

BUSINESS SENTIMENT AGAINST GOV. CONTROL

Based on Experience with Government Control During the War—Too Much Politics.

Washington, August 18.—Business sentiment in the United States is unanimous that the government ownership of railroads must not prevail. Charles A. Post, chairman of the railroad committee of the United States chamber of commerce, told the house interstate commerce committee today. Sentiment as shown by tests made by the chamber is strongly, even overwhelmingly against proposals of the kind, he declared, because of the experience with government operation during the war. Other reasons against it, he continued, were heavy costs, and the necessity thereafter of financing government extensions through congressional appropriations with consequent subjection of political influence. "The opinion of the national chamber," Mr. Post said, "is that unless the government adopted the policy of fixing low rates and fares with the intention that any resulting deficit from operation should be placed as an increased burden of taxes upon the general public, rates and fares would be higher under government than under private operation."

Likewise, the organization of railroad employees might easily exercise a controlling influence upon national politics, he said. Constructive proposals in relation to the railroad situation, Mr. Post argued, called for return of the lines to private ownership and management, with consolidation of the numerous lines now existing into a limited number of strong competing systems. Such groups, he said, should be built up by enlarging the present large systems, and not by combining roads on a geographical basis. Federal incorporation for these roads, with a federal transportation board to control them, and stronger interstate commerce commission powers to regulate rates and service, as proposed by the national transportation conference, he said, had been endorsed by vote of the chamber's membership.

MILLION DOLLARS SPENT IN FIGHTING FOREST FIRES

Missoula, August 16.—A million dollars have been spent this season for fighting fires in northern Idaho and Montana, according to figures announced here today, by Assistant District Forester Glen A. Smith, in charge of fire fighting. The forest service acreage burned over is 382,321 acres, of which the greater part is located in the Lolo forest, while the Selway, Clearwater and Nez Perce are close behind. In the Lolo forest, which includes that section of the Couer d'Alene valley located in Montana, 65,714 acres have been burned over up to the time the report was filed at district headquarters. In the Missoula forest, 32,782 acres have been burned over and in the Bitter Root, 15,000 acres. The acreage burned over in the Selway and Clearwater forest was approximately the same as in the Lolo when the report was received, but it has been increased considerably during the past few days.

During the first ten days of August, 379 new fires were reported in the district, according to the record. The total number of fires this season up to date has been 1,472. There are now 129 dangerous fires burning, mostly in the Couer d'Alene.

Reports from Selway and Nez Perce forests in Idaho and the Bitter Root forests in western Montana indicate to district headquarters officials that the fire situation is growing more dangerous.

Crown fires which developed in the Selway forest are sweeping along the Rockaway branch of the Clearwater river for 40 miles.

Confirmation of the loss of 130 head of sheep in the Gospel creek fire on the Nez Perce forest comes from Chas. Dinhead of Lewiston, Idaho, owner of the herd.

Both the Gospel and Mallard creek fires are worse. The Nez Perce forest has 25 fires covering 17,000 acres. Many new fires have sprung up in

the Powell country, across the mountains from Lolo Hot Springs, while conditions in the Salmon mountain country are unusually serious. Other new fires are burning on Petty creek and Graves creek the origin of which officials are unable to explain. It is suspected incendiarism have had something to do with the repeated new blazes.

Supervisor Parker of the Missoula forest today was making plans for sending crews to the south fork of the Flathead where two new blazes are spreading rapidly.

The Lolo forest reported two new fires yesterday. One is on Eades creek while the other is located on Owl creek. The Missoula forest has a fire in the Spread mountain region near Ovando. Twenty men will be sent to it tomorrow. The supervisor of the Missoula forest is making arrangements for the sending of crews in on the south fork of the Flathead forest, where new fires are spreading rapidly, one on Calif creek, the other on Clooth creek.

The Kooskia forest has several new lightning fires, as a result of thunder storms during the week. The Cool creek fire there is especially dangerous, although it has burned over 300 acres. The Big creek blaze is still spreading but at the present time is not burning any valuable timber.

GERMAN POLICEMEN FORMED INTO ARMY

Coblentz, August 18.—Militarization of German police, contrary to the terms of the treaty of peace, has already begun, according to information reaching American authorities. In the city of Cassel the police recently were completely organized along military lines by the Prussian government, it is said, and are now equipped with steel helmets and rifles and follow the routine of the military in their barracks.

The ultimate size of the new militarized police organization has not been announced. Americans studying the reorganization of the German army say that the significance of militarizing police in Germany is great.

American officers have records of an announcement that the Prussian state government, quite apart from the national government, was to organize a "Schutzmannschaft," or state police force, which would be virtually military units in garrisons with full infantry equipment but would be under control of the minister of the interior and used only for the repression of internal disorders. These troops, according to the plan, were to be in excess of the army permitted Germany under the terms of the peace treaty.

A semi-official announcement states that it is appreciated that these troops are not permitted under the terms of the peace treaty, but the hope is expressed that the allies will be "reasonable" and permit their organization.

BIDS BEING CALLED FOR ON RECLAMATION WORK

Sealed proposals will be received by the United States reclamation service at Malta, Montana, until 2 o'clock p. m., August 29, 1919, and will at that hour be opened, for the construction of N. S. 116-2 lateral, about Sta. 0 to Sta 314, comprising about 64,000 cubic yards of excavation, Milk River project. Bonds will not be required if contractors agree to perform the work with their personal labor and equipment, but bond will be required under any contract where the work is to be performed wholly or partially with hired labor or equipment. The work is located about five miles northwest of Hinsdale. The work is divided into sixteen schedules.

For further particulars address U. S. Reclamation Service, Malta, Montana, care Geo. E. Stratton, project manager.

NEW YORK CAR STRIKE OFF

New York, August 19.—The strike that has for two days paralyzed the elevated system and the Interborough Rapid Transit company system and Queens was called off today by a vote of the strikers to accept the compromise offered at a conference of the state officials. The men will receive an increase of 25 per cent and their demand for an additional 25 per cent will be submitted to arbitration.

GREAT FALLS BOY BRINGS HOME VALUABLE TROPHY

Buys Fiddle in Coblentz for \$96 Estimated to Be Worth About \$2000.00.

Great Falls, August 19.—Perhaps the most valuable and at any rate the most interesting war trophy brought from Germany is that of A. T. Hanscom, returned soldier, who brought with him a violin that is one of the brought to Great Falls, according to finest instruments that has ever been L. P. Dougall of the Great Falls Piano Repair shop who was called upon to repair the instrument.

The age of the instrument is not known, but that it is very old is attested by the fact that the wood of the instrument had been worn as thin as an egg shell, in places where it was handled in playing. It was built by August Kreiter, a German violin maker, and was last repaired at Mitlewald, in 1891, that date appearing inside the case.

The instrument was purchased by Hanscom for about \$96 in American money in Coblentz, Germany. The instrument is also unusual in appearance, bearing the royal coat of arms of the kaiser, hand carved in the wood and so perfectly beveled that it does not effect the tone. He was told that the instrument once belonged to the kaiser's household. The instrument has a wonderful tone quality, especially in the lower register. It is so sensitive to tone that it vibrates heavily from a voice.

After he had secured his prize, without knowing its value, Hanscom carried it in a sack to Ostend, and the heat cracked it open. When he repaired it, and there learned that turned home, he took it to the local he has an instrument worth fully \$2000, according to Dougall. The case in which the instrument was carried is duly inscribed, the violin having served to entertain the boys in camp, so it has one gold service stripe painted on the leather case; also the insignia of the 348th field artillery of which Hanscom was a member, the insignia of the six-inch French gun on which Hanscom worked—"Win 'Em Cof.," the name of the outfit, also the Ninety-first division insignia and a separate insignia of the 166th artillery brigade, and a figure seven, indicating the seventh army corps.

Hanscom and his brother, E. M. Hanscom, went through the war together, both coming home uninjured. They enlisted on September 20, 1917, went overseas in the following April, and returned home to be discharged on January 15, 1919.

GOVERNMENT PLANS AID FOR DISABLED MEN

Washington, D. C.—Because of the failure of thousands of soldiers, crippled by the war, fully to understand their rights, particularly that involving re-education at government expense in callings suitable to their disability, Colonel Arthur Woods, assistant to the secretary of war, described some of the things the government is doing to enable men disabled in the line of duty to re-establish themselves in civil life. All disabled service men are entitled to assistance, no matter where they were injured.

The government agency in this work is the federal board of vocational education, which was charged by congress with the "vocational training of disabled soldiers and the placement of rehabilitate persons in suitable and gainful occupations" after discharge from the army.

"In some large cities crippled men in uniforms are seen on the streets 'pawning' kindly disposed persons," said Colonel Woods. "In nearly every case these men are plain, ordinary fakers in the guise of soldiers who have taken this method of enlisting unmerited sympathy. No man disabled in the service need engage in any sort of holdup game on the streets. Any one seeing a man in uniform so engaged should inform him of provision made for him by the government. If a man, after being so informed, continues his game, a favor will be done the great body of self-respecting disabled men who are trying to do something for themselves if the case is reported to the nearest branch office of the board for vocational education."

Colonel Woods asked that all disabled service men get into communication with the branch office of the board for vocational education in their district, and that there might be no doubt as to where these offices are he gave out a list which shows that men in Washington, Montana, Idaho and Oregon should write to room 589 Central building, Seattle.

"While in training," said Colonel Woods, "a man receives an amount equal at least to the base pay during his last month's service in the army, navy or marine corps, but in no case does he receive less than 65 a month if he is a single man or less than \$75 a month if living with his dependents, or less than \$65 a month for himself if living apart from his dependents—in addition to allowances to his dependents, if he is a married man and living apart from his wife during the period of training. In all cases the wife receives \$15 and each minor child \$10 a month. These payments are made to enable the man to support himself while in training, and are in lieu of subsistence.

"If a man who served as a private at \$30 a month wishes to take training, waiving claim to subsistence, clothing, etc., he will, if single or liv-

ing apart from his dependents during training, be allowed an additional \$35 a month by the board, thus bringing his income up to the minimum of \$65 a month. Should he have been a non-commissioned officer during his last month's service, and have received as high as \$81 a month, he will then continue to receive such pay. It will not be necessary in this case for the federal board to allow him anything additional.

"In the case of officers no allowance will be forthcoming from the board. Men who have been blinded in battle, or who have lost both arms or legs, or who, as a result of injuries incurred, are permanently and totally disabled, come under a special provision which allows them \$100 a month additional.

"Many crippled soldiers were discharged without being told of the provisions made for them because the machinery to reach them was not then in effect. Any person coming in contact with such men will be doing a patriotic duty by directing them either to write to the federal board at Washington or to one of the board's 14 branch offices.

"It is important that the disabled man shall be made to realize the advantage of taking training to insure his future welfare. At present many patriotic employers of labor are willing to take on disabled men whether they can perform their duties or not. But in a few years the work of the really efficient man will tell, and he will be one who will get ahead. For this reason the board is doing everything it can to train and equip the disabled man immediately upon his discharge, so that he will be competent in whatever line he elects to follow.

"If one course should prove unsatisfactory or not suited for the particular disability of the person undergoing training, another course will be offered, for the work of the government does not cease until the man is permanently placed in a suitable and remunerative position.

"Men who have lost a limb in the line of duty should understand that the government through the war department and the war risk insurance bureau must supply them with artificial limbs and appliances. When a man is discharged from the hospital he receives a limb which is temporary only, and later on a permanent, first-class artificial limb is furnished. This is not a charity, but an obligation of the government toward this class of disabled.

SEEKS PREVENTION OF ANOTHER FLU EPIDEMIC

Washington, D. C.—In order to prevent a recurrence of the epidemic of influenza which caused 550,000 deaths in the United States, Representative Simeon D. Fees of Ohio, has urged upon the house an appropriation of \$1,500,000 to the public health service for investigation of the causes of the disease and the methods of its prevention.

In his resolution, which has the endorsement of the American Medical Association, Dr. Fees narrates that a large proportion of the great number of deaths were produced by pneumonia and other complications, that influenza, pneumonia and allied diseases now cause approximately one-tenth of all deaths in this country, that medical science is not yet in possession of complete data as to the cause, modes of transmission, prevention and cure of influenza, and that therefore the possession of this knowledge is of grave social and economic concern to the nation.

It is therefore urged that to enable the public health service to discover the causes and prevent the spread of the disease, and for allotment of sums to universities, colleges and other research institutions, as in the judgment of the secretary of the treasury are qualified for research work that a million and a half be appropriated by congress. It is also urged that the medical departments of the army and navy join in the search for methods of prevention.

"There is no doubt," said Dr. Fees, "but that this malady will again come upon us. If the experience of the series of maladies that have overrun our country be duplicated, as I fear they will be, we may expect terrific results in the next year or two from the influenza. They tell me there is no antitoxin that has yet been discovered to combat it. Dr. Pfeiffer thought he had discovered that it was due to what was called the influenza bacillus. That theory has been abandoned by the medical world, which today is much concerned about what it has to meet in the near future. I think it would be wise and rational for congress to spend enough money to set in motion machinery under the highest medical talent in America, to hunt out under research the origin of this difficulty, together with the application of some remedy that may be discovered. This is especially necessary in view of the fact that life insurance statistics show that during the five years following the last grippe epidemic the death rate was 40 per cent above normal."

A conference of the service men of the United States Tire company was held recently at the company's Hartford factory. The gathering included men from every state. The service men form that part of the company's staff which advises the consumer of the best means of getting the most miles out of his tires. The purpose of the conference was to acquaint the service men fully with the latest developments in tire manufacture and the best means of avoiding tire trouble.

RED CROSS NOTES

Washington, August 10.—Plans for a nation-wide Red Cross campaign opening Monday, November 3, and closing Armistice day, November 11, were formally announced tonight by Dr. Livingston Farrand, chairman of the executive committee of the American Red Cross.

The primary object of the campaign, which will be known as the third Red Cross roll call, will be to enroll members for 1920, but there will be in addition a general appeal for \$15,000,000 to enable the organization to complete its war obligations at home and abroad.

There will also be local appeals, where necessary, conducted by the chapters, to secure funds needed for local programs.

During the war there were two annual Red Cross campaigns, the War Fund drive in the late spring and a Christmas roll call for membership. The only campaign this year will be the one in November and in succeeding years there will be only an annual roll call in which the Red Cross will seek the re-affirmed allegiance of the American people expressed in dollar memberships. The money so derived will be used for American purposes and the approval thus received is to be regarded as a mandate to carry on future programs.

"The first task of the American Red Cross is, of course, to complete its obligations to American soldiers and sailors," said Dr. Farrand in announcing the program. "The organization

plans, as its future policy, to concentrate its efforts upon peace problems at home, unless America should again be involved in war or confronted by great disasters creating special emergencies.

"The Red Cross programs are primarily within the field of public health and will aim particularly at cooperation with official activities, federal, state and local. The Red Cross will seek not to duplicate the work of established organizations, but will endeavor to supplement other agencies where they already exist or to stimulate and organize work where none such exists."

In an amendment to the army bill, congress has prolonged the responsibility of the Red Cross abroad by authorizing Secretary of War Baker to transfer to the Red Cross such medical and surgical supplies and supplementary and dietary foodstuffs now in Europe as is not needed by the army abroad or at home "to be used by the American Red Cross to relieve and supply the pressing needs of the countries involved in the late war." Inventories of these supplies are now being made. To them will be added such material as the American Red Cross itself has in Europe, and these will be distributed in the countries where the organization is concluding its war relief program and where, because of the ravages of war, famine and epidemic, the distress is most pronounced as in the Balkans, Poland and other eastern European countries. To meet these obligations and administer this foreign relief the

Red Cross must raise a fund of \$15,000,000, Dr. Farrand stated.

"The Red Cross authorities realize that the astonishing generosity of the American people during the war might legitimately lead many to expect a release from further demands for assistance to other peoples," continued Dr. Farrand, "but we must remember that our allies were much harder hit by the war than we were, and that we have incurred obligations to them which honor demands shall be discharged. In naming the sum of \$15,000,000, the Red Cross has tried to determine the smallest amount which will enable it to round out its work and make effective the appropriations of army goods rather than to estimate the generosity of the American people."

GLENDIVE MAN ARRESTED FOR OPERATING STILL

Glendive, August 19.—George Cratz, a boilermaker in the employ of the Northern Pacific railway, is in the Dawson county jail charged with operating a whisky still in violation of the law. He was arrested at his domicile on the south side while engaged in manufacturing what the officers believe is a fermentation that contains a kick that would satisfy any hard-boiled toper. Cratz was found boiling a concoction of molasses, yeast and other ingredients in the regulation brown kettle with pipes leading into a keg of ice from which it was siphoned through another hose or pipe into a bottle. The finished product is a whitish colored fluid and is reported to test about 125 per cent.

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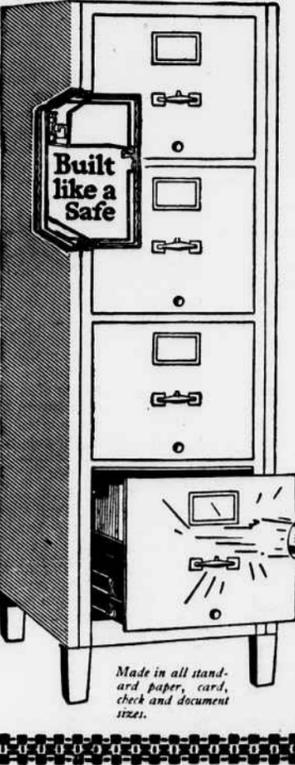
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