

## PARIS PRESS VIEWS SITUATION AS GRAVE

### Sees Errors on Both Sides, but Hopes for an Acceptable Compromise.

PARIS, April 24.—As to the gravity of the crisis in the Peace Conference there were no two opinions in France today. There was agreement also that no stone must be left unturned to find a solution of the existing deadlock.

As to the causes of the crisis opinions differed widely. The more conservative opinion, as represented by such organs as the *Figaro*, was inclined to deplore President Wilson's action in making his statement public as likely to do more harm than good.

"Its evident object," the *Figaro* said, "is to transfer to the market place negotiations and discussions much better carried on in calm and privacy. What was only a difference might thus be transformed into a quarrel."

The *Figaro* in its comment also set forth the view that "principles must sometimes suffer some deviation," and it pleaded against the display of "stubbornness" or of "a haughty, uncompromising spirit."

"The difference between the United States and Italy must be commented on in a spirit of conciliation," says the *Temps* in an editorial today. "Such is our duty as allies and hosts. The French Government, with the British, has striven to the utmost for four days to prevent the explosion. It has searched for a compromise, which perhaps would have been easier to find had the Italians continued to participate in the deliberations. It has endeavored to delay publication of President Wilson's document."

The *Temps* then describes the present situation of the Adriatic problem, which it says in no way concerns Germany, and hence the signing of the peace treaty by the German plenipotentiaries need not be delayed.

"If Premier Orlando returns to Rome," the newspaper continues, "his collaborators can remain here so that Italy can sign the treaty."

"The treaty with Austria-Hungary remains to be drawn up. The text of the 1915 treaty must represent Italy's territorial rights. On the other hand, this treaty has no application as regards the United States, which neither signed it nor has recognized it."

St. Brice in the journal said the incident was the result of the manifold mistakes made by all parties. The Italians, he thought, committed a gross blunder in publishing their claims in advance, thus eliminating all possibility of manoeuvring.

"It was a bad start which weighed heavily on the negotiations from the first," he continued, "and the discussions only accentuated the points of difference. The compromise plan left by President Wilson when he withdrew from the Council of Four on April 21 might have had some chance of success if it had been put forth by an independent arbitrator, but France and England could not very well indorse a proposal at variance with the treaty of London."

M. St. Brice declared that a rupture was so far from the intention of the Italians yesterday that in the morning Salvatore Barzilai called upon Premier Clemenceau in behalf of the Italian delegation and submitted a fresh proposal for a compromise by which Italy would take the city of Fiume and the Jugoslavs the suburb of Susak, across the River Ragna, Italy further agreeing to renounce her claim to the Dalmatian coast, getting the islands only and receiving from the League of Nations a mandate to administer the cities of Zara and Sebenico. The horizon was clearing, the writer declared, when President Wilson's statement came like a bombshell.

Writing in the *Echo de Paris*, "Pertinax" launched a diatribe against President Wilson.

"We have already sacrificed too much to the Wilsonian doctrine, solemnly condemned by the American voters last November," he said. "The international régime we have accepted for the Sarre marks an act of weakness which will cost our country dear. Are we going still further today in our enthusiasm for the new order? Are we going to tear up all existing treaties? Is nothing to remain of our alliance?"

The *Echo de Paris* also expressed the belief that because of President Wilson's "direct appeal to the Italian people" France and England would be brought to make known the point of view of their representatives in the Italian dispute. The same newspaper gave its opinion that the dispute would not lead to delay in the opening of the negotiations at Versailles.

L'Oeuvre (Socialist) said:

"We do not disguise the fact that in such a moment we heard with genuine emotion the voice of President Wilson rise above the mutterings of these international confabulations," it says. "President Wilson, tired of the confidential wire-pulling of secret diplomacy, has finally rent the veil and appealed to public opinion."

The *Journal des Debats*, in an editorial signed by its foreign editor, M. Gauvain, supports President Wilson's action entirely, and says:

"The President has applied the surgeon's knife to a painful wound. The patient will cry out, but the wound will heal and the surgeon will be thanked in the end."

*Populaire*, the newspaper of M. Longuet, leader of the Minority Socialists—the advanced Socialists—welcomes President Wilson's declaration unreservedly. It praises its inspiration, ability, vigor, and clearness, and regrets that it was not issued sooner.

Other Paris newspapers said that the situation must not be permitted to develop any irretrievable step in the wrong direction. They recognized the seriousness of the incident, but did not think it in the nature of a break, and expressed the hope that an acceptable compromise would soon be reached.

The *Gaulois* said it was convinced that Premier Clemenceau's skill would evolve the formula for such a compromise before the departure of Premier Orlando.