STORMY SESSIONS DURING THE CONGRESSIONAL YEAR

Long Fight Over and the Rejection of the Treaty of Versailles Outstanding Feature of the Year—Congress Passed Many Important Acts, Including Transportation and Water Power Measures

(By International News Service)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The congressional year now ending will go down in history as the year of the rejection of the Treaty of Versailles by the United States senate, just as the year 1919 went down into history as the year of the Peace Conference.

Despite the refusal of the senate to accept the covenant as "inextricably interwoven" with the Treaty of Versailles, and the failure of congress to re-establish the country on a peace basis, three measures of far-reaching importance to the domestic future welfare of the American people were written into the statutes by congress during the year of 1920.

The three acts of national importance were the transportation act, the Jones merchant marine act and the water power act. Another important measure passed during the year and signed by the President was the oil land leasing bill.

The army was reorganized. Efforts to amend the Volstead prohibition enforcement legislation were defeated on several occasions. Additional provision was made for disabled veterans of the World war. The house passed a bill providing for adjusted compensation for all veterans of the World war. Legislation passed through both houses and was vetoed by the President which would have provided a budget system for operating the government.

Following the return of a state of peace and the passing of the war necessity for the operation of the railroads by the government, the house and senate took up the question of drafting a transportation act which was planned to provide for profitable future operation of the railroads and to protect the interests of the public by more strict supervision of the railroad financial accounts.

Transportation Act

The transportation act, which finally returned the roads to their private owners, provided that rates should be fixed which would provide an earning of 6 per cent on the valuation of the road property and for the return of a portion of the earnings of the roads above six and a half per cent to the government as an assurance against the possibility of unjust profits.

The transportation act also provided that all security issues of roads should be issued only with the approval of the interstate commerce commission. It continued the payment of the war-time guarantee to the roads for six months after they were released from government control to permit the interstate commerce commission to adjust rates to present conditions. Practically all of the provisions of the transportation act are in operation.

Our Merchant Marine

In considering the merchant marine act the house hurriedly passed a measure which was practically tabled when it reached the senate. The senate committee drafted a bill providing for an enlarged shipping board, increased salaries for the members of the board, for the operation of the merchant fleet constructed during the war by the government until sales might be arranged to private operators, and for the liquidation of the affairs of the emergency fleet corporation.

Under the new act, which was passed early in the spring, the President, in November, announced the appointment of the new board. The board has organized and has had several meetings to determine its policy. Vessels built during the war must be sold only to American purchasers unless at least five members of the board approve sale to a foreign purchaser and certify that it was impossible to sell the vessel or vessels in question to an American firm or individual.

The object of the merchant marine act was to create an American fleet of merchant ships as a permanent institution.

Pass Water Power Bill

For many years efforts of western members of the house and senate to have adopted legislation providing for the development of the water power resources of the United States were made useless by the votes of the conservationists in both chambers. At the last session, during the closing days of the deliberations the water power bill, providing for the construction of water power projects under government license and regulation was passed. The bill was not signed by the President before the end of the session and was believed to have died without the action of the white house. Basing his action on the opinion of the attorney general the President signed the bill later and it became a law. The water power commission is considering large numbers of applications for water power permits and inquiries as to the operation of the law.

Stormy Time Over Treaty

The treaty had a rough path in the senate during the passing year. It was rejected and returned to the senate foreign relations committee and then returned to the floor to meet a similar fate. The document was returned to the President and remains in his hands rejected. The first rejection of the treaty occurred before the close of the legislative session in 1919.

The army was reorganized by act of congress during the year. The size of the permanent army was increased far above the pre-war figures. Efforts to provide for a peace time compulsory military service were unsuccessful.

Prohibition Activities

By ruling of Speaker Gillett, of the house, it was made possible during the year to repeal the Volstead prohibition enforcement act at any time there is enough votes in the house to carry such a motion. The ruling of the speaker will make it possible for the house to add a "rider" to any appropriation bill carrying an appropriation for prohibition enforcement which would repeal the measure so far as the action of the house is needed. This obviates the necessity of protracted hearings by committees if enough votes can be mustered at any time to pass the rider.

Tightness of Money Market

During the closing days of the year the question of most vital importance to congress is the present curtailment of credit and the tightness of the money market throughout the United States. Plans for the recreation of the war finance corporation have been perfected. The senate has adopted a resolution which, if passed by the house and signed by the President, would have that effect.

Means by which the farmers might dispose of the year's crop to foreign nations are also under consideration. Import embargoes on foodstuffs, of which there is a surplus in this country, have been proposed. Only one other question of importance is occupying the time of the congressional leaders. That is the formation of a tax and tariff program to be followed after the inauguration of President-elect Harding.

Hearings will be held throughout January by the house ways and means committee and may run until March 4. The committee then will draft a bill which will be ready when the special session of congress is convened early in the Harding administration.

Tax Problems

Plans of the ways and means committee members for the imposition of taxes are varied. There seems to be a general opinion in favor of the suspension of the excess profits taxes as the year closes. In the place of this form of taxation a "turnover" sales tax is proposed. Much opposition is heard against the sales tax. Another plan suggested by the house leaders is a tax on undivided profits of corporations. This is opposed by Representative Fordney of Michigan, chairman of the ways and means comittee.

Anoher year was devoted to the efforts of anti-packer members to pass legislation to regulate the packing industry. Such legislation will not be passed during the year.

BERNHARDT IS AGAIN SCORING IN FOOTLIGHTS

PARIS, Jan. 1.—Though but a few weeks ago she was lying seriously ill in bed and her illness was causing the greatest anxiety to her many friends and relatives, Sarah Bernhardt, sufficiently recovered, has again faced the footlights and scored one of her biggest successes when playing the part of Daniel in the four-act drama of that name staged at her theatre.

While she only appeared in the second and fourth acts, her very presence on the stage was enough to cause the performance to be interrupted for several minutes at a time. Hands and throats were sore after each performance with applauding the great tragedienne. At the fall of the curtain on the fourth act the stage was completely covered with flowers, and crowds waited outside to see the "divine Sarah" leave the theatre, when she was again loudly acclaimed.

Her acting remains as it always was. In Daniel she had no walking to do, for the second act saw her seated in a big armchair and in the fourth she was lying in bed. Nevertheless, in view of the continual applause she unhesitatingly walked forward to acknowledge the cheers of her admirers. She did not seem to suffer any inconveniences with her artificial leg.

Her voice has not changed or weakened. She still retains that wonderfully emotional character, and many were the spectators who after listening to this great Frenchwoman for 40 minutes had tears in their eyes.

The plot shows two brothers, one of them, Daniel, in love with the same girl. Daniel, though much depressed, ceases courting the girl in favor of his brother, who ultimately marries the girl. Daniel, meanwhile in an attempt to forget takes to drugs and drinking. After but a few months of married life the young woman finds she has lost her affection for her husband and falls in love with a stranger. Correspondence is exchanged, and letters fall into the hands of Daniel's brother, who frantically threatens the life of his then unknown adversary. Daniel hears of the matter and to shield the woman he loved and to guarantee her happiness in the future calls in his brother and tells him that he is his wife's lover. The brother then leaves and refuses to ever see his brother again or hear of him.

In the final act Daniel is shown in bed. The drugs and drinks have had their evil effect and he is dying. In a long lament he calls for his brother, and as the latter crasps his brother's hand Daniel falls back dead.

Sarah Bernhardt intends to return to the states next year to give a series of performances, visiting the British Isles on her way to fulfill her recently cancelled contracts.

ALSATIAN REFUGEES IN THREE GERMAN STATES

They Are Very Bitter Against The French Government

KARLSRUHE, Germany, Jan. 1.—Baden, Wurttemburg and Bavaria are overrun by refugees from Alsace and consequently the feeling against the French is more bitter here, perhaps, than in any other part of the old German empire. In the Karlsruhe area all the old prison camps and many barracks are filled with families which were deported from Alsace, or left because they refused to live under French rule.

Several thousand refugees from Alsace are sheltered in long wooden shacks which formerly housed British prisoners in the main recreation park in the center of Karlsruhe. These former prisons have all been converted into residences by Alsatians who have draped the windows with lace curtains and given the wire-enclosed compound a homey appearance by the display of potted plants.

The Alsatian refugees are bitter in their denunciation of the French. They tell tales of how the French expel families from Strasbourg and other cities on the statement of unfriendly neighbors that the suspects have been propagandizing for Germany and working against France.

The Alsatians are especially indignant because German has been abolished from the schools of Alsace where they say a great majority of the population is German-speaking and will migrate rather than abandon its native language. Refugees from Metz and other parts of Lorraine are less critical about the language question. They admit French was the predominant tongue in Lorraine.

Nearly all the refugees with whom the Associated Press correspondent talked were very sharp in their criticism of the attitude of the old German government toward Alsace and Lorraine and frankly admitted the unyielding policy of Germany toward the two districts afforded the French an excuse for their attitude toward the distinctly German population.

SUSPECTS ARE ROUNDED UP IN CITY OF DUBLIN

This Explains Much of the Military Activity There

DUBLIN, Jan. 1.—A good deal of the military and police activity in Dublin in raiding all sorts of houses is explained by the fact that the government has rounded into the city many of the suspected men.

There were men in most districts of Ireland who were sought by the police. They were, in the Irish phrase, "on their keeping," and it is a tradition in Ireland that many man "on the run" from the government is entitled to sanctuary. Many persons, even among those who disapprove of outrages, share this feeling and would be willing to harbor such men without inquiry.

The pressure of the police and military throughout the provinces has been so close that no country district is safe for the fugitives. Some of them have sought refuge in dugouts in the hills, and the risk of receiving them in a house and the terror of a visit from the Black and Tans is so great that many of the men suspected have been gradually hunted into Dublin. Here they are diligently searched for day and night and few of them, it is believed, ever spend two nights running in the same bed.

The hotels are regarded as safer than the homes of sympathizers and hence the frequent invasion by the crown forces of even the best hotels in which the ordinary visitor is startled out of his sleep and with a revolver pointed at him is required to lie still till his identity is satisfactorily established.

Raids on private houses are repeated again and again after failure to find the wanted man, in the hope that he must turn up there some time, thinking the search has been abandoned. It is said that there are districts on north side of the city in which the people confidently expect these raids and the names of the wanted men are subjects of well informed gossip in the whole neighborhood.

BERGDOLL'S LAWYER DROWNED

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—D. Clarence Gibboney, attorney for Grover C. Bargdoll, conviced draft dodger and fugitive from justice, and three other Philadelphians were drowned Wednesday in the gulf of Mexico, near the port Chenkin, on the coast of Yucatan, according to a telegram received here today by friends.

CURED HIS PILES

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Yours truly,
J. L. LYON.

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