

Former Director of Emergency Fleet Corporation Denies Graft And Inefficiency Were Rampant

Charles Piez Condemns Gillen Report and Charges That It Has Upset Public Confidence and Ruined Chances to Establish American Merchant Marine

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Claims that the report of Martin J. Gillen to the committee was wrong in all vital questions were made yesterday in a statement submitted to the select committee on United States shipping board operations by Charles Piez, former director-general, United States shipping board emergency fleet corporation.

Mr. Piez claims that statements in Mr. Gillen's report do not square with the facts in a single vital case in which he indulged in criticism concerning the division of construction; that Mr. Gillen's statement that there was interference by management and trustees in placing of contracts is wholly untrue; that Mr. Gillen is guilty of gross mis-treatment of facts regarding the fleet corporation's \$250,000,000 mortgages and securities and that Mr. Gillen's statement of lack of an accounting system is wholly wrong.

Mr. Piez's statement further claims that Mr. Gillen's report regarding the fleet corporation's check against authorization and appropriations is absolutely wrong; that his statement on control and interest fund has no foundation in fact and that the destructive effect of Mr. Gillen's testimony has impaired public interest in establishment of an American merchant marine and practically destroyed the market for shipping securities.

Mr. Piez's statement says that ships were built to meet the necessities of war, not to establish a merchant marine; that the emergency fleet corporation delivered 479 ships before the armistice; that the task was to build ships faster than submarines could sink them and that the building was conducted in a systematic and businesslike manner.

Mr. Piez contends they had to build wooden ships knowing they would be scrapped when conditions returned to normal; that because of the demand of the war department for more ships that E. N. Hurley, Bainbridge Colby and himself requested Charles M. Schwab to join the organization and that General George W. Goethals inaugurated the accounting system.

Mr. Piez says that he suggested in Dec. 1917, that no further contracts for wooden ships be let, but the board of trustees was obliged to keep on building when pressure for anything that would float became so intense in the early spring of 1918. The claim says that there was not a voice in or out of congress that was raised in protest against a continuation of the wooden shipbuilding programme.

Wooden ships represent a legitimate war expense, according to the statement, which adds: "They should be junked and the cost written off. This nation cannot expect to realize a salvage of 100 per cent on war construction. We

S. P. Employees Are Taking Night Course in R. R. Operation

J. J. Miller, who arrived here recently to take charge of the Southern Pacific station, has opened a night class for the instruction of those who wish to study railroad traffic, tariffs, and general railroad office work, 16 railroad men having already enrolled as students. Classes are held every Monday night in the station. This instruction is free to railroad employees.

Later, if the plans look feasible, Mr. Miller will take pupils outside the ranks of railroad employees, and will charge a nominal fee for instruction.

The present class is manifesting much interest in their studies, and Mr. Miller believes the venture will be a permanent success.

ELECTION ON AMENDMENTS LIKELY IN 1921

(By Associated Press.) SALEM, Jan. 21.—Several pending joint resolutions to amend the state constitution has caused consideration of a plan at this session to call a special election throughout Oregon some time during the coming spring.

The governor today signed three bills, one to abolish the state board of automobile examiners, created under an act which is found to be unconstitutional; another removing the provision limiting counties to two per cent of their assessed valuation in issuing road bonds, the provision having been superseded by the constitutional amendment adopted last May, which raised the limit to six per cent. The third bill was an appropriation of \$40,000 to cover the expenses of this session.

Seven of the 256 bills so far introduced have been passed. Senator Eddy said today that the pending bills on prohibition do not permit the search of a residence without a search warrant.

STANFIELD SEES BETTER TIMES

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 22.—Business conditions are at bedrock and war time profits are being underwritten by every resident of the United States, according to U. S. Senator-elect Robert N. Stanfield of Oregon, who is in Sacramento attending to business matters.

"A debauch, financial, alcoholic or otherwise, always must be paid in full. The delirium tremens of war expenditures is over and cold gray morning after is here," said Stanfield.

"My personal opinion is that conditions in the west and middle west will improve. With the planting of crops and a return to normal production and normal prices, prosperity on a firm basis will be wide spread as contrasted with the feverish outpouring of money when the civilized world was making war its chief occupation."

Stanfield defeated United States Senator George Chamberlain at the November election by an overwhelming vote.

The Oregon senator is heavily interested in sheep and owns large bands in the Sacramento valley. Accompanying him was "Jack" Lawrenson of Griddle also a factor in the wool industry.

CHICAGO CATTLE MARKET BACK TO PRE-WAR BASIS

(By Associated Press.) CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Fat cattle today were quoted at the lowest figure in nearly five years. Stockyard prices ranged from \$7 to \$10.75 per hundred, as compared to \$7.25 to \$10.50 in April, 1916.

MARKET REPORT

PORTLAND, Jan. 22.—Livestock, steady; butter and eggs, weak.

OFFER OF FARMERS OF MIDDLE WEST ACCEPTED

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—The offer of the farmers of the middle west to contribute their surplus corn to a committee for the relief of starving people in Europe and China, has been accepted by Herbert Hoover of the relief committee.

BRITISH DIVER SUNK WITH FIFTY ON BOARD

LONDON, Jan. 22.—The British submarine, K-5, in charge of Commander John A. Gaines, was lost with all hands Thursday 100 miles off Land's End, the admiralcy announced today. A full crew was on board. This type of submarine carries six officers and fifty men. The cause of the disaster is unknown.

WEATHER REPORT

OREGON—Tonight and Sunday, fair; warmer tonight.

HEALTH NURSE READY TO START ON LOCAL TASK

Organization of her work as community health nurse was begun today by Miss Lydia Fricke, and in a statement to the Herald the nurse outlined some of the outstanding features of the work that she is here to perform.

First of all, she declared, although the work of the community nurse centers largely in the school, it extends also into the homes where assistance and direction is required, but it is not compulsory upon any child to be subjected to examination.

Any parent who has scruples against medical examination in the schools may have their children excepted by writing a note to the teacher requesting such exception.

The work of the nurse is designed to be preventive. It has to do largely with hygienic and sanitary instruction. The nurse approaches the subject of health from the standpoint that health is the natural condition, that by proper methods of living the normal child can maintain its birthright of health.

Where conditions of improper nutrition, unhealthy home conditions, bad teeth, adenoids or other causes of impaired health are detected upon examination it is the nurse's duty to indicate to the parents—never to the child—the conditions that exist; and suggest the remedial procedure.

For the present Miss Fricke will work largely in Klamath Falls and communities accessible by stage and railroad. When the roads become better she will have a car and cover all the school districts of the county. In order to facilitate the work the county will be divided into four districts and one week of the month will be given to visiting schools in each district.

During every day except Saturday Miss Fricke will be engaged in field work. On each Saturday she will be in her office from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. On the other days she will be in the office only intermittently but interviews may be easily arranged by any parent, teacher or physician by telephone pre-arrangements. Any parents wishing advice are urged to bring their children to the office and full assistance will be given, says Miss Fricke.

Plans for furthering the work were made yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the nurse and Miss Schreyer, assistant supervisor of the state nursing bureau who accompanied her here, and the executive board of the Red Cross chapter. The state anti-tuberculosis association, through proceeds of Christmas seal sales, maintains the nurse here, while the Red Cross furnishes an office, car and other incidentals of upkeep.

Miss Fricke's work will be done mainly through the public schools and with the assistance of the city and county physician. The Red Cross will supply her with an automobile and will pay office expenses. Permanent offices will be established in the Chamber of Commerce rooms.

Surprise Party for Malin Residents

MALIN, Jan. 22.—A surprise party was given to Mrs. R. K. Hannon at the home of Mrs. Louis Boldschar here Thursday afternoon. The invitations were sent by the hostess and Mrs. Frank Wilde.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. Those present were Mrs. V. A. Rajnus, Mrs. M. Dobry, Mrs. Vincent Zumr, Mrs. Chas. Maupin, Mrs. E. D. Smith, Mrs. Eve Kivette, Mrs. R. H. Hannon, Mrs. Pete McNeil, Mrs. A. Kalina, Mrs. W. Crandall, Mrs. W. F. Wygant, Mrs. C. V. Holmes and the Misses Carrie Spolek, Marie Rajnus and Elsie Havlina. The house and the cakes were both decorated in pink. All present reported an enjoyable afternoon.

NEW BRIDGE DONE

The steel bridge that has been under construction at Olene has been finished and the workmen who have been employed on the work are moving their tools and other belongings into town.

Will Purchase Stock for Annual Farm Bureau Sale

L. A. West, livestock director of the county farm bureau, expects to leave about February 1 for Portland and eastern Oregon to visit a number of leading breeders and secure a consignment of registered cattle and hogs for the annual farm bureau sale, which will be held about the middle of March.

There is a demand that some good hogs be entered in this year's sale said Mr. West, and he will attempt to get some of the best stock in the northwest.

There is also a demand, he says, among dairymen for the upbuilding of the dairy herds and some dairy stock will be brought in. The bulk of the consignment, however, will be Shorthorns.

It is the intention this year to place quality above quantity and the imported stock will probably be limited to a carload but will be the highest class obtainable.

FERGUSON GETS \$3,500 VERDICT

A verdict of \$3,500 in favor of the plaintiff was returned by the jury last night in the Ferguson-Melchase case, in which Charles Ferguson sued Mrs. Henrietta Melchase for \$10,000 for services rendered as attorney in the Melchase will case of a couple of years ago. The verdict was returned at 6 o'clock, the jury having deliberated since 11 o'clock in the morning.

The Melchase will case, in which will depriving Mrs. Melchase of the property left by her husband, Fred Melchase, was set aside in favor of a later will, was carried to the supreme court for final decision, and Mr. Ferguson claimed that his services in the case, considering the value of the Melchase estate and the nature of the work, had not been adequately paid for. Judge Drake, who died a short time after the will case was decided, was associated with Mr. Ferguson in the case, and Miss Drake, Judge Drake's daughter, who acted as stenographer for her father, was a material witness in the present case, her testimony tending to show the extent of the part Mr. Ferguson took in recovering the estate for Mrs. Melchase.

Attorneys R. Maguire and W. H. A. Renner represented the plaintiff, and H. M. Manning appeared for the defendant. Charles Kester, L. F. Gurtson, Tom Lynch, Clyde Bradley, W. D. Cofer, C. M. Ramsby, H. Nylander, Otto Heldrick, H. S. Wakefield, Frank Ritchie, W. A. Jones and George Christie composed the jury.

AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN AGAINST TOO STRICT BAR

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Discussing the "California issue" in an address before the University club here last night, Roland S. Morris, American ambassador to Japan declared that the Japanese were fearful that California and other western states might extend the classification of aliens, on the basis of eligibility to citizenship, not only to property rights, but also to personal rights.

The Japanese government, he said, is only contending that it is unjust to pick out one particular group of aliens and deprive them of the rights that other aliens enjoy.

In conclusion Morris asked if in view of "our larger relations with the orient, it is wise to thus classify aliens on the basis of their eligibility for citizenship?"

DISARMAMENT TALK SHOULD WAIT CHANGE IN PRESIDENTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The disarmament question should not be discussed by the United States with other nations until after the change in administration March 4, Elihu Root declared in a letter to the house naval committee published today.

RALLYING MOVE DISCERNABLE IN EASTERN CITIES

H. J. Lester, Back From Ontario, Declares Optimism Is Getting Upper Hand in U. S. and Canada.

Confidence that prices have reached bedrock and that there will be no further general downward movement, except such as comes in the stabilization of isolated lines, is beginning to be felt in the east, said H. J. Lester, a well-known rancher, who is back from a visit to his old home in Ontario province, Canada.

On the Canadian side of the line, he says, there has never been the uncertainty that exists on this side of the boundary. While the depressed rate of exchange has had a curtailing effect on foreign trade relations, in her domestic business affairs Canada has been prosperous and is gaining steadily the business loss of the war period.

But in Chicago and St. Paul, where he visited on the trip, Mr. Lester says that there is a general feeling that the bottom of the price decline has been reached and the general outlook is for rapid setting down to stability and normalcy.

Local farmers who are looking for any drop in livestock prices and who are putting off the purchase of purebred stock now in the hope that prices will decline are nursing a delusion, he says. While in Canada he hobnobbed with many breeders and attended the annual stock show at Guelph, a farm school center where the yearly fair corresponds with the school fairs held yearly at Davis, California, and Corvallis, Oregon.

Numbers of cows that would bring an average of \$70 here sold at the Canadian sales for from \$90 to \$136, he said, and throughout the east the stock market, always considerably above the western prices, is showing a rallying movement.

The demand for purebred stock is brisk, said Mr. Lester, and the breeder who has high class animals to market is not met with any price haggling.

One breeder in the neighborhood of his brother's farm sold a two-year old Shorthorn heifer for \$3200 during his stay, a price that showed no downward movement from the prices of former years. A young bull was marketed for \$1000. Such prices, coupled with a growing demand for pure-bloods as the open range disappears and growers resort more and more to feeding, does not indicate that the western stock raisers' dream of a time when registered stock prices will approximate the cost of grade stocks is ever likely to be realized. On the contrary the growing demand is likely to result in advanced prices for thoroughbreds.

Farmers of Canada are forging ahead fast, from both a political and economic standpoint, says Mr. Lester and the Ontario agriculturist is now in control, through alliance of the labor party, of the provincial legislature, having outvoted the coalition of conservatives and liberals. The man chosen to lead the farmer-labor alliance was a farmer.

Co-operative buying and selling system for farm supplies and farm products is well underway and working successfully.

WILL CLOSE SCHOOL IF IMPROPRIETY CONTINUES

WEED, Jan. 22.—A warning that the school would be closed unless they behaved themselves more properly was given to each boy and girl of the Weed branch high school by a committee of the newly organized Parent-Teacher association, which spent the entire day at the school.

F. E. Martin, chairman of the committee stated that unless the difficulties over enforcement of discipline are soon surmounted, operation of the school will be discontinued.

The school has three teachers and thirty pupils. Professor Richard Meally is the principal.