

POLICY FOR SIBERIA TO COME SOON

Early Decision to Be Reached on Momentous Question of Measures to Counteract German Activities

ARRIVAL OF VISCOUNT ISHII NOW AWAITED

Russian Soldiers' Allegiance to Central Powers Causing Alarm

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—An early decision probably will be reached on the momentous question as to whether America and the entente allies shall join Japan in a campaign in Eastern Siberia to counteract possible German activities in that quarter and save the great supply of military stores accumulated at Vladivostok and interior points on the Siberian railway.

It had been understood that this decision might await the arrival in Washington of Viscount Ishii, the newly appointed Japanese ambassador to the United States, but it was said tonight that recent developments including increasing pressure from entente sources very likely would cause a more speedy determination of the question.

It is learned that this is not regarded as a problem for the consideration, at the present stage at least, of the supreme war council in France, which, if it treats the subject at all, will deal with it only as a military matter after the question of policy has been decided by the governments of the entente allies and America.

Question Is Big.

It is freely admitted in official circles that this is a very great question indeed. A radical departure from established rules of international law would be involved in the forcible entry into a neutral country, and consideration must be given to the possible effect upon the Russian people of such a course in their relations to the present war. Already there has been some apprehension.

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PACIFIC COAST SHIPBUILDING IS AHEAD OF EAST

Wooden and Steel Construction Proceeds More Satisfactorily Here

HEAVY LUMBER SOUGHT

Southern Pine Timber Needed—Wooden Program Three Months Behind

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—To accomplish more rapid delivery of southern pine timber for shipbuilding operations, the Emergency Fleet corporation is putting logging experts into the forests to assist in locating trees for the heavier timber.

So slow has been the delivery of the heavier timbers that the corporation is obtaining for the Pacific coast 3000 cars of fir lumber for use in eastern and southern yards. The wooden building program, it was declared today, is at least three months behind the schedule with little hope of catching up.

On the Pacific coast both wooden and steel construction is proceeding at a much more satisfactory rate than along the Atlantic and the gulf. One plant at Seattle which launched one steel ship yesterday turned over to the fleet corporation another one complete. This plant, operated by the Skinner & Eddy Company, recently established a world's record for completing a ship in quick time.

General Manager Piez of the fleet corporation announced tonight the creation of a division of public service to have charge of labor and employment. The division will be headed by J. Rogers Flannery as manager and Meyer Bloomfield as assistant. It will be divided into four departments, housing, welfare and sanitation, shipyard volunteers and national service.

The department of housing, especially directed by Mr. Flannery, will supervise the expenditure of the \$50,000,000 just appropriated by congress for housing shipyard workers.

In an effort several months ago to speed up deliveries the corporation increased the price it is paying for ship timber by more than a million dollars, but even this has failed to speed up the mills as much as had been hoped.

Speedy Agreement Expected.

In the committee of the whole an amendment by Representative Esch of Wisconsin, to limit tenure after the war to one year was adopted, 133 to 49, but like the Sweet amendment, it was thrown out no final passage, 206 to 166.

The senate and house leaders believe the conferees will be able to reach a speedy agreement on the disputed sections. Administration officials have urged prompt action on this and the war finance corporation bill so the way may be cleared for the third liberty loan and it was expected efforts for quick action would not cease until final passage in both houses.

The senate bill definitely provides that the basis of compensation shall be a just return on the average net operating income for the three years period ending June 30, 1917, but the house bill is a little more elastic. The house adopted an amendment which would give the president discretionary power to take into consideration money spent for improvements by the roads between June 30 and December 28, 1917. The senate defeated an amendment specifically requiring that such expenditure should be included. Many house members view the amendment as a compromise and think it will be adopted by the conferees.

Better Lumber Camp Sanitation Next Sought

SPOKANE, Feb. 28.—The eight-hour day having been granted to lumbermen in Washington and Oregon, the next demand of the Industrial Workers of the World will be for better sanitary conditions in the camps, according to Fred Hegge, secretary of the Lumber Workers' union No. 500. Hegge said today that "blanketless" day will be observed in the forests of the northwest May 1. This, according to the industrial workers' secretary, means that the lumber workers will on May 1 throw away their blankets and force all employers to furnish comfortable beds and bedding. In some camps, he said, these are already furnished.

HOUSE VOTES RAILWAY BILL WITH CHANGE

Stand Is Reversed by Providing Two-Year Control After War; Rating-Making Power Given Wilson

DIFFERENCES TO BE ADJUSTED SPEEDILY

Both Houses to Clear Way Quickly for Third Liberty Loan Drive

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The bill to govern federal operation of railroads was passed by the house tonight by a vote of 337 to 6.

Two Democrats and four Republicans voted against the measure when the final test came. They were Thomas, Kentucky, and Gordon, Ohio, Democrats, and Chandler, Oklahoma; Denison, Illinois; Haugen, Iowa, and Ramsey, Iowa, Republicans.

The house tonight reversed its action earlier in the day and voted 211 to 165 to place rate-making power in the president's hands.

The house also reversed itself on the provision limiting government operation after the war and by a vote of 206 to 166, restored the two-year limit.

Differences to Be Adjusted.

The senate previously had passed the bill, which now goes to conference for settlement of differences between the two houses. The house bill provides for the return of the roads to their owners two years after the war ends instead of in eighteen months as the senate draft proposed, and the house measure vests final rate fixing authority in the president, while the senate would leave this power in the interstate commerce commission.

These two sections of the bill caused spirited contests in the house today. Opponents of these features won momentary victories when the bill was discussed in the committee of the whole, but on the final vote, proponents marshaled their force mostly on the Democratic side, and succeeded in putting through the bill with these features intact as framed by the committee.

An amendment by Representative Sweet of Iowa giving the rate-making power to the interstate commerce commission was adopted in committee of the whole, 164 to 157. This showed almost the full strength for the amendment as when the vote was taken on final passage it was defeated, 165 to 211.

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DISARMAMENT OR ECONOMIC WAR IS U. S. VERDICT

Early Vote of National Chamber of Commerce Is Overwhelming

TRADE BOYCOTT LIKELY

Democracy Must Solve Problem; German Business Men Are Warned

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—An overwhelming vote in favor of a resolution warning German business men that an economic combination will be formed against Germany after the war unless the danger of excessive armament is removed by making the German government a responsible instrument controlled by the people, was announced tonight by the chamber of commerce of the United States at the conclusion of a preliminary canvass of its organized members. Vote as recorded to date is 1204 to 154.

A referendum on the resolution was ordered January 12 and copies were sent to each of the 1000 local commercial and industrial comprising the national chamber. Each organization has from one to ten votes, according to its membership.

Following is the resolution: "Whereas, the size of Germany's present armament and her militaristic attitude have been due to the fact that her government is a military autocracy not responsible to the German peoples; and

Whereas, the size of the German armament after the war will be the measure of the greatness of the armament forced on all nations; and

"Whereas, careful analysis of economic conditions shows that the size of Germany's future armament will fundamentally depend on her after-war receipts of raw materials and profits from her foreign trade; and

"Whereas, in our opinion, the American people, for the purpose of preventing an excessive armament, will assuredly enter an economic combination against Germany, if governmental conditions in Germany make it necessary for self-defense; and

"Whereas, we believe the American people will not join in discrimination against German goods after the war if the danger of excessive armament has been removed by the fact that the German government has in reality become a responsible instrument controlled by the German people; therefore, be it,

"Resolved, that the Chamber of Commerce earnestly calls the attention of the business of Germany to these conditions and urges them also to study this situation and to cooperate to the end that a disastrous economic war may be averted and a lasting peace may be made more certain."

British Casualties 18,961 Small Decrease for Month

LONDON, Feb. 28.—British casualties reported during the month of February show a remarkable decrease as compared with the preceding months. They totalled only 18,961, divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 183; men, 4012. Wounded or missing—Officers, 468; men, 14,298.

The casualties for January reached a total of 73,017; for December they were 79,527; while in November, in which month there was severe fighting on the Cambrai front, they totalled 129,089.

Vatican Paper Satisfied With Hertling's Speech

PARIS, Feb. 28.—The Osservatore Romano, the vatican organ, declares itself fully satisfied with the imperial German chancellor's speech, according to a Rome dispatch. It remarks that Chancellor von Hertling accepts the principal points in the pope's proposal and, with regard to Belgium, it points out that Germany shows herself disposed to treat with the Havre government on the basis of the pope's former proposals.

"Look Ahead; Trust in God" Advice of German Kaiser

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.—Emperor William in acknowledging a message of homage from the German agricultural society, telegraphed the following message: "Your loyal greeting has gratified me and again convinced me that I shall not be deceived in my confidence in the efficiency, energy and ready sacrifice of the German agriculturists. The army and navy have achieved tremendous things. They have an sword has prepared the way for peace. German industry and perseverance will bring us a blessed future. Look ahead; trust in God. My thanks are accompanying your labors."

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HUNS' DRIVE INTO RUSSIA SLOWS DOWN

German Troops Receive Orders From Berlin to Advance No Further, Dispatch From Petrograd States

INVADERS DRIVEN OFF FROM TOWN OF ORSHA

Loyal Cossacks Recover Fighting Spirit and Are on Way to Front

LONDON, Feb. 28.—A Petrograd dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company, under date of February 27, says it is reported from Luga that the German detachments which entered that town a day or two ago are leaving. The Russians, moving to meet them, have turned toward the main railway and occupied three small stations within twelve miles of Pskov. Large Russian detachments are concentrating near Pskov. The railway men are forming partisan detachments along the line.

From Spolensk comes the report that the Germans have met with strong resistance within sixteen versts (10.7 miles) from Orsha and were forced to retire. The Germans have been trying to cross the Berezina river and consolidate the ground in order to begin operations in the direction of Orsha and Gomel. Red guards concentrated at Kroupi station prevented the Germans from advancing in the direction of Orsha.

Berlin Orders to Quit.

Direct information from Novo Selié says that the Germans have received orders to make no further advance and the German cavalry patrols, which appeared at Novo Selié have retired.

According to the Bolshevik headquarters in Petrograd, fighting proceeded all Wednesday morning for possession of Pskov and a message from Luga says it is definitely in Russian hands.

Norger island, defendin Reval from the sea, is in Russian hands and batteries have fired on Reval, where there are numerous German detachments.

(By The Associated Press)

Germany's invasion of Russia has slowed down. During the last 24 hours there have been no reports showing that the Teutons were sweeping ahead toward Petrograd.

One explanation of this fact may be found in unofficial but authentic dispatches from Petrograd, which state that the German troops have received orders from Berlin to advance no further. This would indicate that the formal peace terms have been accepted and a treaty has been signed by the Teutonic and Bolshevik delegates.

In spite of the German report that "operations on the eastern front are taking their normal course," and that another Estonian regiment had placed itself under the command of the German staff, it is asserted in Petrograd that the Russian troops have recovered their fighting spirit and that Cossacks, as well as mixed detachments of soldiers, are on their way to the front.

Advices from Bucharest are to the effect that the central powers have communicated their peace terms to King Ferdinand of Rumania, who has granted a short period for consideration. Recent unofficial dispatches stated that Rumania would be asked to cede parts of Dobruja to Bulgaria and to give Germany and Austria preferential treatment in commercial and economic relations. It is officially denied by the Rumanian press bureau in Paris that King Ferdinand will relinquish his throne at the behest of the anti-war party in his country.

Another Spanish cabinet has fallen. In some quarters it is reported to have resulted because of the insistence of the government in adhering to its policy of strict neutrality toward the belligerents in the war.

Public opinion in Spain has become inflamed by the sinking recently of five Spanish vessels by German or Austrian submarines.

Russia is facing a new attack, this time in the far east. Japan is known to have sounded the entente allies especially the United States, as to the advisability of taking steps to prevent tremendous stores of munitions held at Vladivostok and other points along the Siberian railway from falling into the hands of the Bolsheviks or the Germans. Viscount Motono, the Japanese foreign minister, recently spoke on the subject and advices from Paris say that it is believed there that Motono's words were Japan's answer to General Foch's appeal to Japan and the United States to take steps in Siberia.

It is admitted at Washington that the matter has been discussed in official circles, but there is much reluctance on the part of men closely identified with the administration. No word as to the probable policy.

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SCHEIDEMANN SEES DANGER IN RUSS PEACE

Socialist Says Kaiser's Words Are Not True Spirit of Germany

AUSTRIA HELD HOSTILE

Wilson's Terms Accepted by All Except German Militarists

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.—In Tuesday's debate on Chancellor von Hertling's speech in the German reichstag, Philipp Scheidemann Socialist, took the emperor to task for his reply to the address of the burgomaster of Hamburg in which the emperor said: "We desire to live in friendship with neighboring people, but victory for the German arms must first be recognized."

"We have heard recently," said Herr Scheidemann, "of the world must first recognize us as victors. Not for a long time have we read anything the tone of which was so displeasing and the contents so unpolitic. Perhaps, it is to the point to recall that all the parties, including the Conservatives, in November, 1908, recommended somewhat more reserve in that quarter. In times when there is talk of peace, words from an authoritative source should be very carefully weighed. A great part of the people whom we represent do not share the views uttered in that speech, but on the other hand energetically repudiate them."

Scheidemann Sees Danger.

Herr Scheidemann declared that attempts to conclude a peace on the west such as that with Russia would prove a trial of strength dangerous for Germany. The world would go to sleep with rifles in hand, Bolshevik dreams would be realized and world-revolution arrive.

"Our military advance against Russia evoked vexation in Austria-Hungary a majority of whose people are openly hostile to us," he declared.

"Herr Scheidemann said in conclusion: "The imperial chancellor frankly stated yesterday that he accepted President Wilson's four principles. This declaration is all the more important when one considers that President Wilson emphasized that his principles were accepted everywhere except by the German military and annexationist party.

"Well, this party, fortunately, is in this country no longer of decisive importance."

Mathias Erzberger, leader of the Clerical center, declared that the peace in the east "completely corresponds to the peace resolution" in the reichstag in 1917. He said: "Wherever it deviates it only represents a temporarily political measure. It depends on its execution whether it holds good at the general conclusion of peace."

Dr. W. S. Solf, secretary of the colonies, said that General Smuts had demanded East Africa as a connecting link on the road to Egypt and India, and had thus set up a sore of Monroe Doctrine for the Southern Hemisphere with the exclusion of the Germans, just as the French had in West Africa.

Use Of Colonies Sought.

"That is a much stronger accentuation of the standpoint of force," said the secretary, "than when the security of one's own frontier is desired. Smuts attempted to advance justification for this by saying that Germany would militarize the colored races. The native soldiers in the German colony have not been trained, or even equipped, for fighting against the whites, whereas France has created in her colonies a standing army of a hundred thousand and

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BRYAN GETS NO HEARING AT TORONTO

Pandemonium Is Rampant as Address on Prohibition Is Begun; "What About Lusitania?" Crowds Yell

"TAKE BRYAN OUT" IS CRY FROM SOLDIERS

Chairman's Plea Is in Vain; Ex-Secretary Tells Reporters He's Loyal

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 28.—William Jennings Bryan was refused a hearing when he appeared at Massey hall here tonight to address a prohibition meeting under the auspices of the dominion alliance.

Returned soldiers caused the disturbance by shouting various epithets "What about the Lusitania?" they also demanded in chorus.

The first disturbance came before Mr. Bryan's entry, when the chairman told the audience they were to be honored by listening to the fraternal delegate of the Anti-Saloon League of America, "one of the foremost citizens of our ally."

The chairman refrained from mentioning Mr. Bryan's name as long as he could, but when it came out at last, it was greeted by a chorus of catcalls and cries "we don't want him." The chairman appealed to the audience. It was not a good thing for the city they were doing, he said and "a bad thing for the cause we represent."

Pandemonium Breaks Loose.

Then Mr. Bryan came in and pandemonium broke loose. Most of the audience stood up, waved handkerchiefs and cheered him, but the answering hoots from the gallery ousted the cheers.

For five minutes Mr. Bryan tried to make himself heard but it was no use. The interruption kept right on and the interrupters sang "Rule Britannica" forcing the audience to join in that and "God Save the King."

They inquired about the Lusitania and sang "Over There," and "We Won't Go Home until Mearns." Men stood up and shook their fists at the American ex-secretary of state. Soldiers showed the service button on their coats and shouted defiance at those who pleaded for a hearing for the visitor.

Enthusiastic prohibitionists who wished to hear Mr. Bryan, hurled across the hall counter calls of "put them out," and "where's your fair-play?" The chairman was heard to say something about ejecting the interrupters. He was greeted with cries of "who's going to do it?"

Mr. Bryan took his seat.

"Take Bryan Out" Is Cry.

John H. Roberts of Montreal made an attempt to speak but was told to "get the knaki on." Then a man of the army medical corps dressed in uniform was hoisted on the platform.

"Boys, they are fighting for freedom at the front; they are also fighting for freedom of thought. Why interrupt the meeting?" he appealed to the gallery.

The appeal was in vain. "God Save the King," was sung again, and the soldiers in the gallery shouted "take Bryan out, and we will walk out. We'll let any man speak, but not a pro-German."

Bryan Talks to Reporters.

After the band had played another air, Mr. Bryan made a brief but futile attempt to make himself heard. Then he took a chair to the edge of the platform and talked to the reporters, the noise never ceasing for an instant.

"I am here by invitation," said

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LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES SHOULD HEAR BANKS

Every Marion county candidate for the house of representatives or the state senate in the next legislature ought to attend the mass meeting at the First Methodist church Sunday afternoon, conducted by Louis Albert Banks in the interest of ratification of the national prohibition amendment.

Dr. Banks' remarks in Salem, of course, will apply directly to Oregon. The joint resolution of congress, establishing nationwide prohibition, in the event of its being ratified by the legislatures of thirty-six states, has already been ratified by the legislatures of several states and will come before the Oregon legislature at the session of 1919. For this reason the ratification campaign speakers who are now in the state should have the attention of candidates for the legislature.

Because of its economic and sociological bearing, the prohibition question long ago has been removed from a sentimental category and listed among the big, practical issues of national importance. The ratification speakers have been selected according to their strength as men of practical ideas and practical power. Dr. Banks, who comes to Salem, a man of national reputation, is among the foremost of these speakers.

Indications are that the next Oregon legislature will have more practical-minded men in its two houses than any previous session. Many of them are going to be from the ranks of the business life of the state. In the question of ratifying the national prohibition resolution they will be face to face with a big business issue.

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