

DESCHANEL TAKES POINCARÉ'S PLACE

Becomes President of French Republic in Formal Ceremony at Elysee

AMERICAN AIRS BY BAND

By the Associated Press
Paris, Feb. 18.—Paul Deschanel today became tenth president of the French republic, succeeding Raymond Poincaré, who laid aside the robes of office after one of the most critical periods in the history of the country. The formal transfer from the old to the new regime occurred at the palace of the Elysee this afternoon.

The ceremony was favored by brilliant, springlike weather, and Paris wholeheartedly improved the occasion to pay homage to both the incoming and outgoing executives, between whom, to all appearance, the honors were impartially divided.

The inauguration of the French president is a formal ceremony, arrangements for which are made long in advance of the event. Precedents having historic approval are closely followed and the number permitted to witness the transfer of authority is limited to the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, committees from each house and members of the cabinet.

Millerand Calls for President
Among the early arrivals at the palace in preparation for the ceremonies were President Raoul Peret, of the Chamber of Deputies, and his colleagues from the lower house, who were closely followed by Leon Bourgeois, president of the Senate, and officials of that body delegated to attend the inauguration.

In carrying out other preliminary details of the program Premier Millerand shortly before the hour set for the ceremony drove to the Palais Bourbon, where, as president of the chamber, M. Deschanel has maintained his residence, and called for the president-elect. Entering a state carriage and preceded by a regiment of cuirassiers and followed by a flag bearer, they drove to the palace where the ceremony was to take place.

With the arrival of M. Deschanel at the Elysee the formal transfer of power took place, although at midnight last night the reins of authority had automatically passed from M. Poincaré to his successor. On the conclusion of the formalities President Deschanel and ex-President Poincaré, with their escorts, were driven through the crowded streets to the city hall where they were received by the president of the municipal council, the prefect of the department of the Seine and the president of the general council.

Band Plays American Airs
Greetings were extended to the President and the retiring executive and a formal reception followed in which Paris society was liberally represented. It was noted that the band of this function played a number of American airs.

Notable persons present at the reception included former President Fallières, Marshal Petain, General Mangin, General Degoutte, General Bugat, the chief of staff, General Berdoulat, M. Peret and M. Bourgeois, presidents respectively of the Chamber and the Senate, and the members of the cabinet, headed by Premier Millerand and former Premier Painlevé.



Central News Photo.
GENERAL SEMENOFF
Who is reported to have been made successor of Admiral Kolchak in Siberia. He was formerly head of the late czar's bodyguard

KERENSKY IS JAILED IN CAUCASUS, REPORT

Ex-Premier Fails to Win Support for Russian Democratic Center Party

London, Feb. 18.—(By A. P.)—Alexander Kerensky, the former Russian premier, whose regime was overthrown by the Bolsheviks in November, 1917, has been imprisoned in the Caucasus, according to a Central News dispatch from Copenhagen, quoting the Estonian newspaper Varnias.

The message declares that Kerensky recently proceeded to the Caucasus on a British steamship to induce the non-Bolsheviks to support the Russian Democratic Center party. The Caucasian leaders gave him a cold reception, it is asserted, and on his arrival at Baku he was thrown into prison.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting between the Bolsheviks and separate enemy groups in the Tiraspol and Odessa regions is reported in an official statement issued at Moscow today. The statement continues:

"We have entered Ovidiopol (on the Black sea southeast of Odessa). We have evacuated Togaevskaya, twenty vests from Novosibirsk, under enemy pressure. In the direction of Krasnovodsk we have captured the island of Cheleken. The oil wells were found undamaged. Much booty was captured."

ROBBER SLAYS AGED WOMAN
Johnstown, Pa., Youth Finds Grandmother Stabbed to Death
Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 18.—(By A. P.)—Mrs. Rebecca Collier, aged sixty-eight, was murdered in her home near Hamilton Dam, on the outskirts of the city, last night, while her grandson, Roy C. Ashcomb, was at the home of neighbors. The boy found her dead in the midst of her small belongings, stabbed.

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COMMENTI CIRCA LA NOTA DI WILSON

L'Azione del Presidente e' Ovunque Severamente Biasimata in Europa

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Authorized by the act of October 3, 1917 in file at the Postoffice of Philadelphia, Pa.
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Roma, 18 febbraio.—L'America si avvia per una crisi tale, per una eccitata produzione, che essa avrà bisogno dei mercati europei, più che l'Europa abbia bisogno delle sue merci. Così, espone la sua opinione il "Popolo Romano" in un suo articolo, d'oggi, con il quale commenta la nota del Presidente Wilson relativamente alla sistemazione della questione Adriatica. Il giornale fa premere ai Senatori degli Stati Uniti Lodge, Sherman Knox, che rappresentano la forza della maggioranza del Senato, di prevenire l'ingerenza di Wilson negli affari europei. Il giornale aggiunge:

"Il Segretario Lansing si è dimesso troppo tardi. Egli era un integro, coscienzioso e leale uomo fino a che andò a Parigi, ove divenne l'istrumento cieco del Presidente Wilson, perdendo la stima degli amici e degli avversari. Mr. Lansing, Henry White e il Generale Bliss furono in fatto delle semplici marionette le quali erano mosse a piacere dal direttore di palcoscenico al teatro di Versailles. Nello stesso tempo il Colonnello House ebbe l'imbarco di

negoziare gli affari esteri, non per l'America, ma per il Presidente Wilson. "Mr. Lansing, assistito da un competente seguito, ripare parecchi sbagli del Presidente. Egli si oppone alla Lega delle Nazioni e favorì l'idea di un tribunale internazionale sufficientemente forte per passare validi verdetti. Egli difese dal Presidente relativamente ai mandati per la questione russa, in questione Adriatica e sul problema della Turchia. L'assunzione di potere e' sconosciuta nella storia d'America, ed il Presidente agì senza il consenso del solo corpo che aveva il diritto di darlo—il Senato ed il popolo americano."

Il giornale d'Italia rileva che con la sua venuta in ballo il Presidente Wilson si arroga la posizione di arbitro infallibile. Il giornale continua dicendo: "Gli Alleati intendono che ciò che il Presidente Wilson fa oggi per la questione Adriatica e' una forma di donazioni riguardo all'Albania ed alla Russia ed in qualsiasi altro grave problema sul quale la Conferenza non ha ancora raggiunto la soluzione, problemi che sono di sommo interesse per l'Europa."

Telegrammi da Londra recano che il risentimento nei quartieri italiani riguardo l'azione del Presidente Wilson e' forte. Non ufficialmente si parla di un attacco sopra l'Italia ed il memorandum del presidente e' ritenuto come un ultimatum.

Il "Daily Mail" di Londra dice che la nota del Presidente Wilson, ricevuta venerdì, causò costernazione in Inghilterra, Francia ed Italia. Dice che in replica a detta nota e' in termini tali da essere pienamente giustificata.

Defends Medal for Scott
Washington, Feb. 18.—Defending the award of a Distinguished Service Medal to General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff during the early part of the war, General March, chief of staff, told a House war investigating committee that "it was the force of Scott that carried through the selective service draft."

PAYNE WANTS BIDS ON SHIPS REJECTED

Shipping Board Tells Senate Committee Higher Offers Can Be Obtained

CONTROL UP TO CONGRESS

By the Associated Press
Washington, Feb. 18.—Rejection of all bids received for the thirty former German passenger liners offered for sale by the shipping board was recommended to the Senate commerce committee today by Chairman Payne of the board.

Mr. Payne requested authority to renew negotiations for sale of the vessels for operation under the American flag.

Board's Recommendation
The board's recommendation was contained in the following resolution submitted to the committee:

Resolved, That with the report submitted the bids to the Senate and House committees the board states that it proposes to take the following action:

The board believed that in view of the uncertainty as to whether the sales of the ex-German ships would actually be made, the bids received are much less than can be obtained by further negotiations.

Resolved, That the bids received on the 20th of January in response to the advertisement of sealed bids and that the force of Scott that carried through the selective service draft."

and the same are hereby rejected, and that the checks of the bidders be returned.

Resolved further, That the sales division be and it is hereby instructed to negotiate further for the sale of the said ex-German passenger ships on the terms heretofore announced in the original advertisement; that is:

(a) That they be sold to American firms, corporations or persons for use under the American flag.

(b) And offered with reference to the routes or services established by the board and that each negotiation, when the highest price possible is reached, be reported to the board for its action.

The resolution was embodied in a prepared statement which Payne read to the committee. He recalled that the board had sold 188 ships in accord with its policy to dispose of the fleet to American citizens for operation under the American flag, and that eighteen former German cargo vessels were included in this number. The price received was \$93,545,947.

Alternative Proposed
Chairman Payne said if Congress decided to change this policy to public ownership of ships the passenger liners should not be sold and Congress should direct the board to spend the \$75,000.

4000 estimated as necessary to convert them from troop to passenger vessels.

Payne said passenger ships were scarce now and building prices high, but that these conditions might change and the value of the ships be correspondingly lessened. "Our conviction is that we will not hereafter be able to sell the ships for the cost of reconditioning plus the price at which we can now sell," said Payne.

Questioned as to the possibility of the vessels ultimately being sold to foreign interests, Chairman Payne told the committee the ships could not be transferred from under the American flag without permission from the shipping board.

CANDIDATES OPEN FIGHT

Lowden Invades South Dakota. Wood and Johnson to Follow

Sioux Falls, S. D., Feb. 18.—(By A. P.)—Governor Frank A. Lowden, of Illinois, minority Republican candidate for President in the March 23 primaries, arrived in Sioux Falls today to open his campaign in this state with a speech here tonight. He is the first 1920 Presidential candidate to speak in South Dakota, and will deliver five addresses while in the state.

Major General Leonard Wood, majority Republican candidate for President, will open his South Dakota campaign at Yankton on February 24. Senator Hiram W. Johnson, of California, independent Republican candidate, is expected to trail General Wood within the next two or three weeks.

SEBASTOPOL IN PANIC
Frenzy to Escape Bolsheviks May Repeat Horrors of Odessa Massacre
Constantinople, Feb. 18.—(By A. P.)—The population at Sebastopol has become so panic-stricken over the Bolshevik menace that there is danger of a repetition of the events that took place in Odessa when the Reds captured that city recently.

Refugees, telling of their last hours in Odessa harbor, say the crews of ships were compelled to turn machine guns on the crowds to prevent their overloading and sinking refugee vessels about to depart.

The Bolsheviks had begun taking the piers at Odessa with machine-gun fire when fully 5000 persons were still trying to escape.

It is asserted by the refugees that when the foreign warships left Odessa many women drowned themselves and officers committed suicide.

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