INTER-ALLIED CONFERENCE

PEACE PRELIMINARIES NEAR COMPLETION.

ALBANIA'S CLAIMS.

PARIS, March 18.
The Allied Supreme War Council did not sit to-day but the commissions continued their labours.

Conversations are continuing between the Government leaders. A meeting took place at which Messrs. Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Orlando were present. The results of this gathering are not yet known but it may be imagined that they had to do with important questions, the examination of which commenced yesterday, with regard to the conditions which the Allies will lay before Germany. It appears that there is a disposition to treat with Germany under the form of peace preliminaries. It seems likely that the League of Nations' scheme together with the amendments may be incorporated in the peace preliminaries. This is the American and British idea.

Lord Robert Cecil receiving British and American journalists confirmed this. He added that this would not lead to a delay in the signing of the preliminaries. The League of Nations committee had already proved the rapidity of its work at the time of the drawing up of the first project. It is thought that the Council will resume its deliberations on this subject to-morrow. Havas.

PARIS, March 16.
The Bishop of Alessio, member of the Albanian provisional government has arrived in Paris to take part in the work of the Peace Conference. The Bishop of Alessio states that the Christian and Moslem population of Albania have agreed to demand autonomy. I.O.T.B.

FUTURE OF DALMATIA.

ROME, March 16.
A large meeting was held in Rome to-day calling for the liberation of Spalato. A number of Dalmatians spoke in proof of the Italian traditions of the city. I.O.T.B.

TRIESTE, March 16.
An Istrian Congress met at Parenzo. The Conference telegraphed to the King of Italy and Messrs. Orlando and Clemenceau calling for the redemption of Dalmatia. The municipalities of Istria sent a collective protest to the Conference against the Jugo-Slav memorial stating that all the cities of Istria are most happy to be united to Italy. I.O.T.B.

TRIESTE, March 17.
A great demonstration took place in Trieste for the liberty of Dalmatia. The demonstrators were chiefly composed of merchants and women in order to indicate the economic and sentimental nature of the demonstration. I.O.T.B.

THE MINING DISPUTE.

PARIS, March 18.
In deference to the requests of Messrs. Wilson, Clemenceau and Orlando, Mr. Lloyd George has for the moment given up the idea of endeavouring to settle the mining dispute himself. Havas.

GERMAN PRINCE SEEKS DIVORCE.

BERNE, March 16.
Prince Eitel, the second son of the ex-Kaiser has asked for a divorce from the Grand Duchess of Oldenberg, accusing her of infidelity. I.O.T.B.

GERMAN-AUSTRIA.

BERNE, March 16.
At the Weimar Constituent Assembly the union of German-Austria with Germany was approved at the third reading. The definite treaty depends on the economic negotiations. I.O.T.B.

GERMANS IN RUSSIA.

PARIS, March 16.
The Conference has approved the proposal of the American Foreign Minister Mr. Lansing to authorise the Inter-Allied Commission at Posen to proceed to Russia to see whether the Germans are really retiring and are handing over their arms to the Bolsheviks. I.O.T.B.

THE RHINE PROVINCES.

BERNE, March 16.
In the Rhenish districts the Conservative Party have distributed petitions for the separation of the Rhine Provinces from Prussia. I.O.T.B.

NEW ITALIAN PORT.

ROME, March 17.
Arrangements were concluded to-day for the building of the largest port of Polcevera at a cost of 144 million lire. The new port will be on the American system with numerous moles, quays and basins. I.O.T.B.

EMPIRE TRADE.

ORGANISING FOR THE FUTURE.

("Gazette's" Special Service.)

LONDON, March 11.
In the House of Lords, replying to a question, Lord Sonner Leyton, on behalf of the Board of Trade said that the Board of Trade licences issued during the current year had not operated disadvantageously to trade with the Dominions. The Government earnestly desired to give the Dominions the utmost possible markets for their exports and to foster trade within the Empire for those commodities which each part of the Empire was best fitted to produce. A conference between representatives of the Canadian Mission and the Government was recently held whereat the views of Canada were fully stated and considered. It was hoped that the conference would produce good results both to the Mother Country and Canada.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

A NEW PHASE.

(From the American Agency).

NEW YORK, March 17.
Henry Morgenthau is sailing to Europe for the purpose of assisting Henry P. Davison in arranging a convention of international Red Cross to be held in Germany thirty days after the signing of the Peace Treaty. The new organisation will probably take the form of the League of Nations for the care of human needs and moral aspirations of all peoples. Mr. Morgenthau said one of the methods to help would be such as providing agricultural implements in populous countries where the present methods were inadequate and also the distribution of agricultural teachers among the peoples backward in scientific methods of agriculture.

The American Committee for the relief of the Near East announced the safe arrival in Constantinople of the fifth expedition of relief workers. The eighth expedition sailed yesterday on the Mauretania. It consisted of commission workers who will supervise and assist in the distribution of supplies and also take charge of the housing and caring for of four hundred thousand orphans, victims of the war.

EMPIRE SPORTS.

("Gazette's" Special Service.)

LONDON, March 8.
The weather for the Army Rugby tournament at Twickenham was fine; 4,000 people were present and a fast game took place. After ten minutes Harris scored a corner. Monkels in a fine kick just failing. At the interval the score was South Africa 3/0. In the last fifteen minutes Scully dropped a neat goal, Townsend in a scramble gained a try, Scully converting. The Air Force had a full share of the play but were weak in combination. The South African forwards heeled well and their wing three quarters ran finely but met with splendid tackling.

At Leicester before 800 spectators and under excellent conditions the Australians showed superiority in footwork and were often dangerous in forward rushes. The Mother Country's three quarters did fine work and before the interval Lewis scored, Cumberlage failing convert. At the interval the score was Mother Country 3/0. On the resumption of play the Australians attacked strongly, Stanning scoring an unconverted try in the last minute, Cumberlege kicked penalty goal for England.

At Portsmouth 3,000 persons looked on. The ground was in excellent condition. New Zealand fielded a reserve fifteen. Canada, weakened through the injuries in recent games had additional disadvantage of losing Grimmett after ten minutes play. The New Zealanders were smarter in a scrum and their three quarters were mostly attacking in the first half, although Canada tackled keenly. Sandman and Ryan scored tries, Roberts converting the first. Canada played better after the interval but failed to score. Ryan scored another try just before the finish.

LEOPOLI DESTROYED.

BERNE, March 16.
Leopoli has been destroyed by the Ukranian bombardment. I.O.T.B.

ITALY'S COLONIES.

ROME, March 17.
The Government is considering the passing of customs exceptions in favour of the development of the colonies. A Credito Fondiario Coloniale is about to be formed in order to facilitate the spread of agriculture in Tripoli, Somaliland, Benadir and Erythrea. I.O.T.B.

ORIGINATORS OF THE WAR.

SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR WAR CRIMES.

PARIS, March 10.
It is understood that the report of the Responsibilities Commission recognises the point of view of present international law that the Kaiser and his advisers cannot be tried however clear their guilt and suggests that the Conference be entitled to create a tribunal to try the originators of the war. The Commission finds no obstacle in international law to the trial and punishment of perpetrators of criminal acts in the conduct of war. Reuter.

It will cause general satisfaction to know that the perpetrators of atrocities are to be brought to book. It ought to be possible to divide the accusations made against individual Germans and malefactors of other races into two distinct categories. There may be doubtful cases; but they would not be numerous or important. The first class would include all those charged with the direct commission of particular crimes or direct responsibility for themselves at second hand by the sinking of the Sussex, for which no colour of excuse can be even imagined; judicial murders — similarly headed by the execution of Captain Fryatt; the wholesale deportations from Belgium and France, backed by every circumstance of outrage; the monstrous maltreatment of prisoners, on the road and in camp; these can be brought home to particular persons by indisputable evidence before any fairly constituted tribunal. One can only wish that from the death penalty will have to be inflicted and how often it may properly be commuted.

So far there is no great divergence in opinion; but the second category, in which the responsibility, though definite, is less direct, produces not a little. This class includes politicians and public men, probably some figures in the Higher Command, and the ex-Emperor William himself. Not themselves the actual perpetrators of outrages, they either encouraged them or they might have prevented many of them had they chosen. If the war itself was an indictable offence, they are the delinquents.

As to the trial of the Kaiser and his advisers the above telegram shows that they cannot be tried under international law. This is right, and any such trial would be a blunder, politically more inconvenient than a crime. Acquittal would be a disaster, and perhaps it is supposed that acquittal of bring "hostes humani generis" is inconceivable. If so, all the more reason for proceeding summarily. The responsibility for punishing offenders in this class ought to be shouldered by the victorious Governments themselves, and not turned over to any bench of international lawyers. Mainly because there is not the smallest doubt about the facts, and the calling of evidence would be a mockery; while whatever pedantry may say, there is no existing code applicable to such offences.

As to the penalties to be inflicted by executive act, we are on case in which it would be wise to take life, though we would be careful that the prime offender never trouble the world again or see much of it. If the Allied Governments, like some other people, think differently and hold that "stone dead hath no fellow," they should have the courage of their opinions. Indeed, if one seeks an historical analogy, the trial of Stafford, though both in gengus and character he towers above these marauders, perhaps offers the closest. He was charged with having "endeavoured to subvert the fundamental law and government of the realm," and the conductors of his impeachment sought to prove this treason. But it was found safer to proceed not by legal process but by Act of Government through a bill of attainder. Then he was executed because people were afraid of him, and perhaps they were right. But nobody is afraid of these men who have endeavoured to subvert the fundamental laws and government of Europe, to say nothing of their defying the laws of God. So let them live. But their surrender should at once be demanded and secured and the Joint Governments should deal with them without delay.

ITALY'S TRADE.

ROME, March 17.
A number of prominent industrialists have formed at Milan a confederation of Italian industries with heavy financial support. The aim of the confederation is to arrange for the importation of raw materials and the export of manufactured products. I.O.T.B.

THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED.

LONDON, March 17.
Mr. Lloyd George proposes that the permanently disabled in the war should be largely used in public administrations and in British offices in order to reduce the number of persons out of work. The Government will assure the existence of the disabled. Another Government proposal is to use all the motor material of the Red Cross so that help may be obtainable everywhere within a distance of twenty kilometres. I.O.T.B.

MERCHANT SHIPS FOR ITALY.

PARIS, March 17.
According to Anglo-French political circles six hundred thousand tons of merchant shipping will be allotted to Italy. I.O.T.B.

ROME, March 17.
The Austrian merchant ships allotted to Italy will be handed over on Saturday at Venice. I.O.T.B.

PRINCE BORGHESE.

ROME, March 17.
Prince Borghese has returned to Rome. I.O.T.B.

INDIA'S LOYALTY.

MORE STRIKING EVIDENCE.

SPEECHES IN LONDON.

LONDON, March 8.
Lord Sinha was entertained to dinner at the Savoy Hotel last night. The Maharajah of Bikanir, who presided, paid a tribute to Lord Sinha's modesty, his profound patriotism combined with the utmost loyalty to the British Crown and his grateful appreciation of all that India's connection with Great Britain meant for India, also his high sense of public duty, his political insight and his strength of character. He had never attempted to court cheap popularity by playing to the gallery, he had always unhesitatingly spoken and acted according to the dictates of his conscience in support of what appeared to him best for India and the British Empire. The order of good government had been as dear to Lord Sinha as the continued political advancement of his countrymen. These characteristics had distinguished Lord Sinha throughout his career and his sterling worth had won for him both east and west of Suez the respect of Englishmen and Indians alike. His country was justly proud of this great Indian. The cordial reception continued the Maharajah of Bikanir which, with that innate sense of justice and fairplay characterising the British people had been extended to Lord Sinha's appointment virtually unanimously by the responsible press and informed public opinion of England, had been noted with lively gratification in India. Indian leaders fully recognised and repeatedly stated that their ideals were only realisable by India remaining an integral part of the British Empire.

The Maharajah emphatically and authoritatively declared that India's princes belonged to no political parties. Their only concern was to see that such measures were adopted as would further popularise strength and prosperity, tie the bindings England and India together.

Lord Sinha, responding, said that Indian aspirations were measured to-day not in terms of their great country but in terms of the greater fatherland of which India was an integral part. He did not doubt that they were not that night not so much to honour him as to let all concerned know that Great Britain held fast to that great principle of freedom and equality in vindication of which she had staked her very existence. He admitted that there had been occasional aberrations on the part of a very small number but asserted that educated Indians without exception desired to remain within the British Empire with a status equal to British citizens. Lord Sinha concluded by appealing to Indians to trust in England, which would give conspicuous proof that she deserved all their trust in the responsible duties with which he was entrusted. (Cheers).

The Aga Khan, proposing the toast of the guests, declared that India's absorbing desire was to be a dominion under the British crown. The keynote of India's aspirations, in which Mahammedans fully participated, was loyalty to the King-Emperor.

Reutter's Special Service.

AFGHAN SITUATION.

NO DEFINITE NEWS YET.

LONDON, March 10.
(House of Commons). Replying to Sir D. Ross Mr. Fisher stated that the latest reports left no doubt that Nasrulla had resigned in favour of Amanulla, who appeared to have the situation at Kabul and Jelalabad well in hand. No disturbances had been reported but the attitude of outlying tribes had not yet been ascertained. Arrests had been made in connection with the murder of the Amir but reliable information was still lacking as regards the motives of the crime and the persons implicated. The relations between Amanulla and Nasrulla and the attitude of Unayatulla were not clear. The death of the Amir, who had been a true friend to Great Britain and whose resolute neutrality during the war had been of the utmost service to the Allies, was deeply regrettable. Reuter.

AUSTRIA AND BOHEMIA.

ROME, March 17.
The Italian General Segré, who has been given the task of settling the Austro-Bohemian difficulty, has restored diplomatic relations between German-Austria and the Czecho-Slovak governments. I.O.T.B.

CAVALLINI TRIAL.

ROME, March 17.
Caillaux, Loustalot and Comby will appear as witnesses in the Cavallini affair. I.O.T.B.

THE UNREST IN EGYPT.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS.

NO LACK OF FOOD AT ALEXANDRIA.

THE DISTURBANCES AT CAIRO.

Our Cairo correspondent writes:—

Sunday was a quiet day at Cairo. The outlook is finding that it is practically impossible for them to make their demonstrations peacefully without being joined by the riff-raff decided to give up the street demonstrations and remain at home. The students of Al Azhar sent out a circular in which they condemned severely the actions which the rowdies carried out in the streets at their expense and warned the public to avoid such men and to be well-behaved and peaceful towards the foreigners who are their guests and who have committed no crime whatever in connection with their case.

On the other hand a number of Egyptian ladies made a demonstration in their motor cars calling at each of the diplomatic agencies as a protest.

Regrettable incidents took place at Giza and Embaba on Sunday and Saturday respectively.

THE TRAMWAY CIRCULATION

The firm attitude of the Tramway Company has enabled them to run three lines, namely the Shubra, Abbasia el Khadra, Ramleh-way-Bab el Louk, and Gezira Sporting Club, by getting back some of the discharged staff or putting on new men. This has alleviated the situation in same way.

AT THE LAW COURTS.

Mr. Sheldon Amos, Acting Judicial Adviser, sent a letter on Saturday to the President of the Native Bar Council to the effect that the action of the Council and the Barristers is hampering the carrying out of justice and asks him to advise the Barristers who have asked for their name to be transferred to the list of non-practising barristers to withdraw their application and resume their works otherwise the Government will take the necessary steps. The Bar Council met on Sunday and sent to the Acting Judicial Adviser a reply to the effect that his letter has been submitted to the Council who saw no reason to alter their decision.

SITUATION IN ALEXANDRIA.

Up to midday yesterday it was understood that the railway communications between Alexandria and Cairo were safe and that only one line was being used as the others were still under repairs.

Three goods trains left Gabbary yesterday morning southward, two conveying foodstuffs to Cairo, and one conveying the mail train. Two passenger trains followed from the Bab el Gedid Station for Cairo and another train left for Rosetta.

Telegraph communication has improved since Wednesday last for the line was in use yesterday up to Tanta, and many business men used it up to the evening; but the telephone line is still damaged and cannot be used.

The Sheikhs of Turouks (Moslem Brotherhoods) in Alexandria endeavoured to hold a demonstration yesterday, but the police authorities stepped in and prevented it.

ALEXANDRIA'S FOOD

It appears that the position as regards the supply of food in Alexandria is quite satisfactory although the profiteer and the general public between them have combined, for the moment, to make difficulties, the former by asking for higher prices for such things as are not tariffed and the latter by attempting to lay in a stock of food.

A representative of the Egyptian Gazette called at the local Food Controller's office yesterday and was informed that the tendency to spread alarming reports was doing the greatest harm. With the exception of meat the shortage of which has been duly notified by the S.C.B., there is an abundant supply of food. The numbers shops and bakeries for flour and bread are absolutely unnecessary, for the situation as regards the supply of flour at Alexandria is better than it has been at any moment since the war began. Australian flour is distributed regularly every day to the appointed millers who do the mixing with the dura and then it is sold to the licensed vendors. But owing to the numbers that have been set going these vendors have not only sold to their own clients but have been overwhelmed with other vendors' clients and in some cases have had to close their shops.

Regarding the fancy bread baked by the European confectioners, the Supplies Control Board does not interfere with their purchases which are made direct from the wholesale importers and merchants, but there is no reason why there should have been a shortage of even fancy bread with the present supplies. Recently two cargoes of Australian flour arrived at Alexandria and another is expected shortly.

As for sugar, it is true that communications with Upper Egypt being temporarily disorganised, the usual consignments may be delayed, but for the present there is quite enough sugar in Alexandria, the Food Controller assured our representative to last a month, even if no further supplies come down.

"But while there is any amount of wheat there is certainly a scarcity of meat at Alexandria. However, in a hot country a meatless diet is no hardship, in fact it is a well known fact the less meat eaten the better. But if people will have meat, now is their opportunity to experiment with horseflesh, which, though it does not make a good soup, can be turned to almost any other account according to the skill of the cook.

The markets were more normal yesterday than they had been the day before, but we were assured that if there was any persistent attempt on the part of sellers to put up the price of eggs and vegetables abnormally, the Food Control would take these articles in-hand as they had wheat, sugar and petroleum.

COTTON CROP AND UNREST.

A representative of the "Egyptian Gazette" had an interview with an Egyptian landowner, a Moslem, who arrived at Alexandria on Thursday from the Behera. He was very bitter as to the conduct of the labouring classes of the agricultural population, who absolutely refuse to do any work whatever and have seized the agitation as an excuse for thieving everywhere. The result is that there is a lawlessness prevalent, which has no connection with politics and if this situation continues serious economic results will ensue for the cotton crop, which is now being sown and the season for sowing will be over in less than a fortnight.

"NO PUBLIC SUPPORT."

The Cairo correspondent of the "Times," who is an Anglo-Egyptian official, sent an article to that newspaper shortly before the troubles in Egypt became acute on the question of the agitation. His views are worth quoting in view of the recent developments. He writes:—

"Public opinion, however, lends the movement practically no support; indeed, from many sides the strongest disapproval is expressed. It is felt that, far from obtaining any greater political freedom for Egypt, any extension which the party's activities may assume will do the country an incredible amount of harm, and just at the moment when there is a prospect of real reform being made.

We understand that the statement regarding the British Consulate-General at Alexandria being specially guarded on Monday last is not correct. Mr. Geary writes: "No guard was asked for to protect this Consulate and none has been provided."

THE TURKISH CABINET.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 10.
The reconstructed Tewfik Pasha Ministry has resigned and a new ministry has been formed with Damad Pasha as Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mustapha Sabri Effendi, Sheikh-Ul Islam, Tewfik Bey, Minister of Finance and Djemal Bey, Minister of the Interior. Reuter.

HELIUM GAS.

NEW YORK, March 16.
Rich deposits of uninflammable helium gas have been discovered in America. This gas was used during the war in British and American airships. Besides considerably increasing the speed of airships in consequence of its extraordinary lightness this gas has the added advantage of absolute safety and easy commercial utilisation. Havas.

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