

"S'MATTER, POP?"

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Traffic Men Coming Here to Ask Uniform U. S. Bill of Lading

Several Hundred Members of League to Ask President to Help Secure Passage of Pomerene Bill. Measure Won in Senate, But Was Blocked in House Committee.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

Several hundred members of the National Industrial Traffic League are going to call on President Wilson next Wednesday by appointment, to ask him to help secure the passage of the legislation to establish a uniform bill of lading for the country.

This measure, known as the Pomerene bill, has passed the Senate in three successive sessions, and has always been stalled in the House Committee on Interstate Commerce.

The shipping interests allege that Chairman Adamson, of that committee is hostile to the measure and claim that a majority of the committee would be willing to report it, but for his attitude.

MUCH FEELING OVER SITUATION.

A good deal of feeling has developed recently regarding the situation. The shipping interests, headed by the National Industrial Traffic League insist that Mr. Adamson's attitude is the more difficult to understand because even the railroads are not actively opposing the legislation. Their attitude is described as passive; they are not enthusiastically in favor of the measure, but on the other hand are not particularly concerned to oppose it, at least openly.

The whole situation is the more exasperating to the shipping interests because the bill passed the Senate by a unanimous vote.

The appeal is being taken to President Wilson in the hope that he will recognize the pressing importance which the shippers believe attaches to the legislation.

The effort to secure national legislation on this subject has been in progress a good many years.

At present, for want of Federal legislation to standardize the bill of lading, different States have their own laws on the subject, among which there are many conflicts which become embarrassing as soon as Interstate Commerce is involved.

A long time ago the American Bar Association took up the subject, and a measure was prepared which seemed to meet all the requirements. Through the activities of the association's committee, this bill has passed, and is now law in fifteen States and one Territory.

Couldn't Solve Problem. But it is pointed out that even if every State would pass the same law, the greatest problem of all, that of interstate commerce, would still not be affected unless the railroads would voluntarily adopt this uniform State bill for their interstate business.

The Pomerene bill puts the bill of lading on the basis of a negotiable instrument, and makes it actually negotiable.

It increases somewhat the liability of the railroads, but, on the other hand, it is claimed that many, even of the railroad men, consider that the advantages of uniformity would fully compensate for this.

Another reason for wanting the Federal law is that if the standard bill were imposed on interstate commerce, there would be practically no difficulty in getting all the State legislatures to adopt it within a year or two in application to interstate business.

Bankers Favor Bill. The importance of the measure to the commercial world is suggested by the fact that the American Bankers' Association has long been in favor of such legislation, and has specifically endorsed the Pomerene bill.

The National Industrial Traffic League represents 300,000 to 300,000 shippers scattered all over the country, and is leading the effort to get the legislation passed at this session. Among the more important organizations affiliated with this effort are:

The National Council of Grain Exchanges, The National Grain Dealers' Association, The National Cotton Exchange, The New York Produce Exchange, It is declared by the advocates of the measure that there is substantial unanimity of opinion among shippers in favor of the measure, and that only a few active opposition by the railroads.

Nevertheless, Chairman Adamson has been unwilling to report the measure, and the shippers understand he wants to postpone all action until the subject shall have been considered by a Congressional commission of inquiry.

Commission Urged. It will be recalled that President Wilson, in his address at the opening of Congress, recommended the creation of a commission to make a general survey of the whole transportation problem, and report on the accomplishments of regulation to date and the need of legislation for the future. In accordance with this proposal Senator Newlands introduced a joint resolution, which enumerates various subjects to be investigated, and a special commission was adopted during the present session.

The shippers say Chairman Adamson wants to include the question of a uni-

SUFFRAGE LEADERS PREPARE FOR TRIP

With the time set for the departure of the delegation of envoys to organize the Women Voters Party in the West only twenty-four hours off, scores of suffrage leaders, members of the advisory council and State officers of the Congressional Union are in convention this afternoon at the Cameron House discussing organization plans and giving final instructions to the women who are to do the organization work.

The conference was called to order at 2 o'clock this afternoon by Mrs. John Rogers, of New York. There was a session tonight, and a farewell luncheon to the delegates tomorrow at the Cameron House at which all the women attending the conference will be present.

Many of the delegates arrived in Washington last night, others came this morning, and all others are expected to arrive late this afternoon and tonight.

Will Leave Tomorrow. The envoys are to leave Washington tomorrow afternoon in a special car which has been equipped with typewriters, tables, and other articles for their use in the big swing through the equal suffrage States. The car is also well stocked with books and magazines, and an abundance of suffrage literature.

A number of the envoys, who have not yet overcome the conservative side of their natures, are carrying with them embroidery kits, knitting needles, and bins of yarn, and other articles of domestic nature.

The semi-annual meeting of this league is now in session at Baltimore, and its representatives are coming to Washington Monday and Tuesday next for a conference of railroad representatives.

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LOCAL AND N. Y. FINANCIAL NEWS

New York Stocks.

All transactions in stocks are on the basis of dollars and fractions thereof. Quotations furnished by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of New York Stock Exchange, Hibbs Building.

Table of New York Stock market data including various stock prices and market indicators.

ORDERS SCARCE ON CAPITAL EXCHANGE

Prices, However, Remain Firm Despite Small Attendance. Power Bonds Are Strong.

Attendance was small and orders scarce at today's session of the Washington Stock Exchange. Quotation figures, however, remained firm.

Potomac Electric Power consolidated 5 per cent bonds manifested a strong tone, \$4,000 worth selling at 100 1/2, and a \$1,200 Washington Railway and Electric 4 1/2 per cent bonds.

On sales of 15 shares Mergenthaler Linotype stock advanced 1/4 point over the previous price to 163. After 20 shares of Union Trust Company stock had changed hands at 122, the bid was raised 1 point to 122.

Though no sales of Washington Gas stock were recorded, that issue was in better demand. The bid was raised fractionally to 7 1/2, and there were orders on the floor for odd lots at 7 1/2.

The only other sale of the day was \$100 first of the cent American Graphophone Company bond at 99.

John Poole, president of the Federal National Bank, will lecture to the post-graduate class of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Banking April 17.

His subject will be "Banking From An Executive's Viewpoint."

Nolan Will Address Postal Clerks' Union

Congressman John I. Nolan, of California, patron of the minimum wage bill, will be the principal speaker at tomorrow's open meeting of the Post-office Clerks' Union.

The meeting, which will be called to order at 2 o'clock, also will be addressed by Congressman Carl Van Dyke, a member of the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks.

Among the other speakers will be Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the National Federation, and Arthur E. Holden, and Grant Hamilton, legislative representatives of the American Federation of Labor.

Glass Boom in Japan.

Paralysis of the Belgian and German glass industries has resulted in greatly increasing business done by the glass factories in Japan.

Wholesale Produce Market.

EGGS—New York, fresh, 20c per doz. Southern, 18c per doz. CHEESE—New York, new, 10c per lb. St. Louis, 12c per lb. BUTTER—Eatin print, 40c per lb. tub, 30c per lb. process, 20c per lb. LIVE POULTRY—Hens, 12c per lb. live turkeys, 25c per lb. chickens, 25c per lb. LIVE STOCK—Veal calves, fat, 10c per lb. heavy, 10c per lb. fat sheep, 50c per lb. spring lambs, 15c per lb. VEGETABLES—Quotations furnished by Taylor Wade—Potatoes, 25c per sack; onions, 25c per sack; cabbage, 12c per crate; cukes, 15c per bushel.

Arcade Auditorium

14th and Park Road. THE EVENT OF THE SEASON. Mask and Fancy Dress Carnival. Thursday Evening, April 6, Dancing and Stating. Admission, 10c. J. A. WILARD, Gen. Mgr.

Automobiles

Motorcycles and Accessories. GASOLINE CARS. National Automobile Studebaker Commercial Auto & Supply Co., 619 14th St.

Loans

HORNING. Rates, Va. (south end of Highway Bridge). Free automobile from 9th and D sts. SW.

AMUSEMENTS

NATIONAL TONIGHT, 8:15 Last Time. Greatest Musical Show Ever Produced.

ZIEGFELD FOLLIES

Tonight, good seats, 75c, 50c, 25c, 10c, 5c. No Telephone Orders.

Next Week—SEATS ON SALE

HENRY MILLER and RUTH CHATTERTON in "DADDY LONG LEGS"

BELASCO—TONIGHT 8:20

MATINEE TODAY, 2:30 to 5:30. THE LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME. A Play by EUGENE WALTER. Founded on the novel by JOHN GALT, Jr.

Next Week—Seats Now

Season's Smartest Musical Comedy, "NOBODY HOME" FULL OF ZIP, MELODY AND FUN WITH LAWRENCE GIOSSMITH, and the Original Cast. Hear the New Song Hit "Wedding Bells"

B. F. KEITH'S TWICE

EVERY DAY. Mat., 2c. Ev., 5c to 11c. "UPROARIOUS SATISFACTION."—Star.

ADELE ROWLAND

Frank McIntyre & Company. Amalia Stone & Armand Kalisz. Next Week—Eva Tanguay. April 17—Houdini. April 24—McIntire & Heath. May 1—Adele & Hughes.

LOEW'S COLUMBIA

CONTINUOUS, 10:30 A. M. TO 11 P. M. NOW PLAYING. VICTOR MOORE & ANITA KING in "THE RACE" Morning, Afternoon, 10, 10c, 15, 25c.

POLI'S

Tonight 8:15. Mat., Daily Except Monday, 25c. A Play of Fashion and Society. With A. H. VAN BUREN. Next Week—"A FULL HOUSE."

"SALOONS OR NO SALOONS"

For Washington POLI'S THEATRE Sunday, April 9th, 3:00 P. M. SPEAKERS: HARTLEY'S, Prof. and Mrs., 1226 19th St. N.W. all dancing. Thursday, private and class 7:00 hour; 10 lessons, 5c. Ph. N. 2184. Est. 1898. Ironing, Cleaning, Etc.

DANCING

SUMMER BATES, Main 5678. PRIVATE LESSONS, 75c. PROF. WYNDHAM, 612 12th St. N.W. MISS CHAPPELEAR, 1212 QUINE ST. N.W. PHONE NORTH 6844.

NATIONAL RIFLES ARMY.

Every Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat. even., Dancing, 8:30 to 12, with band and orchestra. MILLER'S BELASCO THEATRE; Phone 4000. Up-to-the-Minute Dances. (Glover's, 613 22nd—Priv. lessons, any hr. 50c. Classes) Thurs., Sat., all dances. (Classes) Tues., Thurs., Sat., all dances. (Classes) half-hour for rent 15c. Ph. W. 1128.

The House Electric

Chatham Courts, 1734 Columbia Road. Exhibit of Electrical Appliances and practical demonstrations of the use of Electricity in Cooking, Ironing, Cleaning, Etc. 1 to 10 P. M. Daily and Sunday Until April 25. Music Every Evening. Admission Free.

EXCURSIONS

CLDPOINT COMFORT NORFOLK, VA. SOUTHERN WINTER RESORTS Special Tours To Famous Hotels Chamberlain Daily Service—Modern Steel Steamers City Ticket Office, 731 15th St. N.W. (Woodward Building) NORFOLK & WASHINGTON STEAMBOAT CO.