

GREAT POLITICAL BATTLE WAGING

The Struggle At Paris Centres Upon the Russian Situation.

HOW WILL NATIONS VOTE?

BRITAIN'S ASIATIC POLICY OBSCURE AT PRESENT.

There Are Three Groups Under the Influence of United States, Great Britain and France.

Paris, Jan. 18.—The greatest political battle of modern times is being fought out here. This struggle centres on the Russian situation.

The general question at stake is the right of a people to self-determination. The specific question is the application of this vital principle to Russia.

It was explained yesterday that the matter of sending an Allied commission to investigate Russian conditions is being held in abeyance because of the sudden realization in certain quarters that such a move would mean at least partial recognition of the present Russian Government.

Unless the delegates are able to devise some form of inquiry that would eliminate all possibility of its being construed as any form of recognition, it is possible that no investigation of Russian problems will be undertaken until after the full Peace Congress votes on it—and then only in case the advocates of an inquiry out-vote their opponents.

Russia's case puts on trial at the outset of these conferences the principle of self-determination, and it is certain to be a bitter fight, since it involves the question of the right of any nation to launch an entirely new form of government; in this instance in industrial democracy.

How Will Nations Stand? How will the twenty-eight nations represented at the Allied Conference line up when it comes to vote? Naturally no one can foresee with certainty, and much depends upon the particular issue involved.

France has been the strongest supporter of the Jugo-Slavs, they may reciprocate by supporting France.

The Polish Question. With regard to Poland the whole dispute as to whether the Pilsudski Government or the Polish national committee will be recognized as the real Government seems to be based on a struggle on the part of France to retain her influence over Poland through the Polish national committee.

Italy and France have some points in common, but they differ fundamentally on the bitter issue of the Jugo-Slavs. Japan may support France's European programme if France will support Japan in Asia against the probable programme of China, supported by the United States.

Britain has an alliance with Japan, but Australia and Japanese ambitions regarding Germany's old colonies in the Pacific clash. Britain's Asiatic policy therefore seems somewhat obscure at present.

It is doubtful if the conference can persist in the design to consider Serbia and Montenegro as separate states in recognizing the unity of the Jugo-Slavs, which seems to be firmly established in fact. Recognition of Jugo-Slav unity would reduce the total number of states represented to twenty-seven.

The Quebec Cabinet decided to grant a bonus of one month's salary to every employee of the civil service whose salary is not above \$1,600 a year.

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PROHIBITION MEASURE TO BE INTRODUCED

On Agenda For Coming Session of Parliament—Lively Fight Is Expected.

Ottawa, Jan. 18.—A measure of national prohibition will be submitted to parliament at the coming session, and if there were any doubt on that score, they are removed by the striking unanimity of the different states in ratifying the bone-dry constitutional amendment. The argument already is being advanced that what the United States has done, Canada must do or become the mecca of thirly mobs from across the border.

As the provincial enactments were good, so far as they went, but were not considered as going far enough, the Dominion government stopped in last year, banned interprovincial traffic, which the provinces were unable to do, and what was more effective, stopped the importation and manufacture of liquor. It was done as a war measure particularly to promote national economy, and the tenure of it was for the war and a year afterwards.

Doubt as to the constitutionality of the latter provision will necessitate the validation of the measure in the coming session of parliament, but in all probability it will be presented in a new form, going further than amplying the existing provincial enactments. There is also under consideration, as part of the prohibition legislation, a national referendum when the soldiers are back and things are stabilized to determine the permanency of the measure.

Later there has been talk at Ottawa of the restrictions producing a reaction in the country and of a consequent tendency towards modification. What is being done in the United States, however, undoubtedly furnishes an immense stimulus to the movement for a bone-dry law in Canada, and it is thither that things are drifting. Complete prohibition will not be enacted without a full discussion, however, and the opponents of it are preparing to put up the best fight they can, though the real battle would probably come at the time of the suggested national plebiscite.

BELIEVES GERMANY IS NEAR STARVATION

Marshal Foch Will Break Off Armistice If Terms Are Not Fulfilled.

Paris, Jan. 18.—Marshal Foch, according to Le Matin, will immediately break off the armistice with Germany if the conditions of the armistice are not fulfilled. The Allied commander-in-chief, the paper adds, does not believe that the Germans exaggerate when they cry "famine." The situation of the populations of Austria and Prussia, the marshal is quoted as saying, is near the starvation point. Germany still possesses an army, Foch declares, but the Allies hold the Rhine, which constitutes a formidable strategic barrier. Marshal Foch is said to have declared that he did not believe that the Bolshevik invasion through Germany to France was possible.

THE FIRST SESSION OF PEACE CONGRESS

Takes Place in Paris at Three O'Clock Saturday Afternoon.

Paris, Jan. 18.—All preparations had been completed early to-day for the holding of the first formal session of the peace congress at three o'clock this afternoon. The Salle d'Horloge, now rechristened Salle de la Paix, and one of the most splendid reception rooms in Europe, had been placed in readiness for the delegations of the various nations as they entered to inaugurate the sittings of the full congress, the entire chamber having been re-arranged for the special purpose to which it is now being put.

BLOOD FLOWS IN MONTENEGRO

Attempt By Serbians To Abolish the Sovereignty.

Paris, Jan. 18.—Bloody fighting, with heavy losses on both sides, has resulted from an alleged attempt by Serbians to forcibly abolish Montenegro's sovereignty, according to official dispatches received here today by Montenegrin representatives. Twenty thousand Montenegrins are said to have participated in an uprising against the Serbs.

The report that King Nicholas is opposed to inclusion of Montenegro in the proposed Jugo-Slav state is untrue, notwithstanding official Serbian pretensions to the contrary. Montenegrins here declare the king however, demands that a constituent assembly shall decide the sovereignty of the new state, rather than having it automatically come under the Serbian dynasty. The uprising is cited as proof that the majority of the people stand by the king.

Greece Demobilizing. Athens, Jan. 17.—The Greek army will begin demobilization later this month, when 90,000 men will be released. This will leave from 130,000 to 200,000 men with the colors.

UNBROKEN FRONT TO THE ENEMY

The Vital Importance of This Recognized By the Allied Ministers.

ALL QUESTIONS AT ISSUE

TO BE SETTLED BEFORE ENEMY DELEGATES ARRIVE.

The Russian Bolshevik Government Wants to Open Peace Negotiations With the Entente and to be Recognized.

Paris, Jan. 18.—The assembling of the first full session of the peace congress to-day with the prospects of a notable assemblage of statesmen making rapid progress with its work, seemed enhanced by the apparent defeat of Bolshevism in Germany, thus opening the way to the stabilizing of the Government and prospect of its being able to send responsible representatives to the peace conference. The congress is expected to devote itself singlemindedly to the creation of a league of nations, and the first steps towards the formation of that league, it is understood, will be taken to-day. All questions at issue, of whatever kind, will be settled before the enemy delegates arrive, Allied ministers recognizing the vital importance of presenting an unbroken front to the enemy.

Bolshevik Want Peace.

London, Jan. 18.—Foreign Minister Litvinoff of the Russian Bolshevik Government has made several proposals on behalf of the Soviet regime through the medium of a friendly emissary, for the opening of peace negotiations with the Entente, according to the Evening Standard to-day. None of these propositions, however, has been substantial enough to receive serious consideration either in Paris or London. The main conditions of the Bolsheviks are that their regime be maintained intact, and that their confiscation of property and money be recognized as lawfully-enacted measures.

PREFERENCE ON SUGAR

Jamaica May Build Great Sugar Factory Now.

Kingston, Jamaica, Jan. 18.—The Legislature yesterday debated the question of establishing the first large Government sugar factory at an approximate cost of \$300,000. In the course of the debate one member read an extract from a letter just received from the British Empire Producers' Organization.

"In reply to your letter of the 19th of November the terms of the letter from the Prime Minister to myself, which intimates that we shall be free to give preference on all duties which for our own purposes we have imposed, covers the case of sugar."

DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE.

Said That Liebknecht Was Deliberately Shot by Soldiers.

London, Jan. 18.—Independent Socialists at Berlin assert that Dr. Karl Liebknecht, who was shot and killed on Thursday, did not attempt to escape from the escort of troops, but was shot through the forehead at a few paces distance by soldiers' guarding him, according to a Copenhagen despatch.

WINGING WAY TO PEACE.

An Aerial Service Is to Join London and Paris.

London, Jan. 18.—A regular aerial passenger service between London and Paris, in connection with the Peace Conference, will be introduced Monday.

A number of airplanes have been fitted up for the service. They have a comfortable cabin for two passengers, including cushion seats and a table, entirely enclosed with glass. The airplanes will make the trip in two hours.

Belgium's Bill Against Huns. Amsterdam, Jan. 17.—Mathias Erzberger, chairman of the German armistice, has informed his Government that Marshal Foch estimated the restoration of Belgium would cost Germany \$15,000,000,000, and that other damage would amount to \$4,000,000,000. It was learned to-day the Allies also are said to have demanded possession of German railways and forests as security. Erzberger is reported to have declared it was impossible to accept this "severe economic conditions" on account of the unsettled political situation.

Portugal May Return to Monarchy. London, Jan. 18.—The possibility of Royalists seizing the present opportunity to restore the monarchy in Portugal was forecasted in an agency despatch from Madrid yesterday. It was stated that the fight between Democrats and Republicans for control of the Government has weakened their position to such an extent that the Royalists have a chance for a successful coup d'etat.

A movement is on foot in Jamaica to make Kingston a free port.

UNIVERSITIES WILL EDUCATE RETURNED MEN

The Government is Requested to Foot Expenses of the Universities.

Ottawa, Jan. 18.—Every university in Canada which is entitled to representation in the Conference of Universities of the Dominion is ready to assist to the utmost of its ability in providing educational facilities for all returned soldiers who desire and are capable of taking advantage of such facilities. The universities are of the opinion that the Dominion Government should become responsible for the expenses incurred by the universities in giving the returned men their education, or in completing courses which were interrupted by reason of the men enlisting.

These facts were brought out at an informal meeting held at the headquarters of the Repatriation Committee, which was attended by the heads of Canadian universities including Principal R. Bruce Taylor of Queen's. The problems raised have all been submitted to the Government for consideration. A committee was appointed to bring together representatives of every organization and profession interested in the problem of education, consisting of Sir Robert Falconer, Dr. Bruce Taylor, Dr. McLean, Dr. C. C. Jones, W. D. Tait, and Tom Moore, head of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress.

THE BOGEY OF HUN DELEGATE

Erzberger Says the Allies Are Not Proof Against Bolshevism.

PUTS QUESTIONS TO FOCH

"WHEN WILL YOU RAISE THE BLOCKADE?"

Mathias Entered Protest Against the Status in Which Germany is Left During the Armistice.

Amsterdam, Jan. 18.—The meeting between Marshal Foch and the German delegates was featured by protests by Mathias Erzberger, representing the Germans, against the status in which Germany was left during the period of the armistice.

"The financial and economic dictatorship of the Entente" was the theme of his main protest.

"When will you raise the blockade?" Herr Erzberger asked. "The food conditions in Germany are daily growing worse and hunger will produce a mental state which the Allies cannot desire. Your peoples themselves are not proof against a world revolution."

"Will the Entente," he continued, "undertake binding obligations respecting the return of the German prisoners of war? When will you be in a position to conclude a preliminary peace? Germany has asked six times for negotiations for a preliminary peace, but has received no reply."

Armistice Extended. Paris, Jan. 18.—An agreement for the renewal of the German armistice, signed by Marshal Foch, Admiral Browning and the German armistice commissioners on Thursday, provided for the renewal of the armistice from time to time after the month for which the extension runs, until the conclusion of peace, subject to the approval of the Allied Governments.

NINE BIG BRITISH BOATS Are to Bring American Soldiers Back From Europe.

New York, Jan. 18.—Nine British vessels with a total carrying capacity of 27,750 men have been placed at the disposal of the American Government for the transportation of troops home. It was announced here today by British Ministry of Shipping. These vessels are the Caronia, Adriatic, Minnekahda, Celtic, Capocic, Saxonis, Pannonia, Cedric and Orca.

In addition, it is announced, the Olympic, Mauretania and Aquitania, three of the largest British troop ships, will bring additional American troops home during February.

The Olympic and Aquitania have been employed in bringing home Canadian troops during the past months.

CHARGES WERE FALSE. Charles Humbert, French Senator, Was Not a Traitor.

Paris, Jan. 18.—Investigations have established the falsity of the accusations made against Charles Humbert, who was charged with communicating to Germany the contents of two documents relative to national defense.

Charles Humbert, member of the French Senate, and former editor of the Paris newspaper Le Journal, became involved during the trials of Bolo Pasha, who was executed for treason. Revelations during the inquiry into the Bolo Pasha case led to the arrest of Humbert, in whose newspaper Bolo Pasha had bought an interest with money that came from the German foreign office through banking houses in New York.

The Russian Bolshevik Government may negotiate with the Allies for peace and help in Russia.

The general peace conference will be open to the press, but the preliminary sessions will be secret.

Germany will hand over 55,000 farm machines of various kinds to Belgium and France.

RENT PAYERS STRIKE. Insisted on Hot Water Supply and Won the Case.

New York, Jan. 18.—The hot-water controversy of Harlem was settled yesterday when the spring landlord, Philip Wunsh, backed water on dispossession proceedings begun yesterday. Wunsh had actually evicted three tenants yesterday, when they failed to pay their rents for apartments in a house owned by him at 121 East 109th street.

The tenant's union had boycotted rent-paying until a six-hour day of hot water service should be given them. With three tenants camping on the sidewalk today, the greater New York Tenants Association stepped in with support for the local union, and Wunsh now agrees to a twelve-hour hot water service.

Lord French will tighten the law against the Sinn Fein in Ireland. G.H.A. game Friday night. St. Patrick's, 3; Kitchener, 1.

EDSON L. PEASE Vice-President and Managing Director of the Royal Bank of Canada.

POLITICAL POT BOILS AT QUEBEC

A Rumor That Sir Lomer Gouin May Enter Federal Politics.

POSSIBLY TO BE LEADER

GOSSIP NAMES HON. DR. BELAND AS QUEBEC PREMIER.

Whatever the Changes They Will Likely Occur Soon as the Legislature Meets on the 21st.

Quebec, Jan. 18.—The political pot is boiling in the Quebec Provincial field, and rumors are floating around as thick as a Piccadilly fog. Of course it is hard to tell yet what sort of a stew is to be scooped out of the pot when the time comes, but politicians who are well posted have very interesting and at the same time plausible tales.

One of these says that Sir Lomer Gouin, the present Prime Minister of Quebec, is to leave the Provincial arena to enter the Federal field. Some go as far as to say that Sir Lomer Gouin would become the leader of the Liberal Opposition at Ottawa, replacing Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but this is not considered as serious in well-informed circles.

Sir Lomer Gouin would become a member of the Liberal Opposition at Ottawa for the present.

Now, as to the leadership of the Quebec Provincial Liberals, rumor has it that the Hon. Dr. Beland would take it, resigning his seat in the Federal House to this end. But this will not meet the ideas of all the Liberal leaders in Quebec, as there is a strong indication that Hon. L. A. Taschereau, as present Minister of Public Works and Labor in this province, has an eye on the Premiership of Quebec, and he has strong support among a certain element, both in the House and also in the ring of political workers.

At any rate, what changes are to be made in the political world of Quebec will, according to every indication, occur within a very short time, probably soon after the session of the Provincial Legislature, which meets on Tuesday next, Jan. 21st.

TRAVEL TO EUROPE

Is Rapidly Increasing Despite the Restrictions.

Ottawa, Jan. 18.—Civilian travel to Europe has opened in earnest. The department of external affairs is flooded with applications for passports. They are coming in lately at the rate of well over a hundred a day, and there is an accumulation of about a thousand with which the officials of the department have been unable to deal. So far as the Dominion Government is concerned, no passport is required for a person wishing to leave the country. But on arrival overseas the traveller must produce a passport as evidence of his bona-fides before he will be permitted to land. Before any person can leave the United Kingdom, permission must be obtained from the foreign office. Most of the traffic from Canada to Europe, apparently that of soldiers' relations.

TWO GIRLS MURDERED

Slain Within Week—Left Hand Glove Taken From Each.

New York, Jan. 18.—The best detectives in the city are bending every energy to the task of finding the man who killed Miss Marie Elizabeth Riddell, 17 years old, on Wednesday evening near her home, at 1839 Briggs avenue, Richmond Hill, and who also probably murdered Mrs. May Southland in a vacant lot near her home in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, last week. The two crimes were so similar in their details that the detectives believe that if they find the murderer of one woman they have the man who killed the other.

In each case the victim was struck down with a blow on the back of the head with some blunt instrument, causing probably instant death. In each case the left glove of the victim was carried away by the murderer.

Miss Riddell's body was found early in the morning in a vacant lot only 150 feet from her home, to which she was returning from business. She was attacked about 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening. The girl's weekly pay of \$20 as a stenographer, which she received on Wednesday, was taken from her handbag, and her gold watch a Christmas gift of her father, was gone.

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LEARNED THE WAY OF THE GERMANS

British Know Much About Teuton "Key" Industries Before the War.

London, Jan. 18.—Sir Eric Geddes, Minister without portfolio in the new Cabinet, in an address before the Associated Chambers of Commerce, said the wisest thing that had been learned in the war and the greatest benefit that could be gotten from it was that the British people had discovered as a nation what they could do if they pulled together. They had improved machinery and methods and also electric power, the great modernizer of industries. They had learned much about German "key" industries and the way the Germans controlled British industry before the war.

As an instance, Sir Eric mentioned spelter and tungsten, which, though controlled through Germany, came almost entirely from the British Empire, while the whole monopoly of magnetite manufacture, indispensable to modern development, in steel plants, was held back by the dumping of pieces of apparatus, such as crank-castings, on the Type and the Clyde at prices lower than the cost of the raw material.

CONTRACTS ARE LET FOR 160,000 HOUSES

British Government Assisting in Reconstruction of National Industrial Life.

London, Jan. 17.—Regarding the Government's building programme of 500,000 houses, Sir Eric Geddes declared yesterday that 160,000 had already been arranged for on financial terms agreeable both to the local authorities and the Local Government Board, and it was hoped that the remaining 340,000 would come along very fast. It was anticipated that these houses would cause a great deal of competition in subsidiary trades, such as house furnishing and fitting, and Sir Eric hoped that they would be able to assist in the reconstruction of national industrial life.

SAILOR'S VIEWS OF FREEDOM OF SEAS

Admiral Sturdee Says They Should Be Protected in War as Railways.

London, Jan. 18.—Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee, victor in the naval battle of the Falkland Islands, speaking last night on the League of Nations and the freedom of the seas, said: "The British Empire consists of a series of islands connected by seas which form our lines of communication that we allow everyone to use in peace time, and ought to be allowed to defend and protect in the same way that railway communications are defended and protected in war. This is what I call freedom of the seas."

THE WORLD'S TIDINGS IN BRIEF FORM

Tidings From All Over Told in a Pointed and Pithy Way.

The strike in Peru has been settled and the situation is again normal.

Nikolai Lenine, Bolshevik premier of Russia, is reported to have landed at Barcelona.

The Roman Catholic cathedral at Chicoutimi, in the Lake St. John district, was destroyed by fire.

Siam is to have two representatives at the Peace Conference. This is due to her active participation in the war.

A counter-revolution has broken out in Petrograd, and the Bolsheviks have started a hurried retreat eastward from Esthonia.

The Baptist convention in Toronto decided in favor of a minimum salary of \$1000 and a free house for a Baptist minister.

Dr. Alfred Zimmerman, formerly German foreign secretary, declares the British blockade was the war. He does not expect the German colonies to be returned.

Sentences ranging from one to ten years imprisonment were imposed on forty-three out of forty-six defendants convicted in the I.W.W. anti-war conspiracy at Sacramento, Cal.

Former Emperor Charles of Austria, has been ill for the past fortnight, having suffered a relapse after partially recovering from an attack of influenza.

President Wilson on Friday called Chairman Clegg, of the Executive Committee of the New York Civic Forum, that prospects for an agreement upon the League of Nations were most favorable.

The discovery by the Stofesson exploration party of great herring fisheries in the far northern waters of Canada is announced in a statement issued through the Naval Department.

During the week ended January 8th, there left France for the United States American troops to the number of 28,869. The homeward bound contingents comprised 1,183 officers and 25,797 men.

JAS. FLEMING, SUBSCRIBER. The Whig is proud to chronicle the fact that it has many subscribers of over fifty years' standing. As far as we know, however, James Fleming, of Collins Bay, taken first place as the oldest steady subscriber. On Saturday he called at the Whig office and paid for his \$3rd subscription to this paper. It is a fine record, and we're both proud of it.