

FARMERS HESITATE TO INDORSE BLOC

Harding's Outline of Relief Also Approved.

PARLEY FACES PROBLEM

Cause of Fireworks at Conference Analyzed by Mark Sullivan. Speech Causes Discussion.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.

(Copyright by the New York Evening Post, Inc. Published by Arrangement.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—Most of the sputtering fireworks in the farm conference go back to a single episode of the first day's session, which did not consume a minute of time, but which since then has taken up a good many hundred hours of individual discussion among the delegates. It was in Harding's opening speech that the speech had been prepared in advance and Harding was reading it, word by word.

He came to the point where his written speech said: "The whole country has an acute concern with the conditions and problems you are met to consider. It is truly a national interest, and not to be regarded as primarily the concern of a class or a section." Harding read these words, and then raised his eyes from the manuscript and looking out toward the audience with an air of determined disapproval added the three words, "or a bloc."

This thrust at the farm bloc in congress is expressive of what seems to be Harding's attitude towards it. He had read a series of recommendations for legislation which were thoroughly agreeable to the farmers, and included most of what they are demanding. And then he took this dig at the agency through which the farmers are trying to bring their demands.

Similar Thing Done Before. President Harding had done a similar thing in his speech at the opening of congress last year. That address to congress contained a series of recommendations of progressive measures in the interest of the farmer. But at the same time Mr. Harding gave a slap on the wrist to persons who are obstructing party solidarity. It is clear that Harding believes in far-reaching measures to aid the farmers, but that he wants to hold to party government and the maintenance of party discipline.

The bulk of the informal personal discussion of what Harding did in the opening day centered about the question of whether the conference in its resolutions should not indorse the farm bloc by name. They wanted to indorse the program that Harding laid down, and they wanted to indorse Harding's action in calling the conference and thank him for it.

Discussion in Acrimonious. But when it came to indorsing the farm bloc by name there were several days of acrimonious discussion before they could get to it. There was never much doubt about the American farm bureau federation, which was probably the strongest single element in the conference, wanted to do it, and it was thought it advisable.

The second cause of insurgency within the conference hangs about the method by which it was organized. A meeting like this can be organized from the chair or from the floor. This one was organized from the chair. The dominating personnel of the committee appears to have been picked in advance. It is probably fair to say that in fixing it there was a certain amount of attention to putting a silence on the more radical and the more irresponsible persons who might turn up. This is largely what has led to the complaint of "steam roller" methods, "Mark Hanna domination," and the like. Nevertheless, the American farm bureau federation, which is by far the biggest and most compact of the farm organizations, and which is the chief backer of the farm bloc in congress, is in the majority with money with the way the conference is being run.

Labor's Wages Discussed. One of the minor commotions has arisen out of the suggestion in some quarters of the conference to reduce freight rates a reduction in the wages of railroad labor. Such a suggestion naturally sends Samuel Gompers and other representatives of organized labor up in the air. It illustrates the difficulties inherent in a conference which aims to include not only the farmer, but also the other industries, and the other elements in the community who are concerned in the broader sense.

The farmers want freight rates reduced. It is almost indispensable to them. When the railroad managers say they can reduce freight rates if they can first reduce wages the farmers are sympathetic. The farmer in his exalted sees the railroad conductor as a brass-buttoned autocrat, who has regular hours of work and as many of them as among the farmers have obtained lifetime jobs and a salary which from the point of view of the farmer looks princely.

Genoa Representatives Wanted. In the largest sense, one of the most interesting and important developments of the conference is the support for the suggestion that America should be fully represented at the Genoa conference and in general a decided sympathy toward greater participation on the part of America in European affairs. One speaker got obvious approval when he said that America ought to be fully represented on the reparations commission. The president of the \$20,000,000 farmers' equity cooperative exchange of St. Paul said in his speech Europe owes us \$10,000,000,000. I believe that Uncle Sam should be represented there, and if I had that much coming, and if you had that much coming from a bunch of debtors, and those fellows were holding a meeting, you would go in.

This sort of thing is a surprising and genuinely important development. One of the formal proposals made at the conference has been for America to lend money to European countries on long-term credits for the purpose of enabling those countries to buy our farm products on credit. This is impossible and won't be done, but out of the feeling which inspired the proposal has arisen a growing conviction that the quickest and surest road out of America's agricultural depression is to get away from the policy of isolation, which was such complete approval in the election of 1920.

New Trend Is Noted. There can be no question that there is the beginning of a trend away from the policy approved at that election. It is not merely in the farm conference that it appears. It is found also in the completely prepared post-

tion of republican senators and republican business men. There is nothing to the theory that the farm bloc of the American bureau federation, of which the farm bloc is the political agency, aims to form a third party. On the contrary, their fixed and deliberate policy is the direct opposite.

Their slogan is "work through both parties." It is true there are the formal beginnings of a third-party movement in Nebraska and elsewhere in the west, but it has nothing to do with the farm bloc. Also, the leaders of the farm bloc in the senate and house specifically disavow any such intention. There isn't the faintest possibility of Kenyon leaving the republican party. In addition to other reasons for staying within the republican party, Kenyon would have the selfish reason that just now a good many of the progressive republicans, who in 1920, tried to nominate Frank Johnson, are beginning to talk in terms of Kenyon as the leader of the progressive wing of the party in 1924.

CHEST CRUSADERS READY

(Continued From First Page.) Colonel-Commissioner Bigelow, while one of the remaining two flatly and finally refused to recognize the cause. He declared his entire willingness, insofar as the city's relations with this restaurant company are concerned, quite as flatly, quite as finally, to refuse it any municipal patronage.

While on the topic of unfairness the assembled officers turned to another phase—that of the unfounded and malicious rumor, whispered here and there, that the community chest is being worked on a commission basis, with a generous percentage remaining in the hands of the workers, and, further, that luncheons and dinners attended by the campaigners are being paid for from the chest.

Rumors Absolutely False. Known to be false in every detail, and unworthy of regard, the meeting felt that it should, for the greater good of the cause, condemn the circulation and the circulation of such stories, and ask all citizens and all chest crusaders to deny them plainly and emphatically. A resolution to this effect was adopted by the generals and colonels.

Franklin T. Griffith, chairman of the flying squadron, at the noon meeting yesterday issued an urgent appeal for every member to attend today's luncheon, which will be held in the ballroom off the mezzanine floor of the Multnomah hotel at 12:15. Every one is wanted at that time to report on what prospects have so far been seen and with what results, while a report is also expected on what may reasonably be obtained from prospects as yet unvisited. It is vital to the work of the squadron that these figures be in hand. With this information as a basis to work upon, the general session will be held up at the noon meeting Saturday. The squadron is going strong but it was said at yesterday's meeting that the ground remains to be covered and the best efforts of every member are required.

All Phases Explained. The meeting was chiefly one of detailed instruction. Adjutant-General Walker explained all phases of the soliciting work of general interest and then answered many questions. Mrs. C. B. Simmons, chairman of the residence division, outlined her organization work and read instructions she had given to her colonels to prevent duplication of effort by the women's and men's groups. The women are expected to do a great work in the canvass and Mrs. Simmons said she hoped to raise \$100,000 in her division.

Marshall N. Dana, chairman of the publicity committee, explained briefly the work of that unit and answered questions and heard suggestions.

Message Being Spread. Fred A. Carlton, assistant chairman of the speakers' bureau, reported the community chest message, reaching churches, factories, department stores, women's clubs, lodges, schools, community and business men's clubs, large banquets, big dances and card parties, meetings of patriotic organizations and various other group gatherings. In connection with the speakers, the campaign film, "Under the Lid," is being shown throughout the city, a speaker usually giving a talk to accompany it.

Fifty manual-training shops of the Portland schools are working hard this week to get out 100 miniature chests to be placed in all the schools of the city next Monday morning. Because this is examination week, the students have been fully occupied, and much of this work has fallen upon the instructors, many of whom have been working late into the night to finish their jobs. F. M. Groshong, head of the manual-training department, has been directing this work.

More Lieutenants Listed. Lieutenants recently enlisted by captains and reported to Colonel Leslie Cranbourne are now on the muster rolls of the campaign as follows: Captain, E. A. Southwick; lieutenants, W. W. Crowder, F. G. Lomb, R. H. Reed, H. B. Karr. Captain, Charles E. Couch; lieutenants, James H. Cassell, E. B. Carrington, Ted Emerson. Captain, A. B. Culter; lieutenants, Lew Hansen, Fred Carlton, L. S. Martin, H.

57

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HEINZ SPAGHETTI

FIVE BUILDINGS BURNED

DAMAGE AT WHITE SALMON TOTALS \$4000.

Bursting of Water Main Makes Fire Hydrants Almost Useless.

One Man Injured.

WHITE SALMON, Wash., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—Fire starting at 4:15 this morning in Breedlove's shoe store, completely destroyed five frame store buildings on Main street. The fire originated between the ceiling of the store and the floor of a physician's office on the upper floor. Bursting of a water main from the reservoir to fire hydrants reduced the water pressure to the extent of rendering the system practically useless. Buildings which were burned were two-story structures, one owned by William Powers of Salem, Or. The second was owned and occupied by J. W. Breedlove, as a shoe shop. The two others were owned by R. Laterbach.

No insurance was carried on any of the building or contents. Dr. W. H. Warner had rooms over the shoe store and lost the entire contents of his office and \$150 which was in his trousers pocket. Dr. Warner was forced to flee only partially dressed, and was seriously injured. The losses are Powers, \$1800; Breedlove, \$3800 on building and stock; Laterbach, \$4000 on building.

Road Contract Awarded.

PENDELTON, Or., Jan. 25.—(Special.)—Eleven contractors bid on six-

Charge Purchases Made the Balance of This Month Will Appear on Statements Rendered March 1

Lipman Wolfe & Co.

Charge Purchases Made the Balance of This Month Will Appear on Statements Rendered March 1

Here Saturday--Another SALE OF SPRING DRESSES

150 of Them—and They're Beauties 150 of Them—Many Models—But Just One Price

Taffeta Silk, Canton Crepe and Poiret Twill Dresses

The Sale Saturday This Advance Notice Is Published So That More Women Can Arrange to Be Here

\$16.75



Actual reproductions

—More new Spring dresses come to sell at that amazingly low price, \$16.75. It is not too much to say that such selling is one of the marvels in Portland merchandising this month—and it is to be expected that another surging crowd will be waiting here for the doors to open Saturday morning.

—Yes, women will be here, waiting for the doors to open—they will be here, for they will be wanting the dresses, and why shouldn't they be excited, as it were, when such dresses are to be had at \$16.75, which barely covers the cost of the material in each of many of the frocks.

—Some of the dresses in navy blue, some in brown, some in black—some in fashionable high colors. All in Spring styles, new Spring styles—and all sizes, 16 to 44, in the collection.

—Some of the models here sketched—a number now on display in our Fifth-street windows. But none reserved—positively no selections to be allowed before the store opens at 9:15 A. M. Saturday—this to assure fair distribution of the really sensational values. \$16.75 the price—just one price.

Dress Section—on the Third Floor—at Lipman-Wolfe's

miles of road construction work today with the Umatilla county court. J. K. Shotwell of Hermiston was low with a bid of \$24,725 for grading and graveling the Buter creek stretch. The estimate was about \$37,000. The high bid was \$42,025. The contract was awarded to Mr. Shotwell.

Marine Photographs Prepared.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—C. R. Wright, of the Gray's Harbor port commission engineering staff, has begun preparing a series of 50 or more photographs showing the work done by the port commis-

sion since it began active operations for the improvement of the harbor. The photographs will be sent to Frank Lamb, who has already left for Washington to urge action in the matter of a bar dredge. The picture exhibit is expected to be one of the best arguments for the need of a

dredge to make available the improvements which the local port commission has in progress.

Electric Rate Rise Case Heard.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—Hearing of the application of the

Sheridan Electric company for an increase in rates was held today. The hearing was conducted by Fred A. Williams and H. H. Corey, members of the Oregon public service commission.

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men's furnishers and hatters
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better service for you—reasonable prices
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