

DEMOCRATS UNEASY OVER PEACE TREATY

Failure of Republicans to Act First Causes Worry.

OTHER QUESTIONS LOOM

Whether Railroads Will Be Returned to Owners by January 1 Is Yet in Doubt.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 12.—Uneasiness on the democratic side of the senate indicates that some move is coming from the administration to re-visit the peace treaty.

Administration leaders in the senate had hoped that the national republican organization would make some move to force a settlement of the treaty issue and failure to mention it convinces them finally that the organization stands squarely behind the republican position in the senate that the responsibility is on democratic shoulders.

While contending stubbornly that the blame rests upon Senator Lodge and the supporters of reservations, certain democratic senators do not appear satisfied that the country at large is accepting their word to that effect. At any rate some energy is found every day to bring up the subject, as was done today by Senator Underwood, who used an article from a morning paper as a pretext.

Quick Settlement Sought. There has been a constant pressure from the rank and file of the democratic party in all parts of the country during the last few days to get the question settled and eliminate it from the national campaign next year. Just at this minute the treaty is causing the democratic candidate for congress in the 9th North Carolina district some embarrassment of which party leaders are taking note. It is going to have this effect on every special election they are asking themselves what will be the effect when the entire country goes to the polls next November.

The contest in North Carolina is a special election to be held Tuesday to select a successor to Edwin Yates Webb, who was recently appointed to the federal bench. Webb carried the district by 4200 votes a year ago, but the democrats admit that their hope of success rests solely on the side of the majority rolled up by Mecklenburg county, in which is situated Charlotte, the largest city in North Carolina. It looks like all the other contests of the district will be carried by the republican candidate.

Treaty Pushed to Front. The political situation, therefore, is pushing the peace treaty to the front and it may be anticipated that it will be subordinated to political expediency by the democratic senators before many days and overtures will be communicated to the republican side through Senator McNary or some other leader of the republican moderation.

Will the railroads be returned to the owners on January 1. This question is one of deep concern just now, because it is obvious that the needed legislation for their return cannot be enacted by that time. No one knows if President Wilson will insist on returning the railroads regardless of legislation and this makes the whole situation a quandary. There is talk of government control being extended to March 1 or to June 1.

Cummins Bill Opposed. To return the railroads without legislation to carry the old conditions and particularly to save them to a degree from the crossfire of confusing orders of 14 state commissions, it is feared, would be a tragedy and mean an immediate onrush of receivership. A secret note to the senate is said to reveal so much opposition to the Cummins bill now under consideration that there is doubt about its passage.

Debate on the McNary sugar bill, which passed the house yesterday, cast discredit on professional economists that the shortage is likely to last for a long time. It was emphasized time after time that the present sugar shortage would never have existed if President Wilson had followed the advice of the majority of the sugar equalization board and purchased the Cuban sugar crop last August, when it could have been taken over at 25 cents a pound.

Tausig Denounces Purchase. Dr. Tausig, a member of the board, who has a world-wide reputation as a textbook economist, denounced the proposed purchase of the sugar as sure to impose a needless burden on the consumer. Sugar he was confident would go down.

Instead, the passage of the McNary bill is necessary to prevent the price of sugar from going to 25 cents a pound or higher. Under this legislation, which will be taken up in the house and passed without delay, the government control continues for one year, thus protecting the public from a price almost prohibitive to the poor.

But the price which will have to be paid for the Cuban crop now will cost the public approximately 100,000,000 more than last August or September. In other words, a bit of professional advice will cost sugar consumers somewhat more than the entire cost extraction of the Panama canal and everybody will help to pay.

Garfield's Friends Resent Action. "Of course it will be accepted," said Secretary Tumulty, in gleeful tone, referring to the resignation of Dr. Harry Garfield, as fuel administered. There has been nothing to indicate that the president is anxious to get rid of Garfield as Mr. Tumulty ap-

pears to be, and in the meantime Dr. Garfield's friends are not letting up in their resentment of what they condemn as a piece of "political treachery" in framing the coal strike surrender without consulting Garfield. Dr. Garfield is not talking, because he says he is too good a friend of the president to talk all that he might about this settlement of the coal strike, which threatens ultimately to flatten the pocketbooks of the consumers, but his friends are doing enough talking for him. Some inside stuff is likely to be told before the controversy is over. Attorney-General Palmer is quoted as saying with anguish, while hesitating about the action to be taken against the miners, "This will destroy my political career."

LEADBETTER SUES AGAIN

WANTS TO GET BACK STOCK IN PAPER COMPANIES.

Alleges Verbal Contract With the Late H. L. Pittock as Basis of Action in Court.

Suit for the return to him of 8592 shares of stock in the Crown-Willamette Paper company and 4400 shares in the Crown-Columbia Pulp & Paper company from the estate of the late H. L. Pittock for approximately the same amount paid by Mr. Pittock to him for the stock, or \$755,000, in purchases made between 1910 and 1917, was filed in the circuit court yesterday by F. W. Leadbetter, son-in-law of the deceased.

Mr. Leadbetter declares that a verbal agreement was made between him and Mr. Pittock in 1910, in which, the plaintiff asserts, it was understood that he was to have the privilege of buying back all shares of stock purchased by his father-in-law in the paper companies, at any time by the payment of the original purchase price, plus interest of 6 per cent since time of purchase.

In the meantime all dividends which accrued were to be applied upon the purchase price and interest, if so desired by Mr. Leadbetter, according to the alleged contract. The dividends would more than take care of the interest in the figures submitted, for it is held that the cash dividends since the stock came into the hands of Mr. Pittock have totaled \$325,316 and the interest charges \$320,583.

Mr. Leadbetter contends that no time limit was fixed on the resale of the stock. He declares that O. L. Price, executor for the estate, has admitted the existence of the verbal contract but has maintained that the death of Mr. Pittock fixed the limit of time within which the plaintiff could re-purchase the stock, and on that basis he has refused to apply to the probate court for an order authorizing the retransfer of the shares on the payment of money required.

The stock was not all purchased at the same time. Some was bought direct by Mr. Pittock from Mr. Leadbetter, who asserts that by reason of ownership of this stock Mr. Pittock was permitted to subscribe for other shares, all of which, he contends, is subject to the verbal agreement.

It is set out that Mr. Pittock purchased 2000 shares in the Crown-Willamette company on April 1, 1910, 500 shares on May 24, 1912, and 450 shares on August 24, 1914, direct from Mr. Leadbetter, and subscribed at the request of the plaintiff to 1000 shares on July 6, 1910, and 450 more shares on July 24, 1912. Shares in the Crown-Willamette company, 2112 shares and 1200 shares between 1910 and 1917.

Mr. Leadbetter makes no tender of any amount for re-purchase of the stock which he thus says he is entitled to buy back, but asks for one year's time in which to make payment. The stocks thus sought to be placed in litigation are among the assets of the Pittock estate, of which there are five heirs, Mrs. Susie H. Emery, Mrs. Kate Hebard, Mrs. F. W. Leadbetter, Mrs. Louise Gantenbrin and F. F. Pittock. It was expressly stipulated by Mr. Pittock, who by his will placed the estate in trust for 20 years, with designated allowances to the heirs, that the trustees, O. L. Price and C. A. Morden, should not sell any of the stocks or bonds of the Crown-Willamette company which he held. Certain other of his properties were subjected to like conditions.

O. L. Price, the executor, yesterday declined to make any statement about the suit, but said that the matter would be duly determined by the court.

Siberia Trade Envoy Due Here.

Boris Miševitch, commercial attaché of the Siberian government, with headquarters at San Francisco, will be a Portland visitor either Tuesday or Wednesday. The foreign trade department of the Chamber of Commerce will make appointments for merchants engaged in trade who desire to make connections in Siberia. Half-hour appointments will be arranged for discussion of the needs of the country and to acquaint the representative with the goods available for shipment either immediately or in the near future.

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TRAIN SERVICE IMPROVES ROADS HAMPERED BY SNOW AND COLD OPERATING. Movement on All Main Lines is More or Less Off Schedule: Conditions Mending. When switch points are frozen and steamships on locomotives gassed with a sheathing of ice railroading is not so delightful as some folk might imagine. Oregon and Washington railroads centering at Portland are operating quite satisfactorily, considering conditions, and trains left Portland practically on time yesterday and last night. Inbound trains were somewhat belated. With temperatures ranging from 20 to 20 degrees below zero on the lines of the Oregon-Washington and North bank lines along the Columbia river from Cascade Locks eastward, the trainmen face conditions that are encountered every year in the Rocky mountain country, but rarely for any great length of time in the Pacific northwest. At Albany, one of the important water stations of the Southern Pacific, the city water system froze up and locomotives are being supplied there by the use of a fire engine. This is one of the incidental developments of the freeze in western Oregon. On the Oregon-Washington lines of the Union Pacific, No. 11, due at 8:15 A. M., arrived at 5 P. M. yesterday. No. 13, from the east, due at 3:30 yesterday afternoon, arrived at 7:30, and No. 2, due at 12:30 P. M., was scheduled to arrive at 11 P. M. Trains in both directions on all main lines are off their schedules somewhat. But on the whole conditions are improved. Freight trains are moving and all branch lines are in operation. The nut trees of the world, it is calculated, could provide food all the year round for the population of the globe.

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