

Sept 16, 1921

SMYRNA ALMOST COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

ALLIED WARNING TO KEMAL.

ANY ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE STRAITS WILL BE RESISTED.

ORDERS TO THE BRITISH FLEET: CABINET DECISION.

(From our Correspondent.)

ATHENS, THURSDAY.

It is officially stated that British and American refugees who left Smyrna last night report the total destruction of the Greek, Armenian, and foreign quarters of the town by fire.

The fire was started with petroleum yesterday at midday by Turkish regular troops with the object of hiding the bodies of those massacred the night before. The number of people massacred is unknown, but is estimated by American relief workers who investigated before the outbreak of fire to be well over 1,000.

Destroyers in the harbour are giving assistance to the foreign colony, who are being embarked. The French and American Colleges, the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. headquarters for Near East relief, and all their stocks of food have been destroyed. The consulates were in grave danger last night. The Turkish town was then untouched. There are 60,000 refugees on the quays starving. The loss caused by the destruction of tobacco is enormous.

COLLEGE GIRLS' FATE.

(From a Correspondent.)

ATHENS, THURSDAY.

Frightful reports have been received here of Turkish atrocities in Smyrna. The Turks set fire to the Armenian and Greek quarters, and the American Girls' Collegiate Institute as well as the Evangelical College and the French St. Joseph College was burnt.

Miss Minnie Mills, the principal of the Girls' College, saw a Turkish officer carrying a petroleum can near by the house, which was then set on fire. The college girls, together with 1,500 refugees within the college grounds, fell into the hands of the Turks while trying to escape.

The Y.M.C.A. buildings, also the Near East

relief warehouses of flour supplies, were burnt down. The British and American Consulates appeared to be doomed by the fire.

All the British fled to battleships, but many failed to escape and were massacred, including one named Rees.

The president of the International College, Dr. MacLachlan, was beaten almost to death by the Turks, who robbed all houses regardless of nationality, scorning the Allied flags.

Last night the flames from the burning houses lit up the whole city. On the harbour quay, in semi-darkness, thousands of refugees were huddled crying or on their knees praying. The only Allied help extended was the direction on the masses of refugees of searchlights from the Allied battleships to save them from the activities of the Turks in the dark.

The Armenian Archbishop was killed, and it is reported that the Greek Metropolitan, Chrysostome, met the same end.

The financial loss from the fire is estimated at £15 millions. Smyrna is doomed to starvation of massacre.

FIRE STILL RAGING.

ROME, FRIDAY, 8 P.M.

A message from Smyrna despatched at a late hour yesterday reports that the fire is still raging.—Reuter.

BRITISH ADMIRAL AND KEMAL

THREAT TO BOMBARD TURKISH QUARTERS.

ATHENS, THURSDAY.

Among the many sensational reports spread here by panic-stricken refugees is one to the effect that Mustafa Kemal refused to receive the British admiral, who intended to tell him that he would be held responsible for any outrages against British subjects. It is added that the admiral subsequently addressed a note to Mustafa Kemal threatening a bombardment of the Turkish quarters if disorders continued. This story is published in the papers here this evening.—Reuter.

TURKISH ARMISTICE TERMS.

SURRENDER OF THRACE AND ASIA MINOR.

THE VICTORS' EXPENSES.

PARIS, FRIDAY.

A message from Angora states that the Turkish nation will agree to an armistice on the following terms:—

1. Enemy to hand over the whole of the occupied area with its troops, arms, and ammunition unconditionally.
 2. Enemy to recognise the absolute sovereignty of Turkey over Asia Minor and Thrace and to renounce all aspirations to these territories.
 3. Enemy to repair all damage done and to bear all expenses of the Turks.
 4. The enemy to hand over to the Government of the Great National Assembly of Turkey all persons guilty of atrocities committed during the invasion.
- No other terms will be accepted.

—Reuter.

BRITISH VICTIMS.

POSTMASTER & ENGLISH DOCTOR.

ATHENS, FRIDAY.

An American destroyer has arrived at the Piræus from Smyrna with the consular staff and other Americans and Greeks, who relate frightful stories of the bad treatment in public of refugee women by the Turkish soldiers.

It is reported that the Turks entered the British Consulate and murdered an official they found there who was getting the archives together. The postmaster, Mr. Wilkinson, is also stated to have been murdered, as well as other Englishmen.

Sir Harry Lamb, the Consul General, is believed to have escaped on board a warship.—Reuter.

An Exchange telegram from Athens, dated yesterday, says:—

The latest news on the tragic situation at Smyrna exceeds all reports. Among the killed are Mr. Wilkinson, who is described as "a director of English telegraphs," and an English doctor and his wife, and two employees at the English headquarters.

The bodies of the two last were set up in a standing position at the residence, and the Turks placed the British flag in the rigid hands of one of them.

A court-martial has condemned to death two Greek journalists, who were forthwith shot dead.

The tragic end of the Metropolitan of Smyrna is confirmed.

500,000 REFUGEES ON ASIA MINOR COAST.

Reuter's Agency understands that a Greek semi-official telegram received in London says that the Government has requested the Powers to send ships to rescue nearly half a million Christian refugees who are anxiously awaiting succour at different points on the Asia Minor coast. Some thousands of people have taken refuge on the island of Marmora, and are living in terror of an attack by Turks from Karabigha. The little island is absolutely without means of supporting the refugees.

An influential committee has been formed in Athens under the presidency of the Queen to help the refugees. A public subscription is being organised, and it is intended to establish public food-distributing centres and labour exchanges.

The newspapers protest against the summary executions of Greeks and Armenians by the Kemalists at Smyrna for crimes alleged to have been committed in 1915, and declare that if this method of procedure continues there will be no minorities left for the Powers to protect.

AMERICANS MISSING.

Reuter's Agency is informed with reference

DISARMAMENT BUDGETS.

MEANING OF FRENCH SCHEME.

REDUCTION FOR BRITAIN—

BUT NOT FRANCE.

By G. Lewis Dickinson.

GENEVA, THURSDAY (Received Yesterday).

The difficulties of a reduction of armaments as contrasted with their abolition came out clearly at to-day's meeting of the League Disarmament Commission. Thus, what is to be the basis of the comparison of armaments between the different States? Several delegates proposed budgetary expense. But this ignores the difference in the cost of a conscript and voluntary army.

M. de Jouvenel made an interesting speech pointing out that the war was fought in the hope of ending armaments, yet now these were greater than before the war. He concluded, however, with a suggestion to return to the Budget standard of 1913, when the nations were already crushed under the armament burden. Further, as the figures show, the 1913 standard means no reduction for France and a considerable reduction for some other Powers, among which is Britain. Moreover, the standard is inapplicable to the new States.

Passing to naval armaments, an extension of the Washington Treaty to other Powers was proposed. There were immediate protests from Brazil and Poland. The Brazilian delegate said his country could not accept the principles of a treaty, nor attend a conference to extend their application. The question was thereupon postponed.

The Commission then passed to the question of poison gas. The Colombian delegate suggested a convention prohibiting its use.

M. Lange (Norway) said it might be possible to abolish war, but it was impossible to humanise it, which seems to be the last word on the matter. Consideration of the Colombian proposal was adjourned.

The Minorities.

The remaining articles of Professor Gilbert Murray's proposals for the protection of minorities were passed in the following form: Article 2.—"In case of difference of

opinion as to questions of law or fact arising out of the provisions of minority treaties between the Governments concerned and, one of the States member of the Council of the League of Nations the Committee recommends that, should circumstances require it, an appeal for decision should be made without hesitation to the Permanent Court of Justice in accordance with the minority treaties."

Article 3.—"In certain localities with mixed populations which are in an exceptional situation and where conflicts are more frequent and more serious, the Committee considers that sometimes the protection of minorities could be assured in the most efficacious manner by the establishment, with the consent of the Government concerned, of representatives of the League, who would be able to give an impartial account of these conflicts."

Slavery in Africa.

The question of the alleged recrudescence of slave-owning and slave-trading in Africa was discussed by the Sub-Committee. Unofficial but authoritative information goes to show that there are large gangs of slaves in African territories. Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland (New Zealand) is active in this matter, apparently supported by Sir Cecil Hurst. The Assembly may probably ask the Council to inquire and report at the next Assembly.

With regard to articles 10 and 18 of the Covenant, the Commission decided to report to the Assembly against the amendment this year, referring it back to the Commission during the coming year. The point is of great importance. Article 10 some delegates interpreted as prohibiting any annexation of territory, even after war. Article 18 concerns the registration of treaties. Sir Cecil Hurst said some States do not in fact observe this article. A notorious example is the Franco-Belgian military convention. Almost certainly other such treaties exist. Sir Cecil Hurst and other

YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING.

FRENCH CO-OPERATION AND THE CONDITIONS.

(From our Political Correspondent.)

LONDON, FRIDAY.

To-day's Cabinet took over two hours and a half to consider the grave situation in the Near East. Lord Curzon and Mr. Churchill were among the Ministers who took part in it. The information communicated afterwards upon the Note from France that had been considered by the Cabinet was that the two Governments were in full accord as to maintaining the neutral zone on both sides of the Straits.

The whole question of settlement is left for the Peace Conference, in which the British Government is determined that Serbia and Rumania shall take part. Those States are vitally interested in any extension of the Turkish power in Europe, and they are allies.

Meanwhile reinforcements are being sent

British influence over the future of Turkey and to consolidate their own

Their game is, however, badly handicapped by the development of the reparations problem, which is more urgent and important to them than even that of the Near East, and by the attitude of the Little Entente, whose friendship it is essential M. Poincaré's foreign policy should conciliate. The diplomatic activity of the Bulgarians, who may legitimately expect to benefit from a large rearrangement of the frontier of Thrace in this connection, may be expected to show itself at any moment. Already considerable interest has been taken by Juglo-Slavia and Rumania.

On the whole, though it is doubtless true that the French horse has won, it is going to be no easy task for the Quai d'Orsay to collect their winnings. An influential Italian, with lifelong experience of Levantine affairs, assures me that England even now may snatch a diplomatic victory out of defeat by turning to the Turks direct. He is convinced, from contact with Kemal

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Meanwhile reinforcements are being sent to Constantinople, as it is vaguely put, "to support the Allied flag," in case of any attack from Mustafa Kemal, and our fleet has been instructed to prevent troops crossing from Asia or transports being collected. It is not clear in the explanation as given whether France and Italy were also sending reinforcements and giving the same instructions to their warships. It was understood that they were ready to do so, but the British Government will not have to trust to anybody else, but must do all that it can alone for the present at any rate.

Nothing has yet been decided concerning where the Peace Conference is to take place. One might have assumed that the most appropriate and convenient place would be Constantinople. But Venice was to have been the place for the conference of High Commissioners before the Greek downfall, and it may perhaps be the place for the Peace Conference which has now superseded that interim conference.

So far the three Powers, France, Italy, and England, seem really to be stepping together in controlling the demilitarized zone on both sides of the Straits, and they have agreed to send a joint Note to Mustafa Kemal to warn him of that fact. So far that is all that this country wants. The rest must wait until the Peace Conference.

FRANCE & THE TURKISH SETTLEMENT.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, FRIDAY.

A summary of the French Note published here contains little that is fresh. French co-operation in defence of the neutral zone before Constantinople is confirmed. This help is conditional on a satisfactory settlement, the exact details of which are not perhaps very clearly known to the French Government itself, but it may be taken that they will press as a minimum for the complete surrender of Constantinople, the surrender by the Greeks of Adrianople, and the concentration of Allied defences for the freedom of the Straits to Gallipoli itself, with a small share given to the Turks. Euboea and Kirk-Lines, with adjacent districts, would be taken from the Greeks.

The French Government proposal as of the moment the new frontier will, however, largely depend on the views of the Little Entente. Nothing will be done by them to eliminate

British influence over the future of Turkey and to consolidate their own.

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MEDITERRANEAN FLEET CONCENTRATION.

MALTA, FRIDAY, 12.30 P.M.

Apparently the main ships of the Mediterranean with the consular staff and other ports are concentrating at Chanak, whither Admiral Sir Osmond Brock, with the Iron Duke, Diligence, and Trinidad, has proceeded from Smyrna, whilst the Caradoc, which left Port Said on the 13th, is going to the same destination, and the Tribune and Swallow are following from Smyrna.

News has reached here that the s.s. Bavarian with 750 British refugees, including many Maltese, left Smyrna for Malta yesterday, and the s.s. Antioch, with 800 British and Cypriot refugees, left Smyrna for Cyprus on the 14th.—Reuter.

ALLIED NOTICE TO ANGORA GOVERNMENT.

PARIS, FRIDAY.

Replying to the British Note on the situation in the Straits, France is of the opinion that the neutral zone of the Straits should be maintained, and has ordered General Fella, the French High Commissioner at Constantinople, to co-operate with his British and Italian colleagues in advising the Angora Government that the Allies expect the neutral zone to be respected. France adds that this action will not prejudice the conditions of the future peace.—Reuter.

M. POINCARE & FRENCH TROOPS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

PARIS, FRIDAY.

M. Poincaré, the Prime Minister, when receiving to-day M. Adrien Daric, the president of the Financial Committee of the Chamber, said that French troops were only temporarily in Constantinople, adding that there was every reason to hope that they would be withdrawn before the end of the year.—Reuter.

The French Branch of the League of Nations Union yesterday sent the following telegram to the Prime Minister at Downing Street:—"French Branch of the League of Nations Union respectfully urge question of Constantinople be referred to League.—Smith, secretary, 12, Fox Street."

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The newspapers protest against the summary executions of Greeks and Armenians by the Kemalists at Smyrna for crimes alleged to have been committed in 1918, and declare that if this method of procedure continues there will be no minorities left for the Powers to protect.

AMERICANS MISSING.

Reuter's Agency is informed with reference to the report that 14 naturalised Americans are missing from Smyrna, and these are probably the 14 members of the American International College, which comprises the bulk of the American population in Smyrna. They were staying at Paradise, the college compound, some three miles out of Smyrna. According to a telegram from Smyrna, dated the 12th, several of the teachers at the college had already fled.

DESTRUCTION BY GREEKS IN THE RETREAT.

MALTA, FRIDAY.

A correspondent of the Press Association says:—

I left Smyrna on the British hospital ship Maine owing to the impossible situation for British subjects and also because of the postal and telegraphic communications. When I left the Turks were still pillaging and massacring, and hundreds of dead bodies were lying in the streets of the town and outlying villages. Two large villages five miles from Smyrna were on fire. No attempt was being made by the Turks to restore order.

The British had withdrawn all their patrols and guards, and several British houses had been requisitioned for Turkish officers. The Christians have been placed in a terrible position owing to the highly reprehensible conduct of the Greek army in burning towns and villages in their retreat.

ALLEGED GREEK EXCESSES IN THRACE.

SOLDIERS OUT OF CONTROL.

CONSTANTINOPLE, FRIDAY.

The Kemalists are continuing to pursue the remainder of the Third Greek Army Corps, which is retreating in the direction of Panderma, where embarkation is proceeding under the protection of warships.

Bands of Circassians and Greeks have set fire to Michalich. Looting and other excesses, according to Turkish statements, are being committed in the district of Rodosto (Thrace) on the western shore of the Sea of Marmora) and Danube by troops from Asia Minor, who have infected the troops in the district with a spirit of insubordination. Soldiers who murdered at Rodosto killed several officers. The civil authorities at Adrianople declare that they have no influence over the troops.

A separate movement is reported to have developed in the islands of Chios and Mytilene, while disorders have occurred in Eastern Thrace. A nationalist movement is said to have broken out at Adrianople, where it is reported several officers and a part of the population have overthrown the Greek civil authorities.—Reuter.

Columbian proposal was adjourned.

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With regard to articles 10 and 18 of the Covenant, the Commission decided to report to the Assembly against the amendment this year, referring it back to the Commission during the coming year. The point is of great importance. Article 10 some delegates interpreted as prohibiting any annexation of territory, even after war. Article 18 concerns the registration of treaties. Sir Cecil Hurst said some States do not in fact observe this article. A notorious example is the Franco-Belgian military convention. Almost certainly other such treaties exist. Sir Cecil Hurst and other members of the Commission want article 18 amended so that it may correspond to the existing practice. But the existing practice is in fact a breach of the Covenant, and one of great importance. For if secret military conventions are allowed we are back in the state of affairs which led to the Great War.

HUNGARY ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP.

GENEVA, FRIDAY.

At to-day's meeting of the League of Nations Hungary was admitted to the League by a unanimous vote.—Exchange.

IMPRISONED ENGLISH OIL AGENT.

UNKNOWN RUSSIAN CHARGE.

PARIS, FRIDAY.

Colonel J. J. Boyle, the well-known oil expert, left Paris last night for Tiflis. He is making an attempt to secure the release of an Englishman, Mr. Claude A. Solly, the representative of the Shell Company, Limited, in Transcaucasia, who has been imprisoned by the Bolsheviks for over a month. It is not known what are the charges against him.

Colonel Boyle informed Reuter's correspondent that his journey was not connected with business or with politics, and that he has not at present any authority to negotiate with the Soviet Government on behalf of the Royal Dutch Shell Company.—Reuter.

THE PAPER TRAIL.

POLICEMAN CONGRATULATED BY PRISONER.

The story of a prisoner who congratulated his captor was related in Leeds yesterday, when Ernest Spedden (28, Valley Cottages, Leeds), was charged with breaking into the grocery shop of Mrs. Mary Ann May, Parkside Road. Police Constable Dallow stated that he noticed a trail of paper from the shop to King Alfred's Coffee, Moorhead, where he observed several empty cigarette packets. He traced Spedden to his home, and the young man, when interrogated, said: "I congratulate you, old man. You've got me this. There was another man with me." Spedden was committed to the sessions.

U.S. TARIFF BILL PASSED.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY.

The House of Representatives passed the Tariff Bill by a vote of 226 to 85.—Exchange.

[The decision regarding the dye and potato sections is reported on page 15.]

Sept 15, 1922 19

FIRE RAVAGING SMYRNA.

OUTBREAK OF TURKISH OUTRAGES AGAINST CHRISTIANS.

CRITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALLIED POWERS.

BRITISH CABINET MEETING TO-DAY.

ROME, THURSDAY.
A telegram received here this afternoon from Smyrna reports that a terrible fire has broken out in the city. The Greek and Armenian quarters have been destroyed, and the fire is spreading to other areas.

The inhabitants are in a state of panic, and Italian ships in the port are endeavouring to take off the members of the Italian colony.

On receipt of the news the Italian Government immediately took vigorous measures to hasten the despatch to Smyrna of vessels with provisions and medical stores. Instructions have also been given to concentrate Italian warships in Smyrna waters in order to provide a shelter for Italian residents.—Reuter.

Reuter's Agency learns that the Turks have commenced reprisals against the Armenians at Smyrna. No statistics are available as to their extent.

ATHENS, WEDNESDAY.
There are persistent rumours here of serious trouble in Smyrna, but no confirmation is available. On the other hand, the news received from Constantinople is not alarming.

It is officially announced that the 18th Regiment from Aidin has safely reached Chesme for embarkation, and that the independent 15th Division, which belonged to the Northern group and was missing, has arrived in good condition at Dikili, north of Smyrna.—Reuter.

GREET STORIES OF OUTRAGE.

PRELATES MURDERED.

ATHENS, WEDNESDAY.
The Messageries Maritimes ship Lamartine arrived at the Piræus from Smyrna this morning with 150 refugees on board, mostly soldiers and civilians, who embarked with papers delivered to them by the French Consul, who is willingly issuing these papers, but the Kemalists are preventing the Greeks from approaching the Consulate.

The refugees include a Greek journalist who informed Reuter's correspondent that the Greek Metropolitan and the Armenian Metropolitan have been murdered. He also declared that the Kemalists have separated men and women refugees and that the men have been sent to the village of Chili. He added that the Kemalists had massacred a total of about 2,000 soldiers and thrown their bodies into the sea.

"It is believed," he said, "that Greek officers and notables who are prisoners will be shot. The peace among the Christians is terrible. Christians in the interior have been warned into Smyrna and are now awaiting their fate. The question of minorities has solved itself."—Reuter.

REFUGEES FOR MALTA.

MALTA, THURSDAY.
The hospital ship Maine, bearing refugees, left Smyrna on Tuesday for Malta.—Exchange.

THE ALLIED DIPLOMATIC CRISIS.

FRENCH DECISION ON NEAR EASTERN POLICY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

stronger, though whether it has prevailed at the Cabinet meeting this morning is as yet unknown.

UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT.

PARIS, THURSDAY.
A Cabinet Council was held at Rambouillet to-day under the presidency of M. Millerand. M. Poincaré gave his colleagues an account of the negotiations which had taken place at Berlin between the Belgian delegates and the German Government on the subject of the payment of the reparation instalments which were shortly falling due. He also indicated to the Cabinet the main lines of the instructions which he had given to the French representatives on the Reparation Commission in consequence of the failure of these negotiations. These instructions received the unanimous approval of the Cabinet.

M. Poincaré and his colleagues then discussed recent events in Asia Minor, and the Cabinet came to a unanimous agreement as to the policy to be pursued with a view to the establishment of a permanent peace in the Near East.

M. Louis Dubois, president of the Reparation Commission, arrived at Rambouillet, where he had an interview with M. Poincaré, and left again immediately after the conclusion of the conversation. When he left M. Dubois stated that he had had a communication to make to the Premier. It is stated that the question of summoning the Chamber was not discussed this morning.—Reuter.

BRITISH POLICY.

(From our Political Correspondent.)

LONDON, THURSDAY.
The Cabinet meets to-morrow afternoon, and all Ministers who can possibly reach it are summoned to attend. The Premier, of course, will preside, and the subject will be the critical situation that has arisen in the Near East.

Mr. Lloyd George has not yet decided whether he will attend the Assembly of the League of Nations next week. It depends upon the opinion of Lord Balfour and our delegation on the spot, and communications are now passing to get this made clear.

It would be idle to deny that a very dangerous situation has arisen from the sweeping Turkish victory over the Greeks. That the Greeks have been swept out of Asia Minor matters to us very little. We never, I am most earnestly assured, encouraged the Greeks in their adventure in March of last year. Our only interest in Asia Minor is the purely humanitarian one of protecting minorities.

But the Turks, puffed up with their victory, may attempt to cross the Straits and carry their war into Europe. It is not now necessary, in the judgment of our Government, to consider boundaries between Turkey and Greece in Thrace. We have our views, but they are not of immediate importance. They must wait for the formal peace conference, in which Serbia and Rumania must take part and which cannot now be long delayed.

What is of immediate importance is that the Allies, and particularly the French and British, should stand together in Constantinople. So long as the present regime is maintained in Constantinople by the French and British the Turks dare not attempt any risk. It is to be hoped that the French will take this view also. They have motives of self-interest for doing so. Their protégé is the Little Entente. The entry of the Turks into Thrace would mean a third Balkan war. That is something from which French policy might be expected to shrink if it were enlightened enough.

But until the French attitude is made clear the position is one of anxiety.

FRENCH DISARMAMENT SCHEME.

1913 BUDGETS AGAIN.

GROWTH OF MILITARISM SINCE THE WAR.

BRAZIL'S BLOW TO LEAGUE.

The League of Nations Disarmament Commission yesterday adopted a French plan by which nations should at once revert to the 1913 basis of military and naval budgets. In proposing the scheme the French delegate deplored the "great scandal" of the post-war growth of militarism, and quoted figures showing the increase in military expenditure by the majority of the Western and Eastern States.

Great Britain, India, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were all shown to have "militarist" budgets, while France was quoted as one of the few Powers whose expenditure on armaments had fallen.

Considerable disappointment has been caused by the decision of Brazil, unexpectedly announced yesterday, to withdraw from the League's naval disarmament scheme. Following the action of the Argentine, Uruguay, and Chile, it is feared that there may be a complete break between the South American States and the League.

THE "GREAT SCANDAL."

GENEVA, THURSDAY.
The League's Disarmament Commission formally adopted to-day as a step towards the League's idea of military disarmament a plan introduced by Senator de Jouvanel, in the name of France, inviting all European Governments, except these, like Belgium, whose regime has been changed by the war, and those actually engaged in war, like Spain and Greece, and the new-created States, immediately to reduce their naval, military, and aerial budgets to the 1913 basis and at pre-war rates.

The great scandal, said Senator de Jouvanel, is that after the war, which was waged to end war for the sake of civilisation, militarism has increased in many countries. He gave statistics showing that the following countries have increased the total of their budgets of armaments from 1913 figures to 1922:—

- Great Britain, 19.2 per cent.
- India, 14 per cent.
- Australia, 17 per cent.
- Canada, 7 per cent.
- New Zealand, 146 per cent.
- Belgium, 82 per cent.
- Portugal, 7 per cent.
- Japan, 71 per cent.

The countries which have decreased their budgets are:—

- South Africa, 25 per cent.
- Rumania, 23 per cent.
- Italy, 46 per cent.
- France, 45 per cent.
- Brazil, 7.9 per cent.

Other countries which took no part in the war and which have increased their budgets are:—Denmark, 33 per cent; Spain, 38 per cent; Netherlands, 48 per cent; Sweden, 20 per cent; while Switzerland decreased hers 39 per cent and Norway 14 per cent.

Senator de Jouvanel added that the French armament budget, which was of 7,336,000,000 francs in 1920, was in 1922 5,226 millions, including the Rhine army.—Exchange.

The Disarmament Commission (says Reuter) has instructed the Temporary Mixed Commission, which has already presented a report on the subject, to prepare a definite scheme of land disarmament for submission to the next Assembly of the League.

BRAZIL'S DEFECTION.

WITHDRAWAL FROM NAVAL REDUCTION PLAN.

GENEVA, THURSDAY.
Brazil has formally notified the Disarmament Commission that she is unable to participate further in any of the League's schemes or in any international conference for naval disarmament based on the Washington Treaty or on the principles contained therein.

Senator Oliveira declared the principles of the Washington Naval Treaty absolutely unacceptable to Brazil, first, because of the limit to

RAILWAY FARES.

REDUCTION "NOT REMOTE."

PRESSURE FOR LOWER GOODS RATES, TOO.

No reply has yet been received from the general managers of the railway companies, who were approached a short time ago on the question of a general reduction in passenger fares. No little public interest has been aroused in the question, and the possibility that their reply may be favourable to a reduction is not considered remote.

Mr. A. Coysh, secretary to the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers' Association, informed a press representative yesterday that three weeks ago a deputation from his association was received at the railway clearing-house, and the whole question of reduced fares was threshed out. The matter was referred to the general managers for decision.

The position with regard to goods rates remains at the moment where it stood in August. Certain percentage reductions were then agreed upon for the transit of goods as a result of an application to the Railway Rates Tribunal by the Federation of British Industries, the Associated Chambers of Commerce, and other representative bodies.

As a result of this application an interview took place with the general managers, and an undertaking was given and accepted by both sides that the new arrangement should continue for twelve months before any action is taken by the Tribunal. Meanwhile, it is understood that other bodies are moving in the matter, and it is not improbable that a further application may be made to the Tribunal for a reduction in goods rates.

MANCHESTER'S MILLION LOAN.

LOW DISCOUNT RATE.

The Manchester Corporation yesterday raised £1,000,000 on bills which have to be redeemed at the end of 12 months. Tenders to the amount of £1,333,000 were received. In these cases no interest is payable, but the lenders deduct its equivalent in advance by offering less per £100 than will be due to them next year. Under the tender system the Corporation accepts the offer showing the smallest discount, and yesterday's result was that the bills were placed at an average discount of a small fraction under 22 1/2c. In interest terms the rate would be a little higher, as interest is not payable until it has been earned. Reference is made to the issue in our financial notes.

BATTLE HONOURS.

REGIMENTS THAT EXCEED THE QUOTA.

The King has approved of the award to regiments and corps of the battle honours won by them in the Great War. Regiments and corps will have awarded to them and recorded in the Army List honours due to them for taking part in battles enumerated in the report of the Battles Nomenclature Committee.

On the colours will be emblazoned not more than 24 honours, of which not more than ten will be Great War honours, to embrace the whole history of the regiment concerned from the date on which it was raised to the end of the Great War.

The guiding principle in the selection of battle honours will be that headquarters are at least 50 per cent of the effective strength of a unit in a theatre of war must have been present at the engagement for which the honour is claimed. Regimental committees will be set up to select particular honours.

The new regulation will affect the large number of regiments whose battle honours according to the Army List, up to the South African war, number or exceed 24. The regiments thus affected are (the figure in parenthesis being the number of battle honours):—The Royal Scots (28), Royal Welch (28), Grenadier Guards (27), The Buffs (26), The Gloucesters (25), East Surreys (24), Duke of Cornwall's L. I. (24), South Stafford (23), South Lancashires (23), Black Watch (23), Oxford and Buckinghamshire L. I. (22), Sherwood Forester (22), King's Royal Rifle Corps (20), Highland Light Infantry (20), Seaforth (18), Gordon (18), and Rifles (18). The terms of the new regulations indicate that these regiments must shed some of their existing battle honours.