First Subject.

Washington, Nov. 3 .- Important developments were forthcoming here today which may intimately affect when the heavy guns of the all powthe results of the conference on lim- erful Federal Reserve Banking sysitation of armaments.

The first of these were the strong official indications that the primary The Chronicle has never ceased to object of the conference, limitation call attention to that crime against of armaments, will be taken up ahead business and prosperity; forced deof consideration of far eastern ques-

publicity of the proceedings of the prices shattered to the point where conference, once the preliminary the producer became thoroughly disformalities are all over, also was heartened and the merchant made brought to the front. In this connec- sick because of the decline in valtion it was stated by a high state de- ues in his store. The price of cotton, partment authority that a "surpris- for instance, was forced down from ing" amount of publicity will be forth | 43 to 10 cents per pound, and, though coming from several cources. The other commodities did not suffer most important of these sources, and quite so much in proportion, they the one in which the public has the suffered quite enough. The Federal deepest personal interest, is that of Reserve Bank's ruinous policy simply open sessions as frequently as pos- played havoc with business and we sible.

Open Sessions When Possible.

Previous indications have been that the conference got fairly under way nearly all the sessions would be held behind closed doors, and the inwas to be carefully sifted before it ence whenever it is feasible.

Officials of the main American delegation are said to feel the necessity of insuring to the world a reliable acwill have the important effect of insuring against unnecessary secrecy and winning the confidence of the

Will Issue Statements.

In addition, it was officially stated today, that whenever the sessions are closed, authoritative statements will be issued containing as much information as it is possible to give. Furthermore, Secretary Hughes in all probability will outline personally to the press the progress of the conference each day.

These decisions are regarded of utmost importance as indicating a genuine intention on the part of the American officials to avoid the secrecy and distrust that so nearly made the Versailles conference disastrous to this country.

"We do not intend that this conference shall be shrouded in secrecy and conjecture," it was stated. "The people are entitled to and shall have as much publicity regarding the actual progress of the conferences we can get out without actually impeding the result we all hope for."

Limitation May Come First.

mation from official sources that the conference at the outset may get limitation first.

The general impression, however, is that this primary object of the conference cannot be settled until its associated problem, that of far eastern questions, has been adjusted. As one official expressed it. "There probably will not be any agreement on reduction of armament while the clouds hang over the Pacific."

Since the arrival here of the main Japanese delegation yesterday there is every evidence of a possible reversal of the agenda, and the question of arms limitation may come will be discussed first.

Costs of War.

Boston, Nov. 6 .- The World Peace foundation in a statement tonight gave figures compiled from reports of the secretary of the treasury which it said showed that the United States government in 131 years of its existence under the constitution had spent nearly four-fifths of its total ordinary disbursements on war or things relating to war. Tables prepared by the foundation showed total ordinary disbursements from 1789 to 1920 of \$66,728,209,409 of which the war items amounted to \$52,607,-489,927, or 78.5 per cent.

Official figures were given to show that the cost of the Confederate war, including interest on the public debt from 1861 to 1863 and pensions to date, had run to \$12,322,168,601 or more than the government has spent in all its previous existence. The cost to the United States of the world war was given as more than \$33,000,000,-

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icle's Position on Federal Reserve Bank.

Ever since the summer of 1920 tem were aimed with deadly accuracy upon the business of the country, flation. It has caused nine-tenths of the trouble in this country, with mil-The much discussed point as to lions out of employment and with are right now slowly recovering.

The announcemnt is made with great deal of gusto that the discount rate has again been lowered and that this is done to help agriculture and other forms of business. Indeed, it is formation concerning such sessions like sending for the doctor after the patient has already passed the crisis. reached the press. A modification of The discount rate should never have this plan is involved in the decision been raised to such an extent that it to allow direct reports of the confer- was and now, after we have passed through the worst, we hear the magnanimous gentlemen of the Federal Reserve Board making the grave announcement that it was going to lowcount of each day's sessions and the er the discount rate to help bring home town or county many friends progress made therein, and that there business back to what it should be. of yore who might otherwise never could be no more direct way of guar- Of course lowering the discount rate meet again. Social occasions are aranteeing this than by opening certain again will help, but why should it ranged, there are public addresses, sessions to the press. This, it is felt, ever have been raised to the point special church services, historical where money could not be obtained reminiscences and various forms of even by responsible men of business? entertainment for the guests from

As for The Chronicle's position reconspiracy against business, this us hope, a larger and more enduring the country, and aided only by the done at the old home. powerful pen of the editor of the Manufacturers' Record and the voice member of that board and ex-comp- ed, to those who now inhabit the wide troller of the currency, fought for reaches of the West. But to all the 15 months against it. Now, we see home-comers there are dear places, policy of the Federal Reserve Board the beloved hills in the country placto force deflation which would have es; and in the small towns the old come gradually anyway, but would home with its multitude of reminisnot have blasted homes and wrecked cences. lives and fortunes and thrown millions out of employment.

These encouraging indications of for more than a year. The article there is one great consolation. It is the day were supplemented by infor- from yesterday's Chronicle is as fol- not the place or the house that is

credits through which we have pass-

"The federal reserve system was designed to furnish a circulating medium which should expand and contract in response to the demands of trade. We were apt to think of it as first. This does not mean an actual something self-operating and furnishsettlement of this most important ing a natural expansion and contracsubject before taking the maze of far tion according to the beautiful law eastern questions, but only that it of its being. This natural process however, is one of its beneficent possibilities. It is in effest a government Peace Foundation Calculates machine deity and its real beneficience depends largely upon the wisdom of those who direct its workings.

"We saw the system responding to the needs of government and private industry during the war. There was the necessary expansion and deflation and it was all natural enough. And then there came a time for the reserve process, and for us to get back again to the solid earth. That was a process no less important than the other and perhaps attended with greater danger. When our balloon is on the high upper levels it would not be to the credit of our financial aeronauts that they should puncture the gas bag and cause it to come down in a way to bring destruction upon its occupants.

"Something more than a year ago it was decided that we should have deflation and instead of waiting for deflation to come along naturally, chiefly as a result of a shrinkage in demand, it was decided that it should be hastened, that loans to business men should be liquidated." Thus, there came about a forced contrac-

Limitation of Arms Likel, be Proof of Soundness of Chron-bitrary action of men for the play of natural forces.

> "The contraction of currency and the arbitrary enforcement of high interest rates which have been witnessed have accelerated the fall in commodity values and, as a result, business men were squeezed under this government press and the country was filled with thousands of lame business ducks from Eastport to Los Angeles. The distress by no means extended to concerns that might ordinarily be called weak, but great corporations and firms which had long been prosperous were made to suffer

> "We saw Mr. Ford barely making his escape and only as a result of his remarkable business capacity. No class has been hit harder than the farmers, with the value of some of their products, like wool, cotton and hides, disappearing almost entirely. No one surely can deny that there has been very much liquidation of labor with the throwing of some five millions of men out of employment.

> "It is difficult to believe that all this is the result of that natural elasticity that was supposed to be installed by the federal reserve system."-Augusta Chronicle.

The Old Home Town.

For a number of years fall homecomings have been popular in many counties and smaller cities over the country. They are for the most part family reunions, given a wider interest because they attract to the other localities, who left their old public of all the nations represented. garding the Federal Reserve Bank's home, farms and towns, to meet, let newspaper alone of all the dailies in success abroad than they could have

The old town looks small, no doubt, to those who went to the city for of John Skelton Williams, former their life work; the old farm crampnotable men over the country taking hallowed by tender memories, to visthe position that it was a mistaken it—the brook, the ancient sycamore,

Homes pass away-into other hands. There is no continuance on The Chronicle yesterday printed earth. Change never ceases its work. the views of former Governor Sam- Trees die, familiar prospects are maruel W. McCall, of Massachusetts, on ried. Only the skies are unchangethis question, and we reprint Gov- able. So there is a touch of melanernor' McCall's statement this morn- choly for all home comers except the ing and leave to our readers to com- young, because of the ravages of pare what the distinguished gentle- death among the relatives and man from Massachusetts says now friends. Yet where the old homes are with what The Chronicle and Manu- peopled by strangers and their confacturers' Record have been saying tents distributed among the children, sacred That is the mere shell set up! "That the present business depres- to protect the family from the weathright down to business and "take the sion with its resulting unemployment er. The things that were in the house bull by the horns" by discussing arms is mainly the result of a mistaken are the objects that the heart is realpolicy on the part of the federal re- ly interested in-the chair that gave serve bank, is the opinion of ex-Gov- comfort to mother; the desk that was Samuel W. McCall of Massachusetts. father'; the books the gentle and lost "In estimating the weight of the sister loved; the intimate possessions different causes of unemployment of the brother called West; these and business depression very little things touched by vanished hands are has been said about the effect of the the true treasures of the old home, drastic contraction of currency and not the building which sheltered them .- Chicago Journal of Com-

Juggling Names Disturbs Dial.

Washington, Nov. 3 .- Juggling with names of applicants for appointment for postmasters, indicative of the return by the Republican administration to the spoils system in filing vacancies, constantly disturbs Senator Dial of South Carolina, who has referred to the situation in a letter addressed to the civil service commission. In course of his remarks, the following occurs:

"I make no charge at present, however, it has been brought to my attention that there must be leaks in your office as postmasters in South Carolina.

"For instance, I have heard that after examinations, other names are added to the list. I have heard, furthermore, that reports as to the result of examinations have been held up until interested parties could inspect them. I merely request that the law be adhered to rigidly.

"I have been given to understand that under the system of appointing one of the three highest that there is much juggling, and that some entitled to appointment under no consideration are receiving undue favors. I do not know that your hands are bound. But it occurs to me that the applicant receiving the highest mark should receive the designation in the absence of anything against his character."-The State.

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