RIGHT OF PURCHASE IS STOUTLY UPHELD

Washington Studying Precedents in Advance of Operation of Ship Bill.

ISSUES MUCH INVOLVED

Officials Contend Fact of Acquisition by Government Would Be in Itself Prima Facie Evidence of Bona Fide Nature.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Diplomatic phases of the proposed purchase of ships by the United States Government were widely discussed today as a result of the publication of a report that Sir Edward Grey had informed the State Department that such purchases, if including German or Austrian ships, would be regarded as constituting an unneutral act.

It was declared positively at the State Department, as well as the British Embassy, that no communication, official or otherwise, on the subject had been received from Sir Edward. Not only has the American Government not asked or received the formal views of Great Britain, but no expressions of an official character have come from either Russia or France.

Previous Cases Not Parallel.

References have been made to the subject of transfer of flag in diplomatic correspondence over the steamship Dacia and previously over the Brindilla, but these are held by the State Department not to be parallel cases, as they involve transactions between private individuals, whereas the bill pending in the Senate would make the United States Government a party to any purchase of vessels made under it.

Inasmuch as the State Department holds that what might have been said in the Dacia or Brindilla cases does not apply to Government purchases, Majority Leader Underwood, in the House, on behalf of the State Department, denied that the pending ship bill had been the subject of official communication between the Washington Government and Great Britain.

Negotiations Now Premature.

At the British embassy the view was volunteered that since the pending bill had not yet passed, negotiations would not be proper, and that even if the measure were enacted there was no reason to suppose that the United States government, exercising the powers designated by the law, would commit any unneutral act. It was said authoritatively, however, that the British Ambassador had made it clear in a recent conversation with Secretary Bryan what under certain circumstances would be the view of the British government, pointing out incidentally that while England in the past had recognized some transfers of flag during war as legal, there was no doubt in his mind of the opposition of Russia and France.

What the hypothetical circumstances are to which the British Ambassador referred have not been disclosed, but they are presumed to relate to any general or wholesale release of German and Austrian ships now docked in American ports.

Ambassador's Views Unofficial.

Such a step, high officials of the American Government declared, was not in contemplation, as they have not even decided yet whether it even will be necessary to purchase any belligerent vessels to obtain at a reasonable price ships to carry American products.

Although the British Ambassador discussed the subject orally with Secretary Bryan recently, a distinction was drawn at the embassy today between his personal views and any official expression by direction of his government. Since his opinion was delivered in an unofficial way, the State Department has no record of it and officials do not regard any of the informal remarks made thus far as in the nature of a protest or formal communication.

The right of the United States Government to buy vessels hitherto under a belligerent flag is vigorously upheld by officials at the department who have made an exhaustive study of precedents.

Declaration Not Binding.

Against the position understood to be held by Great Britain, France and Russia, it was pointed out by Administration officials that even if the declaration of London's provisions were construed as prohibiting all transfers of flag after the outbreak of hostilities, which is something the American delegates at the conference did not and the State Department does not now admit, the United States is not bound by the declaration, because article 65 of this declaration says:

"The provisions of the present declaration must be treated as a whole and cannot be separated."

Inasmuch as the British order in council of last October accepts some of the provisions of the declaration of London and modifies others and, as that action received the approval also of France and Russia, the United States does not regard any part of the declaration to be now in force, but is being guided by previous principles of international law.

French Position Analyzed.

To oppose the contention that France has never recognized changes in registry, officials of the State Department point to the rules issued by the French Minister of Marine to the French navy during the Franco-Prussian War, when commanders were instructed to inquire into whether or not each transfer of flag was bona fide. Before the declaration of London was drafted England, too, it is asserted, held transfers as legal where there was no question as to the bona fide character of the transaction.

High officials here contend that the fact of the purchase by the United States of the ships establishes the bona fide character of the sale, for it would not be supposed that a government would enter into any secret arrangement for the eventual transfer of a vessel to the original owner. Officials contend also that, even under the declaration of London, where transfers are prohibited "to evade the consequences of war," the American Government could prove that its purpose was obviously not to assist a belligerent, but primarily and chiefly to provide facilities for its own products.

Motive Subject to Scrutiny.

As to the purchase by private individuals of belligerent ships, officials recognize the validity of the transfer and the motive for the sale might have to undergo more rigid scrutiny. For this reason they do not consider the Dacia case as a precedent or a parallel case.

The fact that the proposed purchase would be made, not by the American Government alone, but as a part of a corporation in which private persons would hold stock, would make a different case, in the view of officials, from that of a vessel owned wholly by the United States, as, for instance, naval auxiliaries or transports, and would make them analogous to merchant vessels of various steamship lines in which European governments have a financial interest through subsidies. It has even been suggested in some official quarters that the testing in a prize court of the validity of transfer of a partially-owned government vessel would not meet with legal objection by the Washington Government.

COMFORT KITS FOR FRENCH SOLDIERS GO TO EUROPE ON ROCHAMBEAU.

—Photo Copyright, Underwood & Underwood.

MRS. WILLIAM ASTOR CHANLER ON THE ROCHAMBEAU.

Several hours before the steamship Rochambeau, of the French line, sailed last Wednesday for Havre, France, Mrs. William Astor Chanler, of New York City, stood on the captain's bridge with Raphael Dumont, commander of the Rochambeau, watching the storing of many huge cases in the hold of the vessel. They contained comfort kits, being sent by the Lafayette fund to the French soldiers in the trenches. Mrs. Astor had charge of this, the fourth shipment, of 7000 kits.

"It is appropriate that this largest shipment of its kind should go by the Rochambeau," said Mrs. Astor Chanler—"a ship named in honor of the great man who helped America during the Revolution. It is even more appropriate that they should be known as Lafayette comfort kits, in honor of the great man who paid out of his own pocket for thousands of comfort kits for our own Continental soldiers."

JAPAN REGARDED AS POTENTIAL ENEMY

Monroe Doctrine and Legislation by States Declared to Hold War Menace.

NAVAL BILL DISCUSSED

Massachusetts Member of House Declares Victor in Present War Could, If It Chose, Become Master of World.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Possible trouble with Japan because of unwise state legislation, maintenance of the Monroe Doctrine and the conditions of the present war were ascribed by Representative Gillett, of Massachusetts, today as reasons why he had recently become an advocate of large armaments.

The naval appropriations bill, on which he was speaking, lost, through points of order, an allowance of $1,000,000 for aeronautics, this being the unexpended balance from last year, and a provision for the creation of a chief of operations to head a naval war board. Democratic leaders expect to provide for aeronautics by adding $1,000,000 to the total of the bill, and Representative Hobson immediately introduced the chief of operations section as a separate bill.

Victor Could Master World.

Mr. Gillett declared it would be possible for the victor in the European war to disarm all other nations and become mistress of the world, although the chance of this would be slight, he said.

"Among those nations we have considered the most progressive and civilized," he continued, "has suddenly burst forth a worship of force, reversion to the primitive savage type, a lawless selfishness, a disregard of sacred obligations, of pity, of mercy and of humanity which is depressing and confounding."

The Monroe Doctrine, "without basis in law or justice and never acknowledged by Europe," Mr. Gillett asserted, "was the one prolific source of trouble for the United States." He referred to Japan as a possible antagonist of this country, and said some of the states had singled out the Japanese for unfriendly legislation, which course if persisted in might "cause a wave of resentment to sweep the Japanese people into a hostile outbreak."

Torpedo Supply Sufficient.

Representative Padgett, chairman of the naval committee, told the House the Nation was amply prepared in mine supplies and in long range torpedoes. He read a letter from Rear-Admiral Straus, chief of ordnance, saying many vessels already were supplied with the long-range torpedoes and that three factories were at work completing the task.

The Admiral said it was not contemplated that submarines should have as long range torpedoes as the surface vessels and the general board had recently recommended that the range of the submarine torpedo be reduced and the explosive charge increased.

"If we are to trust our information from abroad," the Admiral said, "the range of our submarine torpedoes, even when reduced, will be about twice that of the submarine torpedoes used in Germany, France and England."

JOHN W. PRICE, 82, DIES

Douglas County Pioneer of 1852 Passes at Roseburg.

ROSEBURG, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—John W. Price, aged 82, and the last of the pioneers of the Oak Creek vicinity, died here today.

Mr. Price was born in Ohio and came to Oregon in 1852. On his arrival, he purchased 700 acres of land on Oak Creek, which he retained at the time of his death. He had the distinction of erecting the first modern farm residence in Douglas County. Mr. Price was engaged in stockraising for many years, and reared some of the best horses in Southern Oregon.

Other than his widow, Mr. Price is survived by six sons and two daughters, as follows: C. A. Price, who resides at Colfax, Wash.; W. F., Fred, Asher and James Price, of Oak Creek; John E. Price, of Portland; Mrs. S. T. Smith, of Roseburg, and Mrs. A. H. Cox, of Washington.

POST EXAM JUBILEE JOLLY

300 Students and Friends Attend Willamette Entertainment.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Three hundred students, faculty members and friends of Willamette University attended the post-exam. jubilee held in the corridors of Eaton Hall Friday night under the supervision of Dean G. H. Alden. Miss J. Todd, precepress of Lausanne Hall, the co-eds' dormitory, assisted as director of entertainments. Merwyn E. Paget and Miss Beryl Holt had charge of the reception affairs. Leland R. Sackett acted as manager of class stunts.

The four liberal arts classes each presented a unique stunt, the one being most heartily received was a mock motion picture show staged by the members of the senior class.

Refreshments were served by the freshman girls.

CHERRIANS MAY VISIT FAIR

Salem Boosters Discuss Plans and Name Committee.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Plans for an excursion to the San Francisco fair were discussed at a meeting last night of the Cherrians, Salem's booster organization. A committee of M. L. Meyers, Charles Dick, W. M. Hamilton and George Graves was appointed to have charge of the trip.

The time for the excursion has not been decided upon definitely as yet. Carl Hinges was appointed chairman of a committee to have charge of a Cherrian ball in the Armory about the middle of February. State Treasurer Thomas B. Kay, the newly-elected "King Bing," presided at the meeting.

Aged Hillsboro Woman Dies.

HILLSBORO, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Mrs. Henry Stoffers died here Thursday and was buried today. She was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1837, and was married to Henry Stoffers in 1866. They moved to the United States in 1866 and lived in Iowa until 1890, when they settled near Bethany, Washington County, Oregon. Six years ago they retired to their home in Hillsboro. Mrs. Stoffers is survived by her husband and the following named children: Henry Stoffers, Bethany; Mrs. Joseph P. Shirley and Mrs. Sophia Wolf, Hillsboro; Mrs. Henry Thoeny, Redland, Or., and Mrs. Abraham Grossen, of Cape Horn, Wash.

Lydia Jane Crandall Dies.

HILLSBORO, Or., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—The funeral of the late Mrs. Lydia Jane Crandall took place in this city yesterday, death occurring at Hammond, January 26. Her maiden name was Lydia Jane Pomeroy and she was born in Missouri, July 14, 1844. Her father was a Baptist minister and the family moved to Oregon in 1845.

IDAHO SUIT IS URGED

Capitol Contractors Said to Have Been Overpaid.

OTHERS ARE ABSOLVED

When House Declines to Pass Appropriation Bill Excluding Albion Normal, Change in Estimates Is Presented.

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 30.—(Special.)—The Capitol Building Commission made its report to the Governor here tonight. It shows that the overpayments reported by Accountant Gleason, with the exception of one to Storey & Murphey, contractors on the Capitol building, were due to mistakes. Suit is recommended to be instituted against the contractors to recover. J. W. Wiley and Frank Coffin, members of the old commission, presented their resignations to the Governor. The report shows that $750,000 of the Capitol building bond issue was sold at the best market price obtainable. Mr. Gleason reported it was not.

Having created three new counties the Legislature killed without ceremony the Buhl County measure seeking to create a new county out of the west half of Twin Falls County. There are three other county division measures pending and they are not likely to pass.

The state institution budget was revised yesterday after the House refused to abandon the Albion Normal School. Appropriations now are provided for state institutions as follows: University of Idaho, Moscow, $536,300; State Normal, Lewiston, $163,290; Academy of Idaho, Pocatello, $102,500; Industrial Training School, St. Anthony, $140,000; Deaf, Dumb and Blind School, Gooding, $114,030; State Normal, Albion, $110,500.

The university and normals have incomes from Federal aid or interest funds totaling $473,000, which reduced the total to be drawn from school tax $733,590 for the entire budget. In addition, $40,000 is asked for to meet expenses and salaries of the State Board of Education.

ST. PAUL BANKER OPTIMIST

Edward O. Rice, Hill Associate, on Tour of Northwest.

The prevailing high prices for foodstuffs for export and the prospects of good crops in the coming year are great factors in bringing back prosperity to the country, according to Edward O. Rice, of St. Paul, who is at the Portland Hotel. Mr. Rice is vice-president of the First National Bank of St. Paul, the largest National bank west of Chicago. His trip is due to the interest of James J. and Louis W. Hill in the Northwest, and he will visit all the principal cities.

"There should be every reason to take an optimistic view of the business outlook for the coming year," he said.

Mr. Rice was the guest yesterday of Emery Olmstead, of the Northwestern National Bank, and W. D. Skinner, traffic manager of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway.

BIG WILDCATS KILLED

Coyotes Numerous and Dangerous in Union County.

LA GRANDE, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Two wildcats, one of them weighing 24 pounds, have been killed near Imbler, in this county, during the past week and the slaughter of coyotes has been wholesale. Vern Berry, of that neighborhood, killing 15 of these animals in one day.

The deep snow in the hills evidently caused the wild animals to come out into the open seeking food and, while no reports are received of any attacks on the people of that section, the animals are becoming dangerous.

BASKET PLAYERS FIGHT

JUNCTION CITY STUDENT KNOCKED SENSELESS IN GAME.

Virgil Alexander, of Eugene, Is Arrested for Alleged Attack on Edward Hayes, Who Is In Coma.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Edward Hayes, a member of the Junction City High School basketball team, was seriously injured last night in a game with the Eugene High School team, which ended in a fight. He sustained concussion of the brain and was unconscious for several hours, due to a blow said to have been struck by Virgil Alexander, a Eugene High School player. Alexander was arrested and released on bail furnished by C. N. Johnston, coach of the Eugene team. His trial has been set for next Wednesday.

Spectators say Hayes butted Alexander off his feet as the two were running after the ball.

"Both fell and it is reported that Hayes struck Alexander while they were down," said Ole Simms, referee. "Hayes got up and 'squared himself' as though he expected a fight. They came together and Alexander struck Hayes squarely on the jaw."

Coach Johnston declares Hayes swung at the Eugene boy first and that Alexander dodged and then struck back.

Hayes revived after 30 minutes, immediately relapsed and was unconscious during the night. A deep gash was cut on the side of his mouth. A mob surrounded Alexander and several blows were struck in a free-for-all fight that followed before the Eugene team's departure for home.

The game was called a draw when the score was 9 to 6 in favor of Eugene.

Bandon Leads County in Debate.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—With high schools debating at North Bend, Bandon, Coquille and Marshfield last night, Bandon won the county championship by seven points of a possible eight. Marshfield was second with six points. The Bandon team will debate for the Southern Oregon championship some time within the next month.

WIFE AND JOB SOUGHT

N. F. NELSON HOPES TO BE PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES.

Bachelor of 75 Wants Helpmeet Between 19 and 37, Fit "to Grace Cabin or White House."

ALBANY, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Most men would regard the job of running for President of the United States as one which would take all of a man's attention and it is generally considered that a deliberate search for a wife is a task which does not mix well with other diversions, but N. F. Nelson, a farmer residing near Brownsville, in this county, is doing both at the same time.

Several days ago Nelson announced to the people of his vicinity that he will be a candidate for President of the United States at the next election. Yesterday he published an advertisement for a wife.

Nelson announced that he will run for the Presidency on a platform of National prohibition. National woman suffrage and other lesser National improvements. His announcement did not say that he would seek the nomination of any particular poltical party and the registration rolls in the County Clerk's office show that politically he is an "Independent."

In the advertisement for a wife he seeks a woman between 19 and 37 years of age. His age is 75.

He wants a wife "capable of gracing a mountain cabin or the White House," the inference being that he has the mountain cabin now and expects to have the White House later. He refers to himself in the advertisement for a wife as "a man of destiny." It is said that Nelson has not been married heretofore.

OREGON PIONEER IS DEAD

Benjamin R. Barton Passes Away on Washington Homestead.

COLFAX, Wash., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Benjamin R. Barton, 88, died at his home near Colfax today. Mr. Barton crossed the plains in an ox team from Iowa, first locating near Eugene, Or., in 1853. He later resided near Brownsville and Albany, moving to Whitman County in 1879, where he homesteaded the farm where he died.

He lived in Iowa, Oregon and Washington during territorial days. With his wife, who died 25 years ago, he was a member of the Oregon State Pioneer Association. He is survived by four daughters and five sons. One daughter, Mrs. John Wiseman, resides in Portland.

Willamette Adds Survey Course.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Professor James T. Matthews, once dean of Willamette University and recognized as one of the ablest mathematical instructors on the Northwest Coast, will give a special course in surveying, at the request of many of the men of the university. The course has not been given regularly because of lack of demand, but it is now planned to make it available at all times when five or more students signify their intention of carrying the work. Special work in pedagogy is to be given by Professor S. Sherman and an advanced course in dramatic interpretation will be presented by Professor W. MacMurray.

Oregon to Wait at San Francisco.

VALLEJO, Cal., Jan. 30.—Orders were received at Mare Island Navy-Yard today from Washington for the battleship Oregon to remain in San Francisco Bay until July, when she will leave to join the Atlantic fleet preparatory to its start for San Francisco via the Panama Canal.

Scottish Clans to Tour State.

ALBANY, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—That the delegates to the meeting of the Scottish Clans at San Francisco this Summer will tour the Willamette Valley and make an extensive stop in Portland was the announcement made here today by A. G. Findlay, royal chief of the clans. The convention at San Francisco will be held from August 17 to August 20, and the officers of the organization are planning immediately on its termination to have the entire body come northward and make an extensive visit in Western Oregon.

An Elimination Contest.

Exchange.

If they played an elimination contest in your game, would you figure in the finals?