Metropolitan Life Gets Land For 50 Houses

Insurance Company Opens Building Boom Under New Act: Apartments for 1,800 Families Planned

Will Cost $6,000,000

Many Other Big Construction Deals in Prospect Will Involve Huge Sums

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company completed negotiations yesterday for the purchase of four blocks of property in Queens for the first housing project to be started under the new law permitting insurance companies to invest 10 per cent of their assets in apartments to rent for not more than $9 a room. Governor Miller signed the bill Friday. Construction of fifty houses to accommodate 1,800 families will be begun within thirty days, according to Haley Fiske, president of the company.

The plots will be in the Astoria section of Queens, eighteen minutes from Times Square and twenty minutes from the Pennsylvania and Grand Central terminals.

Mr. Fiske said yesterday that he already had been approached by a large group of wealthy men who want a $7,000,000 loan with which to start a similar building project involving 400 houses. This group, he said, was ready to spend several million dollars of its own money, besides borrowed millions, and had given the insurance company a promise that the project will be on a rental basis of not more than $9 a room.

Has Sale Offer Already

Another group, Mr. Fiske said, was prepared to buy the Metropolitan project for fifty houses when completed. If this is done the company will start another fifty-house project, Mr. Fiske said.

"Everything is most encouraging," said Mr. Fiske yesterday. "We are meeting with a great deal of co-operation. We have been assured by Mr. Untermyer that labor will co-operate to the extent of giving one day a week and that concessions may be expected from the building material men. But our figures of anticipated costs did not take this into consideration. If it works out in this way we will be able to come down on rents. All that we expect is a return of 6 per cent on our investment and a proper allowance for amortization."

Amortization has been figured on such a basis, according to Mr. Fiske, that at the end of five years the company will not be subjected to a greater risk on the property than would be the case with first mortgages. But the expectations are that when completed the apartments will be leased in block under restrictions as to rental, or sold.

Risk $6,000,000 in Test

Referring to the fact that under the new law the Metropolitan could invest $100,000,000 in housing, Mr. Fiske said: "That is a great deal of money and you can't spend it in a night. Our first fifty houses, involving an expenditure of between $5,000,000 and $6,000,000, will be an experiment. It is certainly well worth trying. And if it works out and there is still a demand we are prepared to do it over again."

Andrew J. Thomas, an architect, who assisted the Lockwood committee in its investigations and who is an expert in apartment house construction of the tenement type, began work yesterday on the final plans for the first set of new buildings in the Metropolitan project.

After a conference yesterday morning with Walter Stabler, controller of the life insurance company, Mr. Thomas said that his plans would be ready within a few days. He has completed a number of sketches and tentative designs for the proposed buildings.

Mr. Stabler said that the plans would call for fifty buildings, each to contain thirty-two steam-heated apartments of three, four and five rooms.

Each apartment will have outside windows and the design will represent the most advanced development of this type of building. There will be no interior courts and great savings in hitherto wasted space will be made.

"The only way we can get cheap housing," Mr. Thomas said, "is by large-scale operations. This can be done by putting the proposition in the hands of big people, who have sufficient vision. These houses must be properly balanced, have plenty of ventilation, sunlight and interior conveniences. In this type of construction the speculative builder does not function.

"There is absolutely no housing being erected at the present time to accommodate the daily wage earner within his means. There are thousands of people living year in and year out in rooms the only windows of which look out on dark alleys. Most of these are what are known as 'outcast' housing—dilapidated buildings that have seen their best days and from which every one else has moved. Housing to replace this type does not appeal to the speculative builder, but with the investments authorized by the new law the scarcity of decent homes for the daily wage workers will be quickly relieved."

According to Samuel Untermyer, the new development will not only provide cheap housing for wage earners but will offer apartments equal to those now renting for as high as $80 a month in Manhattan. It is expected that the fifty buildings now planned will be ready to live in by next autumn.

Pleading Roman Women Win Right to Homes

Babies in Arms, Mothers Invade Ministry of Interior, and Ejection Order Is Reversed

ROME, April 15 (By the Associated Press).—The Ministry of the Interior was the scene to-day of an exciting rent demonstration when a crowd of mothers, babies in arms and leading small children, invaded the Ministry despite opposition of the guards, who were unable to stop the screaming, frenzied women.

Headed by Deputy Giuseppe Mingrino, a Pisa Socialist, they rushed into the office of Vice-Premier Beneduce and demanded restoration of their apartments from which they had been forcibly ejected by Royal Guards on an order obtained by an apartment house proprietor because tenants were violating leases by subletting.

The mothers showed the Minister they were unable to pay higher rents for larger quarters than the small tenements the lessee had sublet to them and the order ejecting them was cancelled. The women marched out triumphantly and hurried back to re-entry their quarters.

Falls Dead Into Grave He Dug for Another

After completing the digging of a grave in the Weehawken, N. J., cemetery yesterday, Christian Bock, forty two years old, of 5 River Road, North Bergen, was stricken with acute indigestion and fell into the grave he had dug for another.

As the man toppled over the funeral cortege bearing the body of Mrs. Mary Bruggman, of Jersey City, had entered the gates of the cemetery. When the casket was about to be lowered to the grave, the body of the grave digger was discovered.

Bock was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and served as one of the late Colonel Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

Harding Wins 86,000 Navy by Vote in House

(Continued from page one)

glad to take all the information that we could get, but we have taken the position that we would not grant a single dollar unless they could sit opposite us and show where it is to go. We have not accepted their statements like children.

"I will admit that we have not accepted the advice of experts. Different officers hold different opinions. If they agreed it would be evidence of decay. The thing that has bothered the committee was not the difference of opinion between officers, but the difference of opinion held by the same officers from week to week."

Last year the Navy Department asked for $680,000,000 as compared with the $147,000,000 spent during the first year of the war, said Mr. Kelley.

Admiral Coontz told the committee a year ago, Mr. Kelley continued, that 120,000 men would keep only fifteen capital ships in commission and that with 110,000 men he could retain only thirteen ships. He was given last year 106,000 men and has kept in commission eighteen capital ships, declared Mr. Kelley.

Plenty of Men, Says Kelley.

Getting no headway with the aid of the navy experts and their confusion of opinions, said he, the committee set itself the task of finding the number of men and ships needed to maintain the treaty navy under the 5-5-3 ratio, and the bill is the result.

"And they are asking 32,000 men on shore to fill 12,000 jobs," Mr. Kelley added. "This at a time when the farmer, business man and citizens generally are borrowing money to meet their taxes. We have given them a man for every job and a little more."

The increase from 67,000 to 86,000 is wanted, declared Mr. Kelley, to man the 200 extra destroyers now tied up. Each destroyer requires 100 men, making the total 20,000 additional, which would entail an increased expenditure of close to $50,000,000, he said.

He charged officers with joining in "common cause with industrial sections that will lose under the committee's limitation," with backing the move to upset the committee's recommendations.

Representative Byrnes, Democrat, of South Carolina, offered figures from official British reports in an attempt to show that there has been much misrepresentation as to the comparative strengths of personnels. He said the Administration is inconsistent, because the General Board originally recommended 120,000, Secretary of the Navy 96,000, and the President 86,000, "which, in my mind, absolutely dispels the contention of the minority that the bill does not provide sufficient men to maintain the ratio agreement."

Kahn Champions Amendment

Just before Mr. Kelley took the floor the veteran chairman of the House Military Committee, Mr. Kahn, made a strong plea for the adoption of the 86,000 amendment.

Chief supporters of the committee were Republican Floor Leader Mondell and Chairman Madden of the Appropriations Committee. Mr. Mondell told the House that if the increase were permitted it would make the navy treaty a scrap of paper by providing more than this country's share under the agreement. Sharp reply to his contention was made by Representative Newton, Republican, of Minnesota, who declared he would rather accept the word of President Harding than that of Mr. Mondell as to what would render the treaty ineffective as far as this country is concerned.

The addition of 19,000 men would add $40,000,000 to the bill, according to Mondell, thus making the total cost almost $400,000,000, more by several millions than the cost of the navy this year.

"Add another $10,000,000 or $15,000,000," said Mr. Mondell, "as your naval experts will all demand, when this bill goes to the Senate and the naval costs and your naval personnel will be greater after the treaty is ratified than it was before."

"Peace will come only when the dreams of childhood come true," declared Representative Chandler, Republican, of New York, in supporting the Vare amendment.

Representative Lemuel Padgett, Democrat, of Tennessee, said that the United States agreed to scrap its finest ships and to operate only the older ones. "In other words, we surrendered gun power and speed and placed ourselves on an equality in tonnage alone," he said, in demanding that the maximum man-power be provided.

Representative Magee, of New York, Republican member of the Navy subcommittee, disagreed also with Mr. Kelley and said that "if it is conceded we are entitled to eighteen capital ships it is necessary to man them properly."

A letter from Admiral Wilson, commandant of the United States Naval Academy, urging the figure be set at 86,000 was read to the House by Representative Francis F. Patterson, Republican, of New Jersey.

The problem in the minds of most members, Representative C. Frank Reavis, Republican, of Nebraska, declared, is the doubt as to whether or not the 5—5—3 ratio could be observed with a personnel of 67,000. In the confusion and doubt surrounding the question the only thing to be done, he said, was to accept the larger number.

U. S. Recognizes New Guatemalan Government

Announcement Is Made in Bulletin Issued by State Department

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Recognition was accorded the new government at Guatemala to-day by the United States.

Announcement of the action of the American government was made in the following statement issued by the State Department:

"The Secretary of State announced to-day that the President had recognized the new government of Guatemala."

35,000 More Join Strike, Miners' Claim

Workers' Official Says 25,000 From Pennsylvania and 10,000 in W. Virginia Quit Work Last Week

Estimate 631,000 Are Out

Watchman at Pennsylvania Mine Probably Fatally Shot; One Arrest Made

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

INDIANAPOLIS, April 15.—William Green, secretary-treasurer of the Mine Workers of America, said to-day the striking coal miners' ranks had been increased this week by 35,000 men, of whom about 25,000 are from Districts 2 and 5 of central and western Pennsylvania, and 10,000 from District 29, the New River field of West Virginia.

The total figures from districts, according to information compiled at the miners' headquarters, show that 514,000 union miners are on strike and that 117,000 non-union men have joined, giving a total of 631,000 men on strike. These figures do not include estimates from District 23, of western Kentucky, where there are 12,000 union miners, part of whom are still at work on an overlapping contract, and 5,000 non-union miners; District 20, in Alabama, where there are 1,000 union and 20,000 non-union miners, and District 30 in eastern Kentucky, where there are 1,500 union and 30,000 non-union miners. The Mine Workers' headquarters has no estimates on these three districts.

Situation Shown in Detail

The showing of the strike situation by districts is made in the following table, all union miners being on strike, the non-union miners and their number out of the mines being shown in the second and third columns:

District.	Union miners.	Non-union unionized miners, or on strike.	Non-union miners.
1	42,000	15,000	15,000
2	50,000	30,000	15,000
5	50,000	25,000	20,000
6	50,000		
7	18,000	7,000	7,000
8	500		
9	37,000	13,000	13,000
10	3,000		
11	25,000		
12	31,000		
13	13,000		
14	6,000		
15	8,000	15,000	8,000
18	3,000	18,000	5,000
17	25,000	45,000	10,000
19	5,000	25,000	10,000
20	1,000	20,000	
21	10,000		
22	16,000		
23	12,000	5,000	
24	8,000		
25	10,000		
27	10,000		
29	5,000	20,000	10,000
30	30,000		
Totals	514,500	238,000	117,000

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

GREENSBURG, Pa., April 15.—D. S. Mitchell, aged sixty-seven years, a watchman employed by the export mine of the Westmoreland Coal Company, early this morning was shot through the left breast by two Italians, said to be striking miners, one of whom was caught later by state police. Mitchell was taken to the Westmoreland Hospital here, where this afternoon it was reported he would probably die. Ferdinand Cicerello, aged thirty-five years, was arrested.

Coke Workers Stick to Jobs.

Employes of the Frick Coke Company and independent concerns at active plants in the northern section of the Connellsville coke region have apparently definitely rejected the advances of the union organizers. All workers were at their places this morning, despite the approach of Easter, an established layoff period among coke region miners.

That the union organizers realize the failure of their objective in inducing the workers of other plants near Connellsville was demonstrated by threats made against some workers.

The coal strike entered its third week in West Virginia to-day, with four Federal injunctions hanging over the United Mine Workers restraining them from organizing activities in the coal fields of this state, and with the operators maintaining that lack of a market is the chief factor in keeping down production.

One injunction, applying to the Winding Gulf field, granted last Saturday night, is returnable on motion to make it permanent before Judge McClintic Monday. The injunction issued last Monday in the Borderland case and applying to the whole of West Virginia will be appealed to the Circuit Court. The two issued late yesterday, one on the application of the Etna Sewell Smokeless Fuel Coal Company and sixty-two other companies in the New River district, and the other on complaint of six coal companies in the New River district and one individual in Wyoming and Raleigh counties, will be argued on a motion to make them permanent April 24.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., April 15.—A detail of twelve state troopers was sent into the Shamokin Creek Field to-day. Three washeries resumed operations there yesterday. The plants had been idle since the first of the week when officials of the United Mine Workers' locals requested that they be shut.

Ohio Steel Plants Going

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, April 15.—Steel plants of the Youngstown district will feel no effect of the coal strike for at least another week, officials said to-day. Operations next week will be increased, according to schedules given out at company offices.

Independent plants will be working at about 80 per cent of capacity next week, as against 70 to 75 per cent this week. The three steel corporation plants will continue to run at full capacity with the exception of one blast furnace, orders for firing which were canceled a week ago because of the coal strike.

Iron production remains the same, the increase being in finishing mills. Steel operators are apprehensive that a continuance of the union miners' success in the Connellsville coke field will cause a curtailment of blast furnace operations, though the danger is said not to be immediately at hand.

Miners Will Maintain Solid Front, Says Lewis

No Negotiation of Independent District Contracts Nor Any Compromise, He Asserts

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 15.—Disclaiming responsibility of the miner for "the ills of the coal industry," John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, told the Midday Luncheon Club here to-day that "the principles at issue in this great strike will not be compromised by the mine workers."

"The dream of the coal operators," he said, "that the miners will engage in a multiplicity of conferences and negotiate independent district agreements will not materialize."

Mr. Lewis said such negotiations would be like treating a patient's organic troubles by applying "healing lotions to his extremities."

Reverting to the mine workers' aims, he said:

"It is poor industrial leadership that can conceive industrial improvement only through a debased manhood and a pauper level of existence."

"The strike," he continued, "is the natural sequence of the organized effort of the coal operators to beat the miners backward to the level of subsistence in the non-union fields. The miners will not retreat. The human values involved are of infinitely greater consequence than the profit margins of the operators.

"Approximately five millions of the population of our nation are directly dependent upon the mining industry and it is God's will that the children of the mining camps be fed, clothed and sheltered to the same degree as the children of other citizens.

"The operators of the central competitive field have nonchalantly broken their agreement to meet in joint conference and have defined their further policies with all the arrogance of a German war governor jack-booting a Belgian town into submission.

"The agreement thus violated was made by command of the United States government, and as yet the government has merely condoned their offense against the moral code by issuing statements assuring the public that an ample supply of coal would be furnished by fields where non-union operators hold sway by force of arms. Such a statement is itself an error which the public will later realize."

Married Pair to Quit Prison at Same Hour

ALBANY, April 15.—Governor Miller to-day commuted the sentence of George Napoleon Tebo, of Broome County, so that he and his wife could leave Auburn Prison together May 1. Both had been convicted of grand larceny, first degree, for the same crime. The wife was given a minimum sentence of a year and six months, while the husband was sentenced to a minimum term of two years.

In a statement explaining the commutation the Governor pointed out that Judge Tuthill, who imposed the sentence, and the district attorney who conducted the prosecution "united in a recommendation that Tebo's sentence be commuted so he might be released when his wife's term expired."

Brindell and Knight Bills Both Vetoed

(Continued from page one)

which may arouse unnecessary and harmful prejudice against the law.

"I deplore the pernicious and misleading propaganda directed against this measure which has aroused much misinformed opposition and has created a prejudice in the public mind which will be harmful even in the administration of the present laws. The right solution of this problem directly affects the welfare of society and that solution will not be advanced by misleading appeals to popular prejudice."

Loopholes in Parole Bill

In vetoing the so-called Brindell parole bill the Governor wrote a memorandum in which he pointed out the loopholes in the act, declaring at the same time that the parole system was one which could be considerably improved.

"I do not think the time has come when we can safely put all crimes in one category after a year's imprisonment and leave the matter of further imprisonment to the discretion of a parole board," said the Governor.

"No doubt sound penology requires consideration of each individual, but the crime committed must also be considered. It may be that the judge is inclined to give too much consideration to the crime, too little to the individual; but the reverse would most likely be true of any parole board.

"This bill contains many sound provisions. It furnishes a basis for further consideration, which I trust will be given to a problem of such vast social importance.

"I am inclined to think that a plan can be devised, involving concurrent action by the Parole Board and the court or the judge who imposed the sentence, which would be an improvement upon the present system, but that has to be carefully thought out."

Another so-called Brindell bill, which was introduced by Assemblyman John J. O'Connor, who was counsel to the imprisoned labor czar, also was vetoed to-day by the Governor. This was in the omnibus veto. It provided that after two or more sentences have been imposed on a convicted person, the court may at any time before the beginning of the second or other sentence suspend all subsequent sentences.

Fire Department Given Big Shake-Up by Drennan

Two Divisions and Two Battalions Eliminated; Shifts 20 Captains and Lieutenants

Fire Commissioner Thomas J. Drennan yesterday made an extensive shake-up in the personnel of the uniformed force. Two divisions, the Sixth in Harlem and the Tenth in Brooklyn, were discontinued as Fire Department sub-divisions, and two battalions in Brooklyn also were eliminated. Deputy Chief Frederick W. Gooderson, of Brooklyn, was transferred to the Seventh Division in the Bronx.

The Sixth Division elimination required no transfer as its commanding officer, Deputy Chief John F. King, long since has been transferred out of that division. The new chiefs of battalion, John J. McElligott and John J. T. Waldron, were assigned to their new commands, McElligott to the Fourth Battalion in Attorney Street, and Waldron to the Third Battalion in Mercer Street. Five captains, fifteen lieutenants and one fireman were transferred.

1,200-Foot Spout at Sea

Tourists on Carmania See Great Spiral of Water

Tourists returning yesterday on the Cunard liner Carmania from a cruise to the Mediterranean were entertained at sea on Thursday by the display of a 1,200-foot waterspout that was not included in the program of the tour.

The great spiral column was observed at 11:25 a. m. about twelve miles from the ship and lasted forty-five minutes. The ship's officers estimated that the spout was about 1,200 feet high and about 300 feet in diameter at its mid-section.

Too Many Mines Cause of Evil, Is Sage Report

Men Are Enabled to Work Only About 200 Days a Year Under the Present Plan of Coal Operation

Must Curb Development

No Solution of Labor Problem Is Seen Until Basic Trouble Is Removed

In a report entitled "The Coal Miners' Insecurity," made public yesterday by the Russell Sage Foundation, the theory is advanced that no satisfactory agreement of a permanent nature on wages can be reached between miners and operators in the bituminous fields until steps have been taken to curb "the over-development of many more mines than are required to supply the country's needs." The report declares this over-development has resulted in giving an average of only 214 days of employment annually to the 600,000 men employed in the industry, thus nullifying the advantages of any wage increase won by the miners in the past.

Hugh Archbald, mining engineer, in a report made public simultaneously by the Bureau of Industrial Research, 289 Fourth Avenue, says that coal mine labor underground is 50 per cent wasted and that the bituminous miner's actual working day averages about four hours. Mr. Archbald's report is said to be the first attempt to measure the work losses downshaft, and in stating that the fundamental cause of the disorganization underground is the same as the cause of intermittent mine operation—over-development through unrestricted competition—recognizes a condition similar to that which is the subject of the Sage Foundation's report. Copies of Mr. Archbald's findings have been transmitted to the House committee in Washington which is investigating the coal strike.

Waste of Labor Great

The Bureau of Industrial Research notes that "the miners who are now planning the nationalization of the coal which underlies our civilization will have to grapple with the same problems of the engineering of work. Theirs is the next move."

Mr. Archbald, who has had twenty years' experience in coal mine management, says in his report:

"Totaling the number of hours in a year which a miner spends at remunerative work, we find that he averages somewhere between 200 and 230 days when the mine is in operation and he consequently has a possible chance to work. Two hundred days would give him 650 hours of remunerative work; 230 days, 805 hours. Out of a total of 300 eight-hour working days in a year, or 2,400 hours, a miner spending from a quarter to a third of this time in remunerative labor loses a matter of 1,600 hours during the year, when he ought to be of service to the community and to himself."

The Sage Foundation states that it investigated the coal situation in connection with its study of human relations in industry and that it has analyzed data on irregularity of production and employment in bituminous mining extending over a period of thirty-two years. Its data includes the most recent statistics on annual earnings and kindred subjects compiled by the United States Geological Survey, the National Coal Association, United Mine Workers, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and various state bureaus of mines.

Lose Ninety Days a Year

A summary of the report as prepared by the Foundation says, in part:

"The bituminous coal mines have been open for work on an average of only 214 days a year in the thirty-two years from 1890 through 1921. If 304 days be regarded as a full working year the lost days of employment and of mine operation have averaged ninety in a year. Only twice, and this during the war, did the miner reach the high mark when he had as few as sixty-one idle days in a year. In eleven of these thirty-two years the loss of working time, and consequently of wages, has averaged 100 days or more for the bituminous miner.

"Of these lost days 37 per cent, according to the estimates of the United States Geological Survey, have been due to the over-development of soft coal mines. Mines now in operation could produce from 700,000,000 to 900,000,000 tons a year, according to various estimates of the President's Bituminous Coal Commission and statisticians of the Geological Survey, while the country can use approximately 500,000,000 tons.

"This excess of capacity over production brings more men into the industry than are needed and makes employment intermittent and uncertain even when business in general is most prosperous.

"The miners in the soft coal industry might well ask for a guaranteed minimum of employment as the basic need, taking precedence over wage adjustments this year."

New York representatives of the operators in the union fields were silent yesterday over the remarks attributed to Attorney General Daugherty in reporting the coal strike situation to President Harding on Friday. The prevailing opinion in these offices is that government intervention will prove the only agency possible in bringing about a wage agreement and settlement of the strike. They do not, however, expect any immediate move of this kind.

Reports received at the New York offices of the operators predicted that the peak of the strike among the unorganized workers has been reached. The claim is made in these reports that the drive being made by the United Mine Workers in the strike districts had reached its full force and that the non-union operators are now in a position to combat successfully the spread of the strike.

A similar opinion, although not official, was expressed in the offices of the large steel companies.

The non-union operators and heads of the steel companies believe, according to information obtained yesterday, that a large number of non-union men now on strike will return to work after Easter.

Boast He Had "Pull" With Judge Costs $10

When Charles Sharkey, of Bayonne, was arrested for speeding yesterday, he said he had a pull with the judge and hated to see the policeman go to the trouble of writing out a summons. An hour later he was arraigned before Recorder William J. Cain.

"This man said he had a pull with you, judge. I arrested him for speeding," said the officer.

"Five dollars for speeding," declared Judge Cain, "and $10 for your familiarity."

Hizzoner's Best Smile Illumines Boardwalk

John F. Hylan greets 'em right and left as he and his wife take a pre-Easter stroll along Atlantic City's cosmopolitan way

Governor Signs Bill to License Real Estate Men

Brokers, Salesmen, Agents in New York and Buffalo Must Obtain State Permits to Operate After Oct. 1

From a Staff Correspondent

ALBANY, April 15.—The Gibbs bill, licensing real estate brokers and salesmen in New York and Buffalo and adjacent counties, and placing them under state supervision, was signed to-day by Governor Miller.

Under the new law any person, firm or corporation who, for a fee or commission, engages in real estate operations on and after October 1 of this year in that territory, must obtain a license from the State Tax Commission. The application for the license shall set forth the name, or names, of officers and the place, or places, of business for the two years preceding the date of filing the application, and satisfy the commission as to trustworthiness and competency to transact business for the protection of the client and public.

Licenses will cost from $5 to $25 and must be renewed annually.

Only one member of a partnership is permitted to act as broker under a single license, but both members are permitted to act as brokers upon granting of an additional license, the cost to be one-half the original fee.

One-half the money raised by the act reverts to the localities where it is collected.

Licenses may be revoked by the Tax Commission if statements made in the application are found to be false or the applicant shows inability competently to transact business. Applicants whose licenses are revoked or whose applications are refused are permitted to seek review of the commission's action in the courts by obtaining a writ of certiorari, and the applicant's license will be deemed to be in full force until the court action is concluded.

Realty agents or brokers are forbidden to employ any agent or representative in any city unless he is licensed. The revocation of a broker's license automatically suspends the licenses of all agents or employees of the broker pending change of employer, when a new license is to be granted without additional fee to cover the unexpired term of the permit.

Receivers, referees, administrators, executors, guardians or other persons acting under supervision or by the direction of the courts are exempted from the act. Public officers in the performance of their duties and attorneys also are exempted.

The Pitcher bill, licensing billiard halls in cities of less than 400,000 population, also was signed. It levies a licensing fee of $5 on each pool or billiard table. The Tax Commission is empowered to refuse or revoke any license. The new law also forbids the use of the word "pool" in placarding billiard rooms.

N. Y. C. Not to Enter Rate War for Passenger Trade

CHICAGO, April 15.—The threatened rate war between railroads for passenger business to New York received a setback to-day with the announcement of the New York Central Lines that they would not meet excursion rates of less than $43 recently announced by the Erie and Wabash railways.

Instead, the New York Central will go after Canadian rates, announcing excursion rates of $36.70 round-trip fare to Ottawa, $40.90 to Montreal and $50.65 through Canada to Boston. The present round-trip rate to Montreal is $58.42.

Democrats Seeking Ammunition for Tariff Bill Fight

Manufacturers and Importers Questioned by Finance Committee Senators as to Effect of the Measure

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Besides hearing government experts, Democrats of the Senate Finance Committee in their study of the Administration tariff bill are examining manufacturers and importers as to the probable effect of the measure and particular duties proposed on their lines of business. This is in preparation for the fight which the minority plans to make on the bill in the Senate.

American valuation was under discussion today. Aside from this question the minority is giving close study to provisions which would authorize the President to increase or decrease rates within a radius of 50 per cent and to proclaim American valuation on given lists of imports when in his judgment, after investigations to be made by the Tariff Commission, this would be necessary to equalize competitive conditions in the United States and in the country from which the imports originated.

The study which the Democrats are making of the bill may require more than the nine days allotted by the committee majority. Should that prove the case they will request an extension of time beyond next Thursday for filing the minority report.

Chairman McCumber plans to call the bill up next Thursday, but the fight over the measure may be delayed beyond that date, as the first procedure will be the reading of the 440-page document, a task that will fall to the reading clerks working in relays and one that will interest few Senators.

Duties on olive oil, raisins, dried grapes and currants higher than those in the Administration tariff bill are proposed in amendments offered by Senator Johnson, Republican, of California, a member of the Republican agricultural bloc.

Abandonment of the comparative valuation report bureau at New York and creation in its place a new organization to be known as the customs' information exchange, was announced today by the Treasury.

The exchange, it was explained, will exercise no executive or administrative authority and will be used as a central distributing point for data concerning values and advisory classification and information as may be of value to customs' officers.

Mr. Mellon's action was taken upon recommendation of a special committee appointed to investigate the organization and operation of the Comparative Valuations' Report Bureau, which found that some of the activities of the bureau were unnecessary and that some were a duplication of work performed by other agencies. The committee was headed by George W. Aldrich, Collector of Customs, New York.

Iowan Out for Senate

CHICAGO, April 15 (By The Associated Press).—Clifford Thorne, general counsel for the American Farm Bureau Federation, to-day formally announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for United States Senator from Iowa. He simultaneously tendered his resignation to the farm bureau federation.

Americans First to Conquer 13,500-Foot Caucasus Peak

ALEXANDROPOL, Armenia, April 15.—After baffling expert mountain climbers for years, the great Mount Alagheuz, one of the highest peaks in the Caucasus, has been ascended by two American college athletes, R. H. Anderson, of Connecticut, and Roy Davis, of Monticello, Ark. Anderson was captain of Wesleyan's 1918 football team and Davis was an all around athlete at Erskine and later baseball coach for the American College in Egypt.

Mount Alagheuz rises 13,500 feet from a plateau about thirty miles east of Alexandropol. The Americans had made two futile attempts to reach the summit, which is regarded as more difficult than Mount Blanc. On their third and successful attempt they mounted nearly to the snow line on American army mules. This left 5,000 feet of the most perilous climbing before them.

Spending the night in a little Kurdish village below the snow line, they started at 8 o'clock in the morning and reached the summit before dark. After carving their names and addresses on a rock they returned to the 8,000-foot level by midnight.

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., April 15.—Russell Hobson Anderson, of Bridgeport, Conn., was graduated from Wesleyan University in 1920. His would have been the class of 1918, but he left college to enter the United States service and was a second lieutenant of infantry at Camp Lee in October, 1918. Anderson was on the varsity football team three years and captain in his senior year. He captained his class basketball team one year and his class swimming team two years. He was a member of two class societies and of the Delta Upsilon fraternity. Anderson is in Armenia with Captain E. A. Yarrow, Wesleyan, '01, who has charge of the Caucasus branch of the Near East relief work, and Byron D. MacDonald, class of '19.

Decision Near On Trade Pact With Mexico

Negotiations Between U. S. Charge and Pani Reach Stage Where Signing of Treaty Is Expected

Obregon Policy Modified

Concessions Are Believed To Be Forthcoming Regarding Life and Property

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Negotiations in progress for some days between American Charge d'Affaires George T. Summerlin at Mexico City and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pani have advanced to the stage where the signing of a treaty of amity and commerce, which is the equivalent of recognition, soon may be authorized, it became known officially to-day.

The American position regarding Mexico, it was pointed out, has not changed since the pronouncement of Secretary of State Hughes almost a year ago, but there has been a noticeable change in sentiment toward the United States by responsible officials in the Mexican government. The disposition of several months ago to reject emphatically the American proposal to negotiate a treaty giving ample guaranties to this government to protect American life and property in the southern republic gradually has been displaced by a desire on the part of President Obregon and his advisers to place their government again in good standing with the United States.

Legal Phase To Be "Ironed Out"

Foreign Minister Pani and American Charge Summerlin have been selected as the officials through whom the preliminary negotiations looking to this accomplishment are to be handled, and the conversations which are now in progress are directed toward ironing out all the technical and legal phases of the treaty provisions.

Secretary of State Hughes is in constant communication with Mr. Summerlin and recently dispatched to Mexico City a memorandum calculated to meet some of the objections to the proposed treaty raised by Mr. Pani. These objections center around the provisions of the treaty affecting the rights of all foreigners in Mexico. It is the American desire to remove all the objectionable features of Article 27 of the Mexico Constitution and the restriction in Mexico to freedom of worship. A section of Article 27 provides that no church organization can own Mexican lands or property. On the theory that religious freedom is a fundamental part of international relations the American government desires the Mexican laws to be modified in such a way as to afford protection to American missionaries who may elect to operate in Mexico.

Obregon Policy Changed

It is generally accepted here that the Obregon government has decided no longer to pursue a policy of confiscation of property, and the recent interpretation of Article 27 by the Mexican Supreme Court as not confiscatory or retroactive is taken as a step in the right direction. It is realized here, however, that it requires no less than five decrees of the Mexican tribunal to establish a precedent, and the American desire is that the proposed treaty shall contain unequivocal language on the guaranties that Mexico will make toward the protection of American and other foreign interests in that republic.

It is not the desire here to make compliance with the American position difficult for the Mexican government. On the contrary, the negotiations are progressing with a view to enabling President Obregon to meet the situation without the slightest embarrassment. But the contention is rigorously adhered to that a treaty of amity and commerce is the fundamental method to pursue in establishing complete and friendly relations between the two republics.

School Motto Cheers Lonely Cabby in Chicago

"Perseverance Overcomes Obstacles," Says One of Last Seven Hackmen

Repeating a copybook maxim to keep up his courage, Edward Budd, the only horse-cab driver left on the south side of Chicago and one of the last seven in that city, remains on duty despite the motor competition which he says is starving the old-fashioned cabby out of existence and will soon make him a memory.

"Five years ago there were about five hundred of us, and plenty of work for all," he remarked as he waited for customers. "Now I am lucky if I make $5 a week, and sometimes two weeks pass without bringing me a nickel, though I'm on watch from early in the afternoon until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning.

"When I get discouraged, though, I remember a saying I learned at school, 'Perseverance overcomes every obstacle.' I say that over to myself sometimes, and then I think of school days in Hampshire, when I saw her majesty the queen. We children stood on a bench as she passed, and her majesty stopped and pinned a white rose on my lapel. I'll never forget that.

"I'd quit driving if I could do anything else, but I froze my feet twenty-odd years ago in a storm that tied up all the trains. I was out all night driving people home who would have frozen to death if I'd stayed in and taken care of myself. Now those same people would pass me by and take a taxicab."

New England Commission Opposes Waterway Scheme

BOSTON, April 15.—The joint New England Commission on Foreign and Domestic Commerce announced to-day that it had voted to oppose the St. Lawrence waterway project. The commission expressed the opinion that the scheme for deepening the river for vessels of large draft was not practical, and that the benefits to the West could not compensate Massachusetts for her loss of freight.

The commission represents the consolidated membership of similar organizations in the New England states which were organized some time ago at the suggestion of former Governor Coolidge.

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