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FRANCE CHECKS PROGRESS AT CONFERENCE

That Country Furnishes Latest Complication in Naval Problem Facing Delegates.

DESIRE TO BUILD CAPITAL SHIPS

Their Programme Would Give Them Ten 35,000 Ton Super-Dreadnoughts in Ten Years.

Washington, Dec. 16—The negotiations for reduction of naval armaments struck an unexpected obstacle today while the Far Eastern discussions were making unexpected progress. France furnished the latest complication in the naval problem, and although details of her attitude were carefully concealed, she was represented as desiring to launch a capital shipbuilding programme on a scale that would scrap the whole ship-scrapping plan agreed upon by the United States, Great Britain and Japan.

In the Far Eastern conversations the question of Japanese withdrawal from the Kiao-Chow railroad in Shantung, which twenty-four hours ago seemed to have reached a stage of considerable delicacy, was brought suddenly to the point of a tentative agreement between the Japanese and Chinese delegates.

Other issues of the Arms Conference remained at a standstill, although in the United States Senate the attack on the four-power treaty was renewed by Senator Reed, Democrat, Missouri, and administration spokesmen took notice of the debate long enough to say they did not regard the treaty as obligating the United States to take military action.

In the new Naval Committee of Fifteen, the British formally presented their request for abolition of the submarine, but the discussion was deferred and it was indicated that the point would not be pressed with any hope of success. The request was all but lost sight of in the stir created by presentation of the views of France.

France's Naval Aspirations

What actually happened with respect to the French proposal was screened behind the interdiction of secrecy that surrounds the meetings of the Committee of Fifteen—a secrecy which was agreed upon today by the committee itself. An official spokesman of the British delegation, however, made bold to say that the French had presented a building programme that would give them ten 35,000 ton super-dreadnoughts during the ten years subsequent to 1926 and that Britain, the United States and Japan all had objected.

Developments that followed this disclosure gave evidence of a brewing storm over the question of secrecy for sessions of the committee. The French declined to comment, saying that, "under the discipline of the State Department," they were pledged to keep quiet. An official United States spokesman followed the same course, saying that the situation was that the committee met at eleven o'clock and adjourned at twenty minutes to two to meet again tomorrow.

Out of the tangle the only national attitude to be clearly enunciated was that of the British. They said frankly they could not approve the French plan, since it would give to France by 1935 a great preponderance of new first class ships over every nation in the world. If France built, they said Great Britain must build too. Italy was also represented as disapproving the French plan, but as insisting that she must keep abreast of France in any rearrangement of naval strength.

Despite Arrests of Many Trouble Still Continues In India

Struggle Between National Volunteers and Gov't Authorities Goes On—Coolies on Strike.

Calcutta, Dec. 16—Despite recent arrests of many non-co-operationist leaders, the struggle between the national volunteers and Government authorities in this part of India still continues, more than eighty arrests having been made today. Coincident with serious incidents here, reports have been received of many arrests and convictions in various parts of the province of Bengal and Assam.

A total of 300 arrests have been made in Chittagong, Gomilla and Berisal, according to reports received here.

The Government today released 50 students who had been arrested in connection with the boycott movement; and stated its belief that they had been carried away by sudden excitement. The Government's release order expressed hope that the students would not defy the law again.

The strike of coolies employed for work on the docks is still in progress, and as a result the loading of many cargo boats has been suspended.

BOTH HOUSES OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT OVERWHELMINGLY RATIFY AGREEMENTS OF THE ANGLO-IRISH PEACE TREATY

Ulsterites and Other "Die-Hards" Fought to Bitter End Against Ratification But Could Not Roll Back the Wave of Popular Opinion for Acceptance — Bonar Law's Speech Took Life Out of Opponents to Treaty —London Now Awaits Action of Dail Eireann.

London, Dec. 16—Ratification of the Irish peace treaty was given today by both houses of the British Parliament by overwhelming majorities. The dissenting minority in the House of Lords was 47 and that in the House of Commons 58. In the Upper House the vote was 166 to 47; in the lower chamber it was 401 to 58. Prolonged cheering greeted the announcement of the vote in both houses.

In the House of Commons the Ulsterites and other 'diehards' fought to the end. Both votes were taken on amendments proposed to the King's speech from the Throne on Wednesday, asking ratification of the treaty. In the Commons, Colonel John Gratton, Conservative, proposed the amendment, and in the Lords the Duke of Northumberland performed a similar task.

Parliament would have been immediately prorogued but for the fact the Government desired to keep it in being until the decision on the question by the Dail Eireann is known. The preparations made by the Cabinet Ministers last night to keep the House sitting for an exhaustive debate proved useless, as the votes in both Houses were taken early in the afternoon.

The speech made in the House of Commons yesterday by Andrew Bonar Law, the Unionist leader, in which he declares himself in favor of the agreement, seemingly had taken the life out of the "diehards" opposition and the result in the lower chamber was a foregone conclusion. The only doubt that appeared to remain at the commencement of the session was as to what would be the size of the opposing minority.

The House of Lords had been traditionally more bitter against any concessions to Ireland and its attitude therefore, had present elements of anxiety, although the belief had predominated that, in the face of the approval of the treaty by the King, the Cabinet Ministers and the Empire, even the Lords could hardly reject the treaty.

No Sign of Apathy

There was no sign of the customary apathy in the Upper House, where there was a large gathering of members and of auditors, the latter attracted largely by interest in the clash between the old-time Ulster fighters, Lord Carson of Duncairn and Lord Birkenhead, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The galleries were filled with peeresses, while the steps to the throne were occupied by privy councillors and Cabinet Ministers, the latter including Premier Lloyd George and Winston Spencer Churchill, Secretary for the Colonies.

Lord Birkenhead's speech was mainly a repetition of the arguments he had used on former occasions in behalf of a settlement of the discord with Ireland, and once the curiosity over, his reproaches of Lord Carson's "wild and foolish words" had been exhausted, there was no interest in the continued deliberations and a vote was immediately taken.

Lord Birkenhead asked the House to give its vote, not in a spirit of light optimism, but in a spirit of hope. He declared himself expectant that the people of Ireland would sanction the treaty by an overwhelming majority.

In conclusion, alluding to what he termed the approbation of the whole Empire for the treaty, Lord Birkenhead expressed the hope that the future would see Ireland which at last, after a century had been reconciled to Britain, making its own splendid and individual contributions to the Empire and participating in the Imperial Council as equal beside equal to support and give expression to the historic destinies and rightful influences of that country.

Chamberlain Defends Attitude.

Austen Chamberlain, the Government leader, in the House of Commons, in summing up, defended, not only the action of the Government in concluding the agreement with Ireland, but his own attitude as a member of the Unionist party in supporting it.

"If an Irish settlement has been attained," declared Mr. Chamberlain, "it is only because it is not a party settlement and because it is not a party Government in whose hands the negotiations rested."

Dealing with Ulster criticism that after Ulster had gained her complete freedom under the act of 1920 the Imperial Government in the treaty had put Ulster into a United Ireland, but allowed her the privilege of contracting out of it, Mr. Chamberlain said: "The Government would never have secured recognition by Southern Ireland if the right had been given Northern Ireland to remain out of the Free State."

"We are a great Empire," Mr. Chamberlain said in conclusion, "and can afford to be as generous as we are strong. To have the power to forgive is an Empire's prerogative; and we, who have strength and might, should be the first to exercise the Imperial attribute."

Interest Centers in Dublin.

Interest now has been diverted to Dublin and on the position Ulster will take. There was an incident today which in some quarters is regarded as showing a possible turn in affairs. Sir James Craig, the Ulster leader, on arriving in London, told the newspaper men that, but for the boundary question, he might have been induced in some degree to approve of the treaty.

Sir James seemed to have interpreted the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George as meaning that rectification of the boundary would result in the severance of Tyrone and Fermanagh from Ulster. Mr. Lloyd George, in the House of Commons today, repudiated this interpretation.

There seemed to be no doubt in Parliamentary circles tonight that the approval of the treaty by Andrew Bonar Law and the fact that the House of Lords gave its sanction to it would influence the Ulster extremists, and the hope was expressed that at another meeting between Lloyd George and Sir James Craig, which is expected to take place in the near future, a new face would be put on things.

DAIL EIREANN TAKES PUBLIC ACTION ON PEACE TREATY MONDAY NEXT

Dublin, Dec. 16—A vote on the question of ratification of the peace treaty between Ireland and Great Britain will be taken at a public session of the Dail Eireann Monday morning at 11 o'clock, according to an announcement made public tonight, signed by Eamona De Valera and Arthur Griffith.

The announcement, issued through the publicity department of the Dail Eireann, is as follows:

"The private sessions of the Dail Eireann will end tomorrow evening and a motion for ratification of the treaty will be made at a public session at eleven o'clock Monday. We are confident that the Irish people will continue to maintain the same calm dignity and discipline they hitherto have displayed.

(Signed)
"DE VALERA."
"GRIFFITH."

NO SETTLEMENT YET REACHED IN WAGE DISPUTE

Representatives of District 26 Miners and Operators in Conference at Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 16—"There is nothing to be said yet," was the reply of Robert Baxter, president of United Mine Workers, District No. 26, when asked for a statement relative to the meeting here today between representatives of the U. M. W. of America and representatives of the various coal companies which operate in the Cape Breton coal fields under the organization of the British Empire Steel Corporation.

The interested parties met at the Windsor Hotel here today to discuss the intention of the companies to make a reduction in wages now paid to miners and allied workers. In addition to the direct representatives of the members of District No. 26, there were also present representatives of the International Union. Neither side would make a statement today beyond saying that the conference would be resumed tomorrow and might be continued to next week.

A McColl, general manager of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, presided. Officials of the owning companies present included D. H. McDougall, vice-president, British Empire Steel Corporation; E. P. Merrill, A. S. McNeill, H. J. McCann, J. J. MacDougall, Malcolm Blue. The United Mine Workers officers at the conference included, Robert Baxter, W. P. Delaney and J. B. MacLachlan, president, vice-president and secretary, respectively, of District 26. From the various districts came John MacKay, New Waterford; L. McCormack, New Aberdeen; Angus McFee, Sydney Mines; J. J. McNeill, Inverness; A. D. Coleman, Springhill; and Alonzo Hall, Pictou. John Moore, of International Headquarters, United Mine Workers, Indianapolis, was also in attendance.

CHINA READY TO PAY CASH FOR THE RAILROAD

Japan Insistent That Payments be Spread Out Over Period of Years.

Washington, Dec. 16—A tentative agreement to return the Kiao-Chow-Tsinan Fu railway in Shantung to China within nine months was reached today during the conversations between Japanese and Chinese delegates. An agreement was also approached on other points concerning the mode of payment, it was said by the Chinese.

It was decided that the road should be paid for in instalments, but no decision was reached on the period over which 53,000,000 gold German marks, the price agreed upon, would be spread.

The Chinese offer to pay in cash, made yesterday, was not accepted by the Japanese, and the Chinese countered with a proposal that payments be completed within two or three years, making the time as short as possible. The Japanese, according to a Chinese delegate tonight, said this period was too short and suggested what to the Chinese seemed "a very long term."

The sudden turning back of the railway, the Japanese are understood to have said, would adversely affect Japanese trade interests.

Chinese will not borrow from Japan any money with which to meet the payments, the Chinese said, nor will any loan be negotiated.

Mr. Hanihara, of the Japanese delegation, after the meeting, said: "We are steadily coming forward to a satisfactory settlement on the questions under discussion."

Much Speculation As To Make-Up of The King Cabinet

Further Series of Conferences Yesterday Between Premier Elect and Liberal Leaders.

Ottawa, Dec. 16—(Canadian Press)—With some uncertainty yet prevailing as to the date on which the resignation of Premier Meighen and his cabinet will be placed in the hands of the Governor-General, opinion seems to be growing that the Premier-elect, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, has his mind pretty well made up as to the men who will compose the incoming cabinet, and has also decided as to the places which each of them will be asked to fill.

This afternoon a further series of conferences took place between Mr. King and prominent Liberals, some of them members-elect. Hon. G. P. Graham, one-time Minister of Railways in the Laurier adinistration, and now member-elect for Essex South, had a lengthy interview with the Liberal leader this afternoon. Other successful Liberal candidates who visited their chief were H. Marler, who defeated Hon. C. C. Ballantyne in St. Lawrence-St. George division of Montreal; Pius Michaud (Restigouche-Madawaska), and others. Hon. J. R. Boyle, former Attorney-General of Alberta in the Stewart Government, was also a visitor to Mr. King's offices during the afternoon.

Premier Martin, of Saskatchewan, is reported to be on his way to Ottawa at the present time, but while he will probably meet the Premier-elect while here, it is not thought that his visit means anything more than possibly consultation as to some of the questions affecting Saskatchewan and its representation.

Warsaw Police Arrest Man Connected With Wall St. Explosion

Warsaw, Dec. 16—A man by the name of Wolfe Lindenfeld, alias William Linde, has been arrested by the Polish police here as a suspect in connection with the Wall street explosion in New York on Sept. 16, 1920. The Warsaw police said they made the arrest at the request of the United States Department of Justice. They claimed to have in their possession the man's full confession of being connected with the disaster.

Lindenfeld is described as a cousin of Rosa Luxemburg, the German radical Socialist leader, who was shot to death in Berlin early in 1919, after having been beaten by a mob. His confession, the police state, gives the names of the ring leaders and the New York city address where the bomb was manufactured, and says that the bomb was intended for J. P. Morgan, but exploded prematurely.

Shooting Continues Throughout Belfast

Belfast, Dec. 16—Shooting continued spasmodically in various parts of Belfast today, notably in the Newtownards Road area, where a quay laborer was wounded. Another man, who was wounded last night, died this morning, bringing the total casualties since yesterday afternoon to one dead and five wounded.

Two bombs were thrown today in the Marrowbone district but no casualties resulted.

British "War Mother" Visited Halifax

Her Late Husband Was Once Decorated by City for Saving of Life.

Halifax, Dec. 16.—Mrs. Amelia McCudden, who represented the war mothers of Great Britain at the grave of the unknown American soldier, at Arlington, visited Halifax today when the White Star Dominion liner Canada, on which she is a passenger for home, called here. The late husband of the British war mother was stationed here years ago when in the Royal Engineers and one of the many decorations she wears was won by him for life saving in this city.

IRISH CABINET HOLDS REPUBLIC NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDERS

Dublin, Dec. 16—The Dail Eireann cabinet this evening issued the following note:

"The cabinet had before it today reports of four attacks on British forces in Ireland, two members of which have been killed. The cabinet is of the opinion that these acts were not committed by members of the Republican forces and condemns them in the strongest manner.

"The minister of defence and the minister of home affairs have been directed to investigate the occurrences and to use every effort to bring the perpetrators to justice."

A significant fact in connection with the statement is that it is signed by all the members of the cabinet.

DAMAGING EVIDENCE ADDUCED AGAINST STEWART, CHARGED WITH MURDER OF JAS. ROSS

Lalullippe Girl Tells of Stewart's Actions on Night of Murder When She Accompanied Him and Others to Ross Home—Stewart Carried Rifle and Witness Heard the Shots—Stewart Threatened Witness Should She Tell Occurrences of the Night.

Special to The Standard

Newcastle, N. B., Dec. 16—Some very damaging evidence was given at the Stewart murder trial here today. Miss Victoria Latullippe, occupying the witness stand all afternoon. The morning session was taken up with the cross examination of John Savoy, and nothing new was brought out. Mrs. Eliza Ross, widow of the murdered man, gave evidence of a quarrel between Stewart and her husband in February last.

Tells of Happenings

Miss Victoria Latullippe said she was twenty-nine years of age, had worked for Millett Stewart for a year and a half previous to the murder. She had gone to her father's place between nine and ten o'clock in the morning of August 2nd. James Ross, Adam Dickison and Elmo Munroe were there taking her father's furniture out of the house. She took a stick and went into the house and went up stairs. She struck Ross over the head with the stick and he took and carried her out of doors. She saw Adam Dickison threatening her brother, Fred, with a revolver if he did not go out of the house. Stewart's little boy, Ward, came along and called her out on the road and told her that his father was in the woods and wanted to speak to her. She went into the woods and saw Stewart, also Mrs. Stewart. Stewart had a knife about a foot long and asked her to take it and drive them out of the house. She declined, and Stewart put a rock in her hand and told her to go up behind them and hit them with it. She would not take the rock and went away. Stewart said to send Joe to him which she did.

Go To Ross Place

She next saw Stewart at his own home that afternoon. That evening Stewart asked her to go down to her old home. She said she did not want to go, but finally consented. He said we are going to put Ross out of the house. She put on her coat and went out into the yard. She saw John Savoy put the horse in the wagon. It was an express wagon with one seat. Stewart had an old grey hat on and long grey coat. She had never seen Stewart wear the coat before, also white sneakers. There was a blanket on the horse under his harness. Stewart sat on left of wagon, witness on right, John Savoy behind the seat. Saw Stewart put bolt of iron, about foot long, and half inch thick, in wagon. She also saw rifle in wagon. It was leaning on seat between her and Stewart. They drove down Tabucintac road. Before they got to Breau road Stewart took his boots off. They drove to Anthony Savoy's and Stewart asked Anthony to help them put Ross out, but she did not hear Savoy's answer. They then got in wagon again and drove back up road. Met Joe and Fred Latullippe coming with load of furniture. Stewart asked them to come back with him and put Ross out. They declined, and he called them cowards.

Takes Stimulant

They then said they would come as soon as they put the horse in barn. While waiting for them Stewart drank half a bottle of beef iron and wine. When they came back Joe said he would not go if there was to be any shooting. Stewart said he would not shoot unless he had to. Before they came to Latullippe place Stewart gave witness the iron bolt and told her to go ahead and break in the door, and he would come behind. She said she would not.

Heard Rifle Shots

Stewart got off wagon about fifty yards from Latullippe gate. He took rifle with him. They drove on, horse walking. When opposite gate, Joe and Fred got off and walked fast, past the horse towards the bridge. She glanced towards the house and saw dark object near the gate. She could not swear it was a man. If it was he was not standing up. When near the bridge she heard two shots, like rifle shots, about three seconds apart. Savoy hit the horse and made him trot for about a hundred yards when he stopped and Savoy jumped and ran into the woods. She stayed in the wagon for about five minutes when Stewart came up. He put the rifle in the wagon and said, "I shot him."

Witness said, "For God's sake what are you saying?"

He replied, "I got him."

Witness asked, "Did you see him?"

Stewart said, "Yes, he was standing by the gate and I saw him fall. He'll never enjoy the Tullippe place anyway. He fired at me first."

They then drove home All the way Stewart kept saying, "save my life," "save my life, don't tell on me."

When we got home he got out and started for the house and I called him back to help me put the horse in, which he did. We just turned him into the barn, harness, blanket and all. Mrs. Stewart and two children were there when we got home. That night Stewart came to witness' room door and asked her if she thought he killed Ross, to which she replied, "I don't know, go to your bed. Next morning Stewart told her not to say anything for everything would be alright. This took place in the yard. The horse was in the yard and still had the harness and blanket on. He also asked her to go down and tell Joe and Fred not to tell that they had been on the shore. She promised to go down and did so in the afternoon.

Threatened Witness

She saw no rifles fired that night and did not know who killed Ross. She saw Stewart at the inquest. He asked her not to tell he had a rifle and she promised she would not. The next day at the inquest, Stewart asked witness "What are you going to tell" to which she replied, "I'm going to tell the truth" Stewart said "If you do you will get all that's coming to you." Wilbur Ross heard him make that threat.

Stewart said, "I'm going to swear I had no rifle." Witness said, "If you do it will be false oath," to which he replied, "I don't give a damn for a false oath" Under cross-examination for over two hours by Daniel Mullin for the defense, the witness remained unshaken in her evidence, and was still on the stand when court adjourned until ten o'clock Saturday. During the morning session one of the jurors, Joseph Jardine, was taken ill, but was able to remain.

Culmination of War Romance To Occur Next Week

Moncton Young Man One of Parties to Interesting Event.

Moncton, Dec. 16. — The culmination of an interesting romance of the war will take place in Peterboro, Ont., early next week, and one of the participants will be Mr. Walter Flowers, of Moncton; the lady in the affair being Miss Nellie Owen, of Tregarth, North Wales Mr. Flowers left for Peterboro last night. The prospective groom is one of Moncton's popular young citizens and is the representative of the Peterboro Cereal Co. He is a returned man who saw considerable service overseas, having been a member of the first Canadian division. He was wounded at the Sanctuary Wood show on June 3, 1916. It was while lying wounded in a British hospital in Boulogne that Mr. Flowers met the young lady who is soon to become Mrs. Flowers. She was a nursing sister in the first divisional hospital, and there began the acquaintance that eventually ripened into love.

Last spring Mr. Flowers took a trip overseas and spent a couple of months and re-visited much of the old familiar ground over which he had fought during the war. On his return to Canada he was accompanied by his fiancee. The marriage will take place in St. John's Anglican church, Peterboro, next week.

London Woman Held For Murder

Alleged to Have Performed Illegal Operation from Which Girl Died.

Toronto, Dec. 16—Mrs. Louise Leslie, of London, Ont., was committed by Magistrate Jones today for trial on a charge of murder. It is alleged that she performed an illegal operation upon Eileen Lyons, who died on Nov. 13 as a result of the operation. A plea to have the charge reduced from that of murder was made by Mrs. Leslie's counsel, W. K. Murphy, but the magistrate refused.

John Collins, chief witness for the Crown, was allowed out on $500 bail. Collins had been charged with being an accessory after the fact in the alleged murder, but the charge was withdrawn today.

Two Passengers Reported Killed On Steamer Olympic

Southampton, Dec. 16.—It is reported that two third class passengers were killed on board the steamer Olympic and that much damage was done the vessel during a storm described as the worst ever experienced by her. The Olympic is due tomorrow afternoon on the voyage from New York, nearly a day late.

The wireless reports that the storm lasted for eight hours, during which time the steamer was unable to proceed. All of her upper decks were swept by terrific seas.