

STORM CLOUDS GATHER ABOUT ARMS PARLEY

'Acceptance in Principle' by France Regarded as Insincere.

SHARP DISPUTES ARISE

By GEORGE R. HOLMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Out of the quietude which has prevailed in the actual negotiations of the armament conference since last summer, sharp differences of opinion have arisen which threaten today to make the closing days of the parley exceedingly stormy.

Al along the line, from submarines to Siberia, the conference path shows signs of becoming rocky. Hopes are entertained that the conference can conclude its work within two weeks, but a long drawn-out discussion on any of the controversial questions yet to be disposed of will delay the opening.

France has signaled her acceptance of the Root proposal to outlaw submarines only in principle. An "acceptance in principle" is not regarded by the British and American as signifying much more than a willingness to discuss the matter.

They remember France also accepted the whole Hughes program "in principle" on the opening day of the conference, and then almost wrecked the parley six weeks later by demanding great increases in her naval allotment.

Before France accepts the radical restrictions which have been proposed for submarines she first wishes the conference to settle the question of what constitutes a merchant ship. There were strong indications today that the British, who have not signified any attitude toward the Root proposals, also will demand the powers to define merchant craft.

French insistence that merchant ships be defined in concrete terms is based on the assertions here of official British spokesmen that Britain, in wartime, intends to arm her merchant craft, regardless of the restrictions the law imposes on uses of merchant craft.

If this policy were carried out by Great Britain, the whole vast British merchant fleet would, in wartime, be instantly turned into what the French assert would really be auxiliary cruisers.

Are submarines to be prevented from attacking such ships, the French ask, and does not the planting of guns on merchant ships take them out of the classification of merchant vessels?

NOT DEPATE IS LIKELY.

It was predicted a warm debate on these questions may precede any final settlement of the submarine controversy. If submarines are to be made outlaws and pirates of the sea, as Great Britain demands, France will insist upon commercial vessels not being used as auxilliary craft.

The submarine is the only obstacle remaining in the way of the five-power naval treaty. The drafting experts have practically finished their work and it awaits only the submarine decision.

Elsewhere there are clouds on the conference horizon. After nearly three weeks of complete deadlock in the first section, the delegations are becoming active. They fear the conference will drag on indefinitely without ironing out the difficulties, or else the questions which are important to them, like the lost in the last minute shuffle.

ASIAN TRICKERY

Japanes, who daily charge the Japanese with "yellow" games and the "good offices," Secretary of State Hughes and A. J. Collier again have been sought to bring the Japanese into line.

The Siberian question, the last on the conference program, has grown to mountainous proportions as a result of the disclosures made here by the delegations from the Far East regarding the secret of the alleged secret agreement between France and Japan which would allow Japan to dominate this vast Russian territory.

While the matter has been officially settled for the time being, by the ignominious denials of the French and Japanese, the revelations made by the Chinese delegations, located here, have been so backhanded and threaten to inject some sharp negotiations into the proceedings when the Siberian question is reached.

Charges of Japanese intrigue in Siberia, backed up by documents that have an appearance, of some degree at least, of authenticity, have been shelved but not forgotten.

EXPERTS SETTLE CHINESE TARIFF

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The subcommittee of tariff experts, under the chairmanship of Senator Oscar Underwood of the American delegation, has virtually agreed to a rate of 5 per cent tariff. It was stated today by an official British spokesman. The agreement also will make provision for raising this figure to 7 1/2 per cent sometime in the future, and upon the fulfillment of certain conditions by the Chinese, it was stated.

China had contended for a tariff of at least 12 1/2 per cent and the figure of 5 per cent represents a material defeat of her aims in the conference.

MIN LEADER CANCELS DATE OF CONFERENCE

(Continued From Page One.)

of bituminous miners, in the opinion of local miners officials.

Mr. Lewis, they pointed out, cancelled the meeting because Pennsylvania and Ohio operators refused to attend the meeting, leaving only Indiana and Illinois operators of the central competitive field to negotiate with the miners on the date for a new wage scale.

This was to Pennsylvania and Ohio operators regarded by the miners officials as breach of contract, in that the operators signed an agreement to meet with the miners.

NO STRIKE IS ANTICIPATED

INDIANAPOLIS, Ohio, Jan. 4.—A general peace regarding wage scales by the national convention in Indianapolis Feb. 14 will be the next step in the controversy with operators over a new agreement mine workers' headquarters here believed today.

The national convention has power to decide whether wage scales in the Central Competitive field may be signed by local districts or by the Operators Association of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania, G. W. Savage, State secretary said today.

McKinney said he believed in the future wage agreements and working rules would be fixed at meetings of operators with miners in their sections.

COX HEADS LAW FIRM.

Announcement was made today of the forming of the law firm of Cox, Welliver & Walsh, with offices at 410 American Central Life building, Charles E. Cox, former of the Indiana State Supreme Court, is senior member of the firm, and Charles E. Welliver and Madeline Walsh are the other members. The new partnership will engage in the general practice of law.

KING ALFONSO PLANS VISIT TO U. S.



AGRICULTURAL BOARD ELECTS NEW DELEGATES

Regular Board Officials Will Be Selected Thurs-day.

Eight delegate members of the State board of agriculture were elected at the annual election held in the State House today.

Guy Cantwell was elected to succeed Joseph Barb of Indianapolis, as delegate from the second district, and E. W. Pickhardt of Huntington, was elected from the third district. Prior to the election, Charles N. Lindley, of Salem announced that he would oppose M. Pickhardt, but withdrew from the race before the election.

The others elected were: Thomas Grant of Lowell, ninth district; F. C. Brown, Kosciusko, Twelfth district; George Y. Hepler, South Bend, Thirteenth district; Lin Wilson, Jenesboro, Eleventh district; S. J. Miller, Indianapolis, Seventeenth district, and S. W. Taylor, Bonville, First district.

Officers of the board will not be elected until tomorrow, but indications are that Thomas Grant will be reelected president, S. W. Taylor vice president, William M. Jones, Fairmount, financial secretary and I. New Brown of Franklin, recording secretary.

The other eight delegates on the fair board will be elected at the next annual meeting of the board. Those elected will serve as delegates two years.

Mr. Grant urged that the State board co-operate more fully with the county fair boards in the future so as to show the people of the State what is being done at the fairs.

The board is just getting to a place where it can see better and bigger results, under the law which was passed by the regular session of the legislature. E. V. Skinner, dean of agriculture of Purdue University said in addressing the meeting. Prof. Skinner spoke in place of Governor Warren T. McCrary, who was not ready to hear the case.

"The private family row," as Louis W. Hill has styled it, already has resulted in a shake-up in the directorate of the Northern Indiana Fair, which Hill formerly controlled, the control having passed to seven brothers and sisters. In his petition for letters of administration, the Great Northern chairman is joined by a sister, Mrs. Samuel Hill of Seattle, Wash. All the other brothers and sisters, which are J. N. Hill, Mrs. Anson M. Beard, Mrs. Michael J. Gavin, E. C. Lindley, Mrs. E. G. Breckinridge, and Mrs. George T. Shad of St. Paul, have joined in a petition to have the Northwestern Trust Company administer the estate.

"People of the State should be interested in the fair, it should not be for the farmers alone. The only way that you can bring a fair before the people of the city is to let them know that everything that you have at the fair is not farm implements and cattle, but household goods and things in which they are interested," he said.

Mr. R. Purviance of Huntington, was elected president of the Indiana State Fair by the regular session of the delegates, exceeding Charles W. Travis of Lafayette at the meeting in the Statehouse yesterday. The association re-elected G. C. Landgrabe of Huntington, secretary, and H. C. VanWay of Shelbyville, treasurer.

King Alfonso of Spain is planning a visit to the United States and several South American countries some time within the next year if political conditions in Spain permit him to leave. It is said that the King's trip is being strongly urged, partly for the purpose of establishing Spanish sentiment in America in the interest of commerce and immigration, but that no date can be decided upon on account of the uncertainty of the Moroccan war.

BELL COMPANY SAYS DEFICIT \$180,657 A YEAR

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age that the company should have a return of 7 per cent on its valuation. This figure would be \$82,416.64. This added to the operating deficit gives the figure of \$1,099,974.73, as a deficit below the 7 per cent return.

INDIANAPOLIS MAY INSURE OWN PROPERTY

(Continued From Page One.)

officer Mr. Shank left inner sanctum and appeared before them.

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In setting out the relationship with the parent company the Indiana company said:

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