

THE REBUILT ROADS AT ONCE

First Step to Be Putting of Chief State Arteries in Shipshape

NO POLITICS IN WORK

By a Staff Correspondent
HARRISBURG, Sept. 10.—The immediate rebuilding of the State highways to meet the needs of the war and the placing of all the principal arteries in the State highway system in good condition will be the first step taken by J. Denny O'Neil, who assumes his duties as the new State Highway Commissioner next week.

Commissioner O'Neil's appointment as State Highway Commissioner to succeed Frank Black was announced last Monday by Governor Brumbaugh, who at the same time announced the appointment of Charles A. Ambler as O'Neil's successor as head of the State Insurance Department.

In an exclusive interview to the EVENING LEADER today, Pennsylvania's new builder of roads expanded on the program that he announced when he was appointed.

He insisted with all the emphasis that he has used on the stump in his fight against Penrose that politics will not have any part in the conduct of the department under his administration. But he followed this with the announcement that while politics will not contemplate "at this time" the removal of any of the employees of the department, one of the first things he will do when he takes the reins next week will be to "look around the State to see whether the employees are efficient and honest and are giving good service."

The Highway Department politically was one of the most powerful in the State Government while the late Edward M. Bigelow was commissioner. Bigelow openly used the hundreds of employees that the department has in every county in the State and the influence the department has through co-operative road building, over the township and borough officials in the interests of the Penrose machine.

O'Neil is in the opposite political camp, and when he was shifted from the Insurance Department to the Highway Department, the cry was raised that it was a political move made by the Vore-Brumbaugh faction against the Penrose machine.

"I can only point to the statement I issued when my appointment was announced," was his reply to a blunt question as to whether he intends to use the State Highway Department for political purposes against Penrose.

"The road department will not be operated as a political machine and will not be dominated by politicians," he said in his statement. "Efficiency, honesty and service will be the sole test of merit, and no employee will be removed who measures up to the above standard; but no employee will be retained who is not efficient and who fails to render a fair return to the State for his salary. It will not make any difference how great his political influence is or who his backers are."

The commissioner then explained his building program.

"Before adopting any definite policy," he said, "I will have to inform myself as to the finances that are available and the laws regulating the building of highways. What I hope to accomplish is this:

"Undertake as far as possible as possible under the existing high cost of labor and materials, and instead spend the money available for repairs where they will do the most good and for the abolition of toll roads and toll bridges.

"Present prices are almost prohibitive, and I doubt now whether any extensive work will be undertaken until after the war. It is almost impossible to obtain either labor or material nowadays.

"My general policy will be to connect up the links on the principal highways throughout the State, and if any local roads can be found for it to be done with the co-operation of the boroughs, to try to fix up the roads within the boroughs all over the State.

"As an example of a connecting link that is badly in need of rebuilding there is the Turtle Creek hill, east of Pittsburgh, on the Lincoln Highway. Three or four accidents occur in that stretch every week because of the deplorable condition of the road. Then, too, the 10,000 automobiles which travel over this road every week remember only the bad section of the road, and you could hardly convince them that any other section of the road is good.

"The sections of State highways that pass through the boroughs with few exceptions are in bad condition. By fixing them up the William Penn Highway, the Lincoln Highway, the National Pike and the other main roads will be placed in good condition from one end of the State to the other.

KERENSKY'S PROCLAMATION OF MARTIAL LAW IN CAPITAL

FORMER PREMIER LVOFF arrived in Petrograd Saturday, demanding in General Korniloff's name that I deliver all civil and military power to the generalissimo, who would form a new government at his pleasure.

The authenticity of this summons was afterward confirmed by Korniloff personally, by telegram from headquarters.

Considering this summons an attempt in certain quarters to profit by our country's difficult situation and to establish conditions contrary to the conquests of the revolution, the provisional Government recognized the necessity of charging me for the fatherland's safety and the freedom of the republican regime to take urgent indispensable measures and to cut at the root of all attempts against the supreme power and rights of our citizens won by the revolution.

I am, therefore, for the maintenance of liberty and public order, taking all measures, which will be announced when the proper moment arrives.

At the same time, I order General Korniloff to hand over all his functions to General Klembovsky, commander-in-chief of the army on the northern front, which armies now bar the enemy's way to Petrograd, and I order General Klembovsky to assume provisionally the functions of generalissimo.

Secondly, I declare a state of war in the town and district of Petrograd. I appeal to all citizens to remain calm and fulfill their duty to the fatherland against a foreign enemy.

CLARK CHAMPIONS SAMMEES' INSURANCE TO HUSBAND, SUICIDE

Speaker Answers Objections Against Soldiers' and Sailors' Protection Bill

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Speaker Champ Clark went to bat for the Administration soldiers and sailors' insurance measure in the House today. The Speaker catalogued the four main objections raised against the bill and answered them categorically. He declared that he was more interested in seeing the bill become a law than he has been in any war measure thus far considered.

"The four principal objections urged against this bill," the Speaker said, "are these: that it increases the compensation to soldiers; that the Government may find itself in a hole as a result of the operation of the measure; that it may in some way interfere with the present pension law and that it was not prepared by the Interstate Commerce Committee, from which committee it was reported to the House.

Answering these objections in reverse order the Speaker pointed out that it made no difference whether the committee prepared the bill or not, as long as it was a good measure; that he did not see in what way it could interfere with the present pension laws; that he was not vitally interested in whether it put the Government in a hole, as long as he believes in the American army could go to Europe and be comfortable in their minds about their families at home; that increasing the compensation to soldiers would do no account as long as it assured the soldiers that their wives and children would not go to the poorhouse.

Representative Gillett, of Massachusetts, opposed the insurance feature of the measure. He said it would cost the country a vast amount of money, and the insurance feature would not help the soldiers who need it most—the soldiers from country districts.

AUGUST'S BIG TAX RECEIPTS

Month's Total Largest in Department's History

Receiver of Taxes W. Freland Kendrick announced today that the receipts of his department for August were \$16,167,367. This is the largest sum ever collected in a single month, and an increase of \$2,695,172 over August, 1916.

For the eight months ended August 31, 1917, the receipts are \$34,759,745, comparing with \$29,466,098 in the same period last year.

BERKMAN'S FREEDOM BRIEF

Released on Bond and Immediately Re-arrested on Bomb Charge

NEW YORK, Sept. 10.—Alexander Berkman was free for just thirty seconds this afternoon. Emma Goldman and Miss Margaret E. Fitzgerald obtained his release from the Tombs on \$25,000 cash bail.

Before the ink was dry on his release papers he was rearrested on a warrant from San Francisco, charging him with homicide in connection with the preparedness parade bomb explosions.

To Probe East St. Louis Riots
WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Congressional investigation of the race riots at East St. Louis was assured today when the Rules Committee of the House reported out a resolution providing for appointment of a House committee of five members for the purpose.

ARGENTINA HOLDS SWEDEN TO BLAME

Will Take Summary Action if Report Is Verified, Says Official Paper

LUXBURG SURE TO GO

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Special Cable Service of the United Press and Evening Ledger.

Buenos Aires, Sept. 10.—Argentina's greatest anger today was directed at Sweden rather than at Germany.

Comment on the American revelation of Germany's secret channel of communications from the German charge at Buenos Aires through the Swedish legation to Stockholm and thence to Berlin was still withheld in all official circles. It was plain, however, that officials regarded Sweden as having played the most offensive part in the matter.

La Epoca, recognized as a Government organ, apparently voiced the official view today when it declared (referring to Sweden):

"It is impossible to believe such monstrous discourtesy, despite the source of the information. But if it is proved correct, the Government will denounce such conduct."

The Swedish charge today confirmed his legation's denial that anything was handled for Luxburg. Nevertheless, the accuracy of Washington's version of the affair was accepted virtually without question here.

The only question raised here related to possible variations in phraseology in the verbiage, caused by the various translations of the text of Luxburg's messages. It was pointed out that the missive originally drafted in German, then translated into English and then, for publication here, translated into Spanish.

It appeared certain today that speedy demand would be made for recall of the German charge. Count Luxburg, Buenos Aires does not expect the German diplomat ever to return from his vacation, but to find a haven in Chile.

U. S. NOT TO BREAK WITH SWEDEN NOW

Washington, Sept. 10.—The United States Government has no intention now of breaking relations with Sweden because of the "spurious versant" secret communications forwarded for Germany by the Buenos Aires Swedish Minister.

While Sweden's explanation may alter the American position, it was made official today by the State Department. The State Department anticipates some sort of explanation from Sweden, but in the meantime the department's utterances are guarded.

The American Government, it is known, has no definite proof that the Stockholm Foreign Office was fully cognizant of the affair, and it attaches no blame to the Swedish people.

It was indicated, however, that this Government desires to see Sweden to be some sort of housecleaning in Sweden, although it has not officially suggested such a course.

LONDON PERCEIVES MANY COMPLICATIONS

LONDON, Sept. 10.—Possibilities of all Scandinavia becoming involved in the war were seen in London today, following America's revelation of the German-Sweden intrigue in sending messages from Argentina through the Stockholm Foreign Office.

The disclosures are regarded as of highest importance here, opening up possibilities for a long chain of international events.

Severance of relations between the Allies and Sweden is regarded as certain in England unless the Swedish Government makes proper explanation of its participation in the German intrigue, and makes an immediate apology, at the same time dismissing the responsible officials and giving assurance that there will be no repetition of such an incident.

The revelations may bring about a crisis in Sweden. A change in the Swedish Government is forecast in the result of the general elections which now are in progress, and which already have shown a heavy increase in the Liberal and Social Democratic vote, and a decrease in the Conservative vote. The American expose is deemed certain to give the Branting (Social Democrat) party control.

In view of this situation, the possibility is faced of the present Government taking the desperate course of sending out a large portion of Allied supplies to Russia, but on the other hand such a step by Germany would doubtless drive Norway into the Allied camp.

GERMANS TALK RESTORATION IN PEACE FEELER

Alleged Terms, Circulated in Washington, Would Sell Colonies to Britain

VON KUHLMANN AUTHOR

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Germany wants to know what the United States thinks of the following peace terms: Independence of Alsace-Lorraine.

The Austrian part of Trieste demanded by Italy to be made free.

The restoration of Serbia and Rumania; Serbia to have a port on the Adriatic.

Restoration of Belgium and northern France, to be paid for out of sale of German colonies to Great Britain.

Negotiation over the Balkan question and the status of Turkey.

Freedom of the seas, Great Britain to control the channel until a tunnel is built between England and France.

Disarmament and an international police.

The foregoing purport to be Germany's terms and they have been circulated industriously in Washington for the last two weeks. Entente embassies and neutrals regard them as a "feeler." Their origin is not disclosed, but they are said to have been written by the new German Secretary of Foreign Affairs von Kuhlmann, before he went to Vienna recently.

This outline of terms, circulated without definite stamp of any authority, is noted, bears in many respects a resemblance to the general tenor of the proposals of Pope Benedict.

By some diplomats such an outline is regarded as presenting something tangible of discussion. It is discussed as a possibility, without having advanced fully into the range of possibility.

LONDON, Sept. 10.—Dr. George Trevelyan, the German Chancellor, has announced that Germany's peace terms had not been published. The Chancellor said he had no informed the Reichstag main committee, an Eschwege Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen states.

The main committee, said Doctor Trevelyan, had "tried to make final arrangements regarding peace conditions and the question of Alsace-Lorraine, but no decision has yet been taken. The question, however, was eagerly discussed and Germany will soon be able to publish her peace terms."

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 10.—The committee of seven members of the Reichstag and seven members of the Bundestag appointed to draw an answer to Pope Benedict's peace note will meet this afternoon and reply will probably be drafted then, says a Berlin dispatch.

CORNER LOUNGERS SENTENCED

Must Go to Jail for Five Days or Pay \$5 Fine

Accused of corner lounging, six men were sentenced to five days in jail or to pay a fine of \$5 each and costs by Magistrate Coward.

The police of the Fourth and De Lancy streets station received a phone call that a crowd of men were acting in a disorderly manner at Third and Spruce streets and Policemen Tryeno and Friedman were detailed to place them under arrest.

The prisoners gave the following names and addresses: Joseph Evers, 23 Cynamon street; Raymond Craft, 245 South American street; Anthony Craft, 245 South American street; Frank Bailey, 404 South American street; John Story, 232 De Lancy street, and William Koch, 235 Pine street.

U. S. TRANSPORTS FIGHT OFF U-BOATS

Battleplanes and Destroyers Aid in Repelling Furious Attack

BATTLE LASTS TWO HOURS

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 10.—Five big battleplanes re-enforced a flotilla of seven Yankee destroyers in beating off a squadron of German U-boats which attacked five American transports on August 30, according to a letter Dr. Bernard R. Lee today received from his son, Arthur Lee, a member of an ambulance unit now in France. Lee wrote:

"For more than two hours every man on board our five ships expressed the worst. There was almost a stone thrown at us by a fleet of German submarines. Not a transport was hit. As far as the U-boats showed their periscopes they were met by a veritable hail from our big guns. At the start of the fight five planes came to our assistance and aided us greatly by dropping bombs. The great battle of seven destroyers, five transports and five airplanes fighting the unseen foe would make a very interesting movie. It raged over two hours, but we came out unscathed.

Throughout the fight all our boats were in line, and good order prevailed while waiting the expected order to go forward. The first transport was only slightly damaged. It was only after the second transport was hit that the German submarines were forced to retreat. Some Austrian

CROWN PRINCE'S ARMIES FAIL AGAIN IN MEUSE BATTLE

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they have been brought here from the western front.

A dispatch from Italian headquarters says the Austrian counter-blow on the Hermand had a limited local success on the Italian right, against a line which was badly adapted to defense. The Italians are now on the offensive along the whole line and they are ready to make a real push in this sector, an operation which has not yet been attempted.

Captures of war material in the Italian advance since August 19, according to an official statement today, have totaled: 145, including eighty of medium caliber; twenty-four trench mortars and bomb throwers; 322 machine guns; 11,194 rifles.

Italian airplaner bombarded Pola on Sunday, sinking one Austrian ship and one cargo boat loaded with food and munitions, according to official Rome cables today.

Pierce fighting is taking place east of Gorizia. The cables estimated Austrian losses from August 18 to September 1 at 1,000, including many Germans and Turks.

"In spite of the terrible bombardment from enemy artillery," said the Italian statement, "our infantry has continued to advance along the whole line from the Hermand to Castagnavizza."

"Seven successive Austrian attacks were made in the vicinity of Hill 146, but did not prevent our troops moving forward toward the hill.

RUSSIANS MAKE STAND ON LINES EAST OF RIGA

LONDON, Sept. 10.—The Russians are rapidly consolidating their positions on the new front, which is about fifty miles east of Riga, extending from Friedrichstadt, fifty-five miles south-east of that city, to the Baltic.

The protecting force of Russian troops was driven in at several points by the German cavalry reconnoitering the new positions. Berlin reports that the Germans have bridged the lower stream of the Aa and are concentrating on the northern bank under cover of cavalry, Petrograd says.

BERLIN, Sept. 10.—"Between Riga bay and the Dvina there were successful engagements in the forest and marsh districts between our reserves and Russian raiders," today's official statement asserted.



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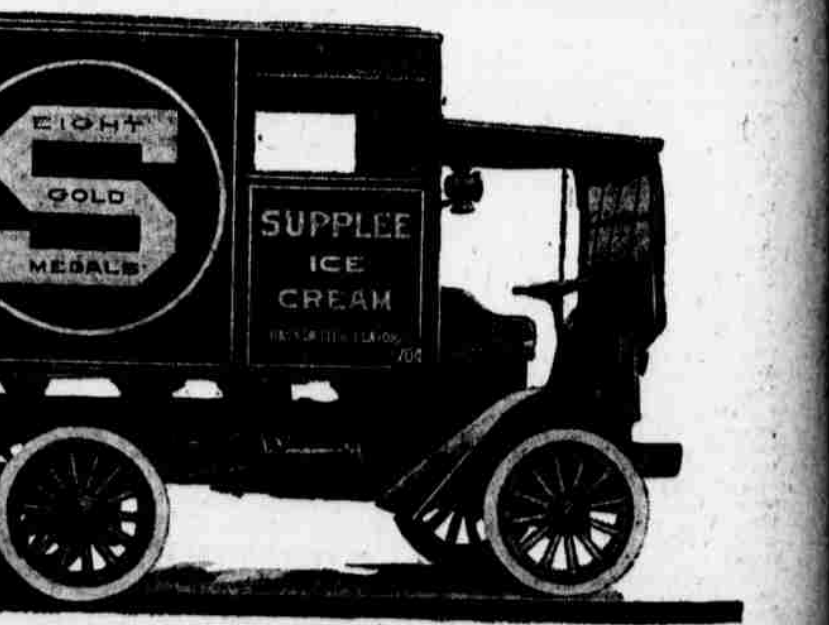
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