HARDING TO FAVOR SOLDIER RELIEF IN HIS NEXT MESSAGE

Form of Recommendation to Be Discussed When He Meets With Prominent Legion Man Today.

By Raymond Clapper
United Press Staff Correspondent

Washington, March 26.—President Harding intends to recommend soldier relief legislation in his message to the extra session of congress, which meets April 11, it was learned tonight.

What form this recommendation will take is to be discussed at the White House tomorrow, where a group of the nation's most prominent ex-service men will meet for dinner.

At the gathering will be Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, formerly a lieutenant colonel in the A. E. F.; Brigadier General Charles G. Dawes, who was Pershing's director of purchase and supply; Colonel F. W. Galbraith, head of the American legion, and Thomas W. Miller, alien property custodian, formerly legislative representative of the American legion, and previously a major in the American expeditionary force.

HARDING WOULD HELP

President Harding has repeatedly expressed the intention of doing everything possible for the ex-service men, particularly those disabled.

He renewed the pledge in his inaugural address and repeated it last Sunday during a visit to Walter Reed hospital, where several hundred wounded soldiers are convalescing.

President Harding found that Sunday was the most convenient time to bring together these spokesmen of the former service men, since two of them are heavily occupied with the duties of their new positions here.

The first request of the legion representatives will be that more and better hospital facilities be provided for the wounded, particularly those suffering from nervous disorders or tuberculosis. Several government hospitals are now declared to be fire traps.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION

Other proposals which probably will be discussed are:

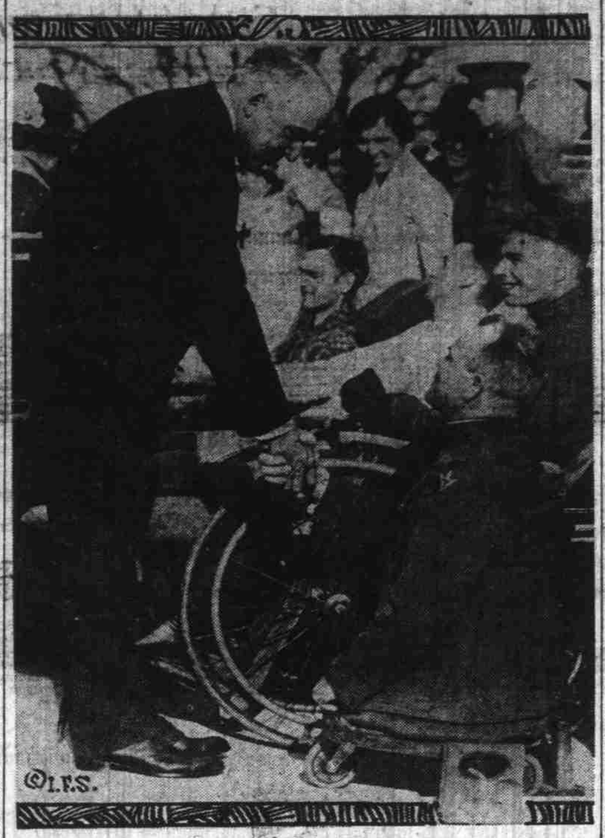
The soldier bonus bill, which failed of passage in the last congress.

Reorganization of the war risk insurance bureau under a program of decentralization, which will provide branch officials in all parts of the country so that the government's insurance branch may keep in closer touch with the ex-service men.

Reorganization of the federal board for vocational education.

Concentration of all soldier relief activities under one bureau of government.

VISITS WOUNDED VETERANS



President and Mrs. Harding photographed while greeting maimed heroes at the Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D. C., last Sunday. The president is shown chatting with Lieutenant Fletcher, who lost both legs in action. In an informal address, the president said that the government "will take care of them, even as they took care of the government."

SEATTLE RATE CLAIM TERMED AS INSINCERE

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ments that costs of mountain railroad operation are not greater than on the Columbia valley lines. * * * they have had their own way so long that they have become blinded to all obstacles ani have made themselves believe, as they would like to make others believe," Bailey avers.

"Nothing has been suggested and no arguments advanced in the petitions for rehearing which were not fully argued before and considered by the commission," is the flat assertion of the Oregon commission, "and there is no reason why a rehearing should be granted or why the case should be reopened for the purpose of introducing additional testimony."

Defining the present position of the railroads, which were defendants in the original action, the answer states:

"The carriers are not now openly asking for a rehearing or have the case reopened, probably for the reason that they are convinced of the justice of the commission's decision; or it may be that some of the carriers, such as the Northern Pacific, deem it inexpedient to make this request themselves and are therefore permitting the Puget Sound interests to continue the fight for them."

ASTORIA'S POSITION

Extended consideration is given the Astoria petition for rehearing, but the general position of the Oregon commission is that the Astoria rate decision which placed that port on a parity with Puget Sound could not justly prejudice the position of other Columbia ports.

"The commission (interstate) saw the justice of Astoria's contention so far as Puget Sound was concerned," the answer reads. "It also took into consideration the fact that Astoria was unable to become a port so long as Puget Sound enjoyed lower rates. Portland is now asking for rates that will enable her to become a great port, but asks only what she is entitled to."

Great stress is laid upon the emptiness of the Puget Sound claim that the rates, even if originally established on a basis of artificial discrimination, should now be continued to prevent hurt to the interests built by the discrimination.

The argument that the electrification of the Milwaukee lines changes the situation is answered in two sentences:

RATES UNCHANGED

"If any saving, in fact, has been made, the Milwaukee has not attempted to reduce its rates so that the public may benefit thereby.

"In the second place, the Milwaukee does not in any way serve the territory south of the Snake river, nor does it have any branch lines in the territory between the Snake river and its main line."

The evidence of Milwaukee officials that costs of operation vary with the intensity of mountain division grades is seized upon:

"We find that on a division having a 2 per cent grade the cost of operation is 11 per cent more than it is on a division having a 1.7 per cent grade. In other words, the electrification of a railroad does not level the mountains. The grades are still there and must be contended with even though the lines are electrified."

It is also asserted that if electrification of the Milwaukee reduced costs, the prospective electrification of the Columbia valley lines will more greatly reduce transportation costs.

"It is undoubtedly true," the reply submits, "that the cost of electrification over mountains is much greater than on the level, and we may reasonably assume that the river routes could be electrified at a cost much less than the Milwaukee over the Cascade mountains. Besides electrification does not entirely do away with the slides occurring on mountains, the heavy snow storms incident to mountainous regions and many other factors encountered in such operation."

No argument, it is pointed out, will move the mountains, transfer the ports or change the advantages or disadvantages of nature.

If the Puget Sound argument that farmers should have competitive markets for their grain is logical, the answer continues, then Willamette valley farmers, regardless of distance or cost of operation, should have the same rate to Seattle as to Portland.

PATTERSON EYES GOVERNOR'S SEAT

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who now fills the executive chair. Three others, potential and problematical, are in the offing—those of Louis E. Simpson of Coos Bay, Adjutant General George A. White and Louis E. Bean of Eugene. There may be, and in due course of time undoubtedly will be, others.

PLANS ARE IN MAKING

Because a year yet must run before the opening of the next primary campaign it follows as a matter of political course that no formal announcements of candidacy have been up to this time forthcoming, but those who follow the political chess game can not fail to note that the pawns are being set in places ready for the start.

For some time the impending candidacy of Senator Patterson has been pretty well understood and accepted as a definite fact. It was so during the recent session of the legislature, though the senator laughed the suggestion away and greeted the occasional shifting of his title from senator to governor with a noncommittal smile. And, as coming events most probably will show, there was more of earnestness than of jest in the spirit which resulted in his being "nominated" for governor at the birthday banquet tendered by President Ritner to his close and invited friends at the Hotel Benson during the session.

OLCOTT ALSO WILLING

While he has not said so, there is a very generally accepted belief among his friends and associates, official and personal, that Governor Olcott will be a candidate for renomination and reelection. His political fortunes which receded about the time of the special session of 1920 because of his attitude over the suffrage amendment ratification tangle and the fish and game squabble have been on the mend since that time. He met the last legislature without friction, gave it a message with which even those who wanted to criticize could find no major fault, and rode through the 44 day storm without difficulty.

BAKER MIGHT HOOT IDEA

Mayor Baker is very much occupied with his present job just at this time, has made no statement concerning his gubernatorial aspirations and more than likely would hoot at the idea if it were to be put up to him right now. But there are those who contend they know what the mayor has in the back of his head and what his political left hand is doing that his official right knows nothing of—and they argue that his hat is in the ring.

L. E. Bean, speaker of the last house, wants to be United States senator and will be a candidate for the nomination against Senator McNary in 1924 if he is in the political arena when that campaign opens. It is idle to believe that, with this idea in his mind, he will step out of the political sunlight for three years and there are those who insist that they know who name him as a very probable candidate for governor next year. Others insist that he intends to shove Senator W. B. Jones out of the state senate and use what political advantage he may gain there as a stepping stone toward his ultimate ambition.

SIMPSON CAMPAIGN RECALLED

Louis E. Simpson, whose spectacular campaign for the governorship in 1918 is fresh in memory, is expected to be a candidate again next year. Many of his friends would like to see him run for congress against Hawley, but, according to report, Simpson does not like the idea of a biennial campaign and has his mind set on the governorship.

Adjutant General George A. White contends that he is not a candidate for any office, and particularly for the governorship, but some of those who returned from 44 days in Salem during the legislature brought back the firm belief that way down deep in his inner consciousness the adjutant general harbors the spark of a desire to occupy the executive chair, and they predict that this spark will be fanned into open flame by the time 12 months have come and gone.

GENERAL EDWARDS MAY BE APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF

High Army Officer Has Backing of Senator Lodge and Coolidge, Who Resent Pershing's Action.

By Robert J. Bender
United News Staff Correspondent

Washington, March 26.—Brigadier General Clarence Edwards, commander of the Twenty-sixth National Guard division until relieved and sent home by General Pershing, is reported in high army circles to be in line for honors under the ned administration. In fact, it would not surprise officers at the war department to see Edwards supplant General Marsh as chief of the general staff before long.

Edwards, it will be recalled, became a storm center in 1918, after being returned to this country by General Pershing.

ACTION RESENTED

Resentment against Pershing's action was voiced by New England's representatives in congress and on the occasion of Pershing's visit to Boston after the war, virtually all officers of the Twenty-sixth division declined to attend the dinner for the American commander-in-chief.

Edwards is a personal friend and has the active and sympathetic support, it said, of Secretary of War Weeks, Senator Lodge and Vice President Coolidge, all of whom are from Massachusetts, his home state. Both Lodge and Coolidge, it is said in army circles, have been merely biding their time until they could square for Edwards what they regarded as the unfair and humiliating action by General Pershing.

MAY HEAD STAFF

Officers of the general staff and in the army personnel generally view the reports now in circulation about Edwards' prospects with different emotions. There is a strong feeling among them, however, that because of Edwards' strong political connections he will be a valuable man as chief of staff, particularly in reference to securing from congress legislation the army desires.

For several days there has been a persistent report about the war department and in congressional quarters that Marsh will not remain long in his present post.

NO CONFIRMATION

It has been the understanding that Major General James G. Harboard, director of the second division and head of the service of supply during the war, was Pershing's choice for chief of staff and had the active backing of Senator Wadsworth, chairman of the senate military affairs committee. Friends of Wadsworth, however, do not confirm this. They intimate that Wadsworth favors Brigadier General William M. Wright for March's post. Wright is now on the general staff, in charge of supplies.

According to the story which would make Edwards chief of staff, it is the plan to have him go into March's chair for only one year, giving way at the end of the period to Brigadier General John L. Hines, now commanding Camp Gordon.

Little Girl Struck By Auto Saturday

Vivian Henley, 4-year-old daughter of Mrs. Ruth Henley, 1384 Union avenue, was struck Saturday night while getting off a street car at Portland boulevard and Union avenue by a machine driven by David R. Wheeleff, 584 Liberty street. Wheeleff attempted to pass the street car and knocked the girl to the street. She was badly bruised and cut but was able to go home with her mother. Wheeleff is charged with trying to pass a street car and was released on $100 bail.

Mother and Father Take Their Child From Her Custodian

Albany, Or., March 26.—Police in towns between here and Portland are on the lookout tonight for an automobile carrying Hattie Irene Smith, 5 years old, who is said to have been taken by her parents at 7:30 this evening from Miss Myra Soule, to whom the Portland courts awarded the custody of the little girl three years ago.

The car carrying the parents, the child, the driver and an unknown woman was seen to pass through Albany and Jefferson. The Salem police have been notified to stop it.

Hattie Irene has been living at Lebanon with Miss Soule and Miss Soule's mother since she was taken from her parents. This evening the parents came to the Soule home and demanded the girl. Miss Soule had been ill and she called her physician, Dr. R. L. Wood, who heard part of the quarrel that followed.

Henry Clum, a neighbor, heard the quarrel also and came to the Soule house. He finally kicked Smith out, but while he was doing so, the second woman in the party, whose identity was unknown, picked the girl up in her arms and ran to the car in front of the house. The car sped away.

Symphony Concert Season Will Close On Sunday, April 3

The popular concert season of the Portland Symphony orchestra will come to a close with a concert next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The concert will close the first popular season of the orchestra, a season which has been exceptionally well received.

The plan of the popular concerts has placed the symphony concerts within the reach of all Portland people, and because of the many friends thus gained the largest attendance of the season is anticipated for next Sunday afternoon.

In addition to the orchestra, arrangements have been made for the appearance of the popular church singers of Portland in vestments, who will sing Easter carols. This is similar to a plan used in connection with the Christmas concert.

A new raised platform, such as is used by directors of all eastern symphony orchestras, which has been donated to the Portland orchestra by Bishop Walter Taylor Sumner, will be used for the first time at the concert.

Orchestra Would Engage Ganz

St. Louis, Mo., March 26.—(U. P.)—Rudolph Ganz of New York, world famous pianist and musician, today was invited by the executive committee and board of management of the St. Louis symphony orchestra to become conductor of the St. Louis symphony orchestra for three years.

There are 1700 men and women in the state asylum at Salem, 700 more at Pendleton, 600 in the feeble minded institute and 400 in the state penitentiary.