

ment of Germany and studying recommendations for the execution of German engagements in this particular. It was expected yesterday that a settlement of the disarmament question would be quickly realized, but the newspapers assert that a wide divergence of opinion developed between Mr. Lloyd George, Premier Briand and the Allied experts. The decision has been reached by the experts that May 1st must be the limit of time given Germany in which to disband her military organizations and surrender to the Allies the arms which the Versailles treaty provided should be given up. Mr. Lloyd George it is asserted, however, declared yesterday that Germany had already done so much, that there was in the situation no danger to the Allies. He is said to have asserted that the Allies should also consider the danger, internal and external, to Germany from Bolshevism and that May 1st. was a particular time when the Russian Soviet armies were to be feared. He advised therefore that it would be better to follow the plan adopted at Spa and hear the Germans before deciding the question. Mr. Briand is said to have flatly refused to entertain this suggestion whereupon Count Sforza, the Italian Foreign Minister, tried to bring about a compromise between the views of the British and French leaders. He proposed the conference should come to a general agreement in principle, decide on a programme and then ask Germany to make any observation she desired. Neither Mr. Lloyd-George nor M. Briand would agree to this plan as a way out of the dead-lock, it was decided to ask the military experts to make another report on the subject. Mr. Lloyd George and M. Briand apparently are seeking to compose their differing views relative to German reparations before this important topic is discussed by a full session of the Council. They appear to be far apart on the project of at once finding the amount of indemnity Germany must pay, or leaving the exact amount for future determination and it is indicated that the problem of reparations may not come before the Council for several days. An unsuccessful attempt was made at today's session to turn the critical and complicated Austrian problem over to the League of Nations. The Allied Conferees took up at once the Austrian situation. They gave a hearing to the Allied financial experts who had attended the Brussels financial conferences, but no Austrian experts were called in. When it came to a discussion of the question it was found that the opinions of the various delegates in the conference were so divergent that a proposal was made to place the matter in the hands of the League of Nations. This however was rejected. It was understood this morning that the French and British experts

had reached a complete agreement on the report to be made by them on the disarmament of Germany. They were asked to prepare such a report after yesterday's discussion, in which wide divergence of opinion developed among the Allied conferees. At this afternoon's session the question of Greece in her relation to the near eastern settlement was on the programme for the Supreme Council's consideration. Sir Auckland Geddes, British Ambassador to the United States, called home from Washington recently for conferences, arrived this morning to confer with Mr. Lloyd George.

London, Jan. 25th.—Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster Unionist leader, declined the Premiership of the new Ulster Parliament which was offered him today by Ulster delegation in London. He thanked the delegation for the honour, but said he felt his age and lacked strength to undertake the arduous duties involved. He agreed, however, for the present, to accept the Chairmanship of the Ulster Party in the Imperial Parliament. It is expected that the offer of the Premiership will be made to Sir James Craig, who represents Mid Down in the British Parliament and is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty and would probably accept.

Bombay, Jan. 24th.—The stock exchange and bullion market were closed today and a general religious strike proposed as a result of the two sacred pigeons being killed in the street by two European boys. A riot resulted, the police charged the crowds, the natives stoned the police, several persons were injured and several arrested.

Rome, Jan. 25th.—Conservative and radical elements in Italy have virtually joined in combating the bill prepared for Parliament by Signor Giolitti which would give workers a share in the management of industrial plants. State industry concerns which have been doing business less than four years and factories employing less than 60 would be exempt, which would appear to place in the hands of working men general supervision over industrial operations in this country. An explanation of the objects of the Bill is included in article one, it being stated that the legislation is designed to secure participation in industrial affairs by workers, make it possible for workers to know the conditions prevalent in industry and bring about an improvement in technical instruction and in the moral economic condition of workers. It is asserted that the bill would seek to improve and make more economical methods of production and render the relations between workers and employers more peaceful. Article 2 stipulates the industries coming within the terms of the Bill, among them being metallurgic, textile, chemical, and electric plants and water transport, real estate, mines and hotels. Arti-

cle 3 provides that a national commission would be elected, this commission to be composed of nine members, six elected by workmen and three by engineers and clerks. This commission would hold office for three years. The commission would under article four be given authority to appoint in each factory two or more men to share in the management, these men to be eligible to re-election each three years. Article 5 provides that the commission would have the power to secure information regarding the cost of materials and how they are purchased, the cost of production, methods of administration and other details of the work. Other articles provide that employers would be represented on the commission, but would have no vote. The employers would also elect a body of nine members each three years, for the purpose of carrying on dealings with the workmen's commission and provision is made that workmen be represented.

RELIEF ASKED FOR STARVING CHINESE

President Wilson appointed a committee of 130 prominent persons to collect funds to help famine-stricken China. "Our diplomatic and consular agencies in China inform us," said the president, "that the loss resulting from death in distressing form may run into millions of souls."

The area affected contains about 87,000,000 people, of whom a third are said to be starving. Failing crops following a four-year drouth is given as the cause. Entire communities are living on weeds and leaves baked into cakes, resembling clay. Many suicides are reported, sometimes in entire families, and babies and children are being sold for as little as \$1.

It would take hundreds of millions to save the populace affected. Chinese multiply faster than their wealth can provide for—this notwithstanding the continual deaths through starvation and overpopulation.—*The Pathfinder*.

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