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GOLD EXPORTS MAY EXCEED IMPORTS

METAL SENT TO THE UNITED STATES SHOWS ENORMOUS DECREASE.

RUSSIA SUPPLY EXHAUSTED

This Country, Before Many Months, May be Sending Out More Gold Than Receives.

Washington.—Possibility of a shift in the international movement of gold resulting some this year in the gold exports from the United States exceeding imports is being discussed here on the basis of statistics on gold transfers for the 11 months ending November 30, last, these figures, recently made public, show that gold imports by the United States for the eleven months aggregated only \$249,000,000, a decrease of \$411,000,000, or 62 per cent, from the figures for the corresponding period of 1921.

While the imports were decreasing at a rate unprecedented since the American entry into the war exports were going up at the rate of 57 per cent. The exports, so long negligible, were only \$34,000,000 for the ensuing 11 months, against \$22,000,000 for the same period in 1921, but some officials declare the trend is unmistakable and, if continued, warrant the assumption that the country before many months will be sending out more gold than it receives.

The gold receipts are said to have been the smallest in five years and indicate to some officials enormous forward strides in industry and commerce in some foreign countries rather than a depressed or decreased outgoing business or trade for the United States. Conditions, however, are regarded as pointing to a continuation of the export flow even in the face of payments on account of the allied debt.

Detailed figures show a decline in the imports from Great Britain but the department of commerce statisticians trace that to the strike in the Rand and declare that there will be a different picture shown by the figures on British exports to the United States since the miners have returned to work.

Another factor, which is said to have held down the British exports to America is the industrial revival in India. Restored and renewed business activity in that part of the British empire has enabled India to bid for gold in the London market.

India and Canada took most of the gold exported by the United States in the period covered by the figures, and it was shown again that the prosperity of our countries was responsible for the purchases of gold here. In the case of Canada, most of the gold sent there was transferred in October when the Canadian dollar was at a premium.

The decline of imports from Canada, it is said, was due largely to the same trade conditions responsible for the export of gold by the United States, while, with good harvests, India normally is an importer of gold and she has been improving virtually throughout the last year.

The third factor affecting American gold imports is said to be the exhaustion of the Russian gold reserves and the consequent reduction in shipments to the United States, France and Sweden. In 1921 Russian gold was exported to France and Sweden in large quantities and re-exported to America, but the movement naturally declined with the exhaustion of the source of supply, it is explained.

Hopkins to Have New Laboratory.
Baltimore, Md.—Plans for the construction of a new chemical laboratory at Johns Hopkins university to cost approximately \$600,000 have been completed, and will be discussed by the trustees of the institution at a meeting here.

The new building will be between the Hopkins club and Gillman hall, where some of the college tennis courts are now located. It will be the second of a group of four buildings to be built in that vicinity. Hopkins dormitory, the first, is now nearing completion.

Driver of Auto Kills Four.
Baltimore.—John E. Maurer, said by police to have been the driver of an automobile which crashed into a telephone pole here, resulting in the death of four men, was arrested, charged with manslaughter. Maurer was slightly injured as a result of the accident.

ONE WOMAN IS DEAD AND FIVE ARE IN HOSPITALS

Richmond, Va.—One woman is dead and five persons are in hospitals suffering from bullet wounds accidentally inflicted during the celebration of the advent of the New Year.

Mrs. Peter Trafereri, wife of a merchant, was struck by a stray bullet when she put her head out of a window of her home to witness the celebration by a crowd in the street below. She died a few hours later.

Richard Gregory and Norman Jordan were struck in the foot by stray bullets while walking near their homes.

Oliver Pollard is suffering from a wound in the hand, also inflicted by a stray bullet. Julian Blunt, of Reidsville, N. C., had a wound in the hand and Harry Greenberg, one in the shoulder. Both were self-inflicted, Blunt, while handling a shotgun and Greenberg's while he was examining an automatic pistol.

AGAINST BORAH PROPOSAL

FREE HAND FOR DEBT COMMISSION IS ASKED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Declares European Situation Has Been Given the Most Thorough and Thoughtful Consideration.

Washington.—President Harding asked the senate not to adopt Senator Borah's proposal for a new international economic conference, saying in a letter to Republican Leader Lodge that formal congressional action on the subject now would embarrass him in the negotiations he already is conducting looking to such a conference. The President's letter was sent to Senator Lodge for presentation during the senate's second day's debate on the Borah proposal which is embodied in an amendment to the naval appropriation bill.

The President acted directly to block senate action after he had consulted with Secretary Hughes and after Senator Lodge had visited the White House and had reported on the progress made in the determined fight already being waged against the Borah amendment by administration leaders in the senate. The letter stated that while the senate might properly "advise" in regard to international negotiations, its action of the Borah plan might give "false impressions" to European powers. The administration, the President said, was "trying to be helpful" in the European situation, which had been given "most thorough and thoughtful consideration for many months. As to further armament limitation negotiations also provided for in the Borah plan, President Harding warned against what might be a gesture of promise to the world which cannot be fulfilled until the nations directly concerned express their readiness to co-operate to such an end."

Without disclosing details of what he is doing the President suggested that Congress might be helpful by freeing the hands of the Allied Debt Commission. He also declared that the reparations was the foundation of European difficulties and that this nation "cannot assume to say to one nation what it shall pay in reparations nor to another what it shall accept."

Ford Buys Coal Plant.

Boston.—The sale to the Ford Motor company of the coal lands, mining plant and equipment of the Pond Creek Coal company, situated in Pike county, Ky., was announced by President T. B. Davis of the latter company. The purchase price was not announced, but Mr. Davis estimated that upon final liquidation the net worth of the present company would approximate \$45 a share. There are 212,290 shares of common stock.

The board of directors of the Pond Creek Coal company at a meeting recently confirmed the sale and authorized the calling of a special meeting of stockholders to ratify their action. It was announced that the full cash consideration involved in the transaction had been deposited in the National Shawmut bank of this city in escrow, pending examination of the title.

Get \$1,000,000 Worth of Liquor.

New York.—A report received by customs officials from Nassau, Bahamas, of a \$1,000,000 liquor robbery on the high seas was taken by customs officials as proof of reports that pirates were raiding runners of the Atlantic coast. The report said the Vincent White, which cleared from Nassau for Miquelon, on October 21 with 10,500 cases of liquor, had been boarded off the New York coast and all the liquor and money she carried taken.

ASK CONGRESS TO MODERNIZE NAVY

PRESIDENT HARDING WANTS A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION OF \$6,500,000.

NO DETAILED INFORMATION

Marks Change of Policy Resulting Directly from the Washington Arms Conference.

Washington.—In order to keep the first line of the American navy on a par with the sea forces of the other great powers President Harding asked Congress for a special appropriation of \$6,500,000 as a beginning on a battleship modernized program.

The plan behind the request marks a change of policy resulting directly from the Washington arms conference, and was described by Secretary Denby in a letter accompanying the President's recommendation as of major and vital importance in national defense. Before the conference it had been the practice to build new ships rather than modernize old ones, a policy which no longer can be followed because of the construction limitations imposed by the naval limitation treaty.

Secretary Denby reported that a detailed study of the problem had been made by naval officers and that the \$6,500,000 asked for would make it possible to begin work on 13 vessels.

No definite information as to what ships will be affected by the first appropriation or what work will be done on them, was given to Congress by Mr. Denby or made available at the navy department. It is known, however, that in general the tentative plans call for equipment of all of the 14-inch gun ships of the fleet with deck protection against aircraft bombs and high angle fire, "blister" protection against torpedo attack and modernization of the main batteries to give them a range now usable with aircraft spotting.

British ships of the same general type have already been brought up to date in this way as a result of lessons learned in the war. The work was begun in the British navy yards during the war, and a specific provision permitting it to be completed if more than 3,000 tons was added thereby to the displacement of each ship was included in the naval treaty.

The new ships which the United States was building and has agreed to scrap under the treaty were equipped with all of the devices which it now becomes necessary to add to the older craft. The new ships would have had main batteries with a range of 34,000 yards and the interior construction of the hulls was calculated to minimize the danger from torpedo attacks.

Offers Freedom to Prisoners.

Washington.—Eight former members of the Industrial Workers of the World, sentenced four years ago to varying terms at Leavenworth penitentiary for conspiracy and violation of war-time legislation were offered freedom by President Harding on condition that they leave the United States. Sixty days were allowed for the prisoners to arrange their affairs preparatory to deportation, a bond being required during the interval which will ensure their embarkation for some foreign land.

The commutations announced were in the cases of the following:

Aurelio Vinesci Azuara, sentenced to 10 years; C. J. Bourq, 10 years; Peter J. L. L. L.; Charles L. Lambert, 20 years; Harry Lloyd, five years; Burt Lorton, 10 years; Sam Scarlett, 20 years; Archie Sinclair, 10 years.

The President's action was said both at the White House and at the department of justice to have been confined strictly to the cases acted upon and did not indicate any intention to exercise similar clemency toward the other members of the same organization who are still imprisoned for failure to observe the espionage act and other emergency laws.

It is emphasized that the extension of clemency was strictly "provisional" and that the unexpired sentences would become immediately operative should anyone of the eight men return to the United States.

According to officials of the department the decision to commute the eight sentences to expire immediately was reached after a review of reports made to President Harding in scores of cases, the views of prosecuting attorney and the presiding judge being attached in each instance.

SIXTY LYNCHED BELOW MASON AND DIXON LINE

New York.—Sixty persons were lynched in states below the Mason and Dixon line in the year just ended, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced in a report made public here. Texas headed the list in numbers.

Of those lynched, the report stated, 52 were negroes, seven white Americans and one a Mexican. Seven of the victims were alleged to have been publicly burned to death.

ACCIDENTS CLAIM 10,168

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA, TUBERCULOSIS AND HEART DISEASE FALL OFF.

Suicides for 1921 Numbered 11,136; Much Higher Rate for 1922 is Indicated.

Washington.—Declines from the death rate from heart disease, influenza and pneumonia, and tuberculosis, in all its forms, the three principal causes of death in the United States, were the prominent outstanding features of 1921, which shows the lowest death rate recorded in any year since the beginning of the annual compilations in 1909, the census bureau announced. Increases were shown in the rate for cancer, automobile accidents and injuries, diphtheria, typhoid, suicide and homicide, and several other causes.

While in 1921 the death rate was 11.6 per 1,000, compared with 13.1 in 1920, a higher rate for 1922 is indicated in the reports from that period. Those rates are for the registration area of continental United States, comprising 34 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 cities in non-registration states, with a total estimated population on July 1 of 53,677,302, or 82.2 per cent of the estimated population of the United States on that date, which was 109,248,393.

The total number of deaths in the registration area was 1,032,000, compared with 1,142,558 in 1920. The rate per 100,000 was 1,163.9 compared with 1306.0 in 1920. Based on the death rate for the registration area the number of deaths for the whole United States for 1921 approximates 1,271,444.

Heart diseases were responsible for one-eighth of all deaths or 130,351 deaths in 1921, but the rate per 100, declined from 149.7 to 147.0. Influenza and pneumonia in all forms caused 86,458 deaths compared with 182,205 in 1920, the rate declining from 208.3 to 99.8. Tuberculosis in all its forms resulted in 88,135 deaths compared with 99,916 in 1920, the rate declining from 114.2 to 99.4. Cancer and other malignant tumors were responsible for 76,274 deaths compared with 73,931 in 1920.

Automobile accidents and injuries resulted in 10,168 deaths, compared with 9,103, the rate increasing from 10.4 to 11.5 per 100,000 people. Suicides numbered 11,136 compared with 8,859 in 1920, the rate increasing from 10.2 to 12.6. Of the suicides, 4,122 were by firearms, 712 by cutting or piercing instruments, 1,942 by hanging or strangulation, 1,739 by poison, 1,401 by asphyxiation, 710 by drowning, 271 by jumping from high places, 130 by crushing, and 109 by other means. Homicides also increased numbering 7,545, compared with 6,205 in 1920, the rate increasing from 7.1 to 8.5. Firearms accounted for 5,509 of the homicides, cutting and piercing instruments 788 and other means 1,260.

Declines were shown in the number of deaths from railroad accidents and injuries, mine accidents and injuries, machinery accidents and injuries, street car accidents and injuries.

France Would Seize German Forests.

Paris.—Premier Poincare plans to follow up the reparations commission's decision declaring Germany in default of her wood deliveries by presenting to the allied premiers' meeting here a scheme for taking over the German state forests as a guarantee. If the other premiers will not agree to this step it is understood France is prepared to act alone.

It is now feared that the British and French attitudes will be as far apart when the premiers reconvene as they were when the recent London conference adjourned and the latest reparations development is taken to support this view. Sir John Bradbury went to London to confer with Prime Minister Bonar Law and other members of the government on the effect of the reparations commission's action and on the question of the general British policy toward the premiers' meeting.

UNITED STATES TO TAKE NO PART

REGARDS FORTHCOMING PREMIERS' MEETING PURELY AS EUROPEAN AFFAIR.

MAY STARTLE CONFERENCE

It is Reported That German Chancellor Has Definite Proposal For Four-Power Pact.

Paris.—Persistent reports that the United States would participate in some form in the coming conference of the inter-allied premiers were definitely eliminated upon the receipt of the news that the United States government would take no part in the meeting. Unofficial but authoritative information reached Paris that the American administration regards the forthcoming premiers' meeting as a purely European affair and as not warranting intervention by the United States.

Although it is not believed the state department at Washington has made any statement on the matter, interested governments on inquiring in responsible American sources were informed that there did not seem to be the slightest chance of American participation. There was some suggestion, however, that the breaking up of the conference and the probability that this would certainly be followed by French seizures in Germany might provoke some eleventh hour step by the United States.

Reports that Wilhelm Cuno, the German chancellor, intends to startle the premiers' conference with definite proposals for a four-power pact which would guarantee the security of France and the present Franco-German frontiers, reached reparations circles and created considerable comment. This pact, according to the reports, would extend over a period of 30 years. It would be signed by Great Britain, Italy, France and Germany. The United States also would be asked to sign, but without assuming any military obligations.

French officials are said to have already received an outline of the scheme from unofficial sources and there is believed to be little enthusiasm for it, since it is supposed to contain a clause giving any country the right to withdraw within the 30-year period, provided a referendum decides to this effect. Another feature of the reported pact would be the withdrawal within a short time of the troops of occupation. This, it is asserted, would find no support in France.

Germany is keeping her new proposals much in the dark, so far as the reparations commission is concerned. The commission has learned, however, that among Chancellor Cuno's proposals will be one to pay a lump sum, somewhere between five billion and eight billion gold marks, one billion to be paid at once and the remainder over a period of ten years. This would be accompanied by a certain form of allied financial control sufficient to insure the balancing of Germany's budget and the stabilization of the mark.

Good Business During Month.

Washington.—November business conditions represented a continuation of the upward trend in production, a greater employment of labor, which in some localities was reported nearing the scarcity mark, according to the monthly survey made public by the Federal Reserve Board.

Contrary to the usual situation at this season of the year, the board found production in basic industries increasing, a condition that has proceeded almost uninterruptedly since July, 1921 when production was lower than at any time in recent years. This condition the board believed augured well.

The increased production was accompanied by a heavy freight movement, car loadings for November being reported only five per cent below the high record in October and substantially higher than corresponding months in previous years. Despite the heavy demand, the rail lines were said to be meeting the call for cars because of the great decrease in the number under repair.

Labor shortages were reported in some localities, the review stated, adding that the demand for workers at most industrial establishments seemed to be increasing. The shortages were found largely among steel and textile mills and building contractors, but there was said to be some surplus of common labor in the eastern section of the nation.

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