BARUCH SAYS PRICE FIXING SAVED NATION

Only Control Prevented Orgy of Greed.

SMILING DEFENSE MADE

Chairman of War Department Board Parries Thrusts of Investigating Committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Bernard M. Baruch told a house war investigating committee today that except for government fixing of raw material prices during the war, only the shame of producers would have limited their return and that the morale of the nation would have broken under a riot of greed.

In the course of a five-hour examination, Mr. Baruch gave a first hand account of his services as chairman of the war industries board and as a member of the council of national defense and the American economic mission at the peace conference. With Chairman Graham trying to fathom his relations with the president and his association with Wall street interests, Mr. Baruch never lost his temper or his smile.

Price Fall Baruch's Hope.

Out of his experience with industrial problems, Mr. Baruch offered the comforting hope that top production soon would come, with a resultant fall in prices.

"When the hoarder and profiteer see great production in sight—and they will be the first to see it—they will get from under," he declared.

In questions about Mr. Baruch's mission to the peace conference, Chairman Graham failed to show any evidence of a rupture between the president and the witness, the latter declaring that if Mr. Wilson found fault with his work, "he was kind enough not to say so." He added that the economic policy, as laid down by him, was approved by the president and the "big four."

Own Defense Made.

Mr. Baruch smilingly defended himself against many "charges," including establishment of wartime censorship, daylight saving and prohibition. Once he was asked who suggested Herbert Hoover for food administrator.

"I could not say any more than I could say who it was that first named him as a presidential candidate," he replied, and the inquiry quickly turned to other subjects.

Long before the United States got into the war, Mr. Baruch testified, he told President Wilson there was no escape, at the same time urging mobilization of the nation's resources. He did not remember, he said, what opinion the president had expressed on that question.

REVENUE COLLECTOR OUT

COMMISSIONER ROPER PLANS TO GO TO PRIVATE LIFE.

Chief of Largest Collection Agency in World to Give Up Duties, Maybe Next Month.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—Daniel C. Roper, commissioner of internal revenue, has informed governmental officials of his intention to resign shortly. Although his formal resignation had not been received tonight at the White House, the matter of his successor is understood to be under consideration.

Beyond the fact that he plans to return to private life, no information as to the future plans of Mr. Roper was available here tonight, as the commissioner was absent from the city. The resignation, however, it was ascertained, will not become effective for several weeks, Mr. Roper having consented to remain at the head of the revenue bureau until after income tax returns for the past year have been filed and the collection of such taxes, the first installment of which is due March 15, is well under way.

In returning to private life, Mr. Roper will end a long public career as the administrator of the greatest tax collection agency ever organized, which last year gathered approximately $8,000,000,000 in government revenues. He became commissioner of internal revenue in September, 1917, just as the war emergency caused abnormal increase in all federal taxes and necessitated the expansion of the bureau from a small peace-time affair, concerned chiefly with imports on alcohol and tobacco, into a tremendous machine reaching into the pockets of millions of citizens for millions of income taxes and into the records of corporations and partnerships for excess profit taxes.

The revenue bureau was given the task of enforcing nation-wide prohibition by the Volstead enforcement act and he utilized the personnel and machinery formerly devoted to collection of excise taxes to establish a prohibition enforcement section with branches in every state.

MINERS' RISE PROTESTED

Coal Operator Says Increase Will Be Passed to Consumer.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—R. H. Johnston, president of the Mendota Coal & Coke company, returned this week from Washington, D. C., where he represented the operators of Lewis county at a meeting with the committee recently appointed by President Wilson following the settlement of the coal strike.

At this meeting, which was attended by ten other Washington operators, representing 85 per cent of the mines in the state, a protest was filed against the 14 per cent increase in wages on the grounds that no mine in the state can pay it without increasing the price of coal.

JACK DEMPSEY INDICTED

(Continued From First Page.)

charges both Dempsey and Kearns with a conspiracy may be two years imprisonment and a fine of $2000 or both for each. Under the count charging Dempsey alone with draft evasion, the penalty may be one year or less in jail. The latter offense is a misdemeanor, while the former is a felony.

The indictments against Dempsey and Kearns came as a result of the declarations of Mrs. Maxine Dempsey, divorced wife of the fighter, who, it is said, charged that Dempsey had intimidated her into signing an affidavit to corroborate his statements before the draft board in seeking military exemption.

It is likely that the matter will be threshed out in the United States district court at an early date.

NEXT STEP NOT DETERMINED

Kearns Says He Is Glad to Have Chance to Answer Charges.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 27.—Jack Kearns, manager for Jack Dempsey, world's heavyweight champion, said tonight neither he nor Dempsey had made any plans to go to San Francisco because of the indictments returned against them there.

"Everything is in the hands of our attorneys in San Francisco," Kearns said. "When they advise us to go there we will go. It is possible matters will be arranged so that we can surrender to federal authorities here.

"I am glad the indictments have been filed, because it means Jack and I will have an opportunity to vindicate ourselves and put an end to the gossip about us which has been in circulation for the last few weeks."

Maxine Dempsey, divorced wife of Jack Dempsey, pugilist.

AGUA PRIETA, Sonora, Mexico, Feb. 27.—Private advices today were that Jack Johnson has filed a petition with the courts of Mexico City applying for citizenship.

"LIST SYSTEM" IS KILLED

SEAMEN UNION CHIEF LAYS PLAN TO I. W. W.

Committee Is Informed Radicals Got Control of Meetings to Put Proposal in Effect.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The "list system" under which ship owners are required to select their crews from seamen approved by the International Seamen's union has been eliminated on the Pacific coast, Andrew Furuseth, president of the union, today told the commerce committee.

"The list system was put into effect last fall when a few I. W. W. got hold of union meetings at San Francisco and Seattle," Furuseth told the committee in answer to questions. "I called it a cancer when we started to fight against it, and the cancer was cut out and voted down at San Francisco just a day or two ago. The seamen's union is fighting to develop skilled men who know their rights and duties, and the list system blocks that."

It is the purpose of the I. W. W. "to fight the government," Furuseth explained when questioned as to the incidents cited, while the seamen's union wants to "fight the owners for better conditions." A temporary surplus of men in Seattle and San Francisco, he said, and their inability to get on ships, allowed the I. W. W. to outvote the regular members.

"Why do you let in I. W. W. members?" Senator Nelson, republican, Minnesota, demanded.

"How can we tell them?" Furuseth retorted. "We're not priests."

ALLEGED REDS CONVICTED

30-DAY SENTENCE METED OUT BY SPOKANE JUDGE.

Verdict Reached by Jury After 32 Hours of Deliberation. One Defendant Ill.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 25.—Eight alleged members of the I. W. W. began today serving sentences of 30 days in the city jail, following their conviction in superior court here today of violating the city criminal syndicalism ordinance. Their attorney, John Roche, waived the right of appeal to the supreme court.

The eight men are Chester Brown, William Dirk, Jack Gillis, Stanley Hovey, Jacob Ketola, Ira Hope, Guy Powers and Tom Wilson. J. B. Clark, the 11th defendant, was taken ill with influenza on the second day of the trial, and will be tried again later.

The verdict, reached by the jury after 32 hours' deliberation, was returned, sealed, at 10:30 o'clock last night. It was opened at the convening of court this forenoon.

In a former superior court trial of the 11 defendants to the present action with 33 others, the jury disagreed. Charges against the other 22 were dismissed, the prosecuting attorney declaring his belief that the men, who had already been in jail for the term to which they were sentenced in police court, should be released.

RULING ON CHURCH PENDS

Christian Science Litigation Is Taken Under Advisement.

BOSTON, Feb. 27.—Judge Crosby of the supreme court, after hearing arguments by counsel in the Christian Science church litigation today took under advisement a motion by counsel for the directors of the church that Frederick Dodge, as master in the suits, be directed to hear further evidence before filing his report. The evidence which the directors wish to introduce is in connection with the suit of John V. Dittemore against the directors to compel them to recognize him as a member of their board.

No action was taken by Judge Crosby on a motion by counsel for the directors that the time for filing of the master's report which expires on March 1 be extended to March 15. He remarked, however, that there was some question about the legality of granting such an extension unless requested by the master himself.

CANVASS OF TREATY SENTIMENT IS MADE

Republicans and Democrats Both Declare Gains.

BOURBONS ARE ANXIOUS

Irreconcilables Approached to Find What Action Will Be After Party Convention.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The senate talked without acting today in its consideration of the peace treaty.

Most of the time went to the irreconcilable opponents of ratification, Senator Norris, one of the irreconcilables, making a four-hour speech in denunciation of the treaty provisions affecting Egypt and the treatment accorded the Egyptian delegates to Versailles.

Only for a brief period, just before adjournment, was there any discussion of the pending reservation, which deals with decision of domestic questions under the league. Adoption of the reservation in its original form was advocated by Senator Smith, democrat, Georgia, who argued that the substitute presented by Senator Hitchcock would amount to amendment of the treaty.

Canvass Is Made.

The leaders on both sides made separate canvasses of the attitude of democratic senators towards acceptance of the crucial article 10 reservation in the form it went through last November, with the result that both claimed to be gaining strength. Among the republicans, it was declared that only a few more democratic votes would be needed to insure ratification, but the administration senators asserted ratification would fail by a wide margin unless the republican article 10 reservation were modified.

Democratic leaders also are understood to have felt out sentiment among the irreconcilables, particularly with a view to the probable political consequences if ratification on the basis of the republican reservations again were blocked by democratic votes.

Results Are Feared.

Such a result, it generally is conceded, would throw the whole question into the campaign, and some democratic senators are said to be anxious to learn how far the irreconcilable republicans would go in their opposition should the republican national convention declare for ratification with reservations.

On this question, it was declared, divided counsels were found among the irreconcilables. Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, has said openly that he would carry the fight for rejection to the people after the convention. Others of the group are said to favor accepting the decision of the convention, while even Mr. Borah has been indefinite in the suggestions he has made with regard to the possible formation of a third party.

GILL NETTER ABSOLVED

Washington Supreme Court Rules Report on Catch Only Necessary.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Gill-net fishers are not required to file reports with the state fish commissioner as to the number of fish cauht during the preceding four months where they have not caught fish during that time, the supreme court decides in reversing the conviction of W. M. Hoffman in the superior court of Wahkiakum county for failure to file a report on March 31, 1918.

Hoffman was the owner of a gill-net license for the Columbia river and owned a fish boat and gill net. He was prosecuted on the theory that the law required a report regardless of results that might attend his fishing activities. The court holds that there is nothing in the 1917 laws which requires a report merely as a report, and that the penalty is provided for failure to report fish caught.

APPROVAL IS LOOKED FOR

(Continued From First Page.)

gin the task of overcoming that deficit. It was estimated that the roads are three years behind in passenger cars, two years behind in locomotives, one year behind in freight cars and two years behind in Pullman cars.

With the resumption of private control and under the provisions of the bill every agency connected with the operation of railways is upon trial, the statement said.

The statement continued:

"The legislation marks a new departure on the part of congress in its policies with respect to regulating the instrumentalities of interstate commerce. Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the adequacy, the desirability or the validity of some of the provisions, there must be universal recognition of the high and patriotic purpose of those in congress chiefly responsible for the legislation.

"The government policy of the future will, no doubt, depend upon the success of the experiment now made.

"The act itself is about to enter upon its 'test period.' If under the system which it establishes the credit of the carriers is made sufficient to enable them to perform their public duties, the legislation will, by universal concession, be a success. If, on the other hand, such credit is not established, the legislation will be a failure.

"In addition to the act, the interstate commerce commission, the several state commissions, the labor unions and the carriers themselves are all on trial.

"The interstate commerce commission is on trial because the powers conferred upon that body by this bill are so enormous and so far-reaching that it will become largely responsible for the success or failure of the system of regulation.

"The state commissions are on trial, because, if they hold back and refuse to co-operate with the interstate commerce commission in establishing a harmonious system of rates to apply to both state and interstate commerce of the same carrier, they will interpose an obstacle in the way of success of the system for which public opinion will hold them responsible.

"The labor unions are on trial because the government itself has created an official agency for the fair and equitable adjustment of all grievances and of all controversies as to wages and living conditions, and if, in defiance of the conclusions thus officially reached, the labor organizations unjustly and contrary to public opinion, interrupt the orderly and continuous movement of interstate commerce, upon which the welfare of the whole public depends, they cannot expect to be sustained by the people, to whose will, at last, they must bow.

"The carriers are on trial because an effort has been made to extend to them help of a substantial character in the performance of their public duties and public opinion will hold them to a strict accountability for the fidelity and efficiency with which these duties are performed.

DIRIGIBLE LINES PLANNED

TRANSCONTINENTAL PASSENGER SERVICE PROPOSED.

Contracts for Construction of 35 Ships Are Reported to Have Been Awarded.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Plans for the operation of three transcontinental dirigible airship planes for passengers and smaller middle western lines were announced yesterday by Charles Ora, head of the Commercial Aircraft syndicate, which is supported by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber company of Akron, O. Mr. Ora declared that he has made arrangements for the construction of 35 ships—ten each of six, 12 and 50-passenger capacity—which will be used on the middle western lines, and five ships having a capacity of 200 passengers which will be used on the transcontinental lines.

The first routes will take in these cities, he said:

Kansas City, Denver, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, New Orleans, Jackson, Memphis and Springfield, Ill.

Officials of the syndicate estimated that the cost of passenger airship travel would not exceed 5 cents a mile.

STOLEN CAR RECOVERED

Auto Taken From Astoria Year Ago Found on Grays Harbor.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—An automobile, practically new when stolen a year ago from Astoria, Or., has been recovered by the sheriff's office here and probably will be turned over to the estate of John Coren, to which it belonged.

R. C. Julian is alleged to have sold the car to Harry Druxman, here on representation that he owned it. Druxman sold it to the Poulson Bros. company and the Poulson company sold it to T. M. Smith, a logger at Carlisle. A warrant is now out for the arrest of Julian, whose whereabouts are not known. It is stated Druxman will be the loser unless he can find Julian and compel him to give up the amount paid.

SYRUP FRAUD; FINES PAID

Cafes and Restaurants at Spokane Admit Guilt.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Proprietors of ten cafes, restaurants and cafeterias, among the best in the city, including the Davenport hotel, the Pacific hotel and the Culbertson, Grote-Rankin company, each paid fines of $25 and costs after pleading guilty today before Justice Stocker to charges of selling imitation maple syrup under the name of the original.

Various reasons were given for inability to serve the genuine. Carl Siegle, who paid the fine for the Davenport, stated that it was impossible to obtain pure maple syrup.

ROAD CLOSING OPPOSED

Shutting Up of Highway During Paving Causes Protest.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Announcement by contractors that the Columbia river highway would be closed throughout the 24 hours of the day between here and Wyeth when two shifts of paving crews are put to work the latter part of April has aroused a volume of protest, and local citizens are considering an appeal to the state highway commission. Portland traveling salesmen, who make their frequent calls on patrons by automobile are joining the local folk in a protest against totally closing the road.

Silica Tests to Be Made.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Decision to test the crystalline silica from the mines of Oregon City with a view of entering into the specifications for state highway construction was reached today by Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, following a conference with Charles F. Terrill, president of the Silica King Mines corporation. Test of the silica, which has been used extensively in Clackamas county for asphaltic highway construction, will be made at one of the state plants within the next few days.

Pardon Denied Former Cashier.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Governor Louis F. Hart today denied the application for a pardon for J. Hardwood Morris, formerly cashier of the Fremont State bank of Seattle, convicted two years ago of embezzlement of the bank's funds and sentenced to the penitentiary. The petition for Morris' pardon had the indorsement of Judge R. H. Back of Clarke county, who presided at the trial, Superior Court Judge A. W. Frater of Seattle, Senato. Dan Landon of King county, and Deputy Prosecutor Frank Helsell of King county.

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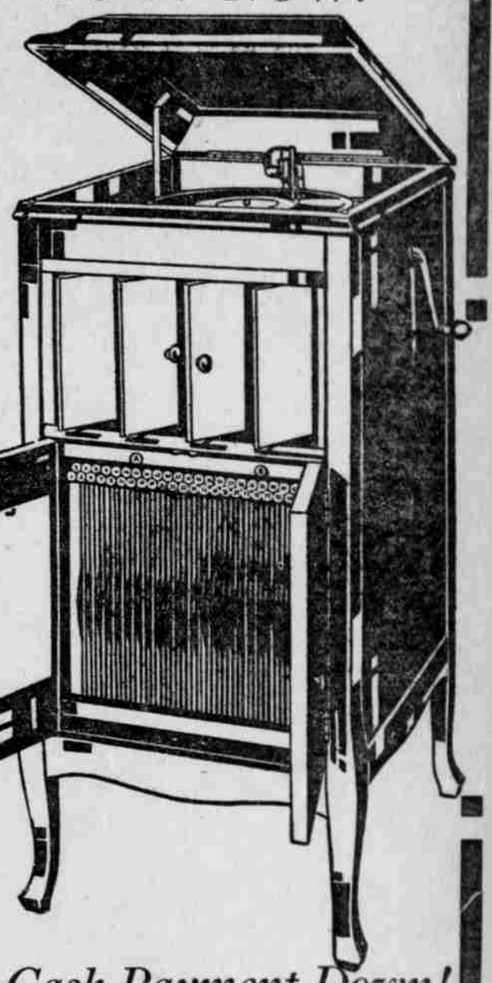

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