

FIGHT OPENED FOR PURCHASE OF SHIPS

Senate Committee Declares Foreign Domination of Commerce Must Cease.

EUROPE WANTS PRODUCTS

Secretary Redfield Quoted as Saying It Is Within Range of Probability American Shipments May Again Be Cut Off.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Initiating the aggressive fight to be waged in Congress for passage of the Government ship purchase bill, majority members of the Senate commerce committee today filed a report recommending the measure in vigorous terms.

The report filed by Senator Fletcher, acting chairman, quoted freely from the report submitted yesterday by Secretaries McAdoo and Redfield on general shipping conditions, as showing enormous increases in ocean transportation rates and falling off in tonnage facilities since the European war began.

Control of American commerce by Americans was urged and the prediction was made that enactment of the proposed bill would go far to relieve American interests.

Urgent Need Asserted.

"Unquestionably," said the report, "if we had additional ships under the American flag the situation would rapidly improve and much of the distress of producers, business men and bankers, not only in the South, but throughout the country, would be relieved. The need is urgent. There is no telling how long the disturbance abroad will last and how long, therefore, we shall suffer unless the requisite action is taken promptly."

Secretary Redfield, in a letter written to Senator Fletcher to accompany the report, declared that for years the United States had gone along with its ocean shipping in the hands of its competitors, "like a department store without any delivery system except such as our competitors were willing to supply us."

"You cannot as a matter of economics imagine Germany or England continuing permanently to transport on favorable terms to us American goods on any such scale as seriously to threaten German or English industrial markets," the Secretary's letter continued.

American Capital Destroyed.

"Like an ostrich with its head in the sand, we have put our money and merchandise at the risk of the European war, American capital invested in ships under European flags can be and has been destroyed by the acts of hostile cruisers. American capital in goods transported in vessels under foreign flags has been lost, or injured when such vessels have been sunk or held up and American goods for which Americans long since paid are today lying in foreign harbors merely because they are in ships under the flag of a belligerent.

"The time has been when war risks shut off the movement of American wheat and delayed the movement of American cotton and it is quite within

the range of probability that such a time may recur. Both on the basis of economic grounds and on grounds of self-insurance against war risks not of our making, an American merchant marine is a necessity.

"There are ports in Europe today that eagerly seek our cotton and we know that our brethren in the South anxiously desire to sell their cotton and the price abroad is such as our producers would be thankful to receive. Between these two stand the excessive rate and the scarcity of ships."

The committee's report asserted that this Government too long has permitted its shipping to be dominated by foreign interests. "We have been content," it said, "hitherto to subserve the interests of European stockholders. The situation is emergent, expensive and it is impossible with any due regard to the interests of American commerce to permit it to continue a day longer than is necessary."

At a conference of the House leaders it was agreed to withhold debate on the ship purchase bill until the Senate has acted on it, the House, in the meantime continuing work on appropriations.

NIGHTRIDER PROBE ON

MRS. ROSS, ALLEGED VICTIM, SAYS STATE IS AFTER GANG.

Woman Declares Governor Lister Has Promised to "Clean Up" North River Country — Federal Agent Acts.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Arrest of the alleged North River nightriders on the charge of having driven Mrs. Margaret M. Ross and her two sons from their North River cabin and on other charges is predicted by Mrs. Ross, who returned to Aberdeen this morning after a conference with Governor Lister and Attorney-General Tanner. Mrs. Ross says both officials declared that the North River country would be "cleaned up" and that the Attorney-General's department would carry on an investigation of the alleged crimes. For the investigation Attorney-General Tanner said he would like to employ State Senator-elect E. E. Egan, of this city, as a special agent.

Besides an investigation by the state, Mrs. Ross says inquiry is being conducted by the Federal Interior Department through Mr. Shape, Interior Division Superintendent, with headquarters at Portland. The Federal Government is interested, she says, because of the jostle in that section, dispute over which led to a few of the present quarrels.

The North River trouble started a year ago, when Mrs. Ross alleged that she and her two sons had been driven from their cabin by 12 masked men, who ordered them to leave the country. Twelve men were arrested and charged with the crime, but after being tried twice in Raymond all were released.

NEW TAX LAW PROPOSED

Coos Bay Senator Would Omit Publication of Delinquents.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Senator Smith, of this city, has gone to the state capital with the intention of putting through a new tax law to which he has given much attention. The chief advantage, it is said, is that it would save clerk hire in the Sheriff's offices and do away with the publishing of delinquent tax lists in newspapers.

The new law, if enacted, would substitute personal notices to delinquents, instead of publishing the lists.

ELECTION IS COSTLY

Senatorial Candidates Spend Total of \$460,777.

STATEMENTS ARE SLOW

Mr. Hanley, of Oregon, Only One Reporting Excess Over Legal Limit — Democratic Average \$3074, Republican \$2852.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Nearly half a million dollars was spent by candidates of all parties last November in the first popular election of United States Senators in the history of the Government. To be exact, \$460,777.55 represents the total of sworn statements of campaign expenditures filed with the Secretary of the Senate by the men who sought Senatorial honors from 31 states.

Of this grand total there was contributed from various sources to the candidates \$188,847.99. In accordance with these figures, therefore, the candidates themselves turned into circulation for the privilege of running for office \$271,929.56.

Democrats led in expenditures. Senators who looked over the figures today manifested great interest and it was remarked that should all the Senators be elected at one time the cost to the candidates, based on the ratio established, would be three times as great, or approximately \$1,384,900.

Democrats led in the expenditure with \$242,895.99. Republican candidates spent \$156,884.38; Progressives, \$55,158.94; Prohibitionists, \$4443.23; Socialists, \$354.74, and Independents, \$1040.06. The average per capita expenditure was: Democrats, \$3074.83; Republicans, \$2852.44.

The largest expenditures occurred in the State of Georgia, where two Senators were elected, the amount sworn to by all candidates there totaling \$41,492.63.

North Carolina candidates, where Senator Overman was re-elected, brought up the rear with a total expenditure of \$702.65. William Hanley, defeated Progressive of Oregon, who reported that he disbursed \$10,326.94 and had contributed to his campaign \$10,415.82, was the only candidate to exceed the \$10,000 limit fixed by law.

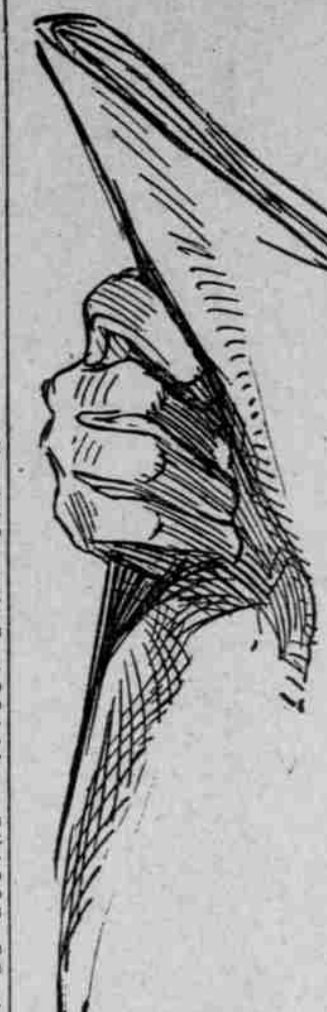
Some Candidates Spend Nothing. Several candidates reported that they spent no money whatever, but the lowest expenditure on record was \$8 cents, reported by E. L. Hitchens, Socialist candidate in Ohio.

By states the expenditures were as follows: Alabama, \$33,208.06; Arizona, \$10,115.73; Arkansas, \$4715.45; California, \$17,559.93; Colorado, \$12,755.53; Connecticut, \$2708.55; Florida, \$6373.39; Georgia, \$41,492.62; Idaho, \$16,870.36; Illinois, \$34,563.84; Indiana, \$10,161.24; Iowa, \$15,497.84; Kansas, \$21,438.42; Kentucky, \$27,878.42; Maryland, \$13,844.64; Missouri, \$6894.83; Nevada, \$5694.19; New Hampshire, \$6232.28; New York, \$22,779.93; North Carolina, \$702.65; North Dakota, \$3388.55; Ohio, \$24,596.92; Oklahoma, \$131.62; Oregon, \$12,538.42; Utah, \$11,820; Vermont, \$473.92; Washington, \$14,143.74; Wisconsin, \$15,229.58.

To obtain all the sworn statements of the candidates required more than

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The Same Reductions on Overcoats

BEN SELLING LEADING CLOTHIER

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STRIKER TAKES JAIL TERM

Ex-Mill Employee Quits Legal Fight and Decides to Serve Time.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—A. J. Rankin, one of the strikers at the Eastern mill who was recently fined in Police Court for fighting and who appealed his case to a higher court, is now serving out his sentence, Rankin's wife is said to have tried to kill herself Saturday and the bondsmen feared the husband would leave the city.

Rankin now says he never wanted

MILL TO RESUME WORK

Cottage Grove Plant to Operate When Employees Suggest Cut.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Encouragement for those who depend upon the industries of the Cottage Grove country is found in the fact that the J. H. Chambers mill will resume operations within the next 10 days. Some time ago a number of the millworkers petitioned Mr. Chambers

NORTH BEND BANKS UNITE

Bank of Oregon Will Be Merged With First National January 1.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Economy in expense is the reason assigned for merging the Bank of

Castle Rock Defeats Winlock.

CASTLE ROCK, Wash., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—The Winlock team was defeated here last Saturday in a game of basketball, 24 to 20. It was a pretty contest throughout, both sides putting up a strong fight, but the local players were too strong, quick and heady for their opponents.

to resume operations, volunteering to take a substantial reduction in wages. The proposed reduction was sufficient to enable Mr. Chambers to resume operations at present prices profitably. The operation of the mill will give employment to a number of men who have been idle for some time. The Row River Lumber Company and the Abaqua Lumber Company have been operating continuously.

The election of officers will take place January 12.

1915 "SEE AMERICA FIRST" 1915

Never before has the meaning of this great slogan been so keenly felt by Americans. The tourist tide in 1915 will be diverted from Europe; it will roll westward and during the year thousands upon thousands of Eastern people will visit the Pacific Northwest. A great proportion of the travelers will pass through Oregon; hundreds and hundreds will come back, to remain permanently.

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The price for single copies, unstamped, is 5 cents each; for copies stamped and ready for mailing 10 cents each.

LOOK FOR THE GREEN WRAPPERS

SECTION TWO Morning Oregonian. PAGES 1 TO 12

VOL. LXX. PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1915. NO. 17,981.

PORTLAND-BOUND VESSEL COMING THROUGH PANAMA CANAL

FACSIMILE FIRST PAGE OF SHIPPING SECTION