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Britain Profits and the World Suffers from US-Japanese Fall Out

William W Abell

One Japanese official reports that US delegates threatened to "Start an arms race and out build you until you are crushed". While the US may be resource-endowed, the US lacks the political will for such a build up. If president Harding likes his job, he should keep that in mind.

On the other end, the Japanese are demanding unreasonably large swathes of Manchuria and Siberia and appear to using the racist immigration policies of the US to derail negotiations at will.

US-Japanese relations at an all time low with both sides acting in what appears to be bad faith. With two of the three great naval powers of the Pacific at each other's throats, the true victor of the Pacific appears to be the British Empire.

Update: During the writing of the article, an American delegate charged into the office, declared America is "definitely not afraid [of the Japanese Navy] and then accused the Japanese of acting in bad faith, before praising the British. When questioned, the British agreed they had a "strong working relationship" with the US.

French Attitudes

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Since last weeks issue, rumours abound that France's intentions at this conference may be less than in line with the conference's intended goals. If the French delegation are focused on punitive, vindictive measures, then they will only be a hindrance to the productive, mutually-beneficial diplomacy that this treaty appeared to begin with.

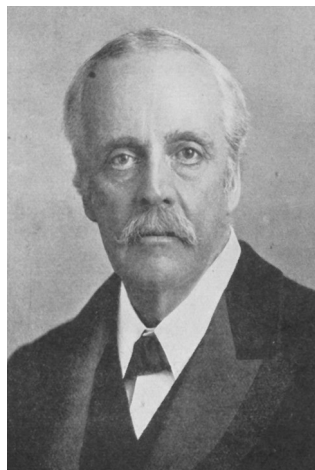
Nevertheless, the hosting US delegation is confident that there will

be no problem. Delegate Oscar Underwood said "I am sure we can all come to an agreement and work to produce a world without war."

US-Japan Disagreement Halts Progress

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Discussions of "US intransigence" against Japanese proposals to reduce naval arms are missing the bigger picture. The US say that they are committed to reducing naval spending, as promised during President Harding's election campaign, but that international security must come first, and that the Japanese territorial claims in and around China are aggressive and uncompromising. "Naval arms reduction and aggressive Japanese territorial claims are the two main points we need to discuss." said US delegate Henry Cabot Lodge in an interview. "These two points are not unconnected." Lodge went on to say that Britain was in full agreement with this stance. When asked for comment, Arthur Balfour, head of the British delegation, said that he was "surprised by the extent of Japanese territorial demands" but that he was "still confident we can successfully negotiate with them."



Arthur James Balfour

US Navy Building Super Battleships

Hector Bywater

The US Navy contingent are blocking the reduction in the size of navies and driving an arms race to upgrade fleets from the current 14" 25,000 tonne battleships to 16" super battleships three times the size. Several threats have been made that the US Navy will out build everyone else and have a full fleet of super battleships.

Admiral Theodore Roosevelt Jr was almost a whole day late to the second meeting of the Military Committee. While he was initially conciliatory in his opening statement he announced that if the US Navy was going to half the size of the battleship fleet it would be upgrading them all to super battleships. This would actually increase the tonnage of the US Navy by about 50%!

Other more sensible heads around the table, notably the Italian, French and Dutch contingent spoke more sense about limiting total tonnage, which kept the military utility in check better than the numbers of ships. The British and Japanese also sought to keep limits on the super battleships that the US is now threatening the rest of the world with.

Political Committee Makes Progress On China

H.G. Wells

The Political Committee resumed its work mid-day Tuesday after what the chairman, Charles Evans Hughes, described as a weekend of very productive bilateral and multilateral discussions – or, in other words, secret cabals in smoke-filled rooms.

The Committee reached agreement that each national would

waive indemnities of £5m owed by China. The Japanese insisted that this should be contingent on China agreeing to spend half the amount remitted on arms for a period of 10 years. The Italian delegation made its commitment conditional on Italy achieving equivalent savings by naval armament reductions. Surprisingly, none of the delegations pressed Britain to remit its remaining £10 million of indemnities.

The British tabled a proposal for an increase in the tariff of 1% giving China additional revenue of £20m a year. All delegations approved this in principle, but all reserved their position until it was clear whether the naval agreement would enable them to afford this measure.

Japan: pulling wool over the eyes of Conduct committee

By our special reporter

The Japanese delegate is playing a very canny game. He proposes the most pacifistic option possible (e.g. ban on weapons in aircraft; a six-hour warning before bombing etc) but it's in bad faith as he clearly knows there is no way any of that will ever be accepted by the Conference. He makes Japan look holier-than-thou at no cost to his objectives. The others – especially America and France – can see the subterfuge but seem powerless to call out the wily Baron Shidehara.

US Navy or Pirates

Hector Bywater

In the conduct of the war committee the US Navy was also the main barrier to agreement. Other nations were looking for a civilised agreement on sticking to military targets and not using poison gas or submarines. The US position was to reserve the right to sink unarmed merchant shipping. The Royal Navy's Admiral Chatfield was heard to refer to the USN stance as "*tantamount to piracy and murder*".

To an unbiased outside observer it

very much looks like the US government is trying to sink its own peace conference. It's now clear that what Secretary Hughes meant was that everyone else needed to compromise to let the US have its own way.

Submarines and Poison Gas: why they must both be banned

by Ida Tarbell

On behalf of all civilised humanity I call upon the Conference to ban these despicable and satanically evil 'weapons'.

Firstly, submarines. The tragic example of the *Lusitania* must be in our minds. Despite its image of derring-do, in practice the underwater warship is underhand, unchivalrous and frankly piratical. In the Great War it was used **almost exclusively** to murder merchant seamen and other civilians. In any future conflict, it is likely the Navies will be even more efficient at protecting their warships. Torpedoes from future *unterseebooten* of all countries will drown and burn civilians, contrary to all morality, unless the subs are banned.

Secondly, poison gas. Harder to prohibit because it is a by-product of industry, nevertheless these vile substances must never be stockpiled and never used either on the battlefield, or as the British Air Force do in Mesopotamia, against civilians. The horror of these disgusting, hateful toxins cries out to heaven for a ban. Let us pray that the Conduct of Warfare Sub-committee and the plenary Conference, strike a blow for humanity and enforce both global bans.