GOVERNMENT HOLDS 17,000 AUTOS WHILE PRICES GO SKYWARD

Man Who Issued Order Holding Cars Found to Be Former Employe of One of Greatest Auto Concerns.

(Capital News Special Service.)

Washington, Dec. 22. — Why 17,000 automobiles, many of them new and unused, were permitted to stand out in the open, exposed the elements, to rot and rust, is explained by an order issued by the director of sales of the war department, last January, or about the time the rotting and the rusting began. It reads:

"It is the policy of the director of sales to dispose of the surplus property of the war department so as to disturb the industrial conditions of the country as little as possible."

That industrial conditions were not disturbed, is proved by the rapid advances in the price of the automobiles sold by private agencies to the public since that statement was issued. It was brought out at investigations made by the Graham war investigating committee of the house that the director of sales who formulated that order and issued it, of course, with the approval of Secretary of War Baker, was formerly head of the sales department in New York city for one of the great automobile manufacturing concerns. His name was Guy Hutchinson.

TRIED GREAT SALE.

The hearing disclosed many matters of interest. One was that Brigadier General Drake, chief of the motor transport corps, made numerous efforts to have the surplus automobiles, many of which were delivered after the armistice was signed, disposed of but his efforts all came to naught in the interest of the automobile concerns.

What was happening to these automobiles in the meantime, may be understood by what took place at Camp Holabird, Maryland; which is only 50 miles from Washington. In a letter from Colonel Chitty, who was commanding officer at Camp Holabird, it was shown that 488 passenger cars were declared surplus on Feb. 13, which imposed the duty upon the sales department of selling them, but these cars stood out in the open at Camp Holabird until the latter part of September before they were sold. Meanwhile inquiries were coming from all parts of the United States from individuals who expressed a desire to bid on the surplus motor cars of the government, an opportunity which they were never permitted to have.

HAD NO PROTECTION.

It was brought out clearly by Representative Reavis, of Nebraska, in questioning General Drake that there was no attempt to prevent the cars at Camp Holabird from being destroyed. During all those months, as described by Mr. Reavis in a speech in the house, "they were standing in the open, with no protection, subjected to the elements, rapidly covering with rust, the tops rotting, the upholstery tearing loose, the paint faded and cracked, and the department of sales donig absolutely nothing with reference to their disposition."

Mr. Reavis took occasion several times to point out that the chief of the motor transport corps continued his efforts to have surplus cars sold, continuing:

HAD HUGE SURPLUS.

"It is well to bear in mind that during the time the motor transport corps was seeking to have these machines sold there were 130,000 motor vehicles held by the war department in the United States. Before the war started the total number of motor vehicles needed for the army was 4000.

"It must have been very apparent to anyone of average intelligence that there was a tremendous surplus of these vehicles. It was known to all the bureaus of the war department that there was no storage sufficient to care for this tremendous number of machines. No farmer would permit his farm implements to lie out in the open all winter, and yet, farm implements, because of the material and character of their construction, would not deteriorate in any degree as an automobile when so exposed.

"Notwithstanding winter was approaching, notwithstanding the tremendous loss that the government would suffer by permitting these cars to stand in the open, nothing was done either to sell them or provide storage. This indifference on the part of the war department to the rights and welfare of the American people is beyond understanding, but the testimony is undisputed in this record that this condition continued through all of the winter and through practically all of the past summer."

ARMISTICE DIDN'T STOP 'EM.

One of the most amazing disclosures of the investigation was that 70,130 automobiles were delivered to the army after the armistice was signed and demobilization was begun. And more remarkable still, 29,993 automobiles were shipped to France after the armistice, 20,607 in November, 15,421 in December, 2,091 in January, 1,315 in February, 431 in March, 42 in April, 81 in May and 5 in June.

This was done to avoid "disturbing industrial conditions at home."

"In the month of August," said Mr. Reavis, meaning last August, "we sold to the French nation all of the motor vehicles we had in France which were valued at $310,000,000 for 20 cents on the dollar, on 10 years' time In other words, the motor equipment we had in France was worth approximately as much money as it cost to build the Panama canal, and in this motor equipment were 26,000 vehicles that we sent abroad after the war was over, after we had received the motor equipment from Germany and after our troops were being brought home.

TOO GENEROUS.

"It may be in bad taste at this particular time to register a protest against such a shameless waste of the people's money. It may be with so many voices in the air appealing to us to be generous to the other people that one is not justified in demand that we be just to our own people. There is no one more sympathetic with the people of the old world than am I, but I must confess that generosity such as I have revealed in an unwarranted disregard of the rights of the American people.

"Yet there is a happy aspect that can be offered, and that is the aspect of beneficial service to the people. The hardships that present conditions impose upon the very poor are as apparent as they are distressing. They are hardships which embitter those who suffer and create rebellion against existing order. Men whose families hunger do not analyze economic conditions in their search for causes. Very few of them acknowledge the abnormal conditions which have so disturbed the equilibrium of the world. They prefer charges against the government, against men in high places, and their charges fall upon ready, if not eager, ears. It is not pleasant to disclose acts on the part of anyone, but the offense lies in the commission of the acts and not in the disclosures."

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SO ACCUSTOMED TO CRITICAL SITUATIONS WITH UNITED STATES THEY 'DON'T MIND THEM ANYMORE'

American Newspaper Man Returns to This Country With Reports After an Investigation in Mexico City.

Editor's Note—Following is the first of a series of comprehensive stories on the situation in Mexico, written by the first American newspaper man to come out of that country since the latest "crisis." The correspondent made a special trip from the border to Mexico City to obtain first hand information.

By SAM I. FREED.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
(Copyright 1919 by the United Press.)

Laredo, Tex., Dec. 22. — Mexico passed through the latest diplomatic crisis with the United States in a state of apathy and today is confident there is not the slightest danger of intervention.

During the height of the Jenkins-Wallace-Fall crisis, Mexican officials privately expressed themselves as "accustomed" to crises with the United States. The average Mexican citizen was not even interested enough to express any opinion. The public was far more concerned with the Sunday bull fights, the latest actress from Spain, or the Obregon-Gonzales presidential campaign, than with American diplomatic relations.

Possibility of intervention did not frighten Mexican officialdom. This does not mean they desired war. On the contrary they would go to any length—short of sacrificing Mexico's dignity—to avoid hostilities. But should war have come, the Carranza government would have "gone down fighting to the last."

This, it may be stated on the highest authority was the official attitude of the government.

CLASS AMERICANS.

The Carranzistas place Americans in two classes—interventionists and non-interventionists. Under the latter heading is the Mexican equivalent for "middle of the roaders." Americans whom the Carranzistas believe are trying to find a peaceful middle-ground solution of the difficulties between the two nations. Mexican officials believe 90 per cent of the people of the United States are opposed to intervention and that only a very small minority are responsible for stirring up periodical disturbances. The Carranza government in its dealings with the United States is placing reliance on this real or fancied factional division of sentiment, believing the United States will never war on Mexico, in behalf of the "interests." Nearly every official Mexican statement is redolent of propaganda to the effect that "certain interests" desire intervention.

The Carranza government worked out this theory in the Jenkins case, declaring the American consular agent was an interventionist and that his recent abduction was an interventionist plot. American diplomats in closest touch with the incident are in a position to prove the falseness of this.

Another phase of the Carranzista attitude was the belief that with a cause unpopular to 90 per cent of the American people, intervention would never succeed. That belief helps to explain the Mexican government's "cockiness" in the recent crisis. Only when they feared they had perhaps carried matters too far did the Carranza government effect Jenkins' release through bail furnished by J. Salter Hansen, an American citizen, who has failed to prove a connection with, or at least an understanding with the Mexican administration.

JOY OVER DEVELOPMENTS.

Jenkins' release and President Wilson's stand against the senate resolution providing severance of diplomatic relations with Mexico filled the Carranzistas with joy. The last terse note from Mexico on the Jenkins case was the result. Persons who know Mexico declare that any future crisis resulting from Mexico's right to regulate her own internal affairs or endangering her national dignity will be rebuffed in similar cocksure fashion. Carranza himself would gladly dispense with note writing and "war scares" in the press of both countries. But he is resolved to uphold Mexico's dignity and sovereignty at any cost. These are Mexico's two most precious prerogatives.

"Oh, we are accustomed to these crises," high Mexican officials told the correspondent. "We don't mind them any more."

They were asked how the United States should regard repeated murders of Americans and other foreigners in Mexico and how continued diplomatic bickerings were to be avoided.

The invariable reply was:

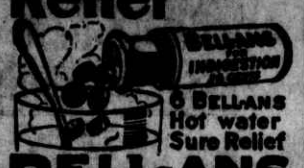
"Leave us alone, let us work out our own salvation. These murders and bandit activities are the result of the revolution and nine years more or less of social disorganization. But conditions are steadily improving. If the United States was not constantly heckling and irritating us we could put our country in order so much sooner.

"Don't put obstacles in our way. Help us financially on fair terms."

The high Mexican officials who made such replies denied they wanted to keep out foreign capital; denied they hated Americans; ridiculed Senator Fall's charges that the Mexican government was spreading Bolshevik propaganda in the United States; claimed that only an insignificant Mexican element was pro-German during the war and asserted that Carranza was slowly but steadily bettering conditions.

Questions put to Mexicans of all degrees from high officials down to the lowliest peon, brought varying observations—from declarations that matters were on the mend to distrust of the Carranza government and charges of widespread graft. Similar views were expressed by Americans of long residence in Mexico who are still among its leaders in commerce and industry. Interventionists keeping quiet, perforce, were found among both Mexicans and Americans in Mexico, but they form a vast minority.

Sure Relief



BELL-ANS FOR INDIGESTION

SIX MASKED MEN IN HOLDUP GET $20,000

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 22. — Six masked bandits lifted $20,000 in cash and valuables from 15 members of the Ajax Tire club in a sensational holdup here Saturday.

The robbers entered the rooms of the club at the rear of the building, lined the victims against the wall and went through their pockets for $9000 in cash and $11,000 in watches and jewelry.

"You're a cheap gang," one of the robbers exclaimed as they drove off in a waiting automobile.

HOW CAN THEY CHANGE WITH STAYS IN PLACE?

Chicago, Dec. 22.—The present-day "sensible and smartly" supple corset will remain true to form, Miss Varina M. Losey, an executive of the Kabo Corset company revealed today. It is the only article of women's wearing apparel which shows no sign of changing styles, Miss Losey stated.

The "wasp waist" and the "bulging hips" will never return, according to Miss Losey, although there have been murmurings from the outre and less accredited corset designers of a return to the form of the past.

"But these can accomplish no more than could one with his bare fists hope to batter down the solid wall of the Singer building," Miss Losey continued.

"The sane and substantial rank and file of American womanhood votes emphatically against a return to the days of torture when a corset was a cruel vise which distorted the female form divine, instead of gentle and comfortable mold and support which it is today."

Women will continue to enjoy the "luxury and the grace" of a comfortable, natural waist; trim, snug hips and very low bust lines on corsets, Miss Losey stated.

"Women everywhere show a decided preference for low-bust corsets, with which they use snug, close-fitting brassieres and bandeaux to give neat lines about the waist," she said.

Busts, if anything, will be even lower this season, Miss Losey announced. (Of course they will be reinforced by brassieres or bandeaux.)

"Skirts of corsets will be a trifle longer," she added, "so as to carry out more than ever the straight, slender hip lines.

"The new gowns will show considerable fullness of drapery over the hips, but it is plain to the most casual observer that this fullness is merely 'camouflage' and underneath the bouffant is a trim, straight, snugly confined hip line."

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE (Tablets.) It stops the cough and headache and works off the Cold. E. W. GROVE'S signature on each box. 30c—Adv.

IDAHO DELEGATION IN CONFERENCE WITH LAKE OR STORAGE LAKE PLAN

(Capital News Special Service.)

Washington, Dec. 22.—A hearing was held Monday with the secretary of the interior by Representatives Smith and French, together with State Engineer Swendsen of Idaho, and Engineer Bickel, and H. G. Fuller of St. Anthony, in the matter of an arrangement for the development of a storage lake in Fall River basin, Yellowstone National park.

This basin at present is a vast swamp and its partial utilization for a storage lake would make it possible to reclaim 30,000 acres of land in the southern part of the state.

It is the desire of the Idaho representatives that the project be approved so that work may be begun in the coming spring.

Oh boy! Give me the Overland four closed car for stormy and cold weather. —Adv.

PENSIONS GRANTED TO WOMEN OF THIS STATE

(Capital News Special Service)

Washington, Dec. 22.—Through the efforts of Senator Nugent the following Idaho pensions have been granted: Mrs. Naomi F. Rees, Salmon; Mrs. Hannah M. Goodwin, Menan; Mrs. Mary H. Matthews, Moore, and Mrs. Lucretia B. Simons, Salmon.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR GREAT MUSICIAN HELD

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Chicago today paid its last farewell to Cleofonte Campanini, director of the Chicago grand opera. Solos at the funeral services at Holy Name cathedral were sung by Galli Curci and other stars of the Chicago Opera company. The body was placed in a vault and will later be taken to Italy.

THE WEATHER FORECAST

MAY BE WHAT IT MAY. BUT THE JOY FORECAST AT THE STRAND

TODAY--TUES.--WED.

IS

FAIR and WARMER

COME AND BE JOYFUL WITH

MAY ALLISON

DAILY FROM 2 P. M. UNTIL 11 P. M.

EMPRESS

Direction of B. W. Bickert.

GERALDINE FARRAR

IN A GREAT PLAY BY WILLARD MACK

SHADOWS

AND A TWO-REEL EMPRESS COMEDY

3-Days-3 STARTING TODAY

OH! HOW THE THIRSTY DO ENVY HER!!

DON'T MISS SEEING THIS HYSTERICALLY FUNNY AND WONDERFULLY HUMAN PLAY. AT EVERY PERFORMANCE YESTERDAY THERE WAS A REGULAR

EARTHQUAKE

OF LAUGHTER!

COME! SEE IT TODAY!

BEAUTIFUL PRIZMA COLOR PICTURE "JAPAN" AT THE STRAND ORCHESTRA OVERTURE "Hungarian Rhapsody" (Liszt)

STRAND

DIRECTION B. W. BICKERT

DAILY PERFORMANCE FROM 2 P. M. UNTIL 11 P. M.

PINNEY THEATRE

3 Days, Com. Xmas Matinee

DECEMBER 25

50c SPECIAL MATINEES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. FOR LADIES ONLY 50c

NIGHTS FOR EVERYBODY OVER 15 YEARS OF AGE, 25c, 50c, 75c, $1.00. PLUS WAR TAX.

THE UNITY PLAY COMPANY OFFERS THIS SEASON'S BIG DRAMATIC SUCCESS

The REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

NOT A PICTURE

The Original New York Cast and Production.

CHRIST SEE THIS PLAY FIRST BEFORE YOU MARRY

At Matinees Friday and Saturday, Alice Sterling (a Woman with a Past), Will Address the Ladies on Marriage, Divorce, Love, "Ladies Master This."

UFFOJCL J7U WOVNFUL

The first 20 ladies solving this cipher puzzle will receive two tickets each for Friday matinee show. It is work by a code some of you have used at school and has something to do with the play. Your answer must be at box office before 1 p. m. December 26.

THE REVELATIONS STORY IS NOW RUNNING IN THE DAILY CAPITAL NEWS.

TO-DAY

2 P. M. TO 11 P. M.

LEO FILLER

ROUMANIAN VIOLINIST

REED and HOOPER

"THE GIRL AND THE TRAVELER"

AND

TOM MIX

SUPREME IN MOTION PICTURE STUNTS, HE NEVER FAKES ONE. SUPREME IN SCREEN FIGHTS, HE NEVER FAKES A BATTLE. HE SURPASSES HIMSELF IN

The Wilderness Trail

A FASCINATING ROMANCE OF THE FUR-TRAPPING COUNTRY

FOX NEWS

MAJESTIC

Direction of B. W. BICKERT

VAUDEVILLE