

SIMONDS THINKS COMPROMISE WILL ACHIEVE TRIUMPH FOR ARMS MEETING

Arms, Not Asia, to Remain Parley Focus, Says Simonds

Only Few of Far Eastern Questions Likely of Solution at Present—U. S. Wants No Pacific League.

By FRANK H. SIMONDS. On the confusion of the opening days of the conference two facts emerge, two facts which are unmistakable. Already we have had a period of deflation and of precision. Deflation, which reduces to comprehensible and possible dimensions the program of the conference, precision which gives boundaries to the discussion on the question of naval limitation.

To Mr. Hughes, more than any one else is due the fact that despite the excessive demands of the days preceding the opening of the conference, demands voiced most feverishly and even hysterically by some of the foreign correspondents, the atmosphere of Washington in the first days has been sharply contrasting with that of Paris. There is something in the very dry, unemotional, prosaic but none the less impressive manner in which the Secretary of State makes public utterance, which almost without being appreciated by his audiences has given the dominant tone to the conference itself.

Remembering Paris and all that the whole world suffered as a consequence of the boundless expansion of expectation, one must feel that Mr. Hughes has already performed a very great service in bringing the discussion from the clouds to the pavement in the opening hours. In the days which have been marked by the opening of the conference, I have encountered Mr. Hughes several times, the last occasion was a few hours after he had delivered his address at the first session. On each of these occasions he has emphatically asserted that the conference was to have facts, to deal with facts and the decisions to be reached would be based upon facts.

Preliminaries Vague. Now, when one considers how little reference there has been to facts in much of the discussion which has preceded the conference, when one realizes that the program has been deluged by impossible forecasts of what was to be done, the service of the Secretary of State is hardly to be exaggerated. The service of deflation, it is said, is to be undertaken by Europeans and particularly the Europeans who have come here still under the shadow of conditions in their own countries, should expect and hope to see the agenda of the Washington conference extended beyond the narrow limits of questions which after all must seem to them parochial, but it is not less clear, as Paris proved, that in this direction lies ruin.

In addition to deflation there was precision. For many weeks with increasing intensity the debate has raged over the relative importance of Far Eastern and disarmament issues. The people of the United States have seen the conference as one for disarmament, despite the warnings of their statesmen that disarmament was impossible. The administration has held to the view that the chief business of the gathering, by its own words he assigned the Far Eastern issues to a relatively subordinate position and not the question of naval armament the chief business of the gathering. By his own words he assigned the Far Eastern issues to a relatively subordinate position and not the question of naval armament the chief business of the gathering.

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Arms and not Asia, then, will be the conspicuous problem of the conference and in that direction, it seems to me, the best promise of permanent success in the matter of naval limitation. For the obvious reasons Australia and New Zealand would view with unceasing apprehension any Japanese advance southward, such as the seizure of the Philippines would be a public declaration in the matter of the Philippines under their present sovereignty would be a

First of all a very substantial reduction in the size of the world's navies, even if there be modifications of Mr. Hughes' initial proposal. Doubtless in due time Japan will press for concessions on our part which will envisage dismantling existing fortifications and refraining from further fortifying in the Pacific, that is on the Western side. We may expect many technical counter-propositions, but these will be only technical. In the same way we may correctly infer, I think, that the broad general lines of Mr. Hughes' proposals were already foreseen by the British. It may even turn out that a proclamation in the matter of the Philippines will supplement their previous announcement of a purpose to establish a naval base at Singapore. This declaration would, in all probability take the form of a public declaration in the matter of the Philippines under their present sovereignty would be a

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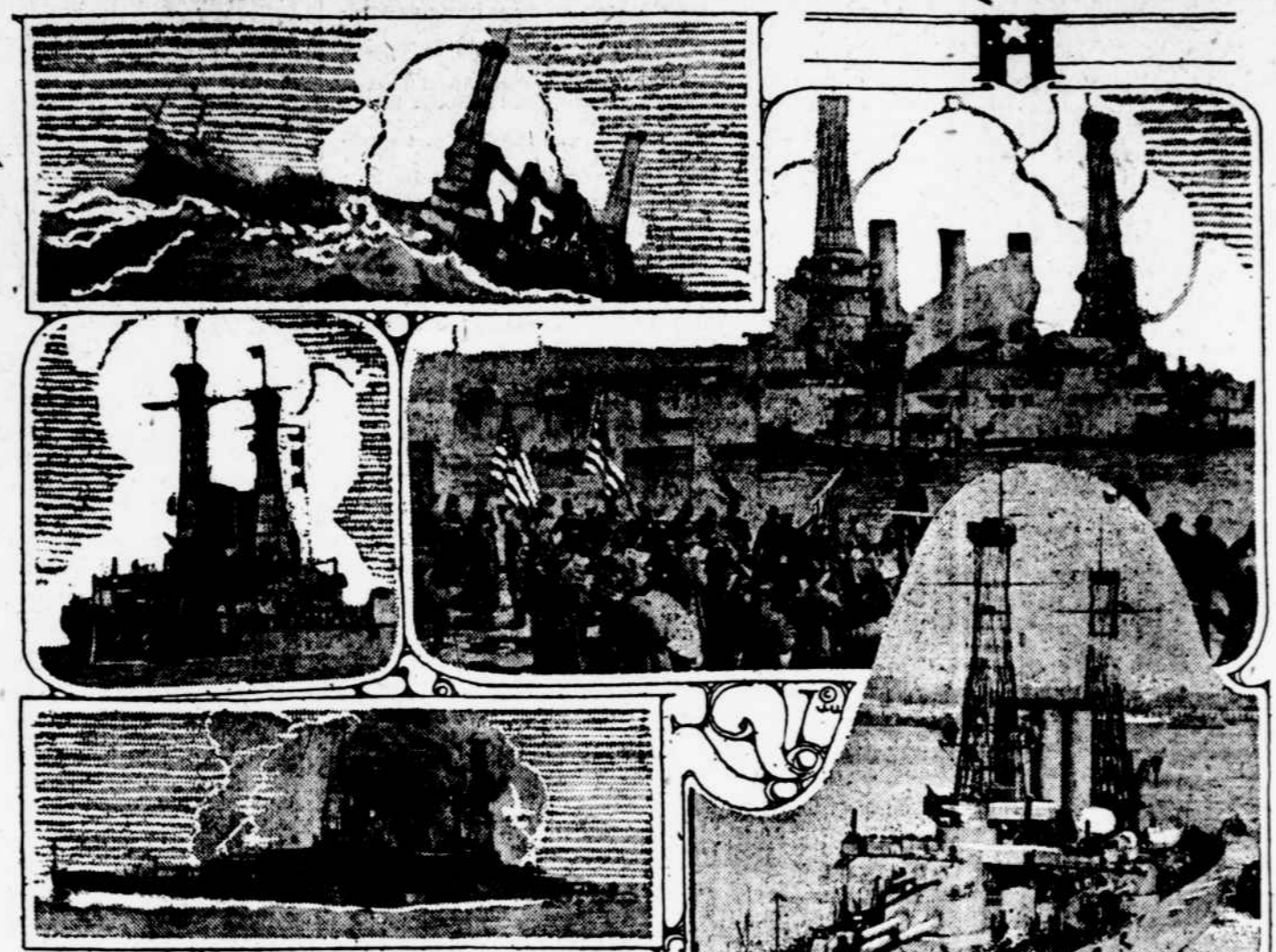
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U. S. Proposes to Scrap Five Types of Capital Ships That Cost \$99,535,000



Above, the Vermont. Center, the Connecticut (left) and the Missouri. Below, the Michigan (left) and the Virginia.

If the Hughes' proposal for the scrapping of battleships is carried out fifteen capital ships of five classes in the U. S. navy, the original cost of which was \$99,535,000, will be destroyed. One vessel in each class is shown above. The Connecticut has one sister ship, the Louisiana; the Vermont has three sister ships, the Kansas, the Minnesota and the New Hampshire; the Virginia four, the New Jersey, the Georgia, the Rhode Island and the Nebraska; the Missouri one, the Maine; and the Michigan one, the South Carolina.

U. S. Has Achieved Leadership of World in Diplomacy, Declares Mark Sullivan, as the Result of Secy. Hughes' Sudden Denouement

Capital Unagitated by Great Happenings Of Parley.

By MARK SULLIVAN. To the many inquiries from distant parts of the country asking what Washington looks like during the conference, the answer is, that the conference itself looks like, and what is the thing which is called "the atmosphere of the conference," the answer will be only partially satisfying. As to what the atmosphere is, that is more marked and definite, more easily grasped and described than atmosphere usually is. As to what the conference looks like, that, too, admits of a fairly simple answer. There is an obvious contrast between this conference and similar ones held at other places and in other times.

Washington Quiet. As to what Washington looks like during the conference, there is not a great deal to be said. The presence of the conference does not make much difference in the appearance of the city. A few of the public buildings and hotels display the flags of the various nations represented here, but this flag display is physical disability, made no essential difference.

Mr. Wilson was a martyr of the war in only a less degree than the man in the coffin. They felt that Mr. Wilson had thrown all his soul and vitality into the war in the same sense that the unknown soldier had, and the fact that Mr. Wilson's devotion carried him not so far as death, but only so far as physical disability, made no essential difference.

In the afternoon, some hours after the ceremony, there was another demonstration in front of Mr. Wilson's residence which was one of the most remarkable incidents of the day. Since then the applause and the moving picture theaters when Mr. Wilson's familiar features are thrown on the screen, and at the theater, which he visits occasionally, and in other ways, the renewed warmth of feeling for the former President—the feeling that whatever is accomplished here is due, indirectly at least, to his initiative of three years ago—has expressed itself in striking demonstrations.

Aside from a few things like this, the presence of the conference does not show itself to the eye, either foreign or strikingly. Few of the foreign delegates are sufficiently well known to cause much curiosity about their appearance in the street. The increased size of the figure that Mr. Hughes cuts in the world shows itself in greater public interest in him. As he has gone about the streets this week people have turned to look at him, and little knots of people have come together to talk about him.

Let it also be remembered with humility that the thing which makes it so easy for us to take the lead in inaugurating a new kind of diplomacy and a new spirit in the conduct of international affairs lies in the purely accidental good fortune which separates us by the breadth of an ocean from any potential enemy, and makes us look upon war with less fear and apprehension than the other nations, which for many centuries have had

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Foreign Journalists Mold Peoples' Views of Parley

European Press Reaction Favorable to Hughes' Strong Stand—British Liberals Oppose Balfour Utterance.

The nations which are principally interested in the decision of the Washington conference are represented not only by the official delegates of their government, but by many of the ablest and most influential of their writers on public affairs. The delegates, of course, are charged with the important duty of presenting and carrying out the policies of their governments, which in turn are theoretically carrying out the wishes of their electorates. But it is on the dispatches of the correspondents that the electorates will base their opinion of the conference rather than on those reports of the delegates which the several governments think it more safe for the public to know. The articles these correspondents send back home and the interpretations of these articles by the editors will, therefore, have an important bearing on the conference.

The correspondents from all countries concerned have expressed the strongest approval of the course adopted by Secretary Hughes at the opening of the conference. Several of them were obviously considerably shocked by the rapidly with which Mr. Hughes gave the word to the press, how ever, like the Troy Morning Post, felt it necessary to warn the government that it must not go too far with this disarmament business and that it should not mind the naval requirements of the empire. The Japanese press indicated its acceptance of the proposal in principle, but in the comments from Japan pronounced to have been given to the statements of various navy yard officials who expressed the fear that the ten-year holiday may seriously affect the economy of the country by depriving large numbers of men of employment.

Liberal Critics Balfour. The first evidence that a controversy was developing on the home front came after Mr. Balfour's speech accepting in principle for his government the Hughes proposal. In some way the impression got abroad that Mr. Balfour was dealing with replacements, which would necessitate the closing down of practically all the navy yards for a period of ten years, on the ground that at the end of that period it would be impossible to make replacements because of the deterioration of navy yard equipment and the lack of trained personnel. British Liberal papers, notably the Westminster Gazette and the London Daily News, immediately made known their disapproval of this position attributed to Mr. Balfour.

Delegates Startled. Dramatic as was the thing that Mr. Hughes did, probably not all the public has grasped its full significance. It was as complete a departure from the old diplomacy as the difference, for example, between practical universal literacy and practically universal education. The startling quality of its effect on the other delegates was one of the most apparent things in the room. Most of the other delegates are men of the modern school. They are liberal in thought and aspiration. But initiating of a conference in this way was startling and disconcerting even to them. "Older old practices of diplomacy are men of the world, who have never made his proposal without first submitting it to other delegates in confidence and getting their assent to it. That is, under the old diplomacy Mr. Hughes would have submitted his plan to them and would have got their assent to it if he could. It might well have happened under the old practices that he never would have got their assent to the public presentation and discussion of such a proposal.

The sensation made by Mr. Hughes upon the other delegates by his innovation when he began to talk concrete facts and figures was obvious and anyone who saw it is able to give evidence against the theory that surely Mr. Hughes could not have done so startling a thing. That surely he must have let them know in advance what he was going to say. When Mr. Hughes began to mention figures one of the members of the British delegation feverishly reached for pencil and paper and began to make notes as if in his excitement he did not know to what lengths Mr. Hughes' ideas of open diplomacy might go. He and many of the foreign delegates looked as if they feared that they would be called upon to rise and discuss this daring proposal immediately and openly.

It has been apparent to those who have watched the preparations for the conference that Mr. Hughes had ideas about open diplomacy far in advance of what some of the other delegations approved. By the boldness of his beginning he freed himself from any such restraints or security and established a practice which now can hardly be reversed. The advantage he has secured, the advantage the whole conference has secured, the universal approval of the step—all are so apparent that it is impossible to conceive that any step backward will be taken.

New Struggle in Germany. For a long time we have been told by the reports of European observers that the powerful industrialists of Germany under the leadership of Hugo Stinnes have been attempting to gain for themselves the same hold on the German nation that was formerly exercised by the military and Junker classes. These industrialists are believed to favor a monarchy in preference to the present republican form of government which the Socialists have so much power, but they are first of all looking out for their own interests. To that end they have been opposing the payment of reparations openly and tacitly against the present financial situation of the German government is regarded by many as being the effect of the tactics employed by these industrialists, who hope to have the government bankrupt and thus avoid the making of reparations payments which they would be obliged to bear a large part. The Socialist party, which is made up of Socialists, trade unionists, who are republican in their sympathies, is, of course, well aware of what has been going on. Because of their political strength they have been able to prevent the reactionaries from overturning the Wirth ministry, but they have not been able to work out a solution of Germany's financial difficulties. Chancellor Wirth's plan, which has been endeavoring to steer a middle course, but the time has arrived when such a course seems no longer possible. The industrialists control the capital, while the Socialists control labor, and since the industrialists have been unable to make these two parties co-operate, he is now in danger of losing the support of both.

The present situation was precipitated by the proposals advanced by the German Industrial Union, Stinnes and his associates, whereby the industrialists would advance cash to the German government with which to meet its reparations obligations in the event of the surrender of the government railroads to private control. Other features of the industrialists' proposal were: For the government to remove the tax on the share of the industrialists; for the government to renounce its loan negotiations with foreign corporations; to recognize the right of industrialists and other business men to make their own decisions as to the extent to which they were to be taxed. The German workers, of course, what the proposals would mean to them, and there were many who were prepared to submit to the cabinet a counter-program representing their minimum demands.

Workmen's Counter. This program would merely put the shoe on the other foot, so that the industrialists would rather than the workers who are pinched. The program involves: (1) the participation by the state in all the so-called gold values. This would require corporations to transfer a percentage of their capital to the state; (2) the socialization of coal mines; (3) the reorganization of state enterprises in order that they might be operated at a profit instead of a deficit; (4) the seizure of foreign exchange received in payment for exports; (5) the limitation of imports to the minimum necessities; (6) the increase of export premiums; (7) the abolition of foreign exchange and foreign exchange; and (8) the control of private monopolies. These proposals are not a little favorable, but the fact remains that the present conditions are not a little favorable to the industrialists and not a little unfavorable to the workers. The industrialists will doubtless be held in spite of the Wirth attitude, but the situation is not promising. Mr. Lloyd George has held conferences with Lord Curzon and other members of the British cabinet which will have an important effect on the situation. It is surmised that an attempt will now be made to get Wirth into a three-sided agreement with Great Britain and Sinn Fein. Further postponement of the Premier's visit to America is certain.



reports from Japan say that the Hughes proposal has met with much favor there. The plan to limit the size of warships is particularly welcome to the Japanese because their largest vessels now will barely clear the shallows of Shimonoseki Strait, (shown by an arrow), and any further increase in size would bar them from entering at this important strategic point, the Inland sea, about which much of Japanese life centers.

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Chief Enthusiasm for Wilson, While Hughes Focuses Attention.

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