

DEBT CANCELLATION BY U. S. UP AGAIN

Prospective Writing Off of French Obligations to Britain Revives Question

WILL AWAIT RESULT ABROAD

By CLINTON W. GILBERT
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Washington, July 18.—The plan to cancel the war debt of France to Great Britain in consideration of France's reducing the reparations due from Germany to herself will bring up sharply the question of what this country is going to do about the Allied debt to itself.

It will be difficult for the Administration to maintain long its position that this debt must be paid after the first steps have been taken abroad toward wiping out the unliquidated claims under which the world is just now staggering.

The first form in which this question will present itself will be whether the debt to us in consideration of a further reduction in German reparations. Morally it will be hard to be a lender-creditor of France that Great Britain has been.

And virtually economists say a cancellation of Great Britain's loan to France, which will undoubtedly be followed by a similar cancellation of the debts of Italy and the other financially weak countries of Europe to Great Britain, will have so unfavorable an effect upon rates of exchange between Europe and this country that we should be forced as a matter of self-protection to cancel the debts of the same countries to us.

Believe U. S. Will Follow

The dispatches from abroad all indicate a belief here that the United States will soon follow Great Britain's lead in the present negotiations looking to a reduction of German reparations and a wiping out of the French debt to itself.

Probably nothing will be done here on the subject of the foreign war debt until after election. The Administration has its hands full with the strike and with coming campaign. The public mind will have to be educated to understand and approve the objects of cancellation. And all this will take time. The Administration will not care to go to the polls in November explaining and defending debt cancellation.

The only way in which a sensible adjustment of all the tangled claims which the war left can be brought about is by England's taking the first step with France for an amending of its claims against her in consideration of her corresponding cutting down of France's claims against Germany. England has had this in mind a long time, but hoped for joint action with the United States toward this end.

But the people of this country will only be brought to see the advantages of debt cutting if the English-French program produces the good results which it is expected will spring from them.

Putting House in Order

On this question the Administration attitude has been that Europe must first set its house in order and then that this country would help. The proposal to cut reparations and debts is the first serious step toward putting the European house in order.

The first result that may be expected to spring from it will be the stabilizing of conditions in Germany. And no doubt the danger of revolution there as a result of the country's virtual bankruptcy is one of the main factors leading to the movement just now. A smash-up in Germany would cause serious economic consequences in Great Britain. And a revolution in Germany will cause a great anxiety in France.

Another gain will be improved relations between France and Germany. The great debt of Germany to France, rather than the fear of a war of revenge is what is promoting justice here.

FIND SLAIN WIDOW GUILTLESS VICTIM

Bought Own Auto and Tires With Husband's Legacy, Bank Finds

HAMMER USER INDICTED

Los Angeles, July 18.—Mrs. Clara Phillips, accused of brutally murdering a young woman she suspected of stealing her husband's legacy, learned yesterday she had no cause for murder, no cause even for suspicion, instead of all at once, which will be the easiest way for us to face it.

And the question of cutting or cancelling the Allied war debt will be put up to us presently, instead of all at once, which will be the easiest way for us to face it.

FRENCH RECOGNIZE NEED OF REDUCING INDEMNITY

Republic at Last Converted to Idea of Giving Germany Relief

Paris, July 18.—(By A. P.)—Final settlement of the German reparations problem is beginning to be publicly recognized in France as inevitable. The proposal to reduce the German indemnity to fifty billion gold marks, to cancel the French debt to Great Britain and to conclude the long-pending Anglo-French defensive alliance has become such a constant subject of discussion in reparations circles that newspaper and political experts, although still differing in their opinions, are beginning to accept as a foregone conclusion that there must be some such adjustment.

The French Government is holding out vigorously for a formal declaration by the Reparations Commission that Germany has voluntarily defaulted, but some of the French newspapers are now joining in saying that the German financial catastrophe must be averted first and that the question of Germany's guilt must be determined later.

French leaders are shouting under recent foreign criticism that France is blocking an obviously necessary readjustment, and demand as a preliminary to a possible revision of reparations that the Allies at least should justify France in the eyes of the world to the extent of placing the blame squarely upon Germany.

MAY RETURN FOOD PROFITEERS' FINES

Law Under Which Firms Were Convicted Has Been Declared Unconstitutional

BILL WOULD RESTORE SUMS

Washington, July 18.—If the advice of the Department of Justice is followed, all the fines imposed upon food profiteers through the agency of the Lever law will be returned to the men and firms convicted of profiteering.

Acting for Attorney General Daugherty, Robert H. Lovett, assistant attorney general in charge of claims, has recommended to the Senate Committee on Claims that a bill introduced by Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, returning the fines, be enacted.

Judge Lovett takes the ground that, as the United States Supreme Court has declared Section 4 of the Lever law unconstitutional, it will be impossible for the Government to defend its right to hold the fines imposed under the law.

As it now stands, the profiteers who were fined are allowed under the law to sue the Government for the fines. The total amount of fines and costs imposed on the profiteers was \$27,183,055, of which \$121,883,35 has been collected.

No Action Yet Taken

Senator Capper said last night that no action had been taken on the Elkins bill. There is considerable opposition to the measure, and also to the suggestion of Judge Lovett. Some members of the Claims Committee take the ground that, even though the section of law has been declared unconstitutional, the evidence in some of the trials showed that actual profiteering in foodstuffs existed in a time of war, and therefore the Government should not return the money without protest. Other members say that fines collected by the Government under a law substantially declared illegal should be given back.

The suggestion of returning the fines was made officially to the Department of Justice when Senator Capper forwarded a copy of the Elkins bill, with a request for copies of papers from the files relating to the subject and another request for an opinion on the bill.

In response to this letter Judge Lovett wrote that three actions had been instituted in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York at Buffalo, in which the petitioners sought to recover the amount of the fines imposed and paid under section 4 of the Lever act.

Fine Ordered Returned

"In one of these suits," said Judge Lovett, "the District Court rendered judgment in favor of the claimant and directed the United States to pay the claimant the sum of \$200, which was the amount of fine which had been imposed and paid. In two of the suits the Government has filed demurrers to the petitions, with a view of determining whether the United States District Court, sitting as a Court of Claims, has jurisdiction of suits of this character, and it is expected that the argument of these demurrers will take place in the near future.

The Department has given very careful consideration to the legal questions involved in this class of litigation, and it is very questionable whether the Government will be able to interpose successful defenses to these suits. I further beg to advise that, even if the Government should prevail in these cases, the time and labor of the Court and counsel would be taken up in the numerous trials and the expenses of the Government in defending these cases would be thereby considerably increased. There is also the further possibility that many applications will be made to your committee for refund of the amounts of the fines which were imposed and paid.

GREAT ICEHOUSE BURNS

Plant of American Company at Pennsburg Set on Fire by Lightning

Pennsburg, Pa., July 18.—Two and a half hours after lightning struck the large icehouse of the American Ice Company, of Philadelphia, at Palm last night flames broke out and destroyed the building, which was 300 feet long and 90 feet wide, and a height of 42 feet. Ten thousand tons of natural ice ready for shipment for use in Philadelphia were destroyed. The loss amounts to more than \$100,000. The fire was visible within a radius of twelve miles, and thousands of persons came by automobile, with the result that traffic was blocked for more than an hour.

WIFE AND NINE CHILDREN GREET ELOPING MINISTER

Ohio Pastor Who Fleed With Back Home and in Jail

Back Home and in Jail

Xenia, O., July 18.—(By A. P.)—Mrs. W. W. Culp, wife of the former pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Spring Valley, and nine youthful children, deserted by their minister almost a month ago when at the station here last evening when the station office J. E. Watts, returned from Port Huron, Mich., with the minister, who will have a hearing on a charge of desertion in probate court here today. He was captured in company with the girl last Friday in the county jail last night. Culp said he was willing to go back to his wife and children, despite statements to the contrary.

"I am willing to return to my wife and children," he said, "and I will give up the girl. I did not love my wife when I married her. She was not a Christian, and although I attempted to convert her, I could not do so. When which I do not think a Christian should do. I want to go back to my wife because she is the mother of my children."

Mrs. Culp said she was ready to forgive her husband, provided he would return to her and act as a father should.

FRENCH STEAMER PREY OF PIRATES

Officers Overpowered, Valuable Taken From Passengers and Landing Forced

EIGHT TAKEN PRISONERS

Paris, July 18.—Eight citizens of the Georgian republic are scheduled to appear in the Assizes Court at Aix-en-Provence next Thursday, to answer to a charge of piracy on the high seas which, according to reports from eye witnesses, could not have been carried more perfectly had it been rehearsed a dozen times.

At 8 o'clock in the evening on May 6, 1920, the following events occurred on board the French steamship Souirah, which two hours earlier left Batum for Trebizond.

With absolute simultaneity, two men appeared on the captain's bridge. One of them leveled a revolver at the officer on duty and the other pointed his weapon at the man at the wheel. Two others took possession of the telegraph office while shots were heard in various parts of the ship, throwing the passengers into a panic.

The captain rushed to the aid of his second officer and found him struggling with four men, who turned their attention to the captain, while two more appeared just behind him.

The hand went through the passengers' possessions thoroughly, placing jewelry and other valuables in sacks. The captain was then compelled to order the crew to steer for Kloner, where the pirates expected to be met by a motorboat, which failed to appear.

Thereupon the captain was forced to order two boats lowered to take the pirates with their booty ashore. When these boats returned, the Souirah was able to resume her journey to Trebizond at 2 o'clock the next morning.

The pirates, after landing, proceeded with a preliminary division of their

TO CONTRADICT WITNESS

Manhandling of Cantor in Obsolete Chain Trial Denied

Los Angeles, July 18.—(By A. P.)

Witnesses to contradict Abe Cantor, who testified for the defense, will be called by the prosecution in the trial of Mrs. Madalynne Obenchain for the murder of J. Belton Kennedy, it was said today.

Cantor testified yesterday that members of the District Attorney's staff had "manhandled" him and demanded he change testimony he gave at the first trial of Arthur C. Borch, jointly indicted with Mrs. Obenchain.

REFORM WAVE AGAIN HITS JERSEY BUNGALOW COLONY

Rigid Rules Laid Down for Sojourners at Washington's Crossing

Entertains Children on Birthday

Slayer Still Smiles

Had Casual Meeting

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