

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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SHIP PURCHASE BILL LIKELY TO FAIL THIS SESSION

The Sixty-third congress will close its labors sometime before 12 m. on March 4. A new congress, the Sixty-fourth, will then take charge of the nation's affairs. This new congress will be composed of a smaller democratic majority in the House of representatives, than that of the Sixty-third, but there will be a larger majority in the National senate.

The new congress will have some intricate question to adjudicate. The European war with all the diplomatic questions which may arise will have to be taken care of, as well as the difficult Mexican complications to adjust. Let us hope that these matters will be handled with wisdom and that the interests of the United States will be taken care of in a manner satisfactory, if not to all the nations involved, to ourselves at least.

One of the chief measures of legislation advocated by the Sixty-third congress, is the purchase of foreign merchant vessels and the operation of the same by the government, as public carriers.

At the present prices for ocean tonnage, this proposition of the government going into the ocean freight business, is attracting an unusual interest among the people. Many believe that our government was instituted for the happiness and prosperity of the American people and that she ought to have the right if she does not now have it, to engage in any enterprise which would trend towards securing this result. Many of our best thinking statesmen believe the time has now fully arrived when the government should undertake the public carrier service.

The main opposition to the enactment of the ship purchase measure into law, is the influence of the shipping trust. It is the same influence which secured the enactment of the law, preventing foreign shipping from engaging in our coast carrying trade and the preventing of foreign ships from American registry. This last, however, has been repealed by the present congress. The shipping trust knows full well that for Uncle Sam to enter the ocean carrier business at a reasonable charge for the same, that the day of extortionate ocean freights will have passed and that there would be no bar to these government owned and operated vessels, participating in the coasting trade.

Another source of opposition is purely political. Any measure advocated by President Wilson and the democratic majority of congress, no matter how meritorious, is sure to be opposed by the republican partisan politicians, as in the measure under consideration.

England's opposition arises from a purely selfish motive. She wishes to retain commercial supremacy on

the ocean and she knows this supremacy would have a strong rival, should congress enact this law. England knows, too, that before the present little unpleasantness they are having over on their side ends, a great many of her merchant ships will find watery graves.

So these three influences of opposition may all be written down as being inspired from selfish motives. The shipping trust, because a most effective check would be placed against future high cost freight rates; the republican political leaders, because they yearn to restore that party to political power, and England, because she wishes to retain her commercial supremacy of the sea.

President Wilson and the democratic majority cannot be charged with selfishness, because of their desire to enact the measure into law other than to do that which will advance the interests of the American people. Nor is the democratic congressional majority a unit for the measure. A few senators are, evidently, subservient to the wishes of the shipping trust.

The only question which should be considered in the matter by congress is: Will it advance the interests of the American people, for the government to undertake the public carrier business and thus become a competitor with private capital? The Tribune believes that the government is as well justified in protecting the people against financial mobs as she is to suppress a mob of lawless anarchists or other mobs which endanger the peace and prosperity of the people.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED

At about 8 a. m. last Sunday morning, our legislative solons adjourned sine die and wended their respective ways homeward. Whether the twenty-eighth biennial session has done well or ill, is a matter of personal opinion. If a pet measure of the person rendering the opinion was adopted or defeated as the case may be, the personal opinion will be colored accordingly.

In the opinion of The Tribune, the legislature has done fairly well, infinitely better than the session of two years ago. True it has not accomplished all the results contemplated on the opening day by many of the members. It has consolidated but two commissions when most people thought consolidation and elimination was to maintain in the consideration of the forty or more commissions which yet remain authorized to act by the state. The people will simply have to be content with the few small favors granted and hope for more attention to their desires, two years hence.

One thing, however, for which the taxpayers should feel thankful, no new commissions and but few new offices have been created. President of the Senate Thompson states that nearly \$1,500,000 in appropriations have been saved, over the session of two years ago. For this retrenchment, let us all be thankful. Yet there were many appropriations made which most right thinking people will condemn. For instance, instead of curtailing the expense for state colleges, they have been increased.

Most people thought, when they voted the millage tax for the state colleges two years ago, they had disposed of this question as a finality. Yet we see \$50,000 voted for Monmouth and \$100,000 for the Portland medical school for building purposes. Nor is this to be the end of this new educational graft. The plans are for a half dozen or more buildings for this same school. Wonder if doctor bills will be decreased, because of this heavy expense to the state to educate doctors?

All the same we, the people, feel thankful to the boys for not digging down so deeply as did the session of two years ago. If the people do not get careless about the matter, perhaps we can so instill into the minds of the legislators of two years hence, that a further cut can be made in state expenses.

Of course, a few more lawyers have been taken care of at this session, in the creation of several new judicial districts. So long as such a large percentage of our legislature is composed of lawyers, may we expect this careful attention to their welfare to be continued. A \$4000 salary will never be despised by the average lawyer. We may expect a decrease of work and an increase of salary, will be the rule indefinitely.

Just so long as we fill our legislatures with members who have axes to grind and just so long as we permit lobbyists to fill the halls and corridors of the state capitol when the legislature is in session, may we expect our state treasury to be raided.

However, the session just closed has been a great improvement over that of two years ago, for which let us feel thankful. Perhaps, two years hence, we can convince our solons that we, the people, mean business when we say "Retrench! Reform! Cut down state expenses!"

Volume 1, No. 1 of the Warrenton News, published at the mouth of the Columbia river, by E. H. Flagge, is on our table. The News is devoted to the interests of this young city by the sea and starts out under favorable auspices. The Tribune wishes you success, Brother Flagge.

A friend writes The Tribune commending our article of last week under the caption "Some More Road Thoughts," stating that he was carrying the paper around in his pocket for others to read.

The Scio Tribune \$1.25 per year

Local Market Report

Wheat per bushel	\$ 1.40
Oats " "	.54
Bran per ton	36.00
Wheat chop per ton	50.00
Oat chop " "	36.00
Barley Chop " "	42.00
Flour per sack	1.70
Eggs per dozen	.20
Butter per pound	.20
Chickens, hens per lb.	.11
" spring " "	.10
" roosters " "	.07
Turkeys " "	.16
Geese " "	.08
Ducks " "	8 to 11
Beef " "	5 1/2
Veal " "	10 1/2
Hogs, live per hundred lb.	6.60
Hogs, dressed " "	8.00
Mutton " "	6.00

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As you know by this time that we have changed our system of doing business to a Strictly Cash Basis and that we sell for CASH ONLY, all machinery is sold for Cash or Note settlement. So keep in mind that Cash must accompany all orders for goods.

We have discontinued bookkeeping, which has been a heavy expense, both to you and us, having adopted the

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