

WITGROW OPPOSED TO OWNERSHIP OF THE RAILROADS BY GOVERNMENT

Says It Would Mean Building Up of Powerful Political Machine

BRYAN ASKED HIM TO CHAMPION MEASURE

Kitchin Fears Increased Freight and Passenger Rates Under Bill

(By S. R. Winters.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—An organization of railway employees into the most powerful political machine the country has ever had, a pork barrel bill comparable to the rivers and harbors and public buildings "pork barrel" bills, and unreasonable freight and passenger rates are the results of government ownership of railroads as foreshadowed by Claude Kitchin, chairman of the committee on ways and means.

William Jennings Bryan, the original champion of government ownership of the common carriers, had solicited the powerful influence of the North Carolina congressman in favor of government ownership.

Consequently, his pronounced views on the subject were conveyed to the great commoner at his home in Asheville. Mr. Bryan favors a dual plan of ownership, state and federal governments jointly exercising authority over the railroads.

"As to government ownership of railroads," writes the majority leader of the house of representatives to Mr. Bryan, "I am not convinced that it is a wise thing and the results of the government operation and control so far have not tended to increase my faith in its wisdom."

It seems to me that government ownership would mean, first, unreasonable increase in freight and passenger rates, second, organization of railway employees into the most powerful political machine the country has ever had; third, a continuous demand upon the part of the organization for higher wages and shorter hours, and the continuous bidding by each party for the influence of the organization and the vote of its employees by promises of shorter hours and higher wages, which of course would mean higher passenger and freight rates or a large annual deficit to be paid by the taxpayers generally; fourth, the institution of a railroad "pork barrel" bill in every congressional session. Each member would have several projects for building railroads in his county and state and many would have big projects for building interstate railroads.

Members would also demand public buildings as railroad depots at numerous stations in his county and state. The so-called rivers and harbors and public buildings "pork barrel" bill would not be a circumstance to these.

KING VICTOR EMANUEL, RULER OF ITALY, GIVEN WARM WELCOME AT PARIS

With Heir to Throne, Arrives At French Capital for Visit

WILL MEET WILSON

PARIS, Dec. 19.—King Victor Emmanuel, accompanied by the heir of the Italian throne, the Prince of Piedmont, arrived in Paris today. A warm welcome was given the Italian monarch by President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau and the other ministers and the throng in the streets acclaimed him vociferously as the procession left the station and went to the Italian embassy.

This evening the king paid a visit to President Wilson at the Quirinal mansion. It had been expected that Victor Emmanuel and President Wilson would meet for the first time at the luncheon to be given in honor of the king by Stephen Pichon, the French foreign minister, tomorrow. The visit of the king took place at 6 o'clock. The conversation between the monarch and the president, which is said to have been most cordial, lasted half an hour. President Wilson and Foreign Minister Sonnino will meet President Wilson at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

DR. EGLESTON ELECTED.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 19.—At a meeting of the trustees of Hampden-Sydney college at the Jefferson hotel this afternoon, Dr. J. S. Eggleston, former superintendent of instruction of Virginia, was elected president of Hampden-Sydney. For the past five years Dr. Eggleston has been president of V. P. L.

PEACE CONFERENCE PLANS NOT SHAPING THEMSELVES AS RAPIDLY AS EXPECTED

President Wilson Taking Advantage of Delay to Assess Public Opinion in France—Satisfied That People Are in Accord With His Ideas on Peace.

SHOULD AVOID DELAY.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Commenting upon the reported feeling in Paris that the preliminaries to the peace conference are being unnecessarily delayed and that there is a disposition to blame the British authorities for this, The Times today says there is real need that the inter-allied discussions begin without a day's needless delay.

This is especially true, the newspaper thinks, as regards the preliminary conversations among the respective leaders, it mentioning in particular President Wilson, who comes fresh to the discussions.

Now that the British election is over, The Times adds, there can be no excuse for postponing the meeting.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—Definite plans for the peace conference are not shaping as rapidly as some of the American commissioners expected. Meanwhile, President Wilson is taking advantage of the opportunity to assess public opinion in France and incidentally in Great Britain. His advisers say that he is entirely satisfied that these peoples are largely in accord with the principles he has announced as necessary to a durable peace.

Holding Conferences. The members of the American mission are employing their time before the peace delegates from the various countries actually assembled in a series of informal conferences, which eventually will include a representative of each of the entente belligerents. Neutral states will not come into these discussions.

The feeling among all the entente conferees is that the making of peace outlines of a league of nations which, later, representatives of neutral countries will assist in completing.

Studying Problems. While the American commissioners are holding these informal exchanges, which are designed to clear up divergencies of opinion, the president is constantly giving the closest attention to immediate problems. He is receiving reports from the United States, from American diplomatic

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DR. MOTT DEFENDS "Y" AGAINST CRITICISMS DIRECTED BY SOLDIERS

Admits That in Isolated Cases There Was Cause for Complaint

"MISTAKES MADE"

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Dr. John R. Mott, chairman of the war work council of the Y. M. C. A., discussed in detail here tonight adverse criticisms directed against the organization by soldiers here and in France. He vigorously defended the work of the organization as a whole, but did not deny that in isolated cases there was just ground for complaint.

Dr. Mott said that 200 men and women workers had been recalled from France because of unfitness and announced that there would be a general "lightening up" to correct conditions which have resulted in criticisms. He stated that George W. Perkins, Mortimer H. Schiff and F. S. Brockman have gone abroad for the express purpose of eliminating, so far as possible, any further cause for complaint.

"It is the history of every great effort that mistakes are made and no one, no matter how exalted his person or how unimpeachable his integrity, can escape. Other important organizations have passed through a similar experience. So with the Y. M. C. A. There is no phase of its work that has been left untouched by critics. Much of the adverse comment is due to misconception or to partial knowledge."

Dr. Mott then took up in question and answer from the criticisms most frequently heard. He explained that the Y. M. C. A. had not concerned itself specifically with the wounded and ill because it had been agreed that this work would be done by the Red Cross. He denied the most frequently heard complaint which has been that the association has been profiteering by the operation of its canteens overseas. He explained that it had been agreed with General Pershing that if any profit were derived from the canteens it should be used exclusively for the benefit of the men of the army. Canteens have been conducted, Dr. Mott said, on a cost basis, but in fixing prices it has been necessary to reckon such overhead charges as transportation and marine insurance with the result that prices were much higher than in this country. Not only has the organization made no profit, he declared, but it has lost thousands of dollars. Arrangements now have been made, however, which will enable it to obtain supplies from sources that will reduce overhead charges and keep prices down.

EBERT GOVERNMENT HAS RESIGNED ACCORDING TO STUTTGART DISPATCH

Disorderly Scenes and Personal Encounters in Congress Cause

ARRESTS ARE MADE

PARIS, Dec. 19.—The German government headed by Friederich Ebert, has resigned as a result of events on Tuesday, according to a dispatch from Zurich from Stuttgart, says The Journal's correspondent there.

Friederich Ebert, who was named as minister of the interior in the cabinet of Prince Maximilian of Baden on November 2 and became imperial chancellor on November 8, took command of the situation in Berlin following the revolutionary uprising there. On November 13 it was announced he had become premier and had chosen his cabinet, naming Hugo Haase, Philipp Scheidtmann, Wilhelm Dittman, Herr Landsberg and Richard Barth as the secretaries in charge of the departments created by the revolutionary government.

The central congress of the delegates from the Soldiers' and Workers' councils met at Berlin on Monday. The first session resulted in disorderly scenes in which there were many personal encounters. On Tuesday turbulent scenes continued. George LeBour, a leader of the independent socialists, making a bitter attack on Premier Ebert.

DIRECTORS ARRESTED.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 19.—(Havas.)—Three of the principal directors of the Krupp munition works at Essen, including Dr. Bransberger, inventor of the big Bertha, have been arrested by the revolutionary party in this city.

FLU CLAIMS 6,000,000?

LONDON, Dec. 19.—(Via Montreal)—The Times medical correspondent says that it seems reasonable to believe that throughout the world about 6,000,000 persons perished from influenza and pneumonia during the past three months.

The Burning Question



METHODS OF FINANCING THE GERMAN PROPAGANDA MACHINE IN UNITED STATES DISCLOSED AT SENATE PROBE

Machine, Operating Out of Berlin, Planned to Spread German Ideas Throughout World; Becker Declares—Reads Documents Gathered By British Secret Service Men and Others—Bought News Agencies and Papers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Propaganda machinery set up by the German government in Berlin and throughout the world to spread German ideas, was disclosed today to the senate investigating committee by Alfred L. Becker, deputy attorney general of New York.

FEDERAL AGENTS ARREST ALLEGED ASHEVILLE MAN

Gives Name of W. P. Brown—Is Not Known in This City.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19.—Kentucky and Tennessee agents of the department of justice, cooperating to prevent violation of the Reed bone dry act, today made a haul on Louisville and Nashville train No. 33, between Lexington and Knoxville. Five men were arrested en route here and tonight are in custody at the federal building awaiting a hearing tomorrow.

SURGEONS WILL MEET AT NEW ORLEANS NEXT YEAR

BALTIMORE, Dec. 19.—New Orleans was selected as the place for its next meeting by the Southern Surgical association, which concluded its thirty-first session this afternoon. Officers were elected as follows: President, Dr. J. E. Thompson, Galveston, Texas; vice-presidents, Dr. C. L. Robbins, Richmond, Va.; secretary, Dr. Hubert A. Royster, Raleigh, N. C.; and treasurer, Dr. Guy L. Hunker, of Baltimore. Doctors Royster and Hunker were re-elected.

URGES LEGISLATION TO RAISE BANKS' SURPLUS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Appearing before the house banking committee today in support of Chairman Pheasant's bill to amend the federal reserve act, Governor Harding, of the federal reserve board, urged immediate legislation authorizing increase of federal banks' surplus to 100 per cent of their paid in capital stock.

DISMISSED FROM ARMY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Convicted of having struck an enlisted man under his command, Lieutenant "Tus" C. Miller, Sixth Pioneer Infantry, has been dismissed from the army. The department announced today that Miller was tried by court-martial at Camp Wadsworth, S. C.

PLAN TO SINK HUN WARSHIPS CAUSES WIDE DISCUSSION

Congress Takes Step to Secure Official Statement On Matter.

OPPOSITION TO THE SCHEME PROMISED

Difference in Construction Makes Them of Little Use to Allies

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Press dispatches from Paris saying that the American peace delegates, with British support, will urge the sinking of the surrendered German warships as the solution of the problem of their disposition, led to initiation of steps today in the senate to obtain an official statement of the facts and to wide discussion in naval circles. At the state and navy departments no information was available. Secretary Daniels repeating his previous statement that he had never heard the suggestion officially, while at the state department it was said that so far as known there no such project was included in the American peace program.

Came from London. The first published suggestion that the ships be sunk came from London several days ago, but it was not until it was learned this had occurred that some naval authorities here as one possible way of settling a vexing problem.

Admiral Benson, naval adviser to the American peace delegation, has been in Europe some time. His views worked out with Vice-Admiral Sims and officials of the British admiralty and the French ministry of marine, will have great weight with the American delegates on naval questions arising at the conference, but there is nothing here to indicate what conclusion he may have reached on the disposition of the surrendered craft.

There were many indications today that a proposal to sink the ships would meet strong opposition in congress. The Paris dispatch prompted some officers pointed today to a resolution calling on the department for information as to whether the American delegates are advocating destruction of the enemy ships and if so by what authority. The resolution was left on the table without discussion.

While the impression has been given that the navy department would probably not look with favor upon sending the German ships to the bottom, some officers pointed today to practical obstacles to absorption of the surrendered vessels by the allied and American navies. They said that owing to the differences in design and equipment between the capital craft of the German fleet and

GLASS CONFIDENT THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL SUBSCRIBE TO NEW LOANS

Says They Know Additional Funds Are Needed by Government

WILL RESPOND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Confidence that the American people will in no wise relax their efforts toward meeting the government's immediate financial requirements was expressed by Secretary Glass in a statement tonight, partially outlining the policy of the treasury under his administration. Plans for meeting government expenditures as have been outlined by former Secretary McAdoo including the offering of another Liberty loan, the continuing of the sale of war savings certificates and the retaining of organizations for the sale of such securities, will be carried out, he said.

"I am sure that the treasury department can with confidence offer another Liberty loan," said the statement, which was addressed to the American people, "and continue the sale of war savings certificates knowing that the organizations will respond once more to the call for service." Government expenditures, including transactions in the principal of the public debt, during the current fiscal year up to and including December 16, when Mr. Glass assumed office, have exceeded \$2,000,000,000, the secretary said in reviewing the financial status of the government. Expenditures for November were nearly two billion dollars. The proceeds of the Fourth Liberty loan so far received have all been spent, Mr. Glass said, and the remaining installments will be needed to meet maturing treasury certificates of indebtedness. More than half of the estimated expenditures of the government for the current fiscal year, recently placed at eighteen billion dollars by Mr. McAdoo, have been spent in the first five and one-half months. Bills for production of war materials, which had reached the peak at the time the armistice was signed, must be paid and the great expense of demobilizing the army met. In view of these facts, Secretary Glass said another Liberty loan must be issued before the end of the fiscal year next June and the sale of war savings stamps and certificates must be pushed most energetically.