FRANCE ACCEPTS HUGHES' PLAN, WITH RESERVATIONS, ALLOWING 175,000 TONS IN CAPITAL SHIPS

Briand's Message Showed That Reservations Had to Do With Light Cruisers, Torpedo Boats and Submarines—Next Step in Conference Will be Bringing Up of Submarine Issue—British to Argue for Their Abolishment.

Washington, Dec. 20—Acceptance by France, with reservations, of the United States proposal of 175,000 tons in capital ships each for France and Italy, swept the Arms Conference forward tonight to its next major problem—the submarine issue. Italy, it was stated officially, already has accepted the 175,000 ton figure, conditioned only on its acceptance by France.

Formal announcement of French acceptance, and details of French reservations, apparently were reserved by the sub-committee of fifteen for the full naval committee of the conference, called to meet Thursday. The sub-committee did break its silence sufficiently, however, to publish the messages exchanged by Secretary Hughes and Premier Briand, which led up to the action of the French delegation. The messages were read and discussed by the sub-committee.

The Premier's message showed that reservations, attached to acceptance of the 175,000 capital ship tonnage, had to do with "light cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines. This has served to bring the conference to a standstill until the submarine issue can be solved, when the five power capital ship agreement will be completed automatically. It is assumed the full naval committee was called to lay out a programme for the discussion of submarines and anti-submarine craft, as the two are interwoven in French and British opinion.

This implies that the auxiliary craft elements of the plan must be shaped into agreement before the Conference Committees can return to ratify the capital ship agreement.

Submarine Issue

A direct step toward bringing up the submarine issue in its first phase—the British proposal to abolish submersible warcraft entirely—was taken during the day. The British delegation asked that a plenary session of the Conference be called to permit the presentation of their case against submarine. Probably such a session will be held during the week, although a date had not been announced tonight.

At such an open session Lord Lee, for the British group, will set out in detail the technical and other reasons why the British believe that submarines should be banned by the world as naval weapons. He will read his statement, it is understood, great care having been taken in its preparation. But there are indications that, even in the statement, the British will show lack of conviction that the Conference will share the British view on submarines. It will, it is understood, set out the secondary British proposal that, if submarine are to be retained, the tonnage allotments of each power be cut far below the existing strength principle of the United States proposals.

There is also a suggestion in British quarters that should neither of those views on submarines prevail, the British would deem it necessary to seek radical increase in their allotment of anti-submarine craft as a measure of self-defence. That means more light cruisers and destroyers and possibly airplane carriers, for all of these weapons are used against submarines.

Hughes-Briand Correspondence

The cable correspondence between Mr. Hughes and Premier Briand shows that as conference chairman Mr. Hughes dealt very frankly with the situation created by the French proposal to build ten new capital ships.

"I regret to say," he said, "that, after canvassing the matter thoroughly and taking the best information I can obtain, I am compelled to conclude that it would not be possible on this basis to carry through the agreement."

Mr. Hughes added, after pointing out that the retained fleet agreement between Great Britain, the United States and Japan was contingent on "an appropriate agreement with France and Italy," and that "there will not be the slightest difficulty in making an agreement with Italy if we can reach a suitable understanding with France."

"You will observe the attitude of France will determine the success or failure of these efforts to reduce the heavy burden of naval armament."

A portion of Premier Briand's reply taken as aceptance of the 175,000 capital ship tonnage proposal and beyond the strict letter of which, it is indicated, the French group in the committee of fifteen did not go today, reads as follows:

"With regard to the tonnage of capital ships, that is to say, attacking ships, which are the most costly, I have given instructions to our delegates in the sense which you desire. I am certain that I shall be sustained by my Parliament in this view.

"But, so far as the defensive ships are concerned (light cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines) it would be impossible for the French Government, without putting itself in contradiction with the vote of the Chamber, to accept reductions corresponding to those which we accept for capital ships under the format reserve which you will certainly understand."

The French delegation was understood to be in receipt tonight of detailed instructions as to the amount of auxiliary naval tonnage, including submarines, desired under an agreement to accept 175,000 tons as her proportion of capital ships. Mr. Hughes' message discloses that it would be possible for France, under that capital ship limitation, to build two 35,000 ton Jutland battleships if she so desires. There has been no definite indication, however, of what submarine tonnage she sought or might obtain.

Roughly, the submarine tonnage, built and building, now possessed by each of the five powers is as follows: United States, 95,000 tons; Great Britain, 82,000 tons; France, 42,000 tons; Japan, 32,000 tons; Italy, 22,000 tons.

Great Britain scraps 22,600 tons more than originally proposed, leaving her tonnage 582,000 tons instead of 604,600, her excess being allowed in view of the age of her existing ships. The new limits are very little different from those proposed.

MINERS OF THE GLACE BAY AREA ARE DIVIDED

Will Meet in Conference Sunday to Discuss Results of Montreal Conference.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 20—A mass meeting of miners of the Glace Bay area has been called for Sunday afternoon, when it is expected that district officers of the United Mine Workers will give a first-hand explanation of the failure of the negotiations conducted with the Nova Scotia coal operators at Montreal, with a view to reaching a new working agreement. Although the miners in some districts are declaring they will not enter the mines on Jan. 2, at the reduced rates of wages posted by the companies, the impression is gaining that the majority of miners will carry on, pending the outcome of the application for a board of arbitration under the Lemieux act. It developed today that the reductions announced by the companies mean a wage cut of approximately 33 1-3 per cent., and not 37 1-2 per cent., as stated yesterday.

The cut hits hardest the surface men, some of whom are the lowest paid employes in the mine service, receiving from $3.80 to $5 per day at present rates. The new schedule will give them $2.54 to $3.34 per day.

There is a feeling in some quarters that the brunt of the reduction should have been borne by the higher paid men who make $8 and $10 a day when the mines are working.

Because of the present low value of the German mark, hundreds of Belgians, Frenchmen and Hollanders are buying up nearly the entire German wine output of 1921.

First Ambassador of the Irish Republic Denounces All Members of Dail

(Continued from Page 1)

In the course of his speech, Deputy Milroy declared the treaty gave Ireland real freedom and shattered alien domination. They had discussed for three days in private session Mr. De Valera's alternative proposals, without any intention that they were to be regarded as confidential, and at a public session a second set of his alternative proposals. The issue, he contended, was not the treaty versus the Republic, but was between the treaty and De Valera's document. It was an issue as between two forms of association with the British Empire.

Cat Out of Bag.

Mr. Milroy created a sensation by reading as follows the terms of the alternative oath proposed by Mr. De Valera:

"I do swear to bear true allegiance to the constitution of Ireland, to the treaty of association of Ireland with the British Commonwealth of nations, and to recognize the King of Great Britain as head of the associated states."

When he finished reading Mr. Milroy exclaimed:

"Now the cat is out of the bag. It is the difference between that oath and the oath in the treaty. That is the issue before the Dail Eireann."

Mr. De Valera rose and strongly protested that it was a shame to attempt to prejudice the matter by referring to a document which was secret, and not relevant to the issue. He was, he said, quite ready to have all the documents published.

Mr. Griffith angrily declared:

"The Irish people should know that that is the difference between us."

Mr. De Valera responded—"That is not so and is unfair."

Paper Manufacturers Meet Employees In Wage Discussions

Claim Wage Cut of 25 Per Cent. Is Necessary Because of Depressed Market.

New York, Dec. 20—Representatives of eleven big paper manufacturing companies of the United States and Canada met spokesmen for their employees at a hearing here today before an arbitration board appointed to pass on proposed wage reduction. An adjournment until January 4 was taken after several hours of discussion.

Spokesmen for the manufacturers told the board, which is headed by Judge Frank Irvine of Ithaca, that wage cuts of approximately 25 per cent were necessitated by the condition of the industry and depressed market prices.

This contention was opposed by representatives of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, who said the workmen had accepted substantial cuts last August and that subsequent fluctuations in the price of the paper and decreases in the cost of living did not warrant further reductions.

The outcome of the negotiations, it was said will affect about 12,000 men, including mechanics and artisans, as well as members of the paper-makers' craft.

Lord Shaughnessy Talked As Successor To Sir George Perley

His Name Going the Rounds in Connection With Commissioner's Office in London.

London, Dec. 20—(Canadian Press Cable)—The name of Lord Shaughnessy is going the rounds here in connection with the Canadian High Commissionership in London, as a result of the expressed intention of Sir George Perley to retire in the immediate future. Nothing has been said, however, suggesting that the talk is anything more than mere gossip.

Many Canadians here think that the Hon. H. S. Boland, Liberal, M. P.-elect for Beauce County, Quebec, Postmaster-General in the Laurier Cabinet, would be a suitable selection as Sir George Perley's successor.

Canadian Exchange Situation Shows Great Improvement

Canadian Dollar Worth 93 3-8 Cents on U. S. Market Tuesday — Greater Improvement Expected.

New York, Dec. 20—(Canadian Press)—There was a further improvement in the Canadian exchange situation this morning. The Canadian dollar was quoted at a discount of 6 5-8 per cent., which represents a gain from Canada's standpoint of three-eighths of a cent in the dollar since yesterday morning's quotations, the lowest since December, 1919.

One year ago the Canadian dollar was worth only 84 cents in New York. Today it is worth 93 3-8 cents. It has been steadily climbing to this figure since a month ago, when it was in the neighborhood of 90 cents.

Canadian financial men here say present indications are there will be still further improvement.

The rise in the value of the Canadian dollar is ascribed largely to heavy purchases of exchange for the closing up of transactions at the end of the year. The closing of the lake grain routes always brings about heavy payments by United States purchasers of Canadian grain, and this is believed to have had considerable effect upon the market. Another factor has been the sentimental effect caused by Canada's improved trade position, as recently announced, and the remarkable success of recent Canadian bond flotations in the United States market. These have caused increased buying of Canadian exchange.

The Chinese national flag, composed of five colors, represents the races of the Chinese Republic. Red represents the Chinese, yellow the Manchurians, blue the Mongolians, white the Turkestans, black the Thibetans.

A monument is planned in Germany in memory to naval officers and men who were lost on submarines. The funds are to be raised through a national subscription.

The present army of France is made up of 591,000 whites, 17,600 natives of North Africa, and 110,000 natives of other colonies and foreigners.

The German Government has granted full recognition of American consular officers in that country. With this right the United States now is functioning throughout Germany as in pre-war days.

The most powerful lighthouse in the world is under construction on Mount Agrica, near Dijon, France. It is intended for an air station and a guiding light for the great airway to the east and south of Europe. The beam of light thrown from two groups of lamps of the lighthouse has an intensity of 2,000,000,000 candle power and the flash will be seen at a distance of nearly 200 miles.

Christmas Gifts

To be appreciated must be pretty and should be practical. We suggest that you add some of the following to your LIST of suitable gifts.

Women's Dainty Kid Boudoir Slippers
In colors $2.50

Skating Boots
Women's.. $6.50 to $7.50
Men's $5.50
Boys' $4.50
Girls' $5.00

Women's Cosy Felt Slippers
In colors.. $1.50 to $3.00

Men's House Slippers
in Fine Kid, $3.25 to $6.00
in English Plaid Felts, $2.75

Oil Tanned Shoe Pacs
Men's $4.50
Boys' $2.75

Patent Leather Party Slippers for Girls
Sizes 11 to 2 ..... $3.50
Sizes 8 to 10½, $2.75, 4.25
Sizes 3 to 7½, $2.25, $3.75

Rubber Boots for Small Boys and Girls.
Slipper Trees
20c. and 25c.

Low Overshoes
$2.00 and $2.25.
Ice Creepers attached, 40c. extra.

Women's Gaiters
in Fine Broadcloth in Gray, Fawn and Black.
$3.75 to $4.50.

Women's Fawn Leggings
$4.00

Today more than ever it is essential that value and service should be considered in the selection of Christmas Gifts.

Foot Fitters **McROBBIE** 50 King Street

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Wholesale Distributors for the Maritime Provinces and Gaspe Coast, P. Q.

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7 Market Square -:- St. John, N. B.

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54 King Street, Saint John, N. B.
801 Main Street, Moncton, N. B.

The Phonograph Salon, Ltd.

19 King Square (Opposite Imperial)

LONDON'S FOG BA[illegible] AND REAL [illegible]

London, Dec. 20.—The "Londo[illegible] particular," the blinding, choking, so[illegible] id, yellow fog, the Londoner's pri[illegible] and the visitor's despair, has com[illegible] back into its own.

London's fog is not the soft, mois[illegible] grey mist that hangs over an Ame[illegible] can city in wet weather. It may b[illegible] absolutely dry or as wet as rain itsel[illegible] It may envelope all of London, a blan[illegible] et that recedes unwillingly step b[illegible] step as a pedestrain advances. It ma[illegible] envelop one or a dozen sections, whe[illegible] it may be seen in the distance, an[illegible] is stepped into as definitely as on[illegible] steps into a doorway.

Whatever the real "London partic[illegible] lar's" character, it is a real fog; an[illegible] when it come trains stop or slow t[illegible] a nervous crawl and street traff[illegible] is all but halted.

The London fog comes with th[illegible] Autumn and early Winter, when fire[illegible] are lighted in 2,000,000 fireplaces an[illegible] the smoke is unable to penetrate th[illegible] clouds. For several years, there ha[illegible] not been much fog; last year ther[illegible] was almost none. This year it [illegible] back, and the Londoner, cursing [illegible] when it makes him an hour late fo[illegible] work, secretly hugs it to his brea[illegible] —he couldn't help it if he wanted t[illegible] —and gloats over it as part of hi[illegible] heritage. No one knows where [illegible] passed its vacation.

Lecture Delivered By Lt.-Col. Newcomen

Members of Officers' Garrison Mess Heard Address on Cavalry Operations During the Great War.

An interesting lecture on Cavalry Operations During the Great War was delivered by Lieut.-Colonel Newcomen, M. C., of the Royal Canadian Dragoons of Toronto, to the members of the Officers' Garrison Mess, at the Armories last evening. Major N. P. McLeod, president of the mess, presided, and introduced the speaker. He also stated that the Garrison Mess had been recently reorganized and urged all the members to co-operate in making it the success it should be. A hearty welcome was extended to all active militia officers, those on the reserve, or retired, to join the club and make it a success.

In introducing the speaker of the evening, the president said that he was well qualified to speak on the subject, having gone over as the junior subaltern in the Royal Canadian Dragoons, and returned as its colonel.

Lieut.-Colonel Newcomen, in the opening of his address, said that some of the reasons cavalry were not more widely used in the great war were because it cost seven times as much to keep up a cavalryman as it did an infantryman, and that it required from two to three years to properly train one.

The idea had gone abroad that because of the small part played by the cavalry in the great war that they were no longer of any use in modern warfare. This, he said, was an entirely erroneous idea, for the same had been said of infantry in the Boer war. The nature of the terrain and the methods of fighting adopted by the enemy were largely responsible for determining which arm of the service was most essential, and therefore it could never be said that any part of it was wholly to be dispensed with.

He then briefly sketched the part the cavalry took in the war. One division of cavalry accompanied the first English troops to France in August, 1914, and it was largely to their splendid reconnaisance work that the famous rearguard actions were fought successfully, and that once the tide had been stemmed that the British forces were enabled to gradually fight their way back to as far as Messines Ridge, where the 9th Lancers held the ridge for five whole days until the infantry were able to march up to relieve them.

The Canadian cavalry, he said, reached the front at Festubert in May, 1915, but as dismounted troops. In the spring of '16 they were made into one corps with the British and Indian cavalry. In September an action was fought at High Wood, but without much success. In the winter the troops were again dismounted and sent into the line near St. Quentin.

In March, '17, they were sent back to their horses and were hurried to Perronne, where the Fort Garry's captured a village, and the armored cars were used for the first time. Harvey of the Garrys got the V. C. in this action.

In October the 3rd Cavalry Division in one of the most intensive cavalry actions since the beginnng of the campaign captured Bourlon Wood. It was in this action that the necessity of having cavalry as near the front as possible was learned. The mounted forces had been kept so far behind the lines that their horses were exhausted on reaching the open country, and thus could not push on as would have been the case had they been held in readiness to advance immediately behind the infantry.

During the Winter of '18 the mounted troops were billeted in a sector which was admirably fitted to mounted warfare and in consquence the Fort Garry's, the R. C. D.'s and the Strathcona's pulled off several very successful raids. In February the Indian cavalry were sent to "Meepot," and the Household Cavalry dismounted and formed into machine gun companies.

When the Boch advanced in February the Canadian Cavalry were quartered on the French flank and fought with them in turning back his advance at Le Fer. The battle of Rifle Wood followed and one of the Strathcona's won the V. C. there. It was here the Canadian Cavalry gave the enemy the first check in his advance with the ex-