

PARIS HOPES FOR PEACE MARCH

Necessary Requirement Is Election of Stable Government in Germany

FIX BOUNDARIES LATER

Can Be Done by Commissions After Signing of Treaty, Is Belief

By ERNEST MARSHALL

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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Paris, Jan. 21.—Present arrangements for the Peace Conference will hold sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week, and a high authority has said that all necessary work could be got through in time to allow of the signature of the peace treaty in March, if one thing happened. This one essential condition to an early conclusion of the peace negotiations is that the election in Germany should result in the formation of a stable and responsible government.

Such information as has reached certain well-informed quarters here points to the probability of a return to the Bourgeoisie and Majority Socialist candidates in sufficient numbers to insure the creation of a strong moderate government. This is the hope on which some of the Allied delegates at the Paris conference base the prediction of a possible signature of peace in March.

Peace with Germany at that date would not necessarily mean that all the questions with which the Peace Conference has to deal had been settled. The plan along which the conference will work is that the German elections result as it is hoped, will be to determine the essential points of the peace treaty and to lay down certain broad general definitions which will govern the working out of such details as there may not have been time to settle in their entirety. The elimination of certain disputed frontiers, for instance, might very well be carried out by commissions specially appointed for that purpose along the lines of the principles established by the peace conference.

Powers Must Enforce Treaty

It is evident that this plan can only be thoroughly well understood by possible recalcitrants that the great Powers will take measures to see that the decisions embodied in the peace treaty are carried out.

At most of the headquarters of the various delegations to the Peace Conference hard work is in progress. The Villa Maubert, the Hotel Astoria, where the huge staffs of the British delegation are housed, were hives of industry. Clemenceau's call for memoranda from each of the chief delegates on the responsibility for the war and international labor legislation has set a rapid pace for the conference.

So far as the British were concerned, a good deal of preliminary work of this kind had been taken in hand some time ago under the general direction of Lord Hardinge, permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but the final papers to be submitted to the conference had to be prepared hurriedly from rough drafts submitted by the various departments. At present the date of the plenary session, at which the league of nations question will have pride of place, is not yet determined, and it will probably depend on the progress made with the business which Clemenceau put on the program yesterday.

Some cynics still suggest that the conference will merely affirm its general adherence to the principle of the league, and then refer the examination of the various schemes which are known to have been devised by the special committees which, according to these cynics, will be tantamount to internment.

British Pledged to League

In responsible British quarters, however, there is not the slightest disposition to affirm that the conference is to be a mere ratification of the British Government was pledged to do its utmost to further the foundation of the league on a practical basis, and that the course of the British people at the recent general election was strong in favor of that attitude. Hardly a candidate elected to Parliament failed to say on record his sympathy with the theory of the league. The terms in which both Bonar Law and Clemenceau yesterday spoke of the league, likewise indicated an advance from the attitude which the French Premier was understood to hold in his speech in the chamber on the day Wilson spoke at Manchester.

It is asserted on behalf of the French view that the question of responsibility for the war and its corollaries must take precedence over the question of the league of nations; that is the strictly logical view. The league can be founded only on the basis of justice and justice must be done first of all. The rights of the future, the adherents of this policy say, cannot rest on a sound foundation until the wrongs of the past are righted. Indeed, it is another way the French position is that the present constitution of the United States and the Allied Powers is a mere effect, constituting a league of nations with which Germany is still at war, and that no extension of this league which would permit of the entrance of Germany is possible until she and her allies have purged their wrong and are no longer in a position to attempt their renewal.

Demand Frontier on Rhine

It is of interest to note that some Paris papers assert that France can never be satisfied until she has secured German aggression unless she has a Rhine frontier.

In Liberte, for instance, says: "The acceptance by France of the league of nations and the consequences which follow from that principle will be subordinated to the guarantee of a solid frontier."

7000 Soldiers of Allies Totally Blinded in War

By ERNEST MARSHALL

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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Paris, Jan. 21.—The number of totally blinded victims of the war among all the Allied forces has now been calculated as 7000. Twenty-five or 30 per cent will probably have to be added to this figure from among the patients now undergoing treatment.

The total of those who lost one eye amounts to between 30,000 and 40,000.

'EAGLE' BOATS CALLED FAULTY

Former Constructor at Ford Plant Alleges Serious Defects

Washington, Jan. 21.—(By A. P.)—Harry E. Leroy, of Saginaw, Mich., formerly employed as a constructor at the Ford boat plant in Detroit, testified before the House Naval Committee today that the Eagle boats built there for the navy were seriously faulty in design and construction. He said the walls of the craft were weak, particularly about the engine and deck, and the steel plates thrown together and loosely bolted, insuring buckling and collapse of the structure.

Secretary Daniels, Rear Admiral Taylor, chief constructor, and Rear Admirals Griffin and Rice listened to Leroy's testimony. Recently the admirals testified to the plans drawn and inspected by the chief constructor, Admiral Taylor, saying the Eagles had conformed to designed characteristics and were useful both for war and peace purposes.

DUEL MAY SULLY PEACE CONGRESS

French Journalists Quarrel and Challenge to Fight Follows

DEFI NOT YET ACCEPTED

Press Generally Satisfied With Arrangements for Admission to Sessions

By WALTER DURANTY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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Paris, Jan. 21.—It looks as if the Peace Conference were about to be sullied by bloodshed. A well-known French journalist, St. Blanchard, of the Journal, has challenged to a duel Gustave Tery, of L'Ouvreur. The cause belli is the severity of Tery's comments on St. Blanchard's attitude as one of the three French press representatives on the inter-allied press committee, by whose efforts the admission of the press to the final sittings of the conference was obtained.

Tery disclaims warlike intentions, but asserts that he will meet his adversary on the battleground of the court-martial which will soon try Senator Humbert, the former director of the Journal, on the charge of communication with the enemy. He adds viciously: "St. Blanchard will doubtless be there anyhow, to explain how he came to write the famous article about Hearst in the Journal, which led to the disclosure of the Bolo's conspiracy."

L'Ouvreur, like L'Ouvreur, an opposition newspaper—criticizes the lack of energy on the part of St. Blanchard and his two colleagues at the press meeting and terms them "parisians of the censorship."

But the agreement of the authorities to admit the press representatives gives general satisfaction to the French press. One writer, however, in the Petit Parisien, complains about the quality of the accommodation yesterday in the Foreign Office conference chamber, saying: "It would perhaps be preferable to give the newspaper men a place from which it would be possible to see and hear something. The way they treated us yesterday was a joke—funny, perhaps, but hardly worth repetition. At the same time, considering that the conference is being held in Paris, we might suggest that the documents handed out to French journalists be written in French instead of English."

WOMEN VOTERS IN GERMANY GET NO PRIVILEGES AT POLLS

Have to Wait Turn With Men in Lines a Block Long or More, Except Housewives and Aged—One Votes at Eighty-nine

By JOSEPH A. HERRINGS

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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Berlin, Jan. 21.—(By A. P.)—Never was Berlin's population displaced with more interest in any election as today. When at 9 o'clock the polling places opened, queues a block long already were waiting and increasing rapidly.

In the early morning women voters had been lined up in front of the polling places. Through the whole performance of voting could be ascertained in the average time of fifteen seconds, some voters had to wait an hour or more before they got inside the polling places. The principal change there was that one of the election officers in each case was a woman. Many voters carried an envelope which would be opened and a marked ballot given to them by the woman.

Women voters were not allowed to vote in the polling places and the voters waiting there were with singularly patient composure. A woman of approximately 60 years appeared at 9:30 o'clock with a thread in her trembling hand.

"I had my laugh at an old fool like me," she said to the waiting voters in quite a cheerful tone, "but I am so glad I have lived to see this day of women's participation in Germany. I shall die happy now after waiting my time and probably my last vote."

She did not wait to wait for her turn, but was ushered in at once.

However, pleading that it was necessary for them to go home to prepare dinner, often received precedence. But the most voters voted on being to women generally, and even young and pretty women.

"If you insist on the same rights, you can't have the same privileges," they said, "and, besides, we can't afford to lose time."

At every polling box were posted from two to ten soldiers, steel helmeted and in uniform, who seemed determined not to brook any interference with the voting.

At the headquarters of the various parties, an activity prevailed that was quite American-like. Indeed, the campaigning continued even today, airplanes still throwing millions of flying leaflets and posters, and the streets being visible only long after each airplane disappeared, and looked like immense flocks of birds descending on the city, which had been snowed under by continuous paper showers for three days.

Between bill posters of the various parties regular wars were carried on. They stamped their highly colored bills on anything—windows, wagons, street cars and the walls of houses.

WAR PRESTIGE AIDS WILSON PEACE AIMS

Summary of Progress of President's Ideals Indicates Why He Looks for Victory in Conference

By CHARLES H. GRASTY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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Paris, Jan. 21.—"What are President Wilson's grounds for his faith in a favorable outlook for the league of nations expressed in his cable to the New York Civic Forum?" After inquiry in the best informed quarters I am able to present a summary of various phases of the President's thought as it is viewed by those close to the President.

The prologue to the Allied conference: Throughout this period, which can best be divided into three parts, runs one dominating idea, the blending of the individuality of great nations for the accomplishment of great undertakings.

First phase—The spring of 1918 brought with it impending disaster to the Allied cause, and purely national interests were forgotten, and a great leader was made generally known to the Allied armies. The resources of the United States and the Allies were virtually pooled and placed at his disposal, and during the last few months of the war we knew that the terrific war that had plunged the peoples of the world into misery for more than four years was nearing its culmination in victory for the Allies.

During this same time the moral force which had always been behind the Allied cause, but which had never received any positive direction became, under the leadership of President Wilson, not only a weapon against our enemies, but a protection to ourselves.

The peoples of the Allied nations refused any longer to be led blindly. The masses of Russia demanded an interpretation of the war and, not receiving it from the Allies, their leaders sold out to Germany. The British laboring man and the French Socialist began to show signs of impatience.

On January 8, 1918, President Wilson began his great "moral offensive," which we learned after the armistice had been signed and we were permitted to look into Germany, had caused as great havoc among the political Hindenburgs in Berlin as our armies had at the front. And all the time peoples of the Allies and the people of the United States were being welded together by common sacrifice on the field of battle and by common war aims based on democracy.

Second phase—On October 19, 1918, Colonel House arrived in Paris. The press announcement said that he had arrived in France "for consultation with the representatives of the governments associated with the United States in the war." Germany had stated that she wished to make peace on the principles laid down by President Wilson in his speech of January 8, 1918. Her representatives in the Peace Conference had sent his correspondence with Germany to the Allied governments with the request that they be learned after the armistice were willing to adopt these principles as the basis for peace. Upon their answer depended the future of the world.

Wilson's Principles Adopted

On November 7, ten days after the President's representatives had arrived in Paris, and seven days after the conference between Colonel House and the Allied Premiers had begun, the answer had been given in unmistakable terms. The Allied statement recognized the great principles of democracy that had welded together the plain people of the Entente and the United States in a

great work is started

On January 11, 1919, simultaneously with the arrival of the Allied peace delegations in Paris, the first meeting of the supreme council of government was held. Hoover as director general of relief, was held. The great humanitarian work had been started, under the auspices of the Allies and the United States, to alleviate the ravages of war and to stem the tide of anarchy resulting from starvation, almost amounting to starvation. The significance of this event cannot be overestimated.

During the five days just preceding its opening the delegates conferred concerning the organization of the Peace Conference. General representation was accorded to the smaller Powers and intelligent representation was given to the great self-governing dominions of the British Empire. Thus the world was brought into conference, and a new democracy, the largest and best in the world, summoned to help in the creation of a new order.

The people of the world know their governments can by united effort work to alleviate the ravages of war and to stem the tide of anarchy resulting from starvation, almost amounting to starvation. The significance of this event cannot be overestimated.

Local Situation Serious

The fiscal situation is most serious in connection with the restoration of German business life. Marks are being issued at a rate of something like a hundred million a day, while the productive business of a large part of the nation stands still. A recent statement of the Reichsbank shows 12,000,000,000 marks in notes in circulation, while the treasury has notes deposited for about 10,000,000,000 marks. Reichsbank directors say:

"I cannot be denied that the grave danger menacing our entire industry lies in this swollen paper money circulation. While productive industries, which alone can bring new values, lie dormant, the flood of paper notes grows."

SHOOTS WHALE FROM AIR

U. S. Aviator Makes Novel Bag at San Diego

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 21.—(By A. P.)—Lieutenant James McLaughlin, attached to the army's aerial gunnery school at Camp Field, shot and killed a small whale with the machine gun of his plane, two miles off Imperial Beach yesterday.

HOHENZOLLERN ARE BETTER

Ex-Kaiser and Wife Take Walks, William's Birthday January 27

Amerongen, Jan. 21.—(By A. P.)—Ex-Kaiser William and the ex-Queen have both so far recovered from their recent illnesses that they are able to resume their former mode of living. They are taking their customary morning walks in the grounds in the castle.

Her Hohenzollerns are reported in much better spirits. His sixtieth birthday on Jan. 27 will be celebrated by a concert in the castle.



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Gen. Smith Arranges for Sale of German Products in France

PROVIDE WORK FOR ALL

Administrator of Civil Affairs Plans to Make U. S. Sector Prosper

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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Coblenz, Jan. 21.—Brigadier General H. A. Smith, who is in charge of the administration of civil affairs in the German territory occupied by the American army, has effected an arrangement with the Allied high command by which manufacturing establishments in our sector may market their products in both France and Germany. He has also made arrangements looking to a full supply of coal down the Rhine. He hopes within three weeks to have every idle man in our region at work.

General Smith aspires to put our part of Germany in good economic condition. At first he met some opposition from other Powers indirectly concerned, because some officials deemed that it would strengthen Germany and therefore be a bad step for the Allies to take.

But he countered with the argument that articles he wished to be manufactured would not add to Germany's military strength, and that it was the desire of the American army civil administration here to make its part of the Rhineland prosperous and not to endanger France or the other Allies, but to place at least a part of Germany in a position where it would be able to pay its part of the Allied indemnity.

France put forward a suggestion that she be allowed to buy that part of the region's manufactured products which she could use, and when she agreed to this his plan for the sale of the products in other parts of Germany went through.

Cash Payments Only

Officials entrusted with arranging for France to take part of the products she needed started out on the supposition that a credit could be made, but it was firmly pointed out that the Americans considered her in a position where they were responsible for economic prosperity hereabouts and must have assets in a form that could be quickly liquidated and that therefore all customers in this market must pay in cash.

When this plan, which will take in most of the workers whom 1,000,000 of German population supplies, gets to working we shall control a wide range of manufactured products, as well as an instance of the large wine business. In addition, this part of Germany produces a great amount of foodstuffs, distribution of which will be under American direction.

The American army also has charge of food conditions at present in that part of Germany we occupy, and, incidentally, I quote a sentence from yesterday's army summary of intelligence:

"In the American area the food situation continues to improve."

Our army is attempting to Americanize business methods in this district. As incidents in a large wine business, of course, modeled on the United States bank examiners' system. We thus avoid a certain degree of interference with German local business and at the same time know what is going on at the banks.

Local Situation Serious

The fiscal situation is most serious in connection with the restoration of German business life. Marks are being issued at a rate of something like a hundred million a day, while the productive business of a large part of the nation stands still. A recent statement of the Reichsbank shows 12,000,000,000 marks in notes in circulation, while the treasury has notes deposited for about 10,000,000,000 marks. Reichsbank directors say:

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HAIG'S STUBBORN MEN DASHED GERMAN HOPE

Kaiser's Grand Offensives of 1918 Wrecked by Unyielding Valor of British Infantry, Teuton Expert Admits

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Washington used to say he had spent yet military life in trying to guess what was going on on the other side of the hill. History has to estimate these strategic guesses, and already the time has come when the pioneers of history are beginning to reduce the chaos of the war to order.

I have before me evidence which shows more clearly than anything yet published what was happening on the German side of the hill during those anxious months in the spring of 1918. Captain von Schwink began the war as a gunner; then he went into the service and worked with artillery fighting and bombing squadrons. He received a staff appointment in 1917. When General von Belov's German army went into two parts, one of which was to be driven back on the channel port while the other was to be thrown southward in disorder upon the French. All that happened afterward was in the nature of attempts to repair the plan which had gone awry, or to substitute some other which had not been originally contemplated.

For the plan, according to von Schwink, did go awry from the first day. Even while the Kaiser was sending out telegrams, while the British public was reading anxious news of the hurried retreat upon Amiens, the German staff knew that they had failed. So different are facts from imperial desire, so differently things look on the other side of the hill.

For in that great offensive of March 21 the main weight of the attack was to have fallen north of the Somme. The Germans had no intention of marching divisions south of the line drawn from St. Quentin to Amiens, and so the actual results of the severe check to the northern section of the offensive and their great advance in the south were considered by the German staff—horror of the very guarded phrase—"as somewhat in the nature of a failure."

The attack, in fine, did not succeed as had been expected, except south of St. Quentin. The swift advance there was judged to be of merely minor importance. The Germans had hoped to gain an equal success all along the line.

It remained to be seen if the German staff would be called another version of the original idea. On March 28 an attack between Oppy and Neuville-St. Vaast was launched in order to extend the southern success. The German staff were confident that they would recover Vimy Ridge and capture Arras by the weight of the first blow. As is known, they failed completely.

The reasons for the failure which appeared on the German side of the hill were: First, the artillery preparation was not sufficient, because they could not bring up ammunition fast enough; and second, the resistance of the British infantry went beyond all German calculation.

Again it became necessary to reconsider the situation, and this time more profoundly, the check so discouraging and the losses so heavy that the German staff decided to give up altogether the original plan to break through to the sea north of Amiens. They looked for a new scene of action in which they could work with smaller forces and with some chance of success, but still the sea was the lure.

Reading this German history of the campaign of 1918 one finds oneself thinking of some great beast tearing and biting at the base of that bluff in

would "almost certainly" have reached the channel ports.

In the fighting of the whole campaign of 1918 what most impressed Schwink was the discrepancy between the German staff's estimate of the fighting value of the British divisions and the actual value. The German general staff consistently and considerably underestimated the value of the British divisions which had been engaged.

Last and most irritating of all these chapters of disillusion must have been the discovery that, as Schwink put it, "the fighting value of the German divisions was generally overestimated."

unable to understand how hopeless the fighting is and yielding only when harassed and wounded by his own despair, he sinks exhausted still in his cage.

Still trying for the sea the Germans organized the attack of April 9, south of Ypres. This, says Schwink, had Dunkirk and Calais as its objective, and from the opening of the attack it was intended to push right through. Again, it seems, the problem of feeding the guns had not been sufficiently studied and again this branch of the service compromised in retreat. The difficulty of the ground, I am told, prevented the heavy artillery and ammunition being brought up, also certain German divisions in their advance found quantities of wine, put it to its natural use and got drunk.

Finally and as usual "the resistance of the English troops, especially about Givency led to delay."

It is curious how closely the story of this northern offensive resembles that of the first great attempt to the south. Both begin with a spectacular success which the general staff considered a failure; in both there follows an attempt to repair the damage, to set the plan on its legs again. The attack of April, 1918, on the Givency-Merville front was made to open out the northern salient and give a chance of further advance as originally intended. This also failed and then the German staff threw up the gate in the north and put into their hands of the sea.

Von Schwink, who may, perhaps, speak for one school of German military opinion, thinks that this was a serious mistake. His view is that if every man had been thrown into the offensive on the Bethune-Ypres front the Germans

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