

THE TROUBLE WITH OUR MERCHANT MARINE

Has Too Much Easy Money, Instead of Getting Down to Work. With the government-owned merchant marine, which he discovered after he became President of the United States Fleet Corporation, was that it was suffering from too much easy money, Leigh C. Palmer told the National Foreign Trade convention today.

"Instead of getting down to real business and trying to come somewhere near living within its income," he said, "it was depending unduly upon the national treasury. Therefore, it seemed best to reduce the appropriation covering operating losses from \$43,000,000 to \$30,000,000 for the present fiscal year, while doing the same amount of business as last year, and to cut it again to \$24,000,000 for the fiscal year beginning next month. We are planning a further cut to \$18,000,000 for the following fiscal year, and we will continue this policy of reducing operating losses with improvement of services while the country at large is endeavoring to arrive at some constructive policy in the matter of the merchant marine as a whole.

"The progress made by the Fleet Corporation is perhaps best exemplified by the reduction in losses of its fleet of cargo vessels during the past year. The passenger lines and tankers are left out of consideration for the moment. "A little more than a year ago we were operating about 320 cargo vessels at a loss of more than \$25,000,000 per voyage. During the first ten months of the present fiscal year, beginning July, 1924, the average loss was reduced to about \$20,000,000 and at the end of this period it had fallen below \$17,000,000.

"This improvement is attributable almost entirely to improved administration and increased efficiency of operation. As an initial step, the various lines were reorganized, by consolidating those which were in competition with each other, or overlapping in the regions served, with the general result that fewer operators were retained, each with an increased fleet operating under conditions more nearly approximating the trade requirements. While the total number of vessels in the cargo fleet was reduced by these consolidations to about 300, the improvement in the handling of the vessels, reflected in their quicker turn around, enabled us to make practically the same number of voyages as before, with a substantial increase of cargo as revenue, and a reduction of operating expense. At the same time we gradually reduced our overhead and in the elimination of unnecessary personnel alone effected savings at the rate of about \$1,500,000 a year.

We regard the improvement already made as merely a beginning. After a careful analysis of all the factors in the case, we feel that the loss per voyage of the government-owned cargo fleet can be reduced to about \$8,500, even if the present unsatisfactory trade conditions continue, but a rise in freight rates or any other favoring condition would, of course, change that figure for the better. If and when this result is reached, the total operating loss of the cargo fleet may be expected to be only about \$10,000,000 a year. This, however, does not include interest and depreciation charges, which must be included if proper comparison is to be made with private operating results, and these two items would increase the prospective voyage loss to about \$13,500.

Discussing the question of replacements, which must be considered in any plan of continued government operation, Admiral Palmer declared that unless the government can find a way to transfer its fleet to private ownership, the corporation faces the definite prospect of having to spend about \$20,000,000 a year continuously for replacements alone. After discussing the possibility of government aid to private shipping, he said: "To summarize, our country faces three alternatives in respect to the merchant marine in foreign trade; first, continued government operation costing ultimately about \$40,000,000 a year; second, government aid to private shipping amounting to about \$15,000,000 a year; or third, the gradual but certain disappearance of our flag from the international trade routes, and a return to our present condition when less than ten per cent. of our foreign commerce was carried in American vessels."

In conclusion, Admiral Palmer discussed a possible program for dealing with our shipping problem. So far as the government-owned fleet is concerned the program should, he believed, include the following: (1) An aggressive and well thought-out plan to transfer the government fleet to private ownership on terms that protect the government interests and at the same time give the buyer an opportunity for profit that will insure his continuance indefinitely in the trade. (2) Continuation of the operation of government lines on such of the trade routes as are considered economically essential to the national interests and which cannot be disposed of to private operators. (3) Continued improvement of these lines until they show the best economic results obtainable under government operating conditions, thereby reducing the present operating loss by half. (4) On the most heavily losing routes, the maintenance of only such services as may suffice to hold a position in the trade and to conserve our national trade interests; but, on the more promising routes an expansion of the service to meet the demands and prospects of the national trade. (5) Where sales are impossible, the charter of the lines to private responsible operators, if practicable, on terms that will be advantageous to the government and that will give the operator an opportunity to become eventually an owner.

SOUTH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Facsimile of Paper Containing Declaration of Independence. First newspaper, the publication which claims in its record the greatest scope in history, first publication of the Declaration of Independence in full, may be reissued as a result of resolutions adopted by the National Editorial Association on the occasion of its first visit to Virginia in June. The paper was suspended in its 18th year in 1822, after having one of the most interesting histories in American journalism. Should the National Editorial Association place itself back of the movement for the establishment of a course in journalism at William and Mary College in Virginia, second oldest institution of learning in America, the establishment of the paper once again is secured.

The paper referred to is the Williamsburg Virginia Gazette, which was founded on August 6th, 1736, by William Parks. It was the first newspaper printed south of the Potomac River. Printing of the laws of each session of the General Assembly, of the journals of the House of Burgesses and other necessary legal forms was the main source of revenue to this first paper.

Parks built his own paper mill and made his own ink and members of the National Editorial Association were all present with reproductions of the paper in its exact size, and on handmade paper, printed with handmade ink, by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce during their visit to Virginia. The State chamber selected the edition of July 20, 1776, in which was printed in full at the order of the council the Declaration of Independence for the first time in history. On the back of the paper following the document, are the press notices given the declaration by other papers then published. Comments from Philadelphia, Trenton, and New York are included, but little space was given by the other papers to it. For more than 150 years subsequent editions of the paper carried across the top of the first page a boast of this achievement. The Gazette was located in the old capital of Virginia at Williamsburg, where the college of William and Mary was established and the plan proposed by the National Editorial Association is to establish there a course in journalism, the plan is to assist in the development of this old historic paper and its rejuvenation as an historic publication.

Post and Flagg's Cotton Letter. New York, June 30.—While profit-taking continues with a little scattered selling for a reaction offerings are well absorbed by shorts and more or less fresh buying influenced by an undercurrent of uneasiness as to the present actual condition of the crop and the possible effect of possible adverse weather conditions the next six days or so on the extent of insect damage. There appears no sign of a real break in the Texas drought and unless the situation is relieved by copious rains within ten days it is feared that the crop in a large area of that state will prove a total loss.

If rains come it is feared that weevil damage will be very heavy and already the opinion is expressed in some quarters that the showers weather in the east-end belt will lead to heavy infestation and loss in that territory to be noted as soon as the second and third broods of the weevil become active. Trade advisers meanwhile are making a better showing with inquiries reported increasing at a rapid rate. Lancashire is sending out doleful reports but elsewhere, particularly in France and Italy conditions appear very satisfactory. There is not much disposition to make fresh commitment before the bureau and there is some feeling that prices cover a large portion of what is bullish in recent developments but the general character of the market has shifted from a strong tendency to sell on all small rallies to a moderate and increasing willingness to buy on slight dips. This makes for a weaker technical position but even if speculative shorts are less numerous, there is still the vastly more important trade short interest the extent of which is indefinite but will be exactly in proportion to any improvement in business condition but even now would readily take care of any such crop as now suggested at these or possibly somewhat higher prices.

POST AND FLAAGG.

Bus Seizure Does Not Stop Bus Line.

Raleigh News and Observer. The United Stage Lines, Inc., continued to make all their scheduled runs here yesterday in spite of the seizure of several of their busses by the White Automobile Company on Monday. Last night a conference between attorneys for the bus line and the automobile company was in progress.

The bus line seized three busses from Norfolk and others stored in a warehouse here. A number of chair car busses will be secured and put in operation over the line by the receivers for the company, it was stated.

The petition of the receivers for the United Stage Lines, Inc., to reduce the schedule between Raleigh and Greensboro from every half hour to every hour was indefinitely postponed yesterday by the Corporation Commission at the request of the petitioners.

Convicted Physicians to Lose Their Licenses. Raleigh, June 16.—Physicians convicted of violating the Harrison anti-narcotics act need not expect to retain their license, it was announced by Dr. J. G. Murphy, state health commissioner, member of the North Carolina State board of medical examiners. It was stated that action on revoking the licenses of the physicians now before the federal court here would depend on the result. The board has announced it will revoke the licenses of two Gaston county physicians recently convicted. Dr. Harvey Robinson, now of Reidsville, but formerly of Chabourn, whose narcotic license was revoked by the late Judge Connor.

Rufus A. Doughton, State Commissioner of Revenue, was born in Alleghany County, N. C. January 10, 1857. He studied law at the University of North Carolina in 1880. He is a lawyer, farmer, and banker and has been a legislator in North Carolina politics for several decades. He has served eleven terms in the House of Representatives, was Lieutenant Governor from 1903-1907 and was Speaker of the House in 1901.

Eric the Red called the land he discovered Greenland because men would be more easily persuaded thither if the land had a good name.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-57.

- Only two or three words in this puzzle may hold you up for a while. But they are crossed by such easy words that there should be no difficulty in discovering the hard ones. HORIZONTAL: 1 Contradicts as in a debate. 6 Decorative group of girls in a musical comedy. 11 Nights. 12 Man who borrows your money. 14 A good smell. 15 To secure. 16 Danger. 18 Something to lie in. 19 Within. 20 Slim slippery fish. 21 Barn. 22 Sun god. 24 Male horses used for breeding. 27 Baseball team. 29 Bag. 30 Digits of the foot. 32 Box. 33 Rough woolly hair. 34 Fairy. 35 Golf term. 37 To impel. 38 Alacrity. 42 Alleged force producing hypnotism. 44 To bow. 45 Before. 46 Most common verb. 47 Upright shaft. 49 To beautify. 51 Portion of a circle. 52 Region. 54 Unit of work. 55 Lath (of a bed). VERTICAL: 1 Large tract of land. 2 Level. 3 To wager. 4 You and I. 5 Separates a word into its smallest parts. 6 Institution devoted to the examination of patients. 7 Upon. 8 To steal. 9 Employer. 10 Type of automobile (pl.). 13 Measure of area. 16 Small vegetable. 17 Constellation. 20 Periodical. 22 To become full of fervor over an object. 24 Trap. 25 Kind of beer. 26 Fliv. 28 Frozen water. 31 Her fruit. 34 Genus of mollusks. 35 Machine for spreading hay. 36 Power. 38 Chooses. 40 Gazelle. 41 Sea eagle. 43 To defy. 46 Finishing nail. 48 Two lives. 50 Eithe's partner. 51 Every. 53 Paid publicity. 55 Point of compass.

TODAY'S EVENTS.

Wednesday, July 1, 1925.

Centenary of the birth of Charles B. Norton, noted American publisher and bookseller. The hundredth anniversary of the birth of Rochambeau, the famous marshal of France who aided the Americans in the Revolution. Canada celebrates today as Dominion Day, commemorating the anniversary of the Act of Confederation in 1867. The United States today enters upon its seventh year under constitutional prohibition. An event of great importance to the Catholics of France will be the National Eucharistic Congress which opens at Rennes today. The sixth national exhibition of Finnish industries is to be opened at Helsinki today and will be continued for one week. The Rt. Rev. William J. Hafey is to be formally installed today as first bishop of the new Roman Catholic diocese of Raleigh, N. C. The Pan-Pacific conference on a Christian program for the Pacific area, which assembles today in Honolulu, will be attended by representatives of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Korea and the Philippines. What American women have accomplished in the upbuilding of Palestine will be discussed at the eleventh annual convention of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America, which is to begin its sessions today in Washington, D. C. The last of the U. S. Shipping Board's wartime housing projects will be disposed of today through sale at auction of the properties of that character at Portsmouth, N. H. which include 278 dwellings, one store, nine dormitories and twenty garages.

MONROE TO HAVE A WATER SYSTEM

Dam to Be Built on Richardson's Creek.—Development to Cost \$200,000. Monroe, June 30.—The city of Monroe is to have a complete water system costing close to \$200,000, the contract for which will be let within the next six months, as a result of the action of the city councilmen tonight at a special meeting called by Mayor C. E. Houston. While the present mains in the city, supplied from a number of wells, will be utilized, the supply will be brought from a dam on Richardson's Creek, about two and a half miles above Monroe, the supply coming from two creeks fed by a large number of fine springs for which Buford township is famed. People of Monroe are enthusiastic over the prospects for a water supply second to none in the state and are looking forward to the completion of the dam and water mains which will turn the water into the system which has been supplied by wells within the city for thirty years. The city has bought the site of the dam and the area the pond will cover and has watershed rights on an area covering about 25 square miles. The watershed is free from villages or communities and other conditions that might serve to contaminate the water to be supplied. Richardson's Creek is a large stream and is fed by strong springs, assuring an abundant supply for many years and water of a very fine quality.

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The turnip occupied an important place in Roman agriculture, one writer stating that some of them weighed forty pounds. Behavior is a mirror in which every one shows his image.

RUBY WALLACE FREE AGAIN WITH HUSBAND

Agred Spouse Makers Reduced Bond For Young Wife and They Leave For Asheville. Charlotte Observer. What is believed to be the final chapter for some time to come in the widely heralded Ruby Wallace police case was yesterday written when the girl's 78-year-old husband, F. B. Gibson, posted a \$100 cash bond and secured his wife's release from jail. The bond, originally set at \$200, was reduced to half this amount by Solicitor J. J. Carpenter, it was understood. Ruby's last stay in the Mecklenburg jail was short, she having returned from Stateville under custody Monday night. Her husband bidding her good bye in Statesville, promised to be in Charlotte yesterday to post her bond, and he appeared, in accordance with his promise. The couple left Charlotte for Asheville, from where they will go to Columbia, S. C., where Mr. Gibson is in business.

BABY PLUNGES TWO STORIES AND LANDS ON DOG'S BACK

Tot's Life Is Saved and Parents Wonder If "Pete" is Hero or Victim of Coincidence. New York, June 30.—Pete, a big collie, and that indefinitely thing known as coincidence are being praised in Long Island City. Either through coincidence or Pete's unassuming and unusual act of heroism, the life of 1-year-old Thomas Rose, who fell two stories from the window of his home, No. 161 Vernon avenue Long Island City, was spared because he landed on the back of the dog. Today, Tommy was smiling the same as ever in St. John's Hospital where he is suffering from a broken left leg. Pete was kept in solitude in his kennel in the rear of the Rose home, where he is recovering from minor injuries. What is puzzling Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Rose, parents of the baby, is how Pete happened to be just beneath the Rose window, thus breaking the fall of little Tommy, which otherwise would have been fatal. The Roses and their friends say it was "a strange coincidence."

IN MURDER EVER JUSTIFIED? True Detective Mystery for July.

Macfadden publication holds "The Secret of the Flames" the true story of the disappearance of a prominent Michigan society woman, "Lured to Blackmail" is told by Neil Jennings, a private investigator and concerns a young woman with ambitions for a movie career and how she became the center of a blackmail plot. "Written in Red" takes you by way of Paris to Venemecia and deposits you in the midst of revolution, not forgetting the part a poisonous leaf plays. "The Mystery Of Room 10" is the story of a crime and introduces a brunette with reddish hair into the mystery. "How I Saved the American Fleet" by Thomas L. M. Pearson of the British Secret Service reveals the threats destruction of an American Destroyer Fleet.

A PORCH SWAYING MAY STAY STILL AND STILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD LANDING A PROSPECTIVE HUSBAND.

Paul Dunlap, the star seller of the Washington State College track team, tips the scales at only 148 pounds. Behavior is a mirror in which every one shows his image.

What the World Is Doing

(As Seen by Popular Mechanics Magazine)

What Causes Holes in Cheese Mystery Is Solved

Experimenters in the department of agriculture are reported to have discovered that special curing processes and preparation of the curd, cause the holes in Swiss cheese. The product is now being supplied to employes at a cost of about twenty cents a pound for materials. The expense of the experiments, which were started nearly ten years ago, is being recovered by the sale of the cheese. The demand for it is so great that orders are rotated according to a system which permits all employes to make purchases.

Mowing Lawn Banks

With the aid of an additional handle on the lawnmower, the difficulty of cutting grass on banks is considerably reduced as it permits the worker to remain on top of the lawn yet hold the mower at the proper angle. The extra handle, about 8 ft. long, is screwed to the underside of the regular handle, and a brace is nailed between the two, as shown. The



length of this brace depends on the slope of the bank; the steeper the bank the longer it will have to be in order to hold the mower at the correct cutting angle. When cutting the flat part of the lawn, the extra handle and the brace are removed.

Sailboat with Two Hulls Keeps Better Balance

Built upon two pontoons bridged together, a novel sailboat devised by Italian enthusiasts is said to have a safe speed of twenty-four knots in brisk winds, to keep bet-



ter balance than ordinary models and to be practically non-capsizeable. When one side rises clear of the water, the other remains securely on the surface. The pontoons practically act as outriggers, but do not interfere with handling the boat, and when the craft rides on a single float, head resistance is decreased, it is claimed, especially in rough seas.

Tubes That Won't Burn Out

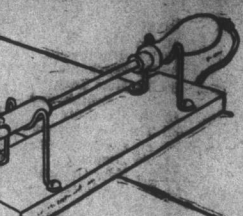
Vacuum tubes for radio sets of the future may have their life prolonged indefinitely by a new filament which works at a temperature much lower than the ordinary bulb. The material, which was described by Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the General Electric company, accomplishes its purpose without heating to a glow, and even in a dark room does not appear red under operation. By the addition of a small amount of thorium, combined with several gases, to the tungsten used in the tubes, the filament is made to operate at temperatures far below the usual danger point, avoiding overheating to the burning-out stage.

Cleaning Paintbrushes

By using the following method paintbrushes can readily be cleaned and kept soft and pliable without keeping them in oil or water. When finished with the brush, clean it in gasoline; about two-thirds of a cupful is enough. Pour some clean gasoline on the brush and hold it in front of the nozzle of a garden hose or other strong stream of water, turning the brush around several times to wash out the gasoline. With the removal of the gas, every trace of the paint will also disappear. The brush is then laid away to dry, and it will be soft and clean for the next job. Even if used in black paint a brush will not soil a clean piece of paper when rubbed over it, after having been thoroughly cleaned and dried in this way.

Easily Made Soldering Rest

The fan who has burned a spot on the top of his table when building a radio set by absent-mindedly putting down the hot soldering iron on it, appreciates the advantages of some sort of rest for the iron. It is a very simple matter to make a practical rest from a couple of short lengths of left-over busbar wire and a



piece of wood. Eyes for screws are bent at the ends of the wire, and the middle parts formed to a V-shape in which the iron rests as shown in the illustration. The supports are fastened to the wood by means of screws driven through the eyes, as indicated.

Advertisement for THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM. Text: 'THE SOUTHERN SERVES THE SOUTH', 'Getting business for the Southern', 'Every employee of the Southern Railway System is a traffic solicitor.', 'The 60,000 men and women in the Southern organization realize that their own prosperity depends on the prosperity of the railroad.', 'That is why your friend or neighbor, who earns his livelihood in this railroad service, asks you to travel and ship via the Southern.', 'Every one of us in the Southern organization has a personal interest in giving efficient and courteous service—the kind of service that will make friends and get business for the Southern.'