

SPENCER RAILROAD MEN WANT U. S. TO KEEP RAILROADS

Brotherhood of Railway Conductors Send Petition To Simmons and Overman

PUTS IN BILL TO GIVE SMITHFIELD A CANNON

Wilmington Delegation in Washington in Behalf of \$500,000 Appropriation For Building Houses at That Port; John Sprunt Hill Makes Speech

News and Observer Bureau, 406 District National Bank Bldg. By S. R. WINTERS. (By Special Licensed Wire.)

Washington, Jan. 9.—The Spencer organization of Order 66—Railway Conductors of America, 550 strong, has petitioned Senators Simmons and Overman and the North Carolina Congressmen in favor of government ownership of railroads.

The resolutions are signed by F. N. Cuddihy, Lee Ketchie and W. A. Boone, and bears a Salisbury date. The full text of the resolutions follows:

"At the last regular meeting of Spencer Lodge, No. 205, O. R. C. of A., held January 6, 1919, it was unanimously voted that the 550 members of this local go on record as favoring the government ownership of railroads.

"A few of the reasons which influenced us in the above action are outlined below.

"The prosperity of a community is limited to the prosperity of the individuals who compose it. Your district is composed largely of railroad men, who have prospered as never before under government control of the railroads.

"A unified system of operation tends to economy and efficiency. Two or more competitive systems serving the same territory do so to the detriment of the territory where there is but one system and no competition.

"The 'long haul,' as practiced under private ownership, is a waste of time, man-power and rolling stock.

"Government ownership would abolish the pernicious practice of manipulating and juggling stock of smaller roads to the financial loss of the stockholders.

"Under government ownership the investor would be guaranteed a reasonable and safe return on his investment; it would insure money to finance improvements and to extend lines to sections where they are sorely needed. It would remove the element of doubt which is invariably connected with new projects.

"Under the able management of the Hon. William G. McAdoo a system has been evolved where, by dealing with the representatives of the employees, a spirit of mutual fair dealing has been established which has operated to the advantage of both parties. There has been no serious labor controversies under government control of the railroads.

"The above are a few of the reasons why we favor government ownership of the railroads.

"You, as our representative, are earnestly requested to work for the success of this measure. Kindly advise us your position on this question, as it vitally concerns the welfare of this district."

Would Give Smithfield Cannon. Representative E. W. Fou introduced a bill in the House of Representatives today authorizing the Secretary of War to donate to Smithfield one German cannon or field piece as captured by the American army.

The trophy would adorn a conspicuous place in the chief town of Johnston county, and would constantly emphasize America's contribution to Germany's conquest.

The scramble for seized German ammunition is as intense as a brood of chickens after scattering grains of corn. Congress may have to enact legislation authorizing an equitable distribution of German guns and cannons. Henderson, Rocky Mount, Asheville and numerous other Tar Heel towns have already applied for the coveted property.

As many as five bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives within a single day requesting German trophies for various sections of the United States. These five bills asked for thirty-one guns. It has been figured out at this rate that the 1,400 captured Hun guns now on the way to America would be distributed before the end of this session of Congress.

Practically every day since the signing of the armistice, a new batch of bills have been introduced in Congress directing the Secretary of War to deliver to cities, towns and communities from one to twenty-five guns.

Want Housing Appropriation. The Wilmington delegation, composed of Col. Walker Taylor, James H. Cowan

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CORPORATION TAX RATE AGREED UPON

Senate and House Conferes On Revenue Bill Compose Differences

12 PERCENT FOR 1919; 10 PERCENT HEREAFTER

Individual Income Tax Revised; Those Who Must File

Washington, Jan. 9.—Corporations will pay income taxes of 12 per cent on their 1918 earnings and ten instead of 8 per cent thereafter, under agreements reached late today by Senate and House conferees on the war revenue bill.

The conferees adopted the 12 per cent rate for 1919 collection, as proposed in the bill as it passed the Senate, the House managers agreeing to elimination of the House provision levying an additional six per cent on undistributed dividends of corporations.

The conferees also adopted, substantially the Senate provisions allowing deductions, in calculating corporations income taxes of dividends received from other corporations. They also approved the Senate provisions exempting so-called personal service corporations from the corporation tax rates, but added an amendment to deny such exemptions to those corporations where 50 per cent or more of income is derived from profits or commissions on government contracts.

The Senate plan of providing for payment of income taxes in four installments instead of three as proposed by the House bill also was approved.

Takes in \$1,000 Class. In revising the individual income tax section, the conferees adopted the House provision requiring individuals with net income of \$1,000 or more to file returns.

FOR ADJUSTMENT OF INFORMAL CONTRACTS

Bill To Validate Them Passed By House; Big Sums Are Involved

Washington, Jan. 9.—Validation and adjustment by the Secretary of War of informal war contracts involving the expenditure of more than \$2,700,000,000 is authorized by a bill passed by the House late today by a vote of 270 to 30. Approximately 6,000 contracts in this country and a large number in England, France and Italy would be affected.

A similar bill, also placing adjustment in the hands of the Secretary of War was approved today by the Senate Military Committee which reversed its previous action in voting for the creation of a special commission on adjustment.

Opponents of the bill passed by the House favored adjustment of the contracts by a congressional committee with the Attorney General and the Secretary of War and they sought to amend the measure to meet their views, but the amendment was voted down.

BOARD REMOVES ALL RESTRICTIONS

On Importation of Corn and Rice; Favorable To Rice Exportations

Washington, Jan. 9.—All restrictions on the importation of corn and rice were removed today by the War Trade Board.

At the same time the board announced that it would consider favorably applications for the export of rice and for licenses for the shipment of jute and jute products except yarns and nitrate bags to all destinations.

Argentina is the chief country affected by the removal of the embargo on importation of corn. Large stores of corn are held in that country for export, it was said.

Action by the War Trade Board in removing the embargo on corn followed repeated statements by Edgar Rickard and other Food Administration officials today that no recommendations to remove the embargo on Argentine corn had been made. J. J. Stream, chief of the coarse grain division of the Food Administration, had stated at Chicago that such a recommendation had been made and later reiterated his statement when his attention was called to the denial by the Food Administration. Sharp declines in the prices of corn on the Chicago Board of Trade followed.

23D STATE RATIFIES THE PROHIBITION AMENDMENT

(By the Associated Press.) Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 8.—The West Virginia Legislature today completed its ratification of the Federal prohibition amendment, being the twenty-third State to take this action. The measure, adopted by the Senate yesterday, was passed unanimously by the House today.

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OPERATIONS IN RUSSIA DISCUSSED

Number of Senators Participate in Vigorous Debate On Subject

CHAIRMAN HITCHCOCK JUSTIFIES INTERVENTION

Declares Allied Operations Friendly To People But Against Bolsheviks

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 9.—Operation of American troops in Russia was defended and criticized today in the Senate, half a dozen Senators participating in a vigorous debate which continued several hours. Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, opened the discussion by delivering a prepared speech in reply to recent addresses of Senators Johnson of California and La Follette of Wisconsin, Republicans, who had sharply criticized retention of American soldiers on Russian soil.

Chairman Hitchcock justified intervention in Russia, denounced the Bolshevik government as pro-German and declared that the expeditions in both northern Russia and Siberia were purely defensive and entirely friendly to the loyal Russian people.

Reports of fighting by American forces in Russia have been "grossly exaggerated," Senator Hitchcock declared, as only 120 Americans have been killed since the landing at Archangel. From Vladivostok to the Ural Mountains, he said, there has been no fighting for months and the inter-allied forces have been received by the Russian people with "open arms."

Borah Opposes. Senator Borah in reply opposed intervention with Russian internal affairs. Without criticizing the sending of troops to Russia Senator Borah said retention of American forces there now is justified only in holding military stores from the Germans or in carrying out the general purposes of the war against Germany.

Senator Borah said Russia should be permitted to work out her own governmental affairs and he joined with Senator Johnson in demanding an official statement from the administration regarding its plans and purposes in Russia.

Swanson Defends Administration. Senator Swanson, in defending the administration's course, cited President Wilson's statement in his fourteen peace principles and declarations in the armistice terms imposed on Germany as assurances that America is friendly to the Russian people and that Russian territorial and political integrity and independence are assured.

The administration's policy was attacked by Senator France as "suspectively secretive." The Maryland Senator also contended that Russia was a neutral when her soil was "invaded" by the allied and American troops, and declared that that "invasion," like the German invasion of Belgium, was "most unexplainable and inexcusable."

Against Bolshevikism. Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, Republican, asserted that Bolshevikism is losing ground gradually, while Senator King expressed regret that greater vigor had not been exercised by America and the allies for the purpose of "wiping in the Bolsheviks—those murderous madmen."

Before the Senate adjourned, Senator Thomas, Democrat of Colorado, announced that he would discuss the Russian situation when the Senate reconvenes next Monday.

Extracts From Hitchcock's Speech. Senator Hitchcock prepared his address after consulting Acting Secretary Polk at the State Department. After pointing out that seizure of the ports of Vladivostok, Murmansk and Archangel was proposed by the supreme war council to prevent Germany from obtaining valuable stores, he said:

"In each case it was done as a measure of war against Germany and not against Russia. We and the allies seized these highly important strategic points with a handful of soldiers as an important subject to German operations in Russia."

Regarding the American operations, Senator Hitchcock gave the following details, in specific reply to Senator Johnson's recent request for information:

"We sent about 10,000 men to Vladivostok and about 5,000 to Archangel and Murmansk. Those landing at Vladivostok are for the most part still there or in that neighborhood. Those landing at Archangel and Murmansk have penetrated a short distance inland as a measure of protection for their bases."

"In all cases the occupation of these Russian ports was made as a war measure urged by the supreme war council in Paris at a time when our war with Germany was at its height."

The American and allied operations at Vladivostok saved stores worth millions of dollars from German capture, but were too late to save those at Archangel, Senator Hitchcock told the Senate. He also said the Marman coast and Siberia were seized when it was learned the Germans had 30,000 men headed for that district, with plans to establish a submarine base at Murmansk. Archangel, too, was held, he said, to prevent it becoming a German base.

FUTILE ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE KRAMARZ

Basel, Switzerland, Jan. 9.—(Havas.)—An attempt has been made at Prague to assassinate Dr. Karl Kramarz, the Czech-Slovak Premier. Eight revolver shots were fired at him, none of which, however, took effect.

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SPARTACUS RIOTS CONTINUE TO GROW

Outbreaks at Dresden, Essen, Brunswick, Dortmund and Elsewhere

REBELS AT BERLIN FORM ANOTHER "GOVERNMENT"

Ebert Government Reports Arrival of Reinforcement of "Loyal" Troops

EBERT GOVERNMENT CLAIMS UPPER HAND. Copenhagen, Jan. 9.—Government troops have occupied all the public buildings in Berlin, and thousands of government troops are still entering the capital.

The Berlin correspondent of the Berlingske Tidende, who sends this information, declares that the Spartacists have been beaten and that quiet was partly restored today.

(By the Associated Press.) Copenhagen, Jan. 9.—Serious Spartacus riots are going on at Dresden, Brunswick, Dusseldorf, Essen and Dortmund, according to the Munich correspondent of the Politiken. Several towns in the Ruhr district are in the hands of the Spartacists.

Form New "Government"

Berne, Switzerland, Jan. 9.—Telegraphic reports from Berlin today state that the rebels there have formed a new government under the title of "The Revolutionary Committee." This committee comprises three members, Herr Lieberman, George Ledebour and Herr Tisk, the last named the president of the Spartacus league.

The Spartacists thus appear still to be working with the socialists of the left, or independents.

(The dispatch would also seem to indicate the possibility that the new government set up is a rival one to the Ebert-Scheidemann government and has not in fact displaced it, as today's advices through Paris report.)

"Loyal" Reinforcements

Basel, Jan. 9.—Troops loyal to the Ebert government have arrived in Berlin from Potsdam and driven the Spartacists as far as the Tiergarten and reoccupied the printing works, according to the Frankfurt Zeitung.

Amsterdam, Jan. 9.—Street fighting in Berlin attained the greatest intensity between 11 o'clock Tuesday night and 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, according to a Berlin telegram to Die Frankfurt Nachrichten. Heavy artillery firing continued uninterruptedly. The dispatch says the government is still master of the situation.

Large bodies of troops, particularly

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THREE BITES AT RAILROAD CHERRY

Congress Now Has Before It 3 Separate Plans For Dealing With Railroads

STATE COMMISSIONS YET TO PRESENT VIEWS

Senators Advance Objections To New Cabinet Official Suggestion

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 9.—Three well defined proposals for legislation dealing with railroads now are before Congress. Railroad executives today presented to the Senate interstate commerce committee their plan, calling for private ownership and operation, under regulation of a secretary of transportation—a new cabinet officer—with statutory guarantee of adequate earnings, rates to be proposed by the roads and subject to review by the secretary of transportation and interstate commerce commission, and with the cabinet officer authorized to supervise pooling of equipment, common use of terminals, re-routing of traffic, mergers, construction of new lines and issuance of securities.

Previously the interstate commerce commission had suggested a policy of private ownership and operation under government regulation.

Director General McAdoo had advocated continuation of government control for five years, and as an alternative early relinquishment of the roads from Federal management.

Some Get to Be Heard. Shippers and representatives of State railroad commissions are the two principal groups which have not yet presented their views to the Senate committee.

Among the objections expressed by Senators today to the railroads' plan, outlined by T. DeWitt Cuyler, chairman of the Association of Railway Executives was that government supervision was vested principally in a secretary of transportation politics might play a large part in railway policies, and there might be no constant policy. These questions were raised by Senators Cummins of Iowa, and Smith of South Carolina.

Objections to R. R. Plan. Another objection was that if the railroads are guaranteed by law an adequate return, they should not also have

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PEACE CONFERENCES SHOW EVIDENCE OF FAST GROWING DRIVING POWER AT PARIS

Allies Threaten Turks With Destruction of Dardanelle Forts; German Compliance With the Terms of Armistice Also Too Slow

(By the Associated Press.) London, Jan. 9.—The allies have notified Turkey that unless the Turkish force at Medina lay down its arms immediately the forts at the Dardanelles will be destroyed.

The Turks have shown an unwillingness to surrender in accordance with the armistice terms, but all the garrisons except that at Medina, which is the largest in Arabia, laid down their arms through peaceful persuasion.

Fakhri Pasha, the commander at Medina, offered one excuse after another until the allies were forced to send an ultimatum to the Turkish government.

London, Jan. 9.—Germany has fallen behind in the last month in turning over material required by the terms of the armistice. A checking of title shows a shortage of 685 heavy guns, 7,000 machine guns, 1,000 trench mortars, 650 airplanes, 4,736 engines, 5,000 motor lorries and 120,000 railroad cars.

French Peace Delegates. Paris, Jan. 9.—(Havas)—Official announcement was made today that the council of ministers had approved the nominations as the French representatives in the peace congress of the following: George Clemenceau, the Premier; Stephen Pichon, Foreign Minister; Louis Lucien Klotz, Finance Minister; Jules Cambon, Former Ambassador to Berlin; Andre Tardieu, French High Commissioner to the United States.

The technical representatives will include Marshal Foch, for military matters, and Leon Bourgeois, for the subject of the Society of Nations.

Condition of Former Kaiser. Amsterdam, Tuesday, Jan. 7.—William Hohenzollern was able to walk about in the gardens at Amersfoort today for the first time in several weeks. His health is reported to be almost normal again.

The Secretary to the Premier of Holland visited the former German Emperor today.

IRELAND'S SINN FEIN CONSTITUTION

Says Ireland Has Never Relinquished Its Claim To Nationhood

IRISH CONGRESS IN NEAR FUTURE PROBABLE

What Preamble To New Document Reveals; Wants Recognition

London, Jan. 9.—The first publication of what purports to be a Sinn Fein constitution for Ireland, was made today by the Globe. This has a particular interest in view of the Sinn Fein proposal to hold an Irish congress in the near future. The preamble of the constitution runs as follows:

"Whereas, the people of Ireland never have relinquished their claim to separate nationhood, and

"Whereas, the provisional government of the Irish republic at Easter, 1916, in the name of the Irish people, and continuing the fight made by previous generations, reasserted the inalienable right of the Irish nation to sovereign independence and re-affirmed the determination of the Irish people to achieve it, and

"Whereas, the proclamation of an Irish republic at Easter, 1916, and the supreme courage and the glorious sacrifices of the men who gave their lives to maintain it have reunited the people of Ireland under the flag of the Irish republic, we, the delegate representatives of the Irish in congress assembled, declare the following to be the constitution of the Sinn Fein."

Recognition. The article then sets forth the Sinn Fein aim at securing international recognition of Ireland as an independent republic and declares that having achieved that status, the Irish people by a referendum may freely choose their own form of government. It says that the Sinn Fein organization shall in the name of the Sovereign Irish people deny the right and oppose the will of the British parliament and the British Crown or any foreign government to legislate for Ireland."

It also says that the organization will "make use of any and every means available to render impotent the power of England to hold Ireland in subjection by military force or otherwise."

The purported constitution declares that a constituent assembly shall be convoked to formulate measures for the welfare of the people.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS TODAY

Chicago, Jan. 9.—Col. Roosevelt's death has cast gloom over the meeting of the Republican National Committee scheduled for tomorrow. The committee will adopt resolutions on the death of Col. Roosevelt in several States where vacancies exist, decide a contest over the national citizenship in Louisiana and Rhode Island, Governor Beckman of Nebraska and Governor Burnquist of Minnesota.

A. A. Sweet will be elected committee man for Maine; H. F. Kean for New Jersey; C. B. Stump for Virginia and P. Sullivan for Wyoming.

Party leaders in informal conferences tonight discussed probable Presidential candidates and issues. Among the names mentioned in the gossip were: Gen. Pershing, Gen. Wood, Senator Lodge, Senator Cummins, Senator Knox, William H. Taft, former Governor Whitman of New York, and former Senator Weeks of Massachusetts.

The two issues most frequently mentioned in the gossip were an attack on the alleged extravagance of the National Democratic administration and a strong declaration against Bolshevism and Socialist doctrines, including government ownership or operation of the railroads and other public utilities.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF FRENCH DELEGATES

Personnel Recognized As Exceptionally Strong, Headed By Clemenceau

APPOINTMENT CAMBON GRATIFIES AMERICANS

He Served Long As Ambassador of The French Nation at Washington

TAKING OVER OF GERMAN TONNAGE. London, Jan. 9.—The United States, Great Britain and Italy have agreed upon a plan for taking over German passenger tonnage. The plan will be laid before the German and Allied armistice commissions next Monday. France is not included in the plan, as she got the bulk of the Austrian passenger tonnage and is willing that the other three bid for the German shipping.

ACTIVITIES OF U. S. DELEGATION

Completing Projects To Be Presented To The Full Peace Conference

LANSING AND HOUSE CONFER WITH CECIL

British and American Plans Compared As To League of Nations

(By the Associated Press.) Paris, Jan. 9.—Announcement of the French delegation to the peace congress in addition to bringing a distinguished array of French statesmen into the arena of the peace congress, has begun to give definiteness to the delegations of the great powers, of which the American delegation had been by itself up to the present time. It is expected the British, Italian and Japanese delegations now will be announced officially.

25 By 3 Leading Powers. The leading figures, like Premier Lloyd George and Foreign Secretary Balfour for Great Britain, Premier Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino for Italy, and Viscount Chinda and Ambassador Matsui for Japan, already are known, although not officially appointed, but the designation of a full list will bring into being the real directing force of the congress, consisting of twenty-five members representing five great powers of the world.

It will be this supreme council of the great powers which will guide and shape the deliberations and results of the entire congress and, while all the other powers will later have a full hearing and a voice, it will be the great powers which will initiate and direct the general conduct of affairs.

Strong French Delegation. The personnel of the French delegation is recognized as exceptionally strong, combining the political, diplomatic, financial, economic and military sagacity of France. The appointment of Jules Cambon is particularly gratifying to the American delegates, owing to his intimate knowledge of and sympathy with American affairs resulting from his long service as French Ambassador in Washington.

M. Cambon, with Foreign Minister Pichon, will represent the diplomatic strength of the delegation. Louis Klotz, besides being minister of finance, is recognized as the financial leader of the French parliament. Captain Tardieu furnishes the economic authority.

French Protocol Submitted. A French protocol, proposing the exact procedure of the congress, was submitted to the American delegates at about the same time that the French delegates were named. It is now being studied and it is noted by the American delegates that a number of their suggestions have taken form in the French program. The protocol deals with the organization of the congress, the representation of the great and small powers, and the general order of procedure. It will not become effective until passed upon by President Wilson and the Premiers of France, Great Britain and Italy, who constitute a sort of executive council which later will grow into a supreme council of the great powers when the full delegations are appointed.

Conferees Thursday. The conferees today showed a growing driving power. In addition to the conferees President Wilson had with Premier Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino and others, Premier Clemenceau spent some time at the headquarters and was followed there later by Premier Venizelos of Greece. Premier Venizelos has presented a written memorandum of Greek aspirations and is supplementing it with vigorous personal presentations.

At the same time Secretary Lansing, Colonel House and Lord Robert Cecil continued their conferees on the subject of a league of nations. The conferees are said to be rapidly giving precise form to the project.

While the delay in the arrival in Paris of Premier Lloyd George may postpone the gathering of President Wilson and the entire premier and the opening session of the inter-allied conferees, the conferees going on, and the appointment of a delegation by one of the great powers are giving the peace congress the aspect of an active organization.

CECIL URGES LEAGUE OF NATIONS AS FIRST STEP

Paris, Wednesday, Jan. 8.—(By The Associated Press.)—Robert Cecil, who

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