



BETHLEHEM STEEL CUTS OFF UNIONS

Sales Refused Builders on Closed Shop Basis.

POLICY IS STOUTLY UPHOLD

Magnate Inflexible Even if New York Operations Halt.

GRILLING IS SEVERE ONE

Witness Tells Legislators Investigating Alleged Trust That Scope May Be Extended.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Bethlehem Steel corporation will refuse to sell fabricated steel to builders and contractors in the New York and Philadelphia districts for buildings to be erected on a closed shop basis.

This policy was disclosed by Eugene G. Grace, president of the corporation, who testified today before a joint legislative committee investigating the alleged "building trust," replying to charges that his corporation was sponsoring the "open shop" movement by withholding steel from builders employing only union men.

"I think it is a proper thing to protect the open shop principle," declared Mr. Grace, who explained that his stand would not be changed even if building operations in New York were to be suspended because steel could not be obtained by union workers.

Steel Magnate Is Grilled.

Whether the corporation will extend its policy to other parts of the country, the witness said, depends "entirely on what effect I should expect it to have on our general labor situation."

The steel magnate was subjected to a severe grilling by Samuel Untermyer, the committee's counsel, who has stated that he, Untermyer, is the largest stockholder in the Bethlehem corporation.

Charging Mr. Grace with "fencing" and evading his questions, Mr. Untermyer several times appealed to Senator Carson, acting chairman, to order the witness to answer his questions.

Witness Is Reprimanded.

"You are not in the office of the Bethlehem Steel corporation; you are before a legislative committee," Mr. Untermyer reminded the witness, adding that the "president must not have his own way all the time."

While his corporation was a member of the national steel fabricators' association, Mr. Grace declared it had acted independently of the association's "open shop" program and had not entered into any agreement "with any other interests" to sponsor the movement.

Asked if he believed the Bethlehem corporation big enough to carry out its open shop principle, if every other steel company decided otherwise, the witness replied:

Dictation Attempt Denied.

"Denying that he had attempted to dictate to union builders as to how they should erect steel, Mr. Grace asserted: 'I told them they cannot have our fabricated steel.'"

When the witness denied knowledge of the movement among fabricated steel manufacturers in the United States with which steel from union shop builders, Mr. Untermyer asked:

"Do you think it is a proper thing for manufacturers throughout the country to get together and dictate to the builders in the different cities of the country whether or not they shall erect steel on union or open shop principles?"

Principle Declared Good.

"As to the question of getting together, I do not know," replied Mr. Grace. "The question of whether it would be a good principle, I should say it would be."

"I firmly believe that any character of relations or associations to support and protect the open shop principle of giving service by any character of laboring man in this country is a very good thing."

"Now can't you see what an arrogant and indefensible attitude it would be for the manufacturers of this country to try and force their point of view of what you call the 'open shop' in the erection of their steel when other people believe it was to their best interest to erect it by the union shop?" asked the committee counsel.

"If they thought it was to protect their interests, in line with what they considered the right policy for their interest, I would not consider it arrogant, but self-protection," replied Mr. Grace.

Union Stand Held Firm.

The steel head admitted that the structural iron workers' union had not discriminated against the non-union product of the Bethlehem corporation, but said "it may happen."

"Facts and expectations and delusions are different things," replied Mr. Untermyer.

Declaring he "never liked the term 'collective bargaining,'" Mr. Grace (Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

HUGHES MAY BECOME NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE

NEW YORKER REGARDED SURE OF SUPREME COURT SEAT.

Former President Taft Again Looms as Another Possibility When Vacancies Filled.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 15.—Charles Evans Hughes of New York, is believed here to be slated for the first vacancy in the United States supreme court which will occur upon the retirement of Joseph McKenna of California, associate justice. On the retirement of Edward Douglas White, chief justice, now long past the age at which he was eligible to retire, it is expected that Hughes will become the chief justice.

President-elect Harding will have at least four vacancies to fill, those of Associate Justices Day of Ohio and Holmes of Massachusetts, in addition to the places of Chief Justice White and Associate Justice McKenna. It is not believed that former President Taft will be one of the appointees unless Mr. Harding can satisfy himself that Mr. Taft is now a resident of Connecticut and not of Ohio.

There has been considerable talk about the wisdom of decentralizing supreme court honors, Ohio and Massachusetts now holding four of the nine places. Associate Justices Day and Clark are from Ohio and Holmes and Brandeis are from Massachusetts, and on this account it has been predicted that Mr. Taft will not be appointed, although the fact may be overlooked that the latter's friends can easily argue that he is now a resident of New England and not of Ohio. Practically ever since his retirement from the White House Mr. Taft has been casting his vote in New Haven.

A close friend of the former president said today that in his opinion Mr. Taft would accept if named to the supreme bench, because such an honor would be in line with his own life's ambition. He said that the former president is hale and hearty at the age of 63, and if appointed in the next year could give seven years of efficient service before attaining the age of retirement, at which time his retirement would be optional with himself, for then he would be healthy and able to discharge his duties.

With the retirement of Justice McKenna the Pacific coast will not be represented in the supreme court for the first time in half a century.

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OREGON'S 1921 TAX TO BE \$9,493,105

Amount for Elementary Schools Included.

STATE EXPENSE \$4,565,881

Deficiency Appropriations Swell Levies Total.

\$1,000,275 IS RECEIVED

Amount of Money Needed to Conduct Departments and Institutions Thus Reduced.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—State taxes in Oregon for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1921, including money necessary for general state purposes and the amount to be appropriated to the state elementary school fund, aggregate \$9,493,105.22, according to a summary of the annual levy prepared here today by Frank J. Lovell, state tax commissioner.

The levy, as compiled by the tax commissioner, is based on the estimated expenditures of the various state departments and institutions for 1921, aggregating \$4,565,881.67, plus deficiency appropriations authorized by the state emergency board amounting to \$459,776, and special millage tax approved by the voters and not affected by the 6 per cent limitation amendment to the constitution, totaling \$6,988,256.66.

Some Levies Retrospective.

The millage taxes include levies of \$1,482,873.95 for the state agricultural college, \$1,044,653.47 for the University of Oregon and \$121,756.47 for the Oregon State Normal school. The levies for these institutions are retrospective and cover the years 1920 and 1921.

There also is included in the millage levies \$408,355.62 for the operation of the soldiers' sailors' and citizens' educational act, \$2,081,878.10 for the public elementary schools and \$1,040,829.05 for the state market road appropriation.

The money due from the latter tax remains in the treasuries of the various counties and is not turned over to the state treasurer as are the funds derived from the other millage and state levies.

Receipts Are \$1,000,275.

Estimated receipts of the state treasury not applied by law to some specific purpose are set out in the summary at \$1,000,275.16, which (Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

CHILD CONSERVATION IS URGED BY HARDING

MOTHERS OF NATION ASKED TO AID WELFARE PLAN.

President-Elect Holds More Conferences on Foreign and Domestic Questions.

MARION, O., Dec. 15.—American mothers were asked by President-elect Harding tonight to give to school officials and other public servants a full measure of co-operation in the educational, religious and physical training of children.

Speaking before a state meeting of the Child Conservation league, Mr. Harding declared it the duty of motherhood to keep the old-time home spirit alive in spite of the growing tendency to entrust the instruction of the child almost wholly to public institutions. He made a particular plea that religious training be kept within the province of the hearts and voiced a hope for revival of religious reverence in the trying times ahead.

The president-elect also asked that the public welfare agencies of the nation be kept democratic and expressed disapproval of the practice of the rich in withdrawing their children from the public schools and entering them in private institutions. He reaffirmed his hope that great good would be accomplished by the new public welfare department to be proposed by his administration and said he had found sentiment in and out of congress strongly supporting the plan.

The address was delivered at the Methodist Episcopal church here at the end of one of Mr. Harding's busiest days since he began his consultations on an association of nations and other public problems. His callers included Raymond Robins of Chicago, an ex-leader of the progressive party; Senator Fall of New Mexico and George Fred Williams, an ex-American minister to Greece, and the conferees were understood to have covered many foreign and domestic questions.

Mr. Fall came from Washington and was said to have given Mr. Harding detailed advice on numerous subjects that have been talked over among republican leaders in congress. It was indicated that cabinet selections formed one of the topics discussed and that much attention also was given to the financial situation.

Mr. Fall is an advocate of immediate aid to agricultural interests of the country and told Mr. Harding that the next three months should be spent in planning that would permit America to regain world leadership. He said he personally believed the best solution would be a new peace conference at Washington at which European nations would be eager to be present.

Economic Situation Viewed.

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ROMANCE SOFTENS UNCLE SAM'S HEART

PRETTY RUSSIAN GIRL TO BE ALLOWED ENTRY TO WED.

San Francisco Man Wins Fight to Have Stowaway Admitted So He Can Marry Her.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Uncle Sam's heart has softened. He is following the maxim: "All the world loves a lover."

Immigration authorities received authorization this morning from the department of labor to free Eva Georgiana Printz, pretty Russian girl, who came to Seattle last October as a stowaway from Vladivostok on the S. S. Cross Keys to meet her fiancé, Lloyd D. Jacot of San Francisco, providing that she marries Jacot. The war-time romance of Jacot and the Russian girl now is virtually certain to result happily, and wedding bells will ring soon in Seattle, officials said.

The only proviso which as yet stands in the way of the marriage is that the passport regulations must be waived by the department of state. That this will be done is considered a matter of course by Elmer L. Weir, attorney for Jacot, who has acted as cupid in bringing about a happy termination of the romance.

The pretty little Russian girl fell in love with Jacot last July in Vladivostok when he was stationed there as secretary to the embarkation officer of the port. Jacot was sent away with troops before their wedding could be held. He was sent on by war department order to San Francisco.

Last October Miss Printz tired of waiting for him. She stole on board the steamship bound for Seattle. She knew that she could reach San Francisco from any point on the Pacific coast.

Storm warnings were discontinued on a report from North Head, Wash., that the sea was smooth for the first time in many days and that the wind was blowing only 18 miles an hour from the east.

KERMIT ROOSEVELT FINED

Son of Late President Pays \$25 for Breaking Speed Law.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Kermit Roosevelt today was fined \$25 for speeding on Staten Island.

He pleaded guilty, explaining his speedometer was broken.

Contract Held Violated.

Citizen complainants who addressed the commission presented a variety of objections, one asserting that he had installed a gas furnace on the representation that the cost of fuel would not exceed a certain amount and that the increase now proposed was a violation of the understanding.

A stockholder, Irene E. Hewitt, inquired why it was that the company could promise 7 per cent on its preferred stock when it alleged that its affairs were hopeless unless the rate increase was granted.

Mr. Laing, replying to this inquiry said that the demand for a higher rate was dictated largely for the protection of stockholders, and that under the law the company has the right to ask for such rates as will insure a fair return upon the investment. Later Mr. Laing pointed out that the company faces a necessary expenditure of \$1,000,000 for improvements and extensions essential to service and that the only means for getting funds is through the sale of stock. If the investment value of stock is allowed to depreciate, said Mr. Laing, it is obvious that the company cannot maintain standard service through inability to dispose of its issues.

Oil Market Unsettled.

The principal witness of the afternoon was J. D. Arthur, manager of the fuel oil department of the Union Oil company of California, who testified to the unsettled condition of the crude oil market. He declared that increased industrial activity had given a perpendicular impetus to prices, and at the same time created a shortage of supply, though producers are bending every effort to meet it.

Mr. Arthur testified that in 1914 the price of crude oil at tidewater was 60 cents a barrel, and that it has now advanced to \$2.50, of which the producer receives \$1.60, as contrasted with a return of 25 cents a few years ago. He declared that the oil market is so unstable that the company has declined to renew its contract with the Portland concern, and other oil customers, but is merely assuring them that it will do its best to fill their requirements by purchase in the open market. He understood that similar action was being taken by the Standard Oil company.

D. J. Young, vice-president and general counsel of the Tacoma Gas & Fuel company, testified that the gas rates of his company are much larger than those asked by the Portland concern.

FIGHT FOR HIGHER GAS RATES BEGUN

Hearing Before State Commission Opens.

LIFT DECLARED NECESSARY

Protests Mainly Against Proposed Classification.

TARIFF DECLARED FAULTY

Authority of Public Service Commission Is Questioned by City Attorney LaRoche.

Few opponents of the rate increase asked by the Portland Gas & Coke company, at the hearing which opened yesterday before the public service commission, objected to the new tariff on the ground that an increase is not justified by present conditions and the price of crude oil, but confined their criticisms largely to the classification of rates, alleging that some were unfairly proportioned.

So crowded was the chamber of the public service commission during the hearing, begun before Fred G. Buchtel, chairman, and Fred A. Williams and H. H. Corey, commissioners, that an adjournment was taken to a courtroom where more than 200 citizens heard the opening arguments and testimony.

It is the contention of the company, in its request for largely increased rates, that the unprecedented cost of crude oil, the basis of gas manufacture, requires recognition by the commission in an endorsement of the proposed tariff, in order that investors may be protected.

City's Claims Presented.

City Attorney La Roche, in his opening statement, replied to the company as represented by John A. Laing, vice-president and general counsel, declaring that the present is not the proper time to increase rates when the price tendency is downward; that the tariff classification would place an unfair load on small users, as contrasted with the rates for large enterprises, and that the commission is not empowered to determine the rate and assign it, but that this is a purely legislative function.

A similar claim was overruled in the hearings of the street railway company on the ground that the commission had power to fix a return on the investment. It is also contended by the city that a fair basis of return cannot be determined until the company presents its physical valuation, upon which a proper return might be estimated. Associated with Mr. La Roche as counsel for the city are George L. Rauch and Joseph A. Bailey.

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TALKATIVE BURGLAR ALSO GOOD SPORT

JEWELRY TAKEN FROM NELSON HOME RETURNED.

Highly Priced Engagement Ring Is Only Article Retained by Mild-Mannered Outlaw.

Besides being a talkative individual, the burglar who entered the home of Roscoe C. Nelson, 232 Aspen street, Portland Heights, early Monday morning is a good sport.

This was the view taken by Mr. and Mrs. Nelson yesterday when they received in the afternoon mail a small package containing all but one of the articles taken by the burglar on his visit to their home.

The package, which was addressed in a disguised handwriting and mailed from the central postoffice, contained two diamond rings and a gold wrist watch belonging to Mrs. Nelson and a Shriners' pin which he took from Mr. Nelson. The only article of the lot which he retained was Mrs. Nelson's solitaire diamond engagement ring.

"The only way I can reason the thing out is that he wanted to be a good sport," Mr. Nelson suggested. "After we had recovered from the first momentary shock on finding him in the bedroom we conversed with him for some time while he proceeded to rob us in a most accomplished manner. When I asked him not to make too much noise for fear of awakening our son he agreed to be as quiet as possible."

"It is certain that he did not become conscience-stricken, for in that event he undoubtedly would have returned Mrs. Nelson's engagement ring. We simply feel that he wanted to show us he isn't all bad."

While he would not compound a felony, Mr. Nelson said yesterday that if the burglar could suggest some way in which the transfer could be made he would willingly pay him twice the value of the diamond engagement ring in order to have it restored to Mrs. Nelson.

Millions Go to Farmers

Utah and Idaho Producers Get \$40,000,000 for Beets.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 15.—With disbursements to farmers and others in Utah and Idaho today, marking the final payment for sugar beets supplied this year, reports show that approximately \$40,000,000 has been paid by local sugar companies.

The Utah-Idaho Sugar company and the Amalgamated Sugar company top the list with payments for the year totaling \$10,500,000 and \$7,800,000, respectively.

French Fighter Plans to Make Daughter Tennis Champion.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—A daughter was born today to Mr. and Mrs. Georges Carpentier.

The champion admitted that he was somewhat disappointed, as he had hoped for a boy, but added: "I will make a champion tennis player of her."

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HAND OF BRITISH SEEN IN SHIPPING

Balfour Tried to Rule Board, Says Denman.

WARM SESSION RECALLED

Briton Ousted From Membership on Advisory Body.

SECRET AFFAIRS HINTED

First Chairman Declares He Could Tell More if President Would Give His Consent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Further testimony that Great Britain attempted to influence the war-time shipping policy of the American government was given today by William Denman of San Francisco, first chairman of the board, before the special house committee investigating operations of the federal shipping agency.

Mr. Denman charged that the British mission which came to the United States in April, 1917, and which was headed by Arthur J. Balfour, then British secretary of state for foreign affairs, had undertaken to influence the shipping board and had succeeded in getting one of its members elected to an administrative board which, Mr. Denman said, he had attempted to organize in New York to function with the shipping board.

"Afterward the shipping board had a warm session," he continued. "It lasted 20 minutes and all that had been transacted at the previous session was wiped out."

The witness intimated that his insistence that the board be kept free from British influence had more to do with his resignation as chairman "than anything else." He testified that while he wanted British cooperation he did not want Great Britain to influence the board.

Bond