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SUPREME COUNCIL CALLED TO MEET

WILL DISCUSS QUESTION OF REPARATIONS—RESULT OF CONFERENCES BETWEEN BRIAND AND LLOYD GEORGE HELD IN LONDON

London, Dec. 22.—Another meeting of the allied supreme council, this time at Cannes, on the French Riviera, is the outcome of the parleys between Prime Minister Lloyd George and Premier Briand of France during the past few days. It will be preceded by a meeting of the council of ambassadors within a few days at Paris for arranging the details of the Cannes meeting which is scheduled for early in January.

A pledge of secrecy was entered into between the two premiers regarding their London conversations but the supreme council evidently has been called either to revise the reparations provisions of the treaty of Versailles or deliberate on the advisability of calling a conference with a view to dealing with the whole question of international finances and exchange, which is linked with the question of reparations.

That such a conference is in contemplation and will possibly include Russia and Germany if not the United States seems to be shown by the fact that the commission entrusted with the examination into Russian affairs has drafted a report which is now under consideration by the French and British experts.

The meeting today between M. Briand and George Harvey, the American ambassador, is believed to have been concerned mainly with naval questions. Its occurrence at the present juncture, however, was the subject of considerable speculation as to whether it may not also have been connected with the known desire of the entente powers to induce the United States to interest itself in reparations and connected questions.

M. Briand this evening made the announcement to the newspapers that the council of ambassadors would meet in Paris and that it would take up the question of German reparations as an outcome of the present conversation between Mr. Lloyd George and himself. M. Briand added that real progress had been made in the conversations. Several points had been smoothed out with complete cordiality and "he was very much satisfied," he said.

M. Briand declined to be drawn into a discussion of the subject of secondary naval vessels, dismissing such inquiries by saying that the question still was under discussion, and added, "this is not the Washington conference."

The French premier previously had discussed the question of reparations with the Belgian ambassador, who visited him to press the claims of the Belgians, and was given assurance that nothing would be decided without the representatives of Belgium being consulted. In this connection M. Briand again reminded the newspaper men that nothing could be definitely settled by the present conversations, which being purely between the British and French premiers, could in no wise be binding upon the other parties concerned in the question, namely, Belgium and Italy.

DIAL FINDS FAULT

South Carolina Senator Assails Postoffice Department Methods Washington, Dec. 21.—Methods employed by the postoffice department in the naming of postmasters in South Carolina were assailed by Senator Dial (Democrat) of that state in a speech today in the senate. The senator read a lengthy list of the appointees in his state and charged that many of them were not qualified to take the job.

GENTLEMAN THIEF HOLDS UP TRAIN

SAYS HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN VALUABLES WOMEN MAY CARRY, AS HE RELIEVES MEN OF THEIR POCKETBOOKS AND JEWELRY.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Police today investigated a report that a well dressed bandit with exquisite manners, who, singlehanded, held up observation car passengers on the Baltimore and Ohio night fier for Washington in the heart of Chicago's south side last night and escaped in an automobile driven by a woman companion. Children skating on a pond at Sixty-Seventh street say the robber made his getaway in a car which had been parked beneath the railroad viaduct.

The bandit boarded the observation car at the Sixty-Third street station and forced the passengers to stand in line. M. D. Taylor, a Baltimore and Ohio passenger agent, was first in line. He gave up his pocketbook.

Three other men contributed, then the robber reached Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Stansbury of New Mexico and their three small children.

"Madam," he said, "will you please take the children to the other end of the car. I am not interested in any valuables a woman may have, and I do not want to frighten children. If you please."

As Mrs. Stansbury and children obeyed, he relieved Mr. Stansbury of his pocketbook.

"Not much, but you look as if you could well afford to lose it, else I would not take it," the robber told F. W. Williamson, another Baltimore and Ohio ticket agent.

As he continued the line of passengers the conductor appeared at the front end of the car ready to collect tickets. The bandit regarded him coolly.

"It's quite possible," he told his victims, "that the conductor is armed. If he is not he can call men who are. That would mean shooting and some of you might get hurt. I don't want that to happen, so I will leave you."

Covering the passengers with his gun he jerked the bell rope, backed through the observation platform door, and as the train slowed down leaped over the rail and disappeared down the embankment.

OFFICERS GET STILL

Sixty Gallon Outfit and One Operator Brought In

A sixty gallon copper stilling outfit, complete and in operation, was captured early yesterday morning by Deputy Sheriffs C. B. Prince and Dale Ferguson. The still together with Will Haynie, who is now in jail, was located near or on the Watson farm in the Flatwoods section, adjoining the Mt. Carmel road, near the McCormick line.

When Sheriffs Prince and Ferguson and two special deputies arrived on the scene two negroes were seated on the ground eating breakfast. A third negro was straining liquor into a fruit jar. When the deputies spoke the negroes ran. Mr. Ferguson gave chase and outran Will Haynie, the others escaping. Five gallons of liquor, already still, was found, and between 1,000 and 1,200 gallons of beer was poured out. The still was brought into the jail while Sheriff McLane personally chopped up the still.

COMMISSION MEETS

Only Routine Matters Considered At Today's Session

Only routine matters were considered at today's meeting of the Highway Commission. Topsoil was condemned at a number of places. The body meets again in January.

BEVERAGE TAXES TO BE CONSIDERED

POSSIBILITY OF RESTORATION OF LIGHT WINES AND BEER TO BE LOOKED INTO—WAYS AND MEANS TO DISCUSS QUESTION.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Feasibility of raising funds for a soldiers' bonus by a tax on beer and light wines will be considered by the house ways and means committee, Chairman Fordney announced today after the Christmas recess.

The possibility of a tax on beverages with small alcoholic content will be looked into Mr. Fordney, said, to determine whether it would be advisable a constitutional to lift the prohibition ban sufficiently to permit their sale.

Mr. Fordney conferred today with Secretary Mellon but said later the bonus question had not been discussed.

Other suggestions put forth by members of the house for financing a bonus include a variety of sales taxes on different commodities and different classes of manufacturers.

In an address in the house, Representative A. P. Nelson (Republican) of Wisconsin, commenting on the proposed payment of a bonus by a tax on light wines and beer declared former service men would not look with favor on any such plan to raise revenue "in an outlaw traffic in order to meet their legitimate demands for adjusted compensation."

Even if congress attempts to permit the manufacture and sale of beer and wine, Mr. Nelson said, approximately 40 state prohibition laws would prevent its sale. Friends of prohibition enforcement, he predicted, will present "a united front against this scheme for nullifying prohibition."

Declaring there were plenty of sources of revenue open for actual needs without trying "to legalize what the constitution prohibits," Mr. Nelson asserted that "an attempt to tie the veterans of our country's battles to the dead body of the liquor traffic is an outrage."

MANY COMING TO LEGION SUPPER

Replies received by D. T. Smith, Jr., chairman of the executive committee, indicate that there will be at least 125 men from all parts of the county when mess call blows for the supper for ex-service men next Thursday night. The supper will be served in the Masonic hall over Speed's Drug Store.

Miss May Robertson, chairman of the women's committee to serve the supper, has five committees working out details of the evening and the affair is altogether promising as to profit and pleasure.

John Andrews, representative of the United States Veterans Bureau, will be present to give information and assistance in connection with government insurance.

Pluck Ripe Cherries.

Anderson, Dec. 22.—Rich red ripe May cherries were picked from the trees of Anderson county December 18. The cherries were fully developed and ripe. This is the first time that this has ever happened this late in the season, according to older residents. Many times fruit has formed, but has not gotten ripe.

Bandits Get \$10,000

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 22.—Five armed bandits held up the Steelton branch of the Citizen Trust and Savings Bank today and escaped with \$10,000.

FOCH RETURNS TO NATIVE HEATH

MARSHAL OF FRANCE GREETED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY HOME PEOPLE AFTER HIS TRIUMPHANT TOUR OF U. S. AS LEGION GUEST.

Paris, Dec. 22.—Marshal Foch received a typical American welcome when he stepped onto the platform of the St. Lazaire railroad station today, returning from his tour of the United States. With him was former Premier Viviani, returning from Washington where he was a French delegate to the limitation of armaments conference.

For a few minutes after his arrival Marshal Foch said he thought he was making a five minutes' stop in the course of his American tour. Almost the entire membership of the Paris post of the American Legion had assembled at the station to welcome the allied generalissimo home. As he alighted from the train from Havre, there were thunderous cheers of the American variety, the marshal stopped suddenly, smiled broadly and turning to a member of his party, said:

"Paris, Paris, this surely cannot be Paris. It must be an American city I am arriving at."

He thanked the legionnaires for their welcome, saying that since visiting the United States he had come to like the American brand of welcome. Many persons in the crowd did not recognize the French hero. Instead of a marshal's uniform he wore a business suit and a derby hat. His friends who met him remarked that his trip had apparently done him much good.

A large group of French military leaders as well as a personal representative of President Millerand and other governmental officials were at the station.

As he was leaving the station, Marshal Foch said his trip to America had been one of the most wonderful events of his life.

STORES CLOSED ALL DAY MONDAY

In accordance with the usual custom when Christmas falls on Sunday, all the stores and business places of Abbeville will be closed Monday. The telephone exchange will also be closed from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. The Press and Banner will issue no paper on Monday.

With only Saturday remaining in which to do Christmas shopping, the merchants are expecting a busy day tomorrow.

NO SPECIAL SERVICES

Only Usual Sunday Program in Churches of City

The usual Sunday services will be the order in the churches Christmas day.

The Rev. James L. Martin, D. D. will preach at the morning hour in the Presbyterian church.

The union service Sunday night will be in the Baptist church.

At the A. R. P. church the Rev. G. M. Telford will assist the Rev. Mr. Plaxco in the baptismal service for children at 3:30.

Congress Will Rest

Washington, Dec. 22.—A congressional recess from today until January 3 was voted today when the house adopted the sente resolution to that effect.

WATSON INQUIRY RESUMED LATER

BOTH HEARINGS FIND TESTIMONY SCARCE WITH ONLY ONE FORMER SOLDIER ON HAND—WITNESSES FAIL TO APPEAR.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Because of the absence of half a dozen witnesses summoned to appear today the senate committee investigating charges, by Senator Watson (Democrat) of Georgia that American soldiers had been hanged in France without trial, was forced over until after the Christmas holidays.

A new batch of witnesses—nine in all—were ordered to appear January 4 for examination in view of their statements made heretofore in letters to Senator Watson and others that they had first-hand knowledge of illegal executions.

Except in one instance there was no explanation as to why today's witnesses failed to appear. One was ready to start but there was some delay in delivery of his railroad ticket and he will come later. With the expectation that the missing witnesses might turn up in the afternoon, a second session was held but the roll was called and none answer. Senator Watson himself did not attend the afternoon session.

Chairman Brandegee announced that in order to make the investigation as sweeping as possible, war department officials would be called to take up each alleged case of brutality or murder. It was again made clear that some of the hangings witnessed by former service men included the execution of 11 soldiers put to death after trial by courtmartial.

The only former soldier appearing today—Marion J. Wallis of Athens, Ga.—did not serve overseas, his testimony relating entirely to the alleged killing of a private by a corporal at Camp Wheeler, Ga., in 1918. War department records, to determine whether the corporal designated by Wallis only as "Corporal Crawford," has been tried, were demanded.

There was an intimation that the committee would proceed to compel the attendance of George B. Hubbard, who recently declared in a statement here that he saw the bodies of three soldiers which had been disinterred and that there was a rope around the neck of each, showing the men had been hanged. Notified that he was wanted as a witness and asked to come along at once, Hubbard sent a three word telegram from New York, saying: "Will not accept."

WATTERSON DEAD

Last of Old School Journalists Passes.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 22.—Col. Henry Watterson, known to the American people as one of the last surviving members of the old school of journalism and to his friends as "Marse Henry" died early today at a hotel here.

Death came peacefully, the venerable editor retaining consciousness almost to the end and conversing during the last half hour with his wife, son and daughter.

Colonel Watterson came to Jacksonville several weeks ago in accordance with his annual custom of spending the winter in Florida, usually at Fort Myers. He contracted a slight cold Tuesday and while seated in a chair yesterday morning soon after breakfast he suffered an acute bronchial attack and was ordered to his bed by his physician. His condition grew worse during the day and night and the end came at 6:15 o'clock this morning. The immediate cause of his death, his physician said was heart failure superinduced by congestion of the bronchial tubes.

COTTON FIGURES GIVEN FOR WORLD

CROP SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR—NOT SINCE 1900 HAS SUCH SMALL TOTAL BEEN PRODUCED IN ALL COUNTRIES TWENTY YEAR RECORD.

Washington, Dec. 22.—World production of commercial cotton for 1921-22 was placed at 15,593,000 bales by the department of agriculture in a report made public tonight. This is the smallest crop since 1900, the report stated, and compares with 20,650,000 produced in 1920.

Two of the most important cotton producing countries—the United States and Egypt—suffered crop "disasters" during the year, the report asserted, producing only 61.4 per cent. of their total production of last year, or 5,667,000 bales less than was produced in 1920. The cotton crop in China, South America, Mexico and other countries, while said to be not so important commercially, was reported smaller than usual. Russia, which immediately before the war produced around 1,500,000 bales annually, has practically ceased to grow cotton, the report stated.

Prices for cotton in the United States were forced down below production cost last year, the report said, because of the forced shutting down of spinning and weaving establishments in the principal manufacturing countries. Reduced consumption, occasioned by the inability of Russia, Turkey and many other countries in Europe and throughout the world to buy cotton cloth since the war, it was explained, necessitated the closing of world mills. American farmers, confronted with a large carry-over, last spring voluntarily reduced their cotton acreage, it was pointed out and the yield was further reduced because "comparatively little fertilizer was used and because of boll weevil ravages over practically the entire cotton belt." The American crop also was seriously hampered by unfavorable weather conditions over the cotton belt, the report further explained. Egypt was said to have been affected by much the same conditions.

The production in the United States for 1921 was estimated at 3,340,000 bales of 478 pounds net, as compared with 13,440,000 in 1920, 11,421,000 in 1919 and 16,135,000 in 1914. For Egypt the 1921 production was estimated at 684,000 bales, as compared with 1,251,000 in 1920, 1,154,000 in 1919 and 1,337,000 in 1914.

For British India the figures were 3,623,000 bales for 1921, as compared with 2,845,000 for 1920, 4,637,000 for 1919 and 4,167,000 for 1914. British Africa estimates for 1921 were 75,000 bales, as compared with 81,000 in 1920, 60,000 for 1919 and 54,000 for 1914. The estimates for Russia, however, were only 50,000 for this year, as compared with 90,000 in 1920, 440,000 in 1919 and 1,309,000 in 1914.

The estimated production in 1921 in Japan and Korea was 120,000, as compared with 105,000 in 1920 and 38,000 in 1914, while for China it was 1,650,000 in 1921, 1,868,000 in 1920 and 784,000 in 1914.

In Mexico the production was estimated for 1921 at 165,000 bales, as compared with 205,000 last year and 130,000 in 1914.

TELEPHONE FOLK REST

Office Will Be Open Sunday But Closed Monday.

Telephone service will not be given Monday between 8 a. m. and 7 p. m. according to the announcement of Miss Essie Lee McCord, assistant manager of the exchange, yesterday. Christmas day "service as usual" will be the order, the force working while others play.