

PLAN RIDDING WAR OF GRAFT

Bill Now Before House Would Cause Price Fixations.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—To take the profit out of war by stabilizing prices and eliminating cost-plus contracts is provided in a bill, introduced by John C. McKenzie (R.), Representative from Illinois, which has been reported by the Military Affairs Committee of the House. The bill now on the House calendar conforms fundamentally to the peace plan proposed by The Christian Science Monitor, and is virtually the same as a bill filed by Mr. McKenzie in 1921.

To prevent the abnormal inflation of prices in the commodities required by the Government and the people in time of war, the McKenzie bill provides that whenever a state of war exists it shall be the duty of the President to determine and proclaim what properties, commodities, and services are necessary to the Government in the successful termination of the war and "the prices at which such properties, commodities and services are in his opinion then being freely sold or rendered or offered for sale or rendered."

This stabilization of prices by presidential order covers labor as well as production and its violation is penalized by a fine of three times the amount of the excess charged and an imprisonment of not more than 20 years.

Profiteering Rife During War.—Mr. McKenzie has been deeply interested in securing the passage of such a measure since the war since the huge profits and injustices arising out of the World War were brought forcibly to his attention as a member of the committee on expenditures in the War Department in the Sixty-sixth Congress. He saw the abnormal changes caused by profiteering in almost every commodity produced whether used directly by the Government or not, and this had a deleterious effect upon the people of the country.

"During the war, I saw boys go to the front," he said, "for the regulation army pay, while others were allowed to go to the shipyards and munition factories, where they were enabled to make as high as \$15 to \$20 per day. This was a great injustice, of course, and furthermore the abnormal wages paid to labor at that time resulted in great dissatisfaction when the time came for a return to peace conditions and lower wages."

"It was a question in my thought as to whether or not the men who received \$15 or \$20 a day and bought \$16 silk shirts were any better off than if they had been receiving \$5 per day and paying \$4 for silk shirts."

"This condition was also true of those who furnished the Government and the country with the commodities they produced, such as copper, lumber, cement, and steel."

Competitive Bids Provided.—The McKenzie bill specifically provides against contracts being let on the cost plus system and the "impersonal or unit bids" for supplies, services or construction or repair work and that no purchase or contract in excess of \$500 "shall be made unless competitive bids have been procured by advertisement therefor."

PUBLIC STILL BARRED FROM DOM BOX OF FORMER KAISER.

BERLIN, (AP)—Why is the former imperial box in the Dom kept roped off and not opened for the use of the public?

Berlin papers are asking this question insistently. On New Year's eve the ex-emperor's box in the Dom, of Berlin cathedral, which contains several hundred seats formerly used by the Hohenzollern court, was not thrown open in spite of the fact that hundreds of persons stood in the crowded cathedral and many elderly women fainted through fatigue while standing waiting for the New Year to be ushered in.

The imperial boxes in the state theatres and operas have been thrown open to the public and the Berlin Morgen Post and other newspapers urge that a church is the last place in the world in which there should be an attempt to perpetuate class distinctions. The Dom clergy are blamed for this reactionary attitude and are charged with an attempt to perpetuate the imperial idea.

RAIL LINE IS GIVEN BACKING

SALEM, Ore. (By the Associated Press).—Representatives of twelve communities, located in both Oregon and Idaho, unanimously favor a proposed railroad line linking up Crater and Odell and through the cutting off of a circuitous route eliminating 400 miles to California markets, according to H. H. Cory, public service commissioner, who has returned from Ontario.

Boise, Nampa, Caldwell, Payette, Weiser, Burns, Fruitland, Nyssa, Parma, Vale, Juntura and Crane had delegates at the meeting. Whether or not the new link is built will be determined at a meeting of the interstate commerce commission in Portland March 26. It will be necessary for those favoring the new road to show that the plan is practicable and feasible, that the public convenience requires the road's construction and that the proposed expenditure will not be too great a tax on the railroad's finances.

The proposed line would join the Union Pacific at Crater and the Southern Pacific at Odell. The distance is 171 miles.

Large quantities of timber in the surrounding country is ready to cut, Cory explained and much of it must be taken care of in the near future.

PLANE TESTS SAVE ONE DAY IN MAIL FLIGHT

LONDON, (AP).—Recent experiments in carrying dummy mails by airplane between Plymouth, Manchester and Belfast, to test the practicability of saving time in transit to and from America, show that the average acceleration was 20 hours from Plymouth to Belfast and 12½ hours to Manchester. The route used is subject to bad weather conditions in various parts of the route, but in the first fortnight 14 flights scheduled for Manchester were all completed and of the 13 to Belfast ten were completed.

In the second fortnight fog considerably interfered with the experiments and of seven flights scheduled to Manchester only three were effective, while only two of the seven to Belfast were completed. Even under the test conditions the flying timetable was strictly adhered to, and the saving of a full business day effected.

As a result of the service, the Belfast corporation has under consideration the establishment and maintenance of airmail facilities within its own boundaries. Parachutes were used in the Belfast trials, and various fragile articles came down unhurt in the carriers attached to the parachutes, which were released from a height of 200 to 300 feet.

NEWSPAPER MAN INJURED DURING MEXICAN CLASH

CHICAGO (By the Associated Press).—Special dispatches from Mexico City say that Frederick Wright, correspondent of the Chicago Tribune with President Obregon's army of the east, was wounded while accompanying Obregon's army troops in storming Esperanza.

Wright, after receiving first aid, resumed his place with the federal advance troops which are now moving along mountain passes en route to Gordoba.

Lumber Shipments Large.—MARSHFIELD, Ore.—The Winchester Bay Lumber company, in addition to its other shipments by rail and water, is cutting an order for 1,200,000 feet of lumber to go into the port dock at Coos Bay, where extensions are being made. The Winchester Bay company loaded both the Bertie Hanlon and the San Jacinto last week, sending 1,000,000 feet of lumber to the California market. The steam schooner Bandon in due this week to take a cargo of 650,000 feet from the Winchester Bay mill docks.

Found Dead in Bed.—GRANTS PASS, Ore.—Robert Barnett, 70 was found dead recently in a shack which he occupied at the corner of Oak and K streets. Neighbors had not noticed him around for several days and investigated. The old man was found in bed, evidently having been dead for two or three days.

BIRTH RATE IS DECLINING

German Babies Less in Numbers Steadily During Last Five Years.

BERLIN, (AP).—Judging from vital statistics the idea of birth control would appear, to a limited extent, to have been adopted in Germany. Particularly does this seem to be the case in Berlin and other cities where, for several years, the birth rate has fallen below the death rate, while it is only in the rural and outlying industrial districts that the tendency to bring forth children has returned to anything like normalcy.

The "thoughtless production" of children so characteristic of the Germans and other European nations some years ago is gradually disappearing, in the opinion of Professor Heinrich Silbergleit, who contends that people living in the cities do not care to have their social activities handicapped by large families.

This change has come about gradually. Where the birth rate in the last decade of the 19th century was as high as 26 to every thousand of population, it has been reduced to 23, or even less, due to various circumstances and the economic conditions prevailing in Germany since the end of the war.

Lectures on hygiene, moving pictures and other propaganda designed to teach the benefits of rearing smaller families, even Prof. Silbergleit, have resulted in an increasing tendency even among the middle classes to restrict the number of children in many cases by one-half. Uncertainty of the food supply, particularly in the industrial areas, also has had much to do with this change, which is in direct contrast to the ideas prevailing prior to the world war, for then the majority of the German families appeared to plan to have as many children as possible.

In 1913-14 the average birth rate in Germany was 26 to every thousand of population. This added \$60,000 babies a year to the empire. But the rate began to decrease almost as soon as hostilities opened, and during the war the surplus of deaths, including those killed in battle, over the newly born increased from one in a thousand in 1915 to ten in every thousand when the fighting was at its height in 1918.

The first year after the war the birth rate again began to show an increase, and it reached its maximum in 1920 with 26 a thousand. But the years since have averaged about 23, or less, with the cities month by month gradually falling below this rate.

Professor Silbergleit estimates the population of Germany today, minus Upper Silesia and other territory lost as an outcome of the war, at 63,000,000.

Bend Payroll to Grow.

Bend, Or.—Three hundred Bend citizens who attended the annual home products dinner given here by the Woman's Civic League heard H. E. Allen, assistant general manager of the Brooks-Seaton Lumber company, forecast a new industry for Bend, with an opening payroll of 100 men and a later employment list of double that number.

CHURCH HITS AT DIVORCES

PORTLAND (By the Associated Press).—Steps to clear Oregon's name of its "unenviable reputation" as a clearing house for divorces were taken by the annual convention of the Episcopal church in Oregon in session here Thursday.

After an extended discussion in which members of the clergy and laymen participated, the convention adopted a resolution urging the appointment of a committee to confer with all organizations interested in a move to eliminate the divorce and preserve the sanctity of the home and marriage.

Divorce Evils Two.—The prevalence of the divorce evil, it was stated, has due to two principal causes. First, it was argued there should be a lapse of a greater period of time between the issuance of the marriage license and the performance of the marriage ceremony. Divorces, it was pointed out, should be made more difficult to secure. The process of divorce is now merely a form and the state's laws should be amended to correct this condition the consensus of opinion seemed to be.

W. C. T. U. CAUCUS TO BE HELD AT SPOKANE SOON

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP).—The mid-year conference of the state society of the Women's Christian Temperance Union will be held jointly, next month, with the regional meeting of the same organization, according to a recent announcement. The sessions will occupy two days, February 25 and 27.

Discussion of business problems connected with the organization and a general survey of the past and current work will be taken up by the delegates. A number of organization officials will make addresses, including Mrs. Eda Hoole of New York City, vice-president of the national W. C. T. U.

Idaho will send a delegation to the conference, it was announced, and representatives from all parts of Washington are expected to be present. Miss Edith Whiting of Yakima, state president, will preside over the convention and Mrs. Jennie Cross of Sandpoint, state president of Idaho, will also have a place on the program.

Governor Pierce First To Pay Up Income Tax

SALEM, Ore.—Actual collection of the recently enacted state income tax was begun here when Governor Pierce, waiving aside the right to offset his salary as governor of Oregon against the losses on his farm operations, handed Earl Fisher, state tax commissioner, a check for \$77.50 in exchange for tax receipt No. 1.

The payment made by Pierce represents the state tax on an income of \$7500 as governor less the exemption of \$2000 for a married man and an additional exemption of \$400 for one dependent child, a daughter, or a net taxable income of \$5100.

INDIANS HAVE MUCH ILLNESS

Mission Reservation Indians' Smallpox, Measles Epidemic Proves Fatal to One.

MISSION, (Special).—The Indians on the reservation here are having an epidemic of small pox and measles, which is proving very serious. A boy of the Labadore tribe died last week at Cayuse and the two small daughters of John Kaniney, an Indian, are not expected to live.

Mission is having fine weather at present and have had only one cold spell and that was during the Christmas holidays when the thermometer reached six degrees below zero.

Charles Minnick is visiting his aunt, Mrs. Dava Roberts. Miss Hazel Cook visited over the week-end with the J. S. Rose family. Gould Cressey visited Sunday with Tom and Bert Rose.

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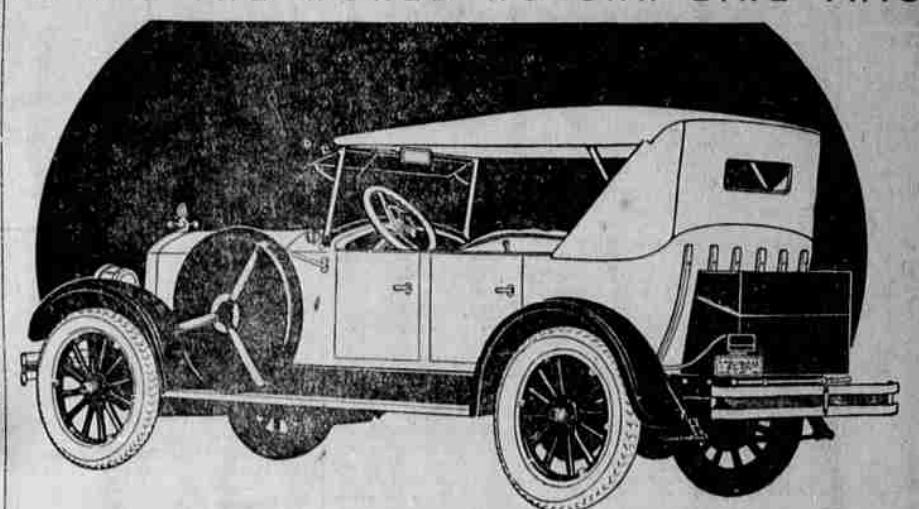
PENDLETON, Ore. (AP).—A harsh fate will, in the future, meet stray horses from nearby ranges and ranches who wander into Pendleton to snatch a choice mouthful of green grass from city kept lawns according to a recent decision of the city council. All such horses will be rounded up and offered at auction and in the event of no other bidders the city will bid them in and turn them over to the city executioner who will kill and dispose of them.

Heretofore the city hired the proprietor of a livery barn to keep the country visitors but as no one ever claimed them the feed bills

soon proved prohibitive.

HILLSBORO. — Miss Caroline Eads wrote her name on the seat of a chair made at the Hillsboro factory where she worked. John T. Cassidy, South Bend Ind., business man bought the chair. He saw the name and wrote to Miss Eads. Out of the correspondence that followed developed a courtship that led to their wedding here.

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