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THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

ALLIED LABOUR NEARING COMPLETION.

COLONEL HOUSE OPTIMISTIC.

PARIS, March 20.

Colonel House is of opinion that the peace treaty, including the League of Nations covenant, will be ready on March 29. The German delegates should be in Versailles within three weeks.

A High British authority expresses the opinion that Colonel House is somewhat optimistic and is inclined to put each event a week later. Reuter.

PARIS, March 21.

Mr. Lloyd George, in a statement to journalists, said that the world needed peace, therefore he was remaining in Paris unless unexpected developments occurred in the industrial situation, because any action on his part delaying peace would prolong the industrial unrest. Moreover, in the face of Mr. Sankey's report, it was impossible to conceive the miners taking violent action. Reuter.

LONDON, March 22.

A communiqué from Paris says that the Supreme War Council discussed the new report of the Polish Affairs Commission and reserved it for final examination in connection with subsequent boundary determinations affecting Germany. Reuter.

PARIS, March 24.

The Allies' Supreme Council has decided on the future regime for enemy submarines. It adopted a proposal concerning the Conference Commission's powers to decide. No authorised information has been given as a complement to the official communiqué, which does not give the date of the next meeting. Havas believes however that work will be continued and that the Council will confer to-day before the general meeting. Havas.

PARIS, March 24.

The Economic Council this morning definitely settled matters with regard to the handing over of the German merchant fleet for the purpose of sending food to Germany. Havas.

PARIS, March 24.

The Inter-Allied Labour Commission has drawn up a report to be laid before the Peace Conference. Havas.

PARIS, March 25.

Messrs. Wilson, Orlando and Lloyd George met at three o'clock this afternoon at the Ministry of War. The meeting lasted an hour and a half. Havas.

PARIS, March 26.

Messrs. Wilson, Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando met this morning and this afternoon. They will henceforward sit permanently to go into the big problems in order to arrive rapidly at the conclusion of peace. American and British circles consider that these meetings will reach a prompt result.

The ministers are in agreement now on the greater part of the points touching reparation for war damage. The Supreme War Council will fix the amounts to be claimed from Germany.

The ministers will probably look into the revolutionary events in Hungary, the spread of Bolshevism and the disorders in the south east of Europe.

They subsequently settled the question of the French demand for a frontier as they desire the speedy conclusion of the peace treaty. But important secretarial work will be necessary after the settlement in principle of the main questions.

The drawing up of the articles of the League of Nations covenant is being carried forward at the same time the amendments to the covenant will necessitate the drawing up of a fresh text. Havas.

CABLE DELAYS.

PERMISSION FOR CODES SUGGESTED

LONDON, March 20.

In the House of Commons Sir A. Williamson suggested that in view of the congestion of cables the use of private codes with India and Oversea possessions should be permitted for commercial purposes.

Mr. Churchill replied that the use of private codes was not permissible so long as it was necessary to maintain the censorship.

Sir A. Williamson then suggested that well-known firms might be permitted the use of private codes to extra-European countries and Mr. Churchill promised to consider the matter. Reuter.

A RIVER TRAGEDY.

PARIS, March 25.

A ferryboat drawn by a windlass was carrying workmen to the Ile de la Grande Jatte when it was sunk by a pinnace in tow of a tug. Fourteen persons are missing, nine bodies have been recovered and eighteen persons were saved. Havas.

SPANISH POSTMEN ON STRIKE.

MADRID March 25.

The postmen have gone on strike and letters are being distributed by the military. Havas.

LABOUR UNREST.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

BETTER PROSPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT.

LONDON, March 20.

In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law stated that the three reports of the Coal Commission had been signed and submitted to His Majesty.

Mr. Bonar Law had just received copies. He had summoned the Cabinet this afternoon to deal with the subject and he hoped it would be possible to make a statement in the House to-night. Reuter.

LONDON, March 21.

A conference of the Triple Alliance, comprising representatives of the Miners' Federation, National Union of Railwaymen and Transport Workers met and reviewed the whole Labour situation. The conference unanimously resolved to approach Government with a view to removing the deadlock between the Railwaymen's Union and the Railway Executive Committee. Reuter.

LONDON, March 21.

A committee appointed by the Industrial Conference to enquire into the question of hours and wages has completed its report. It unanimously recommends the adoption of an eight hours' day for all industries with a minimum wage for all workers.

Reuter's Special Service.

LONDON, March 21.

A conference of miners' delegates was held to-day and adjourned until March 26 after advising the miners to continue work pending negotiations with the Government for the modification of the proposals of the Sankey report. Reuter.

LONDON, March 21.

In the House of Commons, in continuation of his remarks on industrial questions Mr. Bonar Law stated that Government had definitely proposed that the wages, including the war bonus, of railwaymen, should be retained on their present level until the end of 1919, but the men demanded increases involving an additional £10,000,000. This was very serious because some additions to railway rates were already inevitable under the Transport Bill. In conclusion he declared that the miners' leaders never before had had such an opportunity. If they rejected it it would be the greatest mistake ever made by leaders of a great industry. Reuter's Special Service.

LONDON, March 23.

Discussions continued to-day between Sir A. Stanley, the Railway Executive Committee and the committee of both Railway Unions. A further meeting takes place to-morrow. Reuter.

LONDON, March 24.

During the Conference at Downing Street, Mr. Bonar Law stated that Government had undertaken that the wages of railwaymen would not be reduced until the end of the year, when the question could be re-opened. He emphasised that the country's financial position was serious. Railways were at present costing the taxpayer over half the national expenditure before the war and the offer the Government was now going to make was the utmost it could do. Reuter.

LONDON, March 23.

It is understood that to-day's Railway Conference proceeded satisfactorily and there is great likelihood of a settlement being achieved.

Mr. Bromley, Secretary of the Enginedrivers' and Firemens' Society, said proceedings were most amicable. Reuter.

LONDON March 24.

Representatives of the Government, of the Railway Executive Committee and Railway Unions to-day reviewed the whole concession offered by Government and reached an agreement on the interpretation thereof. If Railwaymen's Unions ratify the terms, negotiations on the remaining items of the programme will be continued immediately, Government undertaking that every effort will be made to secure a fair and speedy settlement. Reuter.

THE BLOCKADE.

NO IMMEDIATE RAISING.

LONDON March 20.

In the House of Commons Mr. R.B. Stoker suggested that in view of the almost total cessation of movement in the cotton trade and the consequent scarcity of yarn the free entry of cotton goods into Scandinavia, Denmark and Holland should be permitted.

Mr. Harmsworth replied that the abrogation of the blockade arrangements could be carried out with the consent of the Allies. All associated governments considered it necessary at present for reasons of policy to maintain the blockade, but so soon as it had served its purpose as a most important lever for obtaining the enemy's acceptance and execution of the Allies' terms, Government would welcome the possibility of removing the blockade restrictions. Reuter's Special Service.

PARIS FORTIFICATIONS.

PARIS, March 21.

The Chamber has passed a bill for the dismantling of the Paris fortifications. Reuter's Special Service.

R.A.F. CADETS.

Procure your Triplex Masks at once from Lawrence and Mayo, Shepheards Hotel Buildings, Cairo.

Westner's
WALKING STICKS
Shepheard's Hotel, Building Cairo.

CENTRAL EUROPE.

BOLSHEVISM IN HUNGARY.

POLISH PROBLEMS.

BASLE, March 23.

It is reported from Budapest that the Entente Powers have fixed a neutral zone of 200 kilometres in order to put an end to contact between the Magyars and the Transylvanians until the question of their various territories has been settled. Havas.

BASLE, March 23.

The Hungarian Cabinet in consequence of the modifications caused to the foreign policy and of the catastrophe which threatens production in Hungary has resigned. Count Karolyi accepted the resignation of the ministers and declared that he also resigned and left the power in the hands of the proletariat. Havas.

AMSTERDAM, March 22.

According to a telegram from Budapest, after the chief of the Entente Commission had handed over to Count Karolji the Entente Note laying down the new line of demarcation between Hungary and Roumania to be regarded as the political frontier, the Cabinet resigned.

The Hungarian Socialist party has taken over the administration of the country, which has been declared under martial law. Reuter.

COPENHAGEN, March 22.

It is reported from Berlin that Alexander Gorbas has assumed the Presidency of the Hungarian Soviet Government. The Government includes Bela Kun and Joseph Pagany, respectively Foreign Affairs and War Commissaries. The newspapers in Budapest have ceased publication. Reuter.

PARIS, March 20.

A telegram from Posen states that negotiations between the inter-Allied Commission and German delegates with regard to the Polish-German armistice have broken down owing to Herr Erzberger, when everything seemed definitely settled, making a new demand for neutral representation on the Superior Commission at Posen to settle Polish-German disputes, which it had been previously agreed should be chosen by the International Armistice Commission at Spa. Reuter's Special Service.

COPENHAGEN, March 21.

A Berlin semi-official statement says that the German Government persists in its refusal to permit Polish troops to land at Dantzig, on the ground of article sixteen of the armistice of November 11, 1918. Reuter's Special Service.

AUSTRIAN FLEET AT VENICE.

VENICE March 25.

The large units of the former Austrian fleet have been moored here. The King and the Ministers were cheered by the crowd. Havas.

NEW AUSTRIAN PAPER.

BERLIN, March 21.

A Vienna telegram says that the "Fremdenblatt" has ceased publication and has been replaced by a new democratic paper called "Der Neue Tag." Reuter's Special Service.

FOOD FOR GERMANY.

HUN SAILORS REFUSE TO SAIL.

COPENHAGEN, March 22.

A Bremen message states that seamen refused to man foodships unless allowed to remain aboard. A Berlin telegram says that a sufficiency of seamen have volunteered at Hamburg to ensure the sailing of foodships. Reuter's Special Service.

CHRISTIANIA, March 21.

A Berlin telegram, dated the 19th, says that two German steamers were unable to sail from Hamburg in accordance with the Brussels agreement as the Hamburg branch of the German Seamen's League resolved on refusing to work ships for the Entente. The German newspapers protest at this scrapping of treaties and declare that Hamburg seamen are only a communistic fraction. Reuter's Special Service.

COLOGNE, March 20.

£13,000 worth of foodstuffs from the Allies yesterday were handed over to the Germans, who paid in British banknotes. A further large consignment is expected to-morrow. Reuter.

EX-EMPEROR KARL'S NEW ABODE.

COPENHAGEN, March 21.

A Vienna message announces that the German-Austrian Government has sanctioned the ex-Emperor residing in Switzerland.

Reuter's Special Service.

BASLE, March 25.

The former Emperor of Austria and his family arrived this afternoon accompanied by the British colonel Strutt. They have taken up their abode at the chateau of Martegz, at Staad. Havas.

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THE RHINE FRONTIER.

MARSHAL FOCH'S VIEWS

A WEST OF RHINE REPUBLIC.

PARIS, March 21.

Interviewed by the "Matin" on the anniversary of the great German attack in 1918, Marshal Foch declared that the Rhine was France's only good line of defence. He did not ask for annexation but France would have fought vainly unless she got this military frontier. Reuter's Special Service.

The future of the German territory on the Left, or West, Bank of the Rhine has been a subject of discussion in France throughout the war. Writing in the "Nation" Mr. Dell says: "A solution, which has much more support in France is that of the Franco-Russian agreement of February, 1917, namely, that the territory on the Left Bank of the Rhine should be separated from the rest of Germany and made into an independent neutral State, more or less under French protectorate. The agreement of 1917 provided that the territory should be occupied by French troops for a certain number of years. This solution is strongly supported by the French military authorities, who are so disposed to demand for France the right to hold certain places on the Rhine. The existence of the agreement of February, 1917, which had been quite constitutionally made by the President of the Republic and M. Briand without the knowledge of the French Cabinet, was revealed after the Russian revolution. It was discussed in June, 1917, at a secret session of the French Chamber of Deputies, in the course of which M. Ribot, who had then become Prime Minister in succession to M. Briand, repudiated the agreement and declared it to be henceforth null and void. Later, in 1917, which was, by the way, in June, become Prime Minister, publicly pledged France in the Chamber not to demand any territory other than Alsace-Lorraine, whatever the result of the war might be. Later on the policy of the Franco-Russian agreement in regard to the Left Bank of the Rhine was revived and is now approached even by many of the Radical deputies, who in 1917 demanded its repudiation.

Now that Alsace-Lorraine has once more become French, the German territory on the Left Bank of the Rhine consists of the greater part (roughly, about three-fourths) of the Rhine Province, the Palatinate, and a small piece of Hesse, including the towns of Mainz and Worms. The Rhine Province, which is part of Prussia, is bounded on the north by Holland, on the east by Westphalia and Hesse-Nassau, on the south-east by the Palatinate, on the south and southwest by Lorraine, and on the west by Luxembourg, Belgium, and Holland. It has an area of 10,423 square miles, and its population in 1905 was 6,435,778, of whom more than two-thirds (4,472,058) were Roman Catholics. The population is now, of course, considerably larger, but the proportion of Roman Catholics remains much the same. The Rhine Province is the most important industrial district in Germany, and contains more large towns than any other Prussian province. As has been said, the greater part of the province is on the Left Bank of the Rhine, and it is there that the Roman Catholics are strongest. In the district on the right or east bank of the river the population is about equally divided between Catholics and Protestants. Cologne is the official capital of the province, but its most important town is Coblenz. The Palatinate, which is a province of Bavaria, has an area of 2,284 square miles and had in 1905 a population of 885,280, about equally divided into Catholics and Protestants. It is bounded on the north by the Rhine Province and the Hessian province of Rhein-Hessen, on the east by Baden (separated from it by the Rhine), on the south by Alsace and Lorraine, and on the west by the Rhine Province again. The Hessian territory on the left bank of the Rhine is the greater part of the province of Rhein-Hessen, which lies on the Rhine Province on its north and the Palatinate on its south and south-east. It has an area of the whole province is 550 square miles, and its total population in 1905 was 322,531.

Since the Armistice there has been a movement in the Rhine Province for separation from Prussia. It originated in Cologne, for the two principal causes—fear of French demands and fear of Socialism. On the one hand its authors wish to deprive Prussia of its power of commanding the complete separation of the Left Bank of the Rhine from Germany, on the other they want an autonomous State in which Catholics will predominate.

The Cologne proposal contemplates a West-of-Rhine Republic, which would be a State of the German Federation. Some of its supporters seem willing that neutrality should be imposed on the new Republic and that it should be forbidden to have an army or to fight for or against Germany. But such conditions are incompatible with membership of the German Federation. They almost necessarily involve complete independence.

FUTURE OF THE DANUBE.

PARIS March 23.

The Communications Commission has discussed the clauses to be inserted in the Peace Treaty with regard to the Danube. Havas.

BRITAIN'S WAR GRAVES.

LONDON March 23.

The Foreign Office is publishing the terms of the Franco-British treaty relative to war graves. The French Government recognises the Imperial War Graves Commission as the only official British organisation entrusted with the preservation of British soldiers' graves in France and the French government has presented land for cemeteries to the British authorities in perpetuity. Reuter.

FIGHTING IN NORTH RUSSIA

LONDON March 24.

A North Russia communiqué says that a strong party of Bolsheviks on the 17th instant captured the village of Bolshezoyers westward of Shoverkaya. The enemy position is being bombarded with a view to compelling his withdrawal. Reuter.

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THE UNREST IN EGYPT.

GENERAL ALLENBY'S SPEECH.

EGYPTIANS' APPEAL FOR TRANQUILLITY.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, March 19.

In the House of Commons, replying to a question with reference to the deportation of Nationalist leaders from Egypt, Mr. Dudley Ward said that in November a deputation of Nationalists, headed by Saad Pasha Zaglul, called at the British Residency advocating a programme of complete autonomy for Egypt. They demanded that the protectorate should be immediately in order to submit the demands. Simultaneously a Nationalist elected committee of fourteen leaders commenced an agitation throughout the country. They demanded that the Minister of Education should visit London to discuss Egyptian affairs and urged that Nationalist leaders should be allowed a hearing in London.

His Majesty's Government replied that while sympathising with the idea of giving the Egyptians an increasing share in the Government of the country they could not abandon their responsibility for order and good government in Egypt and for safeguarding the rights and interests of the native and foreign populations. No useful purpose would be served by Nationalist leaders coming to London and advancing immoderate demands which it was impossible to entertain. Ministers would be very welcome but their own convenience and dignity would be better served if it was not timed to coincide with the first weeks of the Peace Conference when Mr. Balfour was absent in Paris. Government proposed that the visit should be postponed for a short time. The two Ministers tendered their resignations.

Sir R. Wingate was summoned to London in January to report on the situation and the two Ministers were invited to come to London in the middle of February. They declared unless the Nationalist leaders were also permitted to proceed to London His Majesty's Government were unable to accept such a condition and the resignations of the two Ministers were accepted by the Sultan. Steps were then taken for a new Ministry, but the Nationalists endeavoured to prevent the formation of a Ministry by threatening the Sultan and the Ministers willing to accept office.

Authority was given for the arrest and deportation to Malta of Saad Pasha Zaglul and three other Nationalist leaders. There have since been demonstrations and rioting in Cairo and provincial centres, chiefly organised by students, who enlisted the help of the town rabble. Collisions have occurred with the Egyptian police and British troops engaged in maintaining order. These manifestations are instigated by adherents of the deposed Sultan. There is every reason to believe the situation is well in hand. Reuter.

(Official Communiqué).

CAIRO, March 27.

In Cairo and the Delta order prevails everywhere with the exception only of the town of country communities Zifta in the south eastern and Dessouk in north western Gharbia. At Zifta on the 25th inst. a disorderly gathering threatened to break into the Markaz but dispersed when warned by the Mamour that the police would fire. On the same day, the branch railway was cut west of the town. A mobile column reached Kafer es Sheikh on the 26th and restored order. Mobile columns have also reached various towns in the western Behera. It is reported that in this province no damage has been done to the canal banks and the regulators.

In other outlying districts mobile columns are occupying the various centres of disaffection. A large number of the ringleaders and prominent rioters have been arrested.

In certain localities the notables are assisting the authorities by forming Committees of Public Security.

Confirmation has been received of the murder during the early part of the outbreak of Mr. Arthur Thomas Smith, Executive Superintendent of the E.S.R. at Wasta and of Mr. Joseph Nakhla Dahan, Agent of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank at Zagazig.

No further details have yet been received from Assiut. Reports from the region between Kena and Assouan are still incomplete; but those received tend to show that damage in this area has been limited to the railway and telegraph lines, and the, foreign residents, banks and sugar factories are all safe.

No further trouble is anticipated from the Bedouins of the west and in the Fayoum. Those on the east bank of the Nile between Kena and Assouan have offered their assistance to the Government.

All is reported quiet in the Delta region from Alexandria to Sollum; also in the Oases of Baharia, Kharga and Dakhla.

(Official Communiqué).

CAIRO, March, 26.

No fresh incidents are reported to have occurred during the last 24 hours in the Northern Provinces.

On the evening of the 24th, a train was fired upon west of Abu Hammad and during the night of the 24th and 25th slight damage was done to the permanent way on the Tanta-Mehallet Roh line.

Reports from the districts show that during the recent attacks upon communications, country-roads and canals were also seriously damaged. Damage to roads has been most severe in southern Dakahlia and the Behera. In some instances, the rioters also attacked irrigation canals and cuts, removing the banks which are used to regulate the water supply. A canal bridge between Mansura and Simbellawein was destroyed blocking the canal and resulting in the flooding of a large tract of country.

A mounted column has reached Hosh Isa in the western Behera where a number of offenders have been arrested. It is reported that the villagers in this region are returning to their normal occupation.

All is quiet from Cairo to Assiut and in the Fayum.

At Assiut the small local garrison and residents have for several days past been exposed to a sustained attack. Yesterday evening a relieving force arrived by water from Cairo and restored the situation. The following are known to have reached Assiut by water from Luxor on the evening of the 22nd: Brig.-Gen. Bicket, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Clayton, Miss Thomson, Miss Caldoough. The town of Assiut is reported to have suffered very severely from looting, the shops owned by Copts and Armenians being specially singled out for pillage.

It has now been established that Kaimakam A. Pope Bey, Inspector of Prisons in Upper Egypt, was among those killed in the outrage on the Luxor-Cairo train on the 15th. It is still impossible to establish the names of the other victims of this outrage.

(Official Communiqué).

Cairo, March 26.

H.E. The High Commissioner, General Sir Edmund Allenby, delivered the following address to an assembly of notables who came to the Residency at 5.15 p.m. to-day at His Excellency's invitation:—

"I have been appointed High Commissioner for Egypt by His Majesty the King and it is my desire and duty to assist in bringing to the country peace, quiet, and contentment. My intentions are, first, to bring the present disturbances to an end; secondly, to make careful enquiry into all matters which have caused discontent in the country; thirdly, to redress such grievances as appear justifiable. It is you who can lead the people of Egypt; it is your duty to work with me in the interests of your country. I cannot believe that any one of you will not assist me in every way, and I am prepared to rely on you to set to work at once with a view to calming the passions now let loose. After quiet has been restored, I feel confident that you will trust me to enquire impartially into all grievances and to make such recommendations as may seem to be desirable for the content and well-being of the people of Egypt."

MURDER OF MR. VAN LENNEP.

Details have been received at Alexandria of the murder of Mr. van Lennep at his farm at Hoch Isa in the Behera province. His brother, Mr. Edward van Lennep, who resides at Cairo, informed the Military authorities there that his brother was alone on his estate and needed protection. An armoured automobile was despatched to bring him away, but he refused to leave as he said that he was on most friendly terms with all his native neighbours and that he had complete trust in them. His confidence was quite misplaced and the natives murdered him, destroyed his farm, and robbed everything that they could lay their hands on. Mr. von Lennep was the brother of the late Secretary General of the Alexandria Municipality and was of Dutch extraction. He

(Continued on page 6).

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For this week only Roberts, Hughes and Co., are offering a special line of very strong Canvas covered, Fibre Suit Cases, guaranteed for rough wear, 20" at P.T.275, 22" P.T.305, 24" P.T.335, 26" P.T.365. All are reduced in price.

Owing to present circumstances this offer holds good for another week from Monday March 24.

Dr. MESSINEZI.
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GROPPI'S, CAIRO.

Groppi's of Sharia Manakh and Maghraby, Cairo, so renowned for their delicacies, are now specialising in sausages and lard. The latter can be recommended as an excellent substitute for butter for cooking purposes on account of its moderate price.

GOING HOME.

Morums are making a special showing of travelling goods, Trunks, Comfy, Wraps for ladies and all that they need for the voyage.