St. Mary's Enterprise.

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TERMS: $1.50 Per Annum in Advance.

LEONARDTOWN, MD., SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1920.

VOL. XXXVIII. NO. 3.

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.

It is now generally understood that Senator Lodge will be the temporary chairman at Chicago.

Additional taxes amounting to $267,260,000 have been assessed against big corporations in the last nine months as a result of an audit of their tax returns.

Chairman Steenerson, of the house post office committee, prepared for introduction a bill levying a tax of five cents a pound on newsprint paper sold by manufacturers and importers at prices other than those listed by them with the Federal Trade Commission.

Senator Johnson served notice on the Republicans that under no circumstances would he accept second place on the Presidential ticket.

Conferees of the senate and house on the budget bill held their first meeting. There was a preliminary discussion of the points of difference in the two bills. Indications seemed to be that an agreement can be reached within a few days.

President Wilson nominated Mark W. Potter, of New York, president of the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway, to be a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Senator Knox urged ending of the President's war powers in his opening debate on his resolution to declare the state of war with Germany and Austria at an end.

Secretary Daniels ordered a division of destroyers, now at New York with the Atlantic fleet, to sail immediately for Key West, where they will be held for duty in Mexican waters.

NATION'S BUSINESS

In an effort to crush the food profiteers and deliver the knock-out blow to the high cost of living, more than 800 representatives of all the women's clubs in Philadelphia formed an association, whose purpose will be the immediate standardization of prices of staple articles.

Warning that financial difficulties in this country can be averted only by hard work and saving on the part of every man and woman was sounded by George W. Norris, governor of the Federal Reserve bank of the Philadelphia district, in an address on "Financial Signposts."

The government must come to the financial aid of the railroads to a much greater extent than it has to date if the country is to avoid deplorable congestion of transportation next fall, according to representations made before the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce.

Federal Judge Holmes upheld constitutionality of the Lever food control act by refusing to issue an injunction restraining T. J. Locke, Federal Fair Price Commissioner for Mississippi, from enforcing observance of the fair price lists.

Southern Pacific Company will resume its passenger service from New York to New Orleans, which was suspended on account of labor trouble.

Voluntary conservation was recommended as the best way to curtail consumption of newsprint paper by James Brown of the Editor and Publisher, New York, testifying before the Senate Manufacturers' Subcommittee.

Pig iron production in April amounted to 2,739,797 tons, compared with 3,375,907 tons in March.

GENERAL

Railroad executives asked Congress for an additional $500,000,000 with which to buy rolling stock.

Union engineers employed in some of the textile plants at Lawrence, Mass., went on strike for a minimum wage of from $40 to $60 a week and a forty-four hour week.

Two Japanese were arrested at Edgewater, N. J., by customs inspectors after visiting a Japanese steamship, which was in the harbor for several days. The two men, according to the inspectors, unloaded 175 bottles of brandy and were starting away with it when arrested.

Lack of a passport resulted in the exclusion at New York, of John R. Wade, who forfeited his American citizenship when he joined the British army, in which he became a captain during the war.

William H. Anderson, state superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, said he would run as an independent candidate for United States senator in New York state, if such action should be the "one thing absolutely essential" to the defeat of Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr.

Governor Coolidge of Massachusetts vetoed the bill intending to legalize the manufacture and sale of beverages containing 2.75 per cent alcohol.

James Larkin, who was found guilty of criminal anarchy in New York and sentenced to from five to ten years in Sing Sing, was put to work shoveling coal.

David J. Haines, a Montreal (Canada) advertising solicitor, arrested in New York as a witness in the prosecution and conviction in Wall street bond thieves, declared Jules W. ("Nicky") Arnstein was hiding in a place called Val Morin, in the mountains 60 miles from Montreal.

Coal operators applied for an injunction restraining government officials from compelling their appearance at Indianapolis to answer indictments charging violation of the Lever act.

General Pershing after partaking in an alligator hunt, in which two alligators were captured alive, boarded the transport Northern Pacific at Panama and announced he will leave for New York by way of Porto Rico.

SPORTING.

Johnny Wilson of Charleston is new world's middleweight champion. He won the title by defeating Mike O'Dowd of St. Paul in twelve rounds in Boston before a record crowd. It was one of the fastest, closest and cleanest heavy fights ever staged.

Frank S. Wright, holder of the amateur national and New York State trapshooting championships, added another title to the string at the Travers Island traps of the New York Athletic Club when he took the New York State doubles title from a field that included some of the best shots in the country.

The Burlingham Club of London has formed a committee with Field Marshal Earl Haig at its head to raise a fund of $150,000 to defend the polo cup next year. The early start in raising this sum was prompted by the experience the English team had when the American polo team played in England the last time and bought up all the best ponies.

Canadian rifle team will go to England June 12 to shoot in the National Rifle Association competitions in Bisley.

The transportation of the American track and field team to the Olympic games in Belgium has reached a critical stage, and unless something definite is forthcoming in a very short time the team cannot go as a unit, with a possibility that some of the men may be unable to reach the stadium in time for their events.

Despite four errors, Yale defeated West Virginia at baseball in New Haven.

Dartmouth got off to a flying start in the baseball game with Harvard at Cambridge, scoring eight runs in the first two innings because of pitching wildness and errors and finally winning, 10 to 8.

Canada's Olympic Committee has announced that the Dominion will be represented by 72 men in the international games at Antwerp this year. This number includes eleven members of the Falcon Hockey Club, which already has won the Olympic championship.

All four championships in the British covered court title tournament recently were carried off by foreign tennis players.

FOREIGN.

The strike of French railway men, which has now extended to the miners and dockers and to the metal workers in the Paris district, with the threat of a possible general strike, has caused the government to hasten its promised plan of reorganization of the railroads. Theoretically, the companies would retain and operate their properties, but they would merely be managers.

An armistice has been concluded between the Russians and Japanese at Vladivostok, Siberia.

Great Britain intends to ignore the unofficial American support of Eamonn de Valera, "President of the Irish Republic," Andrew Bonar Law, government spokesmen, announced in commons.

Hugh C. Wallace, American Ambassador to France, has been named honorary president of the American Memorial Day Committee. He has issued an appeal in Paris for funds to "place a floral tribute on every American grave on this side of the Atlantic."

CHILDREN AND BOOKS.

It does the child no harm to make the acquaintance of books which were not written for children. In a home where great books that have inspired or amused successive generations are accessible, an active-minded child is likely at some time or other to get at them. If we want our children to fall in love with the better kind of books, let us provide them with opportunities for meeting such books without too much formality.

TONGUE EXPRESSES CONTEMPT.

The tongue has a single gesture, and everybody knows what it means. It is thrust out to express contempt. The little girl who "sticks out her tongue" does not realize that her action, so unladylike, harks back to the prehistoric. It is undoubtedly a most ancient mode of conveying the idea of intensified disrespect. Everywhere in the world, among savage and civilized peoples, the lingual gesture has the same recognized significance.

RAILROADS WANT RATE INCREASE

Willard Presents Case for Lines in East, Urging Boost of 30.4 Per Cent.

DEMAND $1,017,000,000 MORE.

Railroads Urge Average Freight Increase of 28 Per Cent Without Disturbing Passenger Fares—Decrease of Net Income.

Washington.—The nation's railroads will need an additional $1,017,000,000 to bring their income to the 6 per cent basis provided in the transportation act.

Through the association of railway executives the roads proposed to the Interstate Commerce Commission that this sum be realized through increased freight charges, leaving the passenger rates at the present level.

The advances in freight rates proposed were:

Eastern roads—30.4 per cent to yield an advance in all revenues of 21.1 per cent, or $544,000,000.

Southern roads—30.9 per cent to provide 20.7 per cent larger revenue.

Western roads—23.9 per cent to advance all revenues 17 per cent.

Presentation of the figures marked the formal opening of the railroad rate case. While detailed statements submitted to the commision covered only the eastern lines, estimations of the needed increase of the western and southern groups accompanied the initial suggestions upon which the commission is to determine an entire new rate structure.

The rate figures of the eastern lines, embracing 144 systems, terminal and switching companies, were laid before the commission by Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio and chairman of the executives' rate committee for the eastern territory.

Net income of all of the country's railroads fell from $1,056,000,000 in 1916 to $510,000,000 last year, the railroads claim, while their investment has increased more than $2,000,000.

An estimated valuation of $20,616,000,000 was placed on the transportation system of the country by Mr. Willard. While there has been an increase in operating expenses of 99.1 per cent since 1916, the roads' basis of revenue for the same period has been increased only 36.37 per cent, the executives' statement declared, and the operating expenses of the lines now are 99 per cent of the revenues against 68 per cent in 1916.

This year and next the eastern lines alone face the renewal of nearly $250,000,000 in maturing obligations, Mr. Willard said in discussing the problem of financing the roads. Some of these loans and bonds have been bearing an interest rate as low as 3½ per cent, and Mr. Willard declared that in taking care of this amount of obligations at the current rate of interest necessitated the most careful study of the revenue production question in order that the roads' credit be kept unimpaired.

"The carriers must now reassume the burdens and risks of operation in a period of uncertain conditions affecting business generally," Mr. Willard said. "The demands for additional facilities and extensions were never so pressing as now. The cost of new capital is more than 7 per cent per annum even to those railroad companies whose credit is the best.

"Victory loan bonds are selling currently on a basis of return in excess of 6 per cent. New industrial issues with which railroad financing must compete are offering returns from 7½ to 8 per cent in addition to liberal commission for their sale and distribution and underlying bonds of substantial railroads may be bought on a basis to yield 7 per cent and in some cases in excess of 8 per cent.

"Further, the European markets, heretofore available for American railroad issues, are now closed to us, and, in fact, are absorbing our surplus funds, and this applies not only to Europe, but to practically the whole world, including Japan and the east."

FLOWERS FOR EVERY GRAVE.

Plans for Memorial Day Tribute to Soldier Dead in France.

Indianapolis.—Appeals from relatives of America's fallen heroes sleeping in approximately 50,000 graves in 400 cemeteries throughout France, asking that none of them be overlooked in the Memorial Day ceremonies to be conducted by the Paris Post of the American Legion May 30, are being received at the national headquarters of the legion here by hundreds from all parts of the United States.

COST OF SILK TUMBLES.

Large Quantity Sold at Reduction. Other Textiles May Follow.

Chicago.—A drop in prices throughout the textile market is foreshadowed in the wallop given the high cost of silk, when Chicago silk jobbers sold 3,000,000 yards to the retail trade at reductions of 32 to 50 cents a yard. With this deal silks are relatively cheaper than cotton goods, which fact will force an early slashing of cotton prices. This is expected to create a tumble all along the shelf.

DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN.

Norwegian Explorer May Head Repatriation Mission.

Washington.—Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian explorer, probably will head the organization to be set up by the League of Nations for the purpose of repatriating 200,000 German, Austrian and other war prisoners still held in Russia. Reports to be submitted to the league council at Rome this month say that unless these men are rescued from their prison camps in Siberia before next winter, few are likely to survive. They have been in captivity for five years.

GOV. COOLIDGE VETOES BILL FOR 2.75 BEER

Says It Would Bring the People No Beer, Since to Act on It Would Be "a Crime."

Boston.—Governor Coolidge vetoed the socalled 2.75 per cent beer bill, which would permit the sale of light wines and beer, on the ground that its passage would be "hypocrisy."

The general opinion is that the veto will be sustained, even though the bill passed the senate 26 to 6 and the house 145 to 83.

The governor's veto reads:

"There is litle satisfaction in attempting to deceive ourselves. There is grave danger in attempting to deceive the people. If this act were placed on the statute books of this commonwealth today it would provide no beer for the people. No one would dare act upon it, or if any one did he would certainly be charged with crime. Similar laws in other states are to date ineffective. I am opposed to the practice of a legislative deception. It is better to proceed with candor. Wait until the Supreme Court of the United States talks.

"We have had too much legislation by clamor, by tumult, by pressure. Representative government ceases when outside influence of any kind is substituted for the judgment of the representative. This does not mean that the opinion of constituents is to be ignored. It is to be weighed most carefully, for the representative must represent, but his oath provides that it must be 'faithfully and impartially, according to the best of his abilities and understanding agreeably to the rules and regulations of the Constitution and laws.'

"The authority of the law is questioned in these days all too much. The binding obligation of obedience against personal desire is denied in many quarters. If these doctrines prevail all organized government all liberty, all security are at an end."

WORLD NEWS IN CONDENSED FORM

JACKSON, MISS.—Federal Judge Holmes upheld the constitutionality of the Lever food control act by refusing to issue an injunction restraining T. J. Locke, federal fair price commissioner for Mississippi, from enforcing observance of fair price lists.

MEXICO CITY.—In state Hidalgo, rebel forces have penetrated to within 60 miles of Mexico City. Revolutionary forces in Hidalgo are under the leadership of General Castenada.

NEW YORK.—Plans are being made for ending American Red Cross work in Siberia.

CHICAGO.—A ruling that federal prohibition agents are private citizens and therefore not competent to make complaints in internal revenue cases without written approval of the district attorney was received from Washington by federal officers.

NEW YORK.—Magistrate House declared he would send to jail all second offense speeders.

LONDON.—Major Lowther, in the house of commons, was informed by the foreign office that, "so far as could be ascertained, British interests in Mexico were not yet 'seriously endangered' by the disturbances there."

RAILROADS ASK FOR $500,000,000

In All, $1,600,000,000 Is Needed for New Equipment, Executives Assert.

PREDICT FOOD SHORTAGE.

Senate Is Warned hat Transportation, and Even Food Production, Would Suffer—Western Roads Tell I. C. C. They Need Increase.

Washington.—The railroads of the country must have immediate financial help from the government if they are to cope with the shortage of equipment, which threatens serious interference with the transportation and even the production of food, as well as with industry, said railroad executives in testifying before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.

The governmnet, the executives said, should make $125,000,000 immediately available from the $300,000,000 revolving fund created by the railroad act and should follow this with a loan of $500,000,000. In addition, freight rates should be increased, the executives said, by about 28 per cent.

he executives appeared before the committee at the request of Senator Cummins. He said that livestock and other food producers of the middle west had told the committee that shortage of cars and motive equipment was making it impossible to move perishable and semi-perishable food to market, and that as a result a curtailment o fproduction was in sight.

Edward N. Brown, chairman of the board of the Pere Marquette and Frisco lines, told the committee that when the roads were returned to their owners they had neither cash, credit nor adequate equipment.

As a result, Mr. Brown said, the present shortage of freight cars is 228,000, passenger cars more than 6,000 and 3,190 locomotives. Mr. Brown said that the railroad executives' committee had reached the conclusion that 100,000 freight cars, 4,000 passenger cars and 2,000 locomotives should be ordered at once to take care of minimum needs. This would cost $810,000,000, he said, and would not be fully available for use during the present calendar year.

o make good the entire shortage of cars and locomotives would take $1,600,000,000, Mr. Brown said.

He told the committee that since January 1 railroads haev ordered 518 locomotives and 27700 freight cars, obligating themselves to the extent of $144,000,000 to the banks. Bankers had informed the executives that it was virtually impossible for the railroads to borrow any more money on equipment trusts he said.

A. H. Smith of the New York Central lines declared that one of the embarrassments to which the railroads have been subjected grew out of the fact that the government charged additions and betterments made during government control against the rental due from the government to the railroads. Instead of that, the additions and betterments costs should have been funded for repayment over a long period of years, Mr. Smith said.

The testimony of Messrs. Smith and Brown was suplemented by Samuel Rea of the Pennsylvania, L. F. Loree, Delaware and Hudson; Henry alters, Atlantic Coast Line; E. J. Pearson, New York, New Haven and Hartford; E. H. Markham, Illinois Central, and A. P. hom, general counsel for the Association of Railroad Executives.

Proposals for an advance in freight rates of 24 per cent, yielding an additional revenue of $352,893,000 annually, were made to the Interstate Commerce Commission by the western group of railroads. The group contended that this increase was the minimum necessary to bring their net income up to 6 per cent on a property investment of $8,963,883,000.

Samuel L. Felton of Chicago as chairman of the western executives' rate committee, in presenting the application, placed stress on the inaequacy of present railroad facilities to handle efficiently the growing traffic and the need for the immediate outlay of hundreds of millions of new capital for cars, engines and additions and betterments.

COUNCIL TO BAR GERMANS.

Will Not Be Allowed to Take Part in Economic Discussions.

Paris.—The Supreme Council has decided not to allow Germany's representatives to take part in the coming economic discussions at Spa, Belgium. The Germans will be present only in the capacity of witnesses, the foreign office announced. They will be called in and questioned by the allied representatives, but will not be allowed to present verbal arguments on the basis as equals.

GIRL SLAYER GETS TEN YEARS.

Ursula Broderick, Sixteen, Convicted of Killing Stepfather.

St. Louis.—Ursula Broderick, sixteen, who killed her stepfather, Joseph F Woodlock, in their home here April 14, 1919, was found guilty of murder in the second degree by a jury in the Juvenile Court here and her punishment fixed at ten years in the Missouri penitentiary. The Broderick girl shot and killed her father, T. J. Broderick, in 1916, but a coroner's jury exonerated her.

SENATOR CALDER.

Wants Congress Held Until Ship Bill Is Passed.

Washington.—Senator William M. Calder, of New York, a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, is urging that if other legislation now ahead of the ship policy bill is not cleared out of the way in time, that Congress be held in Washington until the ship bill is disposed of.

FOOD SPOILS IN WEST; IDLE CARS FILL EAST

High Prices Are Blamed on Breakdown of Rail Systems.

Washington.—Charging responsibility for the high cost of living on a breakdown in transportation, representatives of the Middle Western states from Canada to the Gulf, appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission to bring relief both to that section and to the East. It is asserted that while people in the East are paying exorbitant prices for food products, food is piling up in the Middle West to an extent that threatens financial disaster.

The appeal to the I. C. C. for a remedy was made by representatives of railway and warehouse commissions, millers, bankers, representatives of farmers associations and various other interests from states like Minnesota, Illinois, North Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin and other states. The appeal was made as the result of a conference which has been going on here for several days among representatives of these interests and was voiced by G. F. Ewe of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, who was named chairman of a committee appointed for that purpose. The committee appeared before the House Committee on Interstate Commerce.

Explaining the crisis which confronts the entire country as a result of this unparalleled situation, it was pointed out by Mr. Ewe and his committee that in Minnesota alone 17,000,000 bushels of wheat sold many months ago are in the Minneapolis elevators; 35,000,000 bushels in the country elevators and almost as much more in the farmers' bins. In Kansas it is pointed out that $146,000,000 worth of grain is held up by this enforced embargo. In order to meet the financial needs of the situation, the Federal Reserve Bank at Minneapolis, which had $2,000,000 in loans outstanding a year ago, now holds paper approximating $88,000,000. Reports from the Federal Reserve Bank at Kansas City were of a similar tenor.

LATEST EVENTS AT WASHINGTON

President Wilson, it became known at the White House, intends to remain in Washington until after the San Francisco convention.

Soldier bonus advocates in the House have started to reduce the total government expenditures carried in the relief bill previously reported by the Ways and Means Committee in what it now appears will be a futile effort to force its enactment at this session.

Senator Hiram W. Johnson (Cal.) announced in most emphatic terms that he will not accept the nomination for vice president in any circumstances at the Republican convention.

Senator Knox (Pa.) opened the fight in the senate for his resolution to declare peace with Germany and Austria without regard to the League of Nations. He declared that the power of Congress to make peace by legislation in indubitable.

With a property investment of $2,284,000,000, and revenues of $577,000,000, the net annual income basis of the railroads in the South has been reduced to $16,269,000, or less than one per cent on the investment, according to statement filed with Interstate Commerce Commission asking 30 per cent higher freight rates.

CARRANZA ERA IN MEXICO ENDS

Retiring Federal General Slaughters Prisoners

MEXICAN PRESIDENT HIDING

Obregon, Now In Possession Of City Of Mexico, Guarantees Safety Of Foreigners—15 Mexican Generals Killed.

REPORTED VILLA GIVES UP.

Jaurez.—Francisco Villa, the bandit and revolutionary leader, has laid down his arms and turned his force of men over to Gen. Ignacio Enriquez, revolutionary commander of the Chihuahua City district, it was announced here by Gen. J. G. Escobar.

El Paso, Tex.—General Francisco Murguia, Carranza military commander at Mexico City, before leaving the capital, which now is in complete possession of revolutionary forces, carried out a wholesale slaughter of political prisoners at Santiago, the military prison, according to a bulletin issued at revolutionary headquarters here.

Fifteen Mexican generals were among those reported slaughtered.

"The city was shocked over this bloody epilogue for the Carranza regime," the bulletin said.

REBELS ENTER VERA CRUZ.

Galveston, Texas.—The federal garrison at Vera Cruz, consisting of approximately 500 well-armed and equipped soldiers, went over to the revolutionists Sunday, according to apparently reliable, but unofficial advices received here.

Revolutionary troops believed to be part of the forces of Gen. Pablo Gonzales, entered Vera Cruz twice before the federals withdrew their allegiance from the Carranza Government the advices said. First they penetrated almost to the waterfront and then withdrew to the outskirts because of the presence in the harbor of two Mexican gunboats.

Later the rebels again entered the city and began occupying strategic points, according to the advices. Firing was said to have been general for some time. The gunboats, however, did not fire on the city it was asserted.

The reports did not make clear whether the warships had deserted the Carranza cause.

President Carranza was said to be hiding in Vera Cruz and a dragnet was reported to have been thrown out by the revolutionists to prevent his escape, if possible.

HOUSE TO BE AUGMENTED.

Membership Likely To Be 500 Under The Census Of 1920.

Washington.—With the House of Representatives already overcrowded, its membership is likely to be increased to about 500 because of the growth of population in the United States, which under the 1920 census is expected to reach from 105,000,000 to 110,000,000 people. The House now has 435 members.

If no increase is made in membership, several States are likely to lose members they now have. This will be due to an increase in the size of the average district. Now with 435 members the average number of people in each Congressional district is 211,430, based upon the population of 1910, which was 91,972,266. If it is decided not to increase the membership, the size of the average district hereafter, based upon a population of about 110,000,000, will be 243,000 people.

KING RAISES PRICE OF NEWS.

Rome Papers Advanced Two Cents By Royal Decree.

Rome.—By a royal decree the price of newspapers, beginning Monday, is raised from 2 cents to 4 cents. The raise is due to the increased cost of print paper. The newsdealers have gone on strike, claiming that they are entitled to a higher percentage of receipts on the new prices. The printers also are threatening to strike for higher wages, while the journalists are demanding either a percentage on the profits of newspapers or one-twentieth of the returns on sales.

ARABS ROUT FRENCH TROOPS.

Nomads On Warpath Said To Be Burning Christian Villages.

Berlin.—Dispatches from Jerusalem report the attack of 4,000 Rowallah Arabs, backed by 25 machine guns and two field pieces, upon French troops in the Banujar district, 110 miles northeast of Beirut. The French were out numbered ten to one and heavy casualties on both sides resulted. The situation is described as serious, with hundreds of refugees flocking to safety. The Arabs have destroyed many Christian villages by fire.