

# Abbeville Press and Banner

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## WILSON CONSIDERS PROBLEM IN RUSSIA

Question Already Discussed by President and Statesmen.

NO DEFINITE POLICY YET AGREED UPON

Angled Affairs in Troubled Country to Be Among Early Subjects Taken Up at Preliminary Meeting Which Will Come Before Peace Conference.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The Russian problem already has been taken up by President Wilson with French statesmen, it was learned here yesterday and the determination of a definite policy on which all the allied countries and the United States may agree will be one of the first things undertaken at the preliminary meetings which are to precede the peace conference.

Russia's plight and the attitude to be adopted by the victorious associated nations is recognized as one of the most serious problems of the conference. Every proposed solution so far is said to have been blocked by the unanswered question of who is qualified to speak for the Russian people.

The government at Omsk, of which the United States and other governments have expected much, is now in the hands of a dictator and is split into factions. The entente nations have not given up hope that the Omsk authorities may yet evolve a stable form of government for Russia, but this has not been accomplished and none of the allied governments has recognized the Omsk government officially.

Prince Lvoff, who was premier in Kerensky, and Boris Bakhmetev, Russian ambassador in Washington, appointed by Kerensky, as well as Prof. Paul Milukoff, Kerensky's foreign minister, are on their way to Paris with other prominent Russians to do whatever they can to assist the allies in the solution of the Russian problem. But whether they represent the people of Russia at the time is a question which it is generally admitted can not be answered here.

Prince Lvoff has recently been in Washington, where he discussed the situation in his country with President Wilson and Secretary Lansing. Far from according any recognition to the soviet regime at Petrograd, the United States some time called upon all civilized nations to condemn the Bolshevik reign of terror.

It is stated that in considering whether a joint expedition should be sent to deal with and thereby interfere with Russian internal affairs, representatives of the United States and the allies must decide whether the Bolshevik movement is a serious menace to civilization and justify extraordinary steps to neutralize it.

He said him in the conference with allied leaders, President Wilson has taken a corps of Russian experts with him to Paris.

## STRANGE HAPPENINGS.

There are strange happenings at Abbeville these days. We have had application for a wash-woman. We already had one, a cook to hire and got in on time to breakfast next morning, and a woman offered eggs for sale at seventy cents a dozen on Wednesday. We did not need the eggs.

## COMING FOR CHRISTMAS.

Miss Coma Phillips is expected in Abbeville to spend the holidays with W. A. Harris. Miss Coma is a girl with the young folks of the school and they will give her a warm welcome.

## NEED OF MEN FOR SERVICE IN FUTURE

Officer Recommends Increase in Permanent Enlisted Strength.

FIGURES BY LANING FOR HOUSE MEMBERS

Naval Committee Told of Desirability of Making Personnel Number More Than Two Hundred Thousand Men—Necessary in Carrying Out Policy.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Legislation authorizing increase of the permanent enlisted strength of the navy from 111,000 men to 217,000 was recommended to the house naval affairs committee today by Capt. H. Laning, acting chief of the bureau of navigation. This would include 175,000 seamen, 24,000 apprentice seamen and firemen in training, 12,000 in trade schools in training, and 6,000 in the flying corps.

Captain Laning explained that this large increase of men is needed to carry out the policy of the naval bureau of operations, as read to the naval affairs committee by Rear Admiral Badger last Thursday of making the navy of the United States equal to the most powerful maintained by any nation of the world.

"Unless an increase in the personnel is authorized," Captain Laning said, "no expansion program can be carried out. The navy was terribly handicapped by a lack of men even before the United States entered the war. Ships were only half manned and, as fighting units, were almost useless. It was not until early this year that the number of men became sufficient."

Captain Laning also emphasized the need for more officers in the regular navy and submitted a plan by which they might be obtained. It provides that permanent commissions in the regular navy be given to temporary commissioned officers of the navy and of the naval reserve force upon their passing examinations, and also that the naval reserve officers be retained in the service as long as they are needed.

Chairman Padgett objected to the plan, saying it would break down the present system of obtaining officers through the naval academy. The incentive for going to the academy would be lost, he said, if the men could get commissions without going through the four year course at Annapolis.

"If the navy depends upon the academy for its officers," Captain Laning replied, "it can never get the required number. Only 600 officers are graduated yearly from the school while there will be a shortage of 1,000 as soon as the temporary commissions are revoked."

## UNITS RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS

General March Announces Additional Ones Designated.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Chief of Staff March announced today the assignment to early convoy of the following organizations number about 1,500 men and officers.

Headquarters, 39th brigade coast artillery; 173rd, 158th, 801st, 149th, 38th aero squadrons, 102nd and 111th trench mortar batteries and companies A. and B. of the 26th engineers.

## RODNEY IS HOME.

Rodney Stephens has been mustered out of the service and is in Abbeville shining the light of his countenance on our people and regretting that he didn't get to go over. Rodney promised our Son Bill a German helmet, so two brave boys are disappointed over this peace.

## THE PATRON SAINT OF CHRISTMAS.



## FEEDING OF EUROPE THE BIG PROBLEM

Economic Questions Discussed Prior to Peace Conference—When Premiers Lloyd George and Orlando Arrive Question May Be Settled.

Paris, Dec. 17.—Economic questions are coming prominently to the front in the discussions now going on behind the scenes preliminary to the assembling of the inter-allied conferences and the peace congress. The main point hinges on the appointment of Herbert C. Hoover, the American food administrator, as director general of relief for all the Allies and the United States.

An amendment to this has been suggested from Allied quarters by which an inter-allied commission would control for the period of one year the distribution of raw materials to various countries.

## American Position.

The American position is that employment of Mr. Hoover to head the relief work should not be complicated with the large general question of raw material. The question of raw material is regarded as more or less connected with the policy adopted at the Allied economic conference in Paris before America entered the war. This policy has not been adopted by the American Government and the present trend of opinion in authorized American quarters is against its adoption.

The American plan for relief was presented in writing to the recent meeting of the Supreme War Council in London, but action on it was postponed. The arrival of Premiers Lloyd George and Premier Orlando in Paris next Thursday will again bring these premiers together, this time with President Wilson, and the deferred relief project again will come up for discussion and decision.

## HOME FOR A VACATION.

Miss Sarah White is at home for the holidays. She has been most pleasantly employed in some of the departments in Washington, and while enjoying the big city, is glad to be home.

## 400,000 AMERICAN TROOPS IN GOBLENZ

Principal Hotels Taken Over for Billeting Purposes—Third Division Passes Through Coblenz Headed by Band on Gallant Chargers.

Coblenz, Dec. 18.—Approximately 40,000 American troops have arrived at Coblenz since the advance guard reached here a week ago. A large number of these troops have passed through the city, while considerable forces will remain here temporarily.

The people of Coblenz got their first glimpse of American airplanes today, several of the machines flying over the Rhine toward the bridgehead boundary and then returning.

The officers and clerks of the Third Army arrived here this morning, followed by trucks loaded with equipment and office supplies. The largest hotel in Coblenz, overlooking the Rhine and the two bridges where most of the troops cross the river, has been taken over as quarters for the Third Army officers. The headquarters of the Third Army are established in a government building adjoining the hotel.

By noon the Third Army was in communication with the back areas by telephone, telegraph and wireless.

During last Sunday various detachments of infantry and artillery passed through Coblenz on their way to join the divisions east of the Rhine. Church-goers viewed the marching troops with much interest. Later in the afternoon the Third division, which had been along the Rhine south of Coblenz, marched through the city headed by a band, each musician mounted on a grey horse. The Third division crossed the Moselle at Coblenz, where it has taken up a position along the Rhine in support of the troops within the bridgehead.

All the larger hotels here have been taken over by the Americans for billeting purposes, as well as many of the public buildings, which are being used as offices.

J. R. Blake, of Greenwood, was in town a few hours yesterday.

## STILL BELIEVES IN LEAGUE OF NATIONS

President Sees No Reason for Change in Convictions.

NO LACK OF UNITY ON FREEDOM OF SEAS

Great Britain and United States Believed to Be in Accord—No Disposition to Jeopardize Safety of British Empire by Reduction of Fleet.

Paris, Dec. 18.—After four days of gathering views of leaders in France, President Wilson's closest advisers said he has seen no reason to change his belief that the foundation of a league of nations is inseparable from the actual peace treaty itself.

These advisers say that the president in explaining his definition of the freedom of the seas, will reassure Premier Lloyd George that he has no intention of demanding a reduction of the British navy to a point involving the unsafety of the empire, but will emphasize his feeling that the plan of a league will strengthen the empire.

King Victor Emmanuel, who is expected here Thursday, already has been fully advised of the president's plans through conferences with Count Di Celleri, Italian ambassador to the United States, but the president will take the opportunity to make personal explanations to the king.

The hope is expressed by those surrounding the president that the exchanges of views will clear away any partial misunderstanding which may exist in regard to Mr. Wilson's attitude and prepare the way for the assembling of the conference with complexities removed so that it will be ready to deal with principles and any outstanding differences of opinion that remain. In all his conferences the president has taken opportunity to express his view, it is said by those who are authorized to speak for him, that no one nation is entitled to assume the role of master or dictate the manner or the conditions or the representations of others.

There is some indication that considerable headway is being made in this direction and that the members of the American mission are now seeing their way clearly. All express the conviction that delegates will enter the conference in a spirit of accommodation.

Some undercurrents are interpreted as showing intentions of regret because the acceptance of President Wilson's points in a general way prevented some nations from achieving their own objects which might have been gained if Germany's collapse had been made even more complete. In reply, it has been made plain to those with whom the president conferred that the United States government does not consider the war a victory of arms alone, and that victory would be incomplete without an organization of nations to guarantee world peace.

## A BAZAAR.

The Sixth Grade of the Abbeville High School will hold a Bazaar Saturday, Dec. 21, in the old Cotton Mill Office, next to the National Bank. All kinds of pretty Christmas gifts and good things to eat will be sold. The proceeds will go to the Red Cross.

## THANK YOU!

The Exchange conducted Dec. 7th, by the Busy Bee Canteen was a decided success. The receipts were \$62. The ladies of this canteen desire to express their thanks and appreciation to all who made contributions to the exchange.

## MEXICAN SITUATION BEING CONSIDERED

England May Insist on a Stable Government Down There.

UP TO UNCLE SAM TO MAKE THE CLEAN-UP

Mexico's Oil Fields Not Being Managed Properly—German Sympathy is Strong—United States Keeping Close Tabs On the Situation.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The proposed league of nations may call upon the United States to settle unstable conditions in Mexico.

This development was foreseen here today by men in touch with Mexican and American governmental affairs. Great Britain may even ask that a stable government be established in Mexico without waiting the creation of a league of nations, some of these believe.

The recent Tampico clash, though of a minor nature, the raid on the Hibler Ranch, the outlawry that makes travel in Mexico unsafe, and above all the squalor, poverty and disease long rampant in that country are assigned as reasons for a clean up.

The United States is keeping close tabs on the situation.

Military men believe that economic assistance could not be granted unless there had been a military clean up for their view Mexico as too shaky.

As for the economic aid it is pointed out that the United States consuls recently meeting at Mexico City agreed upon a recommendation that 50,000,000 pounds of flour and 20,000,000 pounds of sugar be imported from the United States into Mexico. This would be distributed by districts and safeguards would be raised against hoarding.

The United States and Great Britain have overlooked Mexican conditions a long time because the world war occupied their attention. But they have literally been paying tribute to get out their oil from the Tampico fields and now it is feared that Carranza, with his "nationalization" ideas as to Tampico, will try to sell these properties to other interests.

She has long been under the hand of the Germans. This attitude changed somewhat with United States Allies victories but in many quarters of the country, the ignorant ones still sneer at the United States and, inspired by the Germans, declare that the United States army is no better than the punitive expedition which went in and out of Mexico not long since.

Great Britain has looked askance at Mexican matters for a long time. But, because of her close alliance with the United States in the war and because of her pressing oil needs she refrained from pressing for a settlement of the situation there.

Now, it is said, she is preparing to have Mexico brought to a better condition of affairs.

A strong American guard has been kept along the border. Many organizations that left for foreign service did months of border patrolling duty.

## LIEUT. NEUFFER IN NEW YORK

Dr. G. A. Neuffer received a telegram Thursday morning from Lieut. Gottlob A. Neuffer, Jr., saying he had just arrived in New York with a shipload of soldiers from overseas. Lieut. Neuffer received a shell wound in the foot about the middle of October and has been in a base hospital in England until ordered home.

It is not known when he will reach home but it is hoped by his family and friends that it will be in the near future.