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GOVERNMENT WINS O. & C. LAND GRANT

ALL RIGHTS OF RAILROAD FORFEITED

Supreme Court Decides O. & C. Land Grant Case in Favor of United States—Southern Pacific Loses Title to 2,300,000 Acres of Land, and All Rights to Proceeds From Sale of Timber and Minerals—Chamberlain Bill Sustained.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—In deciding the Oregon-California land case today the supreme court affirmed the Oregon federal court's decree enjoining the Southern Pacific railroad from disposing of timber and minerals on its lands received by congressional grant.

By the same decision the government won in its suit against the Southern Pacific railroad to regain nearly 2,300,000 acres of Oregon and Washington land worth \$30,000,000. Chamberlain Bill Upheld.

The Chamberlain-Ferris law of 1916 forfeiting and divesting the railroad's title to the lands granted by congress in 1866 and providing for federal sale of the lands, timber and minerals was upheld as constitutional.

Through Justice McKenna the court held that the Oregon federal court's decree enjoining the sale by the railroad of timber and minerals on the land was entirely in accordance with the supreme court's previous orders. The decision was unanimous and entirely in favor of the government except as to costs of the litigation—a considerable sum—the court ordering that the government should not receive its costs.

When the case was first before the supreme court in 1915, the court reversed the Oregon federal district court's decree forfeiting the lands, but directed an injunction prohibiting future sale by the railroad at more than \$2.50 per acre pending action by congress to provide regulations for proper disposition of timber and minerals thereon.

Points of Contest. Upon this suggestion, congress passed the Chamberlain-Ferris act of 1916, absolutely forfeiting and "divesting" the railroad's title for breach of the settler's sale price of \$2.50 providing for disposition by the federal government and for ultimate payment to the railroad of lands forfeited at \$2.50 per acre.

GREAT TREADWELL MINES FLOODED; TEN MILLION LOSS

JUNEAU, Alaska, April 23.—The flooding of the great mines of the Treadwell system on Douglas island, on the opposite side of Gastineau channel from Juneau, throws out of employment thousands of men employed by the system, which is owned by the Alaska United Gold Mining company. The stamp mills at the surface, the largest in the world, are uninjured. Some of the men who lose employment will be taken up by a company that is developing ore bodies on the mainland, near Juneau. The officers of the Treadwell system had always been aware of the danger of their works under the sea, and had taken every precaution against an inrush of the sea water. Explorations had shown that the whole of Douglas island was underlain by the low grade ore which had already yielded \$60,000,000 of gold. It is hoped that this ore will be reached by new workings. So far as known there was no loss of life. Machinery and equipment valued at \$10,000,000 is believed to be a total loss.

BALFOUR CALLS UPON PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS WAR

British Foreign Minister and Members High Commission Spend the Day in Social Formalities—Arrival of French Delegates Awaited Before Conferences Begin.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—British Foreign Minister Balfour and members of the high commission here to discuss conduct of the war began their first official day in Washington with a round of calls, the first of which was at the state department.

Soon after 10:30, Mr. Balfour, accompanied by the British ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, drove from the mansion which has been given over to him, to the state department building, and paid a formal call on Secretary Lansing.

The British ambassador and Hugh L. Gibson of the state department, who has been detailed as Mr. Balfour's aide, remained with Secretary Lansing and the British foreign minister only a short time, and then withdrew, leaving the two high officials together.

Social Formalities. The conference between Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lansing was not prolonged and at its conclusion the two men left the building to cross over to the white house, where the British foreign minister was received by President Wilson.

It was made known by members of the commission that today and tomorrow are to be devoted to social formalities and that the stage of conferences is not expected to be reached before Wednesday.

All the attaches of the commission have not yet reached Washington. Some are expected to land in the United States from a passenger ship today or tomorrow. Meanwhile, the French commission is expected, but it was said today there were no plans for joint conferences at this stage, although undoubtedly would be some later on.

The conferences are not expected to be prolonged and it was said today that after the principal subjects have been gone over, it was probable that Mr. Balfour and some other members of the commission might return to England, leaving details to be worked out by subordinates.

Courtesy to America. It was emphasized again today that the controlling motive of the British commission's visit to the United States was one of service and courtesy to American people, with the view of enlightening this government on the price Great Britain paid—as one of the commissioners put it—for her mistakes on entering the war.

Measures by which the United States can extend to its allies the most readily available assistance will first be discussed, and foremost among these are questions of shipping and food.

It was said that the food situation in England is not as acute as has been represented, but that Great Britain, having pooled her resources with her allies, is called upon to supply food for France and Italy where the situation is more pressing. It is possible that before Mr. Balfour leaves the United States he may be invited to address the senate.

RUSSIA AS FIRM AS UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Further encouraging reports from Russia came today in a dispatch to the state department telling of the effect of President Wilson's war address and declaring that Russia under the new democratic provisional government is no more likely to abandon the war without achieving her object than is the United States.

TURKS EVACUATE STRONGHOLD UPON BANKS OF TIGRIS

LONDON, April 23.—The Turks in Mesopotamia have evacuated the Iztabil position on the right bank of the Tigris, ten miles below Samarra, the war office announces. They are now being attacked at a point six miles nearer Samarra.

The announcement follows: "During Saturday night the enemy evacuated the remainder of the Iztabil position, portions of which we had stormed and consolidated on the previous day. At daybreak Sunday our troops pressed on in pursuit, capturing some prisoners and one 5.9 howitzer.

"The enemy was found occupying another position on the right bank of the Tigris river about six miles further toward Samarra, and at 7 o'clock on the evening of Sunday, when General Maude's telegram was dispatched, this position was being attacked.

As a result of an air fight on Sunday a new Halberstadt airplane was brought down. The pilot, who was the enemy's flying corps commander, was killed."

O. & C. TIMBER LAND OPENED IN 6 MONTHS

PORTLAND, Or., April 23.—Most of the railroad land affected by today's ruling of the supreme court lies in western Oregon on both sides of the Southern Pacific railroad line. Only a small part of the grant is in Washington.

United States District Attorney Clarence Reames, when told of the ruling today, said the unsold timber and mineral lands on the unsold railroad grants probably will be open for actual settlers within six months as a result of the decision.

SEVEN BILLION DOLLAR LOAN BILL SENT TO PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, April 23.—The \$7,000,000,000 war loan bill was finally perfected in both houses of congress today by agreement on all amendments and sent to the white house for President Wilson's signature.

CHINESE REVOLT AGAINST GOVERNOR OF IZE-CHUEA

CHENG TU, China, April 23.—Fierce fighting has broken out in the streets here between the Sze-Chuen and Yunnan troops. The outbreak is the climax to the friction between the two parties which has steadily increased since the Yunnanese forces entered Cheng-Tu last April. The direct cause of the outbreak was the attempt of the military governor of Sze-Chuen, who is Yunnanese, to disband the provincial troops and strengthen his grip on the province.

The fighting started on Wednesday night and continued all next day and night. Many houses were burned and trenches and barricades were constructed by both parties. The British, French and Japanese consuls, at much personal risk, have succeeded in arranging an armistice, but the situation is still critical. All foreigners are safe so far.

Cheng Tu is the capital of the province of Ize-Chuen, which lies directly north of the Province of Yunnan, in the southwest of China. Its population is estimated at 800,000, and it is the seat of eight American and British missions, with a personnel of 52 men and 68 women.

GERMAN RAIDER, CHASES U. S. VESSEL

NEW YORK, April 23.—An American steamship was chased for five miles by the German sea raider Seeadler, off the coast of Brazil on April 12, according to the captain of the vessel, which reached this port today. The Seeadler, previously reported by the victims of her raids on their arrival at Rio Janeiro, was formerly the American bark Pass of Baltimore, into which the Germans had fitted gasoline motors.

The captain of the steamship said the raiders had Norwegian flags painted on her sides and mounted two guns apparently of eight-inch caliber.

This is the first report of the operations of the Seeadler since crews from ships she sank reached Rio Janeiro, March 31.

AMERICAN AVIATORS WIN GLORY ALONG WESTERN FRONT

GRAND HEADQUARTERS WITH THE BRITISH ON THE WESTERN FRONT, April 23.—The disappearance in an aerial engagement of Sergeant Jas. B. McConnell, the American aviator, calls attention once more to the brilliant work of the La Fayette squadron, which is composed entirely of Americans with the exception of two French officers in charge, Captain Georges de Thenault and Lieutenant De Lagé De Meux.

Since its formation last year the squadron, whose official designation is the "N-124," has undergone some changes of personnel. The new men, however, are living well up to the traditions of those who have passed through its ranks, some of whom have made the "great sacrifice" for France in return for the help she gave to America during the revolution while others have had to retire owing to wounds or injuries.

By their daring and skill the young Americans have won not only the admiration of their French comrades, but also the wholesome respect of the German airmen opposed to them. Up to date at least 30 enemy airplanes are known to have fallen victims to the American squadron and it is possible that more have been brought down over the German lines, but without certain proof of their destruction no credit is given to the aviator for these.

FOREIGN TRADE SHOWS HEALTHY INCREASE

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Foreign and domestic trade bureau statistics announced today show the country's foreign trade increased in March \$150,000,000 over February totals.

DEBATE OPENS IN BOTH HOUSES UPON ARMY BILL

Administration Measure to Create Big Army Under Debate in Both Senate and House—Selective Conscription Likely to Pass Both Houses—Germans Protest.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—The administration bill to create a big army by a selective draft was under debate in both houses of congress today. It was taken up in the house for the first time and in the senate debate was resumed.

The house bill, as reported by a majority of the committee, provided for volunteer enlistment with conscription only as a last resort, and the fight for this measure was led by Chairman Dent of the military committee, whose supporters felt sure that they would make a good showing. A strong element in the house, however, backed the selective conscription plan advocated by the army general staff and recommended by the military committee minority, led by Representative Kahn of California, a republican.

Debate is Opened. In the senate the bill was under consideration in the senate today. In the house the bill was taken up under an agreement providing for eighteen hours of general debate to be followed by five-minute talks.

In opening the senate debate Senator Weeks said the people demand conscription or would demand it if they were correctly informed. When the house began debate no limit was fixed, but it was agreed that it should run on today until 6 o'clock.

Chairman Dent of the military committee, who favors a call for volunteers, while the conscription registration machinery is being made ready, opened the debate.

Mr. Dent explained that the bill as amended by the committee gives authority to raise an army of practically 1,000,000 men and "safeguards the American birthright to volunteer for service in defense of the country."

The president, he said, is still authorized to proceed with arrangements for the selective draft and has absolute authority to determine on which system the army would be raised.

Representative Lunn, democrat, and former socialist mayor of Schenectady, urged conscription, declaring that in voting to give the president all the power and resources of the country for carrying out the war, he and others took that action literally and without equivocation.

Applause for Socialists. Representative Lunn aroused laughter and applause by suggesting that an amendment be written into the bill making it necessary to give soldiers already in the service a second opportunity to enlist in order that their services might be wholly democratic. Loud applause greeted his remarks.

Representative Eagle of Texas interrupted Lunn to say that his office was being flooded with protests against conscription signed by the same persons who a year ago were pleading the ease of Germany.

RUSSIANS RE-TAKE ADVANCED TRENCHES

PETROGRAD, April 23.—An official statement issued today said: "On the Rumanian front by successful counter attacks we drove the enemy out of the advanced posts he had occupied and re-established our first line."

"Persia: Persians and Kurds demolished telegraphs and telephones in the rear of our troops."

OFFENSIVE IS RENEWED BY BRITISH

After Week's Interlude, British Renew Great Drive in Northern France, Attacking a Wide Front on River Scarpe, Taking Last Part of Hindenburg Line—More Than 1000 Prisoners Taken Today and Line Straightened Out.

LONDON, April 23.—The British have opened an attack on a wide front in the region of the Scarpe river. The official report issued today says that satisfactory progress is being made.

The British captured the village of Trecault and gained the greater part of Havrincourt wood. Besides tending still further to encompass the city of Lens, the movement is directed toward both Douai, the important German distributing point to the northeast, and the Hindenburg line key point of Cambrai, to the southeast.

PARIS, April 23.—Heavy artillery firing continues along the front of the French, the war office announces. East of Craonne the Germans after a fierce bombardment grouped detachments for an attack. French guns replied effectively and prevented the attack.

Thousand Captured. BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 23.—In their new offensive the British have captured the town of Gavrelle, the last part of the defenses of the Hindenburg line north of the Scarpe. They also have taken the village of Guemappe, south of the Scarpe.

More than 1000 prisoners have been taken today. The lull in the past week on the British front was broken today by attacks which spread along a wide front. The fighting was particularly severe on both banks of the Scarpe, where the British pushed forward in their initial successes and won the battle of Arras.

Initial Successes. It is only possible at this writing to give very indefinite news, but the first reports coming back indicate the capture of Gavrelle, north of the Scarpe, and Guemappe, to the south of that stream.

A big push also was made opposite Croisilles and from that sector of the front alone comes the report that more than 1000 prisoners were taken.

Gavrelle is a part of the last definite defense the Germans have before falling back on what is known as the Drocourt-Queant switch to the Hindenburg line.

The British also made progress in the region southwest of Lens, the German garrison of which town daily is facing a more critical situation.

Two Days' Bombardment. The fighting today was under fine weather and a chill northwest wind. The latter, however, dried the ground.

REACTIONARY VICTORY IN JAPAN TEMPORARY

TOKIO, April 23.—The result of the election shows a regrettable apathy as to the extent of development and an absence of a political awakening, according to the Jiji, the Asahi and the Nichi Nichi, leading papers of Tokio. The opposition press declares that the government victory is fleeting and insists that the alliance of the Sei Yukai party (constitutional party) with Count Teruchi is temporary and certain to precipitate a ministerial crisis. It bases this belief on the ground that the Sei Yukai is opposed to non-party ministries.



"When the country calls, a million young men will spring to arms."—Bryan.