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PRESIDENT TO ASSIST AT PEACE CONFERENCE

Wilson to Sail for Europe to Attend Opening Sessions Immediately After Regular Session of Congress Begins.

Washington, Nov. 18.—President Wilson will attend the opening session of the peace conference. This was announced tonight officially. He will go immediately after the convening of the regular session of congress on December 2.

This official statement was issued at the White House: "The president expects to sail for France immediately after the opening of the regular session of congress, for the purpose of taking part in the discussion and settlement of the main features of the treaty of peace. It is not likely that it will be possible for him to remain throughout the sessions of the formal peace conference, but his presence at the outset is necessary in order to obviate the manifest disadvantages of discussion by cable in determining the great outlines of the final treaty about which he must necessarily be consulted. He will, of course, be accompanied by delegates who will sit as the representatives of the United States throughout the conference.

"The names of the delegates will be presently announced. At least Month Absent. How long the president will remain abroad he himself probably cannot say now. The time for the convening of the peace conference has not yet been announced, but the general belief here is that it cannot be assembled before late in December, at the earliest. If such proves the case, the president will be absent from the country for at least a month and probably longer.

What plans the president may have for his trip abroad to attend the opening of the peace conference and to participate in the discussions among the representatives of the associated nations which will precede it, have not been revealed. He undoubtedly will be accompanied by Mrs. Wilson and it is expected that besides visiting Paris, where the peace conference probably will be held, he will go to London and possibly to Brussels and Rome.

Two New Precedents. In visiting Europe the president will establish two precedents. He will be the first chief executive of the United States to participate in a peace conference for the settling of issues growing out of a war in which this country participated, and likewise he will be the first president to leave North America during his term of office.

In reaching Europe, President Wilson is understood to have been largely influenced by representations from Premier Lloyd George of Britain and Clemenceau of France, and other statesmen of the entente countries. The principles and terms of settlements announced by the president have been accepted by both the associated nations and the central powers as the basis upon which peace is to be re-established. It is understood that it is for the working out of the application of these principles that his presence is so earnestly desired by the allied statesmen.

BRITISH HAMMER-BLOWS PROVE DECISIVE FACTORS. Paris, Nov. 18.—Marshal Poch in the course of a speech which he delivered at a luncheon given in his honor yesterday by Field Marshal Joug at the British army headquarters, said that the hammer blows of the British were decisive factors in the final crushing defeat of the enemy. Marshal Poch afterwards received the British army commanders, whom he warmly congratulated upon the tenacity of their troops.

FRENCH LED BY PETAINE TO ENTER METZ TODAY. Paris, Nov. 18.—It is officially announced that French troops, led by General Pétain, will enter Metz tomorrow. Subsequently General Castelnau and General Mangin will follow with their armies.

Congratulatory Telegram To King Albert of Belgium. Paris, Nov. 18.—President Poincaré has sent a congratulatory telegram to King Albert of Belgium on the occasion of the approaching entry of his majesty into Brussels, and "wishing the king and queen to come to Paris. King Albert in reply, thanked the president, and assured him he would accept his invitation.

Great Northwestern Operators Get Same Wage Scale as C.P.R. Montreal, Nov. 18.—The railway war board placed the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company's operators on the same basis as the C.P.R. operators in a wage award issued today. Increases granted the men will be dated back to September 1.

ESTIMATES PLACE WAR COST AT TWO HUNDRED BILLIONS

Washington Federal Reserve Bulletin Figures Outlay in Dollars.

INCREASING TOTALS Yearly Expenditure Mounts as Struggle Grows in Proportion.

Washington, Nov. 18.—The direct cost of the war for all belligerent nations to last May 1, was reported at about \$175,000,000,000 by the federal reserve board bulletin, issued today and it is estimated that the cost will amount to nearly \$200,000,000,000 before the end of this year. These calculations were compiled by the board from various sources and while their accuracy is not vouched for, the board believes the figures are substantially correct.

For purely military and naval purposes it is estimated that all belligerent nations had spent about \$120,000,000,000 to May 1, or about three fourths of the total war cost. The balance represented interest on debt and other indirect war expenditures.

How the cost mounted as the war grew in proportions from year to year is illustrated by tabulations showing that the mobilization and the first five months of the war in 1914 cost all belligerents about \$10,000,000,000, the expenses jumped to \$26,000,000,000 in 1915 they increased to \$38,000,000,000, and in 1917 they were estimated at \$60,000,000,000. This year expenses have run only a little above the rate last year.

About \$150,000,000,000 of the total war cost has been raised by war loans of various nations and comparatively little taxation. The public debt of the principal entente allies is calculated at approximately \$105,000,000,000 or more than twice as much as the aggregate debt of the central powers, set at \$45,000,000,000. This does not take in consideration debt incurred since last May.

The enormous size of the war costs and debts is illustrated by comparison with the ante-war debt of the seven principal belligerents which did not exceed \$25,000,000,000. The cost of supporting this debt was only about \$1,000,000,000 a year. Hereafter the annual burden to pay interest and sinking fund allowances will be not less than \$100,000,000,000 and probably much more.

LUXEMBURG TO DECIDE FORM OF GOVERNMENT. Amsterdam, Nov. 18.—A Luxembourg despatch says that the chamber today adopted a motion demanding a referendum to decide the future of the form of government.

The chamber desires that the grand duchess abstain from all governmental action pending the referendum. A motion supported by the Liberals and Socialists, demanding the abdication of the grand duchess and the establishment of a republic, was rejected.

ANTWERP CELEBRATES THIRD DAY OF FREEDOM. Antwerp, Belgium, Nov. 18.—Antwerp today is celebrating its third day of freedom from the Germans. The city is gaily bedecked with entente flags. Thousands of residents are crowding the boulevards and cheering the allied soldiers. The Germans left the city on Friday without any untoward incident and Belgian troops entered immediately.

BRITISH REACH LINE OF CHARLEROI AND HAL. London, Nov. 18.—Field Marshal Haig's report on the advance of the British troops says: "The second and fourth armies continued their march today. Our advanced troops reached the general line of Florennes, Charleroi, Senefelt and Hal."

Dutch Socialist Leader To Abstain From Force. London, Nov. 18.—A despatch to the Central News from The Hague says Pieter J. Troelstra, the Socialist leader in the Dutch Parliament, has made an announcement in parliament that he did not intend to carry out a coup d'etat or use force to execute his program.

BAFF IN NICKEL DISTRICT. Sudbury, Nov. 18.—The ban on public places, meetings, schools, churches, theatres, etc., which has been effective for a month in the nickel district, has been lifted in Sudbury and Copper Cliff. There have been over 2000 cases, with a death toll of over 200. The disease still rages in the townships, lumber camps and Indian reserves.

Table showing war costs for Toronto (\$144,946,100), Montreal (\$143,433,050), Ontario (\$329,682,950), and All Canada (\$676,000,000).

HOW DEMOBILIZATION WILL BE EFFECTED

Number of Canadian troops overseas to be returned is 236,204. Demobilization by units is considered impracticable owing to reinforcements of territorial regiments by men from other districts.

Men will be returned first whose trade classification shows there is immediate need of them in industries. Preference will be given to married men, and the order of return will depend on the length of time they have been absent.

The return of single men will be carried out on the same basis. In order to prevent cross traveling in Canada the sorting out process will be carried out in England and France before embarkation. Canada has been divided into twenty-one demobilization areas, and the men will be allowed to select their destination.

The rate of return to each area will be in accordance with the proportion the number desiring to return bears to the entire force. The men will be returned in standardized drafts of 500 of all ranks and will be discharged immediately on reaching their disposal areas.

The rate of return at the beginning will be about 20,000 a month. The militia department has already classified the men into occupational groups.

All necessary work in connection with documentation and medical boards will be completed before the disembarkation in Canada, and the troops will be immediately transported to the disposal station. See also Page 3.

GERMANY'S FLEET TO STRIKE COLORS

Surrender of Ex-Kaiser's Warships to Be Highly Impressive. London, Nov. 18.—The Times' naval correspondent, writing on the subject of the submission of the German fleet, says: "The surrender, in accordance with the armistice conditions, will be made to a force in which the navies of France and America, as well as our own, are represented in its outward signs the business cannot fail to be impressive.

The appearance of the long lines of vessels to be surrendered, carrying reduced crews and no armament, the method of their transference to the allied escorts, the exchange of flags on the German ships when that happens, and the striking of the colors which have replaced the imperial ensign—the allied token of yielding—will be among the more interesting features of the manifestation.

General de Maud'Huy Made Governor of Metz. Paris, Nov. 18.—General de Maud'Huy, who is a native of Lorraine, has been appointed governor of Metz, says The Temps. General Bourgeois has been named governor of Strasbourg.

RAINCOATS AND UMBRELLAS. The weather at this season of the year is very changeable. You hardly know from day to day what will come next. It may be snow, rain or frost, so be prepared. This is to announce that the W. and D. Dinsden Co. have just received a shipment of raincoats from England of fine quality raincoats in military and civilian styles, in plain colors and checks. Priced from \$9.50 to \$35.00. Umbrellas \$1.50 to \$5.00. Men's tweed hats \$3.50 and \$4.00.

With Overwhelming Enthusiasm Canada Answers the Call to Back Her Fighting Men With Money, Money, Money and Then Some.

WONDERFUL meetings have been held in Massey Hall, but it is certain that no more enthusiastic crowd of people ever gathered in the great auditorium than that which crowded every inch of space last night to hear the returns from Canada's Victory Loan, the last and best of the Dominion's war efforts. Thousands were left outside in the drizzling rain, but with the determination that gained for Canadians the hatred of the Germans, they remained arguing with the blue coats and trying at times more forcible methods of obtaining admission to the gathering.

Opened With Prayer. Promptly at 7:45 the meeting began. E. R. Wood, the Dominion Victory Loan chairman, presiding. Prayer was offered by Major Southwood, the officer in charge of the military work of the Salvation Army. The vast audience joined reverently in the Lord's Prayer at the end. Led by the Mendelssohn Choir, under the direction of Dr. Fricker, with the 10th Regiment band providing the music, the crowd joined in the hymn "All people that on Earth do dwell." The volume swelled and echoed thru the building, carrying with it as it were the city's thanks for recent blessings.

During the opening numbers at all possible intervals the members of the canvassing teams who occupied the ground floor of the auditorium made themselves more than heard. The chairman called them to order and begged them not to make themselves objectionable. Small boys, grown up, made up the teams and what had been kept within bounds during the three weeks' tension was let loose last night in a grand bedlam of hilarity and excitement.

Every known noise-making device was much in evidence. Bells, horns, whistles and, loudest of all, the voices of rejoicing men. A good spirit prevailed and each team not only cheered itself to the echo but cheered every other team as it made its report. Lyricos galore, following all the well-known popular tunes of the day, were sung in varied voice complimentary to team captains and district chiefs. The calls of "Poor A" or "Kiss that flag good-bye" were wafted across the auditorium and in return would be sent back such remarks as "I ain't over yet" and "We're it." The presentation of the honor flags brought a terrific amount of cheering and a great deal of ringing and whistle blowing. Plenty of confetti and paper tape was in evidence, and the sight of a staid business man, his neck hung with colored tape and a bell in one hand, standing on a seat blowing a toy whistle until his cheeks bulged would have been enough to make the children into gales of laughter and father's firm hand would have lost its sway.

Toronto's Triumph. One of the great moments of the evening was when the telegram was brought from Montreal. A few minutes previously the Toronto total had been added up and announced as \$14,946,100 when the entire audience gave vent to its feelings in raucous cheers. The yellow envelope was handed to E. R. Wood, who opened it cautiously and on return would be asked to read it to you." Breathless was the crowd further that the total was \$14,946,100. "One hundred and forty-three million." He got no further. The crowd did not wait until the city of the St. Lawrence had rolled up the splendid total of \$143,433,050, only a little behind Toronto. They did not wait to hear that the total for the Dominion was \$329,682,950, which told them that again had Toronto vindicated herself; again had she responded to the call and again had she risen above all other obstacles and kept her title as champion of the patriots of the Dominion. The cheering was deafening on the platform, where E. R. Wood and J. H. Gundy embraced one another heartily by all the members of the Victory Loan organization.

Let the Hun be told. That we give our gold, our bonds and Victory." Tribute to the patriots of the Dominion. The platform which was decorated with flags of the allies and the great honor flag of Toronto with its three horizontal stripes, was lit up by the torches of the 10th Regiment and the members of the Victory Loan executive, and a few distinguished guests. Lieut. Col. W. S. Dinnick, to whom much of the credit for the success of the last meeting is due, led off with a few remarks, and got the ball rolling. E. R. Wood, the chairman of the evening, then as chairman of the Dominion executive, reviewed the last four and a half years briefly. He told of the two great financial crises that came to Canada, one when England said she could no longer pay cash for her war material, and must have credit, and the other when the United States entered the war, and notified Canada that she could not count on the United States as a money market, and must seek other fields. He paid tribute to Sir Thomas White for the wonderful way in which he had met these crises, and to his great ability in putting over the loan of the Dominion of the Victory Loan of 1917, and the still greater one of 1918, was briefly told, and all the history of the marvelous organization that was behind it. He gave thanks to all the helpers—individuals and concerns which had assisted in making the Victory Loan a success. It was Toronto's District Chairman, J. W. Mitchell, chairman of the Toronto district, on stepping to the platform, was greeted with a storm of cheers and yells, thru which the band ineffectually tried to make the strains of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow" heard. His co-workers were able to work on a little of their surplus enthusiasm in the ovation he received. He told of Toronto's part in the loan, and said that one might be pardoned if "one felt conceited over our Canadian and especially our Toronto citizenship."

Toronto had proved itself, it would not let the boys overseas war for anything, and was always willing to back up the efforts of soldiers overseas with a corresponding amount of money. At the end of the first week's campaigning it was seen that Toronto would far outstrip her objective of \$40,000,000, and it was decided that the amount aimed at to \$100,000,000. Toronto, he was proud to say, had greatly exceeded that amount. He lauded the work of the press, and especially to the Toronto press was the thanks of the organization due for the many services rendered. There had been plenty one time of uncertainty, and that was after the signing of the peace armistice, but Toronto's fighting spirit had reassured itself, and she had exerted herself to the utmost to bring the boys home.

LAURIER AT LONDON TO MEET DELEGATES. Thirty-One Ontario Ridings West of Toronto to Form Liberal Organization. By a Staff Reporter. London, Oct. 18.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrived here this evening on the C.P.R. express from Toronto, and was driven at once to the residence of George S. Gibbons, the Liberal candidate for the house of commons in London last December. Sir Wilfrid was accompanied by Toronto by W. C. Kennedy, M.P., J. C. Elliott, M.L.A., and Severin Dugan, M.L.A., North Essex. The city is already filling up with delegates from thirty-one federal constituencies west of Toronto, who will be in conference tomorrow afternoon for the purpose of forming a new Ontario organization. Tomorrow night Sir Wilfrid will be the guest of honor at a banquet to be given at the Victoria Hotel, and is expected to deliver a notable address. On Wednesday, the 20th birthday, he will hold an informal reception.

Among other prominent western Ontario Liberals already here are Duncan Ross, P. W. G. Charlton, Liberal candidate in East Elgin at the last election, J. H. Ham, M.L.A. for North Brant. Two hundred and fifty delegates are expected at tomorrow's convention, one-half of whom will be women.

POSTAL SERVICE RESUMED. Paris, Nov. 18.—The postal service has been re-established thruout the whole of France and Belgium.

BAKU PORT REOCCUPIED BY ANGLORUSSIANS. London, Nov. 18.—British and Russian forces on Sunday reoccupied the Russian seaport of Baku on the west coast of the Caspian Sea, says an official statement issued this evening by the war office. The allied forces were given an excellent reception, especially by the poorer classes. The Turks, before evacuating the port, looted it.

Contracts Let for \$2,000,000 Rosedale Military Hospital. Contracts for the construction of the \$2,000,000 group of buildings for the new North Rosedale Military Hospital on the St. Andrew's College property are to be awarded today. This announcement was made yesterday afternoon. There will be twenty-four buildings in the group. With the commencement of work on this site it will mean that \$4,000,000 in military buildings will be spent in North Rosedale as two million dollars are now being expended on the new casualty clearing station on the site to the north side. Announcement was also made yesterday that the Dominion Government has finally paid over the \$500,000 for the St. Andrew's College property.