

UNITED STATES IN WAR CONFERENCE

Participates for the First Time in Allies' Council in Paris.

HOUSE HEAD OF COMMISSION

Board Now in Europe is Expected to Urge Adoption of Policy of Greater Unity in Prosecution of Hostilities.

Washington.—The United States is ready to participate for the first time in a military conference to be held by all the allies. An American commission, headed by Col. E. M. House, chief unofficial adviser of President Wilson, is already in Europe, clothed with authority to commit the United States government to any agreement that may be reached by the Paris conference.

Colonel House and his associates are expected to urge the adoption of a policy of greater unity in the prosecution of the war.

One of the possibilities is the creation of a joint war council with supreme power to direct the disposition of troops, to supervise military strategy and to apportion munitions and other economic resources among the allies.

Makeup of Commission.
The American war commission consists of the following members:

Col. E. M. House, chairman, who will act as the spokesman of President Wilson on questions pertaining to the general policies of the conduct of the war.

Admiral W. S. Benson, chief of naval operations, U. S. N., who will participate in the formulation of plans for the employment of the combined naval forces of the allies.

Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff, U. S. A., who will give detailed information on the extent of military support the United States will be able to give next year.

Oscar T. Crosby, assistant secretary of the treasury, who will speak for the United States on questions of inter-allied war financing.

Vance C. McCormick, chairman of the war trade board, who will assist in planning a uniform policy in admin-



Col. E. M. House.

istering embargoes on exports and provisions against trading with the enemy.

Bainbridge Colby, member of the shipping board, who will report the amount of tonnage building and the amount that can be turned out next year.

Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, who, as a representative of Food Administrator Hoover, will co-operate with the commissioners of the allies in working out a uniform policy of food conservation and apportionment of American supplies to the European co-belligerents.

Thomas Nelson Perkins of the priority board, who will negotiate an agreement on a plan of giving preference to the shipment of vital necessities to the allies of the United States.

Gordon Auchincloss, son-in-law of Colonel House and assistant to Counselor Polk of the state department, who will serve as chief secretary of the commission.

May Talk Peace Terms.

Although it is to be exclusively a war conference, dealing with the present and future military situation, it is possible that the question of peace will claim the attention of all the belligerents. It is expected here that Germany will make a new move toward peace at the conclusion of the campaign in Italy.

If Germany should manifest a disposition to forego conquests, the allies might consent to an armistice pending a discussion of peace terms. However, there is small belief that such a situation will arise at this time, nor is there any confidence in the story reaching Washington that all the European belligerents are preparing for a peace parley in Switzerland in February.

In the event of a peace discussion developing President Wilson would have his peace commissioner already on the scene, for that official is none other than Colonel House. The president designated Colonel House several weeks ago to begin the collection of data for the use of the American delegates to the eventual peace conference.

Realize Lack of Unity.

Secretary Lansing's statement regarding the mission indicates conclusively that the nations fighting Germany realize that a lack of team work

accounts for the reverses they have sustained and for the failure to cope effectively at all times with the well organized German military machine.

Until the combined resources of the allies can be employed against Germany by a single directing agency, it is contended, there will continue to be waste of human lives and material, reverses at weak points and other misfortunes, all serving to postpone a decisive victory over the enemy.

Mr. Lansing stresses the fact that the conference is to be a war and not a peace conclave. He does not wish anyone to get the impression that the United States is thinking of peace while preparing to exert its utmost to defeat Germany on the field of battle.

The secretary's anxiety on this score is due to the speculation aroused by the announcement before American troops reached the firing line that Colonel House had been selected to prepare for the peace conference. Immediately reports gained circulation that President Wilson was expecting peace this winter and that he did not intend to send the American troops into action until all hope of a suspension of hostilities had disappeared.

The need of a better co-ordination of military activities on the part of the allies has been practically demonstrated by the Italian reverses. It is pointed out, Italy was clamoring for support for months. The cry was not heeded by England and the United States.

Secretary Lansing's Statement.

Secretary Lansing's statement regarding the conference is as follows: "The government of the United States will participate in the approaching conference of the powers waging war against the German empire.

"The conference is essentially a 'war conference,' with the object of perfecting a more complete co-ordination of the activities of the various nations engaged in the conflict and a more comprehensive understanding of their respective needs in order that the joint efforts of the co-belligerents may attain the highest war efficiency.

"While a definite program has not been adopted, it may be assumed that the subjects to be discussed will embrace not only those pertaining to military and naval operations but also the financial, commercial, economic, and other phases of the present situation which are of vital importance to the successful prosecution of the war.

"There undoubtedly will be an effort to avoid any conflict of interests among the participants, and there is every reason to believe that the result will be a fuller co-operation, and consequently a much higher efficiency and a more vigorous prosecution of the war.

"The United States, in the employment of its man power and material resources, desires to use them to the greatest advantage against Germany. It has been no easy problem to determine how they can be used most effectively, since the independent presentation of requirements by the allied governments have been more or less conflicting on account of each government's appreciation of its own wants, which are naturally given greater importance than the wants of other governments.

"By a general survey of the whole situation and a free discussion of the needs of all, the approaching conference will undoubtedly be able to give to the demands of the several governments their true perspective and proper place in the general plan for the conduct of the war.

Limit to Resources.

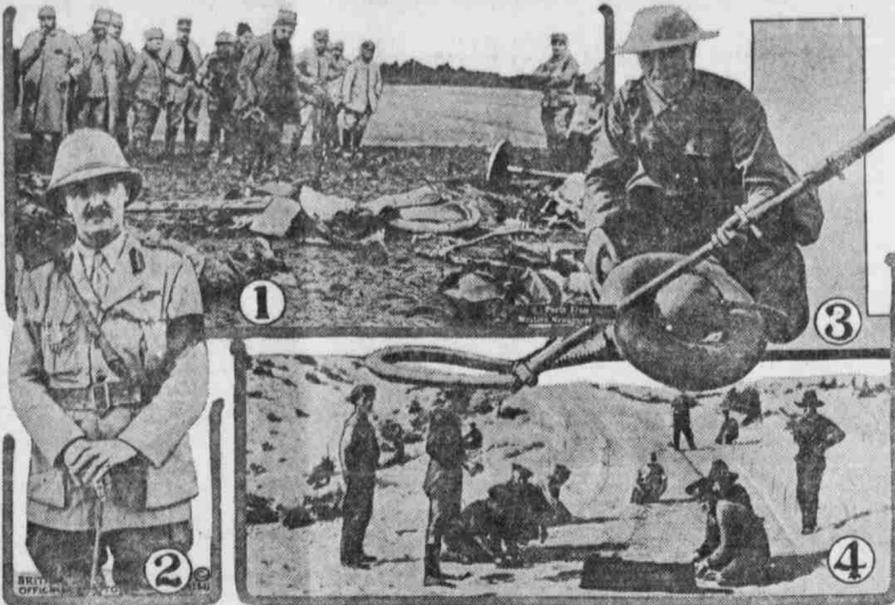
"Though the resources of this country are vast and though there is every purpose to devote them all, if need be, to winning the war, they are not without limit. But even if they were greater they should be used to the highest advantage in attaining the supreme object for which we are fighting. This can only be done by a full and frank discussion of the plans and needs of the various belligerents.

"It is the earnest wish of this government to employ its military and naval forces and its resources and energies where they will give the greatest returns in advancing the common cause. The exchange of views which will take place at the conference and the conclusions which will be reached will be of the highest value in preventing waste of energy and in bringing into harmony the activities of the nations which have been unavoidably acting in a measure independently.

"In looking forward to the assembling of this conference it cannot be too strongly emphasized that it is a war conference and nothing else, devoted to devising ways and means to intensify the efforts of the belligerents against Germany by complete co-operation under a general plan and thus bring the conflict to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion."

An Official Story Teller.

In several of the public libraries of Canada story telling to children has for some years been a special feature. Each Saturday morning from fifty to one hundred children assemble at the library in a room set apart for the purpose and called the "children's room." The ages of the children vary from six to fourteen years. At St. John, N. B., story telling has been continued now for three years. This year it has been found advisable to divide the children according to age and to hold two classes of half an hour each. The work has steadily grown in interest, and the demand for books of a less trivial type justifies the work of the committee in charge. During the summer, when opportunity offers and a story teller of note is a guest of the city, notice is given to the library, and it is often possible to have a special session.



1—Wreckage of two German airplanes and bodies of the pilots, brought down on the west front. 2—Gen. Sir Edmund Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine, who has taken Beersheba and Gaza. 3—Captured German flamethrower or liquid fire projector. 4—British engineers laying a wire road across the Sinai desert for the advance on Gaza and Jerusalem.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Kerensky and His Government Overthrown by Maximalists Led by Lenin.

PRO-GERMANS RULE IN RUSSIA

Immediate Peace First on Their Program—Retreat of Italians Continues—British Take Highly Important Passchendaele Ridge—America's War Mission to Paris.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Kerensky and the provisional government of Russia have fallen; the Maximalists led by Nikolai Lenin, pro-German agitator, are in the saddle; the premier has fled and five or more of the members of his cabinet are under arrest; immediate peace with the central powers will be offered by the extreme radicals in control. Such is the dispiriting news that comes from the Slav republic, so called. Chaos exists there and a long continued reign of anarchy is the prospect.

The only hopeful feature of the situation is that, as Ambassador Bakhmeteff says, the revolt is a revolt of the few against the many. The Maximalists control Petrograd and probably the fortress of Kronstadt, but they have all Russia to reckon with, and especially the Cossacks, who have no sympathy with the plan to make a separate peace with the central powers. M. Bakhmeteff feels sure that the majority of the Russians who followed Kerensky are with the provisional government heart and soul, understand that Russia's freedom can be assured only by the defeat of Germany by the allies, and will fight to the end. The spirit prevailing in Petrograd, he asserts, is not representative of the Russian spirit as a whole.

Loyal Women Fight the Rebels.

Of all the armed forces in and about the capital it appears that the woman's battalion alone remained loyal to the government. It was stationed at the winter palace and when that building was attacked by the cruiser Aurora and the guns of the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, it fought as bravely as possible until overwhelmed and compelled to surrender. The battle lasted four hours and was spectacular. The rebels brought up armored cars to aid in overcoming the resistance of the heroic women. There was no chance to call other loyal troops to Petrograd, for the leaders of the workmen's and soldiers' delegates had seized the posts and telegraphs.

The rebel congress was convened Wednesday night, the officers elected including Lenin and Leon Trotsky. Several proclamations were issued, one of them stating the program of the new authority to be:

"First—The offer of an immediate democratic peace.

"Second—The immediate handing over of large proprietorial lands to the peasants.

"Third—The transmission of all authority to the council of soldiers' and workmen's delegates.

"Fourth—The honest convocation of a constitutional assembly."

It is believed in London that Kerensky will re-establish the provisional government in Moscow and that the Soviet will not be strong enough to hold out long against him. For the present, however, the pro-Germans have the upper hand.

Italians Retreat to the Livorno.

As had been expected, Count Cadorna did not attempt to make a long stand on the Tagliamento river line against the on-sweeping Austro-German armies, but fell back last week to the Livorno, twelve to eighteen miles west. The enemy followed closely, and the prospect was that the Italians would speedily be forced back to the Piave, where their main armies already were being established. Ca-

dorna issued an order including in the zone of military operations all territory north and east of the Po and Mincio rivers, so he may consider the possibility of carrying his retreat much farther than the Piave. Whether this will be necessary evidently depends on the speed with which France, Great Britain and America can get men, guns and supplies to the Italian front. Guns and supplies especially are called for by the Italians.

The victory of the Germans in Italy will be far from complete unless they can capture Venice. The German commanders already have hinted that they will attack that city from the air, and naval operations against it are more than possible in the immediate future. As was said before, the invasion served to bring about a swift union of all factions in Italy, and the government, while realizing the extreme gravity of the situation, is confident that the enemy will fail to accomplish their military object as they have their political object. The Italian armies are maintaining order and discipline and are cheerful, and the rear guards are fighting valiantly to retard the advance of the Teutons.

As in Russia, formerly, so in Italy, the farther the invaders penetrate, the more dangerous becomes their own position. They are moving away from their bases of supply, and must rebuild the lines of communication destroyed by the Italians in their retreat. Cadorna, on the other hand, gains the protection of rivers larger than the Tagliamento, of many canals and of numerous railroads that are able to furnish all the transportation his contracted front needs.

British Gain Passchendaele Ridge.

Sir Douglas Haig's periodical drive in Flanders, which is becoming a regular weekly feature, accomplished most important results last week, when the Canadians succeeded in taking the village of Passchendaele and the ridge of the same name which dominates the country to the east. The drive was made under most adverse conditions, the ground being flooded by torrential rains, but the British barrage fire was perfect and the infantry followed it so closely that the Germans in their concrete dugouts and pill boxes were stormed before they had time to get into action. This advance brought Roulers under the guns of the British, and their aviators also began bombing that town with deadly effect.

Following up the retiring crown prince's army north of the Aisne, the French reached the south bank of the Ailette, but the Germans maintained their line on the other side of that stream by heavy and continuous artillery fire. Elsewhere on the French front all enemy attacks were successfully repulsed.

General Allenby reported that his troops in Palestine advanced beyond Beersheba with splendid dash and endurance and that on Wednesday he captured Gaza from the Turks.

American Patrol Boat Torpedoed.

The German U-boats found one American victim in the patrol boat Alcedo, which was torpedoed and sunk in British waters, going down in four minutes after being struck. Lieut. John T. Melvin and 20 men were lost. The Alcedo was formerly the private yacht of G. W. Childs Drexel of Philadelphia. She carried a crew of seven officers and 85 men. The American merchant steamship Rochester also was destroyed by a torpedo, at least four men losing their lives. An American freighter arriving at an Atlantic port reported that her gun crew sank a German submarine that attempted to torpedo her in the Mediterranean.

In general, the U-boats had a poor week, the British admiralty report showing that only eight British vessels of more than 1,000 tons had been sunk, and four smaller vessels. This is the smallest number of victims for any week since unrestricted submarine warfare began.

Von Hertling May Not Last.

Count von Hertling isn't likely to be German chancellor for very long, for unless he yields to the demands of the radicals, they intend to introduce a resolution of lack of confidence as soon as the reichstag reconvenes on November 22. The count seems to have fallen under complete control of the militarists and Junkers and is now

threatening the radicals with a military dictatorship unless they drop their claim that one of their number should be appointed vice chancellor. The reichstag majority, with which the count solemnly announced the other day he would now work in harmony, is in danger of breaking up, with the result of a union of the national liberals and the conservatives. Such a coalition would have a bare majority and would be subjected to constant attack by the Socialists. The prospect of a political truce, it is admitted, is remote.

The Budapest papers announce that the Austro-Hungarian Ausgleich, or agreement of the two kingdoms to unite under one emperor though having separate parliaments, will be renewed provisionally for two years. The alliance, originally signed in 1867, is supposed to be subject to renewal every ten years.

Japan and America Agree.

Viscount Ishii's mission to the United States has been successful and Japan is guaranteed her price for more active participation in the war. The American government has agreed to recognize Japan's special interests in China and to permit the shipment to Japan of the supplies of iron and steel that she needs. In return, Japan will furnish a great amount of tonnage for transport purposes, will get into action her warships, numbering about a hundred and already mobilized, and probably will send an army to Europe. Italy is asking that Japanese troops be called over to help repel the invading Teutons.

Though Japan's special interests in China are to be recognized because of contiguity, both nations agree to maintain the open door and the territorial sovereignty of China.

Socialists Lose in Elections.

Emperor William met a notable defeat in the United States last Tuesday, when in Chicago and New York the Socialists were thoroughly whipped at the polls. Supporting the Socialist nominees for judges in Chicago and for mayor and other city officials in New York, were all the forces of pro-Germanism, pacifism and disloyalty, and though they cast a disgracefully large vote, the defeat administered to them was decisive.

These elections were looked upon, and rightly, as a test of the loyalty of the two largest cities in the country. Most of the Socialist candidates were openly anti-war men and some of them in their pre-election utterances came dangerously near the treason mark. Hence the victory of loyalty and patriotism is cause for genuine rejoicing.

John F. Hylan, Tammany Democrat, was elected mayor of New York and the state gave a large majority in favor of woman suffrage. In Ohio, however, the women lost.

House Heads U. S. War Mission.

Upon their arrival in a British port the administration announced the names of the members of the American war commission sent to take part in the great conference of the allies in Paris. Col. E. M. House is the chairman and spokesman for the president on questions concerning the general conduct of the war. The other members are Admiral W. S. Benson, chief of naval operations; Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff; Oscar T. Crosby, assistant secretary of the treasury; Vance C. McCormick, chairman of the war trade board; Bainbridge Colby, member of the shipping board; Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, representative of Food Administrator Hoover; Thomas N. Perkins, member of the priority board, and Gordon Auchincloss, chief secretary of the commission.

Secretary Lansing issued a statement that makes it clear that the allies realize that many of their reverses have been due to lack of team work, and that one of the chief aims of the conference will be to bring about unity of action. For its part, the United States seeks to determine just how its man power and material resources can be used to greatest advantage to defeat the common enemy. Mr. Lansing laid especial emphasis on the fact that the conference is a war conference and nothing else. The administration is not expecting an early peace, and is making all preparations for a long conflict.

NEW DRAFT PLAN PUT INTO EFFECT

BEGINS DEC. 15 BY ORDER OF PRESIDENT WILSON.

WILL TAKE ABOUT SIXTY DAYS

People of Nation Asked to Lend All Possible Aid to Help Government Classify the Remaining 9,000,000 Registrants.

Washington, Nov. 13.—President Wilson has put the new machinery for the carrying out of the selective draft bill into operation.

The regulations and the questionnaires under which the second call will be made and which more than 9,000,000 registrants will be required to fill out are being forwarded to local boards, but have not yet been made public.

War department officials estimate that the whole process can be completed within 60 days. This means that no second call will be made on the draft forces before the middle of next February, as the period for classification will not begin until December 15.

The president describes the new plan of dividing all registered men not already mobilized into five classes, subject to military service by classes, as being intended to produce "a more perfect organization of our man power."

"The selective principle must be carried to its logical conclusion," the president said, and he added that there must be made a complete inventory of the qualifications of each registrant in order to determine "the place in the military, industrial or agricultural ranks of the nation in which his experience and training can best be made to serve the common good."

The inquiry projected in the questionnaire will go deep into the qualifications of each of nearly 10,000,000 men. The success of the plan and its completion within the estimated time rests on the whole-hearted support given by the people, especially by the doctors and lawyers of each community, and the president calls upon them for that unstinted aid.

Unearth Stores of Foodstuffs.

New York, Nov. 13.—Secret service agents have discovered foodstuffs and other property valued at more than \$73,000,000 stored in warehouses in this city, which have never been reported to the government as required under the trading with the enemy act, it has been learned. This is only a small part of what is expected to be uncovered before the search ends. Flour, sugar, eggs, butter and canned goods of various kinds are contained in the list of foodstuffs compiled by the secret service men. Large quantities of iron, steel, copper, cotton and chemicals also have been found, a part of which, it was announced, is owned by Germans.

Coast to Coast Air Lines Certain.

New York, Nov. 13.—Plans for establishing four trans-continental airways as the main arteries of aerial navigation in the United States have been approved by the executive committee of the Aero Club of America. It was announced by the club here. The club's committee on landing places, of which Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary is chairman, has been instructed to make all possible speed in charting the route and selecting landing places.

Italians Turn on Enemy.

London, Nov. 13.—On the Italian front the Italian line in the north has stiffened under the reinforcements it has received from the British and French. The German official communication adds that east of Asigno, where the Austro-Germans made gains last week, the Italians in strong force attacked the invaders and recovered lost positions. The Italians took about 100 prisoners. In the Sugana valley an enemy advance guard was captured.

Finland Facing Starvation.

Helsingfors, Finland, Nov. 13.—Prof. von Wendt, a delegate of the Diet, has telegraphed President Wilson that owing to the poor harvest the country faces starvation, unless food can be obtained in the United States.

Over Ten Million Sign Pledge.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 13.—More than 10,000,000 American housewives, it was announced, have pledged themselves to follow the food administration's conservation directions.

Presents for Soldiers.

Washington, Nov. 13.—The Post-office department has arranged to carry Christmas gifts to American soldiers in France who fail to receive presents. Postmasters were ordered to accept packages, the contents of which the senders desire to be distributed as presents among the soldiers, who might not otherwise be remembered. Such packages, addressed in care of the commanding officer, Pier No. 1, Hoboken, N. J., and marked "for distribution," will be accepted if packed properly.