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The League of Nations as a Mischief Maker Among Nations.

There has been no clearer exposition of the effect on Anglo-American relations of President WILSON's self-determined policy than is contained in an article by the Hon. JAMES M. BECK in the July *North American*. It is entitled "A Reply to Lord ROBERT CECIL," and that is what it really is. For its frankness, its insight and its incontrovertible logic we commend it to all Americans who have not quite made up their minds about the Wilsonian covenant.

The information which Mr. BECK conveys to Lord ROBERT CECIL and the other British advocates of the covenant as drawn is all the more authoritative because of the status of the informant. Nobody on this side of the Atlantic was quicker than Mr. BECK to perceive the inevitable result, so far as the United States was concerned, of the violation of Belgian neutrality by Germany and the consequent entry of Great Britain into the war. His books, "The Evidence in the Case" and "War and Humanity," and his scores of spirited and perfectly reasoned speeches were prime factors, as everybody knows, in the formation of a public opinion here corrective of the President's original policy of neutrality in thought as well as in deed. The cause of the Allies had no better friend. America's duty to participate in the defence of civilization had no more insistent proclaimer. Mr. BECK speaks to Lord ROBERT CECIL and the British covenanters as a friend, and he has the right to speak in that capacity.

A little less than a month ago, in a formal statement given out in Paris, the able son of the Marquis of SALISBURY addressed to the American people an appeal which Mr. BECK properly ascribes to "fear that the United States Senate may prefer the tried traditions of the Republic to the illusory pretensions of the proposed League of Nations." After speaking gracefully of America's record of disinterestedness in the war, so far as concerns material profit by victory, the English statesman went so far as to warn us that—in his own words—"it would indeed be deplorable if, at the end of the Conference, something happened to mar this record." His meaning was plain. He meant that it would be a blot on America's fame if the Senate should refuse to accept unchanged the covenant and treaty as adroitly and defiantly interwoven by President WILSON's contrivings and bargainings.

Mr. BECK tells Lord ROBERT CECIL the exact truth about this matter. He tells him that "the developments of the Paris Conference do not justify the hope that the admission of America into the somewhat discordant family of European nations would serve the cause of peace." He assures Lord ROBERT CECIL, in the friendliest terms, that instead of promoting the Anglo-American entente the Wilson-British League is slowly undermining it. America, he points out, can in future emergencies "render its greatest service to the world if it is allowed to express its opinion as an independent and impartial State, as each crisis in civilization arises." He informs him that a majority of the United States Senators look upon the League with disfavor; that, if Presidential politics were out of the way and the covenant were considered on its merits, "it can hardly be questioned that an overwhelming majority of the Senate, representing both parties, would refuse to accept membership for America in the League of Nations."

More than this. The evil already wrought by the President's headstrong determination, aided by the more or less interested concessions of the European statesmen, in return for value received, is candidly declared in the American's reply to the Englishman. "The proposal," says Mr. BECK, "of a League of Nations postponed peace and aggravated by inordinate delay the present anarchy in civilization; it also gave rise among the Allies to a disunity in spirit, if not in aims, which otherwise would never have existed." The mischief already done indicates the sinister possibilities of the future. The change in our own country to true American sentiment in this respect is exhibited in the following forcible passages:

"Undoubtedly, when the covenant of the League was first proposed, a large majority of the American people favored it in principle. It appealed to them because the idea was a big one and because it was inspired by a great ideal; for America, notwithstanding its material interests, is a nation of idealists. But as soon as the plan was studied in the concrete thousands of thoughtful Americans, remembering the most sacred traditions of our country, under which we have grown and prospered, deeply resented an indefinite and entangling alliance with all the nondescript nations of the world."

"The influential class of Americans believe that for many reasons America cannot take part to any advantage, either to itself or to civilization, in questions that are primarily of European or Asiatic origin, and that, if it attempts to do so—as has been done in its name at the Paris Conference in the cases of Fiume, Danzig and Shantung—it can only dissipate the immense moral influence which America would otherwise have."

"The greatest of America's traditions was its detachment from European intrigues, which enabled it to pursue its own path and to decide successive crises free from the embarrassment of entangling alliances."

"As an American, who from the beginning of the World War believed in the cause of the Allies and America's duty to participate, I cannot believe in such an abandonment of her tried policies. I am not an advocate of isolation. America's place will always be by the side of the liberal democracies. So believing, I look with apprehension upon this misguided attempt of doctrinaire statesmen to draw America into an impossible and 'entangling alliance' with many nations, liberal and illiberal, hostile and friendly. I prefer President WASHINGTON's definition of our foreign policy to that of President WILSON. So finally will America decide, and in so doing will not 'mar' her glorious 'record.'"

The case has not been stated better than in this friendly reply to a friendly English advocate of the Wilson policy of entanglement. We have quoted freely from Mr. BECK's notable article in the *North American Review*, but everybody whom the surpassingly important subject interests ought to read every word of this notable exhibit of straight common sense and patriotic Americanism.

Clearing Poland's Name.

Premier PADEREWSKI's emphatic denial that Jews had been wantonly attacked by the Poles is now indorsed by the representatives of the Entente in Warsaw, who, according to advices received in London, "agree that the reports of Jewish pogroms in Poland have been greatly exaggerated." Some Jews in the ranks of the Bolsheviki fell under the fire of Polish troops; others who attacked the troops from houses were arrested and punished; but the tales of horror that have been circulated all over the world to the detriment of the Polish Government are branded as false.

It is easily conceivable that in the turmoil and civil strife stirred up in Poland by revolutionary and reactionary agitators some innocent persons have perished. Such accidents can scarcely be avoided, but there is nothing to indicate that the proportion of innocent Jews who suffered in this way was larger than the proportion of gentiles.

In order that the truth about these reports may be known Mr. PADEREWSKI's Government has asked for a commission to examine the record and take evidence in Poland. He is confident that his Government will be vindicated and the correctness of its attitude toward all races and creeds demonstrated. That he has reason for this confidence the reports just made in London show.

Mississippi Mob Law and the "Utterly Powerless" Governor.

Let us assume, for the sake of passing over the obstacles of the least important part of the incident at Ellisville, Miss., that the negro HARTFIELD was guilty of the "unpardonable offence" and that he admitted it. His confession, so far as the American government of laws is concerned, is negligible when compared with the confession of the Governor of the State in which HARTFIELD was lynched:

"Governor BILBO, petitioned during the day to intervene, in a statement issued at Jackson shortly before the lynching declared himself 'utterly powerless' and said that interference would only lead to the deaths of hundreds of persons and that 'nobody can keep the inevitable from happening.'"

Such statements as these might be expected from a pitiful coward or a man grossly ignorant of the Constitution of the United States. In Section 1, Article XIV., it is provided that no State "shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Paragraph 3 of Article VI. declares that "all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution."

It cannot be suggested that THEODORE G. BILBO, the Governor of Mississippi, is ignorant of the mandates of the Constitution. He spent three years in the law department of Vanderbilt University, he has been a member of the bar for thirteen years and he has been in public office, either as State Senator, Lieutenant-Governor or Governor, since 1908. Twice he must have sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

If Governor BILBO was "utterly powerless" to prevent the lynching, then Mississippi is not enjoying the republican form of government guaranteed by the United States under Section 4, Article IV., of the Constitution. It is enjoying mob law. But the declaration of utter powerlessness comes from a man who made it before the lynching and who seems to have lifted no finger in defence of the law and to have supinely ignored his oath of office.

Let the senior Senator in Congress from Mississippi turn for a moment his enraptured gaze away from the new scheme for a Constitution of the World and devote his machinery of thought and his fine eloquence to the attitude of his own State and its Governor toward the Constitution of the United States. Or does JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS consider that document to be already subverted?

Colonel House Discovered as Tagged by Himself.

THE SUN has expressed from time to time some interest in the exact whereabouts of the place held by Colonel EDWARD M. HOUSE in the American Expeditionary Force (Political and Limited). We have not even known just what title to give him when referring to his amiable activities in republican Paris and near royalties in other parts of Europe.

Our gratitude therefore is great to the esteemed correspondent in central New York who sends to this office, for our advice and consent, a facsimile reproduction of a letter addressed by Colonel HOUSE as recently as May 15 to the editor of the *Cornell Era*. The occasion was the semi-centennial celebration of the institution at Ithaca, the Colonel being a member of the class of '82. Let us reproduce the document in part for the sake of the big black faced title which with startling distinctness commands attention at the top thereof:

"COMMISSIONER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"PARIS, 15 May, 1919.

"DEAR SIR: However clear may be the obligations which prevent my joining the great number of old Cornellians who are returning for the semi-centennial gathering, I cannot help envying them their opportunity and I appreciate the privilege you have held out to me of participating in the celebration if only through the poor medium of a letter.

. . . .

"I am earnestly hoping, however, that the spirit which brought America to France will not die out with the conclusion of Peace. That same spirit is just as much needed in the performance of the great national and international undertakings which America is engaged upon as ever it was in 1917 and 1918. We have put our hand to the plough. We cannot turn back; and the men who made peace possible must stand by to make it permanent.

"Faithfully yours,
"E. M. HOUSE."

Thus when the admirable Colonel from Texas, in a natural and highly creditable outburst of academic loyalty, took his hand from the plough to pen the foregoing letter he disclosed to THE SUN and to the Earth a fact which has been involved in the darkest mystery. No American statesman that we know of has succeeded in penetrating it. It was left to the *Era* to make matters plain.

Colonel HOUSE is "Commissioner Plenipotentiary of the United States of America." He has told us so himself. As Commissioner Plenipotentiary of the United States his hand is on the plough, ploughing deep into the affairs of the big and little nations of Europe, Asia and Africa, and also into the United States Treasury. He says we cannot turn back.

But we can at least turn back to the office dictionary, wherein we find this definition:

"plenipotentiary, *a.* Fully empowered; possessing or conferring full powers; unlimited; absolute."

This raises again a very interesting question. Unlimited, absolute powers, claimed and exercised, must have been conferred. The Colonel describes himself not merely as a commissioner or agent plenipotentiary of the President of the United States, but as Commissioner Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

When, where and by what constitutional provision did the good Texan and Cornellian Colonel derive his full, unlimited and absolute powers to plough up Europe in the name of the United States of America?

Our Soldiers in Siberia.

Senator HIRAM JOHNSON's resolution asking the President why our troops are in Siberia, what they are doing there and how long they are going to be kept there is a legitimate inquiry for the Senate to put to the Chief Executive, and its pertinence and propriety were conceded by the friends of Mr. WILSON, who did not oppose its passage when it came up for action yesterday.

The singular situation of our troops in Russia after the signing of the armistice has been a source of great perplexity, and this has been increased by the Administration's curious muddling of the whole Russian problem. Mr. WILSON invited the Bolsheviki to conferences in the handsomest possible manner while they were shooting American soldiers in the Archangel district. He sent representatives to interview LENINE and TROTZKY while those sinister figures were directing their armed forces against our troops. In this country Bolshevik agents were allowed to open and maintain headquarters while the fighting in Archangel was going on.

In Siberia our forces were apparently held in idleness for several months, but recently they have been in action and have suffered casualties. Two of our soldiers were killed on the very day—June 12—the State of New York raided the Bolshevik offices here. To say that the strange mixture of tolerance, encouragement and armed opposition which make up Mr. WILSON's record in dealing with Bolshevism has puzzled Americans is putting it mildly.

The country deserves a complete statement of the facts of this strange adventure.

State Contributions of Men in Two Great Wars.

The beginnings of the civil war and our war with Germany were fifty-six years apart. In that period the population of the United States was tripled and access to every part of it was made easy by a tenfold increase in miles of railroad. Yet we find, upon comparing the number of troops furnished by the various States in both wars, the same four States at the head of both columns:

	1861.	1917.
New York	448,850	367,864
Pennsylvania	337,936	297,891
Illinois	259,092	251,074
Ohio	313,180	200,293

Illinois, it will be seen, takes the third place honors that were Ohio's in 1861; Chicago's population has increased two and a quarter millions since the day when her civic money contribution to the Union cause was only $25,000 as compared with nearly $300,000 given by Cincinnati.

Indiana, which ranked fifth in troops furnished in the civil war, was only tenth in the recent struggle. Texas, which gave only 2,000 men to the Union army, won fifth place in 1917 by sending 165,065 soldiers. Michigan, which was ninth on the Union list, is sixth. Massachusetts and Missouri, respectively the sixth and seventh States in military strength in the '60s, were seventh and eighth in CROWDER's count.

In the number of soldiers supplied to preserve the Union New Jersey, Iowa and Kentucky were practically equal, but in the recent war New Jersey sent 6,500 men more than Iowa and 30,000 more than Kentucky, the contribution of the Dark and Bloody Ground being 75,043, or 700 less than it sent against the Confederacy in spite of BERIAH MAGOFFIN.

It will be difficult even to imagine a thing which more startlingly proves the moral submersion of those whose base appetites crave strong drink than does an actual happening reported from Ashland City, Tenn. There, locked in a cell of the county jail, was 120 gallons of hard liquor captured from blockade runners. Defying order, shamelessly ignoring a decent respect for public property, slaves of the Demon with hacksaws removed impeding bars of steel and took that strong drink away from there. How poetic will be the retribution when, seized for this scandalous impropriety while even yet under the influence of the baleful booty, these sinful creatures with dry cries of unappeased thirst are taken to the county jail and there immured in the very cell which their own graceless behavior had made to be stone dry.

Properly Labelled.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It appears from the cables that the French flags and banners which under the terms of the treaty the Huns were to have delivered to the French were destroyed by the German Black Guard Cavalry Corps, a most aptly described military organization—Black Guards by name and blackguards in fact.

NEW YORK, June 27. L. C. EVANS.

They Had Learned Their Lesson.

From the Harvard Graduates' Magazine.

Professor Gurney was one of the most genial instructors and the most skilful of disciplinarians. As a teacher Gurney was always kind and courteous, but nevertheless a terror to drones and evildoers.

For example, take the case of a student who was afterward a distinguished professor in the medical school. We were reading Cicero's Epistles. In the lesson for the day he was describing a scene in court, when it was evident that in the morning before the witnesses came in they had been suborned and instructed what to testify. I will call the student Drake. He had not looked at his lesson, and when called upon began to translate until he came to this passage.

He could make nothing of it, but looked up with a helpless air and said, "I don't think I understand this passage." Gurney bowed, and with the utmost suavity said, "It means, Mr. Drake, that they had learned their lesson before they came in in the morning."

As that was exactly what it did mean, the fellows set up a shout and Drake dropped into his seat.

A Florida County's Peculiar Industry.

From the Monticello News.

Jefferson county, Florida, of which Monticello is the county seat, is the home of the watermelon seed industry of the United States. It could be said that this is the home of the industry for the world, for this county grows more watermelons for seed purposes than any other section, and more watermelons are grown in North America than anywhere else. Jefferson county is the only place in the world where an order for a carload of watermelon seed can be filled—and such orders are often filled.

Short Grass Nature Study.

From the Garden City Telegram.

Unlike some of the prominent men in world affairs, a coyote never "stands upon his rights"; never delays the game by arguing the matter. Just seems to have a sneaking hunch that he is guilty of any crime with which he is charged, and proceeds forthwith to fade away into the horizon.

WHY THE RAILROADS SHOW A DEFICIT.

The Lines of Increasing Cost by Unit and Decreasing Revenue by Unit Have Met and Crossed—A Prediction of Nine Years Ago Verified.

The present railway difficulty is not so much that railway rates have got into the high cost of living as it is that the high cost of living has got into railway rates.

The theory that railway operation has changed from the law of increasing return to the law of decreasing return is not new. It was advanced by a statistical witness in the 1910 advanced rate case of the Western railways, though little attention was paid to it at the time. Even the railways did not then give it serious regard, and in their argument of the case, which was decided against them by the Interstate Commerce Commission, they laid slight stress upon the point.

In the course of the hearing, however, it attracted the alert, and more or less astounded, attention of Secretary Lane, then a member of the Commission. The witness had sought to show by numerous analytical tables that, comparing 1910 with 1901, all expenses were increasing by unit, while revenue was decreasing by unit; that the day was inevitable, and not far distant, when these lines would meet and cross, and that when they did, corporate chaos was the doom of the carriers.

The requirement of the Railroad Administration for hundreds of millions to meet operating deficit shows that these lines have met and crossed.

After the attorneys had examined and cross-examined the theory, Commissioner Lane, with a larger grasp of the situation than any of the others, took the witness in hand, and after a preliminary discussion, closed his examination as follows:

Commissioner—Suppose that rates were increased; increased so that within a short time you had $70,000,000 of surplus or $100,000,000 of surplus, that would not in any way prevent your coming in again for another increase in rates if there was a demand for higher wages on the part of the men, would it?

Witness—Not if the increased cost of service was kept below the increase in revenue. If the cost of service per unit is increasing in a larger ratio than the income per unit, then the income is being eaten up, and there is but one end to that; and that must be guarded against and prevented. If the expense per unit is where it should be, the ratio of increase below that of the ratio of increase in earnings, then rates would be reduced. . . .

Commissioner—But, as conditions are, you suffer because you have got too much business?

Witness—We will continue to suffer. The more business we get the more we will suffer.

Commissioner—The misfortune you labor under is having too much traffic to handle?

Witness—Yes, sir, under present conditions we lose more money every time we take on a thousand tons of freight.

Commissioner—As the country develops with your railroad service there will be more freight delivered to you, and therefore with the conditions as they are at present necessarily rates have got to be increased. Now I regard that as a serious matter to this whole Western country. If there is to be a progressive increase in railroad rates, and no stability, then certainly we must find some basis upon which we can work the problem out upon another line.

Counsel—If the unit cost increases and the tonnage increases, it takes an additional investment of capital all the while to handle that increased tonnage, so that you have an increasing cost of the machine all the while, and if the tonnage is increasing and the cost of handling it is increasing, and the unit revenue is decreasing, why it seems to me, as the witness states, the two lines are bound to meet.

Witness—The return on capital is reduced, and as soon as that is lessened much more we can't get the capital to do the business.

Commissioner—And there is no time you can fix when we would get to the rate that would be regarded as the maximum?

Witness—Well, Mr. Commissioner, when the people who sell the necessaries of life to the people who work for us stop increasing the cost to them; when the farmer stops increasing the price of his products to everybody, and the manufacturer the price of his, and when the general cost of living stops going up, then the cost per unit will by the operation of natural laws come down to its proper relation to the unit of revenue. But you can't increase the one, as it has been increased out of all proportion to the other, in a short time, without increasing the other correspondingly.

The prognostications of this testimony of nine years ago have been uncomfortably fulfilled. That the troubles of the railways have been augmented and aggravated by Government control is obvious. But if the relief which it is now proposed to afford from the difficulties inherent in Federal control is advanced the conditions shown in 1910 will still remain.

Despite the complete relief from rate control, State or Federal, which the Railroad Administration has enjoyed, and notwithstanding its immunity from either local or national restrictive or regulative statutes, it has piled up in less than two years such an actual and inescapable deficit as would, under private management, have wiped out the entire transportation system of the country.

It is true that only under Federal control could the deficit have been sustained; it is not true that Federal control is wholly responsible for the deficit. Federal control has accelerated the mischief, but the causes go back into the past years of political regulation and rest on fundamental errors which must be corrected before any permanent relief is possible, Federal operation or private operation.

When the statement was made, accompanied by voluminous exhibits, nine years ago that the unit of cost was increasing while the unit of revenue was decreasing, and the meeting point of these two vital factors was being rapidly approached, it would seem that those charged with the responsibility of railway management and of railway control might have given it at least passing heed. That this condition, if true, spelled only hopeless disaster was as clear then as it is now when the disaster has been realized.

If American railways are to be rehabilitated, and put in working condition, either under Government operation or private management, it must be upon a basis on which the revenue unit exceeds the cost unit and can be so maintained, or continuous and adequate taxation must be provided to make up the deficit.

The railways, under Federal management, have passed the point at which the revenue will pay the bills; else, why the appropriation for operating deficit?

Railway labor votes, and railway shippers vote, and both are sufficiently organized to make their voices heard in legislative halls and executive chambers. With the most altruistic of legislative intent and administrative motive, the hard fact remains that politics is not atrophied, and that the political party or governmental agency which, in the present state of the public mind, performs either of the major operations which are necessary to put railway cost and revenue in their proper relation to each other would thereby commit political suicide.

After all, it is the great consuming and taxpaying public which is the shuttlecock between the political battledores of labor and shipper. It is these real parties in interest who must compel their legislative servants to restore the economic balance which has been destroyed by legislative activity, or the railway situation will grow steadily worse just at a time when it is an imperative need that it shall become immediately better.

OLD CITY HALL PARK.

How It Looked Before the Post Office Raised Its Ugly Head.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is an interesting account that THE SUN publishes of the City Hall Park before Uncle Sam built the unsightly pile known as the old Post Office at its southern extremity and the wagons of Dodd's Express began to rattle over the cobble stones at its rear to deliver the city's mail. As post offices in those days went it was an advance on the ramshackle building on Nassau street—the old pre-Revolutionary Dutch church that stood on the site of the present Mutual Life Insurance Company's building—used as a post office before its erection.

The contrast between the old Dutch church post office and the one that is now known as the old Post Office was as great as that between the one that it is hoped will be demolished and the modern one on Seventh avenue.

The personal impressions of a boy may add a mental picture that after all may have some holes punched in the accuracy of its minor details, but in its main features is a vivid and lasting one to the writer.

In some respects in certain stages of its evolution within the last half century—or possibly a little longer if one does not flinch at a public acknowledgment of years that have flown too fast—the old park was not actually a beauty spot. It was an area described by a triangle with the City Hall in an immense setting. Its northern background was the buildings that faced it on Chambers street—Stewart's wholesale dry goods store, the American News Company's building and the hardware establishment of the Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company. The old brown stone structure at the northeastern end of the park housed some of the city courts. On its eastern or Park Row side was an old brown stone structure—long since demolished—used as a Hall of Records, and in it the Department of Charities and Correction found a home.

The board fence is of course within the recollection of many living men. But whether it succeeded or preceded the iron fence—my recollection is that it succeeded it—on whose rails the merchandising agents of song writers strung their wares on cords is a matter of some doubt with the writer.

In some respects the abbreviated park of to-day is more pleasing to the eye than the old one at some stages of its history is to the memory of the writer. Aladdin has rubbed his lamp since those days and New York from a provincial town has become one of the chief cities of the world—splendid with "cloud capped towers, gorgeous palaces and solemn temples," and the park has not suffered in some respects by the change.

FINDLAY SACKETT.

NEW YORK, June 27.

City Hall Park in 1861.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The City Hall Park barracks covered the site now occupied by the Post Office in December, 1861, when my regiment, the Seventy-fifth New York Volunteers, a thousand strong, stayed there over night, fed in the dining room and slept in the two storied bunks.

While there I passed a small coin through the iron fence at the point opposite the Astor House to a small boy with the request that he purchase a postage stamp. Up to date he has never delivered the stamp. If this should meet his eye and he requests it you may give him my present address.

H. A. WILKINS.

NEW YORK, June 27.

MUTTON.

A Patriotic American Spurns an Offer From Secretary Houston.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Dr. Houston, the Secretary of Agriculture, urges Americans to eat mutton. Why should we punish ourselves this way now the war is over?

It was all very well when we were beating the Germans to endure the hardships of a great conflict uncomplainingly, but now the necessity is past what good can come from affronting our stomachs with mutton?

Britishers, I am told, like mutton, but British taste in foods is strange and peculiar. If they like it let them have it, but Dr. Houston cannot expect Americans to eat it. CAPERS AUCE.

MOTT HAVEN, June 27.

The Cost of Words.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The President's salary since he abandoned his duties in this country is over $40,000—unearned and untaxed. His royal progress and residence in Europe is costing enormous sums. His royal yacht lying at Brest costs thousands of dollars each day. His proposed swing around the circle to advocate his private League of Nations will cost thousands of dollars more. He was never prodigal of anything of his own except words.

Who pays the bill? Of course the disgusted people through taxes and loans. Who can tell the cost of empty words? S. B. H.

NEW YORK, June 27.

No Hitch.

From the Hot Springs Thomas Cat.

Bert Hall, who came in from Peavine Ridge Saturday, reports that the Andersen wedding went off without a hitch Thursday night. Groom didn't show up.

A new mineral has been discovered in Siberia. The discovery was made by a hunter on the shore of Lake Balkash, and the mineral has been named Balkashite. It has the appearance of dark brown hard rubber, and when ignited it burns with a strong flame, leaving about 2 per cent. ash. When placed in water it become a mass very much like paraffin.

SUNDRY CIVIL BILL FOUGHT IN SENATE

Elimination of Appropriation for Tariff Commission Provokes a Controversy.

TRADE BOARD ALSO CUTS

Addition of $300,921,727 Is Chiefly Due to Provision for Shipping Programme.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, June 27.—When the sundry civil appropriation bill was laid before the Senate to-day trouble started without delay. The Committee on Appropriations had cut out the appropriation of $300,000 for the tariff commission and had reduced the appropriation for the Federal Trade Commission from $1,000,000 to $900,000, besides requiring the latter commission to return to the Treasury $300,000 from its last appropriation.

It was charged these cuts were made with the purpose of "hamstringing" these commissions, neither of which has been popular with a considerable element in Congress. Their defenders at once rallied to their support and a good share of the legislative day was absorbed by the contest that ensued. In the test vote the committee won in committee of the whole its amendment for reduction of the trade commission appropriation without a roll call, but by a close showing. Senator Norris (Neb.), who has been one of the leaders of the fight against the committee, announced that he would demand a separate vote.

As the bill was reported to the Senate it calls for $784,516,740. It has been passed by the House with a total of only $483,595,013. Even with the great increase made by the Senate committee the bill was not much more than a third that of last year, when it amounted to $2,107,343,749.

Increase for Shipping Board.

Increase in the Shipping Board fund from $276,000,000 to $491,000,000 for completion of the Government's authorized shipbuilding programme was approved with but one dissenting vote at a late session to-night held in an effort to pass the bill.

Senator Cummins (Iowa) started the fight against the measure over the Federal Trade Commission item. He demanded to know why the reduction had been made, paid a tribute to the efficacy of the law, and said he was not ready to acquiesce in a serious restriction of its usefulness now.

Mr. Norris warned that the appropriation could not be cut without offending the country. As a member of the Committee on Agriculture he had come closely in touch with the commission's work investigating the meat packers and considered it of great value. The House committee heard the commission, knew why it wanted the money and granted it; he understood the Senate committee had not heard it at all as to the reduction.

Mr. Norris was especially indignant at the attitude of the Appropriation Committee in ordering that $300,000 of unused funds from last year be covered back to the Treasury. The fact was that the commission did not have a balance of $300,000 unexpended; it was only $207,000 and therefore it would be physically impossible to return $300,000.

Mr. Pomerene (Ohio) defended the commission and the law under which it works. "The public does not yet fully realize its usefulness," he said, "and when it does it will be found resorting more and more to the commission instead of to the courts for adjustment of business difficulties. Moreover, the last Congress authorized the formation of export associations to help promote foreign trade. These are under the supervision of the commission, whose administrative work in this connection will be highly important."

Sherman Raps Colver.

Mr. Sherman (Ill.) denounced the commission in vigorous terms. "The chairman of the commission, Mr. Colver," he said, "is even now in Europe destroying our export trade by making unfriendly statements regarding it to the Governments there."

Mr. Norris was surprised. "I saw Mr. Colver this morning," he said. Mr. Sherman admitted that the chairman might have returned.

For the Appropriation Committee Senator Smoot (Utah) insisted that the commission had received all the money it needed and that it was necessary to reduce Government expenses. Much of the Government work, he said, was being duplicated by departments. For example, he cited that the State Department, the Department of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission all have organizations for promoting foreign trade which substantially cover the same ground.

As to the Tariff Commission, Mr. Smoot said all through the war appropriations have been regularly made for it at about uniform figures despite that tariff investigations made during the war and under war conditions manifestly could be of no value whatever in adjusting customs rates in the new conditions of peace. The work might as well be suspended until conditions were settled and useful work could be accomplished.

Urges Hearing in Conference.

"Let the Senate cut out the amounts," said Mr. Smoot. "Then in conference it could be decided on what figure to fix after hearings."

"That is exactly what I object to," retorted Mr. Norris. "The conference committee is not the place for legislation. There is too much legislating there. It should be done here, where we are entitled to know what is done and why."

"So far as I am concerned," said Mr. Smoot, who obviously was getting hot in the cervical region, "you can give it all to them, and we will make the fight later when time can be had for it. It cannot be spared now with the necessity upon us to pass these supply bills before July 1."

"The virtue of economy is claimed for these reductions," said Mr. Cummins. "So I would like to know how it happens that this economical bill represents $300,000,000 more expenditure than it did when it passed the House?"

Mr. Smoot explained that provisions had to be made for caring for soldiers, increased appropriation for the ship programme and the like.

"Also there is an item of $10,000,000 inserted by the Senate committee to buy the Cape Cod Ship Canal. Some people will think that might reasonably wait," interjected Mr. Norris.

ALBERTA FIRES GRAVE.

Forest Situation Worst in Years—Banff Park Menaced.

CALGARY, Alb., June 27.—The forest fire situation in Alberta is the worst in years, according to E. H. Finlayson, Forestry Supervisor, who to-day said the flames were raging in many districts. Approximately 30,000,000 feet of valuable timber had already been destroyed, he announced.

The most serious conflagration, in the northwest corner of the Stoney Indian reserve, menaces the northern outskirts of Banff National Park.

The Sun Calendar

THE WEATHER.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.
Standard Time.
Sun rises......5:26 A M Sun sets...... [illegible] P M
Moon sets......9:08 P M

Eastern New York, fair to-day; to-morrow fair, slightly warmer in interior; moderate to fresh north and northeast winds, becoming southeast to-morrow.

New Jersey, cloudy to-day; to-morrow fair, slightly warmer in interior; moderate to fresh north and northeast winds becoming southeast to-morrow.

Northern New England, partly cloudy to-day; to-morrow fair; slightly warmer in interior; moderate north and northeast winds.

Southern New England, partly cloudy to-day, with moderate temperature; to-morrow fair, warmer in interior; moderate to fresh north and northeast winds.

Western New York, fair to-day; to-morrow fair, warmer.

WASHINGTON, June 27.—Pressure is low throughout the Atlantic States and general showers occurred over this area. There were also light local showers in the lower lake region, the Ohio Valley, the Gulf States and the southern Rocky Mountain region. Elsewhere the weather was fair but with general low pressure and high temperatures except in the lake region, which is covered by high pressure and considerably lower temperatures, the fall in temperature extending into the upper Mississippi and Ohio valleys. With the exception of showers Saturday in the south Atlantic and east Gulf States fair weather will prevail Saturday and Sunday east of the Mississippi River, although with considerable cloudiness Saturday in New England and the middle Atlantic States. It will be somewhat warmer Sunday from the Ohio Valley northward and eastward except along the Atlantic coast.

Observations at United States Weather Bureau stations taken at 8 P. M. yesterday, seventy-fifth meridian time:

Stations.	Temperature. High.	Low.	Barometer.	Rainfall last 24 hrs.	Weather.
Abilene	90	73	29.88	.12	Rain
Albany	74	66	29.88	.08	Cloudy
Atlantic City	72	68	29.78	.38	Rain
Baltimore	80	72	29.76	.51	Cloudy
Bismarck	88	68	29.80	..	Clear
Boston	70	66	29.76	.61	Cloudy
Buffalo	68	66	30.00	.02	Clear
Charleston	82	74	29.72	1.56	Pt. Cldy
Chicago	66	64	30.10	..	Cloudy
Cincinnati	80	72	29.90	..	Clear
Cleveland	68	62	30.02	..	Clear
Denver	92	60	29.22	..	Pt. Cldy
Detroit	66	60	30.00	..	Clear
Galveston	84	78	29.94	..	Pt. Cldy
Helena	88	64	29.64	..	Pt. Cldy
Jacksonville	82	76	29.80	.76	Cloudy
Kansas City	92	88	29.90	..	Pt. Cldy
Los Angeles	78	60	29.74	..	Clear
Milwaukee	62	58	30.11	..	Clear
New Orleans	88	78	29.90	..	Rain
Oklahoma City	92	70	29.66	..	Clear
Philadelphia	76	70	29.84	.22	Rain
Pittsburg	82	68	29.88	..	Cloudy
Portland, Me.	70	64	29.80	.28	Cloudy
Portland, Ore.	68	52	30.04	..	Clear
Salt Lake City	96	76	29.62	..	Clear
San Antonio	88	74	29.66	.12	Clear
San Francisco	62	52	29.86	..	Clear
San Diego	70	62	29.76	..	Clear
St. Louis	84	74	29.92	..	Pt. Cldy
Washington	82	72	29.78	1.16	Rain

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS.

	8 A. M.	8 P. M.
Barometer	29.86	[illegible]
Humidity	93	[illegible]
Wind—direction	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wind—velocity	14	[illegible]
Weather	Cloudy	Rain
Precipitation	None	[illegible]

The temperature in this city yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

8 A. M.	70	1 P. M.	72	6 P. M.	[illegible]
9 A. M.	70	2 P. M.	72	7 P. M.	[illegible]
10 A. M.	71	3 P. M.	71	8 P. M.	[illegible]
11 A. M.	73	4 P. M.	71	9 P. M.	[illegible]
12 M.	72	5 P. M.	72	10 P. M.	[illegible]

	1919.	1918.		1919.	1918.
9 A. M.	72	60	6 P. M.	72	[illegible]
12 M.	72	67	9 P. M.	68	[illegible]
3 P. M.	71	71	12 Mid.	67	[illegible]

Highest temperature, 74, at 11:20 A. M.
Lowest temperature, 66, at 10 P. M.
Average temperature, 70.

EVENTS TO-DAY.

Mass meeting to oppose ratification of the League of Nations, Carnegie Hall, 8 P. M.; Senators Johnson and Reed and George Wharton Pepper will speak.

Railway Signal Association, meeting, Hotel McAlpin, 9:30 A. M.

Welcome home party to men of the old Eighth Regiment, at the armory, 8 P. M.

Lawn party for Catholic Chapels on Blackwells Island, Fordham University, 2 P. M.

Single Tax party convention, 248 West Fourteenth street, all day.

PLANS MISSION TO POLAND.

Wilson Considers Inquiry Into Reported Jewish Massacres.

WASHINGTON, June 27.—President Wilson advised the Senate to-day through the State Department that he was considering sending another commission to Poland to investigate reports of Jewish massacres. He said a decision would be reached after he had conferred in Paris with Hugh Gibson, American Minister to Poland.

The President's plans were outlined in a letter from Acting Secretary Polk in response to a Senate resolution of May 26 requesting information regarding reports of pogroms. It was the first announcement here that Mr. Gibson had been summoned to Paris to discuss the matter with the President.

In recent reports to the Senate Department, which were transmitted to a House committee by Assistant Secretary Phillips of the State Department, Mr. Gibson said reports of mistreatment of Jews in Poland were grossly exaggerated.

Mr. Polk's letter disclosed that the President also had directed the American Minister to Rumania to investigate reports of atrocities in Rumania.

FIREMEN ELECT CHIEF KENLON

Association of Engineers Chooses Him for President.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

KANSAS CITY, June 27.—John Kenlon, chief of the New York City Fire Department, was elected to-day president of the International Association of Fire Engineers at its convention here.

Chief Kenlon in making his inaugural address announced a programme through which he hoped greater standardization and efficiency might be brought about among the thousands of paid, partly paid and volunteer fire fighting organizations in the country through standards and practices studied and adopted by the international association. He announced the appointment of committees to study a score or more of the phases of this work and urged a membership campaign to bring the association's rolls up to [illegible] members before the next convention.

ICEBERGS ON SHIP ROUTE

Danger Reported Near Scene of the Titanic Disaster.

SYDNEY, N. S., June 27.—A radio message received here to-day states that [illegible] large icebergs, believed to be [illegible] 200 feet tall, had been sighted in the vicinity of the spot where the [illegible] Titanic was sunk, and that [illegible] made transatlantic navigation dangerous in that region. They were [illegible] so close together that they are believed to be joined under the surface.

Dense fog banks enshroud the [illegible] from Cape Race, Newfoundland [illegible] point 100 miles south of the [illegible] iners having occasion to travel [illegible] northern steamship route [illegible] warned to keep a careful lookout. Several ships have been damaged [illegible] liding with bergs this season.

Delegates Halted by Canada.

MONTREAL, June 27.—Eight [illegible] from the United States [illegible] city to attend the convention [illegible] International Association [illegible] Designers were halted by [illegible] immigration officials at [illegible] to-day because they showed [illegible] papers. They are Joseph [illegible] delphia; George Eierman [illegible] and Maurice Krupp, [illegible] Francis Fiori, Jack Kahn [illegible] mann and David Charney [illegible] New York.