

JAPAN PLAYS WITH FIRE

Scheme to Establish Colony on Mexican Border Arouses American Hostility

BASE FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES

Land Was Bought and Developed by Americans and Confiscated by Mexicans.

Washington, March 31.—The American embassy at Mexico City was instructed today to make inquiries concerning the report that the Mexican government has granted agricultural concessions to Japan in Lower California and to report the facts as quickly as possible.

No official information has reached the department about the concessions and surprise was occasioned by the dispatch from Mexico City yesterday quoting General Amado Aguirre, under secretary of development and agriculture, as saying they had been granted. The American government is interested both because of the apparent success of Japan in obtaining a long sought foothold in lower California and because the tract of land involved was developed and is claimed by an American company whose rights were declared forfeited by the Mexican government in 1917.

The land, upwards of 1,000,000 acres below the California border was originally granted by the then President Diaz to the California and Mexican Land Company of Los Angeles of which Gen. Harrison Gray Otis of Los Angeles was the leading figure. It was desert land with nothing growing on it but sagebrush and chaparral. The soil, however, was rich, in places 80 feet deep, formed by deposits for generations by the Colorado river. It produced nothing for Mexico and the expense of putting water on the land was so great that no one in Mexico would undertake it. The American company spent more than \$1,000,000 in irrigation work before the tract was productive. One of the requirements in the concession was that the land should be irrigated. Another was that it should be settled with farmers and ranchers. Both these requirements are said to have been met by the American company and the Mexican government profited by the taxes paid by the Americans.

When Diaz was deposed and the revolutionary period begun the American settlers were driven from the land by revolutionists. Live stock was stolen, and several settlers were killed. For two years the land was unworked and then the company found that Japanese settlers were willing to take up farms and cultivate them. The Japanese were protected by the Mexicans, whatever party of revolutionists were in power in that section. Short time leases are said to have been granted to Japanese farmers, but the American owners refused to sell any of the land to the Japanese or to grant long term leases. On April 7, 1917, the Mexican government declared the tract confiscated, according to the statements of General Aguirre and then, it was apparently the Mexican government opened negotiations with a Japanese syndicate.

Acting Secretary of State Phillips said today that the American company in Los Angeles proposed about two years ago to grant a Japanese corporation long term leases on a large portion if not all of the tract. At that time the company still was unable to maintain American settlers there, but when the state department objected to this proposed lease the company dropped its negotiations with the Japanese company.

When Senator Phelan of California recently informed the department that negotiations had been renewed, the company's attention was directed to the American government's attitude.

Los Angeles, March 31.—The owners of the California-Mexico Land & Cattle Company's property in Lower California still adhere to a declaration made to the state department in 1917 that they will not "under any circumstances make any lease of any kind to Japanese, where colonization is probable, until we are first authoritatively informed that such an arrangement will be entirely agreeable to the government of our own country."

This was announced here today by Harry Chandler, president of the company. In his statement Mr. Chandler also said:

"I desire to call attention to an error in the statement made by the Mexican assistant secretary of fomento, General Amado Aguirre, as reported in the Associated Press dispatches dated March 29 to the effect that the California-Mexico Land & Cattle Company's titles came through a concession from the former Mexican government.

"Neither the California-Mexico Land & Cattle Company nor its grantors ever asked for or received any concessions for any portion of the lands now held by our company from the government of Mexico.

"The lands our company owns and controls were acquired by direct purchase for cash at the full price asked, from the Mexican government and no concessions of any kind were ever asked for or received in connection with the purchase of our landed property."

The property of the California Mexico Land & Cattle Company, known on both sides of the border as the C. M. Ranch, now comprises 820,000 acres running from the international boundary to the Gulf of California. It was originally 862,000 acres, but 32,000 acres was sold to John Cudaby about seven years ago. The whole tract comprises the Mexican portion of the Imperial Valley,

DEBS MAKES STRIKE THREAT

Declares That Unless He Is Released He Will Tie Up Industry

TIME HAS COME FOR SHOW DOWN

Law Abiding People Should Not Temporize With Criminal Labor Agitators.

Washington, March 31.—Eugene V. Debs' application for a rehearing of his appeal from conviction and sentence to ten years' imprisonment for violating the espionage act was denied today by the supreme court.

In filing his motion for a rehearing Debs who claimed the court's opinion amounted to the trial of a person for an undisclosed "state of mind" that he had been denied the privilege of showing his motive in making the speech for which he was convicted and that the court had failed to decide all of the questions presented to it for review.

The prosecution resulted from statements made by Debs in a speech in Canton, Ohio, last June. The supreme court affirmed the conviction on March 10. Unless executive clemency is obtained Debs must serve his sentence. He is at liberty on bail.

Akron, Ohio, March 31.—Eugene V. Debs, Socialist leader, today threatened to call a general strike of his party throughout the country unless he is granted a rehearing in the courts on charges upon which he was convicted under the espionage act.

Debs was confined to bed with a bad attack of lumbago at the home of Mrs. Margaret Prevey here when notified the United States supreme court had refused him a rehearing. He refused to see newspaper men, but through Mrs. Prevey issued the following statement to the press:

"The matter is in the hands of my attorney, Seymour Stedman of Chicago. I do not know what legal action he will follow as I have received no word from him as yet.

"Unless something can be done the program of the party to tie up the country in a general strike will be fulfilled. I am prepared to fight to the end."

Mrs. Prevey said Debs' condition is not serious and that he will be able to be out within a few days.

When shown the report of the decision of the supreme court, Debs said:

"That means that by May 1, the day on which I begin my sentence, a general strike will have culminated. It must not be forgotten that that day is the labor day of the world. On that day I had been assured that if the supreme court had not ruled by that time more than 5,000 labor meetings would have been held asking for my release.

"The miners of my own State of Indiana will start the strike. These men came to me at my home in Terre Haute before I started on my last speaking tour and told me that from the day I went to the penitentiary there would be no more coal mined in Indiana, until the day I was released.

"The movement will undoubtedly begin at once."

Preparing For New War

Hungary Sends Mission to Berlin to Form Alliance

Budapest, March 31, via Geneva.—(By the Associated Press).—The Hungarian government has sent a delegation to Berlin to conclude a treaty of alliance against the Entente Allies.

German officers, formerly belonging to Field Marshal Mackensen's army, have arrived in Budapest to reorganize the Hungarian army along German lines. The army now numbers 100,000 men.

Archangel, Monday, March 31.—Bolshevik artillery subjected the allied railway front and positions south of Odozerskai to the heaviest bombardment in many weeks yesterday. In the meantime the enemy is moving considerable forces through the woods, indicating that an attack may follow soon.

which is practically all under irrigation and susceptible to intensive cultivation.

San Francisco, March 31.—Direct diplomatic representations to Mexico and Japan to prevent the establishment of land grants to Japanese within Mexican borders "because of their military and industrial menace" are to be urged on the floor of congress by United States Senator James D. Phelan, according to an announcement by the senator here today. He will make a direct plea to the state department also, he announced.

"While Mexico is well within her constitutional rights in granting this land, it will form a 'little Japan' right on our borders," Senator Phelan said. "This will increase the danger of a Japanese invasion in California, which is a very attractive country for them. It would create a base of supplies and would be a propagating ground.

"Already we know that the Japanese are coming over the border from Mexico. The fishermen at San Pedro and San Diego maintain a large fleet of high powered motor boats, and it is suspected that the Japanese are coming in also by that means.

"So a large Japanese colony in Mexico would be a military and industrial menace and I believe that the policy of the government is to prevent such a settlement near our doors."

NEW BASIS OF AGREEMENT

Premiers Consider the Matter Franco-German Frontier Adjustment

DIFFERENCES APPROACH A SETTLEMENT

French Economic and Political Authority May Be Continued Temporarily in Mines.

Paris, April 1 (By the Associated Press).—The Franco-German frontier, which is still the foremost subject before Premiers Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando, and President Wilson, is being presented from a new standpoint which offers some prospect of agreement.

The first plan was to give France economic control of the Saar coal fields so as to offset damage to the coal mines of Northern France. France was not to have political control over the large German population in the Saar Valley which would remain with Germany. This proved objectionable and one of the chief causes of the council of four's inaction. The main objection was the divided control, by which France would be unable to operate the mines effectively, prevent strikes and enforce authority when the Germans were exercising political control.

The new plan, therefore, seeks to combine French economic and political authority for a temporary period until the productive capacity of the mines in Northern France is restored, industrial production revived and the prostration due to the war, ended. It is estimated that five years will be required to restore the mines to normal and this probably gives an idea of the length of the proposed joint control by France.

The fact that the control would be temporary would overcome the objection of annexation similar to the German annexation of Alsace and Lorraine in 1870.

The proposal was first advanced as concerning the Saar region only but it is regarded now as equally applicable to the left bank of the Rhine as a possible basis of agreement.

A new phase of the question of reparations is also being presented in the proposal to avoid stating in the treaty any specific total, and thus escape controversy over the largeness or smallness of the amount. It is said that this is possible by defining the character of the payments over a period of years, without precisely defining what the total would reach, and efforts are being made to find a formula which would express this idea.

It is understood that the plan is considered advantageous chiefly for friendly countries where expectations have been aroused of a total much larger than is likely to be allowed.

The impression is gaining ground that a formula will be found covering reparation without naming a figure, the suggestion being made of a commission to determine the losses of the different countries. Marshal Foch attended the early session of the council before leaving for Spa to meet the German plenipotentiary regarding the landing of Polish troops at Danzig.

The foreign ministers met today and disapproved the proposal of George Nicoll Barnes, the British delegate, for a plenary meeting of the conference on Saturday.

King Albert of Belgium, who arrived today, will probably see President Wilson regarding Belgian interests.

Paris, April 1.—The council of foreign ministers at their meeting this afternoon received the report of the peace conference commission on Czecho-Slovak territorial claims and discussed the advisability of holding a plenary session of the conference for a discussion of the report on international labor legislation. The report was made by the commission designated by the full conference and consequently it probably will be received at plenary session.

The foreign ministers also considered the questions of holding business sessions at Versailles when the German delegates arrive there. Because of the inadequate heating arrangements and its inconvenient location, there is some doubt whether Versailles would be satisfactory for a business session, although historic reasons make it imperative that the peace treaty be signed there.

Paris, April 1.—An agreement on at least one point seems to have been reached in the peace conference discussions, according to The Temps. "Germany is not to be permitted to keep garrisons, fortifications or war factories not only on the left bank of the Rhine but also along a strip of at least 30 miles on the right bank."

Paris, April 1 (By the Associated Press).—The German financial commission arrived today at Pont-Salvite Mayence, about 15 miles southwest of Compiegne. The members of the commission motored to the Chateau Plessis Vilette, where they will stay. Access to the chateau is strictly forbidden. Guards are mounted at all its entrances.

Fruit Crop Ruined

Cold Weather Has Practically Destroyed Virginia Peach Crop

Washington, April 2.—Great damage to fruit and vegetables in the Southeast by the cold the last few days is reported in advices received here today. The Virginia peach crop is virtually ruined.

VICTORY LOAN SUCCESS SURE

Secretary of Treasury Replies to Calder—No Cause For Fear

PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT GOVERNMENT

Liberty Bonds of All Classes Will Sell Above Par Before Maturity.

Washington, April 1.—Confidence in the financial condition of the country and its ability to float the forthcoming Victory Liberty Loan was expressed today by Secretary Glass in replying to the suggestion of Senator Calder of New York that a special session of congress should be called to stop depreciation in the market price of Liberty bonds.

Far from agreeing that the decline in outstanding bonds might jeopardize the popularity campaign for flotation of the Victory issue this month, thereby tying up credits by forcing the banks to take the new bonds, Mr. Glass declared that he was assured the treasury's efforts to solve the financial problems of the country would have the support of a "united and victorious people." Depreciation in bonds, he said, has been the result of artificial causes and he knew of no one who did not believe that all Liberty bonds would sell above par before maturity.

"There is today no insufficiency of credit for the needs of any useful enterprise, nor insufficiency of gold to support our credit structure," Secretary Glass declared.

Echoes of the political fight which occupied the closing hours of congress were contained in the secretary's reply, which was in the form of a letter to the New York senator. He quoted from a speech by Senator Calder on the Victory Liberty bond bill in which the senator declared that he saw no reason "why we should not feel certain of the future." Mr. Glass said there had been no adverse developments since the bill was passed, which would make necessary a special session, as Mr. Calder advocated.

"Already commerce and industry begin to show signs of the renewed life which must follow the removal of the restraints and interferences which war made necessary," the secretary said.

"The war is won. Our present national debt of less than \$25,000,000,000 and our ultimate national debt, after all war bills are paid, which ought not in any event to exceed \$30,000,000,000 against which we shall hold \$10,000,000,000 of obligations of foreign governments is the barest fraction of our national resources. This relation of our debt to our population and resources is small indeed compared to that of any of the great countries of Europe.

"The discontinuance of government interference with the foreign exchanges, made possible by the cessation of hostilities has demonstrated the true position of dollar exchange, which not only is at a premium in relation to the currencies of all of the European countries which were engaged in the war, but has now approached par or actually reached a premium with respect to the currencies of European neutrals."

"Our reserve, the greatest in amount in the world, the greatest in relation to circulation and deposit in any of the countries which were engaged in the war was on March 28, 1918, 51.9 per cent of the combined relation to circulation and deposit in the federal reserve banks. This compared most favorably with a combined reserve of 49.3 per cent on November 3, 1913, just before the armistice, particularly in view of the fact that since that date the government expenditures, for the most part, growing out of the war, have approximated \$8,600,000,000, the greater part of which has necessarily been provided by the sale of treasury certificates of indebtedness to the banking institutions of the country.

"The government's expenditures, which shortly after the armistice reached a maximum in excess of \$2,000,000,000 in a month, should, after the war bills have been paid, shrink back to \$2,000,000,000 a year in addition to the interest and sinking fund charges on the public debt. This debt is widely distributed among perhaps 20,000,000 of our people and involves merely a payment by the taxpayers to the tax payers—for we are fortunate above all the great countries of the world in having practically no foreign debt.

"The liquidation which has taken place in Liberty bonds since the armistice is traceable to other causes than the interest rate and terms of the bonds. Foremost of these causes is the fact that many patriotic American individuals and companies, subscribe for bonds, in a spirit of patriotic fervor induced by the war, in excess of their ability to hold. The 'oversold' condition of the market for Liberty bonds thus created was accentuated by the reaction following the armistice, which made many feel they were released from the duty of holding their bonds in aid of the government's credit, by the desire to realize losses before the end of the year and thus reduce taxes; by the changed financial position of many bond holders growing out of the termination of hostilities, and worst of all by the wicked devices of bond sharps and swindlers.

"I believe that all these adverse influences have spent their force. I am sanguine to believe that the market for Liberty bonds has seen its worst and the market position of the bonds will improve as true understanding of the immense strength of the financial position of the United States becomes disseminated and as the Victory Liberty loan campaign proceeds."

The U. S. Department of Labor advises you to
Save Your Money By Building a Home
We advise you to save even more money by
Buying Your Building Material From
Booth & McLeod, Inc.
When you think of building think of us.

WHAT GERMANY MUST REPAY

Council of Four Has Question of Reparation and Rhine Valley Under Consideration

WILL REQUIRE SEVERAL DAYS MORE

This is The Great Issue Before Conference and France is Vitally Interested in Decision.

Paris, April 2.—The consideration of the reparation question and the disposition of the Rhine valley was continued by the council of four, comprising President Wilson and the premiers of France, Italy and Great Britain, when the council session was resumed today. It is understood that it is probable that at least three more days will be occupied with these subjects.

Attack Rate Ruling North Dakota Court Seeks to Set Aside Freight Rate Order of Railroad Administration

Bismark, N. D., April 2.—The State Supreme Court today granted the application of Attorney General Langer for a writ restraining the railroad in North Dakota from charging the increased passenger and freight rates made effective June 1st, 1918 by order of the director general of railroads.

Telegraph Users Suffer Big Loss

Mackay Declares Increase in Rates Means Payment of Millions of Dollars

New York, April 1.—Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal Telegraph Cable Company, in a statement today said the 20 per cent increase in telegraph rates ordered by Postmaster General Burleson means a loss of \$16,000,000 a year to telegraph users. He declared his company would restore the old rates at once if Mr. Burleson would relinquish control of the Postal lines. Mr. Mackay said the total telegraph business of the country is approximately \$80,000,000 a year.

Disorder in Frankfurt

All Available Troops Rushed to Scene

Frankfurt, Tuesday, April 1.—Rioting broke out here again this afternoon, and mobs plundered provisions stores. All available military forces were rushed to the scene. As this dispatch was sent the fighting was continuing.

Casualties in Frankfurt

Eleven Killed and Twenty-Five Wounded

Paris, April 2.—A Zurich dispatch says that in the Frankfurt riots on Monday eleven were killed and twenty-five wounded. The police made four hundred arrests.

German Chiefs to Meet

Conference of Party Leaders Called to Discuss Danzig Question

Zurich, April 2.—In view of fresh negotiations over the Danzig question the German cabinet decided to gather the chiefs of all parties of the national assembly at Berlin tomorrow to reach an agreement on the policy to be followed, according to an announcement by the German propaganda service.

Crisis in Germany

More Serious Outbreak Than Those of Winter Expected

London, April 2.—Describing the outlook in Germany the correspondent of The Daily Mail says a crisis is rapidly approaching which seems certain to be graver than either the January or March outbreaks.

WILSON WARNS AGAINST DELAY

Tell Conference That the World is Waiting on Conclusion of Peace

NO MORE TIME SHOULD BE WASTED

Suggestion Comes in Conference After More Than Usual Oratory Had Been Heard.

Paris, April 1 (By the Associated Press).—What is construed as a warning that the world could not long countenance further delay in the adjustment of peace was delivered to the allied premiers and military representatives of the associated powers by President Wilson yesterday.

It is learned that a late hour on Monday he arose during the conference taking place in Premier Clemenceau's room at the French war office, and solemnly assured the conferees of his belief that they should do all in their power to bring together the loose ends in the debate in an effort to unite on peace terms upon which a treaty might be presented to Germany.

It is understood that the president pointed out frankly the delays that have occurred in the work of peace making. He declared that the world was awaiting the conclusion of the task of the conferees and that it had a right to expect early results.

The president's appeal for an expedited effort followed a long session in which there had been more than usual oratory. It came at the close of a day when financial experts had been called before the president and the premiers. They had explained the different points of view that had arisen during the consideration of the question of reparation. Military experts likewise had been consulted at length regarding the reparation.

Military experts likewise had been consulted at length regarding the disposition of the Saar Valley, the left bank of the Rhine, the problem of Danzig and other questions in which strategic issues were involved.

President Wilson explained that he was willing to accept his share of responsibility for the peace conference delays. He was careful to point out that the slowness of the negotiations was not due to any single country or its representatives. He declared emphatically, however, that the time for talk was virtually finished and that now was the time to show results.

Paris, April 1.—Settlement of Italy's frontier question contemporaneously with that of France was insisted upon today by Premier Orlando at a conference with President Wilson just before the council of four convened to discuss the Italian frontier question.

Paris, April 1.—The Italian premier asked the president whether he did not think it advisable to have an informal exchange of views on the Italian problem, especially as regards the Adriatic, before it is presented to the council. The president replied that he shared this view, but owing to pressure of work, had been unable to personally study the Italian question. However, he promised to do so.

Premier Orlando's suggestion at a simultaneous session of the frontier question involves a joint peace with Austria, a plan which is favored by the American delegation provided that it does cause too much delay. In this connection with American boundaries commission expects this week to conclude all boundaries, including those of Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Paris, April 1.—It was stated authoritatively tonight after the meetings between President Wilson and the premiers that the prospects for an accord were more hopeful.

Distinct progress was made at the morning and afternoon session, particularly regarding the Saar River. The indications are that the French will get coal from the Saar valley which will be charged against their share in the reparations. There was some discussion of the advisability of leaving the eventual disposition of the Saar valley to a plebiscite.

Bolsheviks Renew Attack

Severe Fighting Continues on Archangel Front

Archangel, Tuesday, April 1.—The Bolsheviks again attacked allied positions along the railway near Odozerskai, and also made an assault again on the lines east of Bolshevia Ozeru yesterday but at both places were repulsed.