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GERMAN PROPERTY MAY BE RETURNED

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN MILLER URGES IN STATEMENT.

FAVORED BY THE PRESIDENT

Administration Does Not Favor Confiscation to Meet National Debts.

Washington.—Return to German citizens of \$45,000,000 of the \$347,000,000 trusts held by the alien property custodian as a result of war time seizure, was urged in a statement issued by Allen Property Custodian Miller. Such a reimbursement, he said, "would contribute vastly to a relief of the economic situation in Germany" at the present time.

Legislation authorizing the \$45,000,000 payment, Mr. Miller said, is pending in congress and its enactment is favored by President Harding, Secretary Hughes and Attorney General Daugherty. The remainder of funds, about \$302,000,000, could be retained by this government, it was said, and would be amply sufficient, if needed, to meet American claims against Germany now in the process of adjustment by the calms commission.

"The continued retention and administration by the alien property custodians of the small trusts represented by the 93 per cent. under \$10,000," the statement said, "is uneconomical and unwise from a business standpoint. If in the remote future there is a likelihood that a portion of this property will be used to satisfy American claims, the proportion contributed by the smaller trusts will be insignificant. Their return at this time would contribute vastly to a relief of the economic situation in Germany, which in turn effects the trade of that country with this country and other nations."

Locomotive Works Earns Profits.

New York.—Overcoming a deficit of nearly \$1,000,000 for the first six months, the American Locomotive Company and its affiliated companies, the Montreal Locomotive Works and the American Locomotive Sales Corporation, showed net profit of \$1,100,478 for the twelve months which ended December 21, 1922, the company's annual report disclosed. Dividends of seven per cent, amounting to \$1,750,000 on preferred stock, and six per cent, or \$1,500,000 on common stock were paid, although this total of \$3,250,000 exceeded the 1922 profit and necessitated the use of \$2,149,521 for surplus.

Child Labor Law Advocates Win.

Washington.—Advocates of a child labor constitutional amendment won the first stage of their fight when the Senate Judiciary Committee ordered a favorable report on a committee resolution providing for submission of such an amendment to the States.

Opponents of the resolution, however, declared they would prevent its adoption by the Senate.

There was no record vote by the committee in ordering the resolution reported, which was a composite draft embodying features of more than a score of child labor resolutions which the committee has been fighting over for weeks.

The committee's child labor amendment would provide:

"That Congress shall have power, concurrent with the several States, to limit or prohibit the labor of persons under the age of 18 years."

Decrease in Grain Shipments.

Washington.—Grain exports from the United States last week totalled 3,650,000 bushels as compared to 6,649,000 bushels for the week previous.

Falling total was due principally to heavy declines in the amount of wheat, corn and oats sent to the United Kingdom and other European countries.

The totals for the past week, as compared with those for the week previous, were made public by the commerce department today, as follows:

Wheat 1,164,000 bushels, against 2,861,000 bushels; corn 945,000 bushels against 2,163,000 bushels; barley 415,000 bushels against 114,000 bushels; rye 1,089,000 bushels against 1,462,000 bushels; oats 28,000 bushels against 49,000 bushels.

Flour exports last week were 176,160 barrels as compared to 338,500 barrels for the week previous.

Canadian grain in transit last week amounted to 2,021,000 bushels compared to 2,388,000 bushels the week previous.

THREE KILLED IN AUTO-TRAIN WRECK.

Goldsboro, N. C.—Two men were instantly killed and another was fatally injured when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by the Atlantic Coast Line passenger train at a crossing on the outskirts of this city.

The dead are James H. Register, E. R. Pigford, and Herbert Sutherland, all of Clinton.

Sutherland was removed to a local hospital in an unconscious condition and died about four hours after the crash. The bodies of Register and Pigford were horribly mangled. The victims of the accident are said to have been prominent citizens of Clinton.

An inquest will be held as soon as the engineer of the train can be summoned to testify.

BOARD NOW AT WASHINGTON

TWO GREAT ASSOCIATIONS MEET IN SOUTH CAROLINA APRIL 16 TO 21.

Other High United States Officials Expected to Attend Committee Reports.

Washington.—Invitation to attend the conventions of the United States Good Roads Association and the Bankhead National Association and the United States Good Roads Association will be held April 16 to 21 at Greenville, S. C., extended to President Harding, Vice President Coolidge, Secretaries Wallace and Weeks and Postmaster General Work by a committee representing those organizations.

The committee which also includes representatives of the South Carolina chamber of commerce, established headquarters here and prior to beginning their round of calls said they had informed assurances from a number of high officials that they would be present at the Greenville meetings. The committee hopes that President Harding's arrangements for his Florida trip will be such that he will be returning to Washington about the time of the meetings and will be able to stop over in Greenville to make an address.

A South Carolina delegation, headed by Senators Dial and Smith, called on Secretary Weeks to extend the invitation to attend the good roads meeting but was told by the war secretary that his present plans called for a visit to St. Augustine, Fla., early in April and that it was likely he would be in anoma at the time of the Greenville meeting.

Mr. Weeks said he would personally investigate conditions in the canal zone in both the military and civil branches of that administration.

Big Packing Plant is Burned.

Omaha, Neb.—A fire burning fiercely and that was called by veteran packing men the most destructive in the history of America's packing industry destroyed three nine-story buildings of Armour & Co's plant in South Omaha with an estimated loss of \$2,000,000. Two other large buildings used as lard refineries were threatened. More than 1,000 men temporarily were without employment as a result of the fire.

Twenty-one fire companies were concentrating their efforts on preventing a further spread of the flames.

O. C. Willis, general manager of the plant, said the fire started in the ninth story of building 19, from a defective elevator motor.

Firemen experienced great difficulty in making water connections because of the sub-zero weather and low pressure of the water hindered them, the streams barely reaching the sixth story at times. Huge stocks of lard melted and ran over the buildings like liquid fire, nullified the efforts of the firemen, and made the fire the most spectacular as well as the worst in Omaha's history.

Firemen became encumbered with ice and some of them literally froze to their hose lines. M. J. Dineen, assistant fire chief, was blown eight feet into the air by the explosion of an ammonia tank and was taken to a hospital. Six other men were overcome or injured.

Thousands braved the cold to watch the fire.

Swift and Company's plant was threatened when the roof of the feed elevator ignited from burning embers but four fire companies quickly extinguished the blaze.

Nitrates Measure Killed by House.

Washington.—A senate bill appropriating government purchase of 110,000,000 worth of Chilean nitrates for re-sale to American farmers for use in sowing the 1924 crops virtually was killed in the house. The appropriation provision was stricken out on a point of order and with a fight in prospect the house adjourned.

22 MANIACS LOSE LIVES IN FIRE

WEST WING OF THE MANHATTAN STATE HOSPITAL SWEEP BY FLAMES.

5,333 WERE CONFINED THERE

Some of Inmates Laughed and Smeared Out in Glee at the Sight of Flames.

New York.—A terrific blast, by dredgers in Hell Gate, rocked the buildings of the Manhattan State hospital for the insane on Ward's Island, in the East River and set the 6,333 inmates cowering and walling with a sense of impending doom.

Attendants calmed them and got them to bed before morning, the doom fantasied by the disordered brains had come true for 22 of the maddest. They had been burned to death in a fierce fire that swept the west wing of the main building. Three heroic attendants died with them, striving to the last to rescue them.

Hospital authorities and City Medical Examiner Norris, who rushed to the scene said that in all probability the blast had been the immediate cause of the fire. According to their theory, it caused a break in the insulation of electric wires in the attic of the building. A short circuit, they think, did the rest.

The fire was discovered by Michael Campbell, an attendant in ward 43, in which all the fatalities occurred. His calm, heroic work, and that of James Hill, attendant in charge, and Patrick Billigan, of Hartford, Conn., George A. De Emo and George Freiss, the three attendants who were burned to death, prevented a far greater holocaust.

Campbell manned a hose line and fought back the flames, while the others, directed by Hill, ran up and down the 200-foot top-floor corridor, rousing the patients with the cool order: "All up for breakfast."

As far as the maniacs—declared by Supt. Marcus B. Heyman to have been the most dangerous on the island—could be marshalled from their rooms, they were marched in orderly procession to the fireproof dining hall, far from the scene of the fire.

Seventy of the ninety-two inmates of Ward 43 had been led or carried to safety when a huge water tank in the blazing attic crashed through the ceiling completely blocking the corridor that led to safety, and filling the hall with flames and smoke. City firemen, fighting their way past the blazing barrier, brought out several struggling, screaming maniacs, and several who had been overcome by smoke while dressing for the "breakfast." Most of the dead were found in the room and corridor beyond the fallen tank. Several were believed to have been buried beneath the debris when the floor gave way.

While the rescue work was being carried forward, the flames burst through the roof of the building and lighted up the entire island. Screams of the terrified patients nearest the flame roused the entire population of the madman's Isle, and in a twinkling every window framed a maniac's face.

Some laughed and cried out in glee at the sight of the flames. Others stared moodily. Others wrenched with maniacal strength at the barred windows of their cells, and screamed in anguished fright for rescue.

Attendants in buildings far removed from the danger zone had almost as strenuous a time preventing madmen's and mad-women's panics as those at the actual scene of the blaze.

Building Boom Continues.

New York.—Evidence accumulated during the week of an acceleration in the pace of the business revival.

Although anxiety still exists over the potentialities of the European situation, the feeling has grown that this country can enjoy prosperity, for some time at least, without regard to any improvement abroad. Some lines of business already have been stimulated as a result of the French occupation of the Ruhr.

Steel prices have stiffened markedly within the past week. Much of the present buying is due to a desire to obtain supplies against later higher prices, as the trade is beginning to fear that the market may get out of hand. Losses are inevitable when reaction comes, as it must sooner or later.

Activity in steel has contributed largely to maintenance of record railroad traffic for the season of the year.

PROPERTIES AND FILMS VALUED AT MILLION BURN

New York.—Properties and films valued at \$1,000,000 were destroyed in a fire which razed a three-story building in Harlem occupied as studios by International Films and the Cosmopolitan Productions, Inc.

Many valuable objects of art, borrowed from famous collections by the film companies for use in plays of medieval days, copies of many costly film plays and the entire wardrobe of the actors and actresses employed, were destroyed.

The aged watchman, who discovered the fire and sounded an alarm, risked his life in an effort to save a monkey and a parrot, caged on the top floor. He managed to bring both to the street, but the parrot, its feathers singed and while raucously squawking fire."

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

HARDING COMMENTS UPON RECONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH AFTER WAR.

Achievement One of Greatest Accomplishments of Any People in History.

New Orleans.—The people of the South in accomplishing the reconstruction of the south after the Civil war "set the finest example that could be urged upon a war wasted world today," President Harding declared in a letter made public by Captain James Dinkins, chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements for the annual reunion of the United Confederate veterans in New Orleans in April.

The President wrote Captain Dinkins expressing his regret because of his inability to accept an invitation from the committee to attend the reunion.

"You say in part," said Mr. Harding, "the call of the time is equally to emphasize and impress the courage, loyalty and constructive citizenship of American manhood in the peace that follows war. The confederate veterans began a new with resources exhausted and opportunity reduced, and by matchless energy, devotion and co-operation rebuilt and rehabilitated their land into immense production and broad prosperity."

"I am quoting these sentences, because they have moved me to say that in my judgment the reconstruction of the south, by the people of the south, in the face of tremendous discouragements following the war, set the finest example that could be urged upon a war wasted world today," the President continued, "The men of Lee's and Johnson's armies went home to their tasks of reconstruction, with hearts of courage and purpose of determination to overcome all obstacles; to deserve the good will and the help of others, by proving their own good will and by helping themselves to the utmost of their capacity. They had earned the respect and regard of their opponents on the battlefield; they earned it yet more completely and emphatically by their conduct afterwards; and in earning it, they insured not only the union's restoration, but its advance to that splendid place which it holds in the family of nations."

"In this connection, because this theme has long made a peculiar appeal to me, I should like to add another thought. The men of the Confederate armies went home after the war to a land that not only was devastated, but had suffered literally a revolution of its economic system. However, desirable were the ultimate results of that revolution, it imposed upon the people of the south a complication of difficulties, which vastly aggravated their task of reframing an empire's social and industrial plan of life. Their achievement, in all their circumstances, constitutes one of the greatest accomplishments of any people."

"Of their loyal acceptances of the restored acuteness in the verdict of victory, their unwavering devotion to the re-established union, I need say little at this late date. The south's contribution, since that day, to the waging of two foreign wars, has told more eloquently than mere words can tell, of how unquestioning and unselfish is its participation in the full obligations and duties of American citizenship."

"Feeling thus, I hardly need tell you of the regret with which I have to say that it is impossible for me to accept an invitation which so greatly appeals to me. It has been my misfortune since entering the presidential office, not to be able to accept the invitations of either the grand army of the republic or the United Confederate veterans for their annual gatherings."

MANY JAPANESE GOING TO BRAZIL

AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLONIZATION.

STORY IN BROOKLYN PAPERS

Newspaper Says It Learns of Move Planned For Five Hundred Thousand.

New York.—Agreement has been reached between Brazil and Japan for the migration to Brazil of 500,000 Japanese for purposes of colonization, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle said it had learned on good authority.

Under the terms of the pact it is understood that the Japanese government is to pay the cost of immigration, about \$8 a head, and the Brazilian government is to take care of the Japanese when they arrive, distributing them to agricultural sections where they are needed.

Brazil was said to have welcomed the agreement from an industrial standpoint because of her need for cheap labor.

The newspaper points out that the proposed immigration also would have political significance, offsetting the influence of the large German and Italian colonies already established.

"The Germans have colonized particularly in the southern portion of the country," says the newspaper. "They have increased rapidly and from a political standpoint there has been some fear of a possible separatist movement, which might prove very embarrassing to the government. The Italian influx also has been heavy and the Italians are grouped in sections where they predominate, and there is the possibility of their future political activity."

J. Muniz, Brazilian vice consul, made the following statement:

"I have heard that negotiations have been under way for some time between the Brazilian and Japanese governments for conclusion of a colonization scheme. These negotiations have been in progress for a considerable length of time, but I have not been informed of the signing of any definite agreement."

"It is my understanding that Japanese laborers have been brought at various times into Brazil, but of this, also, I have not official assurance."

Dry Measures in Parliament.

London.—The groundwork for what is expected to be the first debate in the British Parliament on a measure for total prohibition was laid when two private member bills dealing with the liquor question were introduced and formally read for the first time in the House of Commons. The most sweeping bill was that sponsored by Edwin Scrymgeour, prohibition member for Dundee, backed by two or three labor members who are teetotalers. This measure would prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of alcoholic liquors in the United Kingdom.

The other measure was introduced by Lady Astor. It would amend the law with regard to the sale of intoxicating liquor to young persons.

Private member bills in the British Parliament, lacking government support, are rarely adopted but the introduction of the Scrymgeour measure opens up the possibility for debate to test parliamentary feeling on prohibition.

Forbes Quite Vets' Bureau.

Washington.—The resignation of Colonel Charles R. Forbes, as director of the Veterans' Bureau has been accepted by President Harding effective February 28. It was announced at the White House.

Without comment, while House officials made public a letter from the retiring director, who now is in Europe, assuring ill health as the reason for his resignation. There was no mention, either in the letter or by officials at the executive offices, of the charges of improper administration in the bureau which recently has led to an investigation by a committee of Congress.

Embassy Liquor Inquiry Ordered.

Washington.—An inquiry into the importation of intoxicating liquors by foreign diplomats was ordered by the house by a vote of 189 to 113.

The inquiry is directed to Secretary Mellon, who already has informed the house judiciary committee that he could not "properly" give out the information which the house now asks for.

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