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WAR CONGRESS OF NEUTRAL NATIONS

Venezuela Suggests Worldwide Conference in Washington.

TO DRAFT CODE OF RIGHTS

Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrade is Father of Idea Placed Before Pan-American Union's Commission Appointed Recently by All American Republics Excepting Mexico.

The government of Venezuela has formally proposed a great international conference in Washington to consider and revise the rules of international law regarding the rights of neutral nations in time of war. The Venezuelan proposal is one of the biggest and broadest that has come out of the feeling among neutral nations generally that the war in Europe points the need for a definite determination of neutral rights as affected by the operation of belligerent nations and their cruisers in a struggle like that now being fought in Europe.

This proposal was submitted by Venezuela, through its minister in Washington, Dr. Santos A. Dominici, to the governing board of the Pan-American union. The governing board will refer the proposal to the special commission recently created upon motion of Dr. Romulo S. Naon, the ambassador from Argentina, who acted on instructions from his government.

What makes the Venezuelan project exceedingly important and far-reaching is the fact that it does not limit the suggestion for such an international conference to the twenty-one nations of North, South and Central America which have membership in the Pan-American union. The Venezuelan idea contemplates that the Washington conference shall embrace representatives from every one of the neutral nations, that all the neutral nations be invited to participate in the deliberations and that the work of the Washington conference be submitted to a congress of all the nations, including not only those which are neutral, but also those which are belligerents.

General Andrade Author of Idea. The author of the suggestion for this great conference of neutrals is General Ignacio Andrade, who is now the minister of foreign affairs of Venezuela, who submitted the proposal on behalf of his government after conferring at Caracas with the leading statesmen of that country.

General Andrade was president of Venezuela twelve years ago and is a brother of Don Jose Andrade, who for some years was minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary from Venezuela in Washington.

The written proposal of the Venezuelan government is not to be made public until after it has been submitted to the special commission of the Pan-American union, which was appointed several weeks ago by unanimous vote of every American republic except Mexico with instructions to consider problems growing out of the war as affecting neutrals and to report recommendations to the governing board of the Pan-American union.

Define Neutral Rights. The proposal points out that neutral nations appear to be anxious to have their rights, as well as the new problems affecting those rights, revised and definitely defined.

Dr. Dominici, the Venezuelan minister here, has been informally consulting with the members of the diplomatic corps from all neutral nations represented in Washington and with those of neutral European and Asiatic nations and acquainting them with the details of the Andrade idea for the proposed conference. As a result of these informal conversations, diplomats representing the different European and other neutral nations have been consulting their governments and informing them of the plan.

Although diplomats representing neutrals have only been discussing the matter informally and can take no steps to bind their governments without instructions from their foreign offices, the Venezuelan idea appears to have been received favorably.

It is not the purpose of the Venezuelan government to seek to lay down new rules of international law or a neutral made code that would be binding upon belligerents who were not represented in the conference. The idea is that the neutrals shall first hold their great conference in Washington and consider all the problems growing out of the war that affect them. The idea then is to reach an agreement along definite lines as to what should be done to clearly define the rights of neutrals. After this has been done and after the war in Europe is over, the work of the Washington conference would be placed before a congress of nations, and in this second congress the neutral

code of international law, representing the digested thought and combined wisdom of all the neutrals, would be submitted to the judgment of all nations—neutral as well as belligerent.

Had Right Leg Broken Seven Times. Running on slippery streets to catch a trolley car, William H. Harmer, forty-eight years old, a salesman for a Chestnut street store in Philadelphia, fell and broke his right leg. This is the seventh time in fourteen years that Harmer has broken his right leg.

Carrier Pigeons. Pigeons were employed in early Egyptian days, navigators taking them on their galleys and liberating them when they arrived at their destination in order to announce their safe arrival to their friends. The Romans utilized them in communicating with each other in wartime.

Revenge. "Will you marry me, Miss Gussle?" "No, Mr. Jinks." "Oh, thank you! I was so afraid you'd say yes, for, you see, the fellows were betting no fellow had the nerve to ask you, and I took it up in spite of the risk."—Baltimore American.

Domestic Discord. "My husband used to call me his lovely lute." "And now?" "Now he picks on me."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Where Truth deigns to come her sister, Liberty, will not be far.—Akenside.

Poor Egg! "Here's a Swiss named Egg who lives in New York petitioning to have his name changed."

"Sort of an egg shake, eh! What's the trouble?"

"He and his family have four children, and his family is constantly referred to as 'the half dozen Eggs.' He claims his yolk is too heavy to be borne."

"Why doesn't he lay for his tormentors?"

"It appears that he did once and got beaten, whipped to a froth. Poor Egg could barely scramble home."—Boston Transcript.

Holland's Queen Subscribes Million. Queen Wilhelmina, in signing a bill for a war loan of 275,000,000 florins (\$110,000,000), informed the finance minister that she would personally underwrite 2,500,000 florins (\$1,000,000) of the amount.

Notes by the Way.

Ninety-five per cent of the steel pens manufactured in the United States are made at Camden, N. J.

What is claimed to be an unbreakable telephone receiver has a steel skeleton within the rubber covering.

The same steam engine has been pumping water out of a coal mine in England for more than 100 years.

Successful experiments of Honduras indicate that cotton may become an important production of that country.

Aluminum foil for wrapping purposes is being that is only one sixth of one hundredth of an inch thick.

A mixture of slaked lime, linseed oil and cotton fiber is used in some portions of Turkey as a substitute for cement.

All field guns hereafter built for the United States army will be so mounted that they can be used against aeroplanes.

A fork carried above an aeroplane has been invented by a French aviator to enable a machine to alight by clutching a cable.

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