

SENATORS SOMEWHAT CAUSTIC IN COMMENT

President's Message to Congress Evokes Criticism.

NOTHING NEW, SAYS SMOOT

"If That's All He Has to Recommend, Better Stay in Paris," Says Sherman of Illinois.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—President Wilson's announcement that he intends to return the railroads to private operation at the end of this year and his recommendation for legislation allowing use of wines and beer until the prohibition amendment becomes effective were the features of his message to congress today about which the interest of members apparently centered.

Senator Cummins of Iowa, prospective chairman of the interstate commerce committee, said that under the railroad legislation would be enacted before the end of the year.

Senator Sherman of Illinois, a republican prohibition leader, said that the prohibition legislation would not turn back the roads, not until it is enacted.

Republican leaders declared that in recommending improved excess profits and income taxes the president followed plans announced long ago by the republicans.

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REMOVAL OF BAN ON WINE AND BEER AND REVISION OF WAR TAXES INDORSED BY PRESIDENT IN MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Definite Announcement Is Made That Railroad Systems and Telegraph and Telephone Lines Will Be Returned to Private Ownership—General Programme Respecting Labor Outlined in Message Cabled From Paris.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—President Wilson in his message to congress today, recommended repeal of the war time prohibition law—so far as it applies to wine and beer only; announced definitely that the railroad systems and telegraph and telephone lines would be returned to private ownership; urged a revision of war taxes particularly to abolish the manufacturers and retail sales excises; and outlined generally a programme respecting labor.

These were the "high spots" of the president's message cabled from Paris. The president's message follows: Gentlemen of the congress—I deeply regret my inability to be present at the opening of the extraordinary session of congress. It still seems to be my duty to take part in the councils of the peace conference and contribute what I can to the solution of the innumerable questions to whose settlement it has had to address itself.

It is necessary, therefore, that I should immediately call your attention to this critical need. It is hardly necessary for me to urge that I receive your prompt attention. I shall take the liberty of addressing you on my return on the subjects which have most engaged our attention and the attention of the world during these last anxious months, since the armistice of last November was signed, the international settlements which must form the subject matter of the present treaties of peace and of our national action in the immediate future.

But there are several questions pressing for consideration to which I feel that I may, and indeed, must, even now direct your attention. If in only general terms I am speaking to you, I shall, I dare say, be doing little more than speak your own thoughts. I hope that I shall appeal to your own judgment also. The question which stands at the front of all others in every country amidst the present great awakening is the question of labor, and perhaps I can speak of it with as great advantage while engaged in the consideration of interests which affect all countries.

General Co-operation Invited. We cannot go any further in our present direction. We have already gone too far. We cannot live our right life as a nation or achieve our proper success as an industrial community, if our capital and labor are to continue to be antagonistic instead of being partners; if they are to continue to distrust one another and continue how they can get the better of one another.

Legislation Is Recommended. Labor legislation lies, of course, chiefly with the states; but the new spirit and methods of organization which must be effected are not to be brought about by legislation so much as by the common counsel and voluntary co-operation of capitalist, manager and workman. Legislation can go only a very little way in commanding what shall be done.

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in developing the means of preserving and safeguarding life and health in dangerous industries. It can now help in the difficult task of giving a new form and spirit to the tax laws. It can do so by co-ordinating the several agencies of conciliation and adjustment, which have been brought into existence by the difficulties and mistaken policies of the present management of industry, and by setting up and developing new agencies of conciliation and adjustment which may serve as a clearing house for the best experiments and the best thought on this great matter, upon which every thinking man must be aware that the future development of society directly depends.

Help Returned Soldiers Is Plea. Agencies of international conciliation and suggestion are presently to be created in connection with the League of Nations in this very field, but it is national and enlightening policy of individuals, corporations and societies within each nation that must first be brought about. The members of the committees on labor in the two houses will hardly need suggestions from me as to what means they shall seek to make in their government the agent of the whole nation in pointing out and, if need be, guiding the process of re-organization and reform.

President Wilson's Message to Congress Summarized. Removal of the ban upon the manufacture and sale of wines and beers is recommended. The action is safe, declares the chief executive, because of the demobilization of the military forces to a sufficient point.

Import Duty System Liked. There is, fortunately, no occasion for undertaking in the immediate future any general revision of our system of import duties, except in the case of foreign competition now threatens American industries. Our country has emerged from the war less disturbed and less weakened than any of the European countries which are our competitors in manufacture.

Tax Revision Favored. And credit and enterprise alike will be quickened by timely and helpful legislation with regard to taxation. I hope that the congress will find it possible to undertake an early reconsideration of federal taxes in order to make our system of taxation more simple and easy of administration and the taxes themselves as little burdensome as they can be made and yet suffice to support the government and to cover the obligations which have arisen for very great reasons.

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forth be the income tax, the excess profits tax and the estate tax. All these can so be adjusted as to yield constant and adequate returns and yet not be a grievous burden on the more and more numerous taxpayers. A revision of the income tax has already been provided for by the act of 1918, but I think you will be made the better changes to be made to advantage, both in the rates of taxes and the method of collection.

Inequalities of Excises Shows. Many of the minor taxes provided for in the revenue legislation of 1917 and 1918 though no doubt made necessary by the pressing necessities of war time, could hardly find sufficient justification under our present circumstances. Among these, I hope you will agree, are the excises upon various manufacturers and very upon the sale of liquor. They are unequal in the incidence on different industries and on different individuals. Their collection, which is levied upon articles sold at retail are largely evaded by the adjustment of retail prices in the hands of the dealer. I should assume that it is expedient to maintain a considerable range of indirect taxes; and the fact that alcoholic liquors will presently no longer afford a source of revenue by taxation makes it the more necessary that the field should be carefully restudied in order that some source of revenue may be found which will be legitimate and not burdensome.

Removal of Ban on Beer Asked. Expert advice is, of course, available in this very practical matter, and the public interest is manifest. Neither the telegraph nor the telephone service of the country can be said to be in any sense a national system. There are many confusions and inconsistencies of rates. The scientific means by which communication by such instrumentalities can be rendered more thorough and satisfactory has not been made full use of. An exhaustive study of the whole question of electrical communication and of the means by which the central authority of the nation can be used to unify and improve it, if undertaken by the appropriate committees of the congress, would, I think, result, indirectly if not directly, in a very great public benefit.

State Grange Will Meet. Forty-Sixth Annual Session Will Be Held at Hillsboro. Hillsboro, Or., May 20.—(Special.)—The 46th annual session of the Oregon state grange will open in Hillsboro at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning and continue for four days. Two hundred delegates are expected and others who will be present will swell the total number of visitors to 500.

Klamath to Graduate 28. Colonel Baird of the State University to Deliver Address. Klamath Falls, Or., May 17.—It is probable that 28 pupils will be graduated from the class of 1919 from the Klamath county high school at the commencement exercises which will be held at the Houston opera house next Friday evening, according to a statement made by Principal C. R. Bowman today.

Martin Swift Moves On. Murder Suspect, Though Acquitted, Not Welcome at Castle Rock. Castle Rock, Wash., May 20.—The appearance here Sunday of Martin Swift, who was tried and acquitted following the murder of John G. Glines, was the occasion of quite a commotion. An indignation meeting was held, several of the city officials and prominent citizens were here and we ought to have, the instruments necessary for the assurance of equal and equitable treatment. The attention of the congress has been called to this matter on past occasions, and the measure which are now recommended by the tariff commission have been suggested by previous administrations. I recommend that this phase of the tariff question re-

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KLAMATH TO GRADUATE 28

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Will you not permit me, turning from the private to the public, to speak more earnestly of the proposed amendment to the constitution which would extend the suffrage to women and which the House of Representatives has passed at the last session of the congress. It seems to me that every consideration of justice and of public advantage calls for the immediate adoption of that amendment and its submission forthwith to the legislatures of the several states. Throughout the world the long delayed extension of the suffrage is looked for; in the United States longer, I believe, than anywhere else. The necessity for it and the immense advantage of it to the national life has been urged and debated by women and men who saw the need for it and the advantage of it when it required steadfast courage to be so much beforehand with the common conviction; and I, for one, covet for our country the distinction of being among the first to act in a very great reform.

The telegraph and telephone lines will, of course, be returned to their owners so soon as the re-transfer can be effected without administrative confusion, so soon, that is, as the change can be made with least possible inconvenience to the public and to the owners themselves. The railroads, on the other hand, will be returned to their owners as soon as the re-transfer of the telegraph and telephone lines I could name the exact date for their return also. Until I am in direct contact with the administrative questions involved, I can only suggest that in the case of the telegraphs and telephones, as in the case of the railroads, it is clearly desirable in the public interest that some legislation should be considered which may tend to make of these instruments of communication a uniform and co-ordinated system which will afford those who use them the most complete and satisfactory service.

The demobilization of the military forces of the country has progressed to such a point that it seems to me entirely safe now to remove the ban upon the manufacture and sale of wine and beer. But I am advised that without further legislation I have not the legal authority to remove the present restrictions. I therefore recommend that the act approved November 21, 1918, entitled "An act to enable the secretary of agriculture to carry out, during the year ending June 30, 1919, the purpose of the act entitled 'An act to provide further for the national security and defense by stimulating agriculture and facilitating the distribution of agricultural products' and for other purposes," be amended or repealed insofar as it applies to wine and beer. I sincerely trust that I shall very soon be at my post in Washington again to report upon the measures which I have presented to you as being apparently imperative and to put myself at the service of the congress in every matter of administration or counsel that may seem to demand executive action or advice.

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