

NATION LEAGUE IS FAVORED BY TWELVE STATES

Legislative Action by Governments Announced by League of Peace

EARLY POLICY IS URGED

W. H. Taft Declares Nation's Mind Should Be Made Before War Ends

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Twelve states have declared by legislative action that they favor the formation of a league of nations after the war, according to an announcement by the League to Enforce Peace here tonight. The first was South Carolina, and it was followed by Oklahoma, Delaware, Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, Maryland, Louisiana, Texas, Massachusetts, Mississippi and Kentucky. In two others, New Jersey and Rhode Island, similar measures are pending.

"It ought to be determined before the war comes to an end what our policy will be after the war is over," according to a statement from William H. Taft, president of the league, read here tonight. "You cannot immediately after the war, arouse the people into a declaration of principles. They have to be advised, and they have to consider and discuss, and now is the time to make up our minds what we are fighting for."

"One object that we have in the war, or one way of stating it, is whipping Germany, hitting her on the head so hard that it will produce a psychological change in the minds of her people and bring about a normal view, so that they may be convinced that the policy they have adopted and followed under Kaiser Wilhelm is wrong. When they do that they will be knocked into a psychological transformation that will make them amenable to decency and humanity and make them regard the obligations of treaties."

CHITA IS TAKEN BY BOLSHIEVSKI

East Siberian Capital Captured in Report; Red Guards Successful

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 19.—Special reports say there has been a great deal of revolutionary fighting in Russia and in Finland. Chita, capital of Trans-Baikalia (East Siberia), has been captured by revolutionary troops, and the Bolsheviki claim to have established their authority in that part of the country. Oil the Chita batteries passed into the hands of the red guards.

The Bolsheviki assert that their forces have taken Botalsk and advanced eight versts beyond Rostov on Don. They also say that their forces dispatched to Astrakhan have been completely victorious over the Cossacks and that all authority there has passed into the hands of the workmen's and soldiers' group. In Finland, according to Bolshe-

viki sources, the Finnish white guards are still retiring before the red guards who continue to advance on the Karelski line. The white guards are said to have virtually evacuated the line from Borgo to Heisingfors.

The arrival of Finnish white guard in the Aland Islands complicated the situation. Previously they had been defeated by the red guards and fled for refuge aboard Swedish ships.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—A dispatch received here from Vasa, Finland, says that, although for the present the Finnish government is determined to avoid foreign intervention, there is unofficial discussion as to whether it would be profitable to cede the Aland Islands to Sweden in return for active Swedish assistance against the Finnish red guard.

OREGON AGAIN BEATS U. OF W.

Ragged Game, Featured by Fouls, Lost to Engene Boys, 19 to 17

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 19.—The University of Oregon defeated the University of Washington basketball team tonight, 19 to 17. Fouls lost the game for Washington. The play was ragged throughout. Both teams repeatedly warned against roughness. Oregon will play Oregon Agricultural college Friday and Saturday nights.

Lineup:

Washington	F	Oregon
Ida	F	Fowler (13)
Holbrook (4)	F	Medley (12)
Charles (4)	F	Comfort
Jameson (2)	C	Morrison
Cook (7)	G	Lind (2)
Murphy	G	Stears
Referee—Anderson.		Wilson (2)

Lithuanians Receive No Encouragement Is Claim

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—P. E. Villmont, president of the Lithuanian national council, representing Lithuanians in the United States, issued a statement after a meeting of the council here today, disputing the veracity of a German report that Lithuanians favored the organization of a monarchical state dependent upon Germany and saying it is to be deplored that Lithuanians had received no encouragement from the allies in their struggle for independence.

Mr. Villmont calls attention to the fact that the report in question was printed in the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger in the form of an interview with Bishop Karvelichus of Kovno.

"Contrary to this report," his statement continues, "it is a well known fact that the Lithuanians here and in Europe made repeated representations demanding the creation of an absolutely independent state with a democratic republican form of government."

Great Northern Assistant Becomes Traffic Manager

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 19.—Appointment of George H. Smittion, assistant traffic manager, as traffic manager of the Great Northern railway, was announced today by President W. P. Kenney. Three other appointments, effective immediately, were announced as follows:

Harry H. Brown, former general freight agent, succeeds Mr. Smittion as assistant traffic manager; Percy H. Buraham, former assistant general freight agent, succeeds Mr. Brown as general freight agent.

JOHNSON WANTS GOVERNMENT TO OWN RAILROADS

California Senator Is Opposed to Amendment Upheld by Committee

FIERY DEBATE OPENED

Alleged Defects Are Found in Bill—Action Expected on Friday

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Congress today bet itself almost exclusively toward expediting the administration bill to govern federal operation of the railroads.

Debate on the measure was begun in the house and continued in the senate. The senate agreed to begin voting on amendments Thursday afternoon, expecting passage of the bill late that night or Friday. In the house, it is planned to close general debate Thursday and pass the measure before adjournment Saturday.

Considerable amendment of both the senate and house committee drafts before final action was forecast by today's discussion.

Government Ownership Favored.

The principal addresses in the senate today were by Senators Johnson of California, and Townsend of Michigan, Republicans, both of whom opposed the measure as now drawn. Representative Sims of Tennessee, and Stephens of Nebraska, Democrats, championed the draft of the house committee. Government ownership of railroads was advocated by the California senator and by Representative Stephens.

Senator Townsend pointed out many alleged defects in the bill, asserting that it was not understood by many committee members and that the railroads are supporting the measure in expectation of rate increases. He said he doubted whether the government could enforce the provision prohibiting railroads from paying dividends higher than their regular rates.

Representative Sims urged particularly the adoption of provisions giving the president power to establish rates and to retain control of the carriers two years after peace is declared.

Compensation Is Criticized.

Senator Norris criticized what he termed compensation providing for the railroads and said the provision for rate making by the president was "unnecessary and unwise."

Under the terms of the senate's agreement to begin work on amendments Thursday, debate will be limited to 10 minutes for each senator from 2 to 6 p. m., and after that to 5 minutes.

Senator Poindexter of Washington Republican, will advocate permanent government ownership.

Officers May Use Liquor Outside of Camp Zones

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—War department regulations have been so amended as to permit officers and men of the army to be served with alcoholic liquors in the homes of their relatives or friends outside of the camp zones. The change was made at the suggestion of Chairman Poedlek of the commission on training camp activities, while considering a general change in the prohibition zone systems for the camps.

Changes were considered when the war college found that at one camp the five-mile zone operated to close saloons on one side, while saloons on another side remained open though only a half mile away. Because they were within the corporate limits of a municipality.

The war college took the view that the uniform zone system should be adopted irrespective of the proximity of towns, but the training camp commission disagreed with this view and the old zone system was retained.

U. S. SOLDIERS TAKE REVENGE

German Patrol Discovered Is Riddled by American Machine Gun Fire

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Feb. 19.—A German patrol ready to ambush an American patrol, was discovered early this morning by a sentry, who gave the alarm by a rifle shot; then the American machine guns riddled the enemy. The Germans fled, carrying their casualties with them, but the ground where they had been was later found to be covered with tell-tale red stains.

The sentry saw two Germans near the parapet and moved to the listening post for a better view. He then challenged. A shot in his direction was the reply. The sentry fired at the enemy and heard a German shout as the bullet probably hit its mark. Germans then appeared to grow out of the ground all around and started throwing grenades in the direction of the American trenches. Machine guns and rifles went into action from another sector of the trench, sending a hail of bullets into the enemy, who retired on the run.

There were no casualties among the Americans. It is thought possible that this was the same patrol which set a successful ambush last week. Whether it was, the

American forces feel that they have at least exacted partial reparation. The enemy also has punished for his killing of infantry men in the American trenches with shrapnel. The American artillery broke many shells over the heads of a large German group in a trench, scattering the soldiers and undoubtedly hitting some of them. Gas shells in considerable numbers were sent against the American batteries last night but no damage was done. Neither were there any casualties.

The American aerial activity today was of the American sector and the anti-aircraft guns were firing continuously. One enemy plane, which was disguised with entente markings, flew over one of the American trenches and fired a stream of machine gun bullets into it, but without results. The enemy aviator made his escape.

DISCHARGE DUE TO INEFFICIENCY

Memorandum From Goethals Shows Dismissal of Captain Perless

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Publication of correspondence between Baaker and Senator McKellar of Tennessee, a member of the military committee, indicating that Charles D. Eisenman had severed his connection with the government as a civilian adviser of the council of national defense, was followed tonight by an announcement from the council that Mr. Eisenman had not resigned and there had been no intimation that he intended to give up his work.

The correspondence referred to rumors that Captain Arthur E. Perless, a reserve quartermaster officer, had been discharged from the service because of testimony he gave before the senate committee in connection with the much discussed Base Sorting company's scrap contract. Perless testified that he uncovered exorbitant profits in sorting contracts and that Eisenman threatened to "show him where he got his orders."

With Secretary Baker's letter was a memorandum from Major General Goethals, which the general made public tonight stating that Captain Perless was honorably discharged because he lacked "the efficiency considered necessary for the performance of the duties with which he was charged."

SAVE AMMONIA IS NEW APPEAL

Operators Urged to Use Bonus System So Employees Will Economize

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Because of an ammonia shortage the food administration tonight issued an appeal to the ammonia operators to take every possible precaution against waste in their use of ammonia.

"It is questionable just how long ammonia can be spared for refrigeration," said the administration's announcement, "and plants most extravagant in its use naturally will be closing first."

As a means of effecting ammonia savings owners and operators of plants were urged to institute a bonus system by which employees would be rewarded for effecting economies. Each plant will be required to report on the first of each month exactly what they are doing in saving ammonia.

"During 1918," the announcement said, "the government should have for munitions alone 20,000,000 pounds of ammonia more than it is possible to make by working all plants producing ammonia in this country to their maximum capacity. This shortage will be greatly increased by the ammonia that will be furnished ice-making and refrigerating plants, but it is hoped that by appealing to the patriotism and business sense of all ammonia users and urging them to stop all waste and leakage the usual consumption may be permitted at least the most efficient plants to run, particularly where natural ice is not available."

Soldiers for Beet Sugar Fields May Be Asked

STERLING, Colo., Feb. 19.—Judge John C. Bell, chairman of the commission appointed by the federal food administration, to investigate the sugar beet production costs, said at a hearing of the commission here today that "other measures failing, the government will be asked to provide enlisted men" of the army to work in the beet fields, because of the labor shortage in Northern Colorado beet producing sections.

YANKS HOUSED IN CHAMBERY

American Soldiers Enjoying Provisions Made by Y. M. C. A. in France

PARIS, Feb. 19.—Today a detachment of American soldiers going on leave in the department of Savoie were housed in the town of Chambery, where the Young Men's Christian association has leased three castles and a theater for their amusement. Later other men on leave will be sent to Challes-les-Eaux.

The first arrivals who are located in Aix-les-Bains, are having a splendid time mountain climbing, boating, fishing, taking automobile excursions and attending concerts and theatricals for which professional performers have been employed.

A committee of American women engaged in Y. M. C. A. work have undertaken to laundery and mend the clothes of the soldiers which are

OFFICIALS DENY CHARGES MADE AGAINST ROADS

Assistant Manager of Pennsylvania Lines Points to Real Changes

PROMOTION NOT SLOW

Wage Increases Consistent With Roads' Resources Is Contention

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Cognizance of charges by railroad employees that the managements attempted to discredit government operation, was taken today by officials continuing their submission of information to the railroad wage commission. E. T. Whiter of Pittsburgh, assistant general manager of the Pennsylvania lines, west, in effect denied the allegations of the brotherhood chiefs.

"It was charged that we put an inefficient yardmaster in charge at Alliance, Ohio, resulting in serious delays," Mr. Whiter said. "There have been a number of changes in yardmasters there and I do not know which one was referred to but if the commission desires further information we will aid in obtaining it."

Commissioner Covington said he did not think the commission could take the time to sift an isolated case.

"As to slowing-up traffic, which also is charged," the witness continued, "that would be impossible without issuing orders to train dispatchers and believe, the commission has had sufficient evidence from the dispatchers themselves to convince you that was not done."

Mr. Whiter was one of six officials who today presented statistics as to wage increases and working conditions of their individual systems. The others were J. T. Lattimer, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy; P. G. Nicholson, Chicago and Eastern Illinois; C. H. Niemeyer, Pennsylvania lines; east; E. L. King, Southern Pacific; and E. C. Wills, Missouri Pacific.

Secrecy of labor was reported by several officials.

All of the officials denied claims that promotion for railroad employees is slow, so that a man's chance to obtain better pay by advancing in grade is small. Most of them spoke of their own experiences, all having started in minor positions.

Wage increases were declared to have been as frequent as the road's resources permitted.

LABOR MEETING IS PATRIOTIC

Red Cross Auxiliary Session Brings Out Speakers and Musicians

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The meeting of the Salem Union of Labor Red Cross auxiliary last night in Union hall, brought out a large attendance of people from all walks of life.

One of the features of the evening was the patriotic address of Frank Avey, and any one having heard him knows that he can make a speech that would turn a "slacker" in the right path at once.

The Gibson brothers mandolin quartette discoursed sweet music during the evening, while Master "Ted" Howard, in his recitation, "Old Glory," made another big hit.

The marvellous playing on violins about twenty-five instruments, by the pupils of Miss Elizabeth Levy was a great treat. There were girls and boys of all sizes, from a little tot of 6 to older boys and girls, and when they played in unison, with all the precision of experienced artists, a difficult number from one of the classics, and followed an encore with "The Star Spangled Banner," all the audience rising, it closed the meeting with an effect that was all to be desired.

The pupils taking part were: Elizabeth Bivley, Winona Claire Smith, Grace Butler, May Slagel, Blanche Hill, Arnetta Mildred Collins, Elaine Edna Steingrub, Dorothy Wood, Barbara Robinson, Mrs. Effie Hatcliff, Gordon Shonnesson, Clarence Ruge, Dean Craven, Simon Volchoek, Harley Minch, Ellis Welty, Harold Bertholsson, Amel Strippling, Ralph Parker and Bjorn Gadeholt.

'TRADING' WITH HUNS PERMITTED

Red Cross to Act as Medium for Communications of War Prisoners

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—A license to trade with the enemy has been granted to the American Red Cross, it was announced tonight. The German government has given the organization of mercy the exclusive privilege of sending letters, food and money to American prisoners of war in camps and the concessions exacted in exchange demand action by the war trade board. Germany has insisted that in return for giving the right to comfort American prisoners, the Red Cross must act as the medium through which fathers and mothers in that country can communicate with their sons in American internment camps and to a minor extent with prisoners in French and British camps. In a sense this constitutes "trading with the enemy" and it was necessary to obtain the action of the war trade board.

"The license gives blanket authorization for communications with prisoners of war the world over, "enemy, allied and neutral."

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U. S. TO BECOME POLITICAL FORCE AT END OF WAR

Permanent Assets of Great Shipbuilding Program Are Pointed Out

CRISIS TO COME LATER

Time Is Only Requirement Needed to Control World's Tonnage

Eighteen German Machines Are Captured or Seriously Damaged

PARIS, Feb. 19.—The official communication from the war office tonight says:

"There was quite pronounced artillery activity in Champagne and on the right bank of the Meuse.

"Aviation: On February 16, 17 and 18, our pilots brought down, or seriously damaged in numerous combats eighteen German machines; in addition, an enemy captive balloon was burned.

"On February 18, in the day and night, our bombing escadrille dropped 16,000 kilos of explosives on enemy objectives, notably on the stations of Metz-Sablons, Forbach and Bendorf, on depots at Enishelm (south of Colmar), where a violent fire broke out, and on various aviation grounds.

"Eastern theater, February 18: A violent snowstorm has prevented all activity."

VIENNA, via LONDON, Feb. 19.—The report from headquarters today says:

"There was artillery activity on the lower Danube and in the Monte Asplone region.

"The troops of the Von Linsingen army group have occupied Lutsk without fighting."

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CARDIFF, Wales, Jan. 25.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) The possession of a great merchant shipping fleet will be the most powerful asset a nation can possess in the after-war period, according to Cardiff shipping men. From this point of view, it is pointed out, the realization of the American shipbuilding program, combined with the United States resources in materials needed by Europe, will make the United States an almost predominant factor in world politics for many years after peace is declared.

The annual reports of the big Cardiff shipping companies, which has just been made public, all emphasize this post-war importance of merchant ships. One company says:

"The demand for tonnage will be even greater in 1918 than it has been in 1917, and the utility of ships will enormously increase. But the economic world crisis will not reach its climax until after the war.

"If the law of supply and demand was allowed to operate ships might some day be worth their weight in gold to their owners, but in the present controlled state of trade their immense value as national assets really detracts from their value as money making instruments.

"Ships are, and will continue for some time to be, the most important factor of all in helping to preserve the lives of nations, and the states of Europe will not be likely to release their hold on shipping after the war until there are sufficient ships to ensure safety in regard to supplies of food and other essentials."

The same report cites the entry of America into the war as the element which made possible the practical universal government control of shipping all over the world, asserting:

"The amazing task of bringing the world's tonnage under the control of the organization became only a matter of time from the moment America came in."

Concerning the ruthless submarine war, the company says: "The many acts of lawlessness and cruelty which were subsequently committed by German submarines against allied and neutral seamen alike, spreading death and disaster among innocent men will forever remain one of the blackest chapters in the annals of the world's shipping history."

ALLIED DRAFT PLAN APPROVED

Lansing and Reading Sign Treaties Which Are Sent to Senate

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Treaties between the United States and Great Britain, and the United States and Canada, to govern the application of the army draft to citizens of each country residing in the other, were sent to the senate today by Secretary Lansing. They were signed by Mr. Lansing and Earl Reading, who affixed his signature to the documents as his first official act in the office of British high commissioner and special ambassador to the United States.

Under the treaties the United States may apply the draft law to British subjects and Canadians living in this country between the ages of 20 and 45 years, the British draft limits, while Great Britain and Canada may draft resident citizens of the United States from 21 to 31 years old.

Similar conventions are now being negotiated by the state department with other co-belligerent nations.

By the enforcement of the American-British treaty it is expected that more than 250,000 men in this country will be made liable to service, while at least 60,000 will be affected by the American-Canadian treaty.

Estimates place the number of draft age Americans in England at approximately 18,000 and in Canada at about 36,000.

Man Confesses Killing of Rev. Father Kayser

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 19.—Michael Schram of this city, tonight confessed to the murder of the Rev. Father Edmund Kayser of Gary, Ind., on the night of August 24, 1917.

Man Confesses Killing of Rev. Father Kayser

Schram is alleged to have admitted that he with a companion, saw Father Kayser counting money after a charity bazaar and attempted to wrest the money away.

It is said the priest fought desperately and Schram shot him. Father Kayser sank to the ground still holding the money bag in which was more than \$1000.

If, as reported, the army rule is "hanging," it would be good policy to look out for his heels.

The Boys in the

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