

MOMENTOUS PEACE CONFERENCE OPENED TODAY

TODAY, MOMENTOUS PEACE CONFERENCE WAS OPENED

Representatives of 26 Nations Havelined up for Work Facing Them.

PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS THEY WILL HAVE TO SOLVE.

PARIS, Jan. 18.—The peace conference convened for its first official session at 2.30 p.m. today. Delegates representing 26 nations met in the famous Gloek Hall of the Quai D'Orsay, President Poincaré made the opening address. The peace delegates sat at a huge horseshoe-shaped table, with their secretaries at small tables nearby.

This being the first session it was open and the newspaper correspondents were permitted to be present. None of the tremendous issues of the peace settlement were to be taken up. The sitting was to be devoted to the formalities attaching to the convening of the most important gathering of statesmen in modern history.

It is the gathering, at which President Wilson, leading the peace delegation of the United States, intended to put through his League of Nations' plan and other measures which he believes will end wars and make the world safe for civilization; formation of a definite policy toward Russia, involving possible recognition of the Russian soviet government; indemnities to be collected from Germany; the final disposition of the German fleet; the future of the German Colonies; regulation of national boundaries; the demand of Greece for Constantinople; the disposition of the Holy Land; Ireland's demand for home rule and other principles of self-determination; adjustment of national boundaries along racial lines; freedom of the seas and the reduction of armaments, were among the important questions confronting the peace makers as they assembled.

The delegates present represented

all the nations associated in the war on Germany, and in addition Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia, which severed relations with Germany. The Central powers were not represented. When the peace treaty has been drawn up, the delegates representing the German government and its former allies will be asked to sign it.

When the conference starts its regular proceedings, the league of nations will be the first issue taken up. This will be done at the insistence of President Wilson. Premier Clemenceau is the one who is expected to bring it up for discussion.

The delegates to the conference follow: Great Britain:—Premier Lloyd George, Foreign Secretary Balfour, Chancellor Bonar Law and George N. Barnes; United States, President Wilson, Secretary Lansing, Henry White and General Bliss; France: Premier Clemenceau; Foreign Minister Poincaré and Marshal Foch; Italy: Premier Orlando, Foreign Minister Sonnino and General Diaz; Japan: Viscount Chinda, Ambassador to Great Britain, Baron Matsui, Ambassador to France; Belgium, Foreign Minister Hymans, Emile Vandervelde, Minister of Justice; Greece, Premier Venizelos, and Foreign Minister Politis; Serbia, Premier Pashitch.

An honor guard saluted the commissioners as they entered the room. The crowds waiting outside had glimpses of motor cars, the flags of the nations fluttering from them as they whistled the delegates into the courtyard. There was frequent cheering and applause.

Under the alphabetical arrangement by which the delegates were seated in the conference room, the Americans were placed at the head of the table,

on the right hand of Premier Clemenceau. The other commissioners were ranged out the big horseshoe table in alphabetical order. Great doors leading to the cloak halls were thrown open so that diplomats and others invited to witness the initial sitting could observe the proceedings from the adjoining chambers.

President Poincaré, in making his address, stood beneath a marble clock surmounting a magnificent figure of victory.

WORLD'S GREATEST PEACE CONGRESS.

With great dignity the full commissions of the associated powers, including two representatives of the King of the Serbs, the potentate who helped whip the Turk, gathered in the historic Clock Room.

Having won their contention in the preliminary, Belgium and Serbia had three delegates instead of two each, as previously announced.

There was a solemn brilliancy to the assemblage at the Quai D'Orsay, the faces of some of the diplomats were very grave as they waited for the movement of opening the world's greatest peace congress.

MEET IN OLD CLOCK ROOM.

PARIS, Jan. 18.—All preparations had been completed early today for holding of the first formal session of peace conference at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The Salle D'Horloge, now rechristened Halle D'La Paix and one of the most splendid reception rooms in Europe, has been placed in readiness for the delegates of allied nations as they entered to inaugurate the sittings of the full congress. The entire chamber having been arranged for the special purpose to which it is now being put.

Wm. Robertson, who is charged with having assaulted Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin at the Cobourg jail and then escaped from custody, was arrested in Montreal.



SOME FEAT—EMBARRASSED VISITOR (called upon to admire the latest photographic effort from overseas). "Yes, dear—a very nice snapshot of him. But, my goodness! It must have given you something to do to knit socks for him!"—Passing Show, London.

The Appeal From Stricken Syria

Assisting the Unfortunate People.

The people in stricken Syria will not be forgotten. The needs of the thousands of families in that far-away country, which has suffered so much through starvation and other deprivations brought only the war are being brought before the people in other countries, who have been fortunate and still enjoy the pleasures and comforts of ante war days.

Assistances to the people in Syria will be given in the form of money and clothes. The work in the respective countries has become a national through the general appeal that has been made for the assistance of the unfortunate country. Locally, Mrs. Abdo Rishaw, has undertaken the securing of assistance from the people of this city. Mrs. Rishaw has received the endorsement of Mayor Gross as the following letter will show:

January 17, 1919.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Beate Mrs. Abdo Rishaw, a resident of Kitchener for the last seventeen years, and personally known to me for years, is endeavoring to secure aid for her stricken country, Syria. Her uncle, Joseph Libnan, Mayor of Beyrouth, Syria, has written of the terrible conditions prevailing there and asked for assistance.

Anything, either money or clothes, that can be spared would greatly help in alleviating the distress of these people.

I trust you will do the best you can under the circumstances.

Sincerely yours,
D. Gross, Jr., Mayor.

The terrible conditions prevailing in Syria, much as they have been referred to in the press and in letters, are known to a degree. The meagre reports and few facts that are being received, however, are enough to impress upon one the seriousness and sad plight. Many a human life has been extinguished and many a family wiped out through the starvation. Many a town today has only half the population it had before the war. In instances were named by Mrs. Rishaw, whom the Record had the opportunity of conversing with on the appeal; before the war these towns had 3000 and 600 people respectively; to-day the number is 1500 and 300 respectively. The sad condition was brought nearer home to the people here recently when the fact became known that five out of seven of a local family, Mr. Joseph and four children, had succumbed to the ravages of starvation. The appeal therefore, once brought before the citizens undoubtedly will be responded to, to a creditable extent.

Disposed of the Surplus Fund

Raised to Provide More Water at the Sanatorium.

Will Pay For Pump—Balance to the I.O.D.E.

A meeting of the subscribers to the fund to provide water for the Freeport Sanatorium was held at the City Hall last evening, Dr. Honsberger presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to decide what use was to be made of the surplus funds collected.

Miss Bruce, Regent of the Princess of Wales Chapter Daughters of the Empire reported that they had been successful in collecting \$1500.25. Mr. Lamprey, the Secretary of the Sanatorium Board reported that the cost of sinking the well was \$1195.40. There was therefore, a balance of \$373.85 to dispose of.

Dr. Proctor from the Sanatorium addressed the meeting at some length and followed and it was eventually decided that when the citizens offered to provide water that it would be delivered to the building. They, therefore, objected to pay for the pump and as Dr. Proctor had personally ordered it, it was, of course, necessary that he should see that funds were provided to pay for it. Considerable discussion followed and it was eventually moved by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mr. Hughes that \$210. of the surplus be voted to pay for this pump. This was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Lockhart and Mr. Devitt that the balance of the surplus be handed back to the Princess of Wales Chapter Daughters of the Empire to be used by them for any purpose they saw fit.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Daughters of the Empire for their efforts in collecting this fund.

A suggestion was made by Mr. H.E. Lockhart that a Sacred Memorial Concert be held once a year under the auspices of the Daughters of the Empire in memory of our fallen heroes. This suggestion was heartily endorsed by the meeting.

Park Board Monthly Meeting

There was a full attendance at the Park Board monthly meeting last evening. Accounts for December were read and passed and the months correspondence taken up.

An offer of two eagles for the park was refused, their upkeep was considered too expensive.

Lee on Victoria Park was commenced to be cut last evening and a resolution was passed to the effect that all holes cut must be adequately guarded, or the contract for the job will be automatically cancelled.

The reward for information leading to the conviction of the party or parties who destroyed the small trees in the park prior to Christmas is still offered, although the authorities already have a party under suspicion.

AT THE MARKET

SPRINGLIKE WEATHER DRAWS A GOOD CROWD

The exceedingly mild weather was responsible for a good attendance of farmers and buyers by far the majority of farmers came in on wheels and it was hard to realize it was the middle of the "coldest month".

Butter sold for 22 and 23 cents per pound potatoes slightly advanced \$1.75 per bag was asked. Eggs were as low as 55 cents, and a drop of 5 cents under last week, cheese sold at 32 and 33 cents per pound, cut wood remains the same as the last market \$6.50 per cord.

Fowl were as scarce as their proverbial friends. Hay brought \$23.00 per ton.

Another Death at the House of Refuge

INFLUENZA TAKES ANOTHER VICTIM

The death occurred yesterday at the House of Refuge of Michael Hauch aged 73, a native of Waterloo. Deceased had been ailing for several days, death being due to influenza.

Important figures show a decline of \$55,576,947 during the nine months, as compared with 1917. Hamilton city Council decided to ask the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission to take over and operate the radial lines.

PREMIER HUGHES TELLS AIMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATION

Says it Stands Where U.S. Stood in 1776.

DESIRES TO ANNEX NEW GUINEA.

PARIS, Jan. 18. (By John De Gandt) "Australia as a free and independent nation has its own peace demands for consideration at the conference," Premier Hughes declared today in an interview with the United Press.

"Australia," he announced, "considers that it won its independence on the battlefields and that politically it stands now where the United States stood at the end of its revolution. It is in this spirit that it enters the peace conference with its own program."

"Recognition of the British dominion by the peace congress marks the dawn of a new era," the premier believes. "It is taken to mean that the world recognizes Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and India as autonomous nations, tied only by sentiment to the motherland."

"Our fighting record surpasses that of any nation," he asserted. "Now we want self-determination."

Australia, Hughes made plain, throws its cards face upward on the peace table. "His commission, being most democratic and a firm foe of secret diplomacy, frankly and openly makes public its aims and desires in the great settlement. Hughes announced that Australia would demand: indemnities, the islands of New Guinea; a league of nations, with certain restrictions; military support to Poland, if that country is threatened; a hearing on all questions concerning Europe or the Far East.

Australia, he declared, would oppose Freedom of the Seas, if that means taking Britain's supremacy from her; any restrictions upon the right of making whatever economic arrangements she pleases and further intervention in Russia.

"Australia," said Hughes, "feels that she stands politically today pretty much where the United States stood at the end of the revolution. She has won liberty on the fields of France and

deserves recognition as an autonomous nation.

"Australia lost nearly 60,000 killed and 260,000 wounded in the war. She spent a billion and a half dollars. She clothed her own troops in uniforms made of wool grown in her own country. Her fighting records surpasses that of any other nation. Now Australia wants self-determination. This means she insisted on a policy of a 'White Australia'. We do not want promiscuous immigration. We are a white nation in a sea of blacks. We must have the New Guinea islands, which lying only eighty miles from our shores, stretch 1,800 miles toward Asia. They are full of possibilities for naval bases and U-boat nests if they pass into unfriendly hands. We believe we ought to have an indemnity. We helped beat the powers who willfully forced the war; thereby saddling us with only 5,000,000 inhabitants, with a war debt which is a most frightful handicap to a new people like ourselves. If America had been unable to make headway, Germany ought to pay indemnities to the utmost of her ability, Australia sharing in proportion to the part she took in the war."

"We believe in the league of nations, but we must not impair the nation's rights of free government and though the league would be a valuable instrument in making world peace we must keep our powder dry."

"I do not precisely know what Freedom of the Seas means but Australia is surrounded by a coast line 12,000 miles long, as long as the distance from Australia to England and we are unable to protect this ourselves. Therefore, we must depend on Britain to oppose any plan taking away her naval supremacy."

Were France to Keep At The Big Annual Furniture Exhibit

Interview With Prominent Leader.

HOLDS IT WOULD BREED REVENGE

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS IN GERMANY, Jan. 18. (By Webb Miller).—"If the Rhinelanders are taken from Germany a spirit of revenge will be engendered—a spirit that will bring on another war, so Count von Groots, Governor of the Rhineland Provinces, declared today to the United Press. (Marshal Foch in an interview with the newspaper correspondents made public to-day, declared that France, in self-defense, must keep its hold of the Rhine.)

Von Groote made the emphatic assertion that the Germans would never forget any retention by France of Rhineland territory. The ultimate redemption of such territory by Rhinelanders territory. The ultimate redemption of soil territory by Germany would be the object of their "most ardent hopes and endeavors," he said. "Germany as a whole would consider such severance as a gross violation of the fundamental conditions for an equitable peace negotiations, as proclaimed by President Wilson."

Von Groote declared: "The territory on the left bank of the Rhine belongs to Germany and is thoroughly German. (This is the area that is presently occupied by allied troops). We would never forget such a severance and its reunion with Germany would be the object of our most ardent hopes and endeavors. These statements are most emphatically shared by the Rhinelanders themselves. They would consider their separation from the rest of Germany a great misfortune."

I think the effects of such a separation are clearly evident. I do not doubt for a moment that such a procedure would create a permanent source of serious uneasiness and perturbation in the political situation. It is my opinion that the Rhinelanders do not wish separation from Germany but that some of the peoples interests of the Rhineland are not sufficiently guaranteed by the present relations with the Prussian state and that their interests would be better protected if the Rhineland, and perhaps other parts of Germany, were united into separate federal states within the German realm."

An effort to influence the peace conference is evident in recent statements from German leaders. Von Groote's plea and war hint follows an utterance from Count Bernstorff wherein he insisted that it would be dishonest for the allies to retain the German colonies.

At The Big Annual Furniture Exhibit

KING STREET EXHIBITS.

Several factories have located their exhibits on King Street. The Art Furniture Company are showing in Ritt's old store, and show some original designs in bed-room furniture. The Queen Ann suite in Walnut finish is exceptionally pleasing, likewise a suite in Ivory Enamel finish and one in Walnut a Louis XVI design, bespeak great credit to the firm. Library tables in fumed and golden oak made in twenty different designs, and a variety of dressers make up an attractive display.

At the permanent show rooms of the Waterloo Furniture Company situated on the third floor above the Kitchener Furniture Company, without doubt the finest and largest collection of Mohai and Velvet upholstered furniture is shown, the colors and designs of which are amazing in their variety.

An exclusive line of solid mahogany and walnut living room suites are shown, a splendid example of which can be seen in the window. Library tables, chest-of-drawers, and parlor suites, make up an interesting display and gives an idea of the large assortment lines manufactured by this firm.

At Schreiers Limited the Heppelwhite Furniture Company are showing bed-room and dining room furniture of period designs, and the articles shown are of a very high grade. The Beaver Furniture Company show dining room furniture only in fumed and golden oak, and the De Lave upholstering shows a splendid line of chest-of-drawers which have received the high praise of outside buyers.

The exhibition in Schreiers building is quite a feature on its own, the three firms making up a splendid collection of household furniture.

Famous Pianist-Patriot Reaches Agreement With General Pilsudski

Warsaw Jan 17.—Ignace Jan Paderewski, having reached an agreement with General Pilsudski, has moved partly in forming a new Polish Cabinet. Pilsudski will be the prime minister under M. Paderewski as premier which will permit Pilsudski to retain much of his power.

Three members of the present Cabinet will be in the new ministry, which will be constituted entirely of non-political experts. The new Cabinet is subject to the approval of General Pilsudski. It will continue in office until elections are held within next fortnight.

HAILEYBURY.

Morrison, aged 16 and Josiah Fuller, aged 19, charged with the murder of Theodore Taylor on the night of May 24 last, in his home, on a lonely farm near Tomstown, some 25 miles or so north of Cobalt, were acquitted of the murder charge to-day. The boys pleaded guilty to robbing Taylor and will be sentenced on the charge.



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ay. This will be Fulton's affair with Meacham who is no for him.

SENATE WILL TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST WISCONSIN MAN.

ington, Jan. 14.—The Senate rejected the resolution of its committee recommending a censure be taken on disloyalty brought against Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, because of his speeches on Sept. 20, 1917, before the non-league at St. Paul, Minn. vote was 51 to 21, 30 Democrats and one Republican voting negative.

HOW TO POP CORN.

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H. W. Sturm, Sec.-Treas.

"Instrument"

HERE'S LOUIS BENJAMIN.

Above are two photographs of Mr. Louis Benjamin, the Toronto commercial traveller, who has been the "instrument" referred to by Dr. A. D. Watson in his remarkable book, "The Twentieth Plane."

Mrs. Docker, of Dunn township, near Dunnville, raised two turkeys which together weighed 39 lbs. The gobbler weighed 40 lbs., while the hen weighed 19 lbs.

Commercial Traveller