prepared to be rendered in to fats. A complete rendering plant was found in a tunnel besides the Bellecourt canal. Captain Hudgens said.

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