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ESSENCE OF ALL CURRENT AFFAIRS

A Summary for Busy Readers of the Significant Doings of the Day.

OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST.

Progress of the World in General. Legislative Activities at the Nation's Capital—News From Every Corner of the Country.

WASHINGTON.

Rear Admiral Robert Edwin Peary, retired, Arctic explorer and discoverer of the North Pole, died at his home in Washington from pernicious anemia after several days' suffering.

Acknowledgment that the treaty is in a hopeless deadlock from which it can be extricated only by a vote of the people at the next election was made in the senate by Senator Hitchcock, the administration leader. This aroused no adverse comment from Senator Borah, who insisted that the Republican party should make the treaty an issue.

Opponents of the railroad bill conference report marshaled their forces in an effort to prevent its approval by the house.

Justice Thomas Jennings Bailey, in the District of Columbia Supreme Court, granted the temporary injunction applied for by William Randolph Hearst as a taxpayer against the sale by the Shipping Board of the former German fleet. The board announced that it had decided to reject all of the bids received.

Land settlement in all states for former service men, federal aid to encourage their purchase of either rural or city homes, vocational education and adjustment of compensation based on length of service were recommended by the Legislation Committee of the American Legion.

The railroad bill, which has been practically rewritten since its passage in the house and senate, was formally reported by the conferees of the two branches.

THE NATION'S BUSINESS

Senate Post Office Committee approved one-cent rate for local or drop letters.

Another issue of $300,000,000 treasury certificates may be expected about March 15, Secretary Houston announced.

Not since the first days of the war, when manufacturers and merchants were fully aroused to the necessity for organizing to win the war, have these representatives of the nation's industrial life been so thoroughly up in arms now that they have realized the full significance of the action of the house committtee in cutting down the appropriation for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Thirty-three unions, comprising the Chicago Building Trades Council, are preparing to demand $1.25 an hour instead of $1, as decided on last fall.

No governmental action in recent years has aroused such strong protests from the business men of the nation as that of the House Committee on Appropriations in reducing the appropriation for the conduct of the trade promotion work of the Department of Commerce at the most important period in the nation's foreign trade development.

John Barton Payne, chairman, told the Shipping Board that the reconditioning of the former German vessels for passenger service would involve an expenditure of more than $75,000,000 and offered a resolution approved by three of the four members of the board requesting authority to put the ships on the market. All bids recently received for the purchase of the liners have been rejected. R. H. Stevens placed the value of the fleet at nearly $75,000,000.

GENERAL.

The President issued his reply to the Brandagee senate resolution in which he made public an agreement signed by Lloyd George and himself whereby the absolute title to all enemy ships in the possession of America should remain the property of America, thus proving conclusively that England has no string tied to the vessels the Shipping Board offered for sale.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, by a vote of 10 to 3, reported the Jones bill directing the board to recondition the former German ships before their final disposition is decided upon.

Senator Pomerene's withdrawal from the presidential race gave the lead to Governor Cox of Ohio as the foremost active candidate for the Democratic nomination. The Pomerene strength, chiefly in Ohio, will go to Governor Cox, according to the general opinion of politicians.

President Wilson has improved so much, according to Rear Admiral Grayson, that he is at his desk daily and will soon be able to use his typewriter.

Petitions to place the name of William J. Bryan on the ballot as a Democratic presidential candidate were received in Michigan.

One month of national prohibition has convinced Prohibition Commissioner John F. Kramer that the "bone dry" age in the United States is at least a generation away. If drink can be abolished in one generation he will consider that good progress. Permit sales, speakeasies and smugglers are giving authorities trouble, he says.

A bill designed to open the way for return of property of American wives of enemy subjects was introduced in the house at Washington by Representative Butler (Rep., Pa.).

Boring its way through more than 13 inches of armor belt steel, a 16-inch projectile produced at the new naval ordnance plant at South Charleston, W. Va., the third shell fired out of a test group of five, met every requirement in a test at the Indian Head, Md., proving ground.

Appointment of a commission of 10 congressmen to investigate the cost and advisability of a system of universal military training was proposed by a group of western Republican senators.

The house of representatives of the New Mexico legislature, at Sante Fe, ratified the federal woman suffrage amendment by a vote of 36 to 10. The senate passed the resolution by a vote of 17 to 5. New Mexico is the thirty-second state to ratify.

Dissatisfaction among the 12,000 operators of the New York Telephone Company over their present wage scale is to be adjusted at a conference between the management and representatives of the employees.

SPORTING.

The Detroit Tigers will be the earliest big league team in the field.

Everett McGowan of St. Paul, Minn., won the international outdoor ice skating championship at Lake Placid, N. Y. McGowan clinched the title by winning the three mile race, having previously taken first place in the half mile, one mile and two mile races and scoring a total of 120 points.

Joe Stecher, world's wrestling champion, in the presence of a great throng that packed the Seventy-first Regiment Armory, New York, defeated Jim Londos, known as the Greek champion, after a desperately contested bout lasting 2 hours and 13 minutes. To the astonishment of the onlookers Londos, who weighed but 180 pounds to 208 by Stecher and was handicapped also in the matter of height, reach and experience, gave the champion one of the hardest battles ever seen on a pad.

Outfielder John L. Sullivan of the New Orleans Southern League baseball club has signed with the Boston Nationals.

At least one of England's defenders of the Harmsworth or international motorboat trophy, for which America has challenged, will be the largest hydroplane yet built for racing purposes.

Jimmy Wilde, flyweight champion of the world, made a chopping block of Mickey Russell at the Arena A. C., in the Fourth Regiment Armory, Jersey City, and knocked him out within five seconds of the close of the seventh round.

Squadron A Polo Club, which for nearly 20 years furnished New York with the only polo matches that were open to the public gaze, has disbanded. Disrupted by the war, its members scattered and its playing field gone, the club that entertained thousands on the Van Cortlandt Park parade ground annually has not been able to get to its feet again.

A bill has been introduced in the New Jersey legislature by Assemblyman Sullivan of Hudson county extending the limit of the boxing bouts from eight to twelve rounds.

It looks as if the Dempsey-Carpentier affair was in a rather peculiar way just now. C. B. Cochran has Carpentier under contract till February, 1921, while Tex Rickard is reported to have the Dempsey end of the match sewed up tight.

The new International League decided against raising the prices of admissions at its "schedule" meeting in New York.

FOREIGN.

Canada announced it would import 2,000 Alaskan reindeer for breeding purposes.

Canada's 1919 gold output placed at $16,275,000, compared with $14,463,689 in 1918.

Witnesses living in Great Britain, France and Belgium who are against Germans accused of war crimes will have their testimony taken by commissioners, it is declared in a Berlin dispatch.

Switzerland has signed a provisional convention with France and Great Britain dealing with air traffic, which comes into force March 1. Each country agrees to grant free passage over its territories and territorial waters during peace time to registered aircraft which live up to the convention's conditions.

Newfoundland is icebound, and railroads are completely tied up. Inhabitants in the interior are suffering intensely.

Dublin has been the scene of violent street battles between Sinn Fein volunteers and British government police and soldiers, using armored cars and tanks.

The Sinn Fein have executed their first traitor. He was a youth who is said to have given the authorities some secret Sinn Fein documents. His bullet riddled body was found just outside Cork.

The German national debt is expected to reach 204,000,000,000 marks by the end of March, 100,000,000,000 marks of which comprises non-interest bearing treasury notes.

COST 50 MILLION FOR "DRY" YEAR

New Storage Houses to Be Built and Heavy Guard Provided in Senate Bill.

OUTLAY TO BE INDEFINITE.

Better to Buy All Booze, Senator Smoot Comments—Warren Has Bill to Keep All Left in Warehouses Until Sold Under Law.

Washington.—It will cost $50,000,000 a year to "make this a Prohibition country," Senator Warren told his associates during the course of a debate. He asserted this great outlay may not be necessary for an indefinite period, but must continue until intemperance has been eradicated.

A bill "for enforcement of the National Prohibition Act by establishing government warehouses" was introduced by the senator. It was prepared at the treasury department and will be considered by the finance committee. It is intended to segregrate and safeguard all liquor until it can be bottled and sold for medicinal and similar purposes. It has the effect of preventing the government from collecting taxes on the liquor until hereafter sold although it becomes responsible for keeping it.

It is provided that the collector of internal revenue may select suitable warehouses and require the removal of all distilled liquors to them. Suitable bottling arrangements must be provided in each warehouse, and all expenses must be paid by the distiller. When whisky is removed it shall be taxed $6.40 a gallon.

As a penalty it is provided that any person seeking to defraud the government "shall be punishable by a fine in double the amount of the claim or the value of the spirits illegally removed or attempted to be removed, with an additional penalty of not more than $500 or imprisonment of not more than five years, or both."

The heavy outlay in making the nation dry was brought up by Senator King, who asked if it was necessary to add $2,000,000 to the large sums already appropriated for enforcing the laws relating to the importation and exportation of intoxicating liquors.

"It was so considered by the department," answered Senator Warren. "They have estimated accordingly, and it is only for the four months and the fraction until July 30. I understand there will be something like $12,000,000 appropriated in the bill which will be presented here in the regular course to carry these laws into effect for the coming fiscal year.

"The two amounts in the pending bill are for definitely separate purposes. One is to guard this whisky, and the bill will show how and where it is to be carried out.

"The other one, as testified to by the parties in charge of the custom service, is to undertake to guard the lines between this country and Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific and down the Atlantic to the border of Mexico and on the Pacific. Admittedly it is not sufficient.

"All I can say is," said Senator King, "it will be an outrage to make any such appropriation."

"Two million dollars," said Warren, "was appropriated in the organic act, but when we undertake to carry out this laudable purpose and make this country a prohibition country, which I hope can be effected, it will be $50,000,000 a year instead of $12,000,000."

"It would be very much better for the United States to purchase it outright and have it absolutely under its control," said Senator Smoot.

NEW MEXICO IS 32D STATE FOR SUFFRAGE.

Santa Fe, N. M.—The House of Representatives of the New Mexico legislature ratified the federal woman suffrage amendment by a vote of 36 to 10. The senate passed the resolution by a vote of 17 to 5.

New Mexico is the thirty-second state to ratify.

PRAIRIES AFIRE SIXTY MILES.

Fifteen Thousand Live Stock Perish, Million-Dollar Loss in Argentine.

Buenos Aires.—A great prairie fire, 60 miles wide, has swept through the territory of La Pampa, in the central part of the republic.

Fifteen thousand sheep and much other live stock are reported to have perished.

The material damage is estimated at $1,000,000. The conflagration is said to have been the biggest ever known in Argentine.

2,000,000 GERMAN BABIES LOST.

Professor at Halle University Makes Computation.

Berlin.—Two million babies would have been born in Germany between 1914 and 1918 if the war had not come, according to a declaration made by Emil Abderhalden, professor in Halle University. Professor Abderhalden declared that malnutrition, from which a half million children were suffering, threatened the lives of 100,000, owing to the extent of tuberculosis and rickets, raging throughout Germany.

REAR ADMIRAL PEARY.

Discoverer of North Pole Who Died Recently.

Washington.—Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, died suddenly at his home here, his death being due to pernicious anemia.

After an operation at the Naval Hospital for blood transfusion the admiral showed a slight change for the better, and was taken to his home, where he appeared to be recovering.

BOTH HOUSES GET RAIL BILL REPORT

Provides for Present Wages and Rates for Six Months After Return to Private Ownership.

Washington.—With a provision that railroad employees shall not have their wages reduced before next September and that rates also shall be maintained for the same period, the report of the conferees upon the Cummins-Esch railroad control bill was filed with the senate and house. Two and one-half hours' debate each will be allowed to the proponents and opponents of the report, who will be led, respectively, by Chairman Esch of the Interstate Commerce Committee and Representative Sims of Tennessee, ranking Democrat on the committee. No date for debate on the report has been set by the senate.

Two of the conferees—Representatives Sims and Barkley of Kentucky, both Democrats—refused to sign the report. Mr. Barkley obtained consent to extend his remarks on the bill, thus presenting his views in the Congressional Record. Mr. Sims' disapproval of the bill is founded on objection to a guaranteed return of 5½ per cent, a division of excess profits of over 6 per cent and allowing the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix minimum rates. Mr. Barkley is dissatisfied with fixing any specific sum for the return, does not agree that the standard return to the railways should be continued and does not agree with the labor provisions.

Under the bill as agreed upon the regulatory powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which will be increased from nine to eleven members, will be greatly enlarged and amplified.

The outstanding feature of the proposed law is the direction to the commission to establish rates that will yield to the carriers in each rate-making group a net railway operating income equal to 5½ per cent of the aggregate property value of the roads in such group.

The commission may add to this one-half of 1 per cent for additions, betterments and improvements, which, under the accounting rules of the commission, are charged capital account.

WORLD NEWS IN CONDENSED FORM

DUBLIN.—English soldiers are using armored tanks on Sinn Feiners and Tralee barracks are beseiged.

LONDON.—Sir Auckland Geddes, minister of national service and reconstruction, has been selected as British ambassador to the United States, according to a report in the lobby of the House of Commons.

COLUMBUS, O.—Resolutions favoring the standardization of dress for business women to combat the high cost of living was adopted by the Board of Directors of the National Woman's Association of Commerce in midwinter conference here.

PARIS.—Suggestions that former Emperor William be sent to the island of Curacao, off the Venezuelan coast, are received more favorably in some quarters at The Hague than the idea of transporting him to one of the Dutch East Indies.

LONDON.—A British syndicate will build a railway in Persia from Bagdad to Teheran.

LANSING, MICH.—Enough petitions were received by the Michigan state secretary to place the name of Eugene V. Debs on the presidential preferential primary ballot as a Socialist candidate.

NO SHIP DEAL WITH BRITAIN

President Gives Senate Copy of Compact to Credit Germany With Excess Over Losses.

SUBJECT TO CONGRESS WILL.

Proposed Agreement With Lloyd George Whereby the United States Would Retain Absolute Title to All Enemy Vessels She Had.

Washington.—President Wilson flatly denied in a formal communication to the senate that he had any agreement or understanding with British officials regarding disposition of the fleet of former German liners around which, since they were offered for sale by the Shipping Board, has raged a controversy into which Congress, courts and government agencies have been drawn.

The President's letter was in response to a resolution offered by Senator Brandegee of Connecticut, Republican, and adopted by the senate, inquiring of the President whether such an agreement existed.

"There is not, nor has there been, any agreement or understanding between the President of the United States and officials of Great Britain concerning the sale of the ex-German vessels in possession of the United States," Mr. Wilson said, "nor is there any agreement or understanding with respect to what disposition shall be made of those ships by the United States.

"I believe the above information fully answers the senate inquiry."

At the same time, however, and "in order that the senate may be in possession of all the information there is in any way relating to the vessels in question," the President transmitted a copy of a hitherto unpublished tentative agreement reached in Paris that Germany eventually would be credited before the Reparations Commission, should Congress approve, with any surplus valuation of the ships in excess of merchant tonnage losses of the United States during the war. In no case would title to the ships themselves pass from the United States, the agreement provided.

The following developments preceded the receipt of President Wilson's communication in the senate:

Associate Justice Bailey, in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, took under advisement the application of counsel for the Shipping Board that William Randolph Hearst, on whose petition a temporary injunction against the sale of the ships had been issued, be placed under a $5,000,000 bond to cover possible losses to the government due to the tying up of the craft by legal proceedings. Counsel for the board estimated the daily prospective loss at $20,000 and pointed out that a contract to sell one of the ships for $2,000,000, held up by the injunction, had expired. Justice Bailey said he would be prepared to fix the amount of the bond tomorrow.

The Senate Interstate Commerce Committee decided to recommend passage of a bill drawn by its chairman, Senator Jones of Washington, Republican, deferring sale of the ships until they shall have been refitted for commercial service by the Shipping Board and Congress shall have laid down a national shipping policy.

The House Merchant Marine Committee embarked on a separate inquiry, in which Chairman John Barton Payne and Vice Chairman Stevens of the Shipping Board reiterated their divergent views as to the advisability of selling the ships at present.

The proposed agreement transmitted by the President was signed in May, 1919, how American payments into the allied "pool" would be computed under the proposed agreement should losses sustained by the United States be less than the value of German tonnage seized, was explained by Mr. Payne.

At the direction of the President an appraisal of the vessels, made by the secretary of the navy in June, 1917, set the value of the 95 vessels, aggregating 630,000 gross tons, at $34,193,190. This appraisal, the chairman said, took into account the damage done to the ships by their crews before relinquishing them and represents their value for the purposes of the proposed agreement.

MAY ASK PLEDGE OF KAISER.

Holland Expected to Promise Former Emperor Will Be Guarded.

The Hague.—Holland is expected to ask former Emperor Wilhelm for a peace pledge before answering the last allied note as to his extradition. It is likely that Holland will undoubtedly reply she is willing to guard Count Hohenzollern closely at Doorn and accept responsibility for preventing danger to the world peace. The ex-war lord is reported to be ready to accept Doorn as a haven for life.

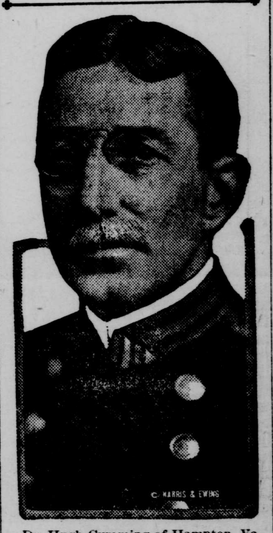
SHIP SALE INJUNCTION.

Justice Bailey Issues Restraining Order in Hearst Suit.

Washington.—Prospects of a legal battle to complicate the controversy over the Shipping Board efforts to dispose of 30 former German passenger liners loomed large when Associate Justice Bailey, in the District of Columbia Supreme Court, granted a temporary injunction against the sale upon a taxpayer's application filed by William Randolph Hearst, the newspaper publisher.

DR. HUGH CUMMING.

Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.



Dr. Hugh Cumming of Hampton, Va., has succeeded Rupert Blue as surgeon general of the United States public health service. Dr. Cumming was for a number of years quarantine officer at Hampton Roads and is now in Europe studying typhus conditions.

INSTALL DESCHANEL PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

Is Formally Inducted Into Office as Tenth Head of the Republic.

Paris.—Paul Deschanel became tenth President of the French Republic, succeeding Raymond Poincare, who laid aside the robes of office after one of the most critical periods in the history of the country. The formal transfer from the old to the new regime occurred at the Palace of the Elysee.

The ceremony was favored by brilliant, spring-like weather, and Paris wholeheartedly improved the occasion to pay homage to both the incoming and outgoing executives, between whom, to all appearances, the honors were impartially divided.

The inauguration of the French President is a formal ceremony, arrangements for which are made long in advance of the event. Precedents having historic approval are closely followed and the number permitted to witness the transfer of authority is limited to the presidents of the senate and the chamber of deputies, committees from each house and members of the cabinet.

Premier Millerand, shortly before the hour set for the ceremony, drove to the Palace Bourbon, where, as president of the chamber, M. Deschanel has maintained his residence, and called for the President elect. Entering a state carriage and escorted by a regiment of cuirassiers and preceded by a flag bearer, they drove to the palace, where the ceremony was to take place.

While the crowds massed along the route on both banks of the Seine were cheering M. Deschanel as he passed with his escort, the members of the cabinet and the officials of the senate and the chamber assembled around M. Poincare in the palace to greet the new President.

With the arrival of M. Deschanel at the Elysee, the formal transfer of power took place. On the conclusion of the formality President Deschanel and ex-President Poincare, with their escort, were driven through the crowded streets to the City Hall, where they were received by the president of the Municipal Council, the prefect of the department of the Seine and the president of the General Council.

LATEST EVENTS AT WASHINGTON

An act so as to permit the states, by referendum, to authorize sale of 2.75 per cent beer and 1 per cent wine was proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Minahan, Democrat, New Jersey.

Acknowledgment that the treaty is in a hopeless deadlock from which it can be extricated only by a vote of the people at the next election was made in the senate by Senator Hitchcock, administration leader. Senator Borah, a consistent opponent of the treaty, promptly accepted senate Democratic leader's view of the situation.

Secretary of Commerce Alexander in a statement described the cut in estimates for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by the House Appropriations Committee as "the most serious blow ever aimed from within at our foreign trade."

President Wilson prepared and sent to the state department a reply to the entente premiers' note on the Adriatic question.

President Wilson has impproved so much, Rear Admiral Grayson, his physician, said, that he goes to work at his desk in his study every morning at 9:30.

WILSON'S IMPROVEMENT.

Washington.—President Wilson has improved so much, Rear Admiral Grayson, his physician, announced, that he goes to work at his desk in his study every morning at half-past nine. Dr. Grayson said the President had not yet resumed using the typewriter, but that he probably would do so soon.

RAILROAD BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Measure Now Goes to President Wilson

ALL HANDS SURPRISED

The Unions Roundly Denounced By Senator Myers, Who Declared They Are A Menace To The Country.

Washington.—The Senate adopted the conference report on the railroad bill Monday by a vote of 47 to 17 and the measure now goes to the President for his signature.

Just as the majority of 99 votes by which the House adopted the report on Saturday was an amazing surprise to the friends of the measure in the House who had feared that it might scrape through with only a handful to save it.

It was generally understood that Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, who held up the bill for several days when it was first before the Senate, would again lead the opposition. The bill has a number of enemies in the Senate, and a combined attack could have caused a most embarrassing delay.

Senator La Follette has been at his home in Madison, Wis., for several weeks, but it was announced here that he had started for Washington and would be in the Senate ready to speak against the bill for two or three days and ready to organize the opposition in a filibuster which would last during the week.

To the surprise of friends of the measure, Senator La Follette was not in his seat. During the debate his colleague from Wisconsin, Senator Lenroot, announced that Mr. La Follette was detained at his home in Madison by illness. Mr. La Follette is not as unpopular as he was many years ago when he first came to the Senate, but the announcement that he was too ill to be in the Senate to fight the railroad bill was received with composure. Accordingly the opposition, being without a leader, made no headway.

Several senators explained their reason for not voting for the bill and some others criticised certain features of the measure, but added that in the extreme circumstances they would not vote against the adoption of the conference report.

Senator Cummins, who is in charge of the conference report, and who had not hoped to reach a vote before Wednesday evening, decided at 4 o'clock that he would ask for a vote. Accordingly messages were sent to senators who were not at the capitol to be in their seats by 8 o'clock. Senator Smith, of Maryland, came over from Baltimore late in the afternoon. At 6 o'clock Senator Cummins asked for a vote, and the report was adopted by 47 to 17.

There is in some quarters grave apprehension that President Wilson will yield to the demands of the leaders of the railroad men and of other organized labor representatives to veto the bill. The more general belief is, however, that although he may not approve of the bill in its entirety, he will feel constrained to approve it so that the railroads may start out on their new career of private ownership in the most favorable circumstances.

REDS TAKE MURMANSK.

Vardo Dispatch Tells Of Success In Northern Russia.

London.—Bolshevik revolutionists Saturday seized the town of Murmansk, in the North Russian anti-Bolshevik district, a dispatch from Vardo, Norway, to Lloyds said. Several wounded have arrived at Vardo, the dispatch said.

CONGRESS LAUDS WASHINGTON.

Speeches In House And Farewell Address Read In Senate.

Washington.—Washington's birthday was observed in Congress. Several addresses lauding the life and character of the first President were delivered in the House. His Farewell Address was read in the Senate.

BIG GENERALS MAY ESCAPE.

German In Charge Of Trials Discusses Hindenburg And Ludendorff.

London.—Trials of Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff on the Allied charge of destruction of villages in France and Belgium is improbable, Eugene Schiffer, German Minister of Justice, was quoted as saying in an interview in Berlin, cabled to the Daily Mail.