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COMMUTATION FOR MOONEY

Death Sentence Changed to Life Imprisonment

GOV. STEPHENS MAKES STATEMENT

Celebrated Case Which Has Figured In National as Well as International Affairs—Labor Had Threatened to Strike—President Was Much Concerned.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 28.—The sentence of Thomas J. Mooney, sentenced to be hanged on December 13, for the deaths of ten persons killed by a bomb explosion in San Francisco during a preparedness parade in July 1916, was commuted by Gov. Stephens to-night to imprisonment for life.

Court action to save Mooney from the gallows was exhausted by the prisoner, the supreme court of the United States having recently decided it could not review the case.

Threats of a national strike in case the governor did not interfere had been made in various parts of the country and some time ago it was reported that President Wilson had written the governor to see that Mooney suffered no injustice. The trial judge had also requested a new trial for Mooney.

Governor Stephens' statement announcing the commutation said that in considering the case he had had before him "the urgent appeal of the president of the United States that I grant commutation."

"Originally, in January of this year, I received a letter from the president asking me if it would not be possible to postpone the execution of Mooney until he could be tried upon one of the other indictments against him.

"Inasmuch as an appeal already had been taken to the supreme court of California, which appeal itself acted as a stay of execution, there was at that time no occasion for action on my part. I take it that the president was not correctly informed as to the status of the case."

Statement of the Governor.

In explaining why he had not felt called on to act previously, the governor said:

"The case as presented to the California courts was that murder, without further evidence of motive than the impossible tenets of anarchists, whose sympathies for the German cause in the war are well known. Their wild pacifist theories fitted into the widespread activities of the kaiser's agents in this country.

"A number of persons of pronounced anarchistic tendencies were arrested shortly after the explosion and of these Warren K. Billings was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment and Thomas J. Mooney found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

"So long as avenues of appeal to the courts remained open to Mooney, and he was availing himself thereof, I deemed it improper for executive authority to interfere."

The statement reviews the case fully and quotes the two messages from President Wilson in which the action now taken by the governor was suggested. The commutation says the governor reduces the case to the status of that of Warren K. Billings.

"I refuse to recognize this case as in any fashion representing a clash between capital and labor," the governor said, and he characterized as absurd the propaganda that would make Mooney appear as a martyr to the cause of labor. In support of this statement, he quotes a letter from Alexander Berkman outlining the plan afterwards adopted for the Mooney campaign.

He denies that Mooney was a true friend of labor and characterized his previous record as such that it did not enlist faith in him among law abiding citizens, but said in conclusion that this particular case had been decided on its merits.

President's Message.

The two messages sent by President Wilson follow:

"The White House,
"Washington, March 27, 1918.

"Gov. William D. Stephens,
"Sacramento, Cal.

"With very great respect I take the liberty to say to you that if you could see your way to commute the sentence of Mooney it would have a most heartfelt effect upon certain international affairs which his execution would greatly complicate.

"Woodrow Wilson."

"The White House,
"Washington, June 4, 1918.

"Hon. William D. Stephens,
"Sacramento, Cal.

"I beg that you will believe that I am moved only by a sense of public duty and of consciousness of the many and complicated interests involved when I again most respectfully suggest a commutation of the death sentence imposed upon Mooney. I would not venture again to call your attention to this case did I not know the international significance which attaches to it.

"Woodrow Wilson."

The governor said that there were certain features connected with the case which convinced him that the sentence of death should not be executed. For this reason and because of the "earnest request" of President Wilson for commutation he did not believe that the extreme penalty should be paid.

Governor Stephens said he accepted "full responsibility for the wisdom and justification of the action."

In reviewing the case the governor said his action was taken after a pains-taking survey of the evidence produced at Mooney's trial, not because of "certain new developments following the conviction," which could not be considered by the state supreme court, to which the case has been appealed he found justification for setting aside the death sentence.

"In arriving at this conclusion," the governor continued, "I have exercised that caution which must be observed in weighing evidence presented outside of established legal procedure. By commutation to life imprisonment Mooney's case will be in the same status as that of Warren K. Billings, who was convicted of the same crime and received sentence of life imprisonment."

Mooney's Alleged Crime.

Refusal of the United States supreme court, November 18, to review the sentence of hanging imposed upon Thomas J. Mooney, ended court action in a case that excited international interest. The death sentence passed upon him was for the murder of Mrs. Myrtle Irene Van Loo of Merced, Cal., one of the ten persons killed by a clockwork bomb which exploded on Market Street in San Francisco during a "Preparedness Day" parade there July 22, 1916. Four others were indicted with him on ten counts of murder but his case was singled out as an issue by labor organizations of several countries. Strikes were urged in various parts of the country, and others were urged in other countries as labor's protests. Mooney's appeal to wartime workers not to strike stopped agitation for a general strike May 1, 1918.

President Wilson intervened by asking Governor Stephens to obtain a new trial for Mooney. He ordered an investigation by a commission which recommended a rehearing.

Four of the five persons indicted were tried for murder. Mooney was sentenced to be hanged May 17, 1917. Warren K. Billings, a shoe clerk, now is serving his sentence of life imprisonment, Mrs. Rena Herman Mooney, Mooney's wife, and Israel Weinberg, an automobile bus driver, were acquitted on one charge and now are at liberty on bail on other charges of murder, while Edward D. Nolan a machinist still is waiting trial.

Arrest Follows Explosion.

Mooney's alleged activity in a San Francisco street car strike, characterized by violence, and his alleged Industrial Workers of the World affiliations drew suspicion toward him and his wife. They were arrested five days after the explosion, at Guerneville, Cal. They said they had read in newspapers that they were wanted and they had telegraphed the police they would surrender themselves. Four of the ten counts of murder against Mrs. Mooney, Billings, Weinberg and Nolan were dismissed the state admitted inability to proceed on them.

Mooney's trial opened January 3, 1917, and ended with his conviction February 10.

Frank C. Oxman, a cattleman of Durkee, Ore., the state's chief witness, testified in the Mooney trial that he saw the Mooney's, Billings and Weinberg drove to the spot where the explosion occurred and saw Billings deposit a suitcase supposed to contain the bomb. Subsequently Mooney's attorneys charged that Oxman testified falsely against Mooney and that he sought to induce F. E. Rigall of Grayville, Ill., to do likewise. The Illinois State Federation of Labor announced it had similar information. Rigall came to San Francisco and testified at Oxman's trial for attempted subornation of perjury that Oxman induced him to come here and offered to divide with him a portion of a large reward offered for Mooney's conviction. Oxman was acquitted.

It also was charged that three others, two of them women had perjured themselves to "railroad" Mooney to the gallows but the charges were not pressed.

State Court Denies Appeal.

Mooney appealed to the California supreme court for a new trial and he was supported by a "consent" filed by the state attorney general, U. S. Webb, Charles M. Fickert, district attorney of San Francisco, who prosecuted the bomb murder case, opposed the "consent" as "irregular and vicious" and it was dismissed. Mooney's appeal was denied, March 1, 1918, the supreme court stipulating it could not consider evidence outside the record.

Mooney appealed to Governor Stephens for a pardon and meantime Mooney's attorneys applied to the trial court for a writ of "coram nobis" (before us, the king), an action seldom resorted to whereby suiters under the common law could seek reversal of judgment obtained by fraud. Attorneys said all other legal means were exhausted except this appeal to the basic law. The application was denied and the hanging reset for August 23, 1918. Mooney had been in "death row" at San Quentin prison since July 17. The California supreme court affirmed this denial July 22, 1918, just two years after the explosion. Five years later, exactly two years after his arrest, Mooney was reprieved to December 18 by Governor Stephens to allow time for him to review the record.

Action of the United States supreme court, November 18, closing the long court fight, was in the form of a memorandum by Chief Justice White refusing a writ of certiorari.

During the two years worldwide appeals were made to labor bodies to act in support of new trial. Russian radicals paraded in Petrograd and made a demonstration before the American embassy. The American Federation of Labor, the London Trade Council and other organizations made public demands for a new trial for Mooney.

Why McAdoo Retired.—"I feel that I owe it to my old friends here to speak frankly and to say to them something I have never said before," said William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury and director general of the railroads, who has been on a tour of inspection in the south, at an informal dinner tendered to him at a Chattanooga club last Thursday night.

"It was not pleasant for me to speak frankly to the American people as I did in my letter to President Wilson and to talk of my personal affairs, but I want to say to you that those reasons are the exact reasons why I am retiring from public life. There are no other reasons. I have been amused by the theories of politicians and some newspapers. In all the six years I have been in office I can say truthfully that I have yet to lie to the American people. I have never misrepresented anything and would not for all the fortunes of the ages lie to them. If any man owes anything to the nation it is to be square and truthful. When politicians learn that it pays to be on the level then they will elevate America and politics.

Paris has information to the effect that the city of Cologne is placarded with notices signed by the executive committee of the soldiers' association, offering a reward equivalent to $20,000 to whoever will kill the kaiser and the crown prince in the Netherlands, or bring them back to Germany for sentence by their own people as the "arch criminals."

PROFITEERS IN REVIEW

Commercial Sharks Indulged In General Piracy

PUBLIC ROBBED RIGHT AND LEFT

Along With the Soaring Prices of All Kinds of Commodities, the Price of Labor Was Raised to Keep the Wage Earner Satisfied, and the Burden Fell Hardest On People Who Worked for Salaries and Had Nothing to Sell.

Louis Seibold in New York World.

Almost from the very start of the European war in August, 1914, the prices of every commodity began to soar throughout the world.

Great Britain, France, Russia, Belgium, caught unprepared, were compelled to reach out into every quarter of the globe for materials with which to oppose the progress of the German armies.

The neutral countries immediately contiguous to France and Great Britain first felt the tremendous pressure upon their economic industrial resources. When these countries—Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland and Italy—had been drained, the enemies of Germany reached out over the seas into the prosperous and resourceful United States. The effect was that the industrial institutions of the country, particularly those equipped to make war materials, were expanded several times their normal capacity and entered upon an era of prosperity never before enjoyed by them.

It is still a matter of controversy as to just how much British, French and Russian money found its way into the coffers of American concerns of this character, as well as those engaged in the production of food and other essential supplies. One authority places the amount received by the producing element in the United States during the thirty-three months before the United States entered the war at $4,600,000,000.

Another estimate is that the gross amount would more nearly approximate $7,000,000,000. In any event the war demands of the countries opposing Germany brought to the United States from foreign sources a greater volume of business than they had ever before known.

Wages mounted apace with the "unusual prices" demanded and received by American concerns for their productions. As wages mounted the cost of living began to soar, and profiteering set into full swing. After the United States became a belligerent and found it necessary to subordinate the demands of the civil population to her own and the military necessities of her Allies, the living wage became the most important problem confronting the American people. Business concerns engaged in the production of commodities and supplies of every character seized upon the opportunity afforded to embark upon a profiteering course with unbridled license.

Classes Which Suffer.

The principal victims of these practices were not the wage earners whose incomes were directly affected by war conditions, but those employed at fixed and arbitrary wages which did not command the premiums paid to those employed in the production of munitions and other war supplies—bookkeepers, shop clerks, inspectors, collectors and of the greater number of professional pursuits.

The stipend of four or five million men and women coming within this classification has not appreciably increased during the progress of the war. Certainly the increases, if any, have not been commensurate with those paid to war workers. But they have, nevertheless, felt the pinch more acutely than toilers whose services have been at a premium.

As foreign pressure began to close in on the production resources of the United States the prices for living necessities became much more pronounced. The neutrals nearest the belligerent countries were squeezed dry of their last ton of coal and pound of meat. These began to add their clamor for the products of the United States. During the period that the United States persisted in maintaining its neutrality between the belligerent nations, coal, for instance, sold at $100 a ton in Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland. In this country prices began to follow the trench of import quotations and coal that had been marketed at $5 a ton commanded $10 even before the United States entered the conflict.

That which was true of coal was also true of shoes, clothing, metals, and, in fact, provisions of all sorts. Prices charged for these products in the belligerent and neutral countries caught between the punches of war were almost prohibitive. A pound of beefstake in Sweden cost as high as $12. It has sold for 30 cents in this country during pre-war periods, but it practically doubled in value as the insatiate demands of war became more imperative. Shoes cost three times as much in the belligerent and neutral countries as they cost during peace times, and twice as much in the United States. The same was true of almost every other commodity.

Confronted with its humanitarian obligations, the United States contributed largely to alleviating the wofully tragic condition of the inhabitants of devastated northern France, Belgium, Poland, Serbia, Armenia and other countries upon which the German armies had seized. Every dollar of food and materials employed to relieve the constantly widespreading distress naturally affected and restricted the production of the supplies bought with it in this country.

Up to the time when the United States entered the war no attempt was made to regulate the prices charged to foreign buyers; only moral pressure was brought to curb the rapacity of domestic dealers intent upon preying on the civil population.

One of the first ventures that the United States, after its declaration of war upon Germany, attempted was to stabilize prices of all products charged not only to its Allies but to domestic consumers. The enormous task imposed upon the authoritative government agencies has operated successfully in the case of producers dealing with the government of the United States and those associated with it in the war against Germany. Arbitrary prices were fixed for materials bought for military purposes, but the efforts to curb profiteering at the expense of the civil population of the United States have mainly been of a moral rather than a legal character, with a few exceptions. These exceptions have included coal and foodstuffs, for which fixed prices were established, and to a limited extent the efforts to curb profiteering in those products have been fairly successful.

The fuel and food administrations have had their hands full providing for the demands of war. Their rules for the regulation of prices to domestic consumers, while generally followed, have not been rigidly adhered to. The result has been that the practice of extortion in even those materials which had no war value has been universal.

The licenses of many dealers in coal and food have been taken from them. Others have been fined nominal sums, a few have been compelled to refund their ill-gotten gains, and here and there a profiteer more merciless than the average of his fellows, has been sent to jail. But on the whole the profiteer in an almost endless variety of materials has escaped unscathed.

Several hundred persons caught hoarding foodstuffs have been fined. The government's regulations, while reasonable and comprehensive, have left many loopholes for the avaricious, who, conspiring with the more fortunate of his customers, has profited to an unholy extent through expensively bought favoritism.

Clothing Men Unchecked.

The shoe and clothing dealer escaped unscathed until a few weeks ago, when the war industries board fixed prices to apply to shoes. There is absolutely no supervision of clothing. The manufacturer of clothing fabrics, the wholesale dealer and jobber in men's, women's and children's clothes, and, finally, the retailer, have charged "what the market would stand."

Aside from the general laws applying to extortion, obtaining money under false pretenses, swindling and grand and petty larceny, provided by the Federal statutes and penal laws of the various states, there is no government agency authorized to deal directly with the clothing problem, nor has any attempt been made by the department of justice, the war industries board, the Federal trade commission, nor any other government agency empowered to investigate and fix the prices.

Congress has passed but one bill relating to profiteering, though there are now pending two or three measures relating to this problem. The only law actually written into the statutes of the United States applied to profiteering in rents in Washington, D. C. The war demands of the government attracted to the national capital probably 100,000 persons. To house and care for these was a problem that the government is just beginning to solve.

Until it embarked upon the business of constructing living quarters for its tremendously swollen population, persons who either volunteered or were drafted into the public service there were the victims of most outrageous extortion practiced by house owners and lessees of apartments.

The one law directed against profiteering, therefore, sought in a measure to protect people of this sort.

President Wilson sounded the first note of warning to profiteers in a personal appeal to the citizens of the country on April 15, 1917, nine days after the United States entered the war against Germany. Appealing to the producing element to observe extraordinary efforts to increase the output of all commodities to meet the demands of war, he said:

The course of trade shall be as unhampered as it is possible to make it, and there shall be no unwarranted manipulation of the nation's food supply by those who handle it on its way to the consumer. Let me say to the middlemen of every sort, whether they are handling our foodstuffs or our war materials of manufacture or the products of our mills and factories: The eyes of the country will be especially upon you. This is your opportunity for signal service, efficient and disinterested. The country expects you, as it expects all others, to forego unusual profits, to organize and expedite shipments of supplies of every kind, but especially food, with an eye to the service you are rendering and in the spirit of those who enlist in the ranks, for their people, not themselves. I shall confidently expect you to deserve and win the confidence of the people of every sort and station."

Following the president's declaration the functions of various government agencies were employed to prevent profiteering of any kind. The National Council of Defense, the Federal Trade commission, the Food and Fuel administrations, and finally the War Industries board began the work of standardizing the government prices for all materials and supplies covering every variety of product bought for war purposes. Less attention was necessarily paid for the time being to problems of the same character affecting the civil population.

After the gigantic task of systematizing the supply and price of all products needed for war purposes, the Food and Fuel administrations and the Federal Trade commission set about establishing fixed prices for domestic products distributed through the retail agencies to the civil population of the country. These agencies are still engaged in attempting to regulate the same and reduce to a systematic and scientific basis the production and allocation of the necessaries of life upon which the civil population must exist.

All German soldiers with the exception of the classes of 1898 and 1899, are being discharged as rapidly as possible, according to reports reaching the American Third army. These two classes will be held in service until Field Marshal von Hindenburg sees fit to discharge them. Demobilization in Germany is being carried out as rapidly as the troops reach their headquarters. Demobilization of the German army is not specifically required by the terms of the armistice.

THE TERRIBLE THIRTIETH

Onslaughts Against German Lines Irresistible

HOW AMERICANS ENDED THE WAR

Stars and Stripes, Official Organ of the American Expeditionary Forces, Tells of Wild Mix Up In the Fog, Where Boys From South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee Won Imperishable Glory.

Walter L. Burns of Company D, One Hundred and Fifth Engineers, sends the article below which he clipped from the Stars and Stripes of October 10, 1918. The Stars and Stripes is published in France as the official organ of the American Expeditionary Forces. Mr. Burns thinks the article should be republished for the benefit of the readers of The Enquirer and we think so too:

A week ago yesterday morning, when the darkness melted away into a heavy fog that hid even the opposite bank of the narrow, breast-deep river Selle, hid even the railroad bank paralleling the stream behind which German machine gunners waited, and hid the bluff a kilometer away where the Germans for two days had been digging in, two American divisions that in nine days had fought their way 32 kilometers past the Hindenburg line found themselves at the zero hour of a new attack.

These divisions fighting with the Fourth British Army, had come to an eager hault on the west bank of the Selle, south of Le Cateau, in front of the newly blasted walls of St. Martin Riviere and Molain.

Now artillery was massed in the hills behind them. There was a gun for every 25 yards. They poured down on the opposite valley a tremendous load of shrapnel and high explosive shells, and all night before the going over time the machine guns played on the misty slopes where the enemy lay.

When the zero hour came the doughboys took the riverside towns of St. Martin and Molain in their first rush, and for five kilometers along the Selle marched into fog—waded the river or crossed on the bridges which the Engineers threw down.

For four hours there was fought in that blinding fog on the east slope of the valley of the Selle one of the strangest battles in which American soldiers in France have yet engaged.

In front of the doughboys a battalion of tanks—Americans at the steering wheels and Americans at the guns—nosed into the drizzling cloud and lumbered on toward the enemy. In the fog they loomed large as locomotives, and their motors roared and chugged with a sound, intensified by the fog terrifying above all other battle noises. Guided by compass and instinct, they lumbered on and on over the rough slopes, while the artillery barrage, lifting and rolling ahead on the time table, searched out the German lines and contributed terror of its own.

Then the inevitable happened. In the fog the tanks, the attacking doughboys and the Germans became mixed in one confused mass rushing back and fourth on the lower slopes. All sense of direction was lost. The flare of guns lit the dense mist until the whole slope seemed aflame. Almost by the law of gravity prisoners began to filter to the edge of the river, to be gathered in by the fresh oncoming waves of attackers. The prisoners began to come even before the main infantry attack was launched.

One tank, scorning to use a bridge for such a stream, plunged into the Selle at a ford near St. Martin Riviere, wallowed across and started ahead. It could be heard thundering on, its guns rattling ceaselessly. Engineers laying down a bridge where the tank crossed had just started their work when they were astonished by a dozen Germans appearing specter-like with their hands held up. They shouted their surrender when the engineers dropped their planks and grabbed for their rifles.

On Toward the Slope.

The confusion of the blind battle ended with the clearing of the fog, and the Americans pressed on toward the slope. They kept on in spite of machine gun fire which met them from such strongholds at l'Arbe de Guise, a knoll wooded and banked with redoubts. The advance was steady on the whole front. At night the whole ridge was in American hands, and in Arbe Guernon, a crossroads village at the center of the American front, a tank was being used as an outpost.

Another instance of the speed of the tank advance was furnished by a captured German marine officer. He had left his machine gun command behind the ridge to go to a telephone post. Returning half an hour later, he was amazed to find his command prisoners and himself squarely in front of the guns of an American tank which had settled down for a rest after cleaning a machine gun nest.

During the afternoon American planes bombed and raked with machine gun fire the advancing lines of a German counter attack, launched to recapture the northern part of the ridge.

In this one day's work the Americans gathered in 1,000 prisoners. Among them were many from a German naval division, which had been thrown into the front opposite the Americans in the hope of checking the steady advance.

The impetus of this battle of October 17 was held for two more days, and nightfall of last Saturday found the Americans in front of Catillon, five kilometers ahead of their starting place on the Selle—37 kilometers from the place where they had broken the Hindenburg line two weeks before. The prisoners taken in those two weeks total more than 4,500 including almost 100 officers.

In recognition of the work of the Americans, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British Armies, has sent to the commander of the Second American Army corps with the Fourth British Army the following message:

I wish to express to you personally and to all the officers and men serving under you my warm appreciation of the very valuable and gallant service rendered by you throughout the Fourth British Army.

Called upon to attack positions of great strength and held by a determined enemy, all ranks of the 27th and 30th American Divisions under your command displayed an energy, courage and determination in attack which proved irresistable.

It does not need me to tell you that in the heavy fighting of the past three weeks you have earned the lasting esteem and admiration of your British comrades in arms, whose success you have so nobly shared.

(Signed) D. Haig.

POLITICS IN ENGLAND.

Lloyd George Tells Where He Stands On Different Questions.

David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, in a speech at Newcastle last Friday, said the victory of the Entente Allies had been due to the ceaseless valor of their men and that it would be a lesson to anybody who in the future thought that they, as the Prussian war lords hoped, "could overlook this little island in their reckoning."

"We are now approaching the peace conference," the premier continued. "The price of victory is not vengeance nor retribution. It is prevention.

"First of all what about those people whom we have received without question for years to our shores; to whom we have given equal rights with our own sons and daughters and who abused that hospitality to betray the land, to plot against security, to spy upon it and to gain such information as enabled the Prussian war lords to inflict not punishment but damage and injury upon the land that had received them as guests? Never again!"

Mr. Lloyd George said that the interests of security and fair play demanded that it should be made perfectly clear that the people who acted in this way merited punishment for the damage they had inflicted.

Question of Indemnities.

The second question was the question of indemnities, the premier added. In every court of justice throughout the world the party which lost has had to bear the cost of the litigation. When Germany defeated France she established the principle and there was no doubt that the principle was the right one. Germany must pay the cost of the war up to the limit of her capacity.

"But I must use one word of warning," said Mr. Lloyd George. "We have to consider Germany's capacity. Whatever happens Germany is not to be allowed to pay the indemnity by dumping cheap goods upon us. That is the only limit in principle we are laying down. She must not be allowed to pay for her wanton damage and devastation by dumping cheap goods and wrecking our industries.

"There is a third and last point. Is no one to be made responsible for this war? Somebody has been responsible for a war that has taken the lives of millions of the best young men of Europe. Is not any one to be made responsible for that? If not, all I can say is that if that is the case there is one justice for the poor wretched criminal and another for kings and emperors."

Mr. Lloyd George declared that there were two offenses against the law of nations that had been committed. "One," he said, "is the crime against humanity in the deliberate plotting of the great war. The other is the outrage upon international law. It is a crime, a brutal crime, to devastate the lands of another. Whoever did that ought to be responsible for it.

Crime Against Humanity.

"The submarine warfare did not mean only the sinking of ships, but it was a crime against humanity in that it sank thousands of harmless merchantmen. In the whole history of warfare between nations that had never been sanctioned. It is rank piracy and the pirates must receive the punishment.

"I mean to see that the men who did not treat our prisoners with humanity are to be made responsible. I want this country to go to court with a clean conscience, and she will do so. There is not a stain on her record. We will not be afraid to appear before any tribunal.

"Now these are the things which we have to investigate. We mean that the investigation shall be an impartial one, a perfectly fair one. We also mean that it shall be a stern one, and that it shall go on to the final reckoning.

"We have got so to act now that men in the future who feel tempted to follow the example of the rulers who plunged the world into this war will know what is awaiting them at the end of it. We shall have to see that this terrible war, which has inflicted so much destruction on the world; which has arrested the course of civilization and in many ways put it back; which has left its marks upon the minds, upon the physique and the hearts of myriads in many lands that this generation will not see obliterated—we must see by the action we take now, just, fearless and relentless, that it is a crime that shall never again be repeated in the history of the world."

The premier, in defending the Unionist members of the cabinet, said he would trust those men who for two years had helped him to carry out great and progressive measures until he saw a better reason than he did now for suspecting them.

Asked "what about free trade?" the premier added:

"I am prepared to examine every problem, to cast aside any prejudices or preconceived ideas and examine them purely upon the facts as the war has revealed them to us."

Vice Admiral William S. Sims, commander of the American naval forces in Europe since the United States went to war, has been selected for promotion to the rank of admiral when a vacancy occurs this month by the retirement of Admiral Austin M. Knight.

Two men were killed and a dozen or more wounded at Toledo, Ohio, Thursday, in a battle of railroad police with whisky-runners from Detroit, who were trying to carry liquor into the dry state of Michigan.

Information has reached Japan to the effect that Admiral Kolchak, the dictator of Siberia, has been assassinated at Omsk. No details are given.

MOTOR TRUCK TRANSPORT

New Means of Great Commercial Development

WILL HELP PRODUCER AND CONSUMER

War Department Has Available Twenty Thousand Trucks and Plans Are Now Under Consideration to Use These In the Development of Trade That Has Not Heretofore Existed.

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, Nov. 26.—Twenty thousand motor trucks organized into a great national system of transportation for the bearing of food direct from American farms to American kitchens.

Each motor truck line, connecting a city community with the country to be under the joint control of the people whom it serves, and managed by officers whom these people elect.

Every bit of food—every egg and oyster—guaranteed pure and fresh by the fact that it is shipped as United States mail, and must therefore fulfill every claim made for it by the shipper.

Fair prices guaranteed by the fact that each city will have a number of truck lines to draw from, so that open competition will be assured.

These are the essentials of a plan which the postoffice department, in co-operation with the bureau of education, is now beginning to put into operation. Both the legislation and the physical machinery necessary to carry out the project are already in existence. Congress has passed a law authorizing the postoffice department to establish such a truck parcel post service between the producer and the consumer, and has made an appropriation for starting the work. The war department has on hand 20,000 motor trucks, built for war purposes, which are to be taken over by the postoffice department under Fourth Assistant Postmasted Gereral Blakeslee to form the transport corps for this new system of food distribution. E. J. Ward, who is attached to the bureau of education for the purpose of studying problems of community organization, left Washington a few days ago to organize the first truck line of the great system, which will be operated between the national capital and the historic town of Gettysburg in southern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Ward and Mr. Blakeslee, who are the moving spirits of this new government enterprise, see it as comparable to the establishment of a railroad system. Means of conveyance, roadbeds and terminals are all to be provided for. The trucks, of course, will be the means of conveyance. State roads will take the place of tracks, and the government will contribute to their support. The terminals, in the beginning at least, will be school houses, in the cities and in the country. These will be the centers of community organization, the places at which the produce will be gathered in the country and distributed in the city. The plan of organization, in brief will be this:

Farmers Will Meet.

The farmers of each country community will meet at their school house, form an organization with a constitution and by-laws outlined by the government, and will elect a community secretary. This community secretary will very likely be the principal or teacher of the school. He will receive one-third of his salary from the United States government. That is, if the community is now paying the individual $1,000 a year to act as school principal, the United States government will pay him in addition $500 to act as community secretary. His first duty as secretary will be to receive the produce—eggs, butter, poultry, vegetables, etc.—brought in by the farmers, list it, together with the prices asked, and send the list to the city.

The people of each city community will form an exact similar organization, with a secretary elected and paid in the same way, for the purpose of buying food. This city community secretary will receive the requests of the community people for produce and list them.

When the system is complete, there will be in each city which forms a hub of the system a clearing house where all of these lists will be turned in.

Now suppose that the farmers grouped about a rural school 12 miles from Washington can send in two gross of eggs every week at 61 cents a dozen. The clearing house will already determine which urban community can use those eggs and they will be sent by the community secretary in the country, by parcel post truck, to the city community secretary who can dispose of them.

Many Obvious Gains.

The advantages of the system are obvious. The produce will be faster, the prices lower, and above all, waste will be eliminated. Farmers having small amounts of produce are now at a loss how to dispose of them. Much food, especially fruit and vegetables, is allowed to rot for want of a market. Much more because stale in the roundabout progress by which country produce now reaches the city. This system will make a clean sweep of the tributary country of every big American city, gathering up daily everything that the farmers can spare and delivering it directly to the city folk who need it.

Moreover the proposed system is in no sense an experiment. It is now offered to the public as a project which exists only on paper. It is the culmination of a long series of experiments in community organizations, and it has been operated successfully in all its essentials, in at least one community.

E. J. Ward who is co-author of the scheme with Mr. Blakeslee, has spent the past 12 years of his life in studying the problem of organizing American communities for various purposes, first as a private citizen and later as an official of the American government appointed by President Wilson. He effected the community organization in Bridgeport, Conn., which did so much to solve the labor problem in that city at the time of the recent munition factory strike. Long before that he organized the community center movement in Wisconsin. In that state and elsewhere an effort was made to organize the people of each community about their local school house. The idea was for the people to meet in the school house to discuss their various social and economic problems. The movement never developed much vitality because there was no provision for paid community secretaries and hence no practical thing could be accomplished by these community organizations. Nevertheless, Mr. Ward clung tenaciously to the idea that the American people could solve many of their problems by effecting such organizations. When the state legislature in Wisconsin refused to make an appropriation for paying community secretaries, he came to Washington and accepted an appointment as expert in community organization under the bureau of education.

In Washington Mr. Ward lived in that section of the city known as Park View. He chose it chiefly because it had a large new schoolhouse admirably suited to the purpose of community organizations and because it had a live and active citizens' association with a competent president.

Mr. Ward and his fellow citizens of Park View persuaded congress to pass a law providing pay for community secretaries in the District of Columbia. This enabled the community secretary to devote all his time to community business.

Meantime congress had made an appropriation of $10,000 to be used by the postoffice department for establishing an experimental parcel post truck service to bring country produce direct from the farm to the city consumer. Mr. Ward persuaded Mr. Blakeslee, who had charge of the expenditure of this money to use the Park View organization as the center for this experiment, and a truck line was established, which daily brought country produce from the farms about Washington to the Park View school house. Here the community secretary received it and destributed it among the neighbors.

The experiment was proved successful—how successful may be most convincingly indicated by the statement that the citizens of Park View are now getting fresh eggs at 61 cents a dozen when the regular market price in Washington is 83 cents and oysters at 40 cents a quart, when the market price is 75 cents.

The national system which is now about to be instituted will be nothing more than an extension on a national scale of this plan by which the Park View citizens are beating the high cost of living and getting the fresh country produce direct from the farms. That it has great possibilities of development is obvious. But the point is that in its essentials it has already proved practicable. The only thing to make the national system a reality is the operation of the various communities in effecting their local organization.

TO UNSHACKLE COTTON.

Congressman Lever Says the Embargo Should Be Lifted At Once.

The chairman of the committee on agriculture, Representative Lever, has received numbers of telegrams with respect to the cotton situation. He has conferred personally with the various agencies of the government concerned, and recently addressed a formal communication to these agencies pointing out the critical situation with respect to the marketing of cotton, and advising that they at once confer to remove any restriction upon the normal flow of this product in the channels of commerce.

"Of course," said Mr. Lever, "it is understood throughout the country that the so-called price-fixing committee has recommended that no price be fixed on cotton, and has adjourned permanently. This fact should be impressed up producers, many of whom seem to be under the impression that this committee is still in existence. The committee is not in existence, it has made its recommendation, and that recommendation is emphatically against price-fixings on cotton, so the possibility in that direction is absolutely.

"In my opinion, the steps to be taken now, and they should be taken now, with emphasis on now, should include a very literal attitude upon the part of the federal reserve banks in the matter of the rediscount of cotton collateral, the restoration of the through bill of laden, provision for adequate tonnage for cotton and the removal from time to time as promptly as possible, of restrictions upon the exportation of cotton, not inconsistent with the international relationship. When these steps have been taken, backed by a strong holding movement upon the part of the farmer, the situation will relieve itself and prices will promptly reach their normal level."

Foch Was Not Demonstrative.—In a dispatch to the London Daily News, H. W. Smith, in Rotterdam, says that from the account of the armistice negotians given to the Vossische Zeitung by a member of the German delegation, it appears that the Germans, before entering the train which conveyed them to the Forest of Compeigne, were taken for a ten-hour motor drive in company with French officers.

"It appears likely," says the narrator, that it was intentionally prolonged in order to drive us all over the devastated province and prepare us by what we saw for what was shortly to be put before us in the way of hatred and revenge in the extremely severe armistice conditions. Silently now and again a Frenchman pointed to heaps of ruins and mentioned them by name, 'Behold St. Quentin!' "

When the delegates met the Allied representatives the greetings were of the coldest. Marshal Foch, it is declared, only showed himself twice, at the opening and at the end of the proceeding, and it was a "discovery" when he announced that there were to be no negotiations. He proceeded to dictate the conditions.

The narrative concludes with this statement: "Immediately before the close of the second and last plenary sitting, we placed with the enemy in the German language our protest against the treaty, but in the end we had to sign."

Statesmen of France are considering plans for a great international railroad from Paris to Odessa.