

WILSON MAKES RAIL BILL LAW

Measure Signed on Eve of Carriers' Return.

HINES' POWER CONTINUES

Wilson Transfers Authority Conferred by Bill to the Director-General.

LABOR'S REQUEST ANSWERED

President Believes That With Law in-Effect Way Is Opened for Wage Settlement.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—President Wilson signed the railroad bill tonight on the eve of the return of the roads to their owners and to private control.

In a proclamation issued at the time the bill was signed Mr. Wilson vested in Walker D. Hines, director-general of railroads, virtually all powers conferred upon the executive by the bill. Mr. Hines will also continue to exercise the duties of director-general which are continued beyond the return of the roads to private control at midnight Sunday.

The White House also made public the text of the president's reply to a recent request of representatives of the railroad brotherhoods that he appoint a commission composed equally of employers' and employees' delegates to consider wage demands made by the brotherhoods. It deals wholly with the wage demand settlement proposals and does not refer directly to the memorial later presented by the brotherhood heads asking that he veto the railroad bill.

Announcement Is Surprise.

Announcement of the signing of the bill came after officials had become convinced that Mr. Wilson did not intend to act tonight.

In his letter, Mr. Wilson said the passage of the railroad bill "made it evident that I could not act on your suggestions until it should have been determined whether the bill would become a law or not."

"It was manifest," the letter continued, "that if the bill should become a law the negotiations and consideration of the wage matter ought to proceed in harmony therewith."

"The bill having now become a law, the way is open for immediate action on the wage matter in accordance with the terms of the bill. Section 301 of the bill evidently contemplates that the carriers and employees should, as suggested by you, select representatives who will thus constitute a bi-partisan board for the purpose of attempting by conference to agree upon a solution of this wage problem."

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RAIL LINES REVERT TO OWNERS MONDAY

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF 28 MONTHS ENDS AT 12:01 A. M.

240,000 Miles of Main Trunks. Terminal and Equipment Return With \$715,500,000 Deficit.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—At 12:01 A. M. Monday, the government will hand over to their owners 240,000 miles of main line railroad and terminal and equipment, valued at approximately \$20,000,000,000, over which its direct authority has been extended since December 28, 1917.

The properties will go back, leaving the government with a deficit of \$715,500,000 for its 28 months of operation. But while the deficit appeared large, "federal operation has cost the public considerably less under the conditions, through rates and taxes, than would have been the case under private control," Director-General Hines declared in a statement.

Hines Cites Benefits.

Mr. Hines believed that the nation, and railroads as well, gained benefits of a lasting character. "It made practicable a war transportation service which could not otherwise have been obtained," he said. "Its unification practices have increased the utilization of the inadequate supply of equipment so that exceptionally large transportation services have been performed in the busy periods of 1918 with a minimum of congestion; it met the unprecedented coal strike in a way which private control could not have done and absorbed a heavy financial loss on that account which would have proved highly disturbing to private control; it provided more additions and betterments and equipment than private control could have provided during the difficult financial situation of war-time; it dealt fairly with labor and working conditions which were clear-cut in its right; it not only did not cost more than private control would have cost during the same period, but cost considerably less on account of the economies flowing out of unifications and the total burden on the public—through rates and taxes—account of railroad costs was substantially less than would have been necessary if the railroads had remained in private control and rates had been raised enough to preserve credit."

Investments Are Protected.

"It protected the investments on the railroad properties, whereas without federal control those investments would have been endangered; and it turns back the roads to private control functioning effectively, with a record of performance in an exceptionally difficult winter, despite the disruption caused by the coal strike and in a condition to function still more effectively with normal improvement to be expected in weather and in other conditions."

The railroad corporations will start their work with an important psychological asset, Mr. Hines said, pointing out that the public holds to rigid responsibility any agency performing a public service, "without regard for the difficulties of the situation." He declared the company officials resume direction of their properties under "the most favorable possible conditions of public sentiment." They also may lay plans for the future, he said, and put into effect permanent organizations, things the railroad administration could not because of uncertainties of its tenure, and for lack of which the work "has been continuously and progressively embarrassing."

Work Still to Be Done.

The railroad administration still will have a definite work to do after the roads are returned. In addition to providing transportation services, it has been charged with administration of contractual relations between the government and the roads, Mr. Hines explained. The government was obligated to pay \$217,000,000 annual rental to the corporate owners. This and the other fiscal relations which involved the purchase of great quantities of supplies and equipment, will require a continuation of part of the railroad administration indefinitely.

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WILSON PUTS KINK IN PARTY'S BOOMS

McAdoo and Palmer Wait President's Word.

THIRD-TERM HOPE CHERISHED

Miracle of Restoration to Complete Health Wanted.

BELLICOSE STAND TAKEN

Executive on Partial Recovery Declines to Show World He Can and Will Be Dominant.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.

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This is an effort to reduce to at least a degree of understandable order that tangled chaos which is the democratic presidential situation. It was tangled enough at best; it has been made much more chaotic by the signs now coming from the White House every day of extraordinary activity on the part of the president.

Mr. Wilson's sensational dismissal of Mr. Lansing has been universally interpreted by Washington as merely one of many signs of the president's determination to show the world that he has the power—both the physical power resulting from improved health, and the will as well—to reassert himself as president and as party leader, in short, the impression is that the president himself feels that his health is better, but has an angrily bellicose determination to show the world that he is able to be dominant and that he proposes to be so.

Hines Hits Third-Term Hope.

Inner Washington believes that the only thing that stands between the president and candidacy for a third term is the state of his health, and that those consequences which flow from the state of his health. Inner Washington pictures the president in his carefully guarded seclusion and the president's intimate entourage as hoping and praying that the miracle would restore him to the health he had a year or two ago.

And no one doubts that if that single qualification were fulfilled, that if the president should, once feel that he had his health fully back again, he would immediately assert his leadership that goes with his position and determine to lead his party in the coming campaign.

Inner Washington believes that this miracle will not happen. But inner Washington is equally sure that the president himself is led to hope that the miracle will happen. A sick person is always encouraged to entertain that hope by those who attend him. It is helpful to his recovery and the natural thing to do. About the last thing that is admitted by a sick man is that those who are attending him are so fully intimated that he will not recover fully. Quite properly all of their efforts are focused on creating precisely the contrary impression in the patient's mind.

Aspirations to Get Shock.

But whatever the hope of those who are immediately about the president, whatever optimism they may endeavor to instill in the patient as a legitimate aid to his recovery, inner Washington is confident that the president will not be permitted to be a candidate for a third term. If the president should fail to make this decision for himself, inner Washington believes the public will make it for him.

The public has an accurate impression that the president's illness has

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WILSON ORDERS FUEL CONTROL MAINTAINED

POWER IS DIVIDED BETWEEN HINES AND BOARD OF FOUR.

Commission Will Function Through Tidewater Coal Exchange, Restored for That Purpose.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Coincident with the signing of the railroad bill tonight, President Wilson issued executive orders providing for continuation of the powers of the fuel administration, but dividing them between the director-general of railroads and a commission of four. Director-General Hines will retain jurisdiction over domestic distribution, while the commission will handle bunker and export coal matters.

The commission will be composed of A. W. Howe, Rembrandt Peale, F. M. Whitaker and J. F. Fisher. It will function through the Tidewater Coal exchange, which is restored for that purpose, having been suspended before the resignation of Dr. Garfield as fuel administrator.

The order creating the commission is effective until April 30 next. The order said the action was taken "because of the present emergency and in order to insure an adequate supply and equitable distribution, and to facilitate the movement and to prevent, locally or generally, scarcity of coal."

The second order, investing Mr. Hines with the powers of fuel administrator, so far as domestic distribution is concerned, said doubt had arisen as to whether he could continue to exercise those powers after the return of the railroads to private control. A new order was, therefore, executed, extending Mr. Hines' authority beyond the date of the return.

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MEXICO IS ENTERED BY MURDER POSSE

BLOODHOUNDS USED IN PURSUIT OF BANDITS.

Santa Cruz Deputy Sheriffs Take Up Trail—Troops Sent to Scene of Killing.

NOGALES, Ariz., Feb. 28.—Deputy sheriffs from Santa Cruz county and bloodhounds crossed the international line into Mexico tonight in pursuit of the bandits who killed Alexander Fraser and shot his brother, J. A. Fraser, in a raid yesterday on their store at Montana camp.

General Manuel Diguez, the new military commander of the state of Sonora, Mexico, accompanied by the Mexican consul here and Alberto E. Placeron, mayor of Nogales, Sonora, called this afternoon on Francis J. Dyer, American consul at Nogales, Sonora, and expressed regrets over the killing. They promised full co-operation with American civil and military officers in hunting down the bandits.

The posse on the trail of a man known as Esquivel Lara and a companion, and is headed for a point called Sprig in Northern Sonora. Troops from Camp Stephen D. Little have been sent to the scene of the killing.

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VANDERWEER FAILS TO PROVE ATTACK

Overt Act on Part of Grimm Not Shown.

PLOT TESTIMONY BAR STAYS

New Attempt at Self-Defense Tactics Rebuffed.

PROOF TO BE GATHERED

I. W. W. Attorney Declares Incriminating Testimony Will Be Produced Despite Delay.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

MONTESANO, Wash., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—Complete failure of the defense to show an overt act on the part of Warren O. Grimm, victim of the Centralia Armistice day ambush, on which the plea of self-defense is based, marked this day in the trial of the ten I. W. W. defendants who are arraigned in superior court for the crime.

According to a previous ruling of Judge John M. Wilson, the defense must first show that Grimm was a party to the conspiracy, or the attack, before it proceeds with proof that Centralia business men engaged in a plot to evict the radicals from their hall and the city.

Testimony Falls to Incriminate.

George F. Vanderwever, attorney for the accused, had declared that this would be accomplished and had named today as the period in which the incriminating testimony would be produced.

Witnesses for the defense, who took the stand today, were questioned in an attempt to show that Grimm was near the I. W. W. hall when wounded, and not at the head for his platoon as the evidence of the state declares. But the testimony for the defense thus far failed to identify Grimm as having been among the legionnaires whom the I. W. W. counsel declares raided the hall before the shots were fired.

State Renewal Objection.

Having presented the testimony of these witnesses, Vanderwever called Elmer E. Kirkland, ticket agent, Centralia, and again took up the line of examination relative to a meeting of Centralia business men on October 20 at which it is alleged the plans were laid to "oust the wobblies."

At the first question the state renewed its objection asserting that no evidence had been introduced which linked Grimm either with the alleged attack or the alleged conspiracy. Vanderwever replied that the line of examination would be the same that he undertook yesterday, when the court ruled:

"The objection is sustained," said Judge Wilson.

Overt Act Held Necessary.

"We have introduced some evidence that Warren Grimm was shot at a very different point than the state contends," opposed the I. W. W. attorney.

"In order to introduce this character of evidence," ruled the court, "you must first show an overt act on the part of the deceased. You must show that the deceased was a party to the alleged conspiracy. Such evidence, in my opinion, you have not yet introduced. The court will not permit this argument in the presence of the jury."

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BAKER SAYS AMERICA HAS LOST ITS NERVE

WORLD LEADERSHIP SAID TO HAVE SLIPPED AWAY.

Work of John D. Ryan in Charge of Aircraft Production Is Highly Praised.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The position which America held at the close of the war as moral leader of the world was relinquished when the country "lost its nerve," said Secretary of War Baker at a luncheon today of the Brooklyn chamber of commerce.

"We made reservations until the moral leadership passed," he declared. "Reservations have no sense of proportions. They forget they are dealing with the fate of mankind. Our adhesion to the league of nations is what will save the world."

"On March 4, 1921," Mr. Baker continued, "I expect to be inaugurated in private life; and what I say is said as one who is leaving public life."

The secretary said that, while he had no complaint to make of committees investigating war expenses, "it would not be wise to take too seriously some of the things emanating from that source."

"When they assault the reputation of men who have faithfully served the republic I am forced to hope that grateful sense of Americans will prevent these shafts, aimed by malice, from injuring anyone," he declared.

"I have in mind John D. Ryan, who worked so faithfully for the Red Cross, and who later was director of aircraft production. I cannot speak too highly of Mr. Ryan."

LOGGERS GET PAY RISE

Companies Respond to request of Four-L Association.

BEND, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—A new wage scale advancing the minimum of \$4.80 hitherto paid to \$5 a day, was announced here this afternoon by the Brooks Scanton Lumber company and the Shevlin Hixon Lumber company to take effect March 1. Advances for other classes of labor in the pine mills are made which will re-establish the differential partially upset last fall when the state board of conciliation ruling brought into being the \$4.80 minimum at the Brooks-Scanton plant.

SERVANT'S PARADISE HERE

Italian Maidens Desire Double Pay, Vacation and Smokes.

ROME, Feb. 28.—The maid servants held a mass meeting at Ferrara and unanimously adopted a resolution regarding their claims. These include the demand for a fortnight's vacation so that they may go to the sea baths, at the expense of their employers, who during that time must pay them double wages owing to the expenses at winter resorts.

HOME RULE BILL SCORED

Freeman's Journal Calls Measure Plan to Plunder Ireland.

DUBLIN, Feb. 28.—The Freeman's Journal refers to the new Irish home rule bill as "a proposal for the plunder and partition of Ireland." The paper characterizes it as "a thievish measure."

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TAXPAYERS SCORE NEW LAND LEAGUE

Oregon Body Called Child of Dakota Parentage.

STATE-WIDE FIGHT PLANNED

Organization Declared to Be Socialistic in Tendency.

MANY BURDENS FORESEEN

Programme Would Add to Taxes If Carried Out, Resolutions Declare; Professor Attacked.

The State Taxpayers' league denounces the United Land and Labor League as socialistic, undemocratic and a menace to the state of Oregon, and urges the people of the state to resist its efforts for political domination in every possible way.

Such was the keynote of the all-day session of the taxpayers' league held yesterday at the Imperial hotel and after the league had heard the land and labor league's newly organized land and labor party explained by F. E. Coulter, father of the recently born political party.

In a series of resolutions, the State Taxpayers' league assumed the leadership in a fight to exterminate the land and labor league's party. The league views the advent of the new party as the non-partisan league of North Dakota camouflaged. Through the executive committee the league will operate in every county, arranging for meetings where speakers will explain the fallacies and dangers of the land and labor league as interpreted by the taxpayers' league.

Repeal of Limit Opposed.

While this action against the land and labor party was the dominant motive back of the meeting at the Imperial, the league went on record as favoring a series of amendments which will be submitted to the people at the state election in May, and it vigorously objected to the pending attempt to repeal the 6 per cent tax limitation statute.

Attending the meeting were representative men from all sections of Oregon, and there was a considerable sprinkling of members of the legislature, Walter M. Pierce, president of the league, painted a somewhat gloomy picture of the immediate future conditions in the nation. He predicted that the property and high wages and the high cost of commodities has been due to America selling to the world market, but this market will soon be decreased. He advised a man with a job to stick to it and save all the pennies possible against the day, fast approaching, when jobs will be scarce as they are now.

President Kerr of the Oregon Agricultural college, while addressing the gathering regarding the millage measure for the institutions of higher education, was asked where he stands on the land and labor party. Dr. Kerr replied to the effect that he was not interested in religion or politics but in the Oregon Agricultural college. He was asked if Professor Goldman, a member of the faculty, was preaching the land and labor party's propaganda to the students, and replied that the teachers did not discuss such things.

Professor Held Champion.

Then up rose F. E. Coulter, saying that he could explain Mr. Coulter's statement that Professor Goldman is a believer in the principles of the land and labor party; it is very much interested in it and a member of its executive committee of the new organization.

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PICTORIAL COMMENT BY CARTOONIST PERRY ON SOME EVENTS IN THE WEEK'S NEWS

WOULDN'T THAT JAR YOU? **PICTURE OF A COUPLE WHO WENT TO THE AUTO SHOW "JUST TO LOOK AROUND"** **A HARDER PROPOSITION THAN JESS WILLARD** **SINCE THEY EYED IT UP WITH UNCLE SAM** **FOR GOODNESS SAKE, HERB, SAY SOMETHING!** **FLIER FALLS SIX MILES AFTER BREAKING WORLD RECORD (NEWS ITEM)**

IT'S HARD TO PICK THE ONE WE WANT—THERE ARE SO MANY GOOD ONES! **SHALL WE HAVE ONE WITH A GREEN BODY OR DO YOU PREFER LAVENDER?** **GOVT. INDICTMENT FOR DRAFT EVASION** **WHY, GEE, WHIZ! WE THOUGHT YOU HAD HOOPS AND HORNS AND A SPIKE TAIL** **BIG 5 PACKERS** **HERE'S A FLIER WHO COULD FALL SIX MILES AND STILL BE SIXTEEN MILES HIGH**