

SEVERAL BILLS FOR DISPOSAL OF RAILROAD LANDS

Congress and Three Government Departments Struggling With Question of Whether or Not Millions of Acres of O. & C. Grant Lands Shall Go to Timber Trust.

By GILSON GARDNER. WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Congress and three government departments are struggling with the question of whether or not millions of acres of land containing several billion board feet of very valuable timber, which is the property of the United States, shall go to the lumber trust.

Last summer the supreme court of the United States rendered a decision in the famous Oregon-California land grant case, involving a tract of land 60 miles wide, 400 miles long and comprising 2,400,000 acres of valuable forest, mineral and other land worth at least \$60,000,000. In this decision it declared that the original grant to the railroad should be forfeited, inasmuch as the road had flagrantly violated all the terms of the grant. However, the court didn't have the courage or the good sense to forfeit the lands outright to the government, but said that congress should decide what is to be done with them.

Several Bills Introduced.

Several bills have been introduced proposing to do various things with the lands, but not one proposes to protect the interests of the public—the real owners of these lands—by placing them in the adjoining national forest. The bill introduced by Senator Chamberlain of Oregon proposes to divide the lands into three classes—mineral, timber and agricultural—that the first shall be disposed of under the mineral laws, the second shall have the timber sold to the lumbermen, after which they, as well as the (at present) agricultural lands shall be disposed of under the homestead laws. The price received for the timber is to be turned over to the railroad company until its "equity" in the lands shall have been received in full, at the rate of \$2.50 an acre.

Representative Raker of California has a joint resolution proposing to pay the railroad considerably more than its equity, and that the United States shall thereupon "resume full possession, ownership and control of the said granted lands," and tells the secretaries of interior, agriculture and the attorney general and the governor of Oregon to make recommendations as to what legislation should be enacted regarding the lands.

McCumber's Resolution.

Senator McCumber has a joint resolution in proposing to give a preferential right to all settlers who had made application for any of these lands before the beginning of the government sale.

All these legislative proposals would result in passing this valuable land into private ownership at a nominal price, with the result that it would soon gravitate naturally to the big timber interests. The lands ought logically to go into the existing national forest, and the department of agriculture is believed to be ready to recommend that course to congress.

Attorney General Gregory has sent a letter to the senate public lands (Continued on page three)

ENGRAVINGS FIRE CREATES A SCARE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Fire in the laundry at the government bureau of printing and engraving, both accompanied by loud explosions, threw many hundreds of employees into a panic and spread reports of a bomb plot. The flames broke out in a small building, detached from the main structure, in which gasoline is used for cleaning. Sixty men got out safely. The succeeding explosions of gasoline caused much excitement, but no damage in the main structure. Two alarms of fire were turned in.

RUSSIANS ADVANCING SOUTH AND WEST IN TURKISH TERRITORY

LONDON, Feb. 21.—The Russians have occupied the entire Lake Van district, the Turks retiring southward and even evacuating Billis, according to a Petrograd dispatch received in Rome and given out here by the wireless press. On the other wing, according to the dispatch, the Russian advance guards have arrived within a short distance of Trebizond on the Black Sea coast.

COURT PROTECTS WESTERN PACIFIC FROM INTERFERENCE

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—The Equitable Trust Company of New York was enjoined permanently today from further proceedings in its suit in New York, suing for a construction of a contract by which the Denver & Rio Grande railway guaranteed the interest on the Western Pacific railway's \$50,000,000 first mortgage bonds and the deficiency in its sinking fund for the retirement of the bonds.

The injunction was issued by Judge William C. Van Fleet in the United States district court, who issued a temporary restraining order in the matter June 11, 1915.

He also ordered that the Denver & Rio Grande and the Missouri Pacific railway be made parties to the restraining proceedings under which the Western Pacific now is being operated.

The Denver & Rio Grande and the Missouri Pacific were given thirty days in which to interplead, setting up their rights.

The restraining order enjoined the Equitable Trust company from "bringing any other action involving contract B (the Denver & Rio Guaranty), except in this court," without first securing the court's sanction.

GERMAN AIRSHIPS DROP BOMBS ON ALLIES' AERODOME

BERLIN, Feb. 21, via London.—An official statement issued here today says that German naval aeroplanes on Sunday dropped a large number of bombs on the aerodome and camp at Furnes, in west Flanders, near the North sea, and returned safely.

The official statement says: "Western theater: North of Ypres an English hand grenade attack on our new position on the canal was repulsed.

"South of Loos the enemy again was forced to withdraw from our crater position.

"On the Lens-Arras highroad they attacked several enemy positions behind their lines, such as Furnes, Poperinghe, Auzens and Luneville. Many successful results were observed.

"Eastern theater: Russian attacks in front of Dvinsk failed. Miner enemy advances at other points were also repulsed.

COLONIST FARES TO WEST AUTHORIZED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Colonist passenger fares from points in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and nearby states to Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and other points on the Pacific coast and in western Canada were authorized today by the interstate commerce commission.

DAILY COST OF WAR TO BRITAIN IS \$22,000,000

Premier Moves Two New Votes of Credit to Finance Conflict in Adequate Fashion—Increased Cost Is Shown by Figures—Loans to Allies Now Total 168,000,000 Pounds.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—Premier Asquith introduced two votes of credit in the house of commons today. The premier's speech was confined entirely to the financial aspect of the present situation, no reference being made to military affairs in general.

Mr. Asquith told the house that the daily expenditure from April 1 to July 17 of last year was 2,800,000 pounds sterling; from July 18 to September 11, 3,500,000; from September 12 to November 6, 4,450,000; from November 7 to February 19, 1916, between 4,300,000 and 4,400,000 pounds sterling.

Loans to Great Britain's allies and to the dominions on November 6 last amounted to 98,300,000 pounds sterling. Between November 7 and February 19 the amount loaned was 70,600,000 pounds sterling, making a total of 168,900,000.

Mr. Asquith today moved two new votes of credit, the one for 120,000,000 pounds sterling to finance the war until March 31, the end of the current year, and the other for 300,000,000 pounds to start the new financial year in adequate fashion.

One of the important debates of the week in the house of lords will begin tomorrow when the question of the so-called leakages in the blockade lines on Baron Sydenham's motion, which declares that more effective use could be made of the fleets of the allies to prevent supplies from reaching the central empires.

On Wednesday Philip Snowden, socialist member for Blackburn, will raise the question of peace terms.

It had previously been stated in London dispatches that the 300,000,000 pounds sterling vote of credit alluded to in the foregoing, is expected to finance the war for only two months, that is until the end of May.

LAMBERT THOUGHT DAUGHTER ELOPED

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—Frank Lambert, father of Marian Frances Lambert, with whose murder Will H. Orpet, her former admirer, is charged, testified today at the inquest into his daughter's death that poisons which he used for spraying shrubs was kept locked and that he believed his daughter knew nothing of them.

Chemical analysis of the girl's stomach had shown that cyanide of potassium caused her death.

Lambert said that when his daughter failed to return home he thought she might have eloped with Will Orpet. He said that he telephoned to Madison, Wis., to ascertain whether Orpet was there and had failed to find him.

GERMANY PROTESTS LIBEL OF APPAM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Representations against the presence of United States deputy marshals on the captured British liner Appam, a German prize in Hampton Roads, were made today to the state department by the German embassy.

Prince Von Hatzfeldt, counselor of the embassy, discussed the whole subject with Counselor Polk. It was said that while the embassy realized that the prize was out of the hands of the state department and in the courts, it was anxious to know when some decision might be expected.

The presence of the marshals was objected to, it was said, because it was feared some friction might develop.

SUBMARINE ISSUE WITH GERMANY STILL CONSIDERED GRAVE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—State department officials said today they consider the submarine issue with Germany still in a grave state because the Lusitania agreement in the light of the newly announced submarine policy of the German powers contains no assurances for the future. Secretary Lansing already has told Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, that assurances that the previous declarations will not be abandoned in the new campaign are highly desirable.

\$23,000,000 FOR NAVY'S AIRSHIP FLEET REQUESTED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Captain Mark Bristol, head of the navy aeronautical service, told the house naval committee today that his estimate of \$7,600,000 as the cost of the navy's aircraft needs had been reduced to the \$2,000,000 asked for in the pending appropriations bill without his being consulted.

Captain Bristol added that he disapproved Secretary Daniels' proposal to establish a special flying corps in the navy, holding that officers and men should be trained in the navy's requirements before they were given special training for air service.

His original estimate, the witness said, called for an appropriation of \$13,000,000 for aircraft. On instruction from the navy department, he had struck out a proposal for two aircraft ships to cost \$3,000,000 each. He had not been consulted, he said, as to the further reduction.

To complete the proposed five-year building program for the navy, Captain Bristol said a total expenditure of nearly \$23,000,000 on aircraft would be necessary. There would be 186 aeroplanes, 15 dirigibles and 53 kite balloons with the fleet, he said; 120 aeroplanes and 15 kite balloons operating from stations for coast patrol; two advance base units with two aeroplanes, two dirigibles and two kite balloons and a provision for 40 aeroplanes for the naval militia.

The personnel needed, he said, is 430 officers and 832 men. If the full program were carried out there would be 683 officers and 1106 men in the aeronautical service, he said.

CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR CARRANZA FORCES

GALVESTON, Tex., Feb. 21.—Continued successes for the constitutional forces operating in Morelos, are reported in a cablegram from the local Mexican consuls. The towns of Oquimbin, Calmahuac and Tenango del Aire have been wrested from the Zapata forces, says the dispatch, and quantities of arms and ammunition captured.

The Zapata forces are described as having almost completely evacuated the city of Cuernavaca. General Celleras reports that his men are vigorously pursuing the enemy.

DAY IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Senate: Interstate commerce committee continued hearings on child labor bill.

Indian affairs committee continued hearings. Military committee resumed work on army bill and considered resolution to investigate the army aviation service.

Resumed debate on Shields water power bill. House: Military and naval committee continued hearings on national defense bill. Debate on postoffice appropriation bill was resumed.

NEW ARMY BILL INCREASES ARMY TO 134,000 MEN

House Military Committee Agrees Upon New Measure Which Federalizes National Guard, Doubles Field Artillery, Increases Engineer Corps and Creates New Cadet Corps.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—A new army reorganization bill, federalizing the national guard, increasing the regular army to 134,000 men, doubling the field artillery, increasing the engineer corps by fifteen companies, creating four squadrons of aircraft and an entirely new corps of cadets from colleges having military training was agreed upon tentatively today by the house military committee.

The committee authorized Chairman Hay to draft the bill and have it ready for the committee next Wednesday or Thursday with the understanding that amendments meeting individual views may be offered later.

The national guard provisions will be one of the most notable features. The committee agreed that congress has the constitutional right to take over the national guard by legislative enactment and appropriation.

The provision for a corps of cadet officers from educational institutions having military training is expected to furnish 3000 trained officers for use in emergency.

The McKellar bill, providing federal co-operation in military training in the states, also was voted favorably reported. It proposed government aid for one school in each state where a minimum of 300 students will receive military instruction.

STEAMERS RESCUE FLOOD REFUGEES

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 21.—With four steamers and numerous flatboats engaged in rescue work, reports from the district flooded by the Mississippi levee break at Buck Ridge were more optimistic.

Two steamers loaded with refugees had reached Natchez today from the neighborhood of Newellton. Two other steamers were working between Natchez and the Buck Ridge crevasse, where flood victims are suffering most from exposure and lack of food.

Reports from Newellton say a number of parties with supplies have gone into the back country in shallow draft scows in search for persons whom it had been impossible to reach.

Water from the constantly widening crevasse at Buck Ridge was reported rapidly covering Tenness, Concordia, Franklin and Catahoula parishes.

ADD FLOOD CONTROL TO SHIELDS MEASURE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Senator Newlands today submitted an amendment to the Shields water power bill the river regulation measure he has been pressing for several years, which would appropriate \$60,000,000 annually for ten years to promote interstate commerce by development and improvement of rivers and waterways of the United States.

SECOND COLD WAVE STRIKES NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—With a drop of 17 degrees in the temperature between midnight and 8 o'clock New York shivered in the second severe cold wave of the winter. The thermometer registered 23 degrees above zero at midnight and dropped to 6 by 8 o'clock. It rose slowly as the morning advanced, but the weather forecaster predicted no real relief before tomorrow.

WARLIKE REDSKINS KILL INDIAN AGENT NAVAJO RESERVATION

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., Feb. 21.—Leo Crane, Indian agent of Keams Canyon, Ariz., was killed by Indians last Friday, according to unconfirmed reports received here today from Gallup, N. M., and Holbrook, Ariz. A friendly Indian who arrived here from Keams Canyon stated that the Navajo, Apache and Yaqui Indians were planning to go on the warpath within three months and that Mexicans would fight with them.

HOLD TIDE LANDS OF CALIFORNIA STATE PROPERTY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The supreme court today upheld the claim of the state of California to title to the so-called Phineas Hanning tide land in the inner harbor of San Pedro.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 21.—The decision in the Phineas Hanning case handed down today by the supreme court affects every piece of tide land in California, and, according to the surveyor-general's office, land worth several millions of dollars in almost every harbor in California is directly affected.

Attorney-General Webb is upheld in his contention that title to tide land is vested in the state by virtue of sovereignty and any title given by the state is null and void, because the state has no right to give away or sell tide land.

Eight different claimants in the inner harbor of San Pedro are directly affected by the decision of the supreme court of the United States in the decision of the United States supreme court having been taken to highest court in the land by the Hanning brothers, owners of Catalina Island.

STORMS DEVASTATE PARTS OF GERMANY

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 21, via London.—Inundations and storms are reported from the Thuringian wood, Franconia and other parts of Germany. Some of the smaller places in Bavaria are completely inundated. A number of children have perished and many cattle have been drowned.

Navigation has been stopped at Wuerzburg and also on the river Neekar. The situation at Mainz is serious.

A dispatch from Munich says that great avalanches fell in the Hochloeng region, carrying away a mountain shelter with its occupants. Thus far thirty-five bodies have been recovered.

PRESIDENT PREFERS MANNING TARIFF BOARD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—President Wilson prefers having the proposed tariff commission consist of men appointed by himself and non-partisan. He made this clear today to Representative Barnhart of Indiana, who suggested that the commission consist of one man appointed by the president and others named by the senate and house.

Mr. Barnhart said many members of the house, both democratic and republican, favored the plan he suggested. The president informed Mr. Barnhart that because of conditions created by the war he believed the commission should be removed entirely from politics.

SENATE PROBES KOREA'S SEIZURE BY THE JAPANESE

Correspondence Shows That United States, Bound by Treaty to Aid Korea, Refused, Roosevelt and Root Ignoring Appeals—Belgian Treaty Provided for Neutrality.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The senate today adopted a resolution by Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee asking President Wilson to submit the correspondence between the United States and Korea when Japan occupied the hermit kingdom during the Russo-Japanese war. Administration leaders, it was said, want to use the information in reply to Elihu Root's attack on the president because no protest was made against the occupation of Belgium.

Mr. Root was secretary of state when Japan took Korea.

Senator Stone's resolution calls upon the president to "transmit, if not incompatible with the public interest, correspondence or so much thereof as in his opinion may be made public, between official representatives of the United States government and the representatives of Korea relating to the occupation of Korea and establishment of a protectorate over said country by Japan during or as an incident of the Russo-Japanese war in 1904-05.

Administration officials said today they proposed to show by the correspondence that the United States was bound by treaty to aid Korea, whereas the treaty with Belgium provides only that the United States should respect the neutrality of Belgium. The treaty of 1882 between the United States and Korea contains the following article:

"If other powers deal unjustly or oppressively with either government, the other will exert their good offices on being informed of the case to bring about an amicable arrangement thus showing their friendly feeling."

They declare that both Colonel Roosevelt, as president, and Mr. Root, as secretary of state, ignored an appeal from Korea.

CHINESE KILLED IN TONG WAR

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 21.—One Chinaman whose identity has not been ascertained is dying in a hospital here as a result of a renewal of the tong war between the Hop Sing and the Bing Kong tongs shortly before 2 o'clock this afternoon. He was attacked by two Chinese gunmen on Flanders street in the Oriental quarter.

The men approached their victim from either side, firing as they closed in on him. He ran for a block without being hit while bullets whizzed along the street and threatened passers-by.

The fleeing Chinaman dodged into the doorway of the H. Matthews welding factory, where his pursuers pounced upon him and, with their gun barrels fairly against him, pumped two shots each into his body. They then fled and the police have been unable to find any trace of them.

RUSSIAN DUMA CONVENES TUESDAY

PETROGRAD, Feb. 21, via London.—The duma has been convened to meet tomorrow.

The duma was prorogued September 16 last and December 7 Emperor Nicholas issued a rescript postponing indefinitely its reopening as well as that of the council of the empire, this action being taken, it was announced, on the ground that the budget committees of those bodies had not completed the preparation of the budget. Demonstrations were reported as having taken place in Petrograd and Moscow to protest against the refusal of the emperor to permit the reassembling of the duma.