

NORWAY STOPS ALL OPINION

English and German Press Comments Frighten Country.

REPORTS IN THE BALANCE

Criticisms Exactly Divided Without Seeming Partiality—French Loan to Government Is Stopped.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) CHRISTIANIA, Norway, Sept. 15.—The word "neutrality" has acquired a flexible and variable quality redreamed of by the founders of dictionaries. There is the violated and therefore unavailing neutrality of Belgium; the grim, almost belated neutrality of Holland; and the frightened neutrality of Norway.

The result of the sharp attacks on the Norwegian press, both by the Germans and the English, has been to frighten Norway out of any individual opinions of its own. Recently it has been charged with having sold its press to England. It had hardly time to defend itself against this accusation before there appeared in the correspondence of the London papers a severe arraignment of the Norwegian press for having accepted bribes from Germany. In an earnest desire to give no color to either of these charges, Norway has sedulously cultivated a neutrality that is beyond reproach. Of all neutrals it is, outwardly at least, the most perfect and unquestionable.

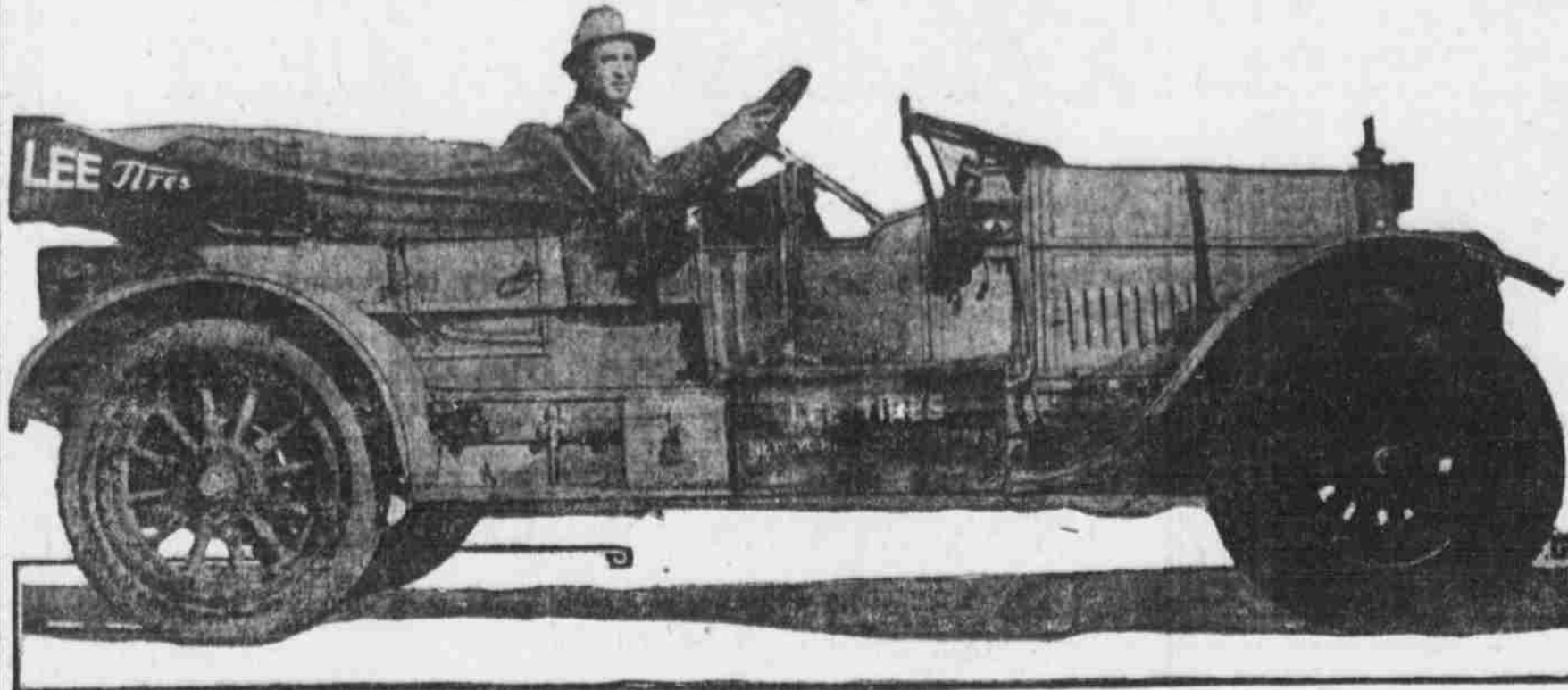
As a well known citizen of Christiania remarked today, Norway is in the position of the man brought into a police station on suspicion: "Anything it says will be used against it." This delicacy of Norway's position is patent to any observer who has been on the streets of the capital for two hours. Men before expressing an opinion of any sort, reassure themselves of the identity of the questioner and then look guardedly in both directions to see that they are not being overheard.

Reports Exactly Divided.

Press reports have become content with statements of purely uncontroverted matter, and the official communications of the English, French and Germans. In the Christiania Morgenbladet there are studiously divided columns with exactly half German and half English statements. A preponderance of one over the other would immediately cause trouble, according to the statement of the editor. In the Verdens Gang, a greater proportion of English correspondence gives the paper at first glance an English tone, but any inference of this sort is contradicted in the editorial columns.

The statements of government officials are in the same way guarded and non-committal. It is almost as if a law had been passed forbidding the expression of anything except platitudes. This fear of offending either the allies or Germany inhibits the expression of Norway's real feelings. For this reason, it is unusually interesting to find beneath this unimpeachable exterior undercurrents of genuine feeling. The most pronounced of these is favorable to the allies. It is quite evident that some of the Scandinavian countries have recovered from the sense of injury at Denmark's treatment by Germany at the time of the Franco-Prussian war. With this as a nucleus, sentiment against

Frank Chance, Peerless Leader, Stops in Omaha for a Few Days



Leading the great Cubs to four pennants and two world's championships puts a man in fine fettle for piloting a motor party through the Iowa gumbo in October, but at that Frank Chance and his party, including Mrs. Chance, came into Omaha smiling, as the photo shows him. His big Benz car, which he says has car-

ried him over 60,000 miles in the last three years, and the Pierce which his friends, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Duncan are using on this tour, showed no ill effects after the thick coats of mud were cleared off. They are taking their time, having given five days to the journey from New York to Chicago. The trip is a sort of a test, so far

as they are concerned, of the Lee tires, which came all the way from Chicago to Omaha without additional inflation, and as Chance expressed it, were "all up on their toes ready for a double-header" when they reached this place. Each man was equipped with three extra tires, though from New York to Omaha had need for none of them, for nothing like

an accident had befallen them—nothing worse than getting stuck in the Iowa mud. They were hoping they would get to Los Angeles without any severe tire trouble. Of course, they will have some rocky roads to travel through Wyoming, Utah and Nevada. They will go down from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles

Germany is strong enough to be called characteristic of the present attitude of the average Norwegian civilian.

Friendly to England.

Among the military classes there is a leaning in the other direction which has developed out of a fear of danger from Russia, and a natural Scandinavian hatred of that nation. If it were possible to obtain the net result of these two influences, it might be said that the present Norwegian sentiment is friendly toward England, but modified by resentment at its combining with Russia.

A crisis of supreme importance to Norway and Germany now seems impending. This is the question of the use of Norway as a route for the introduction of food and contraband articles into Germany. Since the declaration of war, the Norwegian exports to Germany have noticeably increased, and a visit to the attitude.

steanship lines plying between Christiania and Stettin shows the importance to Germany of this channel. Government officials in Christiania stated that no ammunition had been carried to Germany by this route and that the Norwegian government would not allow it, but at present Norway is under no injunction from England not to supply Germany with any material it may desire.

An observer in Christiania would say that at present enough herring was being shipped from Norway to Germany to supply the whole German army. While citizens of this city would not directly state

that they expected trouble from this source, there were indications everywhere that Norway is now apprehensive of an English challenge of its rights to export and transact products to Germany.

Army Party Mobilized.

A partial mobilization has taken place in Norway, but most of the fortifications, which have acted as centers, are so distant from Christiania that the capital itself betrays no sign of a European war. The streets are quiet, there is none of the feverish anxiety in front of the newspaper offices that is common in the other capitals and towns of Europe, and Christiania seems to be holding itself from the war with what cannot help striking the observer as a conscious aloofness, which is on the point of giving way to something more genuine.

The most serious damage which Norway has suffered from the war is that which concerns its financial condition. Just as it was about in the midst of developing its railways, its water-power and its agriculture, the war suddenly cut off the capital it was borrowing from France. This left her with her development arrested, and with a public debt of 600,000,000 kroner, or about \$150,000,000. The half-completed railways in Norway show how its development was retarded before it could pay returns on the borrowed capital invested. The effect of this financial burden has been felt by every business and industry of Norway. Immediately upon the declaration of war a moratorium was declared. This continues, and

though all business is going on as usual with the exception of the bourse, it is being cramped by the scarcity of money.

French Soldiers Are Kind of "Sore" on Bright Red Pants

(Correspondence by the Associated Press.)

THE HAGUE, Sept. 22.—To other assertions that the French soldier is not particularly thankful for having to wear red pants and blue coats, when his adversary is clothed in a uniform which in Europe's landscape of gray-green is next to invisible, the correspondent of the Roman newspaper Messagero makes a slight and humorous contribution:

"The spirit of the French army is excellent," he wrote. "In spite of the hardships they have to endure the French soldiers are in good humor, expressing this now and then in rather boisterous fashion. Their frugality is marvelous. Getting a cigarette is a big event with them. But they are not pleased with their red pants, which in times of peace they would not do without for anything.

"You are cracking a hard nut," remarked the correspondent to a soldier who had crawled out of a wet trench to dry himself in the sun. "Indeed, monseur! Those fellows are the color of an earthwork. You can't see them, while our pants are loud enough

to be seen for miles. But we can't very well do without them—can we?"

In his dispatch the correspondent points out that the German medical service is far superior to the French, who, as he alleges, lack even some of the necessary surgical instruments and needed housing for the wounded. The effects of the German artillery fire are characterized by the correspondent as "indescribably terrible."

Conspiracy Charge Against C. W. Morse

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—A suit against Charles W. Morse and the Hudson Navigation company, charging conspiracy, was filed in the federal court today by the Manhattan Navigation company. The action is brought under the Sherman anti-trust law and the defendants' methods in operating boats on the Hudson river are alleged to have been pursued for the purpose of accomplishing the plaintiff's ruin. Damages of \$1,000,000 are asked.

Mr. Morse is president of the Hudson Navigation company and one of its principal steamers bears his name. The company maintains a passenger and freight service between this city, Albany and Troy. The Manhattan Navigation company operates two steamers between this city and Albany.

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