

Wilson's Failure Still Fresh in Memory of France

Briand Warns Delegates Against Making Agreements Which Must Be Ratified by Parliamentary Bodies.

By HENRY WALES.

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Washington, Nov. 20.—Solemn warning against the Pacific disarmament conference being off more than it can chew, the delegations representing the various governments making agreements on matters which can only be decided on by their parliamentary bodies, was given by M. Aristide Briand in a statement to the press.

France, more than any other power, because it was the principal loser in failing to obtain the Anglo-Franco-American defensive guarantee, remembers Woodrow Wilson's peace delegation which went to Paris for the armistice negotiations, and then was repudiated by the United States senate.

In view of the fact that one of the principal criticisms of President Wilson's undertakings was that they violated the sovereignty of the United States and usurped rights vested solely in the senate, the French believe that care should be taken to avoid making decisions here which may not be honored in the capitals of the various delegations.

Briand Optimistic.

M. Briand stated that he is still optimistic over the outlook for results which will be obtained during this conference and he qualified his belief—the powers assembled will be satisfied with the unanimous acceptance of a statement of principles in broad general outlines and do not insist on pledging one another to detailed schemes and plans worked out in detail which may prove distasteful to parliaments and arouse antagonism in the press.

The premier intimated that France realizes full well the impossibility of obtaining written treaties of alliance with the United States and other countries for aid in case of future war aggressions. He hinted, however, that official and executive assurances of solidarity with France and sympathy with its peaceful aims or defense of its soil would probably be satisfactory to the French people.

M. Briand does not expect responses will be made to his speech on Monday. The address will be extemporaneous and heads of the other delegations will therefore not be familiar with its contents in advance copies. It is therefore doubted if any will be in a position to reply to his expose of the menaces that threaten France.

Two Answers Possible.

Only two answers can be framed in reply to M. Briand's speech, it was pointed out, however.

One, in which the other great powers recognize France's special position on the continent of Europe, facing a state of twice its population and with Poland, its eastern bulwark and ally, confronted by the red hordes of bolshevik Russia. Acceptance of this viewpoint might imply that the great powers would intimate their readiness to duplicate the procedure in this great war and ally to the defending coalition and right and liberty.

The alternative, in which the other powers, apparently safe in their isolation, would reject the French thesis and refuse to believe in the Teuton-Muscovite menace hanging over Europe. This latter attitude would permit France to announce its persistence in apprehensions to restate French needs for self-protection, and to demand free hand to arm as it sees fit to safeguard La Patrie.

Attitude on Submarines.

The head of the French delegation amplified his attitude regarding submarines, which opposes the British contention. Beside being the arm of the weak, submarines are a weapon of the poor, he pointed out, while flotillas of them costing less than a single capital ship and therefore effecting the economy which was one of the reasons for the calling of the conference.

Regarding restricted tonnage for submarines, M. Briand pointed out that a large undersize craft would be able to rise to the surface and pick up survivors from a war ship or transport it had sunk, whereas this was a physical impossibility in the case of a small submarine.

M. Briand congratulated his colleagues on the spirit of justice and sacrifice which has already been evinced in examination of the far eastern problems, especially insofar as they refer to China. He stated that there was evidence of a sincere desire on the part of most powers to rehabilitate a China as a sovereign state, enjoying all the advantages of a recognized power.

May Change Plans. No decision has yet been taken by M. Briand regarding the coming to Washington of M. Louis Loucheur, richest man in France and minister of the liberated regions. It had been announced that M. Loucheur would sit in at the conference after the premier returned to Paris. There may be a change in this program, since it has been decided that the financial question, the matter of allied war debts, will not be discussed here. M. Briand does not believe details of economic and financial readjustment in far east affairs will be worked out at this conference, thus obviating M. Loucheur's presence on that point.

The premier and about half the French delegation, including M. Berthelot, will leave Washington at 8 o'clock Thursday morning.

Briand to Sail Friday. M. Briand will sail from New York on Friday morning on board the steamship Paris.

Text of Committee Discussion On Pacific and Far East Problems

By The Associated Press. Washington, Nov. 20.—The following communiqué was issued Saturday:

The committee on Pacific and far eastern questions held its second meeting this morning at 11 o'clock. All plenipotentiary delegates were present except Baron Shibusawa for Japan, Ambassador Jussegard for France and Mr. Meda for Italy.

Admiral Baron Kato, on behalf of Japan, made the following statement: "I. It seems to the Japanese delegation that existing difficulties in China lie no less in her domestic situation than in her external relations. We are anxious to see peace and unity re-established at the earliest possible moment, but we want to avoid all action that may be construed as an intervention in the internal affairs of China. All this conference can achieve is, it seems to us, to adjust China's foreign relations, leaving her domestic situation to be worked out by the Chinese."

The Japanese delegation wishes to assure the Chinese delegation and the whole conference that Japan has every desire to cultivate the happiest relations with China. We are solicitous of making whatever contributions we are capable of toward China's realization of her just and legitimate aspirations. We are unflinchingly by the policy of territorial aggrandisement in any part of China.

"We adhere without condition or reservation, to the principle of the open door and equal opportunity in China. We look to China in particular for the supply of raw materials essential to our industrial life and for foodstuffs as well. In the purchase of such materials from China, we are anxious to see relations with that country, we do not claim any special rights or privileges, and we welcome fair and honest competition with all nations."

"With regard to the question of the abolition of extra territoriality, which is perhaps one of most insisted upon by the Chinese delegation, it is our intention to join with other delegations in the endeavor to come to an arrangement in a manner fair and satisfactory to all."

"We have come to this conference, not to advance our own selfish interests, we have come to co-operate with all nations for the purpose of assuring peace in the far east and friendship among nations."

Ready to Explain. "The Japanese delegation understands that the principal object of the conference is to establish in common accord, policies and principles which are to guide the future actions of the nations here represented. Although we are ready to explain in detail any problem which may arise, we should request undue protraction of the discussions by detailed examination of innumerable minor matters."

Baron De Cartier, speaking for Belgium, Mr. Balfour for the British empire, and Senator Schanzler for Italy, then made statements as follows: Baron De Cartier: "I believe it proper to briefly point out the spirit in which Belgium takes up the examination of the questions relating to the far east."

"Belgium will take part willingly in all the studies this conference may adopt to insure the territorial integrity of China and to furnish her with means to overcome her difficulties. She is convinced that the support of the action of the government is the necessary condition of all progress and the fruitful application of such rules as this conference might lay down in accord with the government of the Chinese republic."

Belgium Favors "Open Door." "Belgium will unreservedly favor the policy of the open door. She desires to see assured to the industry and commerce of all the nations the possibility of sharing on a footing of complete and genuine equality, the development of the resources of China to the greatest benefit of the Chinese people and of all humanity."

Bandits Kill Postmaster; Robber Slain in Battle. West Frankfort, Ill., Nov. 20.—Armed men invaded Freeman Spur, near here, shot and killed Charles Amati, the postmaster, held up a saloon and then were put to flight, leaving behind one of their companions, who was shot to death in a fusillade that followed the saloon holdup, according to a report sent here tonight.

Burglar Jumps Through Window as Family Is Roused. Awakened by her son, Billy, Mrs. W. H. Chamberlain, 1104 North Twenty-ninth street, shortly after 1 this morning heard a burglar, believed to have been a negro, in the house. She in turn awakened her husband, who got out of bed just in time to see the man jump through a window. The burglar stole \$20.

Man Charged With Murder. On Hunger Strike in Jail. Salt Lake City, Nov. 20.—James Nickopoulos, held in the county jail charged with murdering Dan Karras, has been on a hunger strike for the last nine days, the jailer stated, refused to eat, believing that friends of Karras were attempting to get poisoned food admitted to the prison to be served to him.

Maternity Bill Passes House by Vote of 279 to 39

One of Negative Votes Cast by Congressman McLaughlin Who Says Constituents Oppose New Bureaus.

By E. C. SNYDER.

Washington, Nov. 20.—The so-called Sheppard-Towner maternity bill, which has been the foot ball for congress for months, finally reached a vote, when 279 members of the house voted to create a bureau to look after maternity and child birth, while 39 members voted against the bill.

One of the 39 negative votes was cast by Representative M. O. McLaughlin of the Fourth Nebraska district. The other members from Nebraska cast their votes in favor of, or were paired for the measure.

Explains His Vote. In explaining the reasons for his negative vote Mr. McLaughlin issued the following statement: "Under the representative form of government I believe it is the duty of a representative to vote the wishes of a majority of the constituents of the district from which he is elected when such wishes can be definitely determined. While I have received a number of letters from officers of women's clubs from several of the larger cities of the country urging my support of the Sheppard-Towner bill, I have received only one memorial from a woman's club of the district favoring the bill, and one letter from a constituent of the Fourth district taking a stand against the bill."

"This woman writer expressed the opinion that it is high time for the congress of the United States to cease creating boards and commissions, whose support and operations are paid for by the taxpayers of the country, and stated that she and her neighbors believe that the fathers and mothers of the Fourth congressional district of Nebraska are wholly competent to take care of their own children and rear them in the proper manner without the necessity of agents of the federal government undertaking to supervise their family affairs."

Uses Own Judgment. "The convictions expressed by this worthy constituent wholly agree with my own views on the subject. I believe, first, that the men and women of this district desire less interference on the part of the federal government in both their home and business affairs, and second, that should it develop that there are parents in the district who are not able to properly care for their own children, that the county and state are in a position to understand and meet the needs of such families more competently than agents sent out from Washington by the federal government."

"In the absence of conclusive recommendations, from my district either for or against the Sheppard-Towner bill, I was constrained to rely upon my own honest, conscientious judgment and voted against the measure."

The senate having passed the bill, the conferees agreed to go to the conference on the Sheppard-Towner bill, I was constrained to rely upon my own honest, conscientious judgment and voted against the measure.

Thousands of Acres Flooded in Indiana; Water in Terre Haute. Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 20.—Thousands of acres of lowlands of the Wabash valley are under water and great property damage has resulted from high waters caused by recent rains. The Wabash river is about 16 feet above normal and is still rising. Standing corn in the lowlands was ruined and with all roads streams also overflowing, roads, bridges and culverts have been damaged.

Water began backing into parts of Terre Haute and West Terre Haute tonight. The sudden cold and wind today brought hope that the flood would be checked.

Wrecking of bridges across tributaries to the Wabash caused several serious motor car accidents and interrupted travel. Reports indicate only one-half of the corn in the lowland has been harvested and that remaining will be lost.

Negress Is Slain. Ada Johnson, a negress, was shot and killed by a mob of white men on the 314 North Twenty-third street. The Johnson woman was shot through the nose, the bullet passing through a heavy window door before striking her. The slayer escaped following the shooting.

Boy of 15 Facing Jail. Father Refuses to Pay Court Verdict of \$700 In Alienation Suit. Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 20.—Chris Eckert, jr., 15, faces a jail term because of his inability to pay a \$700 verdict returned against him for alienating the affections of Mrs. Lewis Eckert, 26, and her mother and his father, a wealthy lumber man of Portageville, will not pay the judgment, he announces.

Reduced Fares to Chicago. Open rate of fare and a half for the round trip on late November 25 to 29, inclusive, return limit December 5, via the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway (account International Live Stock exposition). Tickets: Consolidated office, 1416 Dodge street and Union station, W. E. Bock, G. A. F. D. 407 South Fifteenth street, telephone Douglas 481, Omaha, Neb.—Advertisement.

12-Year-Old Is Heroine of Village of East Omaha

Esther Hedberg, Alone With Smaller Sisters, Shoots And Wounds Chicken Thief With Father's Shotgun, As He Emerges From Cellar.

Esther Hedberg is only 12. She is not large for her age. But courage is not always measured by size, and Esther now is a heroine of the village of East Omaha.

Esther's mother is very ill in the Swedish Mission hospital. She has been there for seven months. It has been a tedious seven months for Esther, for she had to assume her mother's duties, and care for the house and two little sisters as well.

There have been many lonely, fearful nights in the little Hedberg home at Twenty-fifth street and avenue L. Saturday night was no exception. As on many preceding nights, Esther's father had gone to the hospital to see the mother.

Noise in Basement. Esther had finished washing the dishes. She was tucking her 2-year-old sister, Mary Jane, in bed, when she heard a noise in the basement. Her heart skipped a beat.

Thursday night she had heard a similar noise. A little girl friend had been with her on this occasion, and she was less frightened.

Now she was alone. Her baby sister's safety depended on her. She tipped her head to the kitchen. The noise below continued. In the kitchen stood her father's shotgun. She had always avoided the gun. It was so big and heavy, and made such a deafening noise when it was discharged.

Carried Gun Out Doors. She shuddered as she picked it up. She pulled back one of the hammers of the gun, and then she saw her father's cautious opening of the kitchen door and stepped out into the night.

Emerging from the basement door, not more than 10 feet from her, she saw a dark figure. Her little body was tense as she raised the gun. The report of the gun deafened her. She saw the dark figure stum-

ble and fall. "I am shot!" shouted the fallen man. The agonized voice of the man frightened her. She fled into the house, trembling.

Girl Kept Watch. When the father returned home half an hour later she was seated in the kitchen, the gun across her knees. Her pretty little face was white, but there was a courageous light in her eyes.

Investigation revealed that the marauder had broken a lock on the cellar door, entered, and had secured behind the feet of three chickens. The chickens lay where he had fallen after the shot, but the marauder had dragged himself away. Neighbors who heard the shot declared they saw two men lift a third into an automobile, parked near the house, and drive away.

Deputy Sheriff V. D. Quackenbush and a small posse which included A. L. Timblin and Frank Kietley searched the vicinity and questioned nearby residents, but in vain. They were assisted by Deputy Game Warden Lynch.

Thieves Are Active. The village of East Omaha is much aroused over wholesale chicken thefts. C. A. Gardner, who resides near the Hedberg home, was robbed of 40 chickens Thursday night, friends said. A. Shafer, town marshal, whom the village trustees failed to oust at a special meeting Friday night, could not be found to help in the search, according to Timblin and Kietley.

Esther, who attends Pershing school when she is not doing the house work and caring for her little sisters, shyly denied there was any particular bravery in her act. "I'll take a better aim next time," she said. "But oh, how I hope there won't be any next time."

Cop Nabs Candidate To Phi Delta Theta Searching Cemetery

Woman Holding Boarding House Against Rangers

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Chicago, Nov. 20.—Policeman Bert Goodwin hummed a bar of "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" as he flew through the rain on his beat Friday night. The beat borders the dreary confines of Oakwood cemetery. Spooks are known to have an abhorrence of a rollicking ditty.

But Policeman Goodwin stopped as he saw a figure scramble over the iron fence into the cemetery. The figure was dark and evidently not a ghost. It stopped at each tombstone, flashing a light.

"Damn it," it said. "That isn't it either." The hand of the law grabbed the collar of the visitor. A brisk jaunt through the rain to the station.

"I'm Sidney McLeod, jr., he explained. "I'm looking for the graves of 'Gleason, 1843-1905' and 'Clancy McClay, 1844-1904.' I can't join the Phi Delta Theta fraternity until I find 'em, officer."

The police verified the tale at the fraternity house and the boy's home and released him to continue his ghostly search.

Eleven Mourners On Way Back From Funeral Killed. Train Running 60 Miles an Hour Strikes Automobile At Grade Crossing—Bodies Strewn for Mile.

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Chicago, Ill., Nov. 20.—Creeping through a blinding snowstorm, returning from a funeral, a touring car carrying 13 relatives of Myrtle Ziminzian, who had just been buried, was struck by the Santa Fe-California Limited train, running 60 miles an hour, and 11 of the occupants of the funeral car were killed.

The car was smashed to splinters and portions of the bodies strewn for nearly a mile. Ten of the victims were instantly killed. Another died soon after being taken to a hospital and one other victim will not survive.

The hearse had crossed the track and was closely followed by the funeral car. It was squarely across the tracks when a long train, pulled by two locomotives, roared over a sharp curve. A third funeral car was 100 feet in the rear of the one demolished, but the driver could not see it. He heard a crash, but could see nothing because of the storm.

He drove across the tracks, but there was no sign of the grim tragedy that had just been enacted and the occupants of his car continued to their homes, ignorant of what had happened.

One of the marvelous incidents of the affair is the escape of Mrs. John Chruselski, whose husband and son were killed. She was carried many yards and buried into a snow-filled ravine and escaped without a scratch. Badly dazed, she was helped to her home, but soon regained her senses and returned to claim the bodies of her husband and son. Her second son was so badly injured that he will die.

The crossing is on a lonely road near Summit, Ill., and a number of abandoned stone quarries and huge piles of rock obscure the view of the railroad tracks in either direction.

Irwin Lays Claim to Having Champion Corn Husker. Irwin, Ia., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—Other communities in the corn belt are invited by Irwin to bring forward their champion cornhuskers. This community lays claim to having the best of them all.

There are several around here who average 150 bushels a day. Among these are Dave Mellor and Harry Wetzel. The former husked and cribbed more than 900 bushels in six days. Wetzel's record was 2,100 bushels in 14 days.

Oscar Erickson has been averaging 130 bushels and Walter Juhl has brought in 100 bushels a day every day since he began husking early in the fall.

Function of Navy Experts Solely To Gather Facts

American Delegates Will Not Surrender Formulation of Policies to Guide Action On Armaments.

Washington, Nov. 20.—Secretary Hughes and his associates of the American delegation have no intention of surrendering to the naval experts, formulation of any policies to guide American action in naval or other questions pertaining to the conference.

It was made plain that the function of the experts was strictly that of developing the facts. Determination of policies on those facts is the reserved right of the civilians who make up the American delegation.

Emphasis in this connection was laid on the undesirability of diverting attention from the main issue of American naval proposals, the capital ship ratio plan. All questions of proportions of auxiliary craft, the place of submarines in the scheme of curtailment and similar items are looked upon by the American delegation as of secondary importance.

For that reason the American attitude of resolute adherence to the five-five-three ratio of the American capital ship plan has been emphasized. It is this main issue which is still to be met, together with the 10-year building holiday and a substantial immediate reduction in tonnage already afloat. The announced intention of the Japanese delegation to seek an alteration of the ratio, however, is the only known stumbling block to this first vital agreement.

In connection with the Japanese attitude, the impression appeared to gain ground today that Admiral Kato, in announcing his purpose to seek a slightly higher tonnage ratio for Japan, was prompted somewhat by considerations involving home politics. It was hardly to be expected, some officers said, that he could accept, out of hand, a definite relegation of Japan to the short end of the five-five-three ratio proposal without a fight. Japan was said already to have looked toward a ratio of 75 to 100 in naval strength as compared to the United States.

Germany's First Envoy Since War Reaches U.S.

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. New York, Nov. 20.—Germany's first envoy to the United States since the war, Baron Edmund von Thiermann, who is to be ambassador to the United States, arrived on the liner Helligolav.

He wore clothes that appeared worn and almost shabby. He said it will be a great hardship for the German government to run an embassy here, because of the low rate of the mark and high cost of the American dollar.

One of the first statements from Baron von Thiermann was that he had no concern with the Washington conference on arms limitation. "France has nothing to fear of Germany," the baron continued. "Germany is absolutely disarmed."

France and Italy May Come to Front In Naval Program

Many Feel That Beginning Should Be Made on Purely European Aspect of Problem.

Washington, Nov. 20.—Influences are stirring beneath the surface of the arms conference which may soon bring French and Italian navies prominently into the picture with those of Great Britain, Japan and the United States in shaping a program of reduction and limitation. It is now felt in some quarters that a beginning could be made on the purely European aspect of the naval problem, paralleling the larger discussion involving Pacific naval forces chiefly.

The view is expressed in American circles that the United States and probably Great Britain and Japan would be agreeable to any probable building program on which either France or Italy might wish to embark.

The most difficult phase of the Franco-Italian naval question would be the establishment of a ratio of strength as between the two. As the two navies are not in the scale of large navies and the balance they maintain against each other is not a matter directly affecting the United States or Japan, and affecting Great Britain only to a slight degree, it seems to most officers that it might be well left to the naval experts of France or Italy to seek an agreement on this point between themselves.

In the event no agreement could be reached by the French and Italian authorities, the time might come when they would seek the aid of the other three powers in solving the problem. With representatives on hand to state the case of each power fully, it would seem thoroughly practicable to some observers for the "Big Three" in naval matters to present a proposal.

Japan's Delegates Pleased With Stand of Baron Kato

Washington, Nov. 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—Representative Japanese were disposed to rest content with Admiral Baron Kato's exposition before the "big nine" of Japan's attitude toward China, believing it admirably presented the standpoint of Japan and scarcely needed elucidation. They expressed the belief that it would convince the world of Japan's sincere intentions as to China.

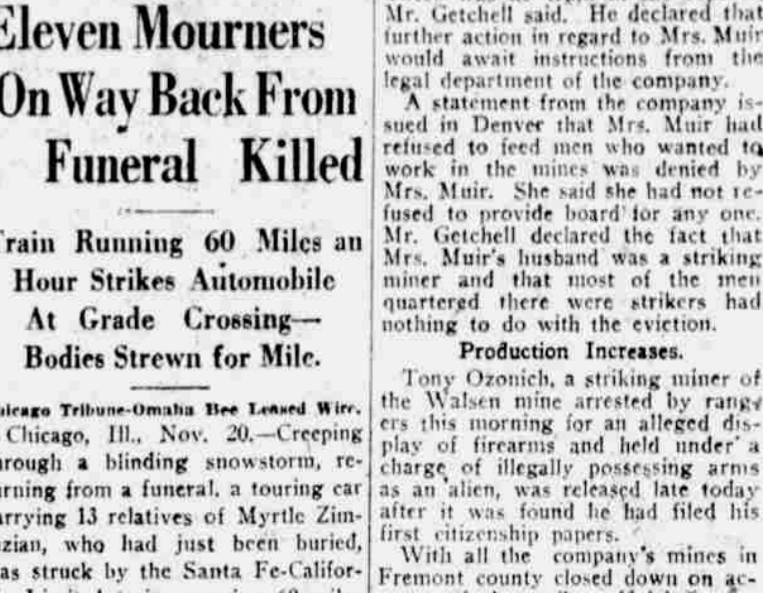
The statement was regarded as confirming forecasts that Japan seeks at the conference a declaration of broad principles and policies in the far east which would guide all nations, and is inclined to look with distrust on an analysis of the past, believing such might unnecessarily cause friction.

Mount Vernon, Ia., Nov. 20.—"The 'meanest man on earth' is believed to live somewhere in this section of Iowa.

An auto driver became stalled on the Lincoln highway near here. He hailed a passing truck driver, who found the loose connection, and proceeded to crank the engine. The engine back-fired, breaking the rescuer's arm. "I broke my arm," he said. "Too bad," responded the rescued autoist, as he sped down the road.

Unable to start his big truck the chauffeur was forced to walk to Mount Vernon, where he received medical attention. Another driver was sent by train for the truck.

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