

WON WITHOUT MILITANCY

Political Factions Seen as Healthy Gauge for Legislation

WAR WON'T HALT BILLS

Congressman J. Hampton Moore Outlines Big Business Before Legislators

Special Correspondence Evening Ledger WASHINGTON, March 31. Before the war propaganda absorbed the headlines in the newspapers the trend of legislation in Washington was such as to give concern to many thoughtful observers...

But the talk of war has changed all this for the time being, and from giving our individual incentive and enterprise, Congress is adding to making the largest appropriations in history, is preparing for great food issues, and business men, temporarily prosperous, are giving but little heed to the outcome.

CONGRESS ISSUES AND BUSINESS Congress already has authorized bond issues to the extent of \$474,000,000, with another \$100,000,000 in a fair way of approval when the next Congress meets, and then more.

Provision is already made for projects ranging from the purchase of motorboats to coast defenses, from the manufacture of clothing, and the construction in Government yards of monster battleships heretofore awarded to private constructors.

From the distribution of seed to the financing of the construction and operation of railroads, the Government is now in the saddle competing with the individual. None know this tendency better than the railroad magnates of this country, who, though temporarily pressed to the limit of their great service, fully understand that the question of Government ownership of railroads generally will sooner or later become an issue which must be seriously dealt with.

The express companies have seen much of their business go over to the parcel post, and the telegraph and telephone companies are entirely aware of the movement to take over as Government enterprises these important factors in the transmission of information.

Railroads and other public utilities and private manufacturers, being extremely busy for the time, will have to face the problems in one form or another before or after the close of the war in Europe.

Meanwhile the Government payroll is steadily increasing in every direction, with war pensions only slightly reduced, as compensation laws of one kind or another swell the aggregate of our taxation burdens.

VALUE OF POLITICAL PARTIES These considerations are timely since the suggestion has been thrown out in Washington that a bipartisan organization of the House of Representatives might be desirable as evincing unity of political purpose in the present war crisis.

It is only fair to say that this bipartisan suggestion, which came from Minority Leader Mann, has not been cordially received by Democrats or Republicans. The spirit of party is not ready to sacrifice itself in the interest of any particular President, although it may be expected to do so for the country's welfare.

"Stand by the President" is an international crisis is not understood by Republicans and Democrats alike. The Democrats now in power intend to relinquish their hold on patronage, nor that the Republicans will quit striving to obtain it.

The President's appointments to the various commissions created during his term, including his most recent creation, the Tariff Commission, are not calculated to inspire Republican confidence. Nor do the Democrats, some of whom are dissatisfied with the President's appointments, show disposition to abandon the party line, because he so frequently neglects to consult their particular political interests.

A HEALTHY CHECK The "bipartisan idea," so far as Congress is concerned, may be dismissed with this general thought, that this Government is not in a position to date the value of a healthy party upon its good behavior.

The Republicans, who have been in the majority, believe they have been fairly used in criticizing Democratic extremists, notwithstanding most of them expect to "stand by the President" in an international crisis. They have done so with the President on many questions of policy and will doubtless continue to do so. That they will continue to differ upon such questions as protection and free trade, and that they have little faith in the President's tariff board is self-evident. The Democrats themselves are inclined to smile at the suggestion that a tariff board under a free trade administration should be non-partisan, just as they would balk at the suggestion that a Republican Congress would bring in a free-trade bill.

TARIFF DISCUSSION SOON There are some leaders who think Congress will conclude its labors with the war business and the passage of necessary appropriation bills, but there are others who believe that once Congress begins work it will sit all summer. Those who have the latter feeling are in the majority, although few heads in the Washington hotel-keepers are really anxious for a long session. But when Congress opens and the flood of bills commences, there is no telling when the national legislative mill will cease to grind.

Much as war is now the uppermost topic, the aftermath of war must be considered. Both parties are alive to the tariff issue, and Republicans are keenly sensitive to the Democratic efforts to solve this problem without Republican aid.

FOR PROTECTION This motion made such headway in the last Congress that the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee, though seriously handicapped, would have prepared a tariff bill had not the President's war message eclipsed all other considerations. The first step toward protection was taken by the majority when it restored the sugar tariff. The exigencies of the treasury required a more liberal tariff revision until the war issue relieved the situation by the authorization of bonds. But the tariff will continue to be an issue, and at the first sign of a cessation of hostilities in Europe there will be a race of the parties to bring in tariff measures suited to the new world conditions. It is not improbable that tariff measures will be formulated whether the war stops or not.

PRESIDENT WILSON has received the endorsement of members of the Buckeye Club and the Alliance Club, who are in support of the President's policy.

British Troops Take Five More Towns

River, successful attacks were made against the German positions. Despite the stubborn defense of the Germans the French took by storm several points of support.

German efforts to recapture ground they had lost to us in Champagne were met by aggressive last night. Five assaults were ordered near Masons de Champagne farm, but all crumpled beneath the artillery and machine gunfire of the French.

In the Pterherhagen sector (upper Alsace) we broke up German patrols, taking some prisoners. Near Ammerzweller a hostile surprise attack was repulsed.

British forces are at grips with the German line along the eighty-five-mile "Von Hindenburg line" and fighting between Arras and the Aisne resumed its violence today. All along the battle front big guns are plying the positions of the Allies and the Teutons.

Despite storms fog and mud, the British troops that occupied Sarg, Finis and Baulcourt yesterday pressed eastward toward Heudicourt engaging the protecting troops of the Germans in a furious rearguard action between the Bapume-Cambrai road and Cologne Brook.

Between the Somme and the Aisne rivers of the steel and concrete fortifications of the Germans—a series of powerful works built by the foremost military engineers in the world.

Now that the main armies are apparently in contact it is estimated that more than 1,500,000 men are engaged in the gigantic struggle on this field of action. These include the reserves as well as the men in the front trench sections.

Thousands of guns are massed behind the lines, pouring their steel into the adversary's trenches night and day.

The Arras-Alsace battle front is eighty-five miles long, or 149,500 yards. Military estimates state that the closest formations of troops known is one each yard. That would put only about 300,000 in the advanced or front line trenches.

Fighting in Champagne, in the region south of Rippont, and big gun duels on the Arras-Lens line continue.

ACCUSED M. E. MINISTER RETIRES FROM SERVICE

Charges Against Rev. George A. Cooke Dropped When He Offers to Quit

SEAFORD, Del., March 31. The case of the Rev. George A. Cooke, deposed pastor of Wesley Methodist Church, Wilmington, came to an end in conference here this afternoon, when, upon Cooke's own request, he was formally transferred from the active to the retired list and the charges against him were formally dropped.

By this action the scandal which has engulfed at one time or another the Rev. Cooke against members of his former congregation and from the counter-charges made against him, is ended.

To all intents and purposes Cooke is out of active service so far as the Wilmington Conference is concerned.

The select committee which heard the case recommended this action this afternoon and it was unanimously adopted by the conference.

A minister occupying the retired relation may be employed as a pastoral supply and may officiate at meetings and other ceremonies, but only by vote of the conference and that a minister be restored to the active list.

CAR JUMPS TRACK AT EIGHTH AND CHESTNUT

Several persons were slightly injured when an east-bound Chestnut street trolley car, of the Columbia avenue division, jumped the tracks and ran up on the sidewalk at Eighth and Chestnut streets this afternoon. Hundreds of persons on their way to attend the patriotic demonstration in Independence Square were passing this point at the time and many narrowly escaped being run down.

One man, James F. Davis, thirty-four years old, of 327 Spruce street, a passenger on the derailed car, was removed to the Pennsylvania Hospital in the patrol wagon. He suffered general bruises. Several women passengers were thrown to the floor, but refused medical aid. The rear trucks of the car ran off the track in making the turn into Chestnut street from Eighth. The repair crew placed the car back on the track and traffic was resumed.

City News in Brief

ESCAPING STEAM in a trench at Sixty-sixth and Lancaster avenue scalded Louis Sabill, forty-two years old, of 6422 Carlton street, so badly that he may lose his sight. Physicians at the West Philadelphia Hospital are bending every effort to save his sight.

EVERETT A. SCHOFIELD, a lawyer and one of the jurors in the Tracy jury case, is recovering from an attack of acute indigestion, which he suffered while in Quarter Sessions Court. Physicians were summoned from the Bureau of Health. After receiving treatment he was taken to his home.

DELAWARE RIVER conditions are reported as deplorable by pilots and shipmanagers. The markings in the river are said to be in worse condition than they have been in years. Many of the buoys have been carried away by ice, the pilots say, and navigation is dangerous.

MISS KATHERINE E. PUNCHEON, retiring principal of the Girls' High School, Seventeenth and Spring Garden streets, presided for the last time at assembly in the school and bade her pupils a fond farewell. She soon will be married to Edward J. Pomeroy, a Chicago attorney. She received several gifts from members of the faculty and classes. Dr. Fred Gowling, the new principal, will assume charge next Monday.

SPEDWAY BROTHERS, members of the Philadelphia Sewing Machine Association, pledged themselves to stand by President Wilson in the present crisis. The pledge was taken at the weekly dinner of the association at the Bingham Hotel.

"BOY ASLEEP," a painting by Antonio Barone, has received the gold medal of the Art Club at the twenty-third annual exhibition at the club. More than 100 paintings are on exhibition. Honorable mention was given Charles S. Corson for "In September." The jury passed on the works exhibited was composed of George Gibbs, chairman; Richard Blossom, Harry M. B. Medary, Jr., E. V. Seelye, George Frank Stephens, William B. Van Ingen and W. T. Wilson.

NO Cheaper Coal in Reading READING, Pa., March 31.—Reading coal dealers made official announcement here as the result of a meeting held that there is nothing to be expected of a reduction in price of coal at this time, notwithstanding that a drop of fifty cents per ton on one stove, and a six-cent drop on another, has been announced by the Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Producers' Association.

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