

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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N. 60

FUTURE OF CITY TO BE DECIDED BY RATE CASE

Complaint of Discrimination in Rates to Northern California Points to be Heard by Interstate Commerce Commission Tomorrow—Adverse Decision Kills Shipping.

A railroad rate case involving Medford's future as a city will be heard before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Medford Friday at the federal building. The case is that the Medford Commercial club vs. Southern Pacific railroad company, and a decision adverse to Medford will destroy the city as a jobbing and shipping center.

The Medford complaint charges unequal discrimination in rates against Medford in favor of Sacramento and San Francisco and Portland on shipments to northern California points. The rates complained of have been expended pending a hearing of the Medford complaint, but if sustained, would make it impossible to ship from Medford to northern California or Klamath county points in competition with the rates from Portland.

The rates complained of were ordered established as a result of a decision in November last of the California state railroad commission in which a reduction of class rates from San Francisco and Sacramento north of the state line of from 10 to 25 percent were ordered.

Following the decision Portland filed a complaint demanding a reduction in rates from Portland to California points to equalize the rate from San Francisco.

Medford shippers brought between two reductions filed complaint which will be heard Friday by Attorney Examiner J. T. Bell of Washington, D. C., representing the Interstate Commerce commission. Attorney C. Day of Portland will represent the legal department of the Southern Pacific, and Freight Agent A. Hinshaw and J. H. Mulchay, assistant general freight agent, the traffic department, R. A. Adams and C. McDonald, assistant superintendents, will represent the transportation department. Frank H. McCune will represent the Medford Commercial club. Mr. McCune successfully presented Medford shippers in previous rate cases.

PARTY BOSSES UNITE TO AID OPERATION OF ARMY DRAFT LAW

WASHINGTON, May 31.—In a joint statement issued today from their respective party headquarters here, Chairman Wilcox of the republican national committee and Chairman McCormick of the democratic national committee, called upon party committeemen and workers in all communities throughout the country to put their machinery into operation to aid army draft registration officers.

GERMAN PRESIDES OVER PARLIAMENT CALLED BY CHARLES

AMSTERDAM, May 31.—Dr. Gustav A. Gross, leader of the German National League, has been elected president of the lower house of the Austrian parliament, according to a Vienna dispatch. In his opening address, Dr. Gross promised freedom of speech and impartiality in debate. He urged the house to see to it that the expectations of Austria's enemies that great dissension would develop during the session should remain unfulfilled.

"We are one in our unshakable determination," he said, "to continue the fight which was forced on us to the greatly desired honorable peace which will guarantee our safety and independence in the future. At the same time nothing is further from our thoughts than suppression of other nations."

After the policies of various parties had been stated by their representatives, Premier Count Clam-Martinic said the government would make a declaration in regard to all the questions raised, in one of the first sittings after the speech from the throne. The next sitting was fixed for June 5.

Commenting on the meeting of the Austrian parliament, the Tageblatt of Berlin says divergencies of opinion were marked, especially between the Germans and the Czechs and that the Austrian government had done nothing to improve this situation. It continues:

"The fact is that the government appears before the house without a majority behind it and it may easily happen that the government will find itself in the minority."

Various successors to Count Clam-Martinic already are mentioned.

REMISSION PROCLAIMED FOR FINNISH PRISONERS

PETROGRAD, May 31.—The provisional government on the proposal of the complete or partial remission of sentences pronounced on all Finnish citizens for crimes or offenses committed prior to March 29, 1917.

The government has also decreed repressive measures against the abuse of alcohol. Persons getting drunk or drinking to excess in public places are liable to 18 months' imprisonment. Persons while drunk committing robberies, acts of violence or other offenses will be liable to penal servitude for six or eight years.

RACE RIOTING IN EAST ST. LOUIS

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., May 31.—Race rioting broke out again last night despite the fact that the city was patrolled by local police, special deputies and national guardsmen. Five men shot one negro and beat two others.

The disturbances which started Monday night grew out of a protest against the importation of negro labor from the south. City officials believe the situation is well in hand today.

PORTLAND, May 31.—Kenneth Fenton, Portland attorney, fell two feet from a sleeping porch he was repairing and suffered a fractured skull. Attending physicians say he cannot recover. Fenton is a son of V. D. Fenton, former counsel for the V. D. Fenton, father here and was prominent in Standford university athletics several years ago.

GERMANS FAIL IN EFFORTS TO RECAPTURE LINE

Repeated Assaults Upon Positions of Vantage Recently Taken by French in Champagne Are Repulsed—Artillery Duel on British Front—Quiet Broken by Raids.

PARIS, May 31.—The Germans attacked the French line in the Champagne with extreme violence at several points last night. The attacking forces were checked at some places by the French fire and at others at the point of the bayonet, the Germans retiring each time after heavy losses, the war office announced today.

LINE REMAINS INTACT

Desperate attempts by the Germans to push back the French from the vantage ground won in the recent attacks by General Petain's forces in the Champagne region have been renewed.

As a whole the French line remained intact under the successive severe blows dealt it early today in a sustained effort of an extremely violent and sanguinary character, gas shells being liberally employed. The front was dented at only one point and this but slightly, the crown prince's troops gaining a footing in some advanced trenches northeast of Mont Haut.

At the Teton, the Casque, at positions northwest of Auberville and at Mont Blond, on the front against which the attacks were launched, the net German gain was nil, the valuable ground which the French need for the pushing of a further offensive, particularly for observation purposes, being retained intact.

QUAKE RECORDED BY SEISMOGRAPH

CLEVELAND, May 31.—Earth shocks were recorded at St. Ignace observatory early today. Beginning at 4:03 a. m. they reached the maximum at 4:15 and subsided at 5:10 a. m. No estimate as to distance or location is given.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Earthquake tremors lasting over a period of two hours were recorded this morning by the Georgetown university seismograph. They began at 3:57 o'clock, reached their maximum at 4:20 and ceased at 6 o'clock. University experts estimated the center of the disturbance at 4000 miles distant.

SEATTLE, May 31.—A violent earthquake, whose seat was indicated in Alaska, 1000 miles northwest of Seattle, was recorded on the University of Washington seismograph last night and this morning, beginning at 11:54, attaining its maximum in two violent shocks at 12:02 and 12:05, and subsiding at 1:20. The course of the needle indicated earth slips rather than volcanic outbursts.

NO REGENT FOR POLAND NAMED

COPENHAGEN, May 31.—The Lok Anzeiger is quoted in a Berlin dispatch as stating that the Austrian and German governments have decided against the appointment of a regent for Poland at the present time. It is proposed, however, to increase the powers of the provisional council of state, the newspaper says, following the declaration by the council that an immediate institution of the regency was imperative.

The Lok Anzeiger's statement would tend to confirm yesterday's report that the council of state had resigned.

RUSSIA TO RAISE TWO BILLION RUBLES

PETROGRAD, May 31.—The provisional government today approved the proposal of Temporary Finance Minister Teretschenko to raise 2,000,000,000 rubles and take steps for securing for the treasury "the supply of paper money which already has become indispensable," the official news agency announces.

The government's approval of the measure was unanimous, it is said.

KAISER RECEIVED AT DOUAI BY VON BUELOW

COPENHAGEN, May 31.—The German emperor on his recent visit to the western front was received at Douai by General Von Buelow. General Von Buelow was formerly in command of the German forces on the Monastir front and recently has been brought across Europe to command one of the armies on the Arras front.

PRESIDENT SENDS RUSSIA OUTLINE OF AMERICAN WAR AIMS

WASHINGTON, May 31.—President Wilson has sent a document to the Russian government outlining the war aims of the United States and it is understood, dealing with the position of "no annexations," "no indemnities," set out by Russian officials. It is not to be published until Ambassador Francis in Petrograd has had opportunity to present it to the Russian government and then it will be given out in Washington. The terms of the communication meanwhile are regarded as highly confidential.

PEACE PROGRAM NOT ENDORSED BY BERLIN OFFICIALS

COPENHAGEN, May 31.—The program of the majority Socialist delegates to the Stockholm conference evidently from the statements of Dr. Eduard David, one of the leading delegates, carries no endorsement by the German government. Dr. David clearly intimated that the action of the delegation is only binding upon its party and that the envoys have no definite pledges or authorization from the administration at Berlin.

The hopes of the delegates that the German government ultimately will be found amenable to the majority socialist program of peace without annexations or indemnities are based partly upon the party's strength and influence in Germany and partly upon the indefinite statements of that master phrase-maker, Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, like his declaration that the government is ready to conclude a peace "which will leave no thorns to rankle."

Dr. David does not hope that peace will result directly from the Stockholm movement. The utmost he expects is that the conference will lay a basis for a peace movement on which peace lovers in all countries can unite.

If conferences prove abortive, Dr. David declares that Germany has perfected its organization so as to live on what it can raise and it will continue the struggle without weakening. In answer to a question regarding the present German attitude toward America, the socialist leader said that there was no one in Germany who did not regret the break with the United States and that it was the general hope that the war would be concluded before America's participation in the conflict could become actual.

TWELVE KILLED IN MISSOURI CYCLONE

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 31.—Twelve persons were killed and about forty injured in the tornadoes that swept southeastern Missouri and southwest Illinois yesterday afternoon.

The town of Mineral, Mo., where four persons lost their lives, was wiped out. Losses of life also were reported at Dosselstadt, Mo., and Palmer, Mo., and three negroes perished at Hedges Park, Alexander county, Ill. More than twenty persons were hurt at Mounds, Ill.

ANTI-DRAFT PLOT UNCOVERED IN OHIO

COLUMBUS, O., May 31.—An anti-draft plot, with national headquarters in this city, to induce young men of military age to refrain from registering for draft next Tuesday, has been uncovered by state and government secret service agents, according to an announcement made this afternoon by Governor James M. Cox.

A printing shop was raided and a mass of literature seized.

SUGAR, COFFEE AND TEA TO PAY TAXES FOR WAR

Senate Committee Places Two Cents a Pound on Coffee, Five Cents on Tea, Half a Cent on Sugar and Three Cents on Cocoa—Tax Upon Munitions to be Eliminated.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—The senate finance committee today decided to provide in the war tax bill to raise \$80,000,000 by consumption taxes of two cents a pound on coffee, five cents on tea, and one-half cent on sugar and three cents on cocoa.

Another important change agreed upon was the elimination of the present tax of 12 1/2 percent on war munitions, now raising \$25,000,000. Substitutes for tea and coffee will be taxed.

From the new taxes the committee estimates the following revenue will be raised: Sugar, \$50,000,000; coffee, \$18,000,000; tea, \$3,000,000 and Cocoa, \$7,000,000. Coffee and tea taxes will be levied upon imports. Arrangements are being made to take care of import contracts made before May 1 by requiring purchasers from importers instead of the latter to pay the taxes. Under the house bill it was proposed to tax coffee one cent a pound and two cents.

ABOLISH MUNITIONS TAX

The decision to abolish the present special tax of 12 1/2 percent on war munitions was said to be due to two reasons—diminishing of the tax and imposition of increased excess profits on all corporations which will reach the munitions makers. While this year's revenue from the munitions tax was estimated to yield \$25,000,000, treasury experts told the committee it would be much smaller next year.

Another provision adopted today by the committee would exempt from taxation alcohol reclaimed by refining beer and reducing its alcohol content in the making of "near beer" when such alcohol becomes denatured for commercial purposes.

The committee did not discuss the proposed postal increase on second-class publications.

BRITISH LOSSES ON ARRAS FRONT 112,000 IN MAY

LONDON, May 31.—British casualties as published in May show a total of 5902 officers and 106,331 men.

The British offensive on the Arras front, involving some of the severest fighting of the war, naturally has resulted in a large increase in casualties over the inactive winter season. Casualties for the last few months have not been received, but in February the total reported was only 1,243 officers and 17,185 men.

The assertion of the British that their losses are fifty per cent smaller than in the battle of the Somme, notwithstanding the fact that larger forces are engaged, is not borne out by the May figures, also in the absence of the casualties report for April, early in which month the offensive was launched, the showing is not conclusive. The casualties reported in the first three months of the Somme drive were 307,169 officers and men. In August last year the second month of the Somme battle, the casualties were 117,945, as compared with 112,233 for May, the second month of the Arras battle.

NO PAY DAY FOR OFFICER RECRUITS

SAN FRANCISCO, May 31.—All the formalities of pay day except one were gone through with at the officers training camp here today. The men drew no money.

So long as the men own their own razors and shoe rigs, it is hard to tell which ones are millionaires and which are without funds, but an undercurrent of uneasiness exists at the camp. Most of the men expected to get \$100 a month and it is said the chances are they will get it as soon as congress gets around to it, but it has not yet been appropriated. Those who borrowed money to get here spent part of it today in postage for letters explaining why, just now, they cannot pay it back. Owners of planes of amusement reported today a diminution in attendance of students from the camp. Tobacco merchants said that the sale of expensive cigarettes had decreased but there was strong demand for cigarette papers and small bags of tobacco.

REAR ADMIRAL UPSHUR DEAD AT AGE OF 94

WASHINGTON, May 31.—The long drawn out contest over the question of a newspaper censorship was renewed in the house today. Party lines stood out as the debate began. Republicans generally opposed the censorship section while democrats generally supported it.

Modification of the censorship proposed by conference report on the espionage bill would forbid self publication of military information, but not news of equipment of armed forces and the president would be authorized to declare by proclamation what information would not be useful to the enemy and might be published. Jury trial for persons accused of violations would be permitted.

PRESS CENSORSHIP AGAIN REJECTED BY HOUSE BY 184 TO 144

WASHINGTON, May 31.—A motion to recommit the espionage bill with instructions to strike out the press censorship section was carried in the house today by a vote of 184 to 144.

CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE TO BE SUSPENDED

Former Premier Count Romanones has declared to an intimate friend that he regretted he was not invited to the mass meeting held by pro-ally sympathizers last Sunday. He said that if he had been present he would have maintained the declarations made in his letter to King Alfonso at the time he resigned. He added that many Liberals, who were partisans of the allies, would also have liked to be present. Discussing the same subject with the correspondent of a French newspaper, Count Romanones said: "The meeting was of enormous importance. It will perhaps exercise a greater influence on foreign than home policies."

Situation Confused. Asked what he thought of the situation in Spain, the former premier declared that it became more and more confused "every day and every hour of the day." Questioned as to whether he thought the Cortes would be summoned, Count Romanones smiled and said: "I am not too sure of that."

Minister of the Interior Burela has prohibited all public manifestations relative to international questions as "dangerous to the interest of the country, in view of the important diplomatic negotiations now going on." Several such demonstrations had been planned in Madrid and other cities.

Revolution Rumored. The constitutional guarantees were suspended at Spain at the end of March following several strikes and serious disorders throughout the country. It was reported in Washington that a revolutionary movement was in progress, but this was denied by the Spanish ambassador. The operations of the censorship have cut off definite information regarding the recent internal situation in Spain.

KEEP SLACKERS FROM LEAVING U. S.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 31.—Sheriffs along the Florida coast today maintained close watch for slackers who might attempt to leave the state for foreign shores by launch or steamer to escape registration. Under instructions from Governor Catts, who says he has information that not a few draft subjects have already left for Cuba, the sheriffs will from now until next Tuesday detain any person within the age limit suspected of trying to escape.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—It was announced today that steps had been taken to prevent men subject to military registration from leaving the country before June 5. Department of justice officials said every effort was being made to prevent evasion of the law by leaving the country.

PRESS CENSORSHIP DEBATED IN HOUSE

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