

Baron Havashi said that Japan as a power having great shipping interests in the Mediterranean, hoped for trade in the Black Sea and was vitally interested in the regulation of the Near Eastern waters. He added that the address of Lord Curzon had assured him that a solution of the Straits question was near. Lord Curzon opened the session with a long detailed review of the points on which the Turks differed from the Entente plan and replied to questions on which Ismet Pasha had asked further information at the morning session. His address indicated that most of the questions which the Entente and Turks differed on, were proper subjects for discussion in an informal way by military and naval experts and expressed the opinion that such a discussion would bring forward the necessary technical information which would undoubtedly form the basis for agreement. The only harsh note of the session came when M. Tchitcherine and M. Rakovsky, also of the Russian delegation, demanded that Russia be admitted to all informal discussions which may take place between the military and naval experts of the Turks and the Entente on the Straits question. Lord Curzon held this would be impossible, these discussions would be informal and wholly unofficial.

Washington, December 8th.—President Harding in his annual message, delivered today to Congress in person, deals with nearly a score of subjects, chief among them being prohibition, farm credits, the transportation problem, child labour and immigration. The executive announced his purpose to invite the governors of the States and territories to an early conference with the Federal executive authorities, with a view to adopting definite policies of national and state cooperation in administering the prohibition laws. With regard to the transportation problem, Mr. Harding proposed that the United States Railway Labour Board be abolished, with the substitution of a labour division in the inter-state commerce commission with ample power to require United States rulings to be accepted by both parties to a disputed question. The executive also proposes that the law require the carriers and their employees to institute means and methods to negotiate between themselves their constantly arising difficulties, limiting appeals to the Government body to disputes of such character as are likely to affect the public welfare. Coordination of all transportation facilities throughout the United States, is urged by the President. These would include not only inland waterways, but motor truck transportation as well. As to the carriers themselves, Mr. Harding suggests as ways of increased economy and efficiency thereby, a merger of lines into systems for the interchange of the freight cars, the consolidation of facilities

and the economic use of terminals. More extended credit for the farmers is strongly urged by the executive. He states that the farm loan bureau may well have its powers enlarged to provide ample farm production credits, as well as enlarged land credits. Enactment of legislation providing for registration of aliens and for more thorough examination of emigrants at the ports of embarkation is urged. The President says "there is a recrudescence of hyphenated Americanism which we thought to have been stamped out when we committed the nation's life and soul to the world war" and adds that advocates of revolution are abusing the hospitality of the United States. In the course of a brief reference to general world conditions, Mr. Harding asserted that "the inevitable readjustment of social and economic order is not more than barely begun" and continued, "there will never again be precisely the old order, indeed I know of no one who thinks it to be desirable, for out of the old order came the war itself, and the new order, established and made secure, never will permit its recurrence. It is no figure of speech to say we have come to the test of our civilization. The world has been passing, is today passing, through a great crisis. The conduct of war itself is not more difficult than the solution of the problems which necessarily follow". Later on in his speech, in connection with his advocacy of a plan to draft all the resources the United States have in men and material for national defence, he declared, "every experience in the adjustment and liquidation of war claims and the settlement of war obligations, demonstrated the necessity of preparedness," and added "I bring you no apprehension of war, the world is abhorrent of it and our own relations are not only free from any threatening cloud, but we have contributed our larger influence toward making armed conflict less likely. Those who assumed that we played our part in the world war and later took ourselves aloof and apart, unmindful of world obligations, give scant credit to the helpful part we assumed in international relationships."

Washington, Dec. 9th.—Great significance is attached here to a phrase of President Harding's address to Congress which relates to world affairs. He declares his belief that the four power pact, which abolishes probability of war on the Pacific, might be made a model for like assurances wherever in the world any common interests are concerned. While the President does not specifically recommend the making of a pact like the four powers pact which would extend to European affairs, or certain large phases of them, it is the view here that this is intended to suggest an understanding. The possibility that this is the forerunner of an attempt to call another conference, to be held

in Washington, is believed by many to be at the back of the President's words on this subject.

London, Dec. 9th.—The conference of Allied Premiers held a two hour session this afternoon, adjourning for luncheon. The heads of all four delegations, British, French, Italian and Belgian addressed the gathering, M. Poincaré holding the floor the longest. While M. Poincaré was reported not to have reached the point of definite proposals he declared the reparations question had arrived at a stage where something radical must be done. He came prepared, he said, to discuss with the others what action should be taken. France's great interests, he insisted, must be recognized. M. Poincaré appeared perturbed when he left his hotel for the conference, having just made a denial of a charge that France intends to annex the Rhine region. He was in good spirits, however, when he returned, from which the French attaches drew the inference that the conference was going well.

Dublin, Dec. 9th.—All the membership of the Senate has been completed. It will have four women members, the Dowager Countess Desart and Mrs. Wyse Power, nominated by the President of the Dail, Mrs. Green, the historian, and Mrs. Costello, both of whom were elected by the Lower House Chamber. There is a considerable democratic element in these elections made by the Dail, several members being farmers or traders. One of the Senators is a road maker.

Constantinople, Dec. 10th.—The Greek High Commissioner has been ordered to quit Constantinople. The Armenian Patriarch is preparing to flee. According to a despatch from Angora, the National Assembly has chosen Dr. Adenen Bey to represent the Nationalists in Constantinople, and Rafet Pasha will proceed to Thrace to take up there his duties as Military Governor. Adenen Bey is the husband of Salibedibe, who has a wide reputation as a poetess. He is a Minister of Education in the Nationalist Government. He is a distinguished Physician and enjoys the esteem of all factions.

London, Dec. 9th.—The amalgamation of Transjordan and Palestine into one state, with complete internal autonomy for each, is favoured by Emir Abdullah, the Transjordan ruler, who the Jewish telegraphic agency learns broached his scheme during his visit to London. He proposed that he be King of the New State, with full assurance to the Zionist that the erection of the Jewish National home and the Balfour declaration, as well as the Zionist policy of the British Government, would be safeguarded.

Washington, Dec. 9th.—Far in advance of the usual time, the House today passed the treasury appropriation bill, the first of the big supply measures. It carries \$115,000,000, of which \$9,000,000 will be for prohibition enforcement.