

POOR DOCUMENT

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SUBMARINE DEMAND AIMED AT BRITAIN?

French Undersea Fleet Could
Menace Communications
With India—Informal Dis-
cussions.

(Special to the Montreal Gazette.)

Washington, Dec. 28.—The whole course of France in the Washington conference has tended to focus the attention of the various delegations and of the world on the subject of French armaments.

That course has prevented anything being done in the direction of limitation of land armaments. It has been followed by the disclosure of an attitude in which the French are not only opposed to the abolition of submarines, as proposed by the British, but are in favor of a rather intensive development of submarine craft, on the stated ground that this is necessary for French national defence from the sea, and are unwilling to scrap any of the present French fleet.

A strong feeling exists in British circles that the development of a large submarine fleet by the French can only be regarded as aimed at the United Kingdom. Considering the geographical relations of France and the British Isles and the fact that British communications with India and the Orient run through the basin of the Mediterranean, it is difficult for the British to regard the proposed expansion of the French submarine fleet as being wholly defensive, and as not inimical to British interests, even if not aimed by the present French government against Great Britain.

The French delegates have insisted that it is not the wish of their government to utilize the proposed large submarine fleet for purposes of offence and aggression, that they are actuated wholly by considerations of national defence and safety. They say they want ample submarine strength to protect France against the submarines of others, and, aside from defence of their mainland, to protect the movement of transports with soldiers from the French colonies to the continent in the event of another European war.

Atlantic Fleet Proposal.

The French representatives here profess to be vitally interested in the maintenance of future peace on the continent of Europe. They do not feel that this can be achieved in the absence of an international agreement giving guarantees for the safety of France against any possible unprovoked attack by Germany and seeking to insure peace and stability in Europe and the Near East. It is intimated in quarters close to the French government that the whole situation with respect to French armaments might be considered in this light.

There was an unofficial intimation today that the Paris government might urge that if France is to have its demands for a larger submarine tonnage—80,000 tons has been suggested by Admiral de Bon—be met, it must be accompanied by a similar concession by the other powers relating to the region of the Pacific and which might provide that the signatories should respect their rights in the Atlantic region, and in Europe. It was learned in French circles that its delegation has no advice to that effect, and it is not known by the delegation that the Paris government contemplates making any such proposal.

The writer is assured that no such proposal has been made by the French and that nothing has been done in the direction of such a proposal by any delegation in the conference. There has been considerable informal discussion of this particular phase of the matter, and there can be no doubt that the French would be greatly pleased if there can be some sort of international understanding reached dealing with the general political situation in Europe. In such a contingency French spokesmen think it would be easier to make arrangements for reduction of both land and naval

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armaments. It is not their expectation that anything will be done by the Washington conference in the direction of an international accord.

European problems are not on the agenda, although the land armament conference of the French, therefore, that this conference will undertake to deal with the European situation even to the extent that the situation in the Pacific region has been covered by the four-power treaty. But it does appear to be the idea of the French that the European situation will be considered and discussed in a conference to be held by representatives of the powers in 1922, and it is their expressed hope that such a conference may result in decisions favorable to further consideration of the questions of land and submarine armaments.

Conference at Cannes.

There will be a conference in January at Cannes, probably an international economic conference on the European situation, and, during the year, consideration will have to be given to other European problems, including the Turkish-Greek situation and the Russian problem. In view of these prospective conferences, and the character of the European problems to be considered, it is the expectation of the French that nothing can be done in the Washington conference with respect to the European situation, and that nothing in the direction of land armament reduction in Europe can be considered until there has been improvement in European political relations.

Widespread comment has been caused in conference circles by Mr. Balfour's utterances on Saturday, in which he placed on record the chief responsibility for the failure of the Washington conference to deal definitively with the subject of land armaments and credited them with a submarine expansion programme which was difficult to understand from the mere viewpoint of defence. Mr. Balfour stated that the conference had been given to understand on the very highest authority—Premier Briand—that the changed attitude of the future was one that comes from the land side. "We were told in terms of unforgettable eloquence," he said, "that the French government had decided to permit a reduction of land forces, that a most serious effect on the development of the work of a conference called together to diminish armaments. This idea had to be abandoned and the conference found itself confined to naval disarmament alone. France having put an end to all chances of even discussing disarmament by land, proceeds to develop her sea policy, and her sea policy embraces the creation of a vast submarine fleet."

Mr. Balfour, after pointing out that if France, in the crisis contemplated by Premier Briand, is going to call on her former allies in her hour of need, cannot but be understood by the French to understand how expansion of the French submarine fleet could be aimed against anyone other than England.

"How is that consistent?" Mr. Balfour asked, "with the building of this huge mass of submarines, which anybody who looked at the matter from a strictly strategic and tactical point of view would certainly say, from the very geographical situation, and, of course, good-will, however sincere, can control the future. We must take account of facts. When we try and combine the military policy announced by Mr. Briand with the naval policy announced by Admiral de Bon, we cannot fail to see that here is a naval and military scheme strangely incoherent and inconsistent. Men will inevitably ask themselves: What is the ultimate end underlying all that is being done? Against whom is this submarine fleet being



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PILLS

What purpose is it to serve? What danger to France is it intended to guard against? I know of no satisfactory answer to those questions.

Restigouche
Sends Six to
Dorchester

Dalhousie, Dec. 28.—The Restigouche county criminal court held a session here on Wednesday, Judge McFarley presiding. John Bryan and John LaPointe, charged with breaking and entering the residence of the Rev. Father Gamble, were found guilty and were each sentenced to serve three years in the penitentiary at Dorchester.

Walter Gordon, charged with breaking and entering the summer cottage of D. Brannard, at Flatlands, also was sentenced to serve three years at Dorchester; as was William Reed, charged with carrying burglar tools and being unable to give a satisfactory account of himself. George Diamond, charged with beating and causing grievous bodily harm to his wife, was sentenced to two years.

Philip Revard, charged with uttering a forgery, was given five years. M. A. Kelly, of Campbellton, was the lawyer for the prosecution in all these cases.

The Sunday school of the Brookville Methodist church held a successful entertainment in the Brookville Hall last night and presented a cantata most effectively. Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Peterson were in charge.

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624 Champlain St., Montreal.
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50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-lives, Limited, Ottawa.

SOCIETIES UNITE FOR PROGRAMME OF WINTER LECTURES

The Natural History Society and the St. John Art Club decided some time ago that this year they would join forces and arrange a course of weekly lectures for the members of both organizations. The plans have been completed and the course of lectures has been decided upon and the programme announced. The subjects of the lectures and those who are to deliver them are as follows: "Sig. Brooke Watson," by Mr. George F. Matthews; an art talk, by W. C. Milner, of the Canadian Archives, assisted by members of the Natural History Society in costume; here and there abroad, by Mrs. T. N. Vincent; Hogarth, by Ven. Archdeacon A. H. Crowfoot; child welfare, by Mrs. R. J. Hooper; Rome's First Colony, by F. B. Ellis; lecture, by Mrs. W. Edmond Raymond, subject to be announced; some Greek statues, by W. F. Hatheway; the story of the rocks about St. John, by Dr. George F. Matthews; an art talk, by Mrs. E. Atherton Smith, and birds and birds, by A. Gordon Leavitt. The annual conversation of each society will also be included as two of the weekly programmes.

AUTHORITY GIVEN FOR ERECTION OF NEW BUILDING

At the close of the prayer service in the Main Street Baptist church last night a business meeting was held and the members of a finance and building committee to carry on the extension work of the church in the erection of a hall and Sunday school building was appointed. The members of the committee were as follows: Messrs. D. J. Purdy, A. A. Niles, Henry Wilson, Hazen Taylor, F. E. Plevelling, Kenneth Todd, A. E. B. L. H. Thorne, John R. Cowan and C. H. Gallop. The committee was authorized to carry on the project approved by the congregation at the meeting of the Sunday school next to the church. The initial outlay is expected to be \$10,000 and the intention is to extend the building later.

FOUR DIVINITY STUDENTS.

Four students from the senior class of Acadia Collegiate Academy were present at the regular weekly prayer meeting held last evening in the Fairville Baptist church. The four, all of whom are studying for the ministry, are S. Bonney, of Vancouver, C. Allaby and H. Spiney, of this city, and Wallace Forge, of Fairville. Mr. Allaby delivered an interesting address during the evening on "Life," and the three others also took prominent parts in the service. The meeting was largely attended and all present enjoyed the young men's efforts. Mr. Spiney was for three years a member of the St. John police force. Mr. Forge will preach the first sermon in his career in the Fairville Baptist church during his vacation.

SWEET POTATOES

"The sweet potato may soon be a much more common vegetable in our markets than heretofore. Its season has been restricted by the difficulty of keeping it for any length of time in storage. Unlike the white potato, it began to deteriorate as soon as it came out of the ground."

This trouble is understood to have been overcome by new methods of curing and plants specially designed for the storage of sweet potatoes have recently been established at many points in the south.

Improved and much sweeter varieties have been developed, and a campaign is being organized to promote the marketing of better sweet potatoes on a greater scale all over the country. The sweet potato, of course, is not really a potato at all, but a kind of yam. It is, like the so-called "Irish" potato, an American vegetable by origin.

UNITE TO FIGHT RURAL SNOBBERY

Levelling Movement May be
Important Factor in
British Life.

The Need is Emphasized—In
Some Villages Class Hatred
Has Become Greater Since
the Close of the War.

London, December 9.—(By Mail).—Rural snobbery in this country is to be squelched if an organization campaign against it is as successful as is hoped for, by nearly 400 villages which have joined the Village Clubs' Association to do the squelching. The association is incorporated as an organization that has not been formed for profit. Its council comprises representatives of landowners, farmers and laborers. It has the sanction and support of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the Development Commission, and the levelling movement which is fostered by the association bids fair to become a powerful factor in rural social life.

The Village Clubs' Association originated at a meeting of the Agricultural Club in 1918, at the suggestion of Sir Henry Rew, the president of the Agricultural Club. Sir Henry has occupied many important offices on agricultural boards and committees and has been prominently connected with a number of other public services. He is chairman of the executive committee of the Village Clubs' Association.

One of the principles of the association is that all villagers, without distinction of class or opinion, are eligible for membership in the Village Club. This occasionally raises difficulties, however, as a letter received by the executive committee of the association shows. It is as follows:

"We have a splendid village hall here, built some years ago. Late last year we tried to get the people together by arranging some open dances, but the attempt failed because the wife of the upper-butler would not dance with the under-butler; neither would the wife of the upper-gardener with the lower-gardener; as for the domestic servants, they are made a class apart. What can we do?"

It has been found that games and sports best encourage the communal spirit and obliterate the distinction of class and occupation. Another letter to the association contains the following: "I cannot imagine a man who has bowed out the village blacksmith, or been bowed out by him, not having a fellow-feeling toward him afterwards."

The need for the movement is expressed in a story told of a deputation from a village to ask help in securing a hall and forming a club. A farmer's wife, who was chief speaker of the delegation, said: "I gave two boys to the war; I thank God they have come back, but now that they are back I have far more anxiety about them than I had when they were going. In the evenings they have no where to go except the roadside or the public house, and they are really going to pieces." Since then this village has had an old barn converted into a hall and a club has been formed there. Thousands of villages, however, are still without a meeting place. In a Cornish village the only place in which the men can meet is an old cowshed, where they sit on dry straw on the floor.

Sir Henry Rew, in a statement to a representative of The Times, said that reports from all parts of the country showed that in some villages class suspicion, and, indeed, class hatred, had become greater, and not, as all had hoped, less, since the war. In very many villages, though, there had been an awakening of the social consciousness. Sir Henry said, and a development of the true democratic spirit which had transformed the whole community.

OFFICIALS DENY BAN ON WINE.

Prohibition Authorities Say Law Protects Its Use in Churches

Washington, Dec. 29.—The prohibition unit of the Internal Revenue Bureau has not the slightest idea of attempting to bar the use of wine for sacramental purposes in churches and ordering the substitution of unfermented fruit juices. Heads of the Federal Prohibition Bureau here were surprised to read New York dispatches stating that Ralph A. Day, Federal Prohibition Director for New York, has said this plan was under consideration.

"It would be impossible for us to bar the use of wines in the churches," said James E. Jones, Assistant Prohibition Commissioner, the times had been quiet in the absence of Major Roy A. Havens. "We cannot change the law. We don't make the law or alter it of our own. Our function is confined to doing our level best to enforce it."

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Rapidly Becoming Sensa-
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with difficulty that it have been able to supply rapidly growing demand. The phenomenal success of Asprolax can be readily explained. It is a real specific up a cold by removing the cause of the cold. The great majority of the people who suffer from colds are not aware of the fact that it is a real specific up a cold by removing the cause of the cold. The great majority of the people who suffer from colds are not aware of the fact that it is a real specific up a cold by removing the cause of the cold.

Asprolax is a combination treatment, and acts as an anti-pyretic, which reduces the fever, an expectorant, which loosens the phlegm, relieves the congestion and opens the cough, a laxative, which opens the bowels, and an antiseptic which retards germ growth and prevents the spread of infection. It is delightful to take and produces no unpleasant after-effects whatever. Even children take it readily, and it acts on all, both old and young, with the same gratifying results.

If you are suffering from a cold, go to your nearest drug store and get a bottle of Dr. Snath's Asprolax. Open it on the spot, take one teaspoonful, repeat the dose in one hour and again in two hours. If, by the time you have taken the third dose you are not surprised and delighted, take the bottle back and your money will be refunded without question. Chronic coughs and persistent colds, lead to serious complications, such as lung trouble and pneumonia. Only one bottle of Dr. Snath's Asprolax is usually sufficient to break up the most obstinate cold.

NEW AUSTRALIAN CABINET NAMED

(Canadian Press Despatch).

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 27.—The new reconstructed Australian cabinet announced today, is as follows: Prime minister and minister of external affairs—W. M. Hughes. Home and territories—George Foster. Pearce. Renatiation—E. D. Millen. Attorney general—L. E. Groom. Navy and defence—Massey Greene. Trade and customs—A. S. Rogers. Postmaster-general—Alexander Poynton.

Treasurer—S. M. Bruce. Works and railways—R. W. Foster. Vice-president executive council—J. Earle.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The annual meeting of the Enterprise and Progressive Club of St. Matthew's Presbyterian church was held in Bond's last night, and an enjoyable time was spent by all present. A banquet was served during the early part of the evening and then the gathering listened to an enjoyable phonograph concert, through the courtesy of W. H. Thorne & Company, Ltd. The machine was handled by R. E. Dunlop, who was extended a vote of thanks at the close. Dancing was the next on the programme and later the election of officers for the ensuing year was held, resulting as follows: Honorary president, Charles F. Stevens; president, R. Roberts; vice-president, Miss Marion Daly; secretary, Miss Ethel Turner; treasurer, Miss Alice Nickerson.

HIS SAFETY DEVICE FATAL.

Philadelphia Engineer Kills Himself in Showing "Safe" Automatic Gun.

Philadelphia, Dec. 29.—Edward S. Morrell, electrical engineer and assistant superintendent of the Broad Street Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, bought a new automatic gun several days ago to protect his home. It was designed with a safety catch, he said, and could not be fired so long as the catch was in place. Mr. Morrell, after wishing a merry Christmas to a family near by, tried to demonstrate the success of the safety device. Announcing that the shells could not explode, while the device was attached, he placed the gun to his head and pulled the trigger. The gun discharged, the bullet striking him in the right temple and passing through the head. He died soon afterward.

DEATH OF CLERGYMEN.

New York, Dec. 28.—The Episcopal Church in U.S. is confronted with a grave problem through the steady decrease in the number of recruits for the ministry, a commission appointed to investigate the subject declared in a report made public here. This situation, the commission stated, "is more serious than seems to be the case with other religious bodies."

In the diocese of New York, where in the fifties there was one minister for every 401 communicants, the commission found today there was only one minister for every 2,523. This proportion is maintained throughout the U. S.

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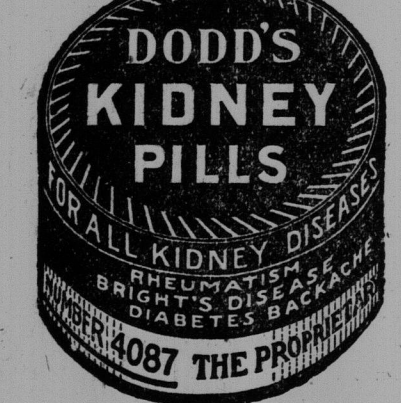
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