

er hand, Great Britain had been obliged to wage war abroad and had been forced to incur the greatest financial expenditure. Her naval effort alone had cost ten billion of pounds. Germany, he continued, "can pay only in exports. If she exported too much to the Allies, it would mean the ruin of the Allied industries. If she exported too much to the neutrals, it would mean the loss to the Allies of the neutral markets. Consequently the question of effectually securing payment of reparations must be taken up with due account of these facts." The British Premier insisted upon the necessity of real progress at the present conference. This could be accomplished if the French Govt. would accept the Boulogne figure as a basis of discussion, that is to say, six billion pounds in thirty or thirty-five annuities with interest. Certain things must be insisted upon," Mr. Lloyd George declared, "The determination of Germany's capacity to pay, the renovation of Germany's fantastic budget and the imposition upon her people of taxes as heavy as those paid by the Allied People, economize as the Allies have done. The total of the debt must be fixed and the mode of payment established then at a meeting similar to that at Spa, the Allies should meet Germany and finally discuss a settlement. Mr. Doumer said that Mr. Lloyd George's speech did not change his opinion. Count Sforza, the Italian Foreign Minister, strongly favoured the expert programme of the Belgians. He said it would be a vital mistake to depart from the basis at Boulogne. M. Briand then took the floor. He asserted that France was not asking for the impossible. French public opinion was ready to accept what might reasonably be collected, but would not accept before investigation, a one-sided theory that Germany is unable to pay. He favoured the annuities and inquired, "Why not fix them now, and then examine Germany's capacity to pay and consider the matter at another Conference. Mr. Lloyd George insisted it was essential that something be done, for neither the Allies nor the world could bear further delay. It was then that the decision was taken to appoint a committee to examine the question and report back to the council. "Tomorrow will be the decisive day for the Conference", said M. Briand to the Associated Press at the close of a meeting lasting four hours, which began under conditions leading many to believe that the continuance of the Conference was endangered, but which closed under somewhat more optimistic circumstances". This reparations question must be settled once and for all before Saturday night", M. Briand declared. "The positions taken differ, but are not irreconcilable. A definite resolution must be adopted before this week end. My position is exactly that outlined in my official declaration in the Chamber when I assumed

the Premiership. It was recalled that this declaration was to the effect that France was opposed to fixing a stated amount for the German debt. But favoured annuities. Mr. Briand seemed to treat the question of disarmament as of less importance, saying, "The reparations question must be settled first. I only wish the reparations questions could be settled as easily as that of disarmament. The question appears likely to be solved before Saturday. The clouds were dark and heavy today, but the atmosphere is clear tonight", the Premier concluded.

London, Jan. 27th. —Organized Labour at the National Conference of the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress today demanded immediate action of the Government to remedy the plight brought about by the steadily growing unemployment in the country, endorsed a policy which its authors assert will permanently remove the cause of the present industrial depression, and adjourned until February 23rd, in order to give the Labour members of Parliament opportunity to press for the desired remedial steps. "If we cannot achieve what this programme suggests by the constitutional means we will adopt some means of extra constitutional character", declared Mr. Robert Williams, leader of the transport workers in supporting the resolution. The proposals embodied in the resolution called for trade with Russia, restoration of trade with other continental countries, a cessation of wars, stabilization of international exchange rates, an extension of credits, organization of transport system, cessation of the military opposition and lawless reprisals in Ireland, state maintenance of unemployment, a benefit of forty shillings weekly to each householder, twenty five shillings weekly to each single man or woman, over 18 years, with additional allowance to dependents and an under employment allowance on the same basis to provide for the adoption of shorttime, the proportionate benefit to be calculated on the total days last week. The proposal ask for a legal reduction in working hours to forty-four weekly drastic reduction of overtime, the undertaking of necessary public work, including development of roads, railways and waterways, the withdrawal and restriction of juvenile labour and raising of the school-leaving age. Govt training schools for women and unemployed male workers, a guaranteed minimum housing programme for five years with safeguards against unemployment to building trades unions, the removal of Govt restrictions on the expansion of building guilds and the control of building materials. The resolution covering the conferences proposals which was adopted will be sent to the Prime Minister for consideration of the members of the Cabinet and all the members of Parliament.

Paris, Jan. 28th. —A solution of the

problem of German reparations was tentatively reached late today by the Committee of experts appointed by the Allied Supreme Council. Confidence was expressed that the Council would approve the Committee's plan tomorrow. The proposed scheme provides for the payment of annuities on a sliding scale of from two billion to six billion gold-marks over period of probably 42 years also 12½ percent ad valorem tax on German exports.

Dublin, Jan. 28th. —The resignation is announced of Mr. Roger Sweatman from the Irish Republic Parliament owing to what he termed a radical disagreement with the majority of his fellow members on vital matters of policy. This is creating a big stir in Dublin. A prominent Sinn Fein leader today told the Associated Press that the resignation meant the final squashing of the peace movement in which Mr. Sweatman and Father O'Flanagan, acting President of the Sinn rein, participated conspicuously.

London, Jan. 28th. —Mr. Lloyd George, says the London Times, has sent instructions from Paris for the coalition party machinery to be ready for a general election in May or June, after introduction of the Budget early in April. It appears, says the newspaper comments, that the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer have decided it is possible to introduce a Budget of 950,000,000 pounds which would allow considerable remission of taxation and thus afford a favourable opportunity for appealing to the country.

Buenos Aires, Jan. 28th. —The Bank of Spain and America capitalized at 2,000,000 pesos, closed its doors today. The suspension is attributed to the fall of Bank of Spain and Paraguay of Asuncion, which was a creditor of the local Bank.

Washington, Jan. 29th. —Indirect recognition by the United States of the Republic of Ireland was knocked out in the House today on a point of order. During consideration of the diplomatic appropriation representative Mason, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, offered an amendment providing a salary of \$10,000 for a Minister of Ireland. Instantly half a dozen representatives were on their feet and the chairman challenged the right of the House to include such an amendment on the ground that it was without authority of the law and that there had been no executive recognition of Ireland. The point was sustained by Mr. Towner of Iowa, presiding.

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