ENVOYS HOPE FOR EARLY SOLUTION OF ITALIAN PROBLEMS

Orlando Answers Wilson's Refusal

Continued from Page One

never denied that the treaty of London did not apply to Fiume, but that the Italian claim is based on the principles of President Wilson's fourteen points.

After referring to the conferences that have been held in an effort to solve the territorial problems affecting Italy, during which, the premier said, President Wilson had had the kindness to recognize that "truth and justice are the monopoly of no one person and that all men are subject to error," Premier Orlando continued:

"And I add that the error is all the easier as the problems to which the principles apply are the more complex. Humanity is such an immense thing, the problems raised by the life of the people are so infinitely complex, that nobody can believe that he has found in a determined number of proposals as simple and sure a way to solve them as if it were a question of determining the dimensions, the volume and the weight of bodies with various units of measure.

"While remarking that more than once the conference nearly failed completely when it was a question of applying these principles, I do not believe that I am showing disrespect toward this high assembly. On the contrary, these changes have been and still are the consequences of human judgment. I mean to say that that experience has proved the difficulties in the application of these principles of an abstract nature to concrete cases. Thus, with all deference but firmly, I consider as unjustified the application made by President Wilson in his message of his principles to the Italian claims."

Referring to President Wilson's statement, Premier Orlando says it entirely purports to demonstrate that the Italian claims beyond certain limits laid down in his message violate the principles upon which must be founded the new regime of right, justice and liberty among peoples, and adds that he never denied these principles, and that even President Wilson would do him the justice to say that in the long conversations they had had together, he (Orlando) had never relied upon the formal authority of a treaty by which he knew President Wilson was not bound, but merely relied on reason and justice, upon which Italy's claims were based.

"I consider as unjustified the application that, in his statement, President Wilson makes of his principles toward the Italian claims," Premier Orlando continued. "It is impossible for me in a document of this nature to repeat the detailed arguments which have been produced in Italy's behalf. I might simply say that no one will receive without reserve the affirmation that the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire should imply the reduction of Italian aspirations.

"It is even permissible to believe even the contrary, that is, that at the very moment when all the varied peoples who constituted that empire sought to organize according to their ethnic and national affinities, the essential problem caused by the Italian claims can and must be completely solved.

"Now, this problem is that of the Adriatic, in which are summed up all the rights of both the ancient and the new Italy, all her sufferings throughout the centuries and all the benefits she is destined to bring to the great international community."

Citing the President's argument that the concessions granted bring Italy to its natural defenses, the Alps, Signor Orlando says:

"This recognition is of great importance, provided the eastern flank of this wall does not remain open and that the right of Italy should be interpreted to include the line of Mont Nevoso, which separates the waters running toward the Black sea and the Mediterranean." He recalls that the Latins from the earliest dawn of Italian history designated this mountain the "Italian limit."

Dangerous Breach

"Without this protection," says the premier, "a dangerous breach is left in this admirable barrier of the Alps, rupturing the unquestionable political, economic and historical unity of the Istrian peninsula. I contend, furthermore, that he who is entitled to the honor of proclaiming to the world the right of the free determination of peoples should recognize this right for Fiume, an ancient Italian city which proclaimed its Italian nature before the Italian ships arrived—an admirable example of national conscience perpetuated throughout centuries.

"To deny this right only because of the small number concerned would mean the admission that the criterion of justice toward peoples varies according to their territorial extent."

Premier Orlando then points out that Antwerp, Genoa and Rotterdam are international ports serving as an outlet to divers, peoples, and territories without having to pay for the privilege by sacrificing national conscience, and continues:

"It is impossible to qualify as excessive the Italian aspirations toward the Dalmatian coast, Italy's boulevard throughout centuries, which Roman genius and Venetian activity made noble and grand and whose Italian character, defying for centuries implacable persecutions, still shares the same thrill of patriotism with the Italian people."

Principle Applied to Poland

The principle proclaimed with reference to Poland that denaturalization based on violence does not create rights, the premier contends, should be applied to Dalmatia. Passing to the argument of "cold statistical statements," the premier affirms that among the national reconstructions occupying the Peace Conference none of the reconstructed nations will count within their frontiers a relatively slighter number of persons of alien race than would be attributed to Italy, and asks why only Italians should be suspected of imperialistic cupidity. The history of the negotiations, he declares, will show that the Italian delegation acted not only with firmness, but with a grand spirit of conciliation.

He concludes his statement as follows:

"The presidential message ends with a warm declaration of America's friendship for Italy. I reply in the name of the Italian people, and proudly claim the right and honor to do this as one, who in the most tragic hour of this war, proclaimed the cry of resistance at all costs. This cry was heard and replied to with courage and abnegation, of which there are few more striking examples in the world's history.

"Italy, thanks to the most heroic sacrifices and purest blood of her children, was able to ascend from the abyss of misfortunes to the radiant crest of most glorious victory. In the name, therefore, of Italy, I express with all my power the sentiment of admiration and profound sympathy which the Italian people professes toward the American people."

Considered an Insult

Premier Orlando and the other members of the Italian delegation apparently are much angrier over President Wilson's world-wide publication of his position on the Adriatic questions than over his opposition to their claims and the fact that diplomatic procedure has been violated and what is termed an insult offered to the Italian Government, because the President made his position known to the Italian people over the head of the peace delegation.

Discussing this contention today, a member of the American peace delegation said: "'Fiume or nothing' has been the Italian delegation's unalterable formula for nearly eight weeks, and their firm insistence upon the settlement of the Adriatic questions before an agreement upon the peace terms forced President Wilson to tell the world where he stands. The atmosphere of the conference simply had to be cleared, and there was no other way for the President to clear it.

"This statement was more for the American public than for the Italian public, and it was of such an unmistakable character that it should not leave any one in the dark as to the American position on secret agreements."

Rome Prepares to Greet Orlando

Continued from Page One

Cardinal Gasparri, the papal secretary of state, and the latter had an interview with Archbishop Ceretti, the under secretary of state, who recently visited America and talked with President Wilson.

Neither the cardinal nor the archbishop would express any opinion on the subject, saying their information was insufficient as to the real facts of the matter, but each expressed the hope that an adjustment would be reached so that a just and lasting peace would soon be concluded.

The decision of Premier Orlando to return to Rome from the Peace Conference was cheered by crowds in the streets here last night, the people applauding whenever the names of Italy, Fiume or Orlando were mentioned by the speakers.

All shops were closed during the evening. Telegrams from all the large towns of Italy report great demonstrations and much excitement. There is a universal protest against Mr. Wilson's stand against Italy's claim to the Dalmatian coast.

Editors Assail Wilson

The reply of Premier Orlando to President Wilson apparently has made a deep impression on the Italian press, and virtually every Italian newspaper devotes much editorial comment to the premier's statement.

The Populo Romano says:

"Italy replies as one man to her king and her government, who demand, with unswerving tenacity, their sacred and impregnable national rights."

After describing the premier's reply as a proud and thrilling document, the Corriere D'Italia says:

"The American people cannot be in agreement with a man who so haughtily arrogates to himself the right to decide the fate of Europe against the desires of its governments and its peoples."

The Idea Nazionale declares that not one Italian would dare to sign a peace as proposed by President Wilson.

The Italia considers that President Wilson has perhaps irremediably jeopardized the peace of the world.

The newspapers announce that patriotic societies are urging the Italian people to address an appeal to the American people and the American Senate and House of Representatives.

"Long live America! Down with Wilson!" was the watchword of various demonstrations in Rome last night.

"Italy," says the Epoch, "fought a desperate war and sustained heavy sacrifices for the purest ideals, the realization of which is jeopardized by the unreasonable obstinacy of President Wilson."

London, April 25.—(By A. P.)—Public opinion in Italy, according to a wireless message from Rome, is much excited against the Peace Conference for refusing to recognize the Italian claims. Apparently there is a complete truce in party politics, and the newspapers are unanimous in blaming the Allies. It is declared that feeling is running so high that it might have a disastrous influence on Anglo-Italian relations.

"The Italians consider they have been betrayed by the Allies," the dispatch says. "The whole nation is aroused and has rallied to the support of Orlando and Sonnino. There is a brave army ready to make every sacrifice for the realization of their program. Many popular demonstrations have taken place, and the watchword adopted is 'Fiume or Death!'

"If the conference does not accept the Italian point of view the situation will become extremely serious."

Premier Orlando's reply to President Wilson, which was printed in special editions of the Rome newspapers last evening, was soon in the hands of the excited populace, says a Central News dispatch from Rome today. The reading of the premier's statement evoked new outbursts of enthusiasm and processions were formed, which marched through the streets as on the previous night.

No Asbury Terrace Damages

In the matter of the opening of Asbury Terrace from Verbena street to Lakeside avenue, in the Forty-second Ward, the report of Viewers Charles W. Boger, William J. Kerns, and J. Parker Norris, Jr., was filed in Court of Common Pleas No. 2, in which they dismiss all claims for damages by abutting property owners.

Orlando Leaves Paris Council

Continued from Page One

the Italian parliament would also assent in arriving at such a settlement."

French Press Optimistic

The newspapers here are unanimous in the opinion that the departure of Premier Orlando from Paris does not constitute a rupture in relations. "It is not adieu," says the Petit Journal, "but au revoir."

The Petit Parisien is particularly optimistic, saying that the "critical tension exists no longer and there are several forms of compromise possible."

A part of the French press manifests some impatience that new complications should arise at the moment when the German plenipotentiaries are about to arrive. The Echo de Paris fears that, "as a sequel of the methods employed, all alliances may totter."

No Peace Delay, Says Temps

"The difference between the United States and Italy must be commented on in a spirit of conciliation," says the Temps in an editorial yesterday before Orlando left Paris. "Such is our duty as Allies and hosts. The French Government, the British, has striven to the utmost for four days to prevent the explosion. It has searched for a compromise which perhaps would have been easier to find had the Italians continued to participate in the deliberations. It has endeavored to delay publication of President Wilson's document."

The Temps then describes the present situation of the Adriatic problem, which, it says, in no way concerns Germany and hence the signing of the peace treaty by the German plenipotentiaries need not be delayed.

"If Premier Orlando returns to Rome," the newspaper continues, "his collaborators can remain here so that Italy can sign the treaty. The treaty with Austria-Hungary remains to be drawn up. The text of the 1915 treaty must represent Italy's territorial rights. On the other hand this treaty has no application as regards the United States, which neither signed it nor has recognized it."

The statement issued by Premier Orlando yesterday says nothing of the intention of the Italians to quit the Peace Conference. It merely states Italy's case concerning Fiume and the Dalmatian coast and does not appear in the form of an ultimatum.

Rebukes President Wilson

Premier Orlando declares that President Wilson's proclamation is an attempt to place the government in opposition to the people. "He is treating the Italians," adds the premier, "as if they were a barbarous people, without a democratic government."

The premier rebukes the President for addressing himself to the Italian people over the head of the Italian Government, and says he never considered America bound by the treaty of London, but that Italy's case is based rather on right and justice.

The premier says he has never denied that the pact of London did not apply to Fiume, but the Italian claim was based on the principles of President Wilson's fourteen points.

"Italy," says Premier Orlando, "requires for her safety not only the northern boundary of the Alps, but also protection on her eastern flank by the occupation of the line of Mont Nevoso. The right of self-determination should permit the population to have their wish to enter the Italian kingdom and to characterize Italy's aspirations to the Dalmatian coast, over which for centuries her influence has spread."

Reconsideration of Polish aspirations and claims relative to Danzig has resulted in a decision concerning the future status of that city, which goes further toward satisfying Polish demands than was contemplated sometime ago.

The "Free City of Danzig" will be created, not as a neutralized state, but virtually as an autonomous republic within the Polish state, contained within the Polish custom's union and represented in international relations by Polish diplomats. Its citizens will be entitled to diplomatic privileges held by the citizens of Poland.

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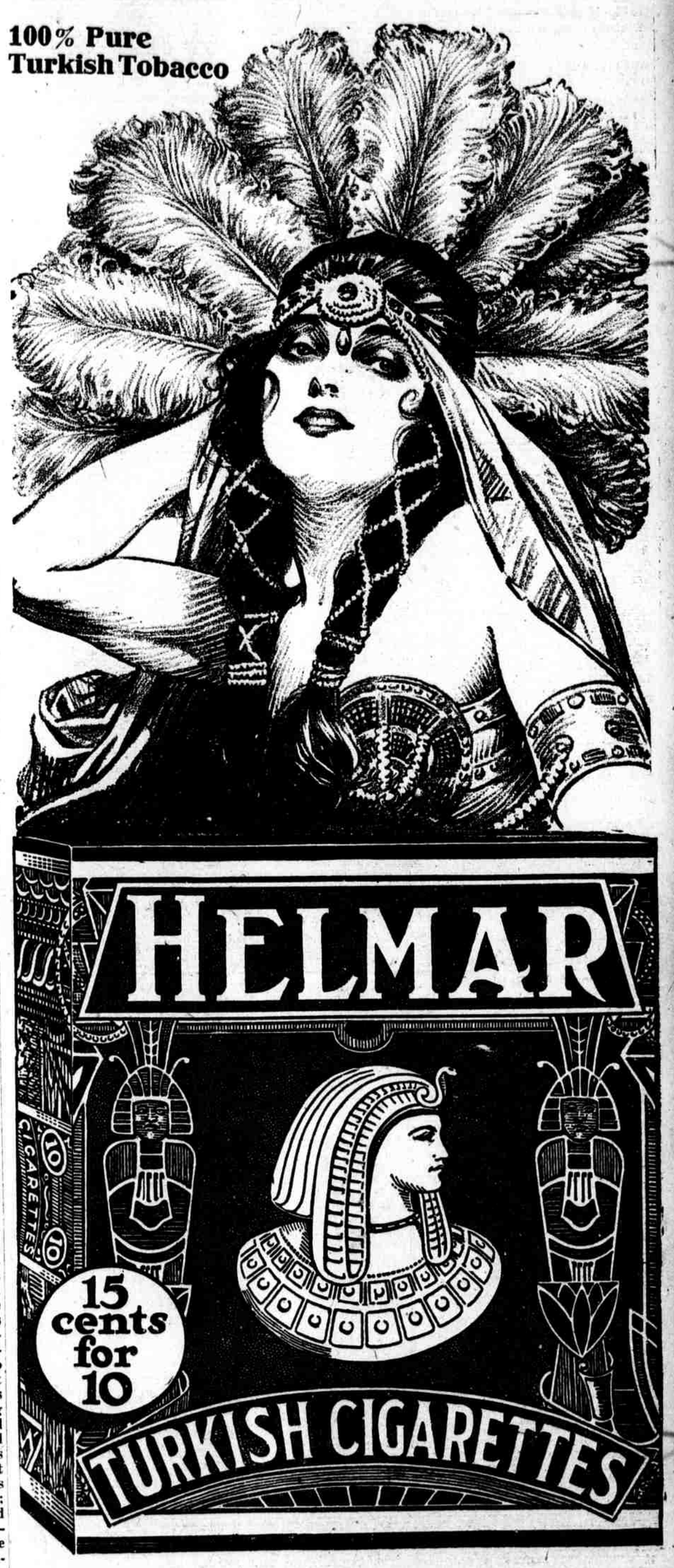

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