

WILSON AWAITS BRITISH DECISION

Changes Effected by Election May Alter His Peace Position

AGREEMENT FORECAST

President's View on Vital Questions Said to Have Altered Recently

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

London, Dec. 20. Extracts from Richard V. Oulahan's Paris dispatch referring to the President's aims have been cabled here by the Morning Post and Daily Chronicle correspondents in America. They have been read with keen appreciation in quarters where it was believed some unnecessary uneasiness had been created by earlier statements as to the President's intentions from less responsible quarters, extensively reproduced in the British press.

The Evening Standard says: "From an American diplomatic source I learn there is no reason to fear there will be any serious difficulty between President Wilson and the Allies in the application of his principles at the peace table. Mr. Wilson, on questions of reparation and freedom of the seas, has changed his standpoint considerably since he laid down his original line of policy, and the result of the congressional election and subsequent Republican statements of policy have not been without effect upon his mind."

"There is, in fact, in American diplomatic circles a growing conviction that alleged differences regarding such vital questions as a league of nations and freedom of the seas are more imaginary than real and that before the President returns to Washington as complete understanding will have been reached."

But even on the assumption that a league of sufficiently practical character to obviate the necessity of an army and navy, except on a scale commensurate with police and other similar services should not develop out of the Paris conference, it by no means follows that when it comes to a heart-to-heart talk between the American and British representatives an agreement is impossible.

On the so-called freedom of the seas question there is, for example, much more similarity between the American and British doctrines of contraband and the application of them in the past than there is between the continental laws of maritime warfare and either the British or American laws regarding the same.

The President's first speech in Paris removed one misapprehension which had existed in some quarters here, namely, in regard to the question of restoration of devastated territories. There has been little real fear in the best informed London circles, as has been stated several times in these dispatches lately, that there could be a serious ground of cleavage or dispute.

Britain to Claim Indemnity
There has been brought about by the general election of last week what some political controversialists are describing as a new policy on the part of the British Government. Indemnities, it is declared, are now to be claimed from Germany by Great Britain instead of the restoration and reparation previously in the British program. This is only true in a limited measure and in certain sets. Certain pledges have been given by men who will doubtless form part of the next British Government and by those who will probably form the majority of their parliamentary supporters.

All these pledges will need careful examination, and it is only after such examination that it will be possible to determine exactly what is the policy of the new British Government. Consequently, it is safe to say that except on the broad principles for which the British Government has stood throughout the war and concerning which there can be no possible doubt the line which the British delegates will take at the Peace Conference will be open to as much modification as are the views of the President by the facts and necessities that will develop there.

So when the Pall Mall Gazette says that the President "has discovered that the Allied plans are not as far advanced as he thought they were and he is anxious that there should be a general speeding up," it is merely a recognition of the fact that the new British Government has not yet been formed, and that until it is and it has before it both all the pledges given by its members and all the facts of the European situation, it is impossible for Lloyd George to make a precise pronouncement on even such vital matters as freedom of the seas and the league of nations.

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TO TALK PEACE ONLY IN FRANCE

President Decides Proprieties Require Avoidance of Subject on Visits

END WARS, HIS OBJECT

By RICHARD V. OULAHAN
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

Paris, Dec. 20. President Wilson has come to the conclusion that the proprieties of the situation require him to conduct no negotiations and have no conferences concerning peace while he is absent from Paris. He has decided to visit Italy, England and Belgium, and while in those countries he will adhere to the rule of propriety, which means that his visits outside of France will be purely ceremonial or personal.

Consequently the conferences which Lloyd George, Balfour and others hoped to have in London, thus obviating a special trip to Paris, are now understood to be definitely deferred at Wilson's instance until such time as it is convenient for the British statesmen to come to Paris.

This decision means also that the visit of the President to Italy will not include exchanges on the subject of Italian aspirations concerning Albania and other territory, the disposition of which will figure in the Peace Conference, and that there will be no discussion in Belgium, the desire of that country to obtain from the Netherlands the restoration of the Limburg and the left bank of the Scheldt.

In these and other questions which might be considered purely European the American delegates are expected to participate. Their position in this regard is determined partly by their belief that they are entitled to full rights as delegates, partly through the feeling that Wilson is looked upon by the people of Europe as a sort of judge who is uninfluenced by selfish considerations and actually has a keen desire to protect the interests of all peoples.

Incidentally Americans close to the mission construe the enthusiastic reactions given to President Wilson in Paris as showing that he is close to the hearts of the people and is expected to lead the way to preventing future wars.

This is the main object of Wilson's visit to Europe, to use his utmost endeavor to persuade the Allies to make such a peace that wars hereafter will be virtually impossible.

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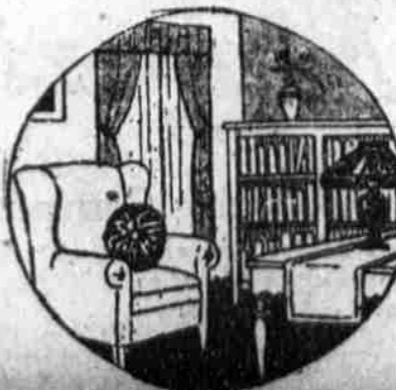
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What Britain Wants At the Peace Table

The leading article in THE LITERARY DIGEST this week presents an enlightening summary of the demands that Britain may make at the peace conference as revealed in the editorial pages of the great English newspapers; also the most significant editorial comment in this country regarding them.

While German sympathizers and propagandists, we are told by Judson C. Welliver in the New York Globe, are blowing assiduously upon every spark of anti-British feeling that is still alive in this country and are magnifying every suggestion of divergence between President Wilson and the British government, we find the American press discussing in an entirely dispassionate vein the outspoken words of Winston Churchill and Lloyd George concerning Britain's naval policy and other questions that will surely come up for discussion at the peace conference.

Other articles of great interest in this number of "The Digest" are:

Holland's Unwelcome Guest

Translations from the Dutch Press Which Throw a Clear Light Upon the Present Condition of the Kaiser in His Retreat in Holland

Germany Not Starving
Our Share in Winning the War
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The Digest Your Best Mirror of World Events

The outcome of the epoch-making visit of the President of the United States to Europe to take part in the peace deliberations, and of the great task that lies before him and the Allied leaders associated with him of effecting a just redistribution of nationalities and establishing stable governments in the new states to be created, is of vital moment to us in this country no less than to our brothers overseas. The best way to inform yourself upon the

attitudes in which the various delegates approach the peace conference is to study the real issues, the actual conditions that lie beneath the surface, that are every day making history at a rate that is simply amazing. To get these facts, stripped of unessential details, clean-cut, and up to the minute, you have only to turn each week to THE LITERARY DIGEST, which provides you with world news of the first importance in instantly accessible form.

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