ALASKA-HONDURAS TRADE UNPOPULAR

Congress Unlikely to Give Ear to Scheme of Universal Peace Union.

BASIC IDEA IS UNTENABLE

Scheme to Exchange British Territory for Lower California in Subsequent Deal Open to Various Objections.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 1.—Congress will not likely give serious consideration to the bill drawn by the Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia, and introduced in the House by Representative Smith, of Maryland, proposing to transfer Southeastern Alaska to Canada. Such a proposal may appeal to some of the Eastern peace advocates, but the West is sufficiently strong, particularly in the Senate, to prevent the passage of any such legislation as this.

The plan, as embodied in the Smith bill, proposes a sacrifice of some of the best territory in Alaska, for which the United States is to receive something of comparatively little value. Mr. Smith suggests that the British government, in exchange for the Alaskan panhandle, could turn over British Honduras to the United States, and if the Mexican government were willing, this Government could then transfer Honduras to Mexico in exchange for Lower California, the most barren land in the known world.

Territory of Little Value.

From a business standpoint, if the plan were otherwise feasible, the United States would be taking in exchange for Southeastern Alaska a dry, parched territory, valuable only for Magdalena Bay, which is admittedly desirable as an American naval base.

The proposal of the Universal Peace Union is both objectionable and impracticable for numerous reasons. Aside from the opposition to giving up Southeastern Alaska, which is known to be valuable, there can be no assurance that Mexico would be willing to exchange Lower California for British Honduras. There is today no Mexican government which the United States is willing to recognize, and there is no indication that such a government is likely to be established for some time to come. Even when such a government is established, there is no assurance that that government would deem such a trade desirable. British Honduras, adjoining Mexico on the south and lying immediately west of Guatemala, facing the Caribbean Sea, might be left on the hands of the United States, and would likely prove more an annoyance than an asset. Certainly there is no comparison between British Honduras and Southeast Alaska. Their exchange would not be an equitable one and the United States would lose by such a trade.

Title to Territory Clear.

The theory on which Mr. Smith proposes the exchange is that the vast Canadian territory lying back of the Alaskan panhandle is virtually cut off from access to the harbors on the Alaskan coast. Mr. Smith and the Universal Peace Union seem to believe the people of Western Canada are deeply wrought up over the fact that a strip of American territory intervenes between them and the western ocean, and some time they think there may be a bloody conflict between Canada and the United States unless this Government voluntarily relinquishes its title to all Southeast Alaska, and thus turns over to British control all the harbors lying south of the 60th parallel, a strip of country 536 miles long, in which lie the present capital of Alaska and some of its most important towns and most valuable industries.

The Peace Union and Representative Smith seem to think that Canada has a just complaint because the United States retains control of Southeastern Alaska, thus forming an unnatural boundary for Western Canada. Yet the right of the United States to that territory has been definitely and finally settled and is not longer open to dispute. The New York Sun, commenting editorially on our right to the Alaskan panhandle, says:

"The 'unnatural boundary' was defined by an international tribunal of British and American jurists in London in 1903, Lord Alverstone casting the deciding vote for the claim of the United States that the intent of the treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia was that the line running east and north of Cape Muzon should not cross fjords of the coast, but pass ten marine leagues from and back of them. It is true that the Canadian Commissioners protested bitterly, but Lord Alverstone's intellectual honesty and patriotism could not be impugned. The result was the shutting off of Northern British Columbia from the sea, and the grievance, although stifled, has always been acute.

Sitka Would Not Have Been Lost.

"But if the Canadian contention had been upheld, the Alexander archipelago with Sitka would not have passed from the possession of the United States, and at most the Panhandle would have been divided. The Americans would, however, have lost Lynn Canal, a very important link of the inland passage of which Chatham Strait is the chief waterway. It is undoubtedly a hardship that British Columbia and the Yukon territory are denied their natural outlets to the Lynn Canal and to the inner waters of the Alexander archipelago, but the award of the London tribunal was based upon a common sense construction of terms in the Anglo-Russian treaty and the finality of it cannot be reasonably challenged. In course of time the Panhandle, which has a temperate climate and is an extensive territory with rich resources, will prove valuable to the United States. It lies in part across the path of opportunity for the great Northwest of Canada, but the handicap is not greater than other states suffer from in similar cases, notably Germany, which finds the Netherlands obstructing her access to the North Sea and in envied possession of the mouth of the Rhine."

Bull Dislikes Red.

R. M. Wright's "Dodge City, the Cowboy Capital."

During the excitement just before our great bull fight, the only one ever to take place in the United States, the boys were cutting out and trying the bulls, to find which would be the most vicious and the best fighters. A gentleman, whom we will call Brown, said it was all nonsense about shaking a red flag in a bull's face; that he knew it would not make him fight because he had tried it. A man, overhearing the remark, said: "Brown, I will bet you a $50 suit of clothes you can't shake a red flag in a bull's face without his fighting, and you have the privilege of selecting the most docile bull in this lot of fighters."

The bet was soon made, and Brown got a red shirt and climbed down into the corral. The bull was looking as calm as a Summer morning, and Brown went towards the animal, keeping the red shirt well behind him. As he came close to the brute, he suddenly produced the shirt and flirted it in the bull's face. The beast jumped back in astonishment and kept his eye on Brown, while Brown waved the old vermilion gown vigorously. Then the bull shook his head several times, as if he declined to have anything to do with that business, and Brown turned towards us and put his thumb to his nose and made a sign of victory.

Just then an idea seemed to strike that bull. He put his head down and moved swiftly forward. Brown, at first, thought there had been an earthquake. Upon his descent he thought he'd try to run, but the old long horn was inserted in the seat of his trousers, and again he went up, high enough to take a bird's-eye view of the surrounding country. On the 25th descent he fell on the other side of the corral, and we picked him up. His mouth was full of grass and sand. We asked him if his views about bulls had undergone any change; but he walked silently along. We wanted to know how he enjoyed the scenery, the last time he went up; but he would not say. He merely went into the cookhouse, filled up both barrels of his gun with old nails and screws and scrap iron, and then went to interview that bull.

SMART FETE PLANNED

OLD MASTERS' BALL IN LONDON TO BE SENSATIONAL EVENT.

King, Two Queens, Four Princesses and Five Duchesses Head Patron List, For Affair December 3.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—(Special.)—The smart set in London are busy just now making their plans for the Old Masters' Ball which, it is believed, will furnish the most startling and sensational social gathering in England this season.

A king, two queens, four princesses and five duchesses head the list of patrons; and the event is fixed for December 3 at the largest hall in London—the Albert Hall, which it is intended to make the scene of a marvelous stream of living color. Ostensibly the ball has been organized in aid of the Invalid Kitchens of London, which supply poor invalids in Bermondsey, Hoxton, Stepney and Victoria Docks with chicken broth and jellies for two cents and with all economy lose 14 cents every time they do it.

The Napoleon, Von Moltke, and Oyama of the occasion is Sherwood Foster, of the Chelsea Arts Club, who first made London familiar with the possibilities of the Albert Hall as a national ballroom. Foster's earliest victory was when four or five years ago he organized the Chelsea Arts Ball. Then came in quick succession the first Three Arts Ball, the Shakespearean Ball, the Pantomime Ball of 1912, the ball of a Hundred Years Ago, and the Versailles Fete—victory after victory, but he now declares the Old Masters' Ball will easily be the greatest of his triumphs.

"At it," he says, "there will be five living friezes representing ancient wall paintings of Egypt, Greece, China, Persia, and the Byzantine Empire. After these will be shown groups of five pictures.

"All the costumes shown, from Giotto downwards, will be reproductions of famous pictures. This is rather a new venture, and it will be well carried out. Those taking part will include some of the most beautiful women in London.

"Four thousand dancers will be admitted to the floor, and 2,000 of the public will be admitted to the gallery as spectators at a small fee.

"The dancing begins at 10 and stops at 12.

"On the stroke of midnight, in an oblong framed space 150 feet in length, over the boxes, one by one the early 'frieze' groups will appear and pass on. When they are done, the oblong space will be divided up into five frames, two full-length frames at each end, two three-quarter-length frames within these, and in the center one head and shoulder frame.

"In constant succession, these frames, which are the fit of lifesize pictures, will be filled with five examples of each of the schools of painting to be shown. There is to be no delay and no hitch; the whole series of tableaux takes only 40 minutes to show.

"Among the well-known society beauties who are to take part in the tableaux are: Mrs. Stuart Wortley (Early Frolentine), Baroness D'Erlanger (Tuscan), Mrs. Frank Tennant (Late Florentine), the Duchess of Somerset and Viscountess of St. Cyres (Early Spanish), the Duchess of Portland (Early French), Lady Helen Vincent (18th Century French), Lady Evelyn James and Lady Speyer (Dutch).

"Assisting me in the direction of the artistic side of the ball are a number of well-known artists. It was a moot question with us whether we should go beyond the pre-Raphaelite school and introduce a futurist and cubist tableau.

"Something of the sort might be done, though it is to be handled very gingerly, for goodness only knows what some of these modernist folk would want to do."

AIR BOMBS AT NIGHT HIT

German Airship Corps Finish Experiments Said to Be Success.

BERLIN, Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Bomb-throwing experiments from aeroplanes and airships have been concluded at the Doeberitz military camp, and, although the strictest secrecy is preserved by the authorities, it is reported they have been most successful. Although the experiments took place at night, and sometimes in a strong wind, the target was hit nine times out of 10 by both classes of aerial craft.

Economin, the New Motor Fuel.

American Machinist.

A new fuel for automobile and other internal-combustion engines is announced in British papers under the name of Economin. This has for its base 80 per cent of kerosene, the remainder being chemicals which form an emulsion. Then the mixture is distilled and gives a fuel which is cheaper than gasoline (in England at least) and which gives more power from the same motor. It is further claimed to give practically perfect combustion so that there is almost no carbon deposit in the cylinders, to be almost odorless and to make an easy-starting motor. It can be used with the same carbureter adjustment as gasoline. The fuel is not yet on the market, but a plant to turn out 20,000,00 gallons a year is under construction.

Mexican Mines Become Wells.

Engineering and Mining Journal.

Practically all of the mines of Parral are now closed except the Alvarado. A large party of Americans has recently come out of the country, under the leadership of Mr. Dufoureq, enduring much hardship on the way. During a part of the journey they were in company with the refugees from Mapimi, which place has been entirely abandoned by foreigners; the mines are filling with water at the rate of 2000 gallons per minute. The condition of the refugees in many cases is pitiful. Most of them have lost all their belongings. Some have lost fortunes.

HOME RULERS PLAN FURTHER CAMPAIGN

Widespread Activity Is Programme of Secessionists During Autumn Months.

CONFERENCE IDEA GIVEN UP

Speakers Declare Unionists Will Employ Every Advantage Held by Them to Defeat Measure and Upset Liberal Programme.

DUBLIN, Dec. 1.—(Special.)—The Home Rule Council is rapidly completing preparations for a great Autumn campaign, in conjunction with the Liberal associations of the constituencies of Great Britain, on behalf of the home rule bill.

All the Nationalist members, as well as Liberal members of Parliament, will take part.

John Redmond, the Irish leader, will speak at Northampton on November 17, at Birmingham on November 19, and at Alloa on November 21. This series of mass meetings will give the Irish leader an opportunity of re-stating the case for home rule, and the country will await with some interest to see to what extent Mr. Redmond has been influenced by the cross-currents of the recess of Parliament.

John Dillon will speak at Devonport on November 12, at Newton Abbot on November 13, and at Dewsbury on November 18.

At the last place Walter Runciman, president of the board of agriculture, will speak also.

T. P. O'Connor will speak at Peterborough on October 15.

Leading Ulster protestants like the Right Hon. Thomas Shillington, the Right Hon. R. G. Glendinning, David Hogg, M. P.; R. N. N. Boyd, W. Macadeo (Ballymoney), H. H. Graham (Belfast), and W. H. Davey ("Ulster guardian") will also lend their help.

The Home Rule Council believes that the result of this comprehensive scheme of propaganda work will be to deepen the conviction of the electorate that the home rule bill is a fair and adequate solution of a long-standing problem, and that the complete absence of any alternative proposal makes it essential, not only in the interests of Ireland, but in the interests of Great Britain and the empire, that the bill should pass as promptly as the Parliament act permits. Lord Loreburn's proposal for a conference is clearly regarded by Sir Edward Carson as impracticable, and at the headquarters of the Home Rule Council there is no disposition to differ from that view.

Everybody acknowledges the ex-Lord Chancellor's sincerity, patriotism, integrity and desire to do a good turn for Ireland, to whose national cause he has ever been a staunch friend, but Irish Unionists and Irish Nationalists alike declare that he has evidently got out of touch with the realities of the Irish situation.

Mr. Redmond's speech at Glasgow a short time ago shows that the Nationalists would not take part in any conference the basis of which was not an Irish Parliament, with an executive responsible to it. Mr. Dillon asserts that a conference under those circumstances would be "futile and mischievous," and would encourage Ulster tories in the belief that their bluff and threats are calculated to intimidate the government and the Nationalist party.

Conference Held Impracticable.

Ellis Griffith's speech, in which he said that Liberals and Nationalists had never been unwilling to confer with their opponents upon the subject of home rule, is an absolutely true statement, so far as Nationalists are concerned. But, as he added, they could not hopefully or practically enter upon a conference of the kind suggested unless they had some measure and agreement as a common basis for proceeding to business. It is now clear enough that such a "common basis" is practically impossible.

Mr. Parnell once said on the platform of the Ulster Hall, in Belfast, after the split, that he would sacrifice much to secure the adherence of the Orangemen and the Ulster Unionists to the principle of an Irish Parliament, but that if they would not join with their countrymen in the effort to assert it, Nationalists must go straight ahead towards their goal.

At a great Nationalist demonstration at Listowel, Joseph Devlin, N. P., said that although the end of the struggle for home rule for Ireland was near, the fight was not yet over. The Tory party in England had opened a fresh campaign against home rule, and had at their command all the resources which rank and wealth, privilege and monopoly could give. That party felt that if the democratic party went on shaping legislation much longer, and if the government's programme of reforms found its way to the statute book, the days of castle and aristocratic rule would be numbered, and that nothing could prevent the inauguration of a new era of democracy.

PARCEL POST PROFITS

Year's Net Earnings Will Amount to at Least $30,000,000.

Washington, D. C., Correspondent New York Times.

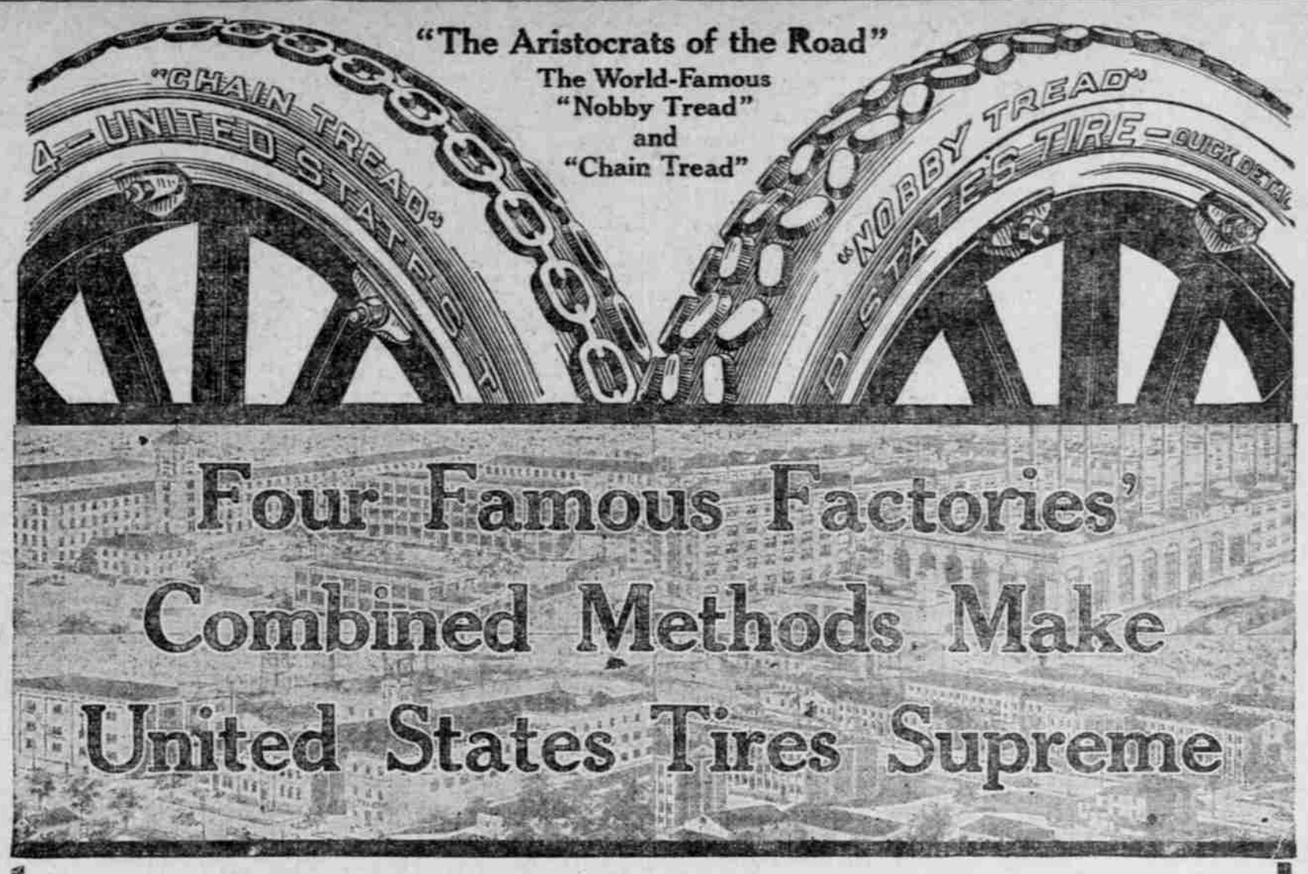
It became known today that the profits to the Government from the operation of the new parcel post system during the calendar year 1913 would be about $30,000,000. The new system became effective on January 1 last. It was estimated that the profits for the first year would be about $15,000,000, but the actual figures now in possession of postal officials convince them that the profit, instead of being $15,000,000, will be $30,000,000 for the first year.

This will be interesting news to railway officials, who have been contending that their roads were entitled to extra remuneration for carrying the mails on account of the operation of the parcel post. It was learned from a reliable quarter tonight that, even assuming that the contention of the railroads was correct, there still would have been a good margin of profit at the end of the calendar year 1913 after the payment of extra remuneration to the roads. If a parcel post adjustment were made along the lines suggested by some of the railroads, probably not more than $10,000,000 of this $30,000,000 would be due to the railroads as extra pay. The total income from the parcel post for 1913 will be around $80,000,000.

The whole question of railway mail pay, that is, compensation to the railroads for carrying the mails, is likely to be readjusted next year. Immediately after the meeting of Congress in regular session in December, a bill will be introduced providing for this readjustment. The measure is now being drafted. It will seek to establish an entirely new method of paying the railroads for carrying the mails and do away with the present archaic method of computing the payment of roads, for some time members of the House postoffice committee have been considering the question of providing a new method of paying for mail transportation. They have been consulted in connection with the preparation of the new bill, as have also the officials of the Postoffice Department most intimately identified with mail transportation. The bill will be an Administration measure.

Pay for carrying the mails is readjusted only once every four years. For purposes of the computation the country is divided into four grand subdivisions, in each of which the mail is weighed once every four years. This is accomplished in such a way that the weighing is done in one district this year, in the second district next year, the third district the next year and the fourth district the following year. The mail is weighed for 30 days, and upon this basis a computation is made for an entire year, showing the average monthly amount of mail carried. When once made this computation continues for a single road for four years, and payment is made accordingly.

The bill now being prepared will propose a new method of fixing the basis of payment. It will propose a radical change in the whole system of railway mail pay and a readjustment that is expected to be fairer both to the Government and the railroads. The new railway pay bill also will take into consideration the paying of the railroads for carrying the parcel-post matter, and will seek to meet the complaints that have been filed by different roads, several of which were willing to throw up their railway mail contracts rather than carry the parcel post without additional pay.



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An American in the Balkans.

Christian Herald.

The activities of Dr. J. H. House, whose work at the Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute, Salonica, Greece, is well known, have had to assume a rather different character since the close of the Balkan War. The school was founded to train boys of all nationalities in agriculture and the trades as well as in Christianity. Its new efforts are to care for and train as many possible of the refugees who by one or another of the warring nations were driven from their Macedonian homes. Their needs would be thus supplied, and at the same time they would have the advantage of learning scientific methods of farm work, and, when they returned home, they would carry to various lands the inspiration thus secured for better modes of life. The school is incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, and is supported by voluntary gifts administered by a board of directors of five different denominations.

Kaiser Has "Firedamp Whistle."

Coal Age.

Word comes from Germany that a new "firedamp whistle" has just been invented by Privy Councilor Haber and Dr. Oeiser, as a result of the appeal of the Emperor, made a year ago, that an attempt should be made to discover some means of preventing mine catastrophes due to the explosion of firedamp.

The device just exhibited to the Kaiser and which has met with his approval consists of a metallic cylinder 10 inches long and 2½ inches in diameter, operated by means of an air pump. The sound of the whistle is said to be audible 200 feet away. When blown in pure air, the whistle gives an even tone; but when blown in air charged with marsh gas, the tone is said to vary from a shrill tremolo to a jerky staccato, depending on the percentage of gas present.

It seems strange that this device should be described as something new. It appears to be a resurrection of the old Forbes gas indicator, invented by Professor Forbes more than half a century ago, but found to be of no practical application as a means of detecting gas in mines.

Ellensburg Elects Physician.

ELLENSBURG, Wash., Dec. 5.—(Special.)—The city election resulted in the return of Dr. J. A. Mahan to the Mayor's chair. He had no opposition, and has held the office three consecutive years. A. F. Schultz, W. J. Luff and John Burch were elected Councilmen. A. M. Hall was elected Treasurer, F. T. Hoffman, Clerk, and H. W. Hale, Attorney.