

# PROGRESSIVES MOVE TOWARD 'CLEAN-UP' IN U. S. TREASURY

## TIGER OF FRANCE GIVES LIE DIRECT TO 'SECRET PACT'

Clemenceau Agrees to Pay All Reparations if Statement Can Be Proven.

*By United Press*  
PARIS, Feb. 7.—Bristling savagely one minute, gruffly good natured the next, old Georges Clemenceau, "Pere La Victoire," gave the lie direct to a statement credited to Lloyd George in an interview in the London Chronicle to the effect "the Tiger" and Woodrow Wilson signed a secret pact during Versailles days.

"I never signed a secret treaty with anybody. I cannot understand Lloyd George's object in saying so," Clemenceau growled.

"Why," he exclaimed, "let anybody show me any secret treaty signed by me and I'll engage to pay all the reparations myself."

"Evidently, he said, "Lloyd George didn't reflect Wilson was the only one who could not have signed a secret treaty. He was dependent on Congress. He repeatedly reminded us of that during the negotiations."

"Besides, what aim could a secret treaty have had?"

"It would have been futile. Was it concerned with occupation of the Rhineland? You cannot occupy such a region and hide your troops."

"Consequently, such a treaty, had one existed, would have been public property quickly."

### FUROR SWEEPS BRITAIN

Lloyd George Promises Statement on Alleged Wilson-Clemenceau Pact.

*By United Press*

LONDON, Feb. 7.—A tremendous furor swept the British Isles and the continent today on the heels of a charge by ex-Premier Lloyd George that Woodrow Wilson and Clemenceau fixed up a secret pact behind his back whereby the American President agreed to occupation of the Rhineland by French troops for fifteen years.

The French and British foreign offices were busy as beehives; the former issued a flat denial of Lloyd George's charge; the latter put the matter up to the former prime minister for further explanation.

Meanwhile Lloyd George was pressed to produce the pact, or at least to answer the indignant denial of the French foreign office. He promised a statement later today.

### FILES MAY GIVE ANSWER

Wilson's Private Papers of War Period Likely to Solve Charges.

*By United Press*  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Woodrow Wilson's private files may yet open the answer to the controversy now raging between London and Paris over Lloyd George's charge that Wilson and Clemenceau arranged a secret pact on the Rhineland occupation, while Lloyd George's back was turned.

While Mr. Wilson left no memoirs, he had a voluminous file of private letters, which he planned to use in preparing a purely historical and impersonal volume on the war and post-war period.

What will now be done with these letters depends upon Mrs. Wilson's wishes. No decision will be reached for the present, it was indicated today.

### OUTSIDE BANKS HIGHEST

Chicago and Detroit Bidders Offer Big Premium on Bond Issue.

Banks outside Indianapolis proved highest bidders for a \$400,000 local park bond issue in bids opened at the office of Joseph L. Hogue, city controller. The bonds will finance construction of Pleasant Run Blvd.

The Northern Trust of Chicago and Detroit Trust Company, bidding jointly, had the highest bid at par, accrued interest and premium of \$15,720. A joint bid of the Meyer-Kiser Bank, Breed, Elliott & Harrison, Fletcher-American National Bank and Gavin L. Payne offered a premium of \$8,161, while the Union Trust Company bid a premium of \$8,200.

Hogue took bids under advisement until late today.

### Sanitary Bords Mourns

Resolutions mourning the death of Mrs. Sarah Shank were adopted by the sanitary board today. Copies were sent to Mayor Shank. The resolutions praised Mrs. Shank as one who knew the duties of citizens and performed them with energy and tact. She was characterized as one whose religious creed knew no bigotry. Her record on the park board was pointed out as one of the most valuable services to the city.

### A FEELING OF SECURITY

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However, if you wish first to try this great preparation send ten cents to Kilmer & Co., Birmingham, N. Y., in sample bottle. When writing be sure to mention this paper.—Advertisement.



Where Children Will Find Road to Health

The architect's conception of the completed James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for children is shown in this photograph of a model on exhibit at the John Herron Art Institute.

## WIFE OF WALDRON PASTOR TESTIFIES IN ARSON CASE

Says She Knew Husband's Whereabouts on Night of Church Fire.

*By Times Special*  
SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Feb. 7.—May Johnson, wife of the pastor was the first witness for the defense today in the case of the Rev. U. S. Johnson, pastor of the Waldron Baptist Church.

He is being tried here on charge of arson in connection with a fire at the church building, which caused a damage of \$800 on the night of May 19, 1923.

Mrs. Johnson denied statements made by witness for the State, and said that her husband had been with her the evening of the fire at a meeting of the Baptist Young People's Union at the church annex in another part of the town.

Witnesses for the State said that Johnson had not been seen between 9:30 and 10 o'clock the night of the fire.

**Knew Husband's Whereabouts**

Mrs. Johnson stated that she knew the exact whereabouts of her husband at all times on the night of the fire with the exception of about five minutes when he left her to put the car up. She said he was gone about five minutes and then they walked home.

After arriving home she told of the discovery of the fire in the church just as she arrived on the outside with the warning:

"She said she did not leave the house, but heard Johnson telling the men to sing out of the church that it was dangerous."

Three other witnesses testified for the defense. Defense attorneys expect to close their case Friday and the cast probably will go to the jury Saturday.

Twenty witnesses testified for the State Wednesday, making thirty-seven during the two days devoted to State's evidence.

Walter Wertz, Shelby County commissioner, testified he met the defendant in the corridors of the Shelby County courthouse prior to the fire, and that Johnson had asked permission to construct a bulletin board near the edge of the highway, near the church in Waldron.

**New Church Discussed**

Wertz also said that the pastor had asked permission to pile building material along the road, saying that the material would be used in the construction of a new church.

Pleasant Trees, another witness, said he attended revival services at the Waldron Baptist Church and that following a meeting which filled the building to capacity, the defendant had said that he "wished a storm would blow down the old building."

David Worland, insurance salesman, who wrote the fire protection for the building, was asked if the amount of the policy had been increased a short time before the fire. An objection by the defense attorneys was sustained and the answer was stricken from the court record.

**FIRE ON INCREASE**

State Marshal Says Gain Is 212 Per Cent.

A total of \$238,214 in insurance was involved in eighty-three fires investigated in 1923 by the State arson division, Newman T. Miller, State fire marshal, told the convention of Mutual Fire Insurance Companies today.

"Seven confessions and four convictions were obtained," Miller said, "while the total number of fires reported has increased 212 per cent in several years."

Fire causes were given by Miller as: Lightning, 3; spontaneous combustion, 3; sparks from engines, 3; defective wiring, 3; incendiary, 3, and unknown, 29.

Of course, Americans trust in God. You can tell that by the way they drive.—Sharon (Pa.) Herald.

**PAGE SHARP SHOOTERS**

Adjutant to Attend Rifle Practice Promotion Meet.

Brig. Gen. Harry S. Smith, adjutant general of Indiana, will leave next Tuesday to attend the annual meeting Wednesday and Thursday of the Board of Promotion of rifle Practice at the office of the assistant Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

Gen. Smith W. Brookhart, of Iowa, Assistant Secretary of Navy Theodore Roosevelt, and Maj. Gen. George C. Richards, chief of the military bureau, are members of the executive committee.

The 1924 program will be adopted and plans made for the national matches at Camp Perry in August.

Man has begun to use high explosives in his war against insects. Dynamite, which we usually think of in connection with the destruction of big things, is now being employed against little mosquitoes. It is used to blast these dangerous disease-carrying pests out of existence by digging ditches which drain the mosquito grounds.

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If Australia could be transplanted into the Atlantic Ocean, it would fill up all the space between the United States and Great Britain.

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