

France and Japan Charge Siberians With "Forgery" Alleged Communications Between Paris and Tokio Say France Must Resist America's Efforts in Far East

Washington, Jan. 1 (By the Associated Press).—Copies of what were declared to be communications between Japanese and French governments covering the proposal that the two governments act in concert at the Washington conference with respect to the establishment of a Japanese protectorate over Siberia, were given out tonight by the special delegation of the Far Eastern republic which has asked for a hearing when the Siberian question is taken up by the conference.

The communications were characterized tonight by a member of the French delegation as "forgery, stupidly contrived," and as "malicious fabrications," by a spokesman of the Japanese delegation.

The French government has had no communication whatever with the Japanese government respecting a protectorate over Eastern Siberia, said M. Kammerer, director of the Russian and Far Eastern department of the French foreign office.

"I have been vice foreign minister since September 8, 1919," said M. Hanhara, one of the Japanese delegates, "that is to say, during the period when these alleged documents are dated. I want to say with all the emphasis at my command that there is no shadow of truth so far as Japan is concerned and therefore, they must be a forgery."

Reference to the Washington conference occurs first in a communication headed "from foreign office in Paris," transmitted by telegraph to Tokio on the 2nd of September to be delivered to the minister of foreign affairs.

"The aims of the Washington conference are not quite clear to the French government," this note reads, "we are therefore unable to express our frank opinion with regard to the conference.

"We take into consideration the interests of Japan to the same extent as we have done it before especially when our government is convinced that with regard to all the questions which will be discussed in Washington the French government will have to rely on Japan only. Our agreement with Japan on the Siberian question, forces us to be very careful for our decisions are in conflict with the policy of America which is now playing an important part in the East. America's intention to secure for itself a place in Soviet Russia has been frustrated by our policy. The Americans are therefore pushing the Eastern question so as to gain supremacy in the West. We must resist such efforts by all means and the French government hopes to have the help of the Japanese government in that.

"The Japanese plan to create a free republic in the East under the protectorship of Japan is comprehensible to us and the French government will give its support to that plan by all means, especially as we believe that the Japanese government will take into consideration our interests in the Chinese Eastern Railway, Manchuria and our interests in concessions. We consider necessary therefore to be well informed of all the details of the Dairen conference so as to come to a Washington sufficiently prepared. It would be advisable to send such a delegation which would be capable of working out all the details. With regard we would advise you to consult our representative.

"Japan's plan to evacuate Siberia our government regards as premature and dangerous if it take into consideration that the Com-

munist regime in Russia is reaching its end. A complete collapse can be expected at any time. There is no need of sending our troops against the Bolsheviks or of taking any other step. The chaos, the general situation, our attitude of expectation and the terrible famine have ruined Russia. The East will also be influenced by this crisis. The chaos will be extended to Siberia and in this respect we need the help of Japan. Because of these considerations we consider the evacuation as premature. Japan must also participate in the restoration of Russia. We are ready to the downfall and restoration. Well disciplined and equipped armies are now stationed in Hungary and Jugoslavia who are ready to invade the country at any moment to restore order and to give their assistance to the old monarchic regime. What that has been done, our aim shall be accomplished: Russia will be free and our common interests easily realized. The French government hopes that at this moment when the fate of new Russia is being decided, Japan will not put any obstacles and the French government will readily defend the interests of Japan in every respect.

(Signed) "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

Another of the documents, dated Tokio, September 7, said in part: "The Japanese imperial government considers itself under great obligations to the French government and is no less interested in regulating the important problem which has been put forward by the French government.

"The Japanese government notes with gratification its solidarity with the point of view expressed by you and which may be put forth at the Washington conference. Nevertheless, the imperial government is compelled to declare that under no circumstances will it renounce that principle which is being carried out in the Siberian problem. It (the Japanese government) is very pleased that the French government intends to defend our point of view by all means.

"It would be very desirable that this question should be finally settled prior to the conference. Our policy in the new republic will be a real policy which will not tolerate any foreign interference. It is too early to speak of evacuation, as everything depends on what will take place within the nearest future in Soviet Russia. These are indications that the end is near, and if this should become evident the imperial government is ready to come to the aid of restoration, especially that in such event in connection with the new situation, we will have to change our policy."

(Signed) "Minister of Foreign Affairs."

Columbia's Street Car Situation.

Columbia, Jan. 2.—The Columbia street car situation is in status quo for ten days. The state board of conciliation will meet again next week at which time the restoration will be discussed further. The meeting last week adjourned Saturday, after both sides had agreed to let the situation remain without change until the board could meet again. E. B. Geer, of Greenville, and H. E. ("Smoke") Thompson, of Batesburg, were the members of the board attending the conciliation efforts.

It is understood the car men have agreed to a wage reduction proposed in a new agreement for 1922, submitted by the company, but that they object to certain clauses regarding the method of employment. The new agreement is interpreted as a blow at the "closed shop" plan, with a view to having "open shop" labor on the car line.

Florence, Ala., Jan. 2.—The construction company of North America is a competitive bidder for the government's project at Muscle Shoals, C. C. Tinkler, president of the corporation announced here today.

House-hold hint: Pay your rent.

Lancaster Bank Loses in Court

Judge Townsend Refuses to Grant Injunction Against County Treasurer

Columbia, Dec. 31.—Judge Townsend yesterday issued an order refusing to grant an injunction against T. L. Hilton, treasurer of Lancaster county, from withdrawing over \$30,000 of county funds from the First National Bank of Lancaster, of which bank Charles D. Jones is president.

An effort to enjoin Mr. Hilton from withdrawing the funds from the First National bank and placing them in another bank was made here Thursday afternoon before Judge Townsend, but the order issued yesterday refuses the injunction petition and rescinds the restraining order issued by Judge Townsend some days ago.

The First National bank attempted to prevent the withdrawal of the funds under the provisions of a legislative act of 1914 and the Lancaster county supply bills for several years, which provided that the treasurer should keep the county funds in the various banks of the county in proportion to the capital stock of the banks. Judge Townsend says that the acts declare that the county should deposit its money in the banks offering the most accommodations and if all the banks offer to loan the county money at the same rate of interest, the funds should be deposited according to the capital stock of the banks.

In concluding his order, Judge Townsend uses the following language: "In the absence of an agreement fixing the time the relation between the county treasurer and the bank as depositor and depositary is to continue, it is terminable at the will of the parties; and it is the duty of the depositary to pay over the money on the lawful order of the county treasurer for county purposes or change of investment at the direction of the county authorities. A failure of the depositary to perform this duty could not be justified by the failure of the county treasurer to maintain the deposit required by the statute.

"For these reasons, the application for a temporary injunction is refused; and the restraining order heretofore made by me in this action is rescinded, vacated and set aside."

Final Drive By Tobacco Growers

Large Company Sends Word It Will Deal With Association

Florence, Dec. 29.—Official announcement was received here today by T. B. Young, secretary of the South Carolina Tobacco Association, from the Leggett & Myers Tobacco Company that they will deal with tobacco growers cooperative marketing associations. Receipt of this information removes the last doubt of the standing and strength of the tri-state association embracing bright tobacco growers of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. It is the final contribution to the success of the campaign ending Saturday night to sign up South Carolina planters, Mr. Young said.

With just tomorrow and Saturday left to win or lose cooperative marketing of tobacco in South Carolina by the growers one thousand men are working day and night throughout the belt. These men are planters, who have contracted their tobacco. Special workers from Virginia and North Carolina extension service, agents, business men and other contracts are being signed by the hundred. Mr. Young stated tonight, on the basis of general reports to headquarters.

The Tri-State Association is going over in South Carolina, headquarters predict confidently. The only question is how big it is going over. The big contracts have been landed almost 100 per cent. The contracts now are averaging less than 100,000 pounds each. 5,000,000 pounds of these must be had in the last three days of this week to win.

In meetings today in Aynor and Loris, Horry county, signed up 500,000 pounds. Lake City promises to forward 1,000,000 pounds to headquarters tomorrow. Mr. Young urges the immediate forwarding of every contract for checking. The probable sign up at present is estimated at above 24,000,000 pounds, as 3,000,000 must be had Friday and Saturday to make the minimum quota of the State. Those two days offer the greatest challenge of the campaign. Mr. Young stated tonight. The task to be accomplished within them is the hardest of the entire effort.

The Lid Clamped On New York

Prohibition Officers Determine to Have Dry New Year

New York, Dec. 31.—Ralph A. Day, state prohibition director, today issued final instructions for making the New Year's holiday most rigidly dry.

Economic Conference of Bankers

Paris, Dec. 31.—The economic conference of allied bankers and manufacturing interests, is considering measures for reestablishing international credit of Europe and has agreed upon the draft of the project for an international consortium which will be submitted to the allied supreme council.

Navies Reduced To the Limit

Washington Conference Has Done All That is Possible to Cut Naval Forces

Washington, Dec. 30 (By the Associated Press).—The arms conference has virtually reached the end of its effort to put a curb on naval armaments. To the capital ship settlement was added today an agreement for limitation of future tonnage of airplane carriers, and then the naval committee determined indefinitely leaving determination of various problems of detail to a subcommittee of experts.

Some sort of declaration with regard to use of the submarine and an agreement not to construct any auxiliary vessels hereafter with a tonnage of more than 10,000 are expected also to be added to the accomplishments of the conference before final curtain is rung down. A five-power treaty embodying all the points on which there is agreement now is in process of drafting.

There are growing indications, too, that four power treaty to preserve peace in the Pacific, which already has been signed, will be in some way further clarified before the conference quits. The American delegation is understood to have withdrawn any objection to the Japanese proposal that the treaty's scope be defined as not including the major Japanese islands, and the plan for an exchange of the treaty text is expected to take definite form within a few days.

The Japanese request for a clarification of the treaty's terms is said to have been based largely on the development of a difference in view on the subject between President Harding and the American delegation. This difference has been a topic of such widespread speculation in conference circles that the president took occasion today to characterize as "silly" published reports that Secretary Hughes was considering resignation from the cabinet as a result of differences arising between him and the White House during the arms negotiations.

What is to be done about the Far Eastern problems now becomes the big unanswered question of the conference. Japan and China are deadlocked in their efforts at a separate settlement of the Shantung controversy and as a consequence all the other Far Eastern discussions are at a standstill. It was indicated tonight that a meeting of the Far Eastern committee would be held next week, at which China would attempt to transfer the Shantung negotiations into the full conference.

Meantime senate discussion of the accomplishments of the conference are continuing even though the senate is not in session. Today's contribution to the agreement came from Senator Edges (Republican) of New Jersey, who declared in a public statement that the Washington negotiations had laid the foundation for great progress toward peace and good will.

These are the "loose ends" of the naval limitation program remaining to be gathered up now that the principal issues of the negotiations are out of the way: 1. The naval experts have yet to work out detailed agreements under the capital ship settlement for establishment of a standard tonnage system of measurements for the replacement building that has been agreed to; for methods of scrapping; for determining the relationship of merchant fleets to war fleets in war time; and for prevention of warship construction in any place or manner that would violate the naval holiday.

2. France still has to formally accept the 10,000 tons limit agreed to by the other powers for individual warships of the auxiliary classes. 3. The first Root resolution reaffirming existing international law principles for regulation of submarine warfare is to be put into final phraseology and formally adopted. 4. The second and third Root resolutions prohibiting use of submarines against merchant vessels and making illegitimate underwater warfare an act of piracy are yet to be accepted or rejected by France, Italy and Japan.

5. The complete capital ship agreement, the agreement on airplane carriers, the airplane credit limitation and the resolutions finally accepted regarding submarines are to be put into a five-power treaty and formally signed.

DECREASE OF TWO IN 1921 LYNCHINGS

New York, Dec. 31.—Sixty-three persons were lynched this year against sixty-five in 1921, said the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a statement.

LEPROSY IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, Dec. 31.—Eighty or ninety cases of leprosy are known to exist in this city, City Health Commissioner Copeland told a meeting of physicians.

ANTI-BOOZE CRUSADE IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The police and prohibition forces are prepared to give Chicago a dry New Year Eve. Flank carriers have been warned that they will be arrested.

OUEN MUTINY IN BRITISH INDIA

Ahmedabad, British India, Dec. 31.—Hazer Mohani, president of the All-India Mohan League, opening its annual session, pleaded that the republic be declared January 1, with guerrilla warfare if necessary.

Apologizing For Debs' Pardon

Attorney General Daugherty at Much Pains to Explain Release of War Time Traitor

Washington, Dec. 30.—Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist leader, was granted his freedom from Atlanta federal penitentiary on Christmas day by President Harding solely as an "act of grace," his violation of the war laws remain unforgiven by the government. This was disclosed tonight by Attorney General Daugherty, who made public the text of his recommendations to the president in the Debs case.

"It will be observed," Mr. Daugherty said, "that a pardon was not granted Debs, but that his sentence was commuted. He is commuted by those who are demanding their release." Mr. Daugherty said, "there is no real reason why he should be treated any differently than any other person who violates the law aside from the fact that many of them, as well as their friends and associates on the outside, actually believe and are sincere in their belief that they have violated no just law and were strictly within their constitutional right in their public utterances which have been found to be in violation of the espionage act. Of course there are others among them who were and are actively, conscientiously disloyal to our government and who commuted and intend to disrupt and overthrow our present form of government whenever opportunity presents itself and are working to that end. As for them nothing need be said. They are past reason and the only argument they can understand is the heavy arm of the law. They have been justly and wisely convicted and must suffer the penalty of their misdeeds.

In reaching his decision regarding Debs, the attorney general reviewed the history of the case, quoting copiously from the speech delivered by Debs before the Socialist convention at Canton, Ohio, in 1918, pointing out that the constitutionality of Debs' conviction was upheld by the supreme court and asserting that this was the second time Debs had "set up his theories of government against the government itself," referring to the so-called Pullman strike in 1894.

Discussing the question of Debs' health, Mr. Daugherty declared that he appeared to be physically strong, but as a matter of fact was not and "he is not a normal man mentally on this particular subject." Considering Debs' age of 66 years, the attorney general asserted that the percentage of his life appropriated to the ten year sentence was excessive.

Florence Roller Mills Burned

Florence, Dec. 30.—The Florence roller mills, owned by Captain Gillespie and E. S. Oliver jointly, were burned here today. The plant was valued at \$150,000 and insured for \$100,000. While other buildings in the vicinity were endangered the good work of the fire department prevented any further destruction. A quantity of stacked flour was burned in the building. Another fire of considerable proportions occurred yesterday when the machine shops and carriage works of L. Tyler were destroyed. Mr. Tyler carried \$5,500 insurance but his loss will be heavy. Several stores close to the burning works were slightly damaged by fire and water.

Pittsburgh Operators Meet

Cleveland, Dec. 31.—The Pittsburgh Coal Vein Operators' Association began its annual session today. They will consider whether they will renew the general wage agreement with the United Mine Workers of America.

Balfour Will Leave Washington

Washington, Dec. 31.—Arthur J. Balfour, head of the British delegation, has definitely decided to sail for home on January 14th, leaving Sir Auckland Geddes, the ambassador here, to wind up any unfinished conference matters.

Mexicans Start Killing Again

Mexico City, Dec. 31.—Eleven persons were injured in a fight near the chamber of deputies in connection with yesterday's election of a permanent commission to legislate during the congressional recess.

NEW PEACE SILVER DOLLAR READY

Washington, Dec. 31.—The new silver peace dollar will be ready for distribution Tuesday, it was said at the treasury.

CAMPAIGN FOR CORRECT HISTORY

Washington, Dec. 31.—The American history commission of the Knights of Columbus met here today to plan a campaign for a correct rendering of the nation's history.

Shall the Water Works Land Be Leased?

County Fair Officials Appeal to Citizens of Sumter to Consider Matter Carefully

Two petitions are being circulated in the matter of the proposed lease of the city water works land for county fair purposes. The first petition against the lease of the land on the grounds that occupation of the land by a county fair will contaminate the water supply has been numerously signed, but the second petition in favor of this lease is also receiving generous support. The Sumter County Fair Association officials do not believe for a moment that there is any danger of contaminating the water supply with a county fair or they would not ask for this land for that purpose. They feel that their opinion is worth as much as that of any other average layman and they have secured the opinion of competent sanitary experts that a county fair will not contaminate the water because every precaution known to sanitary science will be taken.

Therefore the county fair officials ask that their petition be signed by the citizens and the burden of proof that a county fair is peculiarly and particularly dangerous to public health and a menace to the water supply be placed on those who oppose the lease of these lands for county fair purposes. Conceding absolutely the honesty of purpose of those who oppose leasing these lands for county fair purposes for the reasons alleged by these opponents of the lease, the county fair officials respectfully submit that the county fair officials and the stockholders of the association are just as loyal citizens and as much interested in the public health and prosperity of Sumter as are those who oppose the lease of the land for county fair purposes. Furthermore the county fair officials believe that they know about as much about sanitary science, purification of liquid waste by bacterial, chemical and natural methods, etc., as do any of those opposed to the lease of the land. In other words the county fair officials do not think that there are any more scientific sanitary experts on the side of those opposed than there are among those who favor the use of the land for county fair purposes. The county fair officials are willing to be governed by competent, expert, scientific authority and ask that the citizens of Sumter be willing to do likewise.

Banks Pay Dividends

Stockholders Receive Semi-Annual Dividend Checks

Holders of stock in various banks of the city are in receipt of semi-annual stockholders' dividend checks which are calculated to put each stockholder in an optimistic frame of mind for the beginning of the New Year. The National Bank of Sumter paid its usual semi-annual 4 per cent dividend on its capital stock which amounted to \$8,000 paid to the stockholders of this bank. A prosperous year of business has been enjoyed by this bank under the existing conditions. Deposits on hand at this date last year and the amount of loans and of their bills payable have been materially decreased this year as over last year's standing.

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Pisgah News and Views.

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got married recently to a Mr. Horton. She was raised here and has many friends and relatives who wish for her a life of long happiness.

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Bandits Kill Two; Fail to Rob Bank

Start Shooting on Entering Bank—After Payroll of \$7,000

Pearl River, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Four armed bandits today swooped down on Pearl River, failed in an attempt to rob the First National bank, and fled in their automobile after slaying two men and probably mortally wounding another.

One robber, wounded by one of the victims, left a slight trail of blood in the snow, but this was lost when he entered the machine. Tonight the town fire department in their trucks, citizens in private machines, and the police were scouring the countryside.

Just what occurred was told the district attorney by Otto Miller, a railroad flagman who was conferring in an inner office with James P. Moore, assistant cashier, when the robbers appeared, and who tonight lay critically wounded in a hospital. Only one other person was in the bank at the time—Seigfried Hutz, a clerk, who, with Moore, was slain.

Attracted to the bank by the prospect of obtaining a \$7,000 payroll for the Dexter Folder Company plant across the street, the robbers without any preliminaries began shooting.

But was the first to fall. When Moore and Miller appeared from the inner office, the rain of bullets continued, with Moore returning the fire and wounding one of the bandits.

The shooting was heard by girls in offices over the bank and it was believed that the shuffling of their feet caused the bandits to flee through the window.

Investigation showed the robbers had obtained nothing. The payroll roll had been taken to the factory before their arrival and the inner doors of the vaults were locked.

Christian Scientists Dispute Directors of First Church Order Removal of Trustees of Publication Society

Boston, Dec. 30.—The board of directors of the First Church of Christ (Scientists) today announced the removal of the board of trustees of the Christian Science Publishing Society. The trustees insisted that they are still in office, contending that their office of resignation to the supreme court gave it sole jurisdiction.

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No Compromise in Dail Eireann

Will Take Months For New Constitution to Be Put Into Working Order

Dublin, Dec. 29.—Although no compromise between the opponents and advocates of the Anglo-Irish treaty in the Dail Eireann has yet been attained, future plans designed to avoid wrecking the agreement are being considered.