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Irish Parliament votes to accept treaty



The Irish Parliament discusses the proposed treaty with Britain.

Dec 12. After a debate of fiery words and high drama, the Dail Eireann, the provisional Irish parliament, has approved the treaty with Britain which sets up the Irish Free State. The voting was 64 in favour, and 57 against, and afterwards, Eamon de Valera refused the presidency of the Dail. So with the country's best-known politician not prepared to implement the treaty, Ireland's political future is still uncertain.

The debate on the treaty lasted nine days, Miss Mary MacSwiney, sister of the Lord Mayor of Cork, who died on hunger strike, spoke of "Ireland's grossest betrayal ever", and Cathal Brugha, the Defence Minister, savaged Michael Collins for accepting so much less than they had fought for together. De Valera made clear his opposition to the treaty, forecasting "internal strife".

Arthur Griffith, the leader of the delegation that signed the treaty last month, will replace Eamon de Valera as president, while the new head of the government is Michael Collins, the former London bank official who became finance minister in the first provisional government in 1918.

Poisonous Gas Banned

The tireless work of M. Renee Viviani has ensured that poisonous gas might never again be used under the guise of war or civil conflict.

Washington Conference: a New Code for relations between states

by Ida Tarbell

Here we see the dawn of a new era. An era of hope, and peace, and goodwill to all of humanity. Men of good faith and immense talent are trying to prove that it shall no longer be by blood and treasure that we progress, but by good will, fair dealing, superior efficiency of mind and hand.

However, one thing is upsetting me, both as a human being and a patriot. America is being frankly disappointing.

While they should be the ones to set the very best example, they are using this assembly as an excuse to indulge in the most selfish form of Realpolitik. The New Code dictates acting in good faith, with the benefit of all mankind as the objective. Sadly, and shockingly given their previous high-mindedness, the USA delegation has been manipulating, dissembling and game-playing more than anyone else. (The French are at least honest in their persistent militarism).

I call upon my fellow Americans to look in the mirror and, in this Season of Goodwill and beyond, hold themselves to a much higher standard.

Political Committee

The Political Committee received a report from Lord Lee of Fareham on progress in the Military Committee, which amounted to little

more than that the technical talks had been bogged down but were now proceeding. The Political Committee reminded Lord Lee than many items on the political agenda were dependent on budget savings being achieved by naval limitation.

Discussion resumed on the proposals for progress towards full Chinese sovereignty in 25 years. While every delegation except Japan (how often reporting this conference one has to use those two words!) favoured this in principle, nearly all had reservations about special cases which would need bilateral discussion. In the end, the agreement which appeared to be within the committee's grasp at the last session was watered down to homoeopathic weakness. The Thorny question of Shantung was shelved to the next meeting. Mr Hughes seemed more concerned to score petty party political points by blaming the previous Democrat administration for the betrayal of China at Versailles.

Pacific Agreement Finalised

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Following a second week of meetings between US, British and Japanese delegates, the agreements on influence in China and the Pacific have been effectively completed. All sides are agreeing to arms reductions, as well as reductions in foreign control in China. Baron Kado of the Japanese delegation called the talks "very productive", whilst Henry Cabot Lodge of the US delegation seemed especially optimistic, saying that he anticipated "peace in our time."

Britain Keeps Naval Superiority

Hector Bywater

When the military committee reconvened after the weekend it very rapidly came to an agreed position on limiting the numbers and total tonnage of capital ships. This left the Royal Navy as still the largest in the world, albeit by a much smaller margin than it currently enjoys. The agreement is summarised below:

State	Ships	tonnage	change
GB	15 (-15)	500kt	-46%
US	10 (-10)	425kt	-43%
Japan	8 (-7)	300kt	-33%
France	4 (-6)	180kt	-54%
Italy	4 (-2)	180kt	-5%
NLD	2 (+2)	90kt	

What is clear here is that the US Navy's modernisation plan has gained it a huge advantage in the negotiations over weight and number of ships. The new US Navy will be relatively more powerful than it would have been had the agreement not been reached. This will help to offset US fears over a fast expanding Japanese empire which threatens to shut the US out of China and adversely affect US trade in the Western Pacific. While the naval limitations are a good step forward in helping to secure peace there is still a need for a solid political agreement, with League of Nations backing so that peace is assured.

Japan gives the Netherlands 20 submarines in exchange for oil of the East Indies

A surprising bilateral agreement appears to hit two birds with one stone as the Netherlands increases the protection of its Asian Colonies and the Japanese secures a supply of oil to fuel its growing economy and navy. Japan plans to shrink its fleet from 35 to 15 subs. No word on how the transaction will be effected by the proposed reduction in the number of submarines per country.

"We're all loaning money to China"

In a bizarre moment of candidness, the American delegate, Oscar Underwood, confidently confirmed negotiations which involved providing large loans to China so they can maintain stability and pay back indemnities. This bizarre arrangement sees the global powers paying China money so China can then pay the global powers back. China, chronically underfunded, welcomes this refinancing and appears to be using it to buy arms from the Americans and pay their troops, who haven't been paid in years.

Tripartite Agreement In Mediterranean

M. Briand described the treaty as a triumph of diplomacy and French pragmatism. Britain, France, and Italy have affirmed a continued friendship and mutual cooperation in the treaty named after the local pizza joint for which it was signed. While international cooperation is always encouraging, many parts of the globe are wondering exactly who this treaty is aimed at? Turkey? Spain? Are they worried the US will return to fight Barbary Pirates?

Additionally, doesn't this treaty between allies (minus Russia) replicate the conditions of defensive alliances which prevented neutral mediation in the initial outbreak of the Great War? Overall, we support the aversion of the budding conflict between Italy and France and the declaration of mutual cooperation in trade, but wish other powers might have been engaged further.

Prince Tokugawa, a Japanese delegate, said the Treaty might be aimed at countering the influence of the US, but the need for the Treaty might already be fading. As he said, the US "have recently been better behaved".

Submarines contained to "Defensive use"

W.W. Abell

In another push from the Subcommittee on the conduct of War and the diplomatic handshaking of M. Viviani, submarines have been declared as only for defensive use. Defensive use seems to emotionally translate to a reduction in the number of submarines per country. In reality, the defensive use of submarines was not elaborated on.

Civilians not to be targeted by aerial bombing

W.W. Abell

Curtailing the use of aircraft of war, the subcommittee on the conduct of war and M. Viviani has scored a hat trick in fundamentally changing the rules of war. The proposed treaty requires that any aerial bombardment on military targets where there is a risk of civilian casualties needs 24 hours notice to be given so that civilians can be evacuated.

Conduct of Warfare: high moral tone, continuing impracticality

By A Staff Reporter

The British endeavoured to keep things highly moral during a discussion of starvation blockading. "History is irrelevant; we must avoid the mistakes of the past" said Sir Auckland Geddes. The Japanese response, predictably, was that wars should be nasty, brutish and short, and starving people would help. America – and perhaps this is not such a surprise – agreed.