

GREATEST TAX BILL IN WORLD

Six Billion-Dollar War Revenue Measure Complete

FINAL ACTION TO COME SOON

Bulk Of Revenues Shall Be Secured From Incomes, Corporate And Individual, And War-Excess Profits.

Washington.—The six-billion-dollar War Revenue Bill, the greatest tax measure in the history of the world, was formally presented in the House. It has been six months in the making; had been passed once by the House, and had been revised twice to meet the transitions from war to peace and from a "wet" to a "dry" nation.

Representative Kitchin, the Democratic leader, expects the House to approve the measure—agreed to by Senate and House—before adjournment Saturday night, and Senator Simmons, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, will present it in the Senate as soon as the House has acted. Approval of the bill by both houses in the form in which it was reported by the conferees is confidently expected by leaders of both parties.

The completed measure will not be sent to France unless the President's departure for home is delayed well beyond the date now set for his sailing. The President is expected to sign the bill soon after his arrival here. In the meantime the internal revenue bureau is proceeding with preparations for collecting 1918 taxes on the basis of the schedules as contained in the measure reported by the conferees.

Considerable dissatisfaction with several conference provisions was evident at the Capitol after copies of the final draft had been distributed, but leaders generally predicted the ultimate enactment of the conferees' report. Some debate in the Senate was forecast, but this was not expected to long delay final approval.

About one-third of this year's estimated federal expenses is provided in the bill, which, uniformly following the original House plan and the peace-time modifications of the Senate, provides that the bulk of revenues shall be secured from incomes, corporate and individual, and war excess profits. Large revenues also are expected from intoxicating beverages until July 1, when prohibition legislation becomes effective.

Estimates of the exact revenue returns in prospect vary. Unofficial estimates published today placed the yield at about \$6,086,000,000 this year and \$4,150,000,000 in 1920. Estimates prepared by committee, and Treasury experts indicating prospective returns this year of about \$6,070,000,000, compared with about \$4,370,000,000 from existing tax laws, will be made public tomorrow by Representative Kitchin. The \$6,070,000,000 for this year is based on prospective taxes for the fiscal year ending July 1 next, including six months' revenues from intoxicants. Returns for the present calendar year are estimated by the experts at about \$5,788,000,000.

BRITISH EMBARGO MODIFIED.

American Boot And Shoe Dealers Given Equal Chance.

London.—At a conference between British manufacturers, British importers and representatives of American shoe manufacturers, an agreement was reached by which American and British firm dealing in boots and shoes can start competition on an equal basis. Details will be arranged later. The conference was arranged by the American Chamber of Commerce in London to discuss the new import restrictions of the British Government.

FARMER C/VT LOSE ON WHEAT.

Cost To Consumer, However, To Be Dictated By Law.

Washington.—While the farmer would be paid the \$2.26 government guarantee for the 1918 wheat crop, the wheat would be sold to the consumer at a price to be dictated by the law of supply and demand, under legislation approved by the House Agriculture Committee. The government would lose the difference between the purchase and sale prices.

BANDITS HOLD UP BANK.

Masked Robbers Escape With \$4,000; Overlook \$100,000.

Wheeling, W. Va.—Three masked bandits held up the cashier and two other employees of the Bank of Fulton, near here, and escaped in a waiting automobile with \$4,000 in cash. More than \$100,000 in money and bonds was overlooked by the robbers when they looted the vault.

85 KILLED IN BREMEN.

Paris.—A dispatch from Bremen announces that during the fighting in that city 85 persons were killed and several hundred wounded.

Conflicting Thoughts



SMALL NATIONS AND LEAGUE PLAN

Little Powers Insist Upon Equal Representation

SIGNS OF A DEADLOCK

Situation Similar To Hague Conference—Preamble And Two Articles Of Peace Society Agreed Upon.

Paris.—Although the five great allied and associated powers which are directing the Peace Conference have turned over much of the work to commissions, the society of nations question, especially with reference to the smaller nations, is becoming a knotty problem.

The smaller nations, it is declared, want full equality in a Society of Nations and also greater powers than the plans already outlined give to them. The great powers, on the other hand, are faced with a situation that if each State is given one member on a supreme court of nations, they might find themselves in the minority, although their interests might be much greater and probably would be.

It is not believed that the great powers would consent to an arrangement of this sort, and a situation similar to that at the second Hague Peace Conference appears to be in the making. The experts on the Society of Nations question are hopeful of finding a way to get the smaller States to agree to the plan so that it will not fall as Elihu Root's scheme for a supreme court of nations failed of approval at the second conference at The Hague.

The preamble and two articles of the constitution of the Society of Nations were provisionally agreed upon by the commission of the Peace Conference appointed to deal with that subject, it was officially announced. Satisfactory progress was made with other parts of the task. The question of adding representatives of other powers to the commission, it was added, is being discussed. The text of the official announcement reads:

"The commission on the league of nations met at the Hotel de Crillon and commenced its detailed discussions. A preamble and two articles were discussed and their texts were provisionally agreed upon. Satisfactory progress was made in regard to other parts of the draft. The question of adding representatives of other powers to the commission also was discussed.

Among the subjects which the Supreme Council has turned over to committees is that of the conflicting claims of the smaller nations of the Entente to territory which is likely to be taken from enemy countries. It is the design of the Supreme Council that such questions as these be adjusted ultimately in harmony with the principles of the society of nations, it is explained, but pending the completion of the organization of that society it has been found expedient to arrange for a full hearing of all these claims.

It is expected that the same course will be followed with the claims of Italy to territory beyond the Italian Irredenta proper, including the Dalmatian coast, which are to be heard next by the Supreme Council.

This method of work gives the members of the Society of Nations Committee a better opportunity to hasten their work. Indications are that this system will make it possible to get the Society of Nations' plan out of committee and before the plenary conference within the 10 days remaining of President Wilson's stay in France.

5,200 MET VIOLENT DEATH.

273 Homicides And 772 Suicides In Gotham Last Year.

New York.—Approximately 5,200 persons met violent death in this city last year, according to the annual report of the chief medical examiner just made public. There were 273 homicides and 772 suicides, a slight decrease compared with 1917.

PRISONERS KILLED BY BAD TREATMENT

Starved and Overworked in Camp at Friedrichsfelde

MANY DIED OF EXHAUSTION

When The Soldier Reached Fulham Hospital He Was Extremely Emaciated And Covered With Vermin.

London.—A verdict, which, according to the coroner, amounted to one of manslaughter against German officials, was returned to a Fulham inquest in the case of Private Henry Richard Roberts, aged 19, of the Cheshire Regiment, a repatriated prisoner of war, who died of starvation. He was a native of Carnarvon. Roberts was admitted to the Fulham Military Hospital on December 28 last, and the only official news they had of him was that he came from the prison camp at Friedrichsfelde. A nurse testified that, upon arrival at the hospital, Roberts was very weak, ill and very dirty. He told the nurse that he had had a bath on board of the boat crossing to England. He was wearing pajamas and was wrapped in blankets, which had been supplied to him on the boat.

Major Charles Grey, who had seen the soldier the morning after his admission, stated that he was extremely emaciated and very ill; in fact, he was just skin and bones; but was rational at the time. He related that he was taken prisoner on June 6, 1918, and had been retained behind the German lines ever since, employed in constructing railways. He had been overworked and starved, also that 10 men of his company had been killed by the hard work. He explained that they had been employed carrying heavy rails on their shoulders, and that a number of them had been so weak and exhausted from want of food that they fell down while carrying the rails, and were actually pinned down by the weight of them. They were allowed to lie as they fell until they died of exhaustion.

Capt. Carnegie Dickson, pathologist commissioner arrived at the hospital to take Roberts' statement he found him too ill and weak to speak. He died on New Year's Day. There was no doubt that his death of tuberculosis was due to starvation and privation.

Captain Carnegie Dickson, pathologist at the hospital, who had made the post-mortem examination, stated that the body was more emaciated than he had ever seen one in his 18 years' experience, and that the man weighed only 104 pounds. He was verminous. Fat was absent entirely from the tissues, and the muscles were wasted. The heart was only one-half the normal size. There was recent tuberculosis on the lungs, death being due to rapid and acute tuberculosis, which the witness attributed directly to the privation and starvation of the past six months.

The coroner contrasted the treatment of prisoners of war in Britain with the manner in which English prisoners had been treated in Germany. It was scandalous, he said, that a young man should die in this way, and one would not think it possible that one man could serve another as this poor fellow had been served.

The foreman of the coroner's jury, after consultation with his colleagues, said: "We consider that it is a case of willful murder by German officials."

MRS. ROOSEVELT SAILS.

She Will Visit Quentin's Grave In France, Then Go To Italy.

New York.—Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, widow of the former President, was among the passengers on the French liner Lorraine, which sailed from here Wednesday. She will visit the grave of her son, Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt, who was killed in an airplane battle over the German lines, and also plans to spend several weeks with her sister, Miss Emily Carew, who is doing war work in Italy.

HINES OFFERS RAIL SOLUTION

Would Put a Few Big Lines Under Strict Supervision

QUESTION OF FAIR RETURN

Director-General Urges Five-Year Control Before Senate Committee Immediate Release Of Roads Next Best Solution.

Washington.—Exaggerated complaint against Government railroad operation, growing out of a natural reaction from war-time patriotic tension, is a "psychological factor" which makes it difficult at this time to develop a permanent solution of the railway problem, Director-General Hines said in testifying before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.

This is one important reason, Mr. Hines said, why Government operation either should be extended five years and time given for calm deliberation or the roads turned back to private management before the present 21-month period expires.

"I do not believe there is anything substantial in the argument that a five-year extension of Government operation would necessarily mean Government ownership," Mr. Hines said. "I personally do not believe in Government ownership. I believe there can be a form of radically reconstructed private ownership, with such close Government supervision, including Government representation on the boards of directors, as will give the public and labor all the benefits of Government ownership and at the same time will preserve the benefits of private and self-interested initiative and will avoid the political difficulties which perhaps are inseparable from Government ownership."

So far as physical operations are concerned, said the Director-General, there is now no emergency which calls on the Government to continue control of the railroads. He explained that the methods adopted by the Railroad Administration during the war now are open to reconsideration in light of peace conditions, adding that this had been Mr. McAdoo's attitude.

Mr. Hines presented the following arguments for a five-year extension: It will give advocates of Government ownership full opportunity to press their views without being influenced by the temporary reaction against Government control;

It will remove the necessity for undue haste in solving such a big problem as the future of the railroads;

It will stabilize employment and wage conditions, permit prosecution of a big program of improvements and extensions, help to take up the slack in employment and material during the critical period of readjustment;

It will protect security holders pending an ultimate solution;

It will minimize the danger of making the railroad question a purely partisan issue, to be considered in an illogical manner, in the presidential elections.

Advising more deliberation in discussing the railroad question, Mr. Hines said: "I think it is a fair prediction that before any legislation can actually be shaped there will be a strong reassertion of the permanent views of that part of the public which insists on a greater degree of social control of the railroads and that this reassertion of the views now temporarily in the background is going to defeat the adoption of any permanent program in the next two years."

WASHINGTON

Departure from France of nine ships, which will dock at New York, Philadelphia or Newport News in the next three weeks with approximately 400 officers and 7,200 men from the American Expeditionary Force, was announced by the War Department.

In a partial agreement reached by conferees on the informal war contracts the Senate managers yielded and struck from the bill the plan for an appellate commission to pass upon awards of government officials.

Divergent views of action to be taken by Congress for making good the government guarantee of \$2.26 a bushel for wheat of the 1919 crop were given at the House Agriculture Committee hearing.

Leon O. Fisher, of New York, second vice-president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, became head of the Insurance Department of the War Risk Bureau.

Warning was issued by the Treasury Secret Service that a counterfeit \$20 Federal Reserve note is in circulation.

Sweeping investigation of Bolshevism, I. W. W. and other propaganda was ordered unanimously by the Senate.

RUSHING WORK ON THE PEACE PACT

Delegates Recognize the Need of Getting it in Shape

LEAGUE PLANS ARE READY

Members Of The Conference Show Anxious Desire To Secure Practical Results Before President Wilson Leaves For Home.

Paris.—A feverish haste is marking the proceedings of the peace delegates in the few days remaining before the return of President Wilson to the United States. The most difficult problems relate to the new boundaries to be created and which have aroused the aspirations of many nations, especially the little ones for the territory of their neighbors.

The President has definitely postponed his trip to Belgium, although the Belgians greatly desired that he personally inspect their ruined country and industries and be convinced of the justice of their claim for reparation. The French also would have been glad if the President not only could have been able to go to Belgium, but if he could have continued his visits to devastated France. The French feeling in this matter has been voiced by Captain Andre Tardieu in his declaration that the German blockade should be continued indefinitely.

More important demands, however, have required the President's continued presence in Paris. It is regarded as necessary that the associated powers shall present a solid front when the delegates of the Central powers are admitted into the conference. If they do not present a solid front it is felt in some quarters, the enemy defeated on the field might succeed by cunning and intrigue in causing dissension among the associated powers and in getting better terms for themselves by offering tempting alliances. The main efforts of the conference leaders, therefore, are being directed toward the consolidation of their own forces and in gaining adherence to the fundamental principles which are to govern the future regulations of States.

A great deal has been done to settle the various territorial disputes by mediation and in endeavoring to have such disputes submitted to the Society of Nations when it is organized. A notable success in this direction has been in the conflict between Italy and Jugoslavia over territory in the eastern Adriatic.

As these difficulties are overcome, however, others appear in the shape of demands by some elements for the imposition of harsher terms on Germany than are contained in the present armistice agreement, not only for the present, but also for the distant future. Some of these proposals are that Germany should be kept blockaded indefinitely, even after the signing of the final peace treaty, in order to permit France and Belgium to rehabilitate their injured industries so as to be able to compete with Germany in the world's markets. The question has been raised, however, if they may not be regarded as irreconcilable with that part of the primary peace plan in which it is declared that no economic discrimination shall be permitted.

CHILD TORTURE ALLEGED.

Head Of Orphanage In Georgia Is Deemed Of Unsound Mind.

Marletta, Ga.—That Mrs. Naomi Campbell, founder of the undenominational orphanage, who is held in jail here awaiting trial on charges of subjecting child inmates of the institution to inhuman treatment is not of sound mind, was the declaration made by Sheriff W. E. Swanson. Children, ranging in age from 2 to 16 years, told stories of being forced by Mrs. Campbell to torture babies of 2 and 3 years and of being beaten unmercifully and having red pepper and turpentine rubbed into the raw flesh.

FIRST TO BE DECORATED IN U. S.

Distinguished Service Cross Presented Soldier In Hospital.

Washington.—The first Distinguished Service Cross to be presented in this country to an enlisted man for gallantry overseas was worn by Corporal Newell B. Davis, of Rochester, N. Y. I Company, Twenty-eighth Infantry of the First Division, who received the decoration at Walter Reed Hospital, where he is recuperating from wounds. General Pershing cited Davis for rescuing a wounded comrade at Cantigny in the face of machine gun fire.

WILSON GETS DEGREES.

Representatives Of Cracow And Athens Universities Confer Them.

Paris.—President Wilson received a committee of the Society for the Protection of Polish Victims, who presented to him a manifesto expressing appreciation of his good offices. He also received delegations from the Universities of Cracow and Athens, who conferred upon him honorary degrees.

THREAT SPURS ALLIED ACTION

Measure to Be Taken to Bring Huns to Their Senses

SOME STUMBLING BLOCKS

Supreme War Council To Fix An Early Date For The Germans To Carry Out Unfulfilled Conditions Of The Armistice.

Paris.—The Allied premiers will fix new terms to be imposed upon Germany, whose tactics of obstruction and recrimination are said to have reached a climax in a threat made at Weimar by Chancellor Ebert that Germany would break off negotiations with the Allies.

The feeling in Peace Conference circles is that the Germans are more and more forgetting their position, and it is expected that the Supreme War Council will take measures to bring them to a sense of the realities. Marshal Poch will go to Treves February 17 to fix the conditions for a third renewal of the armistice.

It is understood that the council will fix a brief time within which the Germans must carry out the conditions they have only fulfilled in part. In this respect it is noted that none of the German merchant ships which were to have been sent to certain Allied ports has yet been handed over.

Official Bulletin. The Supreme Council official bulletin says:

"The Supreme Council discussed the terms of the extension of the armistice with Germany. The discussion will continue Saturday.

"The Labor Legislation Commission discussed the representation which will be given to governments and organizations of employers and working people in the proposed permanent international conference. It was decided that women should be equally eligible as men as delegates to the conference."

French opinion considers that the occupation of Essen is first necessary if the Allies are to control Germany's principal war factories. Public opinion in France also is asking if the Supreme War Council is going to allow Field Marshal von Hindenburg to establish himself in Bromberg and prepare a campaign against Poland, which can only be supplied through Danzig.

The Supreme War Council also will fix the size of the contingents of France, Great Britain, the United States and Allied nations in the armies of occupation, both in Europe and Asia.

SOLDIERS TO HONOR T. R.

Bill Introduced To Make Roosevelt's Birthday Holiday.

Washington.—American soldiers abroad, as well as those in military camps in this country, will join in the memorial exercises for Theodore Roosevelt Sunday, the date fixed by Congress for the ceremonies. Secretary Baker, in a letter to Representative McCormick, said he had asked General Pershing asking that general orders be issued for observance of the day by the army in Europe.

The birthday of Theodore Roosevelt, October 27, would be set aside as a national holiday by a bill introduced by Representative Edmonds, of Pennsylvania.

SEES PAN-AMERICAN NATION.

Bolivian Minister Predicts One Great Confederation.

Washington.—Suggestion that the sphere of action of the Pan-American Union be extended to the settlement of boundary and other disputes between nations of the Americas is made by Senor Don Ignacio Calderon, Bolivian Minister to the United States, in a pamphlet published by the United States Government.

Prediction is made by the Minister that "the day will come when the American republics, instead of quarreling about boundaries, will abolish them and from one great confederation based on the ideals that awaken in our soul the love of liberty, justice and peace, and of whatever is generous, beautiful and divine."

FOR SPECIAL ARMY TRAINING.

Baker Asks Congress To Approve Technical Study Plan.

Washington.—Secretary Baker submitted to Congress legislation to be included in the new Military Appropriation bill making it possible for the War Department to employ and train men for technical positions in its various bureaus and special services. By the terms of the provisions two per cent of the officers of a bureau might be sent to college or commercial institutions, at home or abroad, at the department's expense to specialize in these subjects, while another would permit various special services of the army to obtain services of prominent technical men as instructors.