their claims, but because they should be erected as barriers to restrict any possible threatening development of Germany in the future.

There was no discussion of the league at the dinner table. The President sat at one end, with Chairman Hitchcock, of the Senate committee, at his right and Chairman Flood, of the House committee, on his left. Mrs. Wilson sat at the other end of the table, and during the meal there was purely informal chatting up and down and across the table.

Mrs. Wilson entered the dining room on the arm of Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Senator sat at Mrs. Wilson's right during the dinner.

Even in the East Room, after the President faced friends, foes and neutrals, there was nothing that even smacked of sharpness, according to most of those present. There were many searching questions, particularly by Senator Brandegee, but the argument was at no time acrimonious.

Silence Not Requested

The President made it clear that he did not wish to bind his guests to silence as to what he said, thus answering the objections expressed in their refusals to attend made by Senators Borah and Fall. He said he merely wished to clarify the situation. Nothing was said about the President addressing Congress on the subject of the league, and there was no reference to the naval bill, which contains the provision placing entire discretion in the hands of the President as to whether construction of the ten capital ships and ten scout cruisers authorized shall be begun after June 30, 1920.

The President carried out his promise to go over the Constitution "section by section" and explain the reasons for the language. Some points, he said, were put in to meet the situation in the Balkans. He explained that France had demanded the language with regard to the reduction of armaments, specifying that they be determined in accordance with "geographical locations" and individual situations, because of her own exposed position."

No Signs of Conversions

Some of those present commented that the President quoted Lloyd George three or four times, but never even referred to Premier Clemenceau of France.

It was not thought afterward that the President converted any of those present to his views, those who were opposed when they went to the White House indicating by their questions up to the very last that they still entertained their objections.

The President made it clear under questioning that it was not the intention of the peace conference to admit Germany to the league until she had undergone a "period of probation." If Germany is not to be a member of the league some Senators see insuperable difficulties in the President's proposal to have both the league charter and the treaty of peace a single document. Germany as a signatory of the peace treaty would be called upon to subscribe to the league of nations if the league charter were incorporated in the treaty, it is pointed out, and this would not be in conformity with any precedent in international law or diplomacy.

Ambiguities Admitted

"It is clear that the President recognized under the questions presented to him to-night," said one Republican Senator, "that the charter as it now stands is far from being a sound legal document.

"While the President did not admit that amendments would be possible, he did admit that there were one or two ambiguities. My impression on leaving the discussion with the President was that the charter as it now stands is loose and is far from that perfection of language which ought to characterize a document of the transcendent importance of the league charter.

"For example, the charter does not specify," the President admitted, "who appoints the mandataries under the league plan. The absence of any provision for peaceable withdrawal from the league is another gross defect."

The absentees at the dinner and conference to-night were Senators Borah, of Idaho, and Fall, of New Mexico, and Representative Dorsey W. Shackleford, of Missouri. The two Senators declined the invitation. Mr. Shackleford was unable to be present because of illness.

Those present were:

The President.

Senators Gilbert M. Hitchcock, John Sharp Williams, Claude A. Swanson, Atlee Pomerene, Marcus A. Smith, Willard Saulsbury, Key Pittman, John K. Shields, Charles S. Thomas, Joseph T. Robinson, Henry Cabot Lodge, William Alden Smith, Porter J. McCumber, Frank B. Brandegee, Philander C. Knox.

Representatives Henry D. Flood, J. Charles Linthicum, William S. Goodwin, Charles M. Stedman, Pat Harrison, Charles B. Smith, Adolph J. Sabath, J. Willard Ragsdale, George Huddleston, Tom Connally, Thomas F. Smith, Henry Allen Cooper, Stephen G. Porter, John Jacob Rogers, Henry W. Temple, George Edmund Foss, Clarence B. Miller, Luther W. Mott, Ambrose Kennedy.

Appeal to People Proposed

It developed to-night that, in addition to the sentimental appeal to the hearts of the mothers and fathers who do not want their boys to go to war again, a practical appeal will be made to obtain the approval of the country for the league of nations plan by the President and his supporters.

This argument—new in that it has not been publicly used thus far—is levelled at the contention of opponents of the league that, while there is a possibility that the new league may be a good thing for the world at large, it would be much better for the United States, looking at the matter in a purely selfish light, to get back to the status quo ante—to the good old days of isolation and the Monroe Doctrine.

In answer to that contention it will be said that America has a most vital, selfish issue in the establishment of the new league, because of the fact that foreign countries now owe this country in the neighborhood of $8,000,000,000, or about $80 for every man, woman and child in the United States. The only possibility of ever obtaining this money, it is pointed out, is to bring about a reduction of expenditures for military purposes, and an ending absolutely of burning up money in wars in those countries, so that they may become prosperous and reach a stage where they can pay the interest on this great debt, and gradually reduce the principal.

Urges Passage of Naval Bill

Members of the Cabinet, it is declared, will drive home this little thought with the speeches they are to make in favor of the league of nations, so that not only will those persons be reached to whom the sentimental appeal will be most effective, but also those who in making out their income tax returns are beginning to realize what wars cost and what a godsend it would be to taxpayers of this country if the $8,000,000,000 owing the United States could be assured of collection.

Germans Charge "Reds" Prevent Gun Delivery

COBLENZ, Feb. 26 (By The Associated Press).—In reply to a demand of the Americans why the delivery of fifteen heavy-calibre guns was delayed, the German delivering commission yesterday informed the American receiving commission that the Spartacides in unoccupied Germany were responsible.

The Germans contend that, while the Spartacides have not actually seized the guns, they were interfering with the transportation of the guns in one way or another. The Germans said they were uncertain whether this interference was intentional.

Up to the present the Germans have delivered in Coblenz 107 large guns and five long-range guns mounted on railroad trucks. The delivery of the fifteen will complete the big gun deliveries.

Czech Troops Evacuate Agreed Neutral Zone

WARSAW, Feb. 25 (By The Associated Press).—Under the auspices of the inter-Allied mission to Poland the Czech troops began to-day evacuating the Teschen mining districts, which are in dispute between Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, the Czechs withdrawing to the line fixed by the Paris agreement of February 3.

Colonel Snedderek, commanding the Czech troops in Silesia, who was sent by President Masaryk to represent him, expressed the desire of the Prague government to facilitate the execution of the agreement. He offered to consent that a further neutral zone be established to prevent possible clashes between the troops of the two nations.

Cummins Sees Disaster to U. S. In League Pact

Iowa Senator Favors Plan for a World Union, but Opposes Paris Covenant

New York Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Declaring Article X of the proposed constitution of the league of nations to be "almost the wickedest proposal suggested for the commendation of mankind," Senator Albert B. Cummins, of Iowa, Republican, fired in the Senate to-day the first gun for those who favor the idea of a league of nations but oppose the provisions of the covenant adopted at Paris.

Article X pledges the contracting nations to undertake "to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all states members of the league," and provides that "in case of such aggression, or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the executive council shall advise upon the means by which the obligation shall be fulfilled."

According to Senator Cummins, had such a covenant been in existence among the great powers of the world in 1776 the Republic of the United States could never have been founded.

Owen Urges Safeguard

Debate on the league continued in the Senate to-day almost up to the hour set for the President's conference at the White House with the members of the Senate and House Foreign Affairs committees. It was the expressed wish of the President that there should be no discussion until after he had been given opportunity, at this conference, to disclose to the committees his reasons for approving each of the articles of the league constitution.

Senator Cummins was followed by Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma, Democrat, who, though defending the league plan, urged the advisability of inserting in the instrument a provision that will safeguard the right of every nation over its internal affairs and over such matters as immigration, emigration, exports and imports.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, ranking Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, Secretary of State in the administration of President Taft, who will speak, respectively, on Friday and Saturday of this week, are expected, like Senator Cummins, not to oppose the creation of a league of nations to preserve peace, but the form of the constitution as drawn up at Paris and accepted by President Wilson.

More Bad Than Good

"There is some good in it," said Senator Cummins, referring to the proposed league compact; "there is more that is bad in it. There are parts which, in my judgment, not only neutralize all the benefits of a peaceful settlement of disputes between nations, but which affirmatively destroy the national structure and which commit the United States to a course which must end in humiliation and disaster."

Asserting that he had been at first disposed to withhold comment until the President had had opportunity to confer with the members of the two committees, Senator Cummins said that in view of the President's announced purpose to return almost immediately to France he thought it was the duty of every member of the Senate to give his views without delay.

"It would be most unfortunate," he said, "if the nations represented at the conference were to conclude a treaty upon this subject and return to their respective countries only to find that their work had been disapproved by the Senate of the United States, leaving an instrument of such vital importance to the world without force or effect.

"As I look at it, it is of far greater importance that we discharge this duty at this time than it is to consider appropriation bills or legislation of any character."

Senator Cummins referred to the Paris covenant as intending to create a "world nation" with "polyglot and incoherent power," and he submitted the following as an outline of what he thought the league compact should be:

Referring again to Article X of the covenant as drawn up at Paris, Senator Cummins said:

"I am opposed to it because it is the most destructive, unjust and reactionary proposal which was ever submitted to a patriotic and intelligent people. I predict that when the citizens of the United States thoroughly grasp the meaning of the proposed agreement and fairly understand its inevitable consequences it will be rejected in a storm of obloquy the like of which has never been witnessed in the borders of the republic.

Future Generations Curbed

"It means that a few men assembled in Paris in the year 1919 are dividing the whole world into sovereignties and are assigning the innumerable men and women who in all times to come are to inhabit the earth to these future sovereignties; sovereignties which the ambitions of the men of this, a passing generation, are pleased to call eternal. The man who, even in his thought, is willing to play with the fate of mankind in this fashion is indifferent to both the lessons of the past and the judgment of posterity. We are solemnly asked to guarantee that the boundaries of nations, as they now exist or as they will exist when the peace conference has redrawn the map of Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceanica, shall remain without change forever.

"The proposal is to gridiron the earth with an inflexible territorial pattern. It would be just as reasonable that the constitution of the league of nations should declare that neither man nor woman should pass from one sovereignty to another as to declare that the boundaries of sovereignties should remain forever inviolate.

"I can not help wondering whether those who have submitted this opposition to us have looked over the past and considered what the effect of an agreement of this character would have been, assuming its enforcement, if it had been adopted at the other periods of the world's history. I am thinking of all the years of the seventeenth century, when such an agreement between England, France and Spain, confirmed by the remaining nations of Europe respecting territorial integrity in the North American continent, would have given Canada forever to France, would have partitioned the territory of the United States and of Mexico among England, France and Spain, and would for all time have precluded the republic of the United States.

Six or Seven World Bosses

"There is no student of history, however dull of comprehension, who does not know that the discord, rivalry, and wars of these three great European powers made it possible for our beloved country to emerge from their struggles a free and independent nation."

At this period Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, Democrat, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, interrupted to ask if it were not a fact that Article X was only limited to the signatory powers.

"I must assume," retorted Senator Cummins, "that it is the ultimate purpose to include all nations in the league."

"Does it not mean," interjected Senator Reed, of Missouri, "that six or seven nations are given the right to boss the world?"

"There can be no other construction," replied Senator Cummins.

"Does the Senator from Nebraska," again put in Senator Reed, "mean that this is only intended to protect the territorial integrity of member nations, and that all other nations shall be prey to conquest by member nations? If so, what is this brand of idealism we are studying?"

Would Be Mediator Also

"The league," replied Senator Hitchcock, "is dedicated to the preservation of peace, even among nations not members of the league, but it does not undertake to guarantee the territorial integrity of nations not members. It simply undertakes to use its agencies to adjust disputes outside the league."

Senator Cummins continued:

"When I first read Article X I was under the impression that nothing could surpass it in repugnance to good morals and the civilization of the world; but I am bound to admit that Article XIX is the climax of surrender.

"This article is not only bad in and of itself, but it is the grossest violation of our powers under the Constitution that has ever fallen under my observation. The league is authorized to issue a mandate requiring the United States to take possession and administer the affairs of Turkey, with an indefinite territory both east and west of Constantinople. This mandate will command the United States to undertake the tutelage of the Turkish Empire until the people who live in this uncertain territory are 'able to stand by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world.'

"This gigantic task is to be assumed upon the theory 'that the wellbeing and development of such peoples form a sacred trust of civilization.' This trusteeship may be for years or it may be forever, depending entirely upon the judgment of the league respecting our success in bringing these peoples up to the high standards which the league may demand for self-governing countries.

Proposal Not Authorized

"I confess to more amazement when I reflect upon this proposal than ever filled my mind before. It does not require a man trained in the study of the law to determine instantly that the people of the United States never gave to the President and Congress, or both, the authority to do this thing. There is not a semblance of power in the Constitution to perform such an act, and the proposal is more inconsistent, if that can be, with the spirit of the Constitution than with its letter.

"To insist that we can take possession of the territory of any nation, with its millions of people, simply to act as the tutor of these people and to police the country, solely to make the inhabitants better men and women, is the wildest fancy which ever entered the human mind.

"But this is not all. We are commanded to govern Turkey, not according to the laws which our authorities may enact, but to govern its people, to educate them, to train them, to make them able to stand alone, under the direction and according to the instructions of the league.

"We are thus not only to assume the responsibility of governing Turkey, but we must attempt to do it in the manner and degree required by the league.

"Any one who has even casual knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the Turkish Empire knows that the maintenance of order and the enforcement of the laws and for the tutelage which will accomplish the endeavor will require an army of more than a hundred thousand men for many years to come. It will require a civilian force of even more. The fathers and mothers of America will be asked to send their sons 5,000 miles from home to keep the Turk, the Armenian, the Syrian and the Arab in order and train them for self-government.

"The civil service employes in Constantinople will outnumber our employes in Washington. It is safe to assume that the annual cost of this enterprise will exceed a billion dollars. It is all too absurd to contemplate. When the American people reflect upon such a proposal they will reject it with all the emphasis of unanimity.

Senator Owen, asserting that the league would have the backing of all free governments, said:

"The divine right to rule has gone to hell; the doctrine that might makes right is dead; the doctrine of terrorism is dead; the doctrine of liberty, justice and humanity is triumphant and is writing its Magna Charta to last for all future time.

"Let the United States Senate honor itself by lending its very best efforts to perfecting this character. The people of Europe and the people of the world owe to America a debt which can never be paid, and America must not depart from her high standards of human service. The time is at hand to establish the conditions which will verify the prophecy of a thousand years of peace.

"The time has come when there shall be established upon the earth the great principles of liberty, of justice, of humanity, and America should take the leading part in that constructive work. I am one of those who strongly advised the President of the United States to go to Europe in order that the ideals of America might be presented to the European statesmen, who I knew were embarrassed because of their long and painful experience with militarism. I knew that they could not help thinking in terms of strategic boundaries, in terms of battalions, in terms of armaments, and I am rejoiced that our President was able to favorably influence European operations, so that we now have laid before us the preliminary formation of a plan which when perfected will effect and maintain forever the peace of the world. Let America take her place in the front rank in this forever glorious enterprise.

"First, we ought to agree, and all other nations ought to agree, that justiciable disputes—those issues which can be determined by the application of recognized law to established facts—should be settled either by arbitration or adjudication; and we ought to agree, and all other nations ought to agree, without equivocation or reserve that we will abide by and perform the award or judgment.

"Second, we ought to agree, and all other nations ought to agree, that, with respect to other international disputes, war shall not be made until some permanent, regular, international body shall have a fair opportunity to discuss and examine them. Upon such questions there should be no award, no judgment, and the sanction should be confined to moral influences which time, thought and free discussion will awaken.

Ostracism Urged as Penalty

"Third, if any nation should refuse to submit a proper controversy to judgment, or refuse to perform the judgment when rendered, or refuse to delay war, I am willing to agree that ostracism shall be the penalty inflicted.

"Fourth, the compact should contain a programme of disarmament, and, after all, in disarmament lies the hope of permanent peace. The constitution proposed is most disappointing in this regard, for a careful study gives us little right to believe that there will be disarmament among the strong powers."

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Britain Excited By U. S. Debate On League Plan

Continued from page 1

which is accepted almost in every quarter.

Denmark Will Send Four Germans to Paris

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Four German subjects have been appointed delegates from Denmark to the Paris peace conference, and have obtained their passports to leave for France to-morrow, according to advices from Denmark to-day to the State Department. These men, while being German subjects, come from North Schleswig and are Danes by race. They are C. P. Hanssen, a deputy from Noerrenmoelle to the German Reichstag, Nississen and Kloppenborg-Skrumsager, both deputies in the Prussian Landtag, and Andreas Grau, an editor.

French Insist Ship Losses Be Made Up From Enemy Vessels

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The losses of the French navy during the war could not be made up while fighting was in progress because the naval establishment was being used for more important purposes, but some of the lost tonnage should be regained from surrendered German ships, Minister of Marine Leygues declared in a speech Tuesday before the Government Naval Commission.

Without trying to prejudice in any way the decision of the peace conference concerning the reduction of armaments, the minister added, the handing over to France of some of the German ships is the only solution of the French naval problem that appears to be both just and practical.

Victory Loan Bill Is Passed By the House

Three Dissenters Attack War Finance Corporation Section of the Measure

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The Victory Loan bill was passed by the House to-day with just three dissenting votes after a Republican attack had failed to eliminate a provision continuing the War Finance Corporation with authority to make loans to finance export trade.

Representative Moore, of Pennsylvania, led the attack on the War Finance Corporation section with a motion to send the measure back to committee for its elimination.

Representatives Sloan, of Nebraska, and Fess, of Ohio (Republicans), joined with Mr. Moore in speeches attacking the corporation. They urged its early discontinuance in the interest of economy. Mr. Fess also declared that continuance of the corporation for a year would result in its becoming a permanent institution.

"It will become permanent only if the Republicans in the next Congress permit," Democratic Leader Kitchin replied.

The bill authorizes the issue of short-term notes, maturing in one to five years, with the Treasury having the authority to fix the interest rates. The measure also directs the Treasury to create a sinking fund for the retirement of war bonds and authorizes extension of further government loans to foreign countries to promote the sale of equipment and supplies owned by the United States abroad.

In the Senate the Finance Committee, in order to expedite action on the loan bill, concluded hearing the testimony of Treasury officials and agreed to vote on the bill to-morrow.

Although considerable Republican opposition was reported to the proposed $1,000,000,000 fund for the War Finance Corporation, opinion was general that the measure would be enacted before adjournment.

Blocking Sees Anarchy if Teutons Do Not Get Food

Head of American Chamber in Berlin Says Germans Must Get Supplies Quickly

By William C. Dreher

New York Tribune Special Cable Service

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BERLIN, Feb. 26.—Mr. Blocking, the president of the local American Chamber of Commerce, says:

"If the Germans do not get food, and get it quickly, there will be a state of anarchy here."

The government food office says the grain on hand will last until the end of April and that if the Polish farmers fill their contracts the potato supply will not be exhausted until about the same time. The potato ration was reduced from seven to five pounds a person weekly on February 3 and the meat allowance increased 100 grammes to cover the loss.

The general meat ration in German cities varies from 100 to 200 grammes, Berlin alone having 250. Fats are most wanted, the allowance being only seventy grammes, and this is actually given in but few towns. The daily flour ration is 260 grammes, including one-tenth in substitutes.

The milk supply is very deficient. Only infants under one year get a litre daily, those over that age three-fourths and children between four and five half a litre.

The effect of malnutrition during the last four years is registered in the increase of 763,000 deaths in the civilian population.

Says One of Entente Asked Peace in 1916

BERLIN, Feb. 25 (By The Associated Press).—Hugo Stinnes, a leading ship owner and manufacturer, in a statement to-day replying to the charge made by Mathias Erzberger, head of the German Armistice Commission, that Stinnes had a prominent rôle in the exploitation of Belgium, introduced an alleged revelation regarding peace overtures from an allied country early in 1916. The statement says that evidence in the files of the office of the Chancellor and in the Foreign Office proves that one of the great powers opposed to Germany early in 1916 suggested a direct interchange of views with the Entente on peace aims but Germany rejected the proposition.

Stinnes declares that the liberal press of Germany forestalled and eventually made wholly impossible an opportunity to establish an understanding with Russia.

The statement further reveals that the German government and German industrial leaders contemplated, in the event of a successful outcome of the war, the establishment of a joint Belgian and German administration of the Belgian railways as part of the conditions of peace.

Bolshevik Atrocities In Esthonia Revealed

Official Report Shows Victims Beaten to Death and Bodies Robbed of Clothing

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 26.—The official report of the Esthonian authorities on the atrocities committed by the Bolsheviki in Esthonia, especially at Wesenberg and Dorpat, unfolds a terrible tale.

The graves of persons murdered at Wesenberg were opened February 17 in the presence of the Town Governor. They were found to contain eighty-two bodies. The skulls of the dead had been battered in and the bodies bayoneted. An eyewitness of the executions said the people were placed at the edges of the graves and shot. The bodies were then thrown into the graves and the wounded were killed with the butts of rifles. In the vicinity of the graves were bits of torn clothes and fragments of skulls and hair, while the grass was covered with congealed blood.

At Dorpat the people killed were dropped into the river through holes cut in the ice. Bodies that were recovered later bore evidence of brutal treatment. In one cellar a large number of bodies were found in a pile.

Clemenceau to End Public Life With Peace Conference

Close Friend of Premier Predicts He Will Retire and Raise Birds and Pigs in His Country Home

New York Tribune Special Cable Service

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PARIS, Feb. 26.—Once the work of the peace conference is concluded, M. Clemenceau will retire from public life, according to present indications. A volume just appearing in "The New National Review" series, written by Andre Maurel, a close friend of Clemenceau, and the proof sheets of which are known to have been seen by the Premier, sketches his great services to the country and stresses the Premier's horror of personal manifestations, adding:

"Once peace is signed we shall see him retire in a few months to the Rue Franklin—the little ground floor flat of which I think khen, every year, I am in the Roman Forum as I pass through the ruins of Cæsar's palace. It covers a space not bigger than a curé's garden. M. Clemenceau has no need of a palace to serve his country.

"Marshal Foch lives in a railway wagon and M. Clemenceau will retire to the Rue Franklin and to Bernouville, where he will take care of his birds and pigs and will recall his country childhood. I wouldn't be at all sure that he may not contemplate a last journey to Greece in strict anonymity. He will disappear quietly, watching others work and refusing all honors and public manifestations because he regards them as useless."

M. Clemenceau returned home two hours later, having driven as far as Versailles. He was warmly acclaimed everywhere and said he felt better for the trip in the bright sunshine. To-night it was said the Premier's condition was excellent. He had not been fatigued by his ride and he hoped to attend the meeting of the peace conference to-morrow.

The route taken by the Premier's automobile was chosen by M. Clemenceau himself. It lay through the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, into the Bois, then past the lake and the Longchamps race course stands, and through Saint Cloud park to Versailles.

At Versailles the automobile stopped in the grand courtyard of the Palace. Here the Premier got out, took a stroll through the park and visited the Senate hall.

Vienna To Be Asked Pay Debts Due March 1

Funds in Austro-Hungarian Banks Will Be Used, Supreme Council Decides

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The Supreme Council of the peace conference has decided, according to a Havas report, to telegraph to Vienna asking that coupons of the Austro-Hungarian debt falling due on March 1 be paid. This action followed a report before the council by Signor Crespi, of Italy, on behalf of the Interallied Financial Commission, who pointed out that there are funds in Austro-Hungarian banks to make the payment, but expressed a fear that such payment might create a kind of precedent which could later be used against the different states of the former Austro-Hungarian empire.

Transport Control Bill in British House of Commons

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Introducing a bill in the House of Commons to-day to establish a ministry of ways and communication, Edward Shortt, Secretary for Home Affairs, said that hitherto there had been no coordination between the various means of transport, and transportation had depended largely upon private efforts. It was quite impossible, he said, to revert to pre-war arrangements, and it was essential that there be control and coordination.

The new ministry, under the bill, would take over control of railways, tramways, canals, waterways, roads, and, finally, power.

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