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1—Delegation of Syrian residents of Brazil with plaque of carved Circassian walnut studded with diamonds, which they presented to President Wilson. 2—Scene at the wedding of Prince Conrad of Bavaria and Princess Bona of Savoy, Italy—the first royal international marriage between citizens of former enemy states since the war. 3—Grove Park Inn at Asheville, N. C., where Vice President-elect Coolidge is spending part of his vacation.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Germany Says She Will Not Pay the Reparations Fixed by Supreme Council.

'WOULD ENSLAVE THE NATION'

Putting on Poor Face for Effect—American Unpreparedness Receives Some Blows—Dawes Vigorously Condemns War Management Critics—Latest Cabinet Guesses.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Germany says she neither can nor will pay the total of reparations that was fixed by the supreme council—54 billions in 42 years and a tax of 12 per cent on her exports during the period. Eminent financial and economic experts of the allied countries and America agree that Germany will find it impossible to pay that sum and survive. Nevertheless, it is probable that the German representatives in the forthcoming London conference will sign the agreement laid before them, and that the allies thereafter will get from the defeated country as great a proportion of the 54 billions as they can, modifying the terms from time to time.

The official protest of Germany was voiced by Dr. Walter Simons, the foreign minister, and what he said was concurred in by the reichstag parties through their leaders, with the exception of the ultra radicals, who gloried in the painful position of the government. Doctor Simons asserted that the obligations thus imposed on the Germans would mean the complete economic enslavement of the people, and particularly of the workers. He said the government would offer counter proposals at the London meeting.

Among the people of France there was satisfaction with the reparations plan, especially because it was expected that the first effective payments by Germany will make available for negotiations or for use as security the French share of the 60,000,000,000 gold marks in bonds already delivered by Germany to the reparations commission. Great Britain has agreed not to utilize her claim on Germany as a basis for loans during the next five years, and this gives France the opportunity to make use not only of her share of the bonds but also her part of the 12 per cent tax on Germany's exports, to raise money to continue the work of reconstruction in northern France.

That tax on German exports is a feature that may cause a lot of trouble. By many it is held to be false economies that will react to the injury of other countries, and in Washington there is talk that our state department may feel called on to make formal protest. Lloyd George says the tax would be easy to collect, and he defends the plan in its entirety. If Germany should absolutely refuse to it, he asserts, "there is nothing for us to do but to apply the treaty literally."

That opinion favoring German claims in the matter may be based on false premises is made clear by the report of the conference of financial experts held in Brussels, in which Germany is shown just how to wipe out the deficit of 76,000,000,000 marks in her 1920 budget. The experts found Germany was deliberately putting on a poor face for the purpose of showing the world her precarious financial condition and her difficult situation. Certain of her expenses were multiplied 75 times over those of 1919, and certain of her taxes vastly below those the people of the allied countries are paying. Furthermore, the budgets of 1919 and 1920 carried a number of credits which were only partly disbursed, such as 18,500,000,000 marks for the allied armies of occupation expenses, of which only 4,500,000,000 marks was spent. The budget for 1920 carried 42,000,000,000

marks for execution of the peace treaty, while only 17,000,000,000 marks had been paid out up to December 1 last.

Disarmament, a small army and other forms of unpreparedness got some hard knocks last week. In the first place the senate naval affairs committee put the snuffer on the Borah resolution for a naval construction holiday, after hearing Admiral Condit, chief of naval operations, and Admiral Taylor, chief constructor of the navy. Both opposed the plan for a cessation of naval construction for six months. They said it would cost as much to do this as to continue to build, as contractors would be able to collect large damage claims from the government. Furthermore, they see no need for an investigation as to what constitutes a modern navy, being convinced by investigations already made that the capital ship is not obsolete and that the present program of the United States is correct.

General Pershing appeared before the house naval committee and gave a warning against unpreparedness and pacifism. He expressed approval of a world conference on disarmament, but said the United States should proceed with its present army and navy programs until at least five great powers have entered into a definite agreement.

On the other hand, the house foreign affairs committee reported favorably a resolution authorizing the President to invite the nations of the world to send delegates to a conference to provide for disarmament.

In the house, the fight to prevent reduction of the regular army below 175,000, was opened by Chairman Kahn of the military affairs committee. He said President-elect Harding told him recently at Marion that he favored an army of 175,000 men, but that he hoped some day it could be cut down to 150,000. Mr. Kahn also disclosed Mr. Harding's belief that congress should enact legislation providing voluntary military training for 150,000 men annually.

Meanwhile economy of the most rigid sort is being forced on our regular army by great deficiencies in funds for the remainder of the fiscal year. The shortage in the quartermaster corps alone is said to be \$94,000,000. In order to reduce the prospective deficits to the lowest possible minimum, the War department ordered reduction of 40 to 60 per cent in the number of civilian employees in the army; reduction of the consumption of gasoline and lubricants by 50 per cent; allowance of clothing, equipment and supplies cut to the lowest possible limit, repaired shoes and salvaged uniforms to be issued wherever possible; substitution of canned food for fresh wherever possible, and expenses for transportation, communication and fuel cut to the bone. Much of the vocational training, upon which the recruiting campaign was based, must now be abandoned, as all the teaching will have to be done by army officers.

Gen. Charles G. Dawes of Chicago, former chief of supply procurement for the American army in France, made lively and interesting two sessions of the house war investigating committee. Severely condemning what he characterized as political attempts to discredit the people who won the war, he defended the work of his department and of the army in general, and denied that there was waste and extravagance in the liquidation of American accounts in France and the sale of surplus stocks to the French government. As to the alleged payment of excessive prices for equipment and material, he said this was necessary to get the job done quickly and was justified by the fact that the army did the job. General Dawes did not mince his language, and what he had to say of our "pink ten" diplomats in Europe who delayed matters with their red tape was tonic in its harshness. The discussion at one time turned on Great Britain and the general shouted:

"I am no more ashamed to stand up here for Great Britain than for the United States. It seems to be fashionable in American politics to attack

Great Britain. I am not in politics, and I am not going to be. And I think God that in a crisis like we had there were no bickerings between the English-speaking people. Great Britain took over 40 per cent of our troops. Of course General Pershing gave them five divisions, but it had to be done to save the allies' line."

In these remarks Mr. Dawes, who has been a leading probability for the place of secretary of the treasury in the Harding cabinet, seemed to remove himself from the lists. Certainly what he said so frankly will not make him very acceptable to the professional Irishmen of America who are mainly responsible for the anti-British propaganda. However, at this writing he is still among the cabinet possibilities. The latest list, as reported by the correspondents with Mr. Harding in Florida, is:

- Secretary of State—Charles E. Hughes of New York.
- Secretary of the Treasury—Charles G. Dawes of Illinois or A. W. Mellon of Pennsylvania.
- Secretary of War—John W. Weeks of Massachusetts.
- Secretary of the Navy—Frank O. Lowden of Illinois.
- Attorney General—Harry M. Daugherty of Ohio.
- Postmaster General—Will H. Hays of Indiana.
- Secretary of Agriculture—Henry C. Wallace of Iowa.
- Secretary of Labor—John J. Davis of Pennsylvania.
- Secretary of the Interior—Albert D. Fall of New Mexico.
- Secretary of Commerce—Still vacant.

Mr. Davis, slated for the labor portfolio, was formerly a steel worker and is now director general of the Loyal Order of Moose.

The fight over wages, between the railway executives and the railroad brotherhoods, is on before the railway labor board, and accusations have been flying thick and fast. The executives asked permission to abrogate the national wage agreements entered into during the war, which would mean the lowering of the present wage scale. The brotherhood leaders immediately entered vigorous protest, asserting that the rail chiefs have conspired to overthrow the railroad labor board and to crush, once for all, the existing labor organizations. They said they could show that if the bankers who are responsible for the fiscal needs of the railroads since their return to private ownership would perform their duty, the roads could be adequately financed and their solvency maintained.

A veiled threat was found in the statement of Grand President Grable of the maintenance of way employees, who said: "The whole thing simmers down to a question of whether the employees are to secure their rights by justice and the proper legal avenues or by the use of economic force. This is the question which is now up for answer, as much as that of whether wages are to stay up or go down."

President Wilson was appealed to by both sides, but decided. It was said, to take no hand in the fight.

The Fordney emergency tariff bill took up a lot of the senate's time, but there was little prospect of getting it to a final vote. An attempt to apply cloture was defeated by the Democrats, who then embarrassed the Republicans by consenting to have a showdown on the measure about February 16. The Democrats asserted the Republican leaders had been bluffing about their desire to pass the bill and were buncoing the farmers.

Prohibition Commissioner Kramer put an awful dent in the illicit booze industry last week by an order forbidding further withdrawals from bonded warehouses of any liquor except industrial alcohol, wines for sacramental purposes, and liquor for retail druggists, who will be permitted to withdraw not more than five cases under each authorization. He also ceased issuing permits for wholesale liquor dealers. Having clamped down this lid, certain of the chief's leading aids were sent to the Canadian border to try to stop the smuggling of liquor there.



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