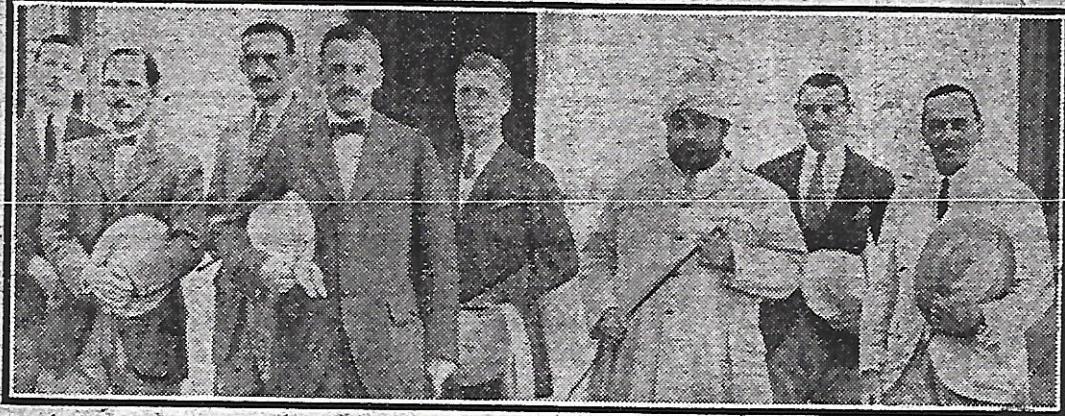


ANXIOUS POST AT KABUL



Lieut-Colonel Sir Francis Humphrys (fourth from left), the British Minister in disturbed Afghanistan, and some of the members of the staff of the British Legation. For days no news was received from the Legation, but an aeroplane message then reported "All well at present." The new Legation buildings are two miles from Kabul.

Letter 1928

promised consideration.

BRITISH OFFICIAL IN KABUL

MATTER OF WITHDRAWAL RAISED.

BRITISH MINISTER'S TRIBUTE.

British Official Wireless.

Rugby, Feb. 4.

Colonel Howard Bury (Conservative) asked the Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons about the reports that Sir Francis Humphreys and his staff were to be withdrawn from Kabul, and whether, in view of the importance of maintaining a British Minister there and the facility with which, in case of danger, he could be withdrawn by air, he would continue to maintain the legation and staff in Kabul.

Sir Austen Chamberlain replied: "The facts are that the subordinate members of the legation staff and other persons, both British and foreign, whose continued presence in Kabul is not essential, have been and are being withdrawn. The question of the withdrawal of the British Minister and his staff must depend on circumstances, and I cannot make any statement anticipating the decision that may finally be taken on this question, but I must point out that the removal by air of even a small number of persons may very well prove to be by no means an easy matter."

"I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of his Majesty's Government and their administration, thanks for the courage and fortitude which Sir Francis Humphreys and his staff have displayed in circumstances of great difficulty and danger. A similar tribute is due to Lady Humphreys and the other ladies who were withdrawn some time ago."

Charles died in Shanghai.

Jan 1927, after an appendectomy. See
Helen's letter Nov 1928
to At Uncle Bill.