

More Independent Politics.  
Permissible Shooting.  
The Obsolete Dreadnaught.  
Air Rules Water.

By ARTHUR BRISBANE.  
(Copyright, 1920.)  
Two or three million labor union men, or more, will enter politics "as a body," it is said.  
"And seven million farmers are to enter politics as a body."  
Now organize five or ten million clerks, let them form a political body; then organize as many little business men and their dependents in another political body, and you will please professional politicians perfectly.

Labor unions as a body, or farmers as a body, do not worry them. They have learned that such demonstrations produce feeble results.  
But when farmers, labor union men, unorganized labor and clerks get together, it will be a different story. They won't get together for something, however. It takes a good deal of education and much disagreeable experience to make the masses of the people combine regardless of politics.

Mr. Pedroni killed Mr. Potrich, shot him dead, in Hammond, Indiana. It seems that in an argument Mr. Potrich said: "To hell with the United States." That was the psychological moment chosen by Mr. Pedroni for the shooting. The jury acquitted Pedroni after two minutes' deliberation.  
This has the ring of patriotism and although law does not provide for instant shooting of gentlemen who say "to hell with the United States," such men undoubtedly deserve to be shot for ingratitude to a fine country.  
But isn't it unwise for jurors or judges to allow instant death to be handed out in the midst of a political argument, as happened in this case? Might not the shooter imagine that he had heard the six words that justify killing?

The English company and the Wall Street gentlemen, it seems, are not to get the German ships at a bargain after all, at least not right away. They will have to content themselves with profiteering via the ships they now control. After the revelation by the Congressional committee that Wall Street patriots profited and squandered the tune of a thousand millions in the aircraft program, and after all the other hundreds or thousands of millions profiteering during the few months of war, you would think that financiers would know enough to quiet down for a while and let the public catch its breath.  
Intelligent burglars rarely attack the same premises twice in the same week. They give the householder time to forget.

Mr. Root has written a platform for the Republicans, and one plank reads: "Decentralize the executive powers which have made the President more autocratic than any sovereign in the civilized world."  
Decentralize democracy by all means. But matter and force are indestructible, as scientists will prove to you. And autocracy is the part of force. If you take autocratic power from the President, as undoubtedly you should, since the American people do not want an autocrat, where are you going to locate the power? You cannot dissolve it in this air. It will be somewhere. Would it go back where it used to reside, to the offices of corporation lawyers, representing organized finance, once more, nominate its puppets and give them their orders, reserving the profitable use of autocracy to itself?  
The Southern Pacific railroad has 160,000 acres of oil lands in California, lands that should belong to the people of the United States.  
The President of the United States is not well, and it is said that nothing will be done to get for the people the lands and the oil lying under them, which will be wrongfully held by the railroad.

The lands are worth hundreds, perhaps thousands, of millions.  
The oil, gasoline and kerosene those lands would produce would supply a great public necessity; they could be used to curb one of the most powerful trusts.  
It isn't hard to guess why nothing is done on the part of the United States. When property is worth hundreds of millions, good, strong American arguments can be offered not to take effective legal action.

The new naval ordnance plant at South Charleston, in West Virginia, has perfected a projectile that can be shot through thirteen inches of the toughest armor belt steel. These new projectiles, weighing twenty-one hundred pounds each, will be turned out in quantities for the guns of our new dreadnaught steel ships.  
This is interesting but out of date. "The air controls the water," says Admiral Fisher, the creator of the fighting dreadnaught.

High explosives direct from the sky, with force of gravitation for motive power, will soon make the dreadnaught a part of the past, like the hansom cab or the hoop skirt. And the English know it.  
While this country is ignoring the importance of air fighting, recuperating perhaps from the stealing and wasting of a thousand millions in the air craft scandal, the English are realizing that the air is the real ocean.

**WEATHER:**  
Rain this afternoon, tonight, and probably tomorrow. Moderate temperature. Temperature at 8 a. m., 24 degrees.

# COURT SETS NOMINAL BOND FOR W. R. HEARST AFTER PAYNE HAD ASKED \$5,000,000 DEPOSIT

## LABOR ISSUES LIST OF FOES

Six Senators Head Group of Politicians to Be Fought At Polls.

## SMOOT LEADS CONDEMNED

Palmer, Harding, Wood, and Poindexter Among Presidential Booms Opposed.

By International News Service.  
The following six Senators lead the list of those to be opposed for reelection by the American Federation of Labor:  
Smoother, Republican, of Utah.  
Sherman, Republican, of Illinois.  
Cummins, Republican, of Iowa.  
Myers, Democrat, of Montana.  
Thomas, Democrat, of Colorado.  
Underwood, Democrat, of Alabama.

**Blackest Records.**  
Senators Smoot, Myers and Sherman along with Pomerene, Democrat, of Ohio; King, Democrat, of Utah; Phipps, Republican, of Colorado; Lodge, Republican, of Massachusetts; and Penrose, of Pennsylvania, who are not up for reelection this year have the "blackest" labor records in the upper house of Congress, according to Federation officials today.

Cummins was regarded as a friend of labor until he introduced the anti-strike clause of the railroad bill. The measure has "blackened" his record sufficiently in the opinion of the campaign committee to cause him with such opponents of labor as Pomerene and Smoot.

**Senator Underwood's Fall.**  
Senator Underwood of Alabama had a "pretty fair" record when he was a member of the house, labor leaders state, but his statement that he was really responsible for the anti-strike legislation makes him one of the group of candidates the Federation is planning to attack with all its might at the polls.

**Other "Bad" Ones.**  
Other "bad" ones on the Senatorial side of the list are McCormick of Illinois, Knox of Pennsylvania, Moses of New Hampshire, Nelson of Minnesota, New of Indiana, Watson of Indiana, Dandell of Louisiana, Robinson of Arkansas, Elkins of West Virginia, Edge and Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, Spencer of Missouri, Wadsworth of New York, Kellogg of Minnesota, Hale of Maine, Jones of Washington, McLean of Connecticut, McCumber of North Dakota, Brandegee of Connecticut, Curtis of Kansas, Colt of Rhode Island, Wadsworth of New York, Walsh of Montana, and Wall of Wyoming.  
All voted for the anti-strike bill.  
On the House side the blackest marks are against the names of Blanton of Texas, Uncle Joe Cannon of Illinois, and Representatives Esch of Wisconsin and Nicholas Longworth of Ohio.

**Palmer Included.**  
Speaker Gillette is on the list because of his recent remarks against the Federation. Representatives Graham and Davy are there because of their anti-strike bills. Representatives Guy Hardy and Will Wall of Colorado are others in the list.  
Attorney General Palmer has the "blackest" record on the Presidential list as it now stands. Other candidates for the White House job on the list are Senator Harding of Ohio, who has declared himself for anti-strike legislation; Gen. Leonard Wood, and Senator Poindexter of Washington.  
If the charge that Herbert Hoover is for anti-strike courts is found to be true, he will go down on the list. The railroads unions will "blacklist" him regardless of whether he is.

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## FIRST 1920 CENSUS FIGURES GIVEN OUT

The first population total of the 1920 census was made public today. It is the report on the province of Guayama, Porto Rico. The population is 186,488, an increase of 21.5 per cent over 1910.

## FAIR PRICE WORK IN CAPITAL TO BE TAKEN OVER BY U. S. OFFICIALS

Washington is to be made a model city for the United States in the way of price regulation, according to the intention of Howard E. Figg, special assistant to the Attorney General in charge of the national campaign of the Department of Justice to reduce the cost of living.

Mr. Figg has decided to take over active direction of the fair price work for the District of Columbia, relinquishing by Clarence R. Wilson on his resignation as chairman of the Fair Price Committee.

Mr. Figg will appoint a new executive or advisory committee and will call a meeting for Tuesday afternoon to fix definite policies for this work in the District.  
The policies tested out here will be used in a nation-wide campaign to reduce living costs. It is also Mr. Figg's intention to hold a series of meetings of men in all lines of business in co-operation with his committee. The merchants will be asked to assist in the work, even to the extent of a voluntary reduction in prices.  
Prices, according to Mr. Figg, are higher in the District of Columbia than at practically any other point in the country, and it is his intention that Federal employees and other residents shall no longer live under this hardship.

## MISS MARGARET WILSON LOSES SONG-BIRD VOICE

Impaired by Long Service Overseas. Now at Asheville Trying Hard to Recover.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Feb. 21.—Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the President, who has been at Grove Park Inn for several days, announced at a banquet here yesterday for Gen. J. J. Pershing and staff, that she had lost her singing voice and had come to this climate to recover it.

Her statement was made after those present at the banquet had insisted that she sing, following the suggestion made by General Pershing, who told of her remarkable work among the soldiers overseas.  
Miss Wilson stated that following her return to this country she found that her voice was impaired from constant using, and it did not show improvement even after careful attention for several months at the White House. Her physician advised her to come to Asheville and take a long rest. She said the improvement had not been so fast as she expected and that it probably would be several months or longer before she again will be able to sing.  
She takes long walks along the mountain trails near the hotel and has taken a few horseback rides, but she spends the greater part of her time resting on the porches of the inn.

## HISTORIC STIRLING HOUSE IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Mansion Was Used as Headquarters by General Greene in Revolutionary War.

BASKING RIDGE, N. J., Feb. 21.—That widespread colony of old mansions in which George Washington had slept or revolutionary generals had made their headquarters was demolished by one today when fire destroyed the old Lord Stirling mansion, built in 1761.

William Alexander, the Lord Stirling whose name was recognized by the British House of Lords, built it. Being sympathetic with the Revolution, he cast his fortunes with George Washington and was given high rank in the Continental army.

The mansion was General Greene's headquarters.

## FIND BODY OF GIRL, 12, VICTIM OF ATTACK

Massachusetts Child Assaulted and Killed While on Errand for Mother.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Feb. 21.—The victim of a brutal attack while on an errand for her mother, twelve-year-old Virginia Walker was found slain near her home early today.  
The body, which was frozen stiff from the cold, was found on a pile of blankets among some unused sleighs in the rear of a creamery, where the little girl had gone for a bottle of milk.

## CALL R. R. BILL 'UNWORKABLE'

Committee That Conferred With Hines Gives Memorial to President.

## MEASURE IN HOUSE TODAY

Fight on Esch-Cummins Legislation Carried on Strictly Party Lines.

A committee of railway union officials today submitted to President Wilson a memorial characterizing the labor provisions in the Esch-Cummins bill as "absolutely unworkable."

The committee was composed of the same three men who last week conferred with the President in regard to the wage controversy with Rail Director Hines. They are acting President Shea, of the Brotherhood of Railway Firemen and Enginemen; President Manion, of the Telegraphers, and acting President Jewell, of the Railway Employees Department of the American Federation of Labor.

**Bill in House Today.**  
The Esch-Cummins bill is before the House today for action.

The conference report on the Esch-Cummins bill to govern the return of the railroads to private ownership on March 1, was expected to be passed today by a majority of from ten to fifty.

Labor leaders and Government ownership advocates opposed to the compromise measure admitted there was scant prospect of preventing the House from adopting the conference report embodying the bill.

The House met at 10 o'clock this morning, an hour earlier than usual, to take up the report. Debate is to be confined to five hours, the opponents and proponents of the bill to share equally in the exchange of arguments. A stormy session is anticipated.

At the conclusion of the debate, it is agreed a vote be taken to decide whether the report be adopted, or recommitted to conference, with amendments that it be further amended. A final vote is expected about 6 o'clock this afternoon.

National wage agreements entered into between the Railroad Administration and the railroad workers will be kept in force after the railroads are returned to their private owners, Director General Hines announced today.

The machinery established to enforce the wage agreements and to adjust wage questions will be kept intact, Director Hines stated.

Both sides marshaled their forces early. Republican leaders, on whom strong pressure was brought to bear.

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## MEXICANS TO RESCUE U. S. MAN FROM VILLA

Bandit Chief Holds an American for \$20,000, Sum of "Ancient Debt."

A column of Mexican federal troops have been sent to the rescue of Joseph E. Askew, an American held captive by Francisco Villa, Mexican bandit chief, the Mexican Foreign Office has advised the American embassy in Mexico City, it was announced today.

Askew was kidnapped on February 1, after a raid on a ranch at Lerdo, Durango, by Villistas.

Villa has been reported as declaring that he would hold Askew until he received \$20,000 from the United States State Department, which he claims owes him "an ancient debt" to this extent.

## WEDDED FIANCE MUST PAY \$20,000 TO GIRL

Saw Alleged Widower in Hotel With His Wife, She Tells Jury.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—A verdict of \$20,000 has been awarded Miss Virginia Eckhart, a pretty, twenty-one-year-old girl, of Detroit, in her breach-of-promise suit against Hugh J. H. Blakeley, a wealthy resident of this city.

## JUSTICE BAILEY FINDS THAT SHIP BOARD SPENT ONLY \$36.28 TO ADVERTISE SALE

Told Lloyd George He Could Not Bind Congress to Any Agreement.

President Wilson and Premier Lloyd-George, of England, had a secret agreement relative to the disposition of the former German ships, Senator Brandegee, Republican of Conn., declared in the Senate today, commenting on the reply of the President to the Senate resolution.  
"The reply of the President verifies the report I had relative to the secret agreement," Brandegee said.  
Brandegee said he could not understand why the President should hold the agreement with England until the Peace Treaty has been disposed of.

"The agreement provides for the turning over of all money for the sale of these ships to the reparation commission or payment for them by the United States if they are not sold," Brandegee declared.  
"I compliment the President for his frankness in laying the facts before the Senate," Brandegee continued.

President Wilson, in reply to the Brandegee resolution, passed by the Senate, asserts that no agreement or understanding has ever existed between him and officials of the British government, "concerning the sale of the ex-German vessels in possession of the United States, nor is there any agreement or understanding with respect to what disposition shall be made of those ships by the United States."

**Agreement by President.**  
Attached to the President's letter, however, is the text of an agreement between him and Lloyd George pertaining to "merchant shipping." This agreement was made in Paris in May, 1919, and bears the signature of the President and the British Premier.

The fourth clause of this agreement reveals something which Congress may find distinctly objectionable.

It begins with the statement that the ships seized by the United States will exceed the total amount of shipping it lost at the hands of the enemy, and therefore provision is made that the ships be appraised and that whatever value is arrived at over and above the value of our war losses in ships shall be turned over to the reparation commission.

**British To Get Cash.**  
The latter body will place it to the credit of Germany toward the sums "due from her for reparation, in respect to war losses of merchant ships."

In this fashion, Great Britain will receive, through Germany cash for the ships seized, operated and conditioned by the United States.  
Chairman Payne, of the Shipping Board, said today that Great Britain at the peace conference, stated that she had lost 77 per cent of her merchant tonnage during the war, and for this reason she thought the United States should turn over to her 77 per cent of the former German passenger and freight liners seized in our ports at the beginning of the war.

Chairman Payne said that the President would not agree to this proceeding, but the agreement which he made public today showed what was finally accomplished.

**Did Not Bind Congress.**  
That the President, in signing the agreement with Lloyd George, felt that Congress in the last analysis would have the power of accepting or rejecting it is indicated by a postscript to it, which reads:

"I deem it my duty to state, in signing this document, that while I feel confident that the Congress of the United States will make the disposal of the funds mentioned in clause four, which they agreed upon I have no authority to bind it to that action, but must depend upon it taking the same view of the matter that is taken by the joint signatories of this agreement."

## Some Advertising! ITEM: 10 Circulars, \$36.28

Officials of the Shipping Board today asserted that the total cost of advertising the sale of the former German liners amounted to \$36.28. This was expended for circularization of property worth probably \$100,000,000.

It is interesting to note in this connection the allegation in the bill of complaint presented by William Randolph Hearst in asking an injunction against the sale of these ships:

Paragraph 6.—"The plaintiff is informed and believes and so avers that the time, terms, conditions of sale, and specifications of the character and capacity of the vessels to be sold have not been properly advertised or brought to general notice nor to the general notice of steamship companies, nor has reasonable time, opportunity, or other facilities been given generally for the survey and inspection of the ships to be sold, but on the other hand the sale has been precipitously scheduled, the time fixed therefor has been frequently postponed for brief periods without due notice and the terms and conditions so changed and modified and with such frequency and without due notice that prospective bidders are not advised as to the terms, and conditions that are actually to govern the sale."

## Senate Committee On Commerce Records Its Ship Sale Opposition

The Senate Commerce Committee went on record today as opposing the sale of the thirty former German passenger ships the Shipping Board attempted to auction off for \$28,000,000, and as advocating their retention as an important part of the American merchant marine.

## Needed For Foreign Trade.

In a report submitted to the Senate aid in the disposition of these ships. Bids were probably lower than they would have been if their service had not been confined to specific routes, but these ships should be used upon the routes deemed most advisable. Higher bids would doubtless have been received if the sale of the ships had been open to foreigners, but neither the Congress nor the people will permit these ships to go to a foreign flag.

"If sold to private parties we cannot be sure that they will continue under the American flag nor that they will be kept upon the routes desired. Private parties will not continue the service at a loss. If the government continues to own these ships the service desired can and will be maintained."  
"This assurance will develop business and business agencies and doubtless soon put the service upon a paying basis, and the ships can then very likely be disposed of for all they cost, if not more, under such restrictions and upon such terms as will not only insure the maintenance of the service but their continuance under our flag."

**Should Not Sell Ships.**  
"Considering all these things, as well as many others, the committee on commerce came to the conclusion that it is wiser and better that these ships be not sold now and that the Government proceed without delay to repair them and put them in shape for service. Such action is not the determination of a permanent policy. That will be determined in a general bill which the committee hopes to report before long."

"If Congress should determine in favor of Government ownership and operation these ships will be embraced within such a policy. If Congress shall provide for private ownership and operation these ships will be disposed of as may be provided under such a policy."

"The bill recommended by the committee simply determines for the time being the status of these ships until legislation can be passed. We believe this action to be wise from a business standpoint, sound from the standpoint of the national interests, and in harmony with the sentiment of the people of the country."

## JACK JOHNSON, ON WAY TO U. S., FACES ARREST

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—Jack Johnson, former champion heavyweight prize fighter of the world, left Mexico City today for Laredo, Tex., United States District Attorney Charles F. Clyne announced in Chicago today. Clyne said Johnson will be arrested when he reaches this country.

**Mystery of President.**  
Shonts' vanished millions and startling disclosures of his double life—in next Sunday's New York American. Largest circulation in America.—Adv.

## RELIEVED OF FLEET UPKEEP

Court Fails to Figure \$20,000 a Day for Maintenance in Fixing Bond.

## SIGN INJUNCTION TUESDAY

Plea to Exempt Steamer Swan-nee From List Taken Under Consideration.

Ruling against the demand of Assistant Attorney General Charles B. Ames, of counsel for the United States Shipping Board, in the suit filed by William Randolph Hearst as a taxpayer and in the interest of the public, to restrain the board from exceeding its authority in selling the thirty seized German steamships, Justice Bailey, in the District Supreme Court today, fixed bonds at \$10,000 for Mr. Hearst for any indemnity that might arise.  
General Ames had demanded before Justice Bailey on Friday that Mr. Hearst be placed under a \$5,000,000 bond.

## Considers Bid Cost.

In fixing the \$10,000 bonds for Mr. Hearst's indemnification of the Government, Justice Bailey substantially took into consideration the costs to the Shipping Board in obtaining bids on the thirty seized German ships.

It developed that the entire cost to the Shipping Board for the bids it received was \$36.28. It was also brought out that the Shipping Board had not spent any money advertising for bids—that the costs of \$36.28 was incurred by the circularizing of the types of ships for sale to shipping interests.

## Request Is Granted.

Judge Ames on Friday had declared to Justice Bailey that the Shipping Board's loss daily on fourteen of the German ships alone was \$9,140 for wages of crew, fuel and other maintenance and that on all the ships the daily cost would approximately be \$20,000 until the injunction should be lifted.

Request of counsel for the Shipping Board to defer the signing the order of injunction until Tuesday to give the defendant's counsel an opportunity to confer over the order was agreed to by Justice Bailey. Hearing was set for 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Counsel for the Shipping Board, including District Attorney John E. Laskey, asked the court that the Steamship Swannee, one of the thirty seized German ships, be excluded from the list in the injunction writ on the ground that its sale had practically been consummated for \$2,000,000. Justice Bailey also took this request under consideration until Tuesday.

In fixing the nominal bonds for Mr. Hearst, Justice Bailey apparently (Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)