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MAY MAKE CHANGES IN WAR MACHINERY

MAY CREATE WAR COUNCIL SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

TWO BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS

One Proposes War Council of Five Members and the Other Would Centralize Munitions Control in a Director of Munitions.

Washington.—Framing of legislation contemplating drastic changes in the government's war machinery, including creation of an American war council similar to those of England and France and a director of munitions, was begun by the senate military committee.

Two bills—one proposing the war council of five members, including the secretaries of war and navy and three civilians appointed by the President, and a second to centralize munitions control in a director of munitions, were prepared by a sub-committee consisting of Chairman Chamberlain and Senators Hitchcock and Wadsworth.

Chairman Chamberlain announced that the committee virtually had agreed upon the two bills, in lieu of his measure for a separate department of munitions with a new cabinet member. The attitude of the administration toward them has not been disclosed. President Wilson and Secretary Baker opposed the original Chamberlain bill.

Independent of Cabinet.

The plan of the committee for the war council is to have it under the President, but wholly independent of the cabinet. "It would sit with and advise the President in forming broad policies, similar to the British war cabinet and the French war ministry," said Chairman Chamberlain. "It would give co-ordination now lacking in central direction of all government's war operations."

The bill to establish a director of munitions is modeled after the British law. The committee proposes that the director should be subordinate only to the war council and the President and not the cabinet, taking over many supply functions of the war, navy, shipbuilding and other branches. The director would have control of all war supplies, their production, purchase, transportation and distribution. The title of "director of munitions," was definitely decided upon by the committee and written into the draft bill by the sub-committee, which rejected proposals to call the head of the new agency the "director of war industries."

The committee received from Director Gifford of the council of national defense suggestions for centralizing munitions and war industrial control.

ADMINISTRATOR GARFIELD TELLS COMMITTEE WHY

Imperative Because of Fuel and Transportation Crisis.

Washington.—Fuel Administrator Garfield underwent a two hours grilling at the hands of the senate committee investigating the coal shortage, which called him before it to explain his reason for issuing the order shutting down industries by denying them the use of coal.

At the termination of the hearing the committee decided to make no formal report, but Chairman Reed made a speech in the senate declaring that he had not satisfied him of the necessity for such drastic action. The line of questions asked by other members of the committee indicated that they, too, took the same view.

Deputy Garfield declared the order was made imperative because of the fuel and transportation crisis. If coal were not cut off, he said, would be forced to close anyhow and the government is closing down everything intended to treat all alike.

BATTLE FLAG ZEPPERLIN BROUGHT TO WASHINGTON

Washington.—The battle flag of the Zepplin L-49, brought down near Bourdeaux, France, October 17, 1917, has been received at the headquarters of the marine corps and sent to the national museum. The flag, deep red, bears no distinguishing insignia of any kind. Accompanying it were small portions of the outer envelope and of the gas bag of the Zepplin. The flag was given to Major General Barnett.

Room Addressed to Governor

San Francisco.—A bomb addressed to Governor William D. Stephens' mansion at Sacramento, has been intercepted at the ferry postoffice here. It became known. The package contained several sticks of dynamite. The explosive material was damaged December 19 last, by an explosion of dynamite. A postal employee, opening the bundle to discover whether it had been classified wrongly, discovered the explosive and a letter addressed to Stephens.

MISS HELEN D. McCORMICK



Miss Helen D. McCormick has entered upon her duties as an assistant district attorney in New York city. Her excellent work as state factory inspector brought her to the attention of District Attorney Lewis of Kings county. Miss McCormick is thirty years old and is a graduate of the Brooklyn law school. She was admitted to the bar five years ago. She has always been an active worker for women's suffrage, being chairman of the Tenth assembly district.

TO CLOSE FOR TEN MONDAYS

ALL MANUFACTURING PLANTS ARE ORDERED TO CLOSE DOWN FOR FIVE DAYS.

Industry and Business Generally Affected by Order Which is Estimated by Garfield to Save 30,000,000 Tons of Coal.

Washington.—America's manufacturing enterprises with but few exceptions in all states east of the Mississippi river was ordered by the government to suspend operations for five days beginning Friday morning, January 18, as a drastic measure for relieving the fuel famine.

At the same time, as a further means of relief, it was directed that industry and business generally, including all normal activities, that require heated buildings, observe as a holiday every Monday for the next ten weeks. This will close down on Mondays not only factories, but saloons, stores except for sale of drugs and food, places of amusement and nearly all office buildings. While the order does not mention shipyards, it is known that they will be permitted to continue operation as usual, although munitions plants will be closed.

The government's move came entirely without warning in an order issued by Fuel Administrator Garfield with the approval of President Wilson prescribing stringent restrictions governing the distribution and use of coal. It was decided upon hurriedly by the President and government heads as a desperate remedy for the fuel crisis and the transportation fiasco in the eastern states. Even munition plants are not exempted from the closing down order.

Officials would not discuss the far-reaching effects the action would have on the industrial fabric and questions as to how the order was to be interpreted to meet specific problems went unanswered.

The order prescribes a preferential list of consumers in whose interest it was drawn. These users will get coal in the following order:

Railroads; household consumers; hospitals; charitable institutions, and army and navy cantonments.

Public utilities, telephone and telegraph plants.

Strictly government enterprises, excepting factories and plants working on government contracts.

Public buildings and necessary government, state and municipal requirements.

Factories producing perishable foods and foods for immediate consumption.

Save 30,000,000 Tons. It was estimated the enforcement of the order would save a total of 30,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, which probably is about half the present shortage. The indications were that at the end of the ten weeks of Monday's holidays a permanent policy of restricted consumption would have been determined on.

MORE THAN 700 VESSELS TAKEN OVER BY THE NAVY

Washington.—Since the United States entered the war the navy has taken over and converted to war use between 700 and 800 passenger and freight vessels, yachts, tugs, fishing boats and other craft. This was disclosed in a statement by Chairman Gifford of the house investigating committee, recommending the business of construction and repair and other maintenance of such vessels should be placed under government control.

HALF THE NATION OBSERVES HOLIDAY

ALL RETAILERS EXCEPT DRUG AND FOOD STORES TO CLOSE.

MOVING EMPTY COAL CARS

To Continue For Ten Mondays.—Garfield Requests That Office Buildings Be Not Heated.—Conditions Better.

The eastern half of the United States observed Monday generally as a holiday, the first of 10 heatless Mondays decreed by the government to conserve coal and to clear congestion from the railroads.

Although the closing order, promulgated by Fuel Administrator Garfield, goes no further than to forbid the use of fuel for heating, fuel administration officials expect business to cease and Director Garfield issued a direct request that all retail establishments, except food and drug stores, close their doors for the day.

At the same time office buildings were requested to observe the spirit as well as the letter of the order and operate no lights or elevators except to accommodate the few exempted persons who are housed in their buildings.

Food stores, which in the original order were permitted to remain open only half the day, were granted a special dispensation under which they may sell goods throughout the day.

It was said that the use of fuel for lighting buildings and for operating their elevators probably could be prevented during the remainder of the Monday holidays. In drawing the order this was overlooked and thousands of telegrams have reached the fuel administration asking for a ruling.

While reports to the fuel administration told of an increased movement of coal to householders and to ships under the three days operation of the five-day factory closing order, severe weather held back the clearing of freight congestion, which was one of the chief purposes sought. At the office of the director general of railroads it was said that there was little hope for material improvement in traffic conditions until the weather moderated.

Moving Empty Coal Cars.

Efforts were centralized on the movement of empty coal cars back to the mines, and to the transportation of bunker coal to the Atlantic seaboard. A total of 150,000 tons of bunker coal had arrived or was en route for North Atlantic ports while 100,000 tons had been delivered on the southern seaboard and 200,000 tons more was on its way. At one southern port 30,000 tons was delivered to ships that have been tied up for more than a week.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN DISSOLVED

Closed By Sailor Guards—Report Japs Have Landed.

Petrograd.—(By Associated Press)—The constituent assembly has been dissolved. The decree of dissolution was issued last night by the council of national commissioners and adopted early this morning by the central executive committee of the workmen's and soldiers' deputies.

The text reads: "When the constituent assembly voted against the declaration made by the president of the central executive committee after an hour's deliberation, the bolshevik left the hall and were followed by the social revolutionists of the left on the assembly showing its unwillingness to approve the manner in which the peace purporters were being conducted. A decree dissolving the assembly will be published."

The first hint the newspaper men received that extreme measures were contemplated was when they were informed that the Tauride palace, where the assembly began its sessions, would be closed to the members of the assembly, to the newspaper men and to everyone else.

STRIKERS IN AUSTRIA OPENLY ANTI-GERMAN.

London.—A general strike is on throughout Austria, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Paris, which reports 100,000 men quitting work in Vienna and Neustadt, closing down all the war factories. The strikers are described as openly anti-German and the movement is both political and economic and especially aimed at securing peace.

NEED 30,000 MORE WOMEN IN ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

Washington.—Enlisting of 30,000 more women in the military nursing service will be required if prospective needs of the government are to meet the American Red Cross announced in an appeal for volunteers.

In order to meet the increasing demands of the army and navy nursing corps, the Red Cross has modified somewhat its former requirements for enrollment. The age limit has been lowered to 21 years.

LIEUT. PATRICK O'BRIEN



Lieut. Patrick O'Brien, an American member of the British flying corps, who was brought down in a one-sided battle by the Germans, and who had been taken into Germany on his way to a prison camp, jumped from a train which was going 30 miles an hour, and by many heroic and clever moves managed to get into Holland, and then back to England.

WAR DEPARTMENT REQUEST

YOUNG MEN BECOMING OF AGE WILL KEEP RANKS OF ARMY WELL FILLED.

BHI Introduced in Senate by Chamberlain—Measure Would Permit Furloughing of Troops for Harvest Work.

Washington.—The government has decided on draft registration of all young men as fast as they become 21 years old as the means of keeping filled the ranks of the war army. It has decided against raising the draft age limit above 21 years.

An administration bill was introduced, at the request of the war department, by Chairman Chamberlain of the senate military committee, to register for draft all men who have reached 21 since June 4, 1917, when the draft law became effective. The administration's support seems to assure its prompt passage. The bill agrees with the recent recommendations of Provost Marshal General Crowder.

Other administration bills introduced by Chairman Chamberlain at the request of the war department will supplement the draft law to make it workable under conditions that have developed. One would permit furloughing of national army troops for harvest work or other civilian duty; another would eliminate enemy alien population from basis of calculations for draft, quotas, by making the basis for each state the number of men available in class 1.

Registration of men who have become of age since the draft law was enacted, was recommended in the recent report of Provost Marshal General Crowder as one of the means by which a supply of men for the national army might be assured without taking those who have others dependent upon them. It could be done also, General Crowder pointed out, by extending the age limits above the present line of 21. The war department has adopted the first suggestion. It is estimated that it will add about 700,000 men to the draft available each year.

Congressmen have been advised that further legislation would be necessary to perfect and carry on the draft and the passage of Senator Chamberlain's bill with administration support is expected promptly in both houses.

The bill changing the basis of state quota is believed to provide a more equitable system, as it will exclude entirely enemy aliens from the basis. Enemy aliens were included in the basis for the first draft and there was much complaint. Heavy enemy alien populations in some congested districts forced Americans to army duty regardless of exemption claims to make up district quotas.

CAPT. "BILL" McDONALD DIES AT WITCHITA FALLS.

Wichita Falls, Texas.—Capt. "Bill" McDonald, noted Texas ranger and personal friend and bodyguard of several presidents, died here.

McDonald, who was United States marshal for northern Texas, was famous for his control over the most desperate characters of the Mexican border and Texas.

PRIVATES ANDREWS AND DINA KILLED IN ACTION.

Washington.—Privates Michael Lane and Harold T. Andrews, of the engineer corps, previously reported missing after the battle in General Byng's forces in steaming a German attack around Cambrai November 30, were killed in action, the war department was advised by General Pershing. Their bodies were recovered and buried on French soil. Their names were placed on the Roll of Honor in England.

SOUTHERN PLANTS ALL CLOSED DOWN

BUSINESS MEN OF SOUTH OBSERVE FUEL ORDER FOR FIVE DAYS.

NO VIOLATIONS REPORTED

Cotton Interests Are Hardest Hit With Tobacco Following—Industrial Center at Birmingham Only Slightly Affected.

Atlanta, Ga.—Hundreds of industrial plants in the south were closed for a five-day period under the fuel restriction order and thousands of operatives were idle. No reports of violations of the order had been received and surface indications were that both manufacturers and workers viewed the situation philosophically.

The South Carolina house of representatives, in session at Columbia, voted down by an overwhelming majority a resolution asking Fuel Administrator Garfield to rescind the order and the Atlanta chamber of commerce adopted a resolution approving it. At Roanoke, business men in mass meeting voted to observe the order, while the Norfolk, (Virginia) Retail Merchants' Association asked merchants to close all stores on Mondays during the ten-week period.

The tobacco interests probably was the largest outside of cotton to be affected by the order. Cigar factories in Florida, Virginia and other states were closed as were tobacco and cigarette plants in Virginia, North Carolina and other sections.

The industrial center at Birmingham was only slightly affected, as most of the steel plants there are engaged on government work and at the coal mines extra efforts were made to get out coal. Shipyards, including the navy yards at Norfolk, Charleston and New Orleans and the Newport News plant, were in full operation.

Richmond apparently had the greatest army of idle workers of any city in the south, thirty thousand having been reported out of work there. Norfolk and vicinity reported from 10,000 to 12,000 New Orleans some 15,000; Macon, Ga., 7,000; Memphis from 5,000 to 7,000; Chattanooga from 15,000 to 20,000; Charleston, S. C., about 2,500, and Knoxville, about 2,500.

In the Roanoke district where about 2,000 workers were idle, the Norfolk and Western railway offered to employ hundreds of persons in repair and other work on its lines and in its shops during the days of inactivity, including Mondays.

RAILROAD WAGE COMMISSION WANTED BY DIRECTOR McADOO.

Washington.—Director General McAdoo announced appointment of a railroad wage commission of four public men to analyze and recommend action on all wage and labor questions pending before the government railroad administration, including the railway brotherhoods' demands.

At the same time the director general put into effect a new system of government railroad administration by dividing the country into three operating regions, south, east and west, and placed a railroad executive at the head of each as his representative.

The wage commission consists of Secretary Lane, Interstate Commerce Commissioner C. C. McChord, Judge J. Harry Covington, chief justice of the District of Columbia supreme court, and William R. Willcox, who announced his resignation as chairman of the republican national committee.

In charge of the eastern railroad, Mr. McAdoo retained A. E. Smith, president of the New York Central, who has acted as assistant to the director general with headquarters in New York. R. H. Ainslie, president of the Chicago & Northwestern, was appointed regional director for territory west of the Mississippi with headquarters at Chicago. Southwestern roads were assigned to C. H. Merham, president of the Illinois Central, with headquarters at Atlanta.

The eastern division consists of territory north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers, and east of Lake Michigan and the Indiana-Illinois state line, also the Chesapeake & Ohio, the Norfolk & Western and the Virginia railways.

The southern district is defined as including "all railroads in that portion of the United States south of the Ohio and Potomac rivers and east of the Mississippi river, except the Chesapeake & Ohio, Norfolk & Western and the Virginia railways."

FREDERICK SPOEMANN AND ARCH LIBERATED.

Baltimore.—Frederick H. C. Spemann, brother of Walter Spemann, alleged German spy, held in jail here, and Martin Arch, both of whom were arrested in Baltimore shortly after the war department was taken over by Walter Spemann, were liberated. Assistant United States District Attorney Latane said the two men had been arrested in order to get out of the way and that they had been held in jail for some time.

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BETTER THAN

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