

a severe fever yesterday, but so far as as known grave symptoms have not made their appearance. A bulletin issued later by the physicians, attending, said that his bronchial catarrh had not spread, and that his temperature had diminished.

Rome, Jan. 20th.—At 12.30 o'clock today it was stated that Pope Benedict was in a dying condition.

London, Jan. 20th.—The last Sacrament has been administered to the Pope, says a Central News despatch from Rome this afternoon.

Rome, Jan. 20th.—Extra editions of the newspapers offered little hope regarding Pope Benedict's chances for recovery. A great crowd began to assemble in St. Peter's to wait news from the Vatican. All business at the Vatican was suspended. The official bulletin issued this morning on the condition of "His Holiness" has been ill four days with Influenzal Bronchitis. It is ascertained that the inflammatory process has spread to the right lung. The patient passed an agitated night and had no sleep. This morning the dyspnoea is intense. The temperature was 104, the pulse 102 and the respiration 38.

Brussels, Jan. 20th.—King Albert and Queen Elizabeth have postponed their visit to Italy on account of the serious illness of Pope Benedict.

Geneva, Jan. 16th.—The council of the League of Nations, which has been in session here, adjourned on Saturday, until April 25th. The next meeting will be held at Geneva when, according to resolutions adopted yesterday, the plan of holding public sessions will be followed, except when personalities are being discussed or other reasons make closed session necessary.

Washington, Jan. 16th.—The Allied debt refunding bill was approved today by the Senate Finance Committee, after most of the provisions objected to by Secretary Mellon of the Treasury Department, had been eliminated. Democratic members of the committee voted against the bill in its perfected form. Provisions previously written in by the committee, which were struck out, called for semi-annual interest payments and for interest at a rate of not less than 5% these were the provisions against which the treasury objected on the ground that they would handicap the administration in the refunding negotiations with the foreign governments. Under these provisions, interest payments would have fallen due within six months after the refunded bonds had been negotiated. Whereas the treasury desired to have the authority to defer interest payments in the case of some countries not in a position to begin making those payments within possibly a year or two. The provision limiting the life of the bonds to be accepted from the foreign Governments to twenty five

years, remained in the bill, but otherwise the measure practically is as approved by the House. It sets up a commission with authority subject to the approval of the President, to refund or convert, and to extend time of payment of the principal or the interest or both of any obligation of any foreign Government now owing to the United States on account of the world war. The Secretary of the Treasury would be chairman of the commission and the other members would be appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

St. Vincent, Jan. 18th.—Messrs. Vernon Richards and Alban Dasantos have been selected by the St. Vincent Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce to attend the meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce to be held at Trinidad on the 23rd inst. Both delegates will leave by Chaleur.

Barbados, Jan. 18th.—Mr. H. B. G. Austin and Capt. Bowring have been selected by the Barbados Chamber of Commerce to attend the meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce to be held at Trinidad on 23rd inst. Both delegates sailed for Trinidad by S. S. Fort George yesterday evening.

Los Angeles, Jan. 17th.—Severe earth shocks were felt in many sections of Los Angeles last night, shattering windows in some quarters and shaking frame buildings. There were nine distinct shocks between 7.10 and 8.30 o'clock which agitated many residents.

London, Jan. 17th.—The National Railway wages Board is holding a protracted enquiry into the claims of Scottish railway companies. The proposals are approved by the railway unions and the appeal is regarded as a test, the result of which will have an effect upon all the British railways. The companies say the wages today average 170% higher than they were at the beginning of the war in 1914 while the cost of living has fallen to 98% above the pre-war.

London, Jan. 17th.—Subscription books for the treasury bonds carrying 5½% interest, which had been bought to the extent of nearly 100,000,000 were closed today. A new issue will be substituted next Monday, bearing interest at 5% to be offered at 99 and payable at 100 in five years.

London, Jan. 17th.—M. Poincare has sent a message to Mr. Lloyd George expressing the desire in behalf of the French Government to repeat assurances already given privately, that France is eager to resume cordial examination of the various questions at issue between the two countries. He is convinced that the two peoples who have been so closely allied on the field of battle, should be able with common interest to maintain peace in Europe and to assure execution of the treaties signed and the reparations damages, caused by the invasion. The message, together with the reply of Mr.

Lloyd George, was given out by the Foreign Office. "My colleagues and I received with great satisfaction your cordial re-affirmation in behalf of the French Government of the assurances we explained last Friday." Describing it as superfluous to repeat the British Government's views, so recently published, Mr. Lloyd George concludes: We desire, only as we are glad to note you also desire so to settle the outstanding problems that nothing may impair the completeness of the entente of our people and yours and thus carry the comradeship of the war into the higher task of bringing the European peoples together in a just and abiding pact of peace.

Washington, Jan. 17th.—United States proposals to redefine the open door policy in China and create an International Board to examine both existing and future concessions which appear to conflict with it, were debated without decision today by the Far Eastern Committee of the Washington conference. The British and Italian accepted the plan in principle, but the French withheld assent to some of its provisions and the Japanese reserved judgment, pending communication with Tokio. The subject will be taken up again tomorrow. Instructions from Tokio concerning the fortifications question have reached the Japanese Delegation, it was said tonight by Japanese spokesmen, but certain phases of the advice required elucidation and therefore communication with Tokio was under way. Japan has no desire to control the mines in Shantung Province, the same spokesmen explained tonight in discussing today's Shantung meeting, but merely wanted a joint Chino-Japanese enterprise on a business basis.

London, Jan. 19th.—The West India Committee state that an Indian colonisation deputation comprising Messrs Keating, Pillai and Tiwary will leave for British Guiana this week. They expect to remain in that Colony about two months they will also visit Trinidad.

Calcutta, Jan. 18th.—A new method of civil disobedience adopted by the native provincial Congress of Bengal, resulted today in the arrest of more than four score persons by the police. The method adopted was the summoning of a public meeting in the prohibited area, thus drawing out a large crowd, which was addressed by members of the volunteers. The police dispersed the audience and arrested 84 persons.

London, Jan. 18th.—The Bye-election in the Tamworth division of Warwickshire, which was caused by the death of Mr. H. Wilson Fox, the Coalition Unionist member, who was unopposed in the election of 1918, resulted in the return yesterday of Sir Percy Newson, Coalition Unionist, by a majority of 8,061 over Mr. G. H. Jones, the Labour candidate. The totals were, Newson 14,732 Jones 6,671.