

# FRENCH PROPOSALS ON NAVAL ARMAMENT CONTEMPLATE FLEET OF 350,000 TONS BY 1941

### Plans Presented to Arms Conference Are With Full Authority of French Government Which Believes That They and Resulting Naval Ratio to France Is Reasonable—Three Major Powers Express Surprise Over Attitude Taken by France on Naval Apportionments.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Proposals made by the French delegation Thursday to the naval committee of the arms conference included a definite schedule of construction which contemplated the replacement by 1941 of the present French battle fleet by ten new ships totaling 350,000 tons.

The proposals, and the accompanying schedule of planned construction, were presented with the full authority of the French government, it was learned on best authority tonight, and were not as had been indicated in some quarters, merely "a tentative departmental plan."

Authoritative French opinion, as obtained tonight, was that the plan and its resulting ratio for France, was entirely reasonable. It was made plain that there was no disposition to modify the proposals in their vital features, or to accept the 5,000-ton ratio proposed by the United States delegation.

#### First Ship in 1925.

The first new ship would be laid down in 1925, under the French plan submitted to the committee, and each year the keel of an additional ship would be laid to gradually replace and augment the present capital ship tonnage of France which, in the opinion of her government, is antiquated in design and inadequate to properly protect the nation's interests. The naval experts of the French delegation estimated that the last of the new ships would be ready for service in 1941, or not before ten years after the period of the naval holiday contemplated in the limitation agreement now before the conference.

#### Essential Features.

The essential features of the French plan were submitted in committee, in a table illustrating proposed construction as follows:

Year	Capital Ship Tonnage
1925-1941	350,000 (all old dreadnoughts.)
1925-1941	1,000,000 (two new, six old dreadnoughts.)
1925-1941	250,000 (one old, seven new dreadnoughts.)
1941-1950	350,000 (ten new dreadnoughts.)

### Lord Riddle To Quit Conference At Washington

Must Return to England to Look After Private Business Matters.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Lord Riddle, who has been serving as a liaison officer between the British delegation and United States and foreign press representatives during the progress of the arms conference, has arranged to sail from New York Thursday on the steamer Orbita. He had planned to depart a week ago to attend to personal and pressing business engagements in Europe, but was induced by Mr. Lloyd George to remain longer in Washington upon the urgent request of the British delegation, which regarded his services of highest value.

### Cabotia At Portland With Whiskey Cargo

The Ship Expected by Thirty Ones to Dock Here Falls Them.

Portland, Me., Dec. 18.—The steamship Cabotia brought 21,000 cases of Scotch whiskey from Glasgow, the largest shipment ever received here in bond yesterday. It will be shipped to Canada. The value of the cargo, according to local unofficial quotations, would be nearly \$4,000,000.

## NO OFFICIAL REASON GIVEN FOR RESIGNATION OF CHINESE CABINET

Pekin, Dec. 18.—The Chinese cabinet resigned today. No official reason for the resignation is obtainable. In unofficial circles, however, the decision of the government is interpreted in three ways, first, as a protest against the reactionary regime proposed by General Chang Tso-Lin, governor of Manchuria; second, the demand of Chang-Tso-Lin for material support by the government, and third, a confession that the financial situation is impossible of solution.

### Severe Storm At Megantic Disrupts Press Service

A heavy storm, breaking around Megantic about one o'clock this morning, put commercial and press wires out of commission, making it impossible for morning newspapers to receive their Canadian Press news service. It was impossible to secure details of storm. As far as the press was concerned the laconic message: "Wires down" told the story.

### FIERCE RIOTING IN BELFAST OVER THE WEEK-END

#### Attempted Raid for Arms on Balmoral Show Grounds Resulted in Failure

#### AUTHORITIES HAD RECEIVED WARNING

#### Soldiers Fired Upon Would-be Raiders, Two of Whom Were Captured.

Belfast, Dec. 18.—An attempted raid for arms on the Balmoral show grounds, which is under military occupation, resulted in failure Saturday night, following a day of fierce rioting throughout the city Saturday. During the night a motor car lorry arrived at the show grounds and four men got out of it. These men went to the railing, where they received rifles which were handed out to them by men inside the grounds.

### Terrible Tommy's "Nectie" Dangles Lonely in Chicago

County Jail Hanging Had to be Postponed as Victim Couldn't be Found.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—"Terrible Tommy" O'Connor's zero hour, 7 a. m., struck at the county jail this morning and nothing happened.

### Resignation of Meighen Government Expected Tuesday

Prime Minister Requested to Hold on Until Mr. King is Ready With Cabinet.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 18.—(Canadian Press)—The resignation of the Meighen administration is now expected on Tuesday. The Prime Minister, it is understood has already notified the governor-general that the government is ready to relinquish office but has been requested to continue in charge until Mr. King is ready with his cabinet.

### Monday, Dec. 26, To Be Observed As Holiday

Order in Council Providing for This Has Been Passed.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Christmas coming on Sunday this year, Monday, Dec. 26, will be observed as a holiday throughout the Dominion. An order-in-council providing for this has been passed. Another order provides for paying the temporary employees of the civil service on the 22nd of the month, instead of on the last day. It has been customary to do this for some years past. It is probable that provision will be made for the observance of the Monday following New Year's as a holiday also.

## NEW YORK STATE AND NORTH ONTARIO SWEEP BY GALES CAUSING PROPERTY LOSSES

### MOTHER AND SIX CHILDREN LOSE LIVES IN FIRE

Windsor, N. S., Dec. 18.—Mrs. Ruth Johnston and her six children were burned to death when fire destroyed their home, at the colored settlement, five miles from here last night. It is supposed the fire started in the kitchen. The mother and children were overcome by smoke while trying to get out by the front door, which they were unable to open.

### Thirty Years Behind Times Lifer Refuses To Accept Pardon

Declares He Wouldn't Know What to Do if Given His Freedom.

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 18.—Because he says he is thirty years behind the times and if freed would not know what to do, Dehn Murphy, oldest white prisoner in the State penitentiary, today protested against his own pardon. He is serving life imprisonment for murder, although he maintains he is innocent.

### Four Power Treaty Pleases New Zealand

Press Sees in the Move a Genuine Desire to End War.

Wellington, N. Z., Dec. 18.—The New Zealand press unanimously applauded the four power treaty as affording the most effective guarantee for peace in the Pacific and as indicating a desire of the Powers of the world to unite against the armament of war.

### Prosecutor Found McDonald Home Burned To Ground

Went to Investigate Surroundings in Connection With the Murder of McDonald's Wife.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 18.—When E. A. MacMillan, Crown prosecutor of Victoria County, arrived at Ross' Ferry to personally inspect the home of Dan D. McDonald, charged with the murder of his wife, he found the building burned down. The McDonalds live in a remote place and as no one had seen the home burn, Mr. MacMillan was unable to find out what caused the fire. The children had previously been removed to Sydney by the Children's Aid Society.

### Trees Uprooted, Chimneys Topped Over, Plate Glass Windows Blown In and Streets Strawn With Advertising Signs Torn from Tops of Buildings—One Man Killed and Several Injured—Buffalo Waterfront Laid in Waste by Raging Waters and Demolishing Winds.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 18.—A ninety-five-mile-an-hour gale swept the city today, uprooting trees, tearing down chimneys and advertising signs from the tops of buildings, smashing plate glass windows and piling up the water in the harbor to an unprecedented stage. One man was killed in the storm. The damage through the city was great, but heaviest losses occurred along the waterfront, where a 300-foot wireless tower was demolished, boathouses and small docks swept away, and several hundred pleasure craft were smashed or carried down the river. No accurate estimate of the loss can be made, but it will run into the hundreds of thousands.

#### One Man Killed.

A window hatch, torn from the top of a business block, fell upon a passing automobile, killing Frank E. Kiefer, one of the occupants, and injuring another seriously. The flying piece of debris went through the windshield of the machine and pinned Kiefer to the seat. The automobile, with the occupants both unconscious, continued down the street for a block before it swerved over a sidewalk and crashed into a store front. Kiefer died before he could be extricated from the wreckage.

#### Caught Under Falling Tree.

Two women were caught under a falling tree on Porter avenue, near the waterfront. One of them, Miss Margaret Cochrane, had both legs broken. Her sister, Katherine, had one leg broken and was internally injured. Firemen had to be called out to cut away part of the tree trunk before Margaret Cochrane could be released and sent to a hospital.

The terrific force of the wind, blowing southwest directly down Lake Erie, had the effect of a huge tidal wave. When the water was at its highest level, Bird Island pier and Squaw Island, narrow strips of land and water barriers between Niagara River and the barge canal, were almost completely submerged. Nearly 100 squatters' shanties along the strip and the wind and carried out into the river. Occupants of the shanties had some thrilling experiences before they were rescued by police, firemen and coastguard crews which worked from the canal side of the pier and island. The pier was cut in half a dozen places when the river began to recede, and the weight of water in the canal crumbled the retaining walls of stone and concrete.

Three ferry boats, used in the service between Buffalo and Fort Erie, were piled up on the rocks between the river and canal, and scores of small boat-houses, in which pleasure craft were in winter storage, were swept away.

### Other And Prominent Nationalist Leaders Placed Under Arrest

Connected With the Cooperationist Movement in India—Six Months' Sentence.

Allahabad, British India, Dec. 18.—Pundit Motilal Mehru, a prominent nationalist leader, his son and two nephews, who were arrested Dec. 7 in connection with the non-cooperationist movement, today were sentenced to six months in prison and a fine each of 100 rupees. It was decreed that they would serve another month in prison in case there was a default in the payment of their fines.

### Americans in Coblentz In Influenza's Grip

Coblentz, Dec. 18.—Many of the American soldiers are in the hospital suffering from influenza, which is epidemic. There are at present 150 cases of the disease, which is of a moderate type. There is little pneumonia, and no deaths have occurred thus far. The moving picture houses have been placed out of bounds by the army authorities.

## ANTI-AMERICAN YOUNG MEN'S LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION AT TOKIO

Tokio, Dec. 18.—A mass meeting held today under the auspices of the Anti-American Young Men's League, passed resolutions opposing the decisions arrived at by the Washington conference. There were numerous speeches in denunciation of the agreements reached.

A proposed demonstration before the United States embassy was prevented by the police, who seized numerous leaflets containing the words of a song: "Strafe America," which it was proposed to distribute.