

SECRET TREATY MENACES PEACE

Britain Bitter Against Italy's Pledge for Aid in War

FRANCE ABETTING HER

Censors News of Troubles Resulting From Conflict With Jugo-Slav Claims

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger With the Peace Delegation

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London, Dec. 29.—The shadow of secret treaties still lies across Europe. The issue still lies between them and international justice and open diplomacy.

England sympathizes with American ideals, but is tied to France and Italy by many obligations and agreements.

The difference between England and France is indicated by the present treatment of this situation.

The Europe Nouvelle of Paris tried to tell the story last week, but the censor deleted the whole column.

That blank space in the French press tells frankly the story of Italy's occupation of territory claimed by the Slavs and condemns it bitterly.

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PRESIDENT MELTS RESERVE OF BRITISH

Old England's Hospitality Overflows in Outburst of Welcome—People Voice Real Desire for Unity With U. S.

By RICHARD V. OULAHAN

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

Manchester, England, Dec. 29.—President Wilson spent last night in this great industrial city, where today he received a formal welcome from the municipal authorities.

The official reception yesterday was cordial, but it cannot be compared in significance with that which was accorded today by the people of this populous midland section.

The number of those who gathered to greet the President exceeded that of the Metropolitan area.

After the remarkable demonstration in the President's honor on his arrival in Manchester last evening, a demonstration which was entirely unstaged, it became certain that the formal welcome would be as cordial as that which London gave him.

England seems filled with the spirit of hospitality that comes from the heart and not from mere politeness or expediency.

It is not going too far to say that British officials are as much gratified as the President over the way in which he has been made to feel that the part played by the gentry, and that he is regarded as the personification of the ideals of the free peoples are bound.

The "The Star Spangled Banner" was played applied to this case, doubt and came to their feet.

The audience, which seemed to be hoping for that very outcome, rose also, and the enthusiasm became even greater.

The King and Queen and the Queen of Norway followed the example. It was a remarkable demonstration of friendly feeling for America.

When Great Britain's representative marched on the stage the audience rose as if by a common impulse and every body sang "God Save the King."

With eyes lifted toward the box where Britain's sovereign stood in acknowledgment, his face grave, but not unconcerned, the fact that he was deeply touched.

That would end the Peace Conference proper. After that would come the general congress of nations for the discussions of the league of nations.

Not President's Program That is the plan, as described by the French up to the present moment. It is distinctly not the American plan, as desired by President Wilson and his associates.

The American plan is to have the smaller belligerent nations vote to have their objectives put into these terms, if their desires were not contrary to the wishes of the Big Four.

Third, the finished peace treaty, providing among other things, the new restricted boundaries for Germany, to be submitted to Germany to sign or reject without the right to modify.

Then the same measures were to be taken with the signing by Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria-Hungary.

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WILSON'S VIEWS GAINING IN FRANCE

Opinion Swinging Around to League of Nations First Idea

ITALY'S STAND IN DOUBT

Probably Will Support U. S. if Jugo-Slav Question Is Satisfactorily Settled

By CHARLES A. SELDEN Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

Paris, Dec. 29.—Whatever disagreements or harmonies may develop later on in settling the main points of the peace negotiations, there is a radical difference of opinion now as to the best way of approach and the best sequence in which several problems may be taken up.

The difference may be most clearly stated in this form: "Shall the league of nations be considered a cardinal matter and among the first things to be settled, or a sort of afterthought to be discussed after Germany and her former allies have been compelled to sign the peace treaty in the formulation of which they will have no participation?"

America and France at the present moment represent the opposite ends of that question, and there is interesting speculation as to how England and Italy will line up.

The first of last week I cabled the French idea as to the best chronology of the peace proceedings. It begins with the determination by the Big Four, America, England, France and Italy, acting by themselves, as to what the principal peace terms must be.

Next, the smaller belligerent nations were to have their objectives put into these terms, if their desires were not contrary to the wishes of the Big Four.

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practically to reverse the French scheme. It would put the league of nations well to the front instead of relegating it to the background. It would have that part of the peace treaty, which has to do with the new boundaries of Germany and the other countries, on the principles set forth in the accepted league of nations agreement, rather than have these boundaries fixed first and arbitrarily by the Big Four, regardless of the other nations.

That briefly suggests one main point of difference between France and America. It is needless to say in this connection of boundaries that it makes no difference as to Alsace Lorraine.

Before President Wilson arrived here, the feeling was that France would have her own way, but now there is a marked change of opinion. If Mr. Wilson is not yet looked upon as a certain winner, he surely is not longer regarded as a certain loser.

Whatever changes are now taking place in French politics all favor Wilson. No Government can ignore the tremendous reception of the French people to the American President.

Matter to Be Thrashed Out The solution of these difficulties cannot be looked for in any simple device as voting by delegates. Each group of five representing a given country will act as a unit on all matters. So the matter must be thrashed out between nations on a give-and-take basis.

The suggestion now is that England should side with America. That would leave to Italy the settlement for or against France.

That brings one to another phase, which has to do with Italy's effort to get America to act in the preliminary conference as a mediator between Italy and the Jugo-Slavs in their dispute over the east coast of Adriatic. The two nations are at odds now over that question, and there is daily danger of clashes between their troops.

The Jugo-Slavs want Trieste, Fiume and the coast south of those ports. Italy now intimates a willingness to give the Jugo-Slavs commercial harbor rights in the use of Fiume near the coast of Dalmatia, excepting the port of Zara. The Jugo-Slavs naturally want much more, and were led to believe before the war ended that they would be supported by all the Allies except Italy.

Now America is asked to solve this difficulty. If she can do it with fairness to the Jugo-Slavs, at the same time satisfying the Italian Government, it will probably support America on special matters as to the League of Nations.

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