WILSON LENDS HOPE TO FRENCH WINE GROWERS

Assures Them He Is Prepared to Lift Dry Ban, Washington Reports.

ARMISTICE DAY TALKED

Superseding Indictment Returned Against Several Liquor Dealers.

Liquor dealers and other persons having no use for prohibition were made almost cheerful yesterday when a rumor winged over from Washington in effect that the President has assured the French Government that he "would do everything possible" to lift the wartime ban. According to this interesting and widely accepted story France asked the President what could be expected in connection with her champagne trade, remarking at the same time that vast stores of champagne have been piling up in the cellars of Epernay and Rheims awaiting shipment to America. It was in answer to this query, so the fresh rumor runs, that the President stated he would do what he could.

Apparently there is something doing, as they say in Boston. Not only liquor venders but many other persons in the most respectable professions and trades have gravevine information from the seat of government which points, all of it, to the probability that the ban will be raised and that for two months the U. S. A. will be distinctly wettish, as damp as in the old, carefree days before the war busted right in our face. Shrewd, longheaded persons not given to running astray on mere rumor, are conducting themselves in a way to indicate that they know something. One of the very best known Federal officials in the country, a man whose name is a sort of household word, gave an order last Saturday to a New York wine dealer for a dozen cases of the best American champagne, the delivery being contingent of course upon lifting of the ban and the resumption of the former legal selling of alcoholic beverages.

THE SUN's information that the banks heavily interested in whiskey certificates have received assurances that sufficient time will be given them and their debtors to realize on whiskey stocks created a stir down town yesterday. While several bankers were inclined to think that the sum of the liabilities mentioned, $150,000,000, was too big, their notion being that the banks haven't loaned out more than half that sum, they agreed nevertheless that assurance had been given by some one in large authority at Washington. Nobody could be found who would mention this person's name. It wasn't the President of course.

By Middle of Month.

Opinion leaned strongly yesterday to the belief that the liquor ban will be lifted by the middle of this month, and a good many persons have a hunch that November 11, Armistice Day, will be the date selected by the President in case he is disposed to permit a resumption of the traffic. On that, or whatever other day may be selected, the liquor business will get underway with a rush and a roar. Everything is in readiness. The minute Uncle Sam gives the word out of bond will come 60,000,000 gallons of whiskey. The big wine concerns have stored and waiting thousands of barrels of domestic wine, besides thousands of cases of wine in bottles. The breweries will rush vast quantities of the old and newer brews to the thirsty patrons of the corner saloon, and people so inclined will have a fine opportunity to stock their cellars, provided they have the price and the space.

Law enforcement continues to move so smoothly in New York that the revenue officers have not found it necessary to make an arrest in twenty-four hours. Chief Revenue Agent Harry W. Mager said last evening that it was the most remarkable showing that has been made anywhere in the country in the way of demonstrated respect for the law and law abiding tendencies. As a matter of fact there have been less than forty liquor men, proprietors or bartenders, arrested in the week the Volstead act has been in effect, and that small figure is regarded by the revenue officials with all the more surprise because it is based upon a trade containing for the whole city about 8,000 saloons alone.

The retiring Federal Grand Jury handed to Judge John C. Knox in the Criminal Branch of the Federal Court a superseding indictment charging several agents of the Department of Justice and a number of liquor dealers with conspiring to violate the war time prohibition law. The superseding indictment covers the cases of Agents Paquale Pignuolo, William J. Folling and Charles P. McCarver, former Agent Richard Yancey, Morton P. Allen, a friend of Yancey; E. McLean, proprietor of the Hunters Island Inn, and Timothy J. Shine, proprietor of a cafe in Seventh Avenue near the Pennsylvania Station. The indictment names four saloon men, but does not name them as defendants. These are Michael J. Brennan, Thomas J. Carew, H. J. Susskind and Alexander Goldman. The indictment mentions conversations alleged to have taken place between the persons named in the course of the conspiracy charged to defeat the law.

Sleuths' School Opens.

Down at the Custom House the Internal Revenue Department began its school for booze sleuths. The school is the idea of Chief Mager, who stopped the gun play and rough house methods started by the agents of the department before he got on the job. Mager's notion is that Wild West methods are absurd. He figures that revenue agents must first obtain precise evidence and then must behave in a perfectly orderly manner. The "classroom" established yesterday was a first rate imitation of a saloon, with plenty of wet goods to decorate sideboard and bar. Officers were instructed how to approach the bar, how to vault it, if that becomes necessary to get evidence that is being whisked out of sight; how to test the suspected liquors either by the new chillioscope device or by old fashioned methods, taste and smell. In the future Prexy Mager's pupils will be expected to walk into a bar and detect almost instantly and partly from the attitude and conduct of the patrons there whether the law is being violated. One of the courses teaches the men how to assemble liquid evidence and how it should be presented before Judge and jury.

Samuel Gompers said yesterday, in support of the report made by the Association Opposed to National Prohibition, that in his opinion prohibition will encourage Bolshevism.

"The present is a most unfortunate moment further to upset the country," said Mr. Gompers. "By adopting prohibition we have chanced the wrecking of the social and economic fabric of the nation. We have invaded the habits of the workingman. We have upset that man, unsettled him. The man who until now has been satisfied to labor and then enjoy his pitcher of beer in the evening in gossip with friends or family, now goes into the streets discontented and dissatisfied and meets other men as discontented and as disatisfied as himself. They rub together their mutual grievances and sparks, sometimes fire, is produced. I believe Bolshevism in Russia began in prohibition. The apostles of Bolshevism in America are using prohibition as their best weapon for stirring up discontent. It is a dangerous course the American people have chosen."

LA LORRAINE SAILS ONLY HALF COALED

Will Stop at Halifax With 900 Passengers for Fuel.

After being partly coaled by her crew, the French liner La Lorraine sailed yesterday for Havre, by way of Halifax, an unusual course for the line, where she will complete her coaling. She carries 900 passengers, including 170 in the saloon.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Kessler are returning to France to resume their work for blind soldiers. The Rev. Charles S. Macfarland of Montclair, N. J., general secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, will attend the meeting of the French Protestant Federation in Lyons. He takes with him $71,000 for the reconstruction of French Protestant churches destroyed in the war, contributed largely by the foreign mission boards of the Methodist and the Protestant Episcopal churches. After the Lyons conference Dr. Macfarland will resume his duties with the Y. M. C. A. in the territory occupied by the allied troops.

AMBASSADOR WILLARD HOME.

U. S. Envoy Will Remain a Month in This Country.

Joseph E. Willard, American Ambassador to Spain, who arrived yesterday by the transport Orizaba, from Brest, said he had nothing to talk about that would interest the public, that he would be here about a month, spending most of the period in his home town, Richmond, Va., after reporting to Washington. He left his wife and the rest of his family in Madrid.

The Orizaba brought 1,087 soldiers and civilians, including several Y. M. C. A. workers, twenty-two soldiers' wives and one soldier's mother-in-law. Mrs. Theodore M. Gleason, daughter of Cyrus Townsend Brady, also was a passenger.

$2,000,000 STRIKE FUND SOUGHT HERE

New York Unions to Raise It for Steel Workers at Big Meeting on Saturday.

FOSTER TO BE SPEAKER

Labor Men Stirred by Fight for Collective Bargaining by Outsiders.

A campaign for a two million dollar fund for the steel strikers will be inaugurated by organized labor in New York city on Saturday night at Madison Square Garden. The campaign necessarily will be brief as the money is needed at once. The mass meeting at the Garden will be one of the largest labor demonstrations of its sort that the city has ever seen. Every man in the city will be asked to pledge its quota toward the $2,000,000, and donations from individuals will be solicited.

E. I. Hanna, chairman of the Central Federated Union, will preside as chairman at the meeting, and the speakers, according to the tentative programme, will be William Z. Foster, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Dudley Field Malone and others not yet selected.

Ernest Bohm, secretary of the Central Labor Union, said yesterday it was not expected that there would be great difficulty in quickly raising the money. It is known that several wealthy New Yorkers, not actively identified with labor organizations, have signified their willingness to subscribe comfortable sums. It is believed, too, that the meeting and its object will have great influence in the direction of consolidating several warring labor factions that now begin to see that their hope for decisive victory in their fight for more money, decreased working hours and better working conditions depends upon harmony.

Foster, secretary of the steel and iron workers' organization committee, is expected to tell the story of the steel strike from the employees' standpoint. Resolutions indorsing the coal strike may be offered. If they are presented, one of the labor leaders said yesterday, they will be unanimously adopted.

The calling of this mass meeting means that organized labor in New York is not only morally but financially in sympathy with the steel strikers. Several prominent labor leaders were asked what their followers thought of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor's recommendation for a State wide general strike in sympathy with the coal and steel operatives. None would predict a duplication of such action by union labor in this State, but all declared that the vote of the Pennsylvania Federation clearly indicated the consensus of opinion among union men.

That union labor has only just begun its fight for the recognition by the employers of the righteousness of collective bargaining by representatives chosen by workers was the opinion of one of these leaders.

"The sooner the public knows the truth about the present economic struggle the better," he declared. "And the sooner all this talk about Bolshevism ceases the better. No one man nor group of men can swing the opinion of 500,000 men so far as to cause those 500,000 men to quit work on the edge of what promises to be a hard winter.

"The rank and file of union labor is doing its own thinking. Just as newspapers are no longer dictators, but followers of public opinion, so are the labor leaders the tools of their followers and not dictators. When Samuel Gompers told the defunct Capital and Labor conferees that the labor representatives at that meeting could no longer participate because capital refused to concede to labor the privilege of organization that capital has always taken advantage of, he voiced the sentiments of 90 per cent. of all working men in this country.

"The Government is making a vast mistake in seeking to prohibit men from striking. If the Government's injunction proceedings had sufficed to strangle the coal strike there would have been more rioting than will occur during the strike. Labor unrest is going to thrive on organized opposition.

Small Wage Earners Restless.

"The end is not in sight. Before this is over there will be an organization of clerks, writers and semi-professional men under way. And in the long run there will be a very definite alignment of all wage and small salary earners. Just as surely as you stand there this thing is coming to pass, and soon. If that is Bolshevism it is up to the capitalists and the employers generally to make the best of it. The workers themselves are demanding it.

"Here in New York we have had numerous examples of the absolute necessity for labor to select union representatives from outside of their own organizations. We have unions wherein there is not a man or woman educationally capable of driving a bargain with the employers of their particular branch of industry. These are small unions to be sure, but representative of the theory that underlies this whole situation.

"Naturally these workers had to rely for their bargaining with the smart lawyers employed by the bosses upon a smart man. Is it unfair, then that the employers, who have the funds to employ skilful counsel, should be faced by clever men selected by his employees? The employers at the labor conference declared that they could not bargain with any one who was not one of their employees. That would be quite all right if all employers were fair and square. But all the trickery and all the evil in the world is not to be found in the laboring classes."

The apparently overwhelming victory of the British Labor party was hailed with great delight by labor leaders here. It was predicted that a well organized national labor party would arise in America, and that the British elections would be duplicated in this country.

LEWIS NIXON SUED ON A NITRATE DEAL

Assignee of Claim Holder Asks Fee of $10,000.

Russell E. Watson of New Brunswick, N. J., began suit yesterday for $10,000 against Lewis Nixon, New York Public Service Commissioner, who is also head of the Nixon Nitrate Works at Millville, N. J. The action, which was entered before Judge Lloyd in the Circuit Court, is on an assignment of a claim by Rodney Miller, who alleges that he had options on property at Millville which was sold to Nixon for $285,000.

It is alleged that Nixon agreed that if the property were not sold to the United States Government within a year from February 16, 1918, he would pay Miller $10,000. The defence is that the property was requisitioned by the Government and that this is the same as a sale.

Liner Lapland In From Europe.

The White Star liner Lapland, from Southampton by the way of Halifax, docked last night and landed 100 cabin passengers, about a third of the total she carried from Southampton, the other two-thirds having come down from Halifax by rail on Saturday.

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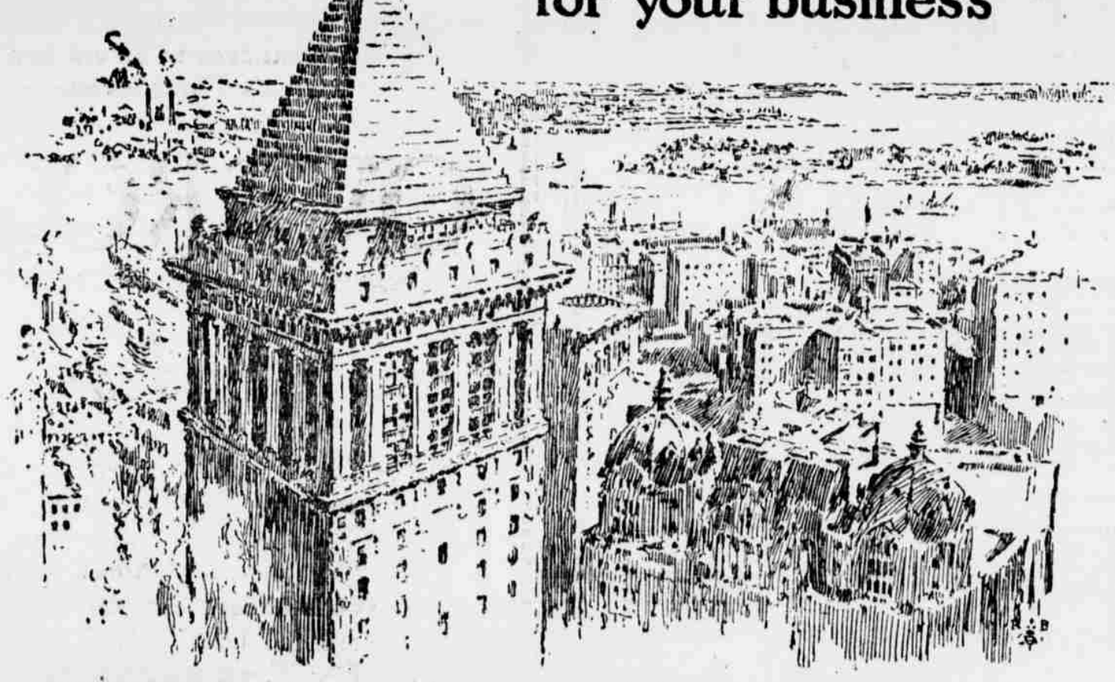

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