

LANSING QUILTS; CLIMAX OF PEACE TREATY BREAK

Note to Carranza During Illness of Wilson Widens Breach Over Diplomatic Problems.

(Continued From First Page.)
"brought to" the president's attention.
Held Meetings Regular.
Thereafter until this week the cabinet met more or less regularly. During the coal strike it met twice a week in an effort to avert the walkout of the miners and several weeks ago it was decided to have meetings every Tuesday and Friday.
During the coal wage controversy the president was said at the White House to have been advised of the meetings and to have been kept informed as to the progress his advisers were making toward a settlement of the controversy. He finally took the matter out of the cabinet's

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hands and suggested a settlement which the miners accepted.
The correspondence between the president and Mr. Lansing which resulted in Mr. Lansing's resignation was made public tonight at the State department an hour after Under-Secretary Polk had conferred at the White House with Secretary Tamm.
Conscious of Break.
Mr. Lansing in his final letter to the president said that "in thus severing our official association" he felt that he should make public a statement he had prepared recently showing that he had "not been unkindly to the continuance of our present relations was impossible" and that it was his duty to bring them to an end "at the earliest moment compatible with the public interest."
"Ever since January, 1919," Mr. Lansing continued, "I have been conscious of the fact that you no longer were disposed to welcome my advice in matters pertaining to the negotiations at Paris, to our foreign service or to international affairs in general."
He added that he followed his personal inclination he would have resigned while in Paris, but that he had refrained because he felt it his duty to "cause you no embarrassment in carrying forward the great task in which you were then engaged."
Again Mr. Lansing said that while he had been "surprised and disappointed" at the frequent disapproval of his suggestions, he had never

failed to follow the president's decisions, "however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs."
Had No Power.
Mr. Lansing accompanied the president to Paris in December, 1918, as one of the American peace delegates, but his friends have said that while Mr. Wilson was at the peace conference, Mr. Lansing was virtually without authority and that naturally he felt this keenly since the other allied and associated countries were represented by their premiers and not the heads of their governments.
Verifies Bullitt Testimony.
William C. Bullitt of Philadelphia, formerly employed by the American peace commission in a confidential capacity, testified before the senate foreign relations committee last September concerning reported differences between the president and his secretary of state on the peace treaty and the league of nations covenant.
Bullitt told the committee that Mr. Lansing had expressed to him opposition to the ratification of the treaty and covenant in a conversation in Paris the day Bullitt resigned from the American mission because he was not in sympathy with the treaty and league.
Mr. Lansing was on a vacation at Watertown, N. Y., at the time Bullitt testified and when shown the testimony there, he declined to comment.
Mr. Lansing finally returned from Paris before the work of the American peace delegation was concluded, being succeeded by Frank L. Polk,

under secretary of state. The friction continued after he came back to Washington.
During the president's illness the Mexican issue again came to the front with the kidnaping and subsequent arrest of American Consul Agent Jenkins in Mexico. After the Jenkins case had been discussed at cabinet meetings, presided over by Mr. Lansing, the State department sent a note to Carranza bluntly warning him that further "molestation" of Jenkins would "seriously affect the relations between the United States and Mexico, for which the government of Mexico must assume sole responsibility."
Halts Mexican Action.
President Wilson was advised of a situation which apparently was growing acute and he was said at the time to have personally taken charge of the matter. The Mexican government delayed its reply for some time and subsequently Jenkins was released on bail furnished by J. Salter Hansen, without the consul agent's knowledge. Jenkins' case is pending in the Mexican courts, having been transferred from the Puebla state courts to the federal supreme court, which the State department had contended was the only tribunal which had jurisdiction in the case. No further action has been taken by the American government so far as has been announced.
While a few members of the cabinet have contended with Mr. Wilson since he was taken ill, it was said tonight that Mr. Lansing had not seen

him and that whatever business he had had with the president had been carried on by daily correspondence.
Before the president's return on his western trip, however, Mr. Lansing, after his return from Paris, had a standing engagement to see him daily and he visited the White House each noon to discuss foreign and other affairs.

Exchange of Notes Ends in Resignation

(Continued From First Page.)
I restrict you only with increasing reluctance, and since my return to Washington I have been struck by the fact that you have apparently tried to forestall my judgment by formulating action and merely asking my approval when it was impossible for me to form an independent judgment, because I had not an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence.
I therefore feel that I must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion that if I should prefer to have another to conduct our foreign affairs, you are ready to relieve me of any embarrassment by placing your resignation in my hands, for I must say that it would relieve me of embarrassment, Mr. Secretary, the embarrassment of feeling your reluctance and divergence of judgment, if you would give up your present office and afford me an opportunity to select someone else whose mind would more willingly go along with mine.
I need not tell you with what reluctance I take advantage of your suggestion, or that I do so with the kindest feeling. In matters of transcendent importance like this, the only wise course is a course of perfect candor, where personal feeling is as much as possible left out of the reckoning.
Very sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.
Action Was Contemplated.
Washington, Feb. 12, 1920.
My Dear Mr. President: I wish to thank you sincerely for your candid letter of the 11th in which you state that my resignation would be acceptable to you since it relieves me of the responsibility for action which I have been contemplating and which I can now take without hesitation as it meets your wishes.
"I have the honor, therefore to tender you my resignation as secretary of state, the same to take effect at your convenience, my official association, I feel, Mr. President, that I should make the following statement which I had prepared recently and which will show you that I have not been unkindly to the continuance of our present relations was impossible and that I realized that it was clearly my duty to bring them to an end at the earliest moment compatible with the public interest.
Ever since January, 1919, I have been conscious of the fact that you no longer were disposed to welcome my advice in matters pertaining to the negotiations at Paris, to our foreign service or to international affairs in general. Holding these views, I would, if I had consulted my personal inclination alone, have resigned as secretary of state and as commissioner to negotiate peace. I felt, however, that such a step might have been misinterpreted both at home and abroad, and that it was my duty to cause you no embarrassment in carrying forward the great task in which you were then engaged. Possibly I erred in this, but if I did it was with the best of motives."
Loyalty Stopped Action.
When I returned to Washington in the latter part of July, 1919, my personal wish to resign had not changed, but again I felt that loyalty to you and my duty to the administration compelled me to defer action as my resignation might have been misconstrued into hostility to the ratification of the treaty of peace or at least into disapproval of your views as to the form of ratification. I therefore remained silent, avoiding any comment on the frequent reports that we were not in full agreement. Subsequently your serious illness, during which I have never seen you, imposed upon me the duty, at least I construed it to be my duty, to remain in charge of the Department of State until your health permitted you to assume again full direction of foreign affairs.
Believing that that time had arrived, I had prepared my resignation when my only doubt as to the propriety of placing it in your hands was removed by your letter indicating that it would be entirely acceptable to you.
I think, Mr. President, in accordance with the frankness which has marked this correspondence and for which I am grateful to you, that I cannot permit to pass unchallenged the imputation that in calling into formal conference the heads of the executive departments, I sought to usurp your presidential authority. I had no such intention, no such thought. I believed then, and I believe now, that the conferences, which were held, were for the best interests of your administration and of the republic and that belief was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe that the conferences were proper and necessary in the circumstances and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had failed to act as I did.
Says Action Necessary.
I also feel, Mr. President, that candor compels me to say that I cannot agree with your statement, that I have tried to forestall your judgment in certain cases by formulating action and merely asking your approval when it was impossible for you to form an independent judgment because you had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence. I have it is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action advised you what, in my opinion, that action should be, stating at the time the reasons on which my opinion was based. This I concluded to be a function of the secretary of state and I have followed the practice for the past four years and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decisions, however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs.
I need hardly add that I leave the office of secretary of state with only good will toward you, Mr. President, and with a sense of profound relief.
Forgetting our differences and remembering only your many kind-

nesses in the past I have the honor to be, Mr. President, sincerely yours,
ROBERT LANSING.
Resignation Is Accepted.
Washington, Feb. 13, 1920.
My Dear Secretary: Allow me to acknowledge with appreciation your letter of February 12. It now being evident, Mr. Secretary, that we have both of us felt the embarrassment of our recent relations with each other, I feel it my duty to accept your resignation, to take effect at once, at the same time adding that I hope that the future holds for you many successes of the most gratifying sort. My best wishes will always follow you, and it will be a matter of gratification to me always to remember our delightful personal relations. Sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.

Compromise Offered By Senator Hitchcock

(Continued From First Page.)
Nugent, Idaho; Kendrick, Wyoming; Kirby, Arkansas; Sheppard, Texas; Culberson, Texas; Gerry, Rhode Island; Myers, Montana; Owen, Oklahoma; Hitchcock, Nebraska; Overman, North Carolina; McKellar, Tennessee; Jones, New Mexico; Beckham, Kentucky; Trammell, Florida; Walsh, Montana; Henderson, Nevada; Ransdell, Louisiana; Harrison, Mississippi; Chamberlain, Oregon; King, Utah; Pittman, Nevada; Simmons, North Carolina; Fletcher, Florida; Underwood, Alabama; Robinson, Arkansas, and Harris, Georgia.
Senator Hitchcock's move was the only surface development in the treaty fight during the day the subject being kept out of debate on the floor and the compromise negotiations in progress on the republican side failing to produce any definite conclusion.
Press dispatches saying that Canada had asked Great Britain not to accept the republican reservation on voting power caused some comment, but there was no evidence that the development would stir senators on the majority side to modify the reservations. The democrats declared it would help their fight for a modification, however, while the irreconcilable opponents of ratification asserted that it would operate in the end to make the treaty's approval more doubtful.

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