

VERSAILLES

Where World Treaties Will Be Made



The Hall of Mirrors Where the Conference will Sit

AN INTIMATE DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT FRENCH PALACE WHERE THE TREATY ENDING WAR WILL BE SIGNED

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The peace conference to settle the momentous problems growing out of the world's greatest conflict will be held at Versailles. It is perhaps the most beautiful palace on earth located in an ideal spot within easy distance of the city of Paris.

It has been the scene of the signing of many important treaties affecting the destinies of nations. Here the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States was ratified on Sept. 30, 1783, and on that day Great Britain, France and Spain entered into an agreement restoring certain colonial possessions of France. But Versailles is the most appropriate place for the present conference because it gives to France the honor and satisfaction of feasting the situation of 1870-71, for on the same spot where Bismarck dictated his harsh terms peace delegates will meet out to the inhuman crushed Germans the justice which an outraged world demands as a righteous punishment. The meeting at this place will be a special humiliation to Germany, for it was in the very room where the conference will be held that King William of Prussia, grandfather of the ex-kaiser, was crowned on January 18th, 1871.

There is a small town near the palace whose principal reason for existence seems to be the palace, the large one and the two Trianons known as the Grand and the Little. The peace delegates will be lodged in the Grand Trianon, which is already being fitted with steam heat, bath rooms and all modern conveniences. It was the model for the French building at the St. Louis Fair, the structure being a faithful reproduction.

The Palace.

The Palace dates back to King Louis XIII, who was fond of hunting and had a small shooting box built on the site—a sort of rest house for himself and friends after a big hunt. Gradually it was enlarged and finally became the home of the court under

Louis XIV, who secretly married Madame de Maintenon, a beautiful woman forty-seven years of age. The Grand Trianon was built for her, and which is much smaller than Versailles it is quite as beautiful.

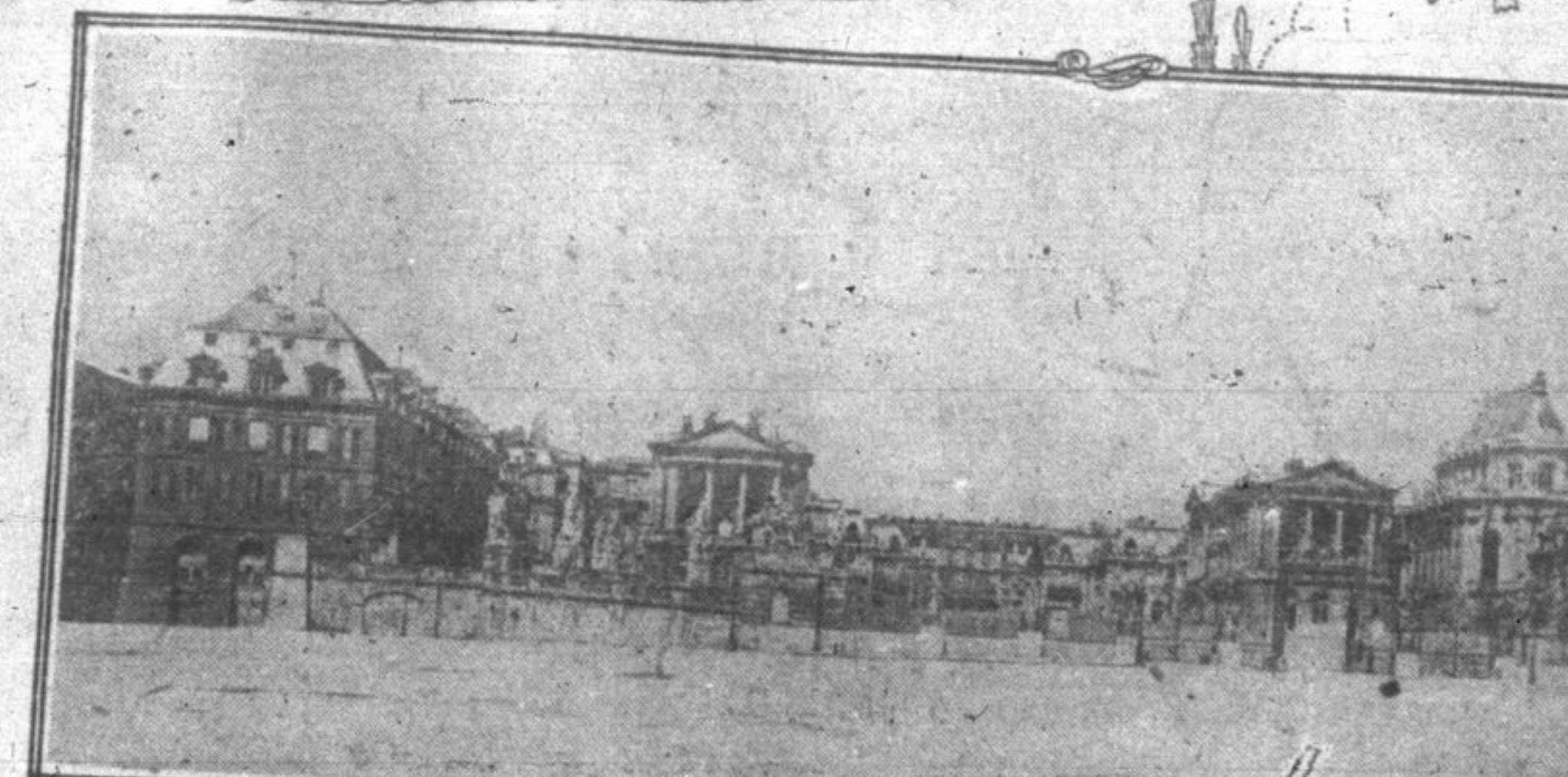
Louis XV also used Versailles. His king was under the influence of his mistress, the famous Madame Pompadour, and his extravagance through her influence made him very unpopular. He was always despised by his people. Then came Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, who enjoyed Versailles to the limit. The Little Trianon was built so that the Queen and her court might play at farming by pretending they were peasant girls. The revolution ended this king's reign and Versailles was no longer the home of kings.

Napoleon.

When Napoleon came into power he restored the parts of the palace that had been ruined by the revolutionists, for it is said that mobs surged through those magnificent halls and destroyed many beautiful decorations while France underwent a reign of terror. At present it is the headquarters of the French army, but is being "dressed" for the Peace Conference. The building is one of the greatest in the world, not only in size but in point of decoration, for some of the world's greatest artists have worked on its walls. Before the war it was open to visitors for a small sum. It cost France \$100,000,000.

The palace presents an imposing appearance when approached directly from the Avenue de Paris, where one sees huge statuary of various kinds, most of them being the work of great sculptors, but visitors usually enter at what is known as the Chapel entrance.

All along the corridor are famous paintings, so beautiful and rare that the visitor might spend weeks in their examination. The Hall of the Crusaders is next, and there we see huge pictures concerning the Crusade, among them "The capture of Jerusalem" and "Christians addressing



The Palace of Versailles Where the Peace Treaties Will Be Signed (Total Expense \$100,000,000)

thanks to Heaven." The whole room is elaborately decorated with the coat of arms of the Crusaders. The gallery of Sculpture is then shown, and although it contains heroic statues of the French kings, both in bronze and marble, the paintings are much more interesting.

Attempted Murder of Louis XIV.

We soon come to the great staircase of the Ambassadors, which was the court entrance of Louis XIV. Then we pass through another large room with the wall covered with paintings. This room used to contain a staircase named for the King. As he descended it in 1757 an attempt was made to assassinate him, and the would-be murderer was tortured in one of the guard rooms in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. There are any number of rooms filled with paintings of various periods, and finally we come to a curious set of pictures of royal residences well worth looking at if only to show the extravagance of the French kings. The room in which King Louis XIV died may be seen. Then there are more pictures, some very remarkable because they are by Madame Vigee Le Brun, who made a specialty of painting famous women. Several pictures of Marie Antoinette and her children by Madame Le Brun's brush hang in one of the rooms.

Another room shows a number of clocks, for it seems that this king was particularly fond of clocks, and had an entire room of curious ones all set to strike at the same hour. After a short walk through the arcade we come upon more pictures, many of these of Napoleon. There is also statuary—no piece especially interesting to the United States—it being a copy of the well-known statue of Washington by Houdon, a copy of the one which represents the State of Virginia in Statuary Hall at the Capitol at Washington. This was presented by that State and unveiled with great ceremony August 10th, 1916. Before the war some flowers were invariably found at its base, placed there by American visitors.

After going through many rooms we come to the great gallery of Battles, 390 feet long and filled with paintings and statuary—mainly busts of great warriors. There are many rooms here, and their brilliant decorations and many pictures dazzle the eye. Each one means much to the lover of French history, but the average traveller soon becomes weary, and wants to see some of the royal apartments.

The best rooms of the kings are shown perfectly restored by Napoleon; also those of Marie Antoinette, whose remarkable taste is shown in its decoration. There is a small passage connected with this apartment which the Queen used on October 6th, 1789, when she took refuge from the irate people.

There are wonderful libraries, grand living rooms of kings and queens filled with the most beautiful furniture and dishes of the period. The several council chambers, which will probably be used by the Peace delegates from time to time, are especially interesting. They contain rare old tables and chairs, with a great candelabra of the period. Of course, there is a magnificent clock. One of these rooms was used as King Louis XVI's study. Under Louis XV it was a favorite room of meeting between that king and Madame Du Barry.

Where Peace Conference Will Meet. The Hall of Mirrors, where the



One of the Council Rooms

A grand canal brings the water used from the nearby lakes and ponds, in the early days it was piped from the Seine and pumped from Marly. At present water is so scarce that the fountains play only on certain days, when it seems that all Paris goes out to see the extravagance of the early regime.

In 1855 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were received at Versailles with great ceremony. The newspapers of that day announced that the fountains played all day and that Napoleon III danced with the Queen at the ball at night, and afterward enjoyed an opera in the royal theatre at Versailles.

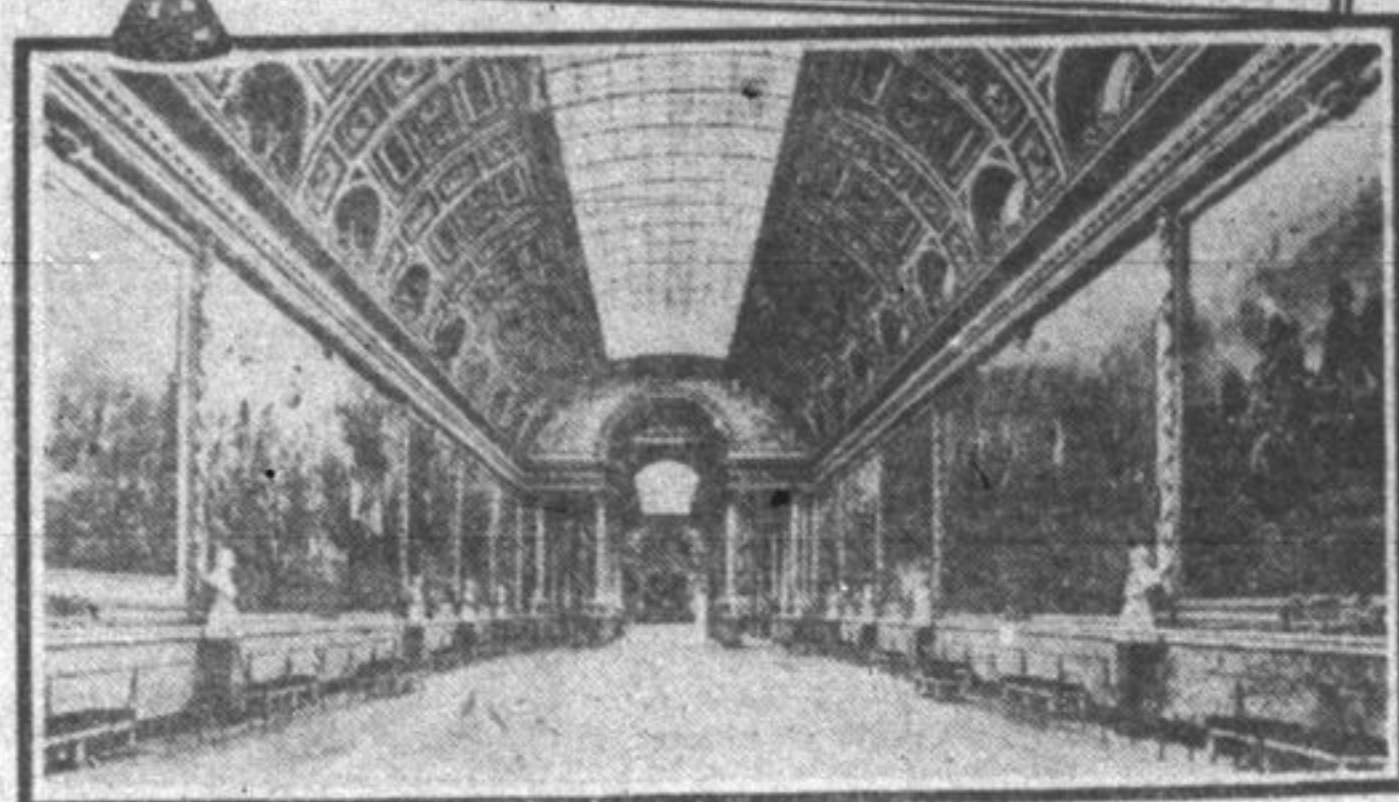
Grand Trianon.

The Peace delegates will lodge at the Grand Trianon within walking distance of the Palace at Versailles—the smaller place which contains a number of very comfortable bedrooms. There are rare Persian carpets, Turkish rugs and antique furniture of the most magnificent kind. There is a beautiful council chamber which would be known in America as a "living room" owing to its resemblance to a meeting place for the family, although the furniture is much grander and the decorations more brilliant than those found in America. There is a bedroom of Napoleon, the bedroom of Josephine, and the room which was occupied by Queen Victoria during her visit, which was re-decorated at that time. There is a beautiful dining room and up-to-date kitchen, where a French chef will be installed for the Peace meeting.

The stables are at this place where the state coaches have been preserved. The one used by Napoleon is especially fine in its gliding, but is said to compare with the British tanks for comfortable riding. However, it is not likely that the Peace delegates will be asked to take a ride in one of these glided coaches.

The gardens of the Grand Trianon are particularly fine, and nearby is the golf links, an eighteen hole course, used by many wealthy persons in the French social world. As this is President Wilson's diversion, he may take the opportunity of playing on this historic course.

The Little Trianon will play no part in the affairs of Peace, and the writer merely mentions it because it will be of interest as the playhouse of Marie Antoinette.



The Gallery of the Battles

Conference will be held, is perhaps the grandest of all the halls, and overlooks the palace gardens. It was used at one time for a state ball room. It is nearly 250 feet long, about 35 feet wide and forty-two feet in height. Seventeen large windows look out on the beautiful park and gardens. The walls facing the windows are covered with mirrors in gilded niches from which the room derives its name. In the days of the king, great fetes were held here.

Among them was the marriage of Duc de Bourgogne and the reception of the Ambassador of the King of Persia, at which time the throne was brought into the room. A number of paintings showing the peace pacts which have been signed there are on the wall.

Next to this wonderful hall is the Room of Peace, where the famous painting of France in a chariot drawn by four white horses is shown. This is the work of Le Brun, and is one of the most famous paintings of the hundreds in the palace. On the other side of the Hall of Mirrors is the Room of Mars. On the ceiling

Mars is seen in a chariot drawn by twelve. This picture is by Vofet, and is equally as famous as the one by Le Brun.

There are 166 rooms in the palace proper, and it would require page after page to do justice to their beauty and it is doubtful if the Peace delegates will be able, for lack of time, to study their beauty in all details.

Park and Fountains.

The park and garden is quite as wonderful as the palace, for the park was laid out by France's master gardener of that day, Le Notre, who was employed by Louis XIV to make the plans. Happily these gardens are the same to-day, and after looking upon them President Wilson will probably care little to look upon those surrounding the White House.

The great basins where the fountains play at certain times surpass anything of their kind in the world. The basin of the dragon and the basin of Apollo are the most beautiful.

NEWEST NOTES OF SCIENCE

For women's wear a bathing suit has been invented with a high neck and long sleeves made of a material which, though light, will prevent sunburn.

Brazil is equipping one of its important railroads with oil burning locomotives, and aims eventually to dispense with coal for such purposes. Ashes can be sifted as they are taken from a stove by a shovel that has a screen bottom, over which a plate of metal can be placed to handle coal.

A tiny electric oven to be placed in the platform of a microscope to heat or dry objects being examined is the invention of a European scientist.

A revolving base for typewriters has been invented to facilitate cleaning and oiling or to permit two persons to use the same machine at one desk.

Most of the carpets in India are made by boys, who are told by men watching them how many knots of

each color to tie to the warp, a single row at a time.

A London taxicab seems to have been made proof against overturning, no matter how sharply it is steered to the side, by the insertion of a third wheel under the front.

Mrs. Alice Carter, of Chicago, who has her husband and nine brothers in the war, is doing her bit by taking an office position so that a man could be relieved to go to the front.

For electric welding in places where current is not available, a combination of gasoline motor and generator, which can be carried on a truck, has been designed.

Twin rudders invented by a Boston man enable a motorboat to be steered in any direction, stopped or run backward without changing the forward speed of its engine.

All the odors of cooking are carried off into a chimney from a range invented in Paris which is enclosed with glass doors on the principle of the chemist's draft closet.

Driving power is supplied to all four wheels of a new road tractor, the front wheels being carried on a dirigible axle, on which is a sprocket mounted on a universal joint.

French experimenters are freezing fish into blocks of ice for transportation for long distances, the claim being made that they can be revived by slow thawing and sold alive.

Both the top and bottom brackets in a new car holder for arc lights in projecting lanterns can be adjusted horizontally as well as vertically to maintain perfect alignment.

Target practice without ammunition has been made possible by an Englishman who has invented a camera to be attached to a rifle to photograph a target as the trigger is pulled.

To keep piling free of barnacles and other marine organisms a Californian has patented a sort of wiper to surround a pile, supported by floats which the tides move up and down.

New South Wales is nearing the completion of its first large water conservation scheme: the erection of a dam that will impound more than 33,200,000,000 gallons for irrigation.

Operated by a pendulum swung by the side sway of a vehicle, a register has been patented that records every time a motor truck starts and stops, and the length of each idle period.

Guns that are automatically loaded with acetylene gas and discharged have been invented in Scotland for fog signals, wireless waves from central stations starting their mechanism.

The United States Department of Agriculture has imported specimens of a South American grain known as quinoa in the belief that it can be domesticated as a substitute for wheat.

Because some roads in Argentina

have deeper dust in summer and deeper mud in winter than any others in the world, the wagon used on them have wheels from six to fifteen feet in diameter.

What are known as black opals, among the most costly of jewels, are found in but one place in the world, a small tract of land in New South Wales.

A rustless metal cone supplies the moisture in a new envelope sealing machine so that there are no wicks to become gummed nor rubber bands to decay.

The plan which Switzerland now is

considering for the electrification of its railways contemplates an annual expenditure of \$5,000,000 for thirty years.

In one end of a new ironing board is a series of rollers that serves as a rest for flatirons to enable them to be pushed on or off work without lifting.

Berlin scientists have found that yeast, beside being useful in bread flavoring extracts, a muscle building tonic and a non-inflammable substance for celluloid.

The surface of a new grate which

admits a large amount of air to a fire without permitting fuel to fall through, consists of truncated pyramids, perforated on all four sides with numerous holes.

To foil robbers a New Mexico inventor has patented a banker's cage that instantly surrounds an occupant with bullet proof armor when he steps on a pedal, even if his hands be raised.

British experts who have been conducting a search for sources of fuel oils at home, claim that by carbonizing canal coal 1-4 tons of oil can be obtained from each twenty tons of coal.

FORMER LIBERAL MINISTERS DEFEATED IN BRITAIN



RT. HON. H. H. ASQUITH



RT. HON. REGINALD MCKENNA



RT. HON. C. F. O. MASTERMAN



RT. HON. WALTER RUNCIMAN



SIR JOHN SIMON



RT. HON. H. H. SAMUEL

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IF CONSTIPATED

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Nothing equals "California Syrup of Figs" for children's ills; give a teaspoonful, and in a few hours all the foul waste, sour bile and fermenting food which is clogged in the bowels passes out of the system, and you have a well and playful child again. All children love this harmless, delicious "fruit laxative," and it never fails to effect a good "inside" cleansing. Directions for babies, children of all ages and grown-ups are plainly on the bottle.

Keep it handy in your home. A little given to-day saves a sick child to-morrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," then see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company."

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