League's Part in Stopping War In South America Told by Briand

Acceptance of Its Advice by Bolivia and Paraguay Reenforces Its Prestige.

Geneva.—Aristide Briand's letter to members of the Council of the League explaining the steps which he took as its acting president in the Bolivian-Paraguanyan dispute reveals how closely M. Briand on his return to Paris kept in touch with the respective Governments of the United States, the Argentine and the Latin-American members of the Council in order to co-ordinate the efforts of all parties who were working for peace.

From this it may be assumed that if the crisis had not been settled, the Council of the League would have appealed to the United States and to the South American states who are members of the League, to isolate the conflict by severing financial and economic relations with the quarreling states. For they would have broken not only the Covenant of the League, but their moral obligations to renounce war under the Kellogg Pact, for the signing of this treaty, which conveys the intention to ratify, undoubtedly implies a moral obligation to observe it.

Effect of Kellogg Pact

Without pushing the argument too far, it is felt here that since the Council's efforts to preserve peace had throughout the approval of the United States, states which break the Kellogg Pact, even at the present stage, may expect to find themselves up against joint pressure by the League and the United States for the prevention of war.

The Bolivia Paraguay incident, therefore, is regarded as affording additional reason for early ratification of the Kellogg Pact by all concerned, for if the pact has moral significance in the present circumstance, how much more weight would it have after ratification!

States Recognize League's Authority

It is interesting to note that all through the exchange of notes the Latin-American states recognized the authority of the League and their obligation under the Covenant. M. Briand, while recognizing the part the United States and the Latin-American states played, is naturally proud of the fact that Bolivia and Paraguay should say that it was in accordance with suggestions from the Council that they had recourse to the arbitration of the Pan-American Conference. He is naturally anxious to make it plain that it was not only the generous action of the Pan-American Conference that prevented war, but that the League must be given its full share of credit in the matter.

Congratulatory telegrams sent to M. Briand include messages from Guatemala, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and Mexico. Costa Rica speaks of the prompt, efficient action of the League, while Uruguay alludes in glowing terms to the lofty part played by the League and the prestige which the Council gained from the prevention of war.

Kabul Air Exploit Stirs British Pride

Plane Rescues of Foreigners May Have Averted Costly War, Military Experts Say

RULER ACTIVE

London.—The exploit of those modern Paladins, the flying officers in the Royal Air Force, who rescued the foreign residents in Kabul from the perils of the civil war raging there over Amanullah's impetuous reforms, has stirred British pride during the week just past. More than that, according to the military authorities, it has probably prevented a troublesome border war, which would have been costly to Britain in money and lives.

In days not long gone the Empire would have needed to send a strong expeditionary force north from India to protect her nationals in Afghanistan. Two divisions, it is estimated here, would have been the smallest force capable of doing the job, for the military authorities say the border tribs near the Khyber Pass would undoubtedly have risen against invaders falling on their rear—a line of communication strongly held. It would have meant long, hard fighting, with the safety of those women and children in the legations in Kabul always a matter of doubt.

Thus, the advance in aeronautics has cut the Empire's risks of border wars in the unsettled Orient and Near East. Troop-carrying planes are being added in numbers to the small air force stations in Iraq and Egypt. The days when Chinese Gordon waited vainly and valiantly in Khartoum for relief which arrived too late are gone. Never again will a small outpost of British civilization, like that of Lucknow during the Sepoy rebellion, endure an agonizing siege till the sound of bagpipes tells it the fighting Highlanders have arrived at last.

Britain's flying knights brought French, German and Italian women safely from Kabul to Peshawur, thereby writing a fair paragraph in the current history of European reconciliation. The Italian Charg d'Affaires in London called at the Foreign Office to express his nation's appreciation of England's aid.

Amanullah Busy

Reliable information from Afghanistan that Amanullah, partly by repulsing an attack made by the rebel Bachai Saqao upon Kabul, partly by a series of concessions to Mulhammadan feeling, has for the time being regained at least much of his old ascendancy. These concessions are variously reported.

They are understood definitely to include such steps to orthodoxy as the closing of girls' schools in Kabul, also reversion to the observation of Friday instead of Thursday as the official Sabbath, and the formation of a council on which the mullahs (Mulhammadan priests) as well as sirdars (hereditary nobles) and malliks (tribal chiefs) are to sit. The buying off of some of the powerful Shinwari tribesmen who have been in revolt in Eastern Afghaniston since November is also reported, but the information in this case appears to be less dependable.

What is regarded as certain, however, is that communication both by road and telegraph between Kabul and Kandahar has been completely restored, and the raising of one man in eight to serve as levies is going on over the area with a view to strengthening the forces with which the King hopes to take the field against the Shinwaris in the spring when the snow melts in the mountain passes, also possibly at an earlier date against Bachai Saqao, who still holds his position 20 miles north of Kabul.

Little importance is attached here to the story from India of the disappearance from Allahabad, where for many years he has been a refugee, of Omar Khan, Afghan representative of the royal family of Ayub Khan, who was defeated by Amanullah's grandfather in 1881. This family, though once exceedingly influential as claimants to the Kabul throne, has now been so long exiled that it has lost much of its prestige.

Amanullah's problem is thus nearer home, and despite the optimistic communiques daily issued from the Afghan Legation here is not considered in informed circles by any means yet solved.

Afghan Mullahs Now Negotiating With Amanullah

Move Considered Important in Effort to Restore Peace With Tribes

London.—Refugees from Afghanistan continue to reach India in British troop carrier airplanes which have been able, despite four inches of snow, to land and take off in Kabul airdrome, where they have been cordially assisted by the Royal Afghan Air Force.

About 80 women and children in all so far have arrived, including the Italian Minister's wife and the families of Indian, Persian and German businessmen, who themselves are remaining at their posts.

Kabul itself is now quiet and Amanullah is reported to have opened negotiations with recalcitrant mullahs (Muhammadan religious teachers) who regard social reforms as interfering with their own traditional authority. This is considered here as an important move, as the mullahs are still the main political force among the tribesmen in revolt.

Year Opens With Bad Storms

Freezing Temperatures Taking Toll of Life in South Europe

Paris—Winter storms and freezing temperature spread death and damage through France, Italy and in the Mediterranean recently and the death toll was high.

It was feared that more than 70 persons might have met death in the regions affected by the gales and blizzards that continued to spread destruction after more than 24 hours of unabated force.

Shipping suffered severely along the French Channel and Mediterranean coasts and communications and transportation were hard hit.

Five deaths occurred in France. Snow continued to fall in many sections.

A report from Madrid said the steamship Malakoff foundered off Mahon, Minorca Island, and that 27 of the vessel's crew were lost.

Italy was still swept by severe storms and southern rivers were overflowing their banks in many places and the Tiber was showing a steady rise in Rome.

"Confound it!" cried a passenger who had been tumbled to the pavement by a motor-bus. "Can't you wait till I get off?" "Huh!" returned the conductor. "If you ain't off now you never will be."

Serious Business For Many Nations

ENGLAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER IN UNUSUAL POSE

Sir Austen Chamberlain vigorously debating a point with Herr Stresemann, M. Briand and others during the League of Nations' meetings at Lugano, Switzerland.

Pact With States On Niagara Has Historic Interest

Treaty Increasing Water Power is First Signed by United States Minister

Ottawa—A treaty permitting the increased diversion of water from Niagara Falls for power development puroses and for the building of extensive remedial works for the preservation of the scenic beauty of the falls, has been signed by W. L. Mackenzie King, Canadian Prime Minister, and William Phillips, United States Minister to Canada.

As recommended by the International Niagara Board, the amount of water allowed by the boundary water treaty of 1905, namely, 36,000 cubic feet per second for Canada and 20,000 for the United States, is increased for both countries by 10,000 cubic feet per second.

At the same time excavations and submerged weirs will divert some of the water from the deep channel to the bared flanks of the Horse Shoe Falls and the Goat Island Shelf and insure an unbroken crest line from shore to shore at all seasons. The cost of the remedial work is estimated at $300,000 for Canada and $1,450,000 for the United States, with approximately $1,000,000 of this latter amount required for the Chippewa Grass Island pool changes.

Particular interest attaches to this treaty as it is the first signed personally by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Canadian and British Governments and the first signed by Mr. Phillips since the appointment of a United States Minister to Ottawa.

Virulent Cholera Epidemic Raging

Half of Population of Travancore State, India, Have Perished

Bombay—A virulent cholera epidemic is raging in Travancore state, and 562 death occurred during the last week in December.

In many families, all the adult members were stricken, leaving the children destitute.

During the past four months, 7,880 have died from the disease among 14,000 who were sticken.

Colonel Lawrence Ordered Arrested By Afghan Leaders

"Arch Spy of World" Seen Behind Revolt Against Kabul

PRETENDER ESCAPES

Allahabad, India.—Afghan authorities have ordered the arrest of Col. Thomas E. Lawrence, famous British adventurer and army officer, on the belief that he has been assisting rebels in the present uprising to cross the frontier, according to advices received here.

Lawrence, known as "Lawrence of Arabia," because of his wartime adventures in the struggle to drive the Turks and Germans out of that peninsula, was described as "the arch spy of the world."

Photographs, supposed to be of Lawrence, were distributed among Afghan army commanders.

It was reported from Delhi that rumors were current concerning plans for a fresh assault on Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, which was successfully defended recently by government troops when insurgents attacked. The rebel tribesmen revolted against King Amanullah's reform laws.

The brigand leader, Bachhakao, was said to be collecting a fresh force of insurgents for a march on Kabul. The insurgents were reported better armed than the government troops.

TELEGRAPH LINE CUT

Apparently the situation had taken a serious turn. The Quetta telegraph line had been cut and only wireless communication with Kabul remained.

The escape of Mohammed Omar Khan, aspirant for the throne of Afghanistan, from Allahabad added to the complexity of the situation. Omar Khan had been retained here by British authorities.

Sir Austen Chamberlain

"Truvor" in the Fortnightly Review (London): Since the Locarno Treaty no longer considers himself a plodding diplomat, but a Bismarck impatient of advice. This attitude is encouraged by the French, who are able to inspire him with their own policy, knowing well that his obstinacy will he has given the impression that he prevent h'm from weakening.

Classics Urged For Recreation on Australian Farms

New Zealander Gives Son Classical Education for "Good Company"

Perth, Aust.—Prof. R. S. Conway, president of the Classical Association of Great Britain and Hulme professor of Latin in the Victoria University, Manchester, Eng., has been advocating very strongly the teaching of Latin in the higher schools throughout Australasia.

Professor Conway says that when he was in New Zealand a prosperous farmer said to him: "I have given my son a sound classical education. He intends to become a farmer, and as for the greater part of each day he will be alone I want him to be in good company." He deplores the fact that in two of the big public schools in Victoria Latin is not taught at all. Great attention was being given there to the teaching of French, which was of very little use in Australia.

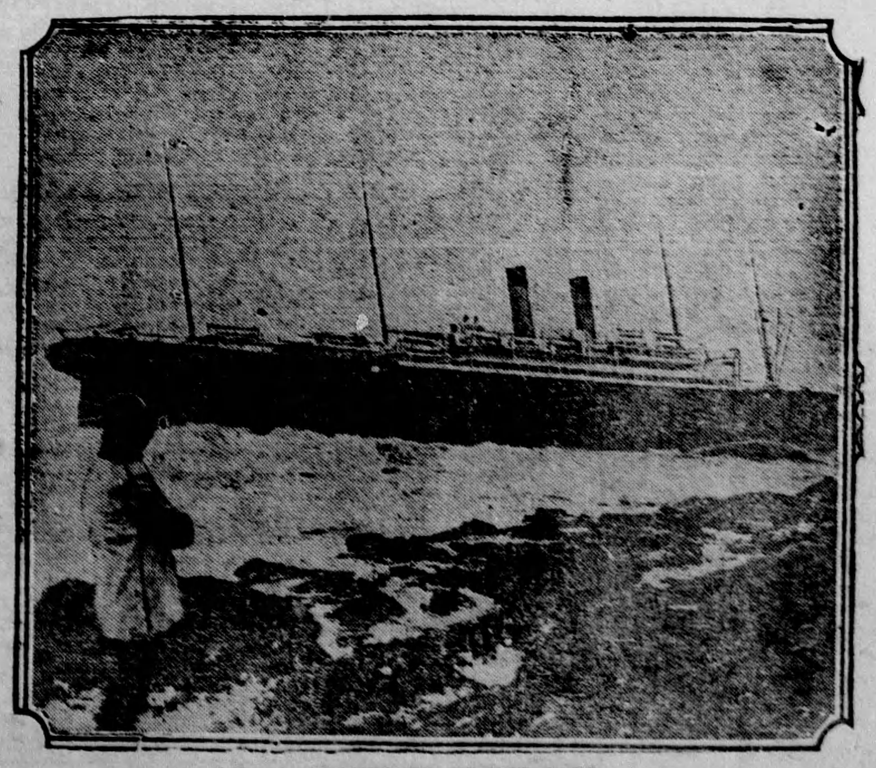
"Nothing but the study of a dead language can," he declares, "free the modern child from the slavery to mere words and formulas. Many French words may be learned without the child's ever having the slightest knowledge of the things for which the words stand, and the baffled state of ignorance thus occasioned often remains for a lifetime. French is only of very occasional use to the average man whereas Latin is of vital consequence to him every hour of the day because three-quarters of the English tongue has been derived from the Latin."

The growth of classical studies in England during the last half-century was, he added, amazing. Where as in 1880 there was only one English periodical devoted to classics and classical research, to-day there were six journals of that character.

Canon Tollington tells of a lady who asked one of her domestics, after the latter had returned from church, what the preacher had said. "Well, ma'am," was the reply, "I can't tell you all he said, but he did say that hell is not what it used to be."

"Cornet players," says a prominent physician, "are seldom affected by lung troubles." We feel confident, however, that there is some special punishment reserved for them elsewhere.

At Mercy of Seas



ABANDONED TO HER FATE

Lone sentinel is seen watching at Roches' Point, Queenstown, Ireland, waiting to give the signal to the lighthouse should the liner Celtic break up.

Large Casting Job For C.N.R. Engines

Work Involves Handling of 50,000 Pounds in Cast Steel

Kingston, Ont.—The largest casting job in the world will be handled shortly when the framework for the first of the five new Canadian National Railway's passenger and freight locomotives will come from the shops. These locomotives will be made at the plant of the Canadian Locomotive works at Kingston, and will be the last of an order of 30 locomotives of various types, which that company is building for the National system.

The order for 30 locomotives is made up of 10 switch engines of the 8350 type; 15 steam engines of the 4300 type, and five engines of the Northern type, which have been specially designed by Canadian National engineers and have the additional advantage of being convertible for both fast passenger and freight traffic. It is in casting the frame, cradle, crossties and cylinders that a new departure is being made in the industrial works, and one which industrial engineers believe will revolutionize not only foundry equipment but also its allied industries.

The casting job is one which involves the handling of approximately 50,000 pounds of cast steel, and includes the entire main and fundamental structure of one of the titanic steam engines of today, which, with tender, has a length of more than 92 feet and carries a weight of not less than 320 tons.

Channel Tunnel Topic Is Revived

Chances of Anglo-French Undertaking Seem Brighter

London.—The prospects for a tunnel under the English Channel were considerably brightened by the adherence to the idea of such prominent men as Lord Sydenham, Baron d'Erlanger and Sir William Bull. Lord Sydenham states that he intends strengthening the forthcoming action in the Commons by endeavoring to get the Lords to discuss the matter also, and he bases his advocacy of the proposed tunned on the argument that the Locarno and Kellogg pacts in existence, some faith should be shown in them despite the advice of military experts.

Moreover, as a fortifications expert, he declares it would be a simple matter to blow up the tunnel in the event of a threatened invasion from the continent of Europe.

Baron d'Erlanger looks to benefit the ferro-concrete and steel trades, while Sir William Bull thinks "there has never been so good a psychological opportunity as the present one."

Each of the three men estimates that the cost of constructing the tunnel would be in the neighborhood of $150,000,000 and that the gigantic task would take from four to six years, employing at least 4,000 men.

Coincident with this agitation, the Southern Railway announces it will reduce in the spring the time of the Dover-Calais crossing by 30 minutes.

New Value to Brazil's Wastes

Explorer Finds Vast Plains of Rich Land on the Border of Brazil and Dutch Guiana

Sao Paulo.—General Candido Rondon has penetrated into the unexplored region of Northern Brazil along the Dutch Guiana border.

The Federal Secretary of Agriculture in Rio de Janiero has received a telegram from General Rondon, who states that he has "reached the frontier and has discovered vast plains of rich pasturage. These plains occupy almost all of the northern plateau, perhaps exceeding 15,000 square miles.

General Candido Rondon is at present on his second trip of exploration to the comparatively unknown northern frontier of Brazil. He has a party with him, including a motion picture photographer. It is reported that one aim of his work is to survey this section of Brazil's boundary. It has been stated that his survey is purely a technical undertaking, as there are no disputes between Brazil and her northern neighbors.

The leader of this work, General Rondon, is the Brazilian army officer who was chosen to accompany Theodore Roosevelt as a guide, when the latter made his voyage down the River of Doubt.

The King's Recovery

New York Times: This modern "Sailor King" has struggled against odds back to life, back to his own people, who, though they live as did the Phoenicians "in the wash of the waves," "the outermost of men," are, as they, very "dear to the gods" and help mightily to hold up the pillars of the earth. His progress toward complete recovery has made a happier Christmas not only for his own people but for all the world, and warrants the hope that he may come forth, as did Ulysses from his sufferings, "greater and more mighty to behold."