

## GENERAL WU OUTLINES PLAN FOR UNIFICATION OF CHINA

Provisional Constitution to Be Restored—Steps Taken to Remove Objection by Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

Peking May 24.—(By the Associated Press)—The solution of China's internal problems, including unification of the North and South, awaiting the outcome of the military activities north of Tientsin where the armies of General Chang Tso-lin and General Wu Peifu face each other.

General Wu who defeated General Chang in their recent campaign near Peking, has declared he will not fight again if General Chang peacefully withdraws his forces north of the Great Wall, as the most important question to be considered now is the establishment of a constitutional government.

A Tientsin dispatch last night reported that General Chang's troops had completely evacuated Lanchow, and that General Chang himself and 19 train loads of soldiers had already gone outside the Great Wall. The retreat was attributed either to General Wu's outflanking movement or to trouble in Manchuria.

The Manchurian Question. General Wu is convinced that Gen. Chang contemplates establishing an independent empire in Manchuria, but believes the republic is capable of overthrowing such a government. It is said that, if necessary, an expedition will be sent into Manchuria to reunite the province with China proper. Gen. Wu has announced that he is supporting a unification scheme which he believes will win the approval of the southern government headed by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the seat of which is at Canton. The chief features of the scheme are:

First—Recall the old Parliament which dissolved five years ago, and restore the provisional constitution adopted by the republic during the first year of its existence; second—Create a national army controlled and paid by

the central government; third—the civil governors of the provinces to be responsible directly to Peking; fourth—taxes to be collected by the central government only; fifth—local self-government for each province; sixth—the magistrates to be elected by the people; seventh—the provincial police, not the national army, to be responsible for the maintenance of peace in the province.

President May Resign. Importance is attached to the provision for reassembling the old Parliament, as the majority of the members now reside in Canton, and it is believed that, by inviting them to reconstruct the country even Wu has removed any grounds for opposition on the part of Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

It is understood that if the Parliament is convoked the President, Hsu Shih-chang, will resign. He took office after the dissolution of Parliament, and for that reason Dr. Sun has contended that his election was illegal. Gen. Wu Peifu is not committed to maintaining Hsu in office, and has said he favors removal of all obstacles to the peace of the country. The Chinese press quotes Dr. Sun as declaring his willingness to abolish the Canton Government if the President withdraws.

Li Yuan-hung, who retired from the presidency during the attempt to restore the monarchy in 1915, is being urged to accept the office again should a vacancy occur.

The Peking leader in an editorial says: "If Gen. Wu Peifu could succeed in persuading Hsu Shih-chang to resign and Li Yuan-hung to resume office, China could be united, and with the convocation of the old parliament the Peking Government would be constitutional."

## FRANCE READY TO GO IT ALONE AGAINST ENEMY

Denial Made Thai Pledge to Move Only With Allies Would Halt Occupation of Ruhr.

Paris, May 24.—The French Parliament meets again Tuesday, when there is likely to be a brief adjournment, but by Thursday or Friday the great debate upon the general policy of the Cabinet and the consequences of the Geneva conference will begin.

A careful estimate of the probabilities leads the correspondent here of The Christian Science Monitor to the conviction that such criticism of Raymond Poincaré, the Prime Minister, as will count in a parliamentary sense, will come from the Right, and not from the Left. His refusal to bend at the demand of Mr. Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, is approved by an overwhelming majority of the deputies, even including the Radicals. This majority is inclined to find fault with him because the French delegation was not more incisive.

The approach of Louis Barthou on occasion towards Mr. Lloyd George's conception is not favorably regarded.

Nation Behind Premier. At one moment, deep uncertainty and the desperate tangle of international relations placed M. Poincaré in some danger, but apprehension of isolation have passed and French parliamentary opinion is relieved by the fact that France has not been dragged unwillingly in the wake of England.

The strongest opposition will come from M. Tardieu and others, who would have broken up the conference on various pretexts. In any thinking about international affairs it should be clearly understood as the important factor that the Poincaré policy is not a personal whim but represents faithfully the temper of France.

Unfortunately, in addition to the general divergence of views between France and England as revealed at Geneva, there now springs up an extremely serious difference concerning a crisis expected this month. Neither the tentative pact of non-aggression nor the belief in the Chamberlainian leader of the British House of Commons, that France has pledged herself not to act separately would prevent the occupation of the Ruhr if that were considered necessary.

From an authoritative source The Christian Science Monitor correspondent learns that Mr. Chamberlain's interpretation of the promise given after the Frankfurt expedition is not the interpretation of Mr. Poincaré. The French Government feels itself entirely free to take coercive measures regardless of the attitude of England, though it is hopeful, of course, that the British attitude would not be in contradiction.

France Would Act Alone.

When M. Millerand went to Frankfurt without consulting the Allies he certainly declared that a similar incident would never be repeated. But the present case is different. France did not abandon the specific rights given her by the treaty and she does not intend to abandon them. The Millerand coup was open to dispute since there was no formal declaration of German default. But non-payment from Germany would be officially reported by the Reparation Commission, and under the treaty France would have the right to liberty of action.

In actual fact, Mr. Poincaré has the intention of convoking a meeting of the Supreme Council to take every step to secure its accord. Only in the event of France still considering it her duty to occupy the Ruhr district and of England declining to accompany her would France march alone, but march alone she would in such circumstances.

The correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor put the question to a high French authority: "Is not the menace of occupation really more effective than occupation itself?" The authority agreed, but on condition that the menace was taken seriously by Germany.

## NATIONS LACK TO DISARM OR REDUCE ARMIES

Only Twenty Out of Fifty-One Answer League—Russ-German Treaty Blamed.

Geneva May 24.—The nations of Europe are in no mood to disarm, or even substantially reduce the size of their armies, and no material progress toward the reduction of land armaments can be looked for during the next three or four years. Such is the opinion of the disarmament experts of the League of Nations and the members of the temporary mixed commission on armaments, which is the instrument through which the League has been trying for the last two years to make some headway in the direction of world disarmament.

The commission, created in September, 1920, by the first assembly of the League, will end its work next June, when a final report will be drawn up for the September meeting of the assembly. Only twenty replies have been received to date to the questionnaire sent out nearly eight months ago by the League to its fifty-one members asking for detailed information on the present size of armies, the amount of war material on hand and contemplated reductions. All the big world powers, except Russia and the United States, to whom the questionnaire was not sent, have, in the opinion of the experts, replied with reasonable frankness.

While the questionnaire merely asked for statistical information, the mixed commission and League officials have learned from unmistakable sources that there is no disposition on the part of the European nations particularly, and the world generally, to disarm while the present political situation in Europe continues. The Geneva Conference and the Russo-German treaty have in the estimation of the commission members and League officials, dealt a serious blow to the disarmament campaign of the League.

Information reaching the League indicates that the representatives of the various countries are leaving Geneva with greater uncertainty as regards the future when they started for the economic conference. Consideration of the problem of disarmament itself is out of the question for the present, because of the Russo-German attitude, the League experts believe. The only outstanding exception to what League circles call the general refusal of the world to disarm is the Washington conference. But for the initiative of the United States Government, it is pointed out, the record of disarmament since the Armistice, excepting, of course, former enemy countries, would be virtually blank. The only thing that could bring about general land disarmament within the next five years would be another Washington conference, called, and strongly supported by the United States. This is the conviction of the League experts, who say that America's great influence, morally, commercially and financially, throughout the world, would compel the nations to reduce their armies, when efforts of the league, which is made up of and is the instrument of these States, would fail.

Barring action by the United States, the experts have little hope in the immediate future for disarmament. The League intends to continue its efforts for disarmament quietly, but it is going ahead with the idea that nothing definite can be done. The officials explain that they will in any event have the necessary all ready for the day when the members decide to disarm.

The League secretariat feels that no blame can be attached for failure to bring about disarmament, emphasizing the point that the League simply is the instrument of its members, and as its members do not want to disarm, the League can do no more than continue its campaign for disarmament and await a change in the political situation.

Although the figures gathered by the commission are being withheld until being reported to the Assembly, unconfirmed estimates recently reached

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## FRANCE TO CONFER ON DEBT PAYMENT

Mission to Be Sent to America to Talk Question Over With Funding Commission.

Paris, May 24.—The French government has informed the American War Debt Funding Commission that it is ready to send a special mission to America to confer with the commission regarding the payment of the French debt to the United States.

The Finance Minister, Charles de Lasteyrie, recommended to the Cabinet that a special mission headed by Jean Parmentier, Administrator of the Ministry of Finance, be sent to the United States to talk over the payment of the principal and interest of the American war advances to France. M. Poincaré accordingly handed a note to Ambassador Herriot to this effect, asking the commission to notify the French Government when it would be most convenient to take up the question.

M. de Lasteyrie, decided that a direct contact was necessary for a satisfactory understanding. The ministry has been busy preparing data for the receipt of the recent note from the American Debt Funding Commission saying it would be glad to receive the French Government's observation on what it had to offer concerning the payment of the interest on the debt and the amortization of the capital.

M. Parmentier will, it is stated, make a full and frank statement of the situation of France's finances and then ask the debt funding commission for a specific declaration of what it expects from France.

The French budget for 1923 makes no provision for the payment of either interest or capital on the French debt to the United States.

The League that there are 1,000,000 more men under arms in Europe today than just previous to the war. This figure takes into account the wiping out of the German army.

The Washington Government has shown considerable interest in the League disarmament work, according to one official. Two requests have been received recently from official American sources asking for available information in the hands of the League and the League has forwarded much confidential information to the American Government. League experts have reported that the small States created under the Treaty of Versailles, have felt bound as a matter of pride to establish as large armies as possible, but these States are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain money for upkeep, because the banking interests before granting loans demand balanced budgets. This means that the army reduction pressure from this source may bring about some disarmament.

Since it began its campaign for disarmament two years ago, the League has made successive attempts to call a world conference to consider the control of private manufacture of arms and traffic in arms, but has not been able to arrange a meeting. The League has launched a number of similar efforts for disarmament, but the political situation has prevented serious consideration of them.

The first assembly of the League in September, 1920, decided that the members should undertake not to spend on armaments for two years following the meeting an amount greater than the sum provided for military, naval and air forces in the 1920 budget. A number of the Powers agreed to this, but little was accomplished as the budgets for 1921 of the various States were exceedingly heavy for armaments.

The mixed commission has held six general sessions and made a complete inquiry into the armaments situation of the world. It is composed of representatives of the workers, employers, financiers and military, naval and air experts.

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## NO NAVY SCRAPPING TILL ALLIES RATIFY

U. S. Only Nation to Meet Obligations of Arms Conference.

Washington, D. C., May 24.—In the light of unsettled conditions in Europe President Harding and Secretary Hughes are starting to wonder what is going to be the fate of the treaties negotiated at the Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armament. Up to this time the United States is the only nation that has ratified the treaties. This happened approximately two months ago, and expectation the other countries would soon follow suit has not been fulfilled.

Within the last few days rather discouraging reports have arrived from France with regard to the navy treaty. These reports are quite unofficial, but they are causing concern. It is said frankly France has no immediate intention of ratifying the Washington navy treaty, which would restrict her sea power in size.

While Great Britain has shown a sincere desire to enter into the treaty entirely and with full spirit, an attitude of caution is discernible. The understanding in Washington is she wishes to wait until the situation in Europe is sufficiently cleared before entering into any real curtailment program.

The Washington conference ended on February 6 and when the delegates left it was generally understood the United States was to take the lead in

ratifying the treaties. Because of the prolonged fight over the Versailles treaty the foreign delegates all thought the greatest trouble would occur in the American Senate. They felt sure, however, that eventual ratification would be obtained, but were not prepared for the whirlwind approval of the treaties obtained. Consequently it was anticipated that Great Britain, Japan, France and Italy would follow shortly with ratification of the naval treaty and that ratification of the other treaties—some of them requiring approval by nine countries—would not be long delayed. Their slowness of action, however, has been surprising. While nobody in Washington has any serious doubts at this

time that ratification eventually will be obtained, the great question is "when?" The House yesterday adopted a resolution authorizing the navy to proceed with the scrapping of the war ships under the terms of the navy treaty, but the resolution was prefaced that it should be done when ratifications were exchanged as provided in the treaties. Navy officials made it plain today there will be no going ahead with the scrapping program until all the other nations are bound by the treaty. Of course, one of the things already accomplished by the Washington conference has been the stopping of construction not only in the United

States, but in England and Japan. At the same time this might easily work to the disadvantage of the United States for the reason that the United States had more ships under construction than any of the other countries.

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