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ENGLAND HAS NEW PRIME MINISTER IN DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

Premier Asquith Resigns After Disagreement With Minister of War

LAW IS OFFERED HONOR

New Appointee Expects to Promote A More Vigorous War Policy With New Cabinet.

London, Dec. 6.—David Lloyd George is virtually prime minister of England today. Having administered the knockout blow to Premier Asquith and the coalition ministry, Great Britain's dynamic war minister accepted this afternoon King George's proffer to act as the head of a new government.

He would "endeavor to undertake the task," he announced. Thus the former chancellor of the exchequer, long looked upon by England's masses as the empire's strongest man, emerged victorious from one of the bitterest and at the same time most suavely fought political combats recorded in Britain's annals.

London, December 5.—The Asquith ministry has collapsed. The prime ministry has been offered to A. Bonar Law. All England awaits his decision tonight, for David Lloyd George is ready and eager to heed a summons from the king.

Mr. Asquith relinquished his post when even the English press conceded that he had triumphed once again in the role of peacemaker. The pressure became too great. The task seemed hopeless. Mr. Asquith went to King George and asked to be relieved. He returned and placed the prime minister's commission in the hands of Bonar Law.

Law's Acceptance Doubtful.

Then a summons came from the king and Bonar Law was formally tendered the opportunity to form a new ministry.

When Mr. Law left the presence of the king he would make no announcement of his plans. Tonight there are grave doubts as to his acceptance. If he were to decline, England, even as she was forced to turn to Kitchener at the outbreak of the war, would be compelled to turn to Lloyd George.

Mr. Law, who for years, as a Conservative party leader, harassed the premier, who goaded him sometimes almost beyond endurance, tonight finds himself with the chief prize within his grasp. And he is frankly in doubt as to his ability to rise to the demands it makes.

Lloyd George, the radical, has no such misgivings. His attitude recalls that of Pitt, who honestly believed he was the man to save the empire and who did not hesitate to voice his opinion.

England tonight is fully awake to the fact that her whole attitude towards the great war is in the balance. It hangs on the decision of Bonar Law.

If a new coalition ministry can be formed, Bonar Law will do it. Thus he will redeem the promise of the then Premier Asquith, made in the commons yesterday, that the war policy would not be altered.

Would Alter Policy.

But, if Lloyd George becomes the first lord of the treasury, which carries with it the premier's place, the war will be prosecuted with a new vigor. The eastern school will have complete ascendancy. The cabinet will be composed of men who have a radically new war policy in mind.

Tonight there is some talk of a general election. If Bonar Law consents to accept the portfolio it may be as an expedient. But the sentiment of the people is opposed to a referendum now. So many of England's men are at the front that a general election, in its mountable difficulties and an election with the suffrage extended only to those that are at home would not be general.

A new government will ask its mandate from the commons, if the people have their way. But some are reasoning that the ovation to the premier yesterday argued for a vote of confidence, which might mean a continuation of the present policy.

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INSTALLS POTATO SORTER

E. E. Morrison Puts in Power Machine To Save Labor Expense.

E. E. Morrison has installed a Thompson power potato sorter in his warehouse at the corner of Second and Main streets. The new machine was purchased at Greeley, Colorado and is the only one in the Willamette valley. The machine will sort and sack from 500 to 1200 bushels of spuds a day.

Mr. Morrison will use a gasoline engine to run the new sorter. The potatoes are shoveled into an endless chain elevator and are then put through a slat sorter which turns out the large ones for table stock, medium ones for seed and the culls for feeding purposes. The two best grades are sacked by the machine.

NOTED SPEAKER GUEST AT BROTHERHOOD SESSION

Henry J. Talbott of Kimball College Talks on "World Government," At First Meeting of Year.

Reverend Henry J. Talbott, dean of The Kimball College of Theology at Salem was the principal speaker at the first session of the present conference year of the Springfield Methodist Brotherhood, which was held at the church on Monday evening.

Before Reverend Talbott's address, the 30 men present enjoyed a delicious dinner served by a committee of the Ladies Aid society, after which the men held their business session in the new lecture room, which was made comfortable by fireplace blaze.

In his talk, the subject of which was "World Government," Dr. Talbott first dwelt on the object of the Brotherhood, explaining the meaning of organizations of that kind to the men who belong.

The speaker discussed The Great War and after touching on the immense destruction of human life, homes, and property, he stated that the greatest destruction of all was the breaking down of morals and the degeneracy of the human race that would naturally follow.

This nation will also feel the effects of the strife, sooner or later, he pointed out, and added that we are to have a large part in the rehabilitation that must follow.

Reverend Talbott also touched upon the Mexican situation, saying that what that country needs is not being conquered by the United States, but being cared for and educated at the hands of the more powerful nation. They need our protection, he said.

The next meeting of the Brotherhood will be held on Monday, January 15. The officers of the organization are: President, R. W. Smith; First vice president, E. E. Brattain; Third vice president, Dr. W. H. Pollard; Fourth vice president, Dr. N. W. Emery; Secretary, Bruce Lansberry; and Treasurer, Randall Scott.

Growers Get \$1000 For 5 Acres Spuds

Jesse Easton and Son, Arthur, of Waverlyville, Consider Potato Growing Profitable Business.

The farmer who says there is no profit in tilling the soil should listen to this. Jesse Easton and his Son, Arthur, who live near Waverlyville, planted five acres of land to potatoes last spring and took good care of the crop until digging time.

From these five acres enough potatoes were raised to feed half a dozen hogs during the winter, keep two families well supplied, plant six acres next spring and sell the balance to a potato buyer for a nice \$1000 check. In other words enough potatoes were marketed per acre to bring the growers \$200 to the acre for their trouble.

Although this is an exceptional year for potato growers the crop should pay at any time. The Eastons received \$1.50 per hundred for their crop this year. If they had only received 75 cents they would have received \$100 per acre for their crop which is considered as a good income per acre.

E. E. Morrison, local potato dealer, says that under ordinary conditions potatoes can be raised at a cost of from 30 to 40 cents per bushel here in the Willamette valley.

Ships Hope Over O. E.

Three carloads of hops have been hauled to Eugene this week to be shipped east over the Oregon Electric railroad. Two cars will be filled with John Seavey's product and the other by Palmer Brothers. It is not stated how much the growers received for the shipments.

GOVERNMENT ASKS INQUIRY INTO FOOD PRICES OVERNATION

Administration Makes Move to Oppose All Embargo Proposals

ATTORNEY IN CHARGE

Senators And Representatives From Rural Communities Raise Objection To Investigations of High Costs

Washington, Dec. 6.—In response to demands from all over the country, the Government has decided to undertake a nation-wide investigation of the price in food with a view to determining the cause of the increase, and particularly whether combinations exist which are responsible for the high cost of living. The first step in this direction was taken up today when Attorney General Gregory designated George W. Anderson, United States District Attorney at Boston, to take charge of the inquiry.

Mr. Anderson's jurisdiction in the matter will not be confined to the district in which he is Federal attorney. He will have complete authority over a force of Government investigators and will follow up every clue to possible combinations of wholesale and dealers.

The appointment of Mr. Anderson is taken to mean that the Administration is not inclined to support the proposal of Congressman John J. Fitzgerald of New York that an effort to reduce the high cost of living be made through placing an embargo on the exportation of foodstuffs. While President Wilson has made no public utterance on the subject and nothing has come from the White House in any official way to show the President's disposition in the matter, it is understood that the President is not in favor of the embargo.

Although he has not met with much encouragement on the part of the members of Congress, Representative Fitzgerald has found plenty of indorsement among the people. He has received hundreds of letters which show that his proposal is popular and that considerable thought had been given it, which was crystallized by his announcement that he would offer an embargo resolution when Congress reassembled next week. Foodstuffs are already becoming scarce in localities where they are produced, these letters say, and some of the writers express a fear that, even with an embargo, there may not be enough food to supply the country this winter.

The chief opposition to Mr. Fitzgerald's proposal is expected from the Senators and Representatives from agricultural communities, particularly among Western Congressmen, who know it will be unpopular to advocate any measure that will have the effect of cutting down the extraordinarily high prices the farmers are receiving for their products. In some quarters the supposed opposition of the Administration is attributed to the desire to show appreciation of the fact that President Wilson owes his re-election to the Western States.

In announcing the appointment of Mr. Anderson, Attorney General Gregory issued the following statement: "Mr. Anderson has received a formal appointment as Special Assistant to the Attorney General, which by the way, involves no increase of salary or other compensation.

"While technically the jurisdiction of the department of Justice is only to deal with illegal restraints of interstate commerce, the investigation will take a rather wide range, and all pertinent facts and information will be used as effectively as possible to bring about a co-ordination between Government and business forces.

"Undoubtedly other departments of the Government, like the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Interstate Commerce Commission, will have data and views which will be of the greatest assistance in this matter."

"Of course the department is under no delusive notion that it can make short crops out of manufacturers or repair needed freight cars, but it does

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LEATHER DEMAND IS CAUSING GREAT ALARM IN THE EAST

Chicago Bank Predicts that Price of Shoes May Be \$20 a Pair Soon

FOREIGN TRADE CAUSE

Foreign And Domestic Demand Far Exceeds Supply Even of Normal Times Prices Must Advance

Twenty dollars a pair for shoes is the price which the ordinary person probably will have to pay, in an opinion expressed in the current trade review of the National Bank of the Republic, Chicago. After citing the acute situation in reference to the demand for leather, both from domestic and foreign sources, and continuing price advances, this financial authority declares it is far from impossible that such a high price as manufacturers' forecasts have indicated should result from prevailing conditions, which are worldwide. The Chicago Bank's letter says:

For some years prior to the beginning of the European war the number of cattle in the world per 1000 of population was gradually decreasing while the per capita consumption of leather was steadily increasing. The hides produced in this country, even in normal times, constitute but 50 per cent of leather requirements for domestic consumption and for export. For a number of months after the world's shipping cut us off practically from our usual hide imports. At the same time the tremendous demand from Europe for harness and saddles, which since has practically ceased, used up accumulated stocks of hides. Although our hide imports have recovered their normal volume and have gone very much above it, European competition in the world's hide markets has driven up prices with great rapidity.

War Demand Tremendous.

Demand for shoes for European armies is tremendous and represents a consumption of leather for footwear at least twice as large as for the same number of men in times of peace. On the basis of five pairs of shoes yearly per man for an average of 20,000,000 men under arms or in training during 25 months of war, it is estimated that more than 250,000,000 pairs of shoes have already been used. This represents the hides of about 30,500,000 head of cattle, more than one-half as many cattle as this country possessed January 1, 1915, and almost one-twelfth the total number in the entire world.

New price records are now almost a daily occurrence, not only in materials, but in manufactured goods of all descriptions. In fact there never has been a similar period of prosperity in which commodities have advanced more generally, and, in truth, in a more erratic manner. There is little wonder that official inquiries have been instituted in all parts of the country to ascertain the justification for these high levels.

There is no doubt that, with human nature as generally constituted, the rapid price advances in not a few cases have been used as an excuse for exacting inordinate profits or as a motive for substituting inferior goods.

Must Have Foreign Market.

The past two years have amply demonstrated that American industries in their present extent and magnitude cannot subsist without foreign markets, the gaining and holding of which depend entirely upon our ability successfully to compete with other countries. Although popular belief seems to have discarded long since the idea that any great financial disturbance will attend the coming of peace in Europe, the fact remains that our industrial and commercial organization at that time will have been firmly established upon a plane of prices from which there will be no receding without a corresponding deflation of values of plant, equipment and stock and a drastic and wholesale reduction of wages—the former a sufficient cause for disaster and the latter tending to go alternative by

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TO DISCUSS LIVE TOPICS

Parent Teacher Association Will Meet On Coming Friday Afternoon

The local Parent Teacher association will meet at the Lincoln school at 3:00 P. M. on Friday December 8, 1916.

All patrons and friends of the public schools are invited to be present.

The meeting will be in charge of the president, Mrs. J. B. Campbell. Miss Anne McCormick, teacher of domestic science and art will discuss the following topic:—"The Preparation of School Lunches for Children." The following subjects will be presented for general discussion:

- "Why do parents not visit the schools more often?"
- "What plan can be adopted to secure a play shed for the smaller children at the public schools?"

CARS COMING IN BETTER DURING PAST FEW DAYS

Booth-Kelly Gets 7 Oregon Electric Cars Today; With Increase All Week; S. P. also Sends More

Cars are coming in a little better just now than they have been for some time, the Booth-Kelly Lumber company reports. Especially on the Oregon Electric lines is the condition improved, seven cars having been received this morning, as contrasted with the usual two or three each day. All of this week, the O. E. people have been furnishing all the cars that could be handled by the local company, according to Joe Lusby, retail salesman. Oregon Electric officials seem disposed to think the condition will continue better in the future, it was said, but even though they should be able to furnish a larger number of cars, the car shortage would not be greatly relieved as they can only supply a certain territory.

However, the Southern Pacific cars have been coming slightly better for the past few days, it was learned at the office, although it is not at all certain as to how long they will continue to do so.

The Booth-Kelly company is shipping mainly to the eastern car manufacturing centers and to the Seattle navy yard now.

May Open Reading Room Every Day

Library Board Considers Plan; Magazines Subscribed For, And November Report Heard.

Plans for keeping the Springfield Public library open as a reading room on afternoons and evenings every day in the week, instead of on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons only, as is now the custom, were discussed at the monthly meeting of the library board of trustees last Tuesday evening.

If the library be conducted as proposed, the book stacks will be open only during the same hours as at present, but free access may be had to the magazines and the tables. No attendant will be present, so the continuation of the scheme, should it be adopted, will probably depend upon the "good behavior" of the reading public.

At the Tuesday night meeting, the following magazines were subscribed to for the library for the coming year: "The Independent," "Popular Mechanics," "Scribner's," and "The American Boy."

At this time also, information was given of a gift from the Booth-Kelly Lumber company, which amounts to the furnishing of the winter's fuel for the library.

All board members were present at this session, with the exception of M. M. Peery. Mrs. Hannah Hill, librarian, made her November report to the board of trustees upon this occasion. Among other items, it is noted that 16 new readers were registered and 123 visitors admitted to the reading and reference room this month. The report follows in full:

Books repaired in library, 40; new readers registered, 16; number of books issued, 814; number of days open for issue of books, 9; average daily circulation, 71; percentage of adult fiction circulated, 85; number of visitors to reading and reference room, 123; fines on overdue books, \$2.17.

E. E. Morrison will move his office from the Creamery block to the Commercial Bank building on Fourth at. He will occupy the room recently vacated by J. J. Browning, the latter part of this week.

PRESIDENT WILSON READS MESSAGE TO JOINT SESSION

Congress Hears Executive Tell of Legislation to Receive Attention

WANTS QUICK ACTION

No Reference is Made to High Cost of Living, Although Most of Legislators Are Interested

Washington, December, 5.—Declaring the country "cannot and should not consent to remain any longer exposed to profound industrial disturbances," President Wilson appeared before a joint session of congress today and appealed for immediate action on his program of "settlement and regulation of difficulties" between the railroads and their trainmen.

Statement of the need of such legislation occupied the bulk of his annual message—the shortest one he has delivered. It recommended passage of the provisions included but not acted upon in his last special appeal last August. At that time a nation-wide strike necessitated congressional action.

Dramatic Tension Lacking.

In a late addition to his message, the president urged the passage by the house of the vocational and industrial education measures passed by the senate during the last session.

The thrill and dramatic tension so noticeable in the president's three previous visits of the sixty-fourth congress were lacking today. Crowds thronged the capitol, however, and hours before the session was scheduled to convene all gallery entrances were besieged with men and women endeavoring to work their way past the guards.

Admission was by cards only.

Clean-Up Campaign Set Forth.

There were no staggering national defense regulations, such as featured the president's message a year ago. There was no note of war, such as threatened in the second message, reporting the dispatch of Germany of a virtual ultimatum following the Sussex sinking. Nor was there the pressing need of speed and quick decision reflected in the request for congressional action to avert a nation-wide railroad strike last fall.

The message today constituted a "clean-up program."

Although both branches of congress are seething over the high cost of living problem, and interest in this has overshadowed all other proposed action, the president made no reference to it today.

Special Message Possible.

He is receiving reports from different executive departments, however, in an effort to devise the best possible plan for the curbing of soaring prices.

It is believed the president will either deliver a special message on the question later, or take it up personally with the house and senate leaders, when a plan he deems feasible has been found.

So serious does the president regard the high cost of living question that he has determined to keep it out of politics if possible.

Measure to Be Non-Partisan.

He is understood to feel that Republicans and Democrats are equally interested in a solution of the difficulty and will make no effort to put through a party measure.

Diplomatic Washington drifted slowly into the gallery in contrast to the hundreds who stormed successfully and unsuccessfully. Chinese and Japanese delegations were among the first to arrive.

Mrs. Lansing, wife of the secretary of state; Councillor Polk and the state department; John Barrett, director of the Pan-American union; the Japanese ambassador and the Swedish and Columbian ministers and the Nicaraguan charge d'affaires were among those in the gallery when the president arrived.

President's Entry Applauded.

William Jennings Bryan, former secretary of state, entered the chamber while the house was in recess pending the president's arrival. The

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