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## GERMANS LAUGH AT 'IMPOSSIBLE' DEMAND; PLAN FLAT REFUSAL

PARIS, Feb. 2.—Germany today was laughing in the faces of the allies, laughing in derision at the demand for an indemnity of \$55,000,000,000. The allies were faced with the possibility of a flat refusal to pay the huge sum.

In that event seizure of German ports and forcible collection of customs were contemplated. This, it was admitted, might lead to armed clashes.

Despatches from Berlin, which were yesterday scanned at the Foreign Office here, said that derisive laughter swept the Reichstag when Foreign Minister Von Simons addressed that body and made known the nature of the allies' demands.

Von Simons made it pretty clear that Germany will reply that she cannot pay any such sums.

The next move on the part of Germany probably will be a resolution of the Reichstag to demonstrate to the allies that all parties are united in their attitude against paying the big indemnity.

According to information in official circles here the Germans expect the moral support of America in this stand and are more interested in the proposed intervention of Senator Franks to introduce a resolution limiting the indemnity to what they regard as a "reasonable figure."

The Germans also are taking comfort from the statements of experts in all the allied nations to the effect that she cannot afford to pay \$55,000,000,000.

France, according to officials, would like to occupy German ports, place garrisons in important German cities and enforce payment, but it is hardly believed that Britain would support such a move.

The economic conference of German and allied experts scheduled for Feb. 1 in Brussels for discussion of reparations has been postponed.

### DECLARE AUSTRIA'S FATE IS SEALED

VIENNA, Feb. 2.—The fate of Austria has been settled forever!

That is how the Vienna Allgemeine Zeitung sums up the position of this unhappy nation, following the decisions of the supreme council at Paris.

In all circles the belief was expressed that the complete disintegration of Austria may be considered imminent.

The Christian Socialist government is facing increasing difficulties, as it had been holding out to the working people the promise of financial assistance from the allies.

The greater German party, which is working for a merger of Germany and Austria, is taking advantage of the situation to create the utmost embarrassment.

Austrian currency has become worthless. While thousands are dying from cold and hunger, the profiteers and speculators are gaining in feasting and dancing and gambling in the great hotels.

### BELIEVE SIMONS TALKS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Despite the declaration by Dr. Simons, German foreign minister in the Reichstag, that the allies' indemnity decision can not be accepted, foreign office officials said they believed that the Germans would send representations to participate in the indemnity conference here. The belief was expressed that Dr. Simons' boasting was intended to "shock" the allies.

The allies will forbid any discussions of the amount that Germany must pay. This question can not be reopened, it was said. The only angle the Germans may discuss is the methods of payment.

The Daily Telegraph, borrowing a phrase made famous by Lord Kitchener, says that the allies are "well prepared to come fetch us if necessary." It points out that if Germany can offer the luxury of uniforms for her officers and give sumptuous feasts she can pay actually a sum amounting to less than two pounds sterling per capita.

### HARDING GUEST OF C. G. FISHER

Indianapolis Man Entertains President-Elect at Florida Club.

### COUNCILMAN TO RESCUE

Recommending that custodians and janitors be appointed on the basis of merit and efficiency, which would abolish the system of political favoritism, and that the number of men janitors be increased and more female janitors be appointed.

That the custodians are fast approaching completion.

A vast number of urgent recommendations and objections are known to have reached the Senator recently and he has given them earnest consideration while he was far from interruption at the Coboclo Club, as the guest of Carl G. Fisher of Indianapolis.

Indications are that the Cabinet selection is fast approaching completion.

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That the Senate's recommendations were in behalf of James G. Davis of Pittsburgh, Pa., general director of the Loyal Order of Moose. Men close to the President-elect admit that Davis is under serious consideration for Secretary of Labor. He is a union labor man and was credited with effective work in Harding's behalf during the campaign.

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