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BOARD WILL TRY TO SELL VESSELS

Disposal to Private Owners Is
Planned, But Prices Must
Suit Government.

Washington, D. C.—The government will "get out of the shipping business" if it can find purchasers for its ships and lines; if it cannot, then the government will continue in the shipping business, economizing as much as possible.

This was the upshot of an extended conference between President Harding, Chairman A. D. Lasker and the entire personnel of the United States shipping board. The decision on this policy was announced as unanimous.

The agreement was reached that the shipping board will at once proceed to the consolidation of its foreign trade lines and offer them to private owners at attractive and fair prices, with proviso that the routes be maintained.

If "fair" prices cannot be obtained then President Harding and his shipping advisors concluded there is nothing left for the government but to continue government operation under the Jones law.

The government should be able to determine within 60 days, or by June 15, whether it can effect a satisfactory sale of its shipping holdings, Chairman Lasker announced.

FRANCE AND BRITAIN OPPOSE CONCESSIONS

Grants By Turkey to U. S. Interests to Be Aired at
Lausanne.

Paris.—France is preparing to protest to the near east conference when its sessions are resumed at Lausanne on April 23 against the concessions recently ratified by the Turkish national assembly in favor of the American interests headed by Rear Admiral Colby M. Chester.

The government already has handed to the Turks, through its high commissioner at Constantinople, a note setting forth its objections.

London.—Great Britain proposes entering an energetic protest against the granting by the Turkish nationalists of certain concessions in Anatolia to the American interests headed by Rear Admiral Colby M. Chester if these concessions are found to embrace the Mosul oil fields, it was declared here.

In view of the official protest already made by France against these commitments to Americans as being in contravention of the Franco-Turkish railway and ports agreement of 1914, it is considered certain the whole subject will be aired at the approaching peace conference in Lausanne.

MUCH U. S. LIQUOR SHIPPED TO CANADA

Vancouver, B. C. — Newspapers in the United States which have been slamming Canada and particularly British Columbia for permitting liquor to leave this port for Mexico, which it is said eventually finds its way back to the United States, have been asked to clean their own doorsteps before attacking their neighbors.

It has been pointed out that 210,000 cases of Kentucky and New York liquor have come into this port since the first of this year under permission from the United States authorities.

United States Consul Ryder stated that this liquor comes out of the United States on the understanding that it is for medicinal or sacramental purposes. But once it arrives in Canada there is no check as to what it is used for and much of it goes to Mexico or China.

AGREEMENT IS CANCELED

Formal Announcement of Action of
Japan and America Made at Capital.

Washington, D. C.—Cancellation of the Lansing-Ishii agreement between the United States and Japan was formally announced by the state department in a statement making public an exchange of notes between Secretary Hughes and Masanao Hanihara, the Japanese ambassador. The exchange of notes set forth that in the "light of the understanding arrived at by the Washington conference on the limitation of armament, the American and Japanese governments are agreed to consider the Lansing-Ishii correspondence of November 2, 1917, as cancelled and of no further force or effect."

It was revealed for the first time in the communications that the negotiations leading up to the cancellation agreement were conducted personally by Secretary Hughes and Japanese embassy officials in Washington.

Grain Futures Law Valid.

Washington, D. C.—The grain futures trading act was declared valid and constitutional by the supreme court. It was the second time the court had passed on the validity of a grain futures trading law, a previous statute based on the taxing power of the federal government having been held unconstitutional. The law upheld was based on the right to control interstate commerce.

U. S. Asks For Sugar Records.

New York.—The first definite step in the government investigation of sugar price increases was revealed when members of the New York Sugar Exchange received from the United States attorney's office a form letter asking for submission of a record of all their transactions in raw and refined sugar from January 1st to April 1.

Battleship Oregon to be Fixed Up.

Salem, Ore. — The federal government will paint and put into ship shape the historic battleship Oregon and all doubt about its being given to the state of Oregon appears to have been cleared.

Packing Plant Workers Get Raise.

Chicago. — Improved business conditions in the packing industry was given as the reason for the 11 per cent increase in wages for \$80,000 workers.

WILSON OPPOSED TO HARDING'S PROPOSAL

Philadelphia.—Ex-President Wilson is opposed to President Harding's proposal for "conditional" American adhesion to the permanent court of international justice, established at The Hague under the auspices of the league of nations, the Philadelphia Public Ledger and the Louisville Courier-Journal said in copyrighted dispatches from Washington.

Mr. Wilson expressed his views in a letter to Arthur B. Rouse of Kentucky, chairman of the democratic congressional campaign committee, in response to an inquiry. The letter follows:

"In reply to your letter of March 23, let me say that I approve not of the 'conditional,' but of the unconditional adhesion of the United States to the world court set up under the auspices of the league of nations, though I think it would be more consistent with the fame of the United States for candor and courage to become a member of the league of nations and share with the other members the full responsibilities which its covenant involves."

BIG WHEAT YIELD FORECAST

Eastern Washington Output May Surpass That of 1914, Bankers Report.

Spokane, Wash.—Favorable growing conditions for the early spring indicate a wheat and grain crop this year which will equal or surpass the banner harvest of 1914, in the opinion of bankers from grain districts of Eastern Washington who attended the session here of the executive committee of group two of the Washington Bankers' association.

Just two things, they said, may stand in the way of the biggest wheat yield in the history of the Inland Empire. The first is the possibility of no rain in June and the second the danger of hot winds in July. Without a June rain the crop will be cut down, as a large percentage of the moisture will have to be in the ground by that time. Excessively hot winds in July would tend to burn up the wheat.

France and Belgium Firm.

Paris.—The French and Belgian governments decided at the conference of their ministers here to reimburse themselves for the Ruhr occupation expenses out of merchandise and money seized from the Germans. The two allies again emphasized their determination to evacuate the Ruhr only as Germany pays.

Allies Shy at Meeting U. S. Bill.

Paris.—Wide divergence of views between the delegates of the United States and the allies on the question reimbursing the United States for the cost of its occupation of the Rhineland developed just as it was hoped to terminate the negotiations.

First Petition For Ford Filled.

Omaha, Neb.—Petitions requesting that the name of Henry Ford, automobile manufacturer, be placed on the primary ballot of the progressive party in Nebraska in 1924 for president were filed with the secretary of state.

California Passes Two-Cent Gas Tax.

Sacramento, Cal. — The Breed bill fixing a 2 cent tax on gasoline was passed by the senate without a dissenting vote.

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