

U. S. TO SEIZE BOATS IF PORT STRIKE COMES

Harbor Tieup Would Put City on Rations in 70 Hours.

CONFERENCE ON TO-DAY

Washington Officials Decide They Have Power to Take Over Facilities.

The United States Government, acting under the authority of the legislation which was enacted for war purposes, may seize all of the harbor facilities of New York city to prevent a transportation tieup as the result of the controversy between the local boat owners and their employees.

At the City Hall to-day the members of the War Labor Board will hear the marine workers. The boat owners, at a conference held yesterday, decided to be represented at the hearing.

Government agents said last night that if the strike threatened by the men goes into effect the city would have to be put on rations within seventy hours. In view of this serious aspect the representatives of the New York Harbor Wage Adjustment Board, the National Adjustment Commission, the Division of Operations of the Shipping Board and of the War Department held a conference in Washington yesterday.

Will Keep Port Open.

It was stated after the meeting that the Government officials had definitely decided to keep the port of New York open in the event the Labor Board was not able to avert the strike as the result of today's meeting.

It was asserted that the Federal officials have the undoubted right under existing war legislation to seize the entire facilities of the port and that such steps would be taken if necessary.

Chairmen Taft and Manley will preside at to-day's meeting. The demands of the marine workers for increased pay and eight hours will not be heard to-day. What the War Labor Board wants to know is whether the boat owners are willing to abide by the contract of May 14 between employers and men.

Under the last clause in this agreement, which allows the New York Harbor Wage Adjustment Board power to bring up the matter of arbitrating further demands should conditions warrant a change in the contract, the employees are bringing their case to the Government. This would mean that the New York board would arbitrate now, but the boat owners refuse to recognize this board, and the appeal to the War Labor Board.

Advertisement Is Criticized.

An additional conference will be held by the officials in Washington to-day. Plans for using Shipping Board or navy crews on the local boats in case of need will be discussed.

The Shipping Board yesterday took exception to advertisements which appeared in the New York papers yesterday in which the boat owners sought to recruit soldier labor for the harbor craft. With respect to the advertisement the board said: "The quotation from the statement of the Shipping Board as it appears in the advertisement conveys a wrong impression."

The statement issued by the Shipping Board indicated that the employees on New York harbor craft had already in arrears all their grievances, but that the operators had agreed to arbitration of wages only. The statement further pointed out that the attitude of the operators was responsible for bringing about a condition in which a strike was imminent.

The statement did not contain the part quoted in the advertisement pointing out the necessity for continued and uninterrupted operation of vessels and allowed this statement with an appeal to the operators to arbitrate all pending issues with their men.

Board Still Has Jurisdiction.

In default of such an agreement to arbitrate all their issues the Shipping Board pointed out that the gravest responsibility must rest upon the operators if as a result of their attitude the occurrence of war should occur in New York harbor.

The situation is now a national one and if boat owners refuse to concede the demands Government agents here said yesterday that emergency legislation would be enacted in Congress giving wider scope to the powers already in the hands of the United States Shipping Board for taking over boats and that they would be operated by the Government.

SORBONNE HONORS WILSON.

President to Be Made Doctor of University Today.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The University of Paris has decided to bestow the title of honorary doctor upon President Wilson as a former professor and president of Princeton University. President Wilson will receive his diploma at a ceremony in the Sorbonne to-morrow afternoon.

Afterward the President will be received by the university in its halls. Students and pupils of the Ellys schools will be presented to the American Executive.

SENATE DEBATE HALTS REVENUE BILL'S PASSAGE

Simmons Hopes for Vote To-day; Republicans See Delay Until Monday.

ZONE ABOLITION FOUGHT

Thomas Urges Budget Plan, Saying National Bankruptcy Is Alternative.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Although renewal to-day of general Senate debate halted progress on the war revenue bill, Senator Simmons, chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that an effort would be made to pass the measure before adjournment to-morrow, with resort to a night session if necessary. Republican leaders, however, expressed the belief that the measure would go over until Monday.

Practically all of to-day's session was devoted to discussion. Speaking in support of a substitute measure of which he is author, Senator Thomas (Col.) declared the watchword for this Congress should be "retrenchment, frugality and economy." Adoption of a Federal budget system was urged by the Senator, who said national bankruptcy would result unless such a system is put into effect.

Senator Thomas opposed granting the recommendations made by Secretary Daniels for increased naval appropriations, declaring "every dollar placed in a battleship is a dollar subtracted from the national treasury," he said, had revolutionized naval warfare and declared that had the war continued six months longer every German warship at Kiel would have been destroyed by the "myriad of airplanes carrying Americans that would have swept the air."

Senator La Follette (Wis.) plans to discuss his substitute bill to-morrow, after which Senator Simmons hopes to obtain a vote on the committee amendments providing for a \$4,000,000,000 tax in 1920, the section which the Republicans are opposing.

Just before the Senate adjourned Senator McKellar (Tenn.) announced that he would demand a separate vote before final passage of the bill on the postal section tentatively accepted by the Senate late yesterday proposing the repeal of the present zone system for second class mail and substituting a 1 cent a pound rate within 150 miles and 1 1/2 cents beyond.

\$16,000,000,000 FOR WAR NOT EXPENDED

Sherley Tells of Covering Back of Appropriations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—More than \$16,000,000,000 of each appropriation act and contract authorizations voted by Congress for war purposes will be unexpended, Representative Sherley (Ky.), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, announced to-day.

Total appropriations and authorizations voted during the war amount to about \$57,000,000,000, including \$10,000,000,000 of authorizations for wartime loans to foreign Governments. The loans actually made now total about \$2,000,000,000.

"More than eight billions of cash appropriations and approximately eight billions of contract authorizations will be covered back into the Treasury," said Mr. Sherley. "Most of the money will come from the War Department, the largest saving of course being from ordnance because the greatest amount of money was appropriated there."

"The contract authorizations do not represent money that will be returned as a result of cancellations of contracts. These authorizations were voted by Congress for departments to contract to expend and most of the eight billions was mobilized."

AIR CONVENTION PROPOSED.

Plan for Gathering Will Be Submitted to the Allies.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The British Air Board has drafted articles for an international air convention which will be submitted to the Allies, it was announced to-day by Lord Weir, Secretary of State for the Air Force.

The draft is accompanied with the statement that an international air conference be convened.

EISNER'S ACTIVITIES ALARM PRUSSIAN

Berlin Newspaper Asks Curb on Bavarian Radical.

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LONDON, Dec. 20.—The activities of Ernst Eisner, the radical Premier of Bavaria, have spread to Berlin, but none of the royalist journals there are becoming seriously alarmed. The *Deutsche Tageszeitung* says: "Eisner is turning Germany into a political madhouse. So long as he played his pranks at his own cost, it was not necessary to notice him, but now he is placing an impossible load of grotesque laws and enactments upon the backs of the German people, who, in all conscience, already have a sufficiently heavy burden to bear."

"The matter has passed the bounds of humor for we have placed ourselves in a situation in which it is bitterly necessary for us to be in grim earnest in order to be taken seriously by the enemy, if we would not die of hunger."

British Grand Fleet to Come Here After Peace

LONDON, Dec. 20.—It is reported that the Admiralty views favorably the suggestion that a large part of the British fleet commanded by Admiral Sir David Beatty should visit the United States. It is asserted, however, that no date for the visit has been fixed, but it is understood that it will be made immediately after peace has been signed. Subsequently the fleet will make a tour of the British dominions.

The War Cabinet and the Admiralty, on the suggestion of the Ministers of the dominions, have decided that Admiral Viscount Jellicoe, formerly chief of the naval staff, shall visit the dominions and India in February to advise the respective authorities on naval matters.

150,000 LEAVE ARMY WEEKLY

More Than 300,000 Have Returned to Civilian Life, Baker Announces.

HOME COMING EXPEDITED

All American Troops May Be Back Within Year, It Is Believed.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Secretary Baker has surrendered to the growing demand for speedier demobilization of the American military force in camps and cantonments of the United States. He announced to-day that 300,000 men had been released, and that to-morrow Gen. March, Chief of Staff, would make public the general plan for mustering out the great army which has been held in camps since the signing of the armistice on November 11.

Mr. Baker said that at least half a million of men, now in camps here, would be released from service by Christmas. Also he indicated that returns to civil life would hereafter be at the rate of about 1,000 men a day from each camp. The rate of demobilization now has reached 150,000 a week.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—As a result of conferences between Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the American Shipping Board, and Gen. Pehring plans have been made to ship approximately 1,000,000 tons of shipping now used to supply the American army in France soon will be released for American trade. There are more than 150,000 tons of shipping now lying at American docks, and the increasing need of providing for the needs of American factories which have turned from a wartime to a peace basis has made some immediate move necessary.

An important meeting, at which the shipping needs of all the Allies and the United States will be discussed, will be held to-morrow. Arrangements, it is said, will be made for a division of tonnage so as to give preference in the following order: European relief, return of American troops and commercial business.

It is believed that the result will be to permit the return of all American troops within twelve months.

WHITMAN DROPS SUIT, FORMS A LAW FIRM

Partners, Justice Ottinger and William Ransom.

Under an agreement between counsel for Governor-elect Smith and Gov. Whitman an order was entered yesterday discontinuing all proceedings begun by the Governor to obtain a judicial review of the void and protested ballots in various counties in the State. The Court of Appeals had dismissed the action in Richmond county on the ground that a sufficient cause for action had not been alleged. It is still the purpose of the Governor, so far as known, to have an inspection of the ballots in the First Judicial District after the issuance of the certificate of election.

Gov. Whitman has formed a law partnership with Supreme Court Justice Nathan Ottinger and William L. Ransom, former Justice of the City Court and counsel to the Public Service Commission. After Mr. Whitman's retirement from the Governorship on January 1 the firm name of Whitman, Ottinger & Ransom will be on the door of offices at 129 Broadway.

Judge Ransom announced his resignation from the post of counsel to the Public Service Commission last night. It is thought probable that his successor will not be named before Governor-elect Smith takes office.

Reports for some weeks have connected the name of Gov. Whitman with large retainers from various corporations in the public service field. One story was that he had received a large offer from the Standard Oil Company.

ST. GAUDENS STATUE OF LINCOLN WINS

George Grey Barnard's Work Rejected in London.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The statue of Lincoln by Augustus St. Gaudens will be placed in the Canning enclosure at Westminster, according to the decision of the American commission appointed to decide whether St. Gaudens's work or the monument of Lincoln by George Grey Barnard should be selected for this honor. The Barnard statue will be offered to some other prominent British city.

The Anglo-American Society has arranged with a committee of Americans, headed by President Nicholas Butler of Columbia University and J. P. Morgan, for the completion of the St. Gaudens Lincoln at an early date, and its shipment to London, where its unveiling will be the occasion of a great public demonstration.

There has been a prolonged controversy over the respective merits of the Lincoln statues by St. Gaudens and Barnard. The Barnard work has been widely criticized in Great Britain "for its uncouth characteristics."

REVOLUTIONIST RULE IS QUIET IN FRANKFORT

Outwardly Rhineland Is Enjoying Brilliant Winter Season.

CHIEF CONCERN IS FOOD

Indisposition of Discharged Soldiers to Return to Work Becomes a Problem.

By CHARLES TOWER. Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times Service. Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.

FRANKFORT, Germany, Dec. 20.—A member of the old Prussian country bureaucracy told me that for him and his like the Kaiser is finished. "He deserted his post and left us all alone," he said. "He can return to Germany and nothing will happen to him, but we should never trust him again."

Most of the discussion turned on the coming occupation. Nobody feared it, for experience has shown it is very considerate everywhere, but the town councillor said it might be very difficult, for example, to accommodate a detachment of 2,500 men in a community numbering altogether 5,000. This is almost the only complaint.

Revolution Came Quickly.

The Frankforters appear to show extremely little interest in the revolution, which here was a placid affair. Most of the people were asleep when the revolution broke out, and the police president. Even during the noise of the revolutionary assembly Frankforter visitors continued to chat and drink their beer and wine with unemotional indifference. The explanation of their indifference is that economic relief can be secured only from the Entente Allies and a reorganization of business only from paying such prices as the Allies demand. Berlin was never anything but unpopular in the west. Now it is unpopular as a place where the people suffer and achieve nothing but disaster.

It is perfectly obvious that persons who cannot afford to pay restaurant prices are slowly starving. The food commission should worry first about milk or suitable alternatives for young children and invalids, and not about the rights of either non-existent or badly distributed, and even when a high price is paid the food is not nourishing.

Lively Days in Berlin.

A special correspondent in Berlin telegraphs that the National Congress of Workers and Soldiers' Councils affords no lack of exciting and dramatic moments. The delegates are not only nervous and the disturbance often lasting for minutes together, while the chairman's bell is completely inaudible amid the noise. This happens especially when Georg Ledebour, a Radical Socialist, addresses the Congress, his utterances provoking indescribable uproar.

Ledebour's recent attack on Herr Ebert appears to have shaken the latter's position. Herr Hugo Haase also has criticized Ebert's procedure by making an observation implying that military authorities are seeking a conflict with the Entente and desiring an imperial peace.

Unwilling to Resume Work.

Another factor in the situation which the Germans themselves must deal with is the unwillingness of discharged soldiers to return to work. Strikes are occurring which are due in a great part to the existence of meat and coffee shortages at which prices in the restaurants. The troops being the conditions that are prevailing wish to continue to feed on army rations at public expense.

Moreover men in many cases are mentally incapacitated from returning to positions of anything resembling personal responsibility. For four years men who in civil life held positions of responsibility have had nothing to worry about except obedience to orders. They have not had to worry about the eternal struggle of civil life. This applies especially to professional men and small tradesmen.

Soldiers Are Thankful for Smokes Sent Them

THE latest distribution of smokes to soldiers abroad by THE SUN Tobacco Fund, so far as acknowledged, was made on Thanksgiving Day. Bushels of postcards have been received telling the fund of the joy the smokes gave the boys. Read some of them on page 4 and get ready to appreciate the Christmas cards when they begin to come, for the fund worked hard to surpass itself on that holiday.

WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

GERMANS FORM CENTRAL BODY; OUST RADICALS

Ledebour, Dr. Mueller and Others Eliminated From Executive Committee.

SUPPORT FOR CABINET

People's League Also Organized With a View to Restraining Soviets.

By the Associated Press. BRUSSELS, Dec. 20.—The election of a new Central Executive Committee has been completed. The Socialist members are largely in the majority, giving the Cabinet a support it heretofore has lacked. Not only are many of the members really able men but radicals like Georg Ledebour, Dr. August Mueller and other members of the old executive committee have been eliminated.

Special Wireless Dispatch to The Sun and the Public Ledger. Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—A Copenhagen despatch announces the formation in Berlin of a People's League association, which elected a committee consisting of Prince Maximilian of Baden, the last German Imperial Chancellor; Hugo Haase, leader of the Independent Socialists; Count Johann von Bernstorff, the dismissed German Ambassador to the United States; Matthias Erzberger, leader of the Catholic-Centrist party and head of the German armistice commission; Dr. W. S. Solf, the resigned German Foreign Minister; Cardinal Hartmann, the archbishop of Cologne; Prince von Hohenlohe-Kurland, the Austrian Ambassador, and Edward Bernstein.

May Reestablish a Front.

A despatch from Zurich announces the Field Marshal Hindenburg has informed the Berlin Government he intends to establish a new front six and a quarter miles behind the neutral zone. Hindenburg has not replied to the Berlin Government's request for an explanation. The significance of these preparations is vague.

Most of the Berlin newspapers are publishing the fact that Matthias Foch informed Erzberger, as head of the Armistice Commission, the Allies did not and would not recognize the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils.

A report published in The Hague says that the revolutionary signs are being eagerly looked for in Berlin. When more troops from the front were received on the Pariserplatz yesterday, civilians were not admitted and the streets in the neighborhood were made inaccessible, the military authorities are seeking an impression of a military event of the pre-revolutionary time. The troops were welcomed by the upper bourgeoisie of Berlin. War Minister Scheuch also spoke. Singularly enough the military authorities were not mentioned in either speech. The whole breathed completely a reactionary spirit, appearing to indicate the movement is strongly increasing in officers' circles against the present situation.

KING OF ITALY IS CHEERED IN PARIS

Alliance With France Toasted at Banquet.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—King Victor Emmanuel of Italy was received this afternoon at the Hotel de Ville (City Hall) by the Paris Council. On his way through the city from the Foreign Office he was cheered by large crowds. The weather was bad and there was a drizzling rain.

Stephen Pichon, the Foreign Minister, and Mme. Pichon gave a luncheon to-day at the Foreign Ministry in honor of King Victor Emmanuel, President Poincaré and the Prince of Piedmont. The guests included the Italian Premier, Vittorio Orlando, and the Italian Foreign Minister, Baron Sonnino, Marshal Foch, Marshal Petain, the Presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, former President Loubet and the Ambassadors accredited to France. In all there were 150 guests.

The victory of Italy has created a new Italy in a new Europe, declared President Poincaré last night in toasting King Victor Emmanuel at a banquet in the Palace of the Ellysées.

The greatness of Italy, the President said, was due to the intervention of the King, which had resulted in the destruction of former diplomatic combinations and the tightening of the bonds of sentiment and interest between France and Italy.

King Victor Emmanuel expressed thanks for the cordial welcome. France and Italy, he added, were at the threshold of an era of peaceful collaboration.

The *Matin* says that the toast exchanged by the President and the King "marked the beginning of an intimate and fruitful alliance."

Called German, Gets \$500.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times Service. Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Walter Chuter, a restaurant proprietor, has been awarded \$500 damages in the London sheriff's court against a man who had circulated a report that Chuter was a German. Chuter's friends had shunned him and his business had shrunk.

Chuter has lived in the district twenty-three years. His wife, himself and their fathers, mothers and grandparents were all English born. Technically it was a case of slander.

WILSON SAYS INTERESTS OF PEOPLES ALONE MUST RULE AT PEACE CONGRESS

ITALY WARNED NOT TO GRASP

Clemenceau Says Rights of Jugo-Slavs Also Must Be Considered.

URGES SPIRIT OF EQUITY

Tells Signor Raimondo There Is an Interest Superior to Territorial Expansion.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times Service. Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.

ROME, Dec. 20.—The *Messaggero* publishes a telegram from its Paris correspondent which reports declarations made by M. Clemenceau to Signor Raimondo, a Reformist Socialist, who has been in Paris. The French Premier referred to "certain inevitable incidents and misunderstandings," and said it was only in the case of enemies that such incidents do not happen. It is a personal opinion by a noisy voice in a limited circle were readily mistaken for a real movement of public opinion. The Premier insisted on sympathy in France for Italy and Italian aims and said: "We believe France will never abandon Italy."

French Dead in War Placed at 1,400,000

PARIS, Dec. 21.—During an interpellation of the Government in the Chamber of Deputies on demobilization to-day, Lucien Volin, a Socialist Deputy said: "I betray no secret when I say that the problem of demobilization presents itself thus: We have mobilized 6,000,000 men; we have had about 1,400,000 killed, while 800,000 recovered from wounds. We are going to demobilize 1,200,000 reserves, territorials and heads of families."

Will See Battlefields.

The President plans to start for London immediately after dining with the American troops in the field on Christmas. He will not return directly to Paris, but will visit the devastated regions in France and Belgium, returning to the French capital January 4 or 5 in time for the first meeting of the interallied conference, which is scheduled for January 6. This meeting will be restricted to representatives of the Allies and the United States, who will arrange a common basis of action for the formal peace conference, which is to begin late in January. At the latter meeting, it is expected, the German delegates will be present for the first time.

The Associated Press was informed by the British Foreign Office to-day that the report printed by the *Manchester Guardian* that the President was coming to Paris to discuss the Russian situation is inaccurate. The visit of the President will be one of courtesy and not political, though naturally discussion of Russian affairs may arise in the course of his conversation here.

From well informed quarters it is learned that there is no foundation for the reports that British reinforcements are being sent to Russia. It is understood that nothing of this nature will be done pending the allied conference in Paris.

Believes in Anglo-Saxons.

The correspondent then adds: "President Wilson in discussing the role of the British fleet in the maintenance of what, at any rate during the war, had been the freedom of the seas for the free people of the world, spoke with a sincerity which no amount of writing can convey. His accents convinced me that he is a believer in the decency and honesty of the Anglo-Saxon race. He said: "It is essential for the future peace of the world that there should be the frankest cooperation and most generous understanding between the two English speaking democracies. We comprehend and appreciate, I believe, the grave problems which the war has brought to the British people, and fully understand the special international situation which has arisen from the fact of your peculiar position as an island empire."

The correspondent declared that he left the President "with the assurance ringing in my ears that he desired to cooperate with the British and with all the Allies in securing, with their counsel, a new state of affairs throughout the world."

Visits King of Italy.

President Wilson this evening visited King Victor Emmanuel. In addition to the conference he had today with Italian statesmen he conferred with Capt. Andre Tardieu, French High Commissioner to the United States, with whom he discussed relief work in France and economic questions, including shipping.

It is known that the French Government is anxious to place large shipbuilding contracts in American yards, but the American Government, it is said, intends to keep the yards free until the peace conference develops fully what yards the United States may need for its navy.

An official statement probably will be given out soon explaining the status of the censorship. Although it had been promised by President Wilson that the censorship would be lifted entirely, it develops that his promise applies only to political matter concerning the peace conference which does not concern France and Great Britain. The American dele-

Gives Interview to Correspondent of the London "Times."

"BOSSSES" ARE BARRED

"No Master Mind Can Settle Problems of Day," Says President.

IN ACCORD WITH BRITISH

Declares Cooperation of English Speaking Races Essential for Future.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—"I am confident that the big council of statesmen of the world will be able to reach a just and reasonable solution of the problems that will be presented to them and thus earn the gratitude of the world for the most cordial and necessary service which has ever been rendered it," said President Wilson in an interview to-day, referring to the approaching peace conference.

The interview was given to the correspondent of the London *Times*. In it the President is reported to have stated his views on the discussion of the freedom of the seas and to have contrasted the evils of the Vienna Congress with a hopeful outlook for the Versailles Congress.

Lord Northcliffe, editor of the *London Times*, has given to the *Associated Press* a copy of the interview, from which the following extracts have been made:

Peoples Ignored in Vienna.

The Congress of Vienna, the correspondent says President Wilson told him, was a congress of "bosses." The delegates were concerned more with their own interests and the classes they represented than the wishes of their peoples.

"Versailles, as President Wilson said, the interviewer continues, "must be a meeting place of the servants of the peoples represented by delegates," and he added, "there is no master mind who can settle the problems of to-day. If there is anybody who thinks he knows what is in the minds of all peoples that man is a fool. We have all got to put our heads together and pool everything for the benefit of the ideals which are common to all."

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