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LIVING AND WAGE PROBLEMS ENGROSS NATION'S LEADERS

House Decides to Remain in Session to Discuss Means of Alleviating Burdensome Living Costs

By Associated Press. Washington, Aug. 2.—The eyes of the nation are to-day focused on the Capital where must be solved the problem of reducing the high cost of living and the new labor crisis worked out.

Heading the request of President Wilson, the House has abandoned its five weeks' recess scheduled to begin with adjournment to-day. Immediately following this decision, House leaders announced that plans would be perfected to-day to permit members to go home under a three-day continuous recess program their return to be simultaneous with presentation of the Administration plans for lowering living costs.

The President's request, coming unexpectedly, provoked informal and bitter comment from both Republicans and Democrats, but only a single protest was heard on the floor—it coming from Representative Blanton, Democrat, Texas, who asserted that his opposition was due to the "railway brotherhoods trying to hold up the country for about the seventh time."

So pressing are the demands of the railroad employes for more pay to maintain their standard of living that President Wilson, following extended conferences with Director General Hines, asked the House of Representatives to abandon the proposed recess of five weeks.

Asks Higher Rates. The President took a new step in railroad legislation by asking Congress that the act to create the commission should "make the decisions of that body mandatory upon the rate making body and provide, when necessary, for the commission to cover any recommended increases in wages and, therefore, in the cost of operating the railroads."

This was the first time that Congress ever was asked by the Chief Executive to order the Interstate Commerce Commission to advance rates. Mr. Wilson's letter addressed to Chairman Enoch C. Cummings, of the House and Senate Interstate Commerce committees, virtually transfers to the floor of Congress the question of whether there shall be an increase in transportation charges, long forecast by the steadily growing deficit arising from the failure of railroad income to equal the government's outlay.

Discussion of the traffic situation before Congressional committees recently has led to several suggestions that Congress should prescribe a basis for rate making. This, it has been suggested, would be done by the passage of a law requiring the Interstate Commerce Commission to adjust rates from time to time, in accordance with fluctuations in operating expenses, so that investors would be assured of a fair return on their money.

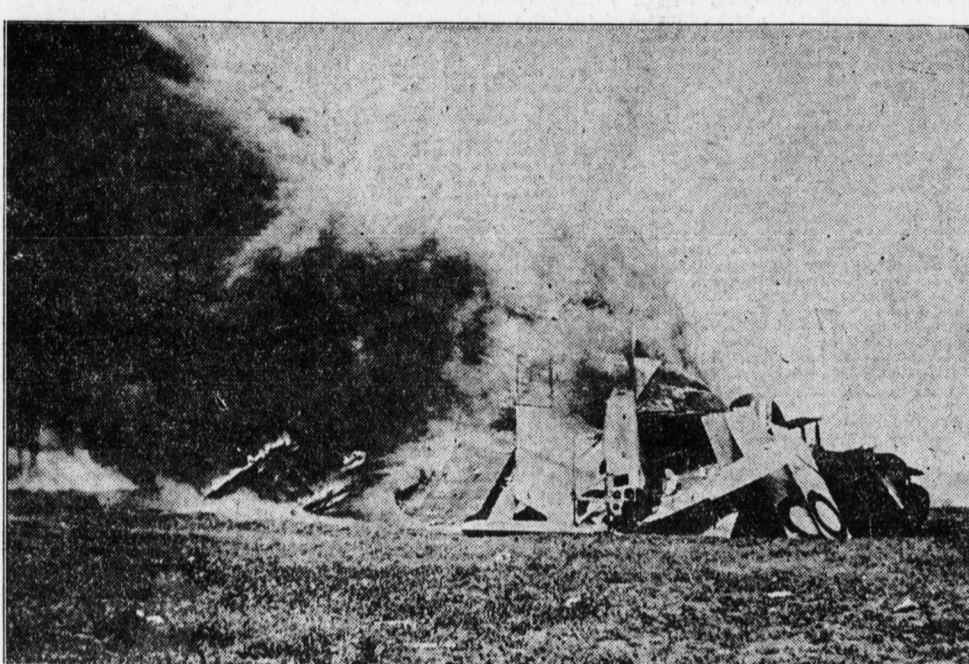
Railroad Loss Millions. Net operating income of the roads under Federal control amounted to approximately \$51,800,000 in June, leaving a deficit of \$23,000,000 compared with one-twelfth of the guaranteed annual rental and a deficit of \$30,500,000 as compared with the average income in June of the three-year test period on which the annual rental was based.

For the first six months of the calendar year, the deficit amounted to more than \$20,000,000, or more than one-half the annual rental. The half-year net income was less than one per cent on the \$18,000,000,000 owned by the government. Director General Hines declared the falling off in freight business continued to be an important factor in the deficit, combined with increases in rates which have been on a much lower percentage than increases in wages and prices of materials.

Demands Are High. New wage demands before Director General Hines, upon which hearings have been held, total \$400,000,000 and include \$210,000,000 asked by the shopmen, \$100,000,000 by the trainmen, and \$90,000,000 by the conductors. Hines announced that they would strike October 1, if no relief was afforded by that time, \$50,000,000 involved in the time and a half overtime demanded by the four brotherhoods when a general strike was threatened in 1916 and left for future determination, and \$46,000,000 which would go to the conductors if the

(Continued on Page 4.) THE WEATHER Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair tonight and Sunday with moderate breeze. Lowest temperature to-night about 60 degrees. Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair to-night and Sunday. Fair to moderate change in temperature. Moderate north winds. River: No material change will occur in river stages. A gage reading of about 4.1 feet is indicated for Harrisburg Sunday morning.

\$1,000,000 Lost In This Great Fire



This exclusive photograph, copyrighted by Underwood & Underwood, shows the huge pile of airplanes first this wasteful destruction, alleged to have been ordered by Army officers, who sought the easiest way to get rid of the planes.

PREDICT STRIKE WILL SPREAD OVER NATION

Leaders of the Shopmen Announce It Will Be Successful; Many Men Out

By Associated Press. Chicago, Aug. 2.—Local leaders of the Federated Railway Shopmen's Union, to-day predicted that the strike which started yesterday would spread and become the nationwide movement that it was expected to be when it was called. Early to-day the strike was for the most part confined to points in the middle west and southeast, with some craftsmen out at points outside these generally described sections.

In the middle west, chiefly in the Chicago district, some 30,000 men were reported out with a like number in the south and southeast sections. They demand a wage increase from the present scale of 68 cents an hour to 85 cents, with 60 cents an hour for helpers, and that the increase be effective from January 1, 1919.

Prohibition Enforcement Legislation Is Ready to Be Presented Monday

Washington, August 2.—Work on prohibition enforcement legislation practically was completed to-day by a Senate judiciary subcommittee, which plans to present the bill to the full judiciary committee next Monday.

Billboard Is to Follow the Poles

Postmaster Sites does not believe that the big billboard on Federal property at Third and Walnut streets is either ornamental or desirable under present conditions, but so long as it was available for Liberty Loan and other patriotic propaganda he was disposed to allow the unsightly thing to remain, even submitting to unfair criticism from people who didn't understand the situation. But the billboard has done its bit and must go, says the postmaster. Federal Square is undergoing a general cleanup, including overhead wires and poles.

Germany Prevented From Shipping Money

Washington, Aug. 2.—Bernard M. Baruch, economic adviser to the American Peace Delegation, told the Foreign Relations Committee to-day that no purchase could be made in the United States or elsewhere by German concerns, except through the Reparations Commission to be put under the Treaty of Versailles. This provision was put in the Treaty, Mr. Baruch said, as Germany could not evade any part of her indemnity obligations by sending money outside the country privately and thus reduce her industrial resources "to a mere shell."

AS TO FORWARDING MAIL. Mail matter now held at the Post Office where mailed and forwarded only when receipt of additional postage by the postmaster may be forwarded, postage collect, from the addressee under a bill reported by the House committee on post offices and post roads. Articles of obvious value would be forwarded directly to addressee from whom the postage would be collected.

HUNDRED HOMES ARE BURNED IN CHICAGO FIRE

Negroes Start Blaze Which Makes 3,000 People Homeless; Three Are Missing

LOSS QUARTER MILLION Incendiaries, With Flaming Torches, Speed Around District in Automobiles

Chicago, Aug. 2.—An incendiary fire, which the police declare was started by negroes early to-day, swept through the district bounded by West 43rd, West 45th, South Lincoln street and South Hermitage avenue, destroying 100 homes of Polish and Lithuanian employes of the stock yards and causing a property loss of more than \$200,000. Three persons are missing and a score were injured.

The buildings destroyed consisted chiefly of one and two story frame dwellings. Three thousand men, women and children have been rendered homeless by the fire and the bad feeling between the whites and negroes aggravated. State troops were sent to the scene to disperse the crowds and prevent a renewal of race riots.

SUMMER REAL ESTATE SALES BREAK RECORD

Value of the Property Transferred Also Higher Than in Former Years

Summer real estate sales reached a new high record according to City Assessor James C. Thompson, who reported to-day that in the city more than twice as many properties were sold during July, this year, as compared with the same month in 1918.

Since January 1 there have been 863 more transactions than in the same period in 1918, he announced also, and the valuation of the properties for taxation is about \$2,400,000 more.

During the last month there were 317 property sales in the city, with the total assessed valuation of the ground and buildings \$73,715. This does not include the large number of sales on the "pay-as-you-go" plan where title has not passed.

Housing Situation in Harrisburg Is Described in American Contractor

The activities of the Housing Committee of the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce, of which J. Horace McFarland is chairman, were commented in an article printed in the American Contractor, a national magazine devoted to the interests of building and contracting, which has just been received here. The article follows:

"Housing is one of the greatest problems confronting Harrisburg to-day and in bringing about the gradual solution of the problem, the highly efficient Housing Committee of the Chamber has played an important part. It cannot be doubted that the efforts of the Housing Committee in laying bare the woeful lack of housing facilities were largely responsible for the marked building boom which is still on the increase."

TO CHECK BOLSHIEVISM

Paris, Aug. 2.—Dr. Karl Renner, the German-Austrian chancellor, and Herr Frantz, the Austrian Conservative leader, have conferred at St. Germain with a view to establishing between the parties of the Left and the Conservatives and Liberals a coalition intended to check Bolshevism. The Petit Parisien says it learns from reliable sources.

NEBRASKA ENACTS SUFFRAGE, 94 TO 0

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 2.—Nebraska to-day ratified the Federal woman suffrage amendment, when the House, by a vote of 94 to 0 passed a joint resolution providing ratification. The Senate voted for ratification on Thursday. Nebraska is the fourteenth State to ratify.

HALIFAX THROUGH PAYS TRIBUTE TO ITS VETERANS

Upper End Borough Turns Out in Force For Patriotic Event

Halifax, Pa., Aug. 2.—Halifax's ninety-two men who served with the American forces during the recent war, are being honored to-day in the biggest celebration ever held in this bustling Dauphin county borough.

Thousands of out-of-town people, many of them former residents, are now within the borough, participating in and witnessing the extensive demonstrations arranged in honor of the men who fought for democracy.

Moves in Three Divisions. The line of parade, as it moved off to-day followed by the hundreds of out-of-town representatives were included in the big line, which was under the direction of Chief Marshal Ira B. Zimmerman.

Most conspicuous in all the line arranged in their honor, was the delegation of ex-soldiers and sailors, veterans of former wars marched or rode and all were regarded with a high applause.

Blocks House Recess So Shoe PRICES MAY BE CHECKED

Washington—Efforts to have the House recess for two weeks were blocked to-day by Representative Joseph Democrat, of Missouri, who refused unanimous consent for consideration of the recess resolution until the House acted on his measure proposing an investigation of the high cost of shoes.

SPECIAL HONOR FOR WOUNDED

Washington—A special certificate to be issued to soldiers wounded in the war with Germany has been approved by the War Department. It will contain the name, rank and unit of the soldier and the action in which he was wounded.

RUNAWAY AUTO STRIKES WOMEN

Harrisburg—Struck by an automobile traveling on the wrong side of the street when the driver lost control and ran on the pavement, Mrs. Fanny Midkley, 1205 North Sixth street, and Mrs. Schifman, 1208 North Sixth street, are confined to their beds. The machine is said to be owned by Michael Erk, 1024 Herr street, but was being driven by a friend at the time.

WANT TO WITHDRAW CURRENCY

Washington—Without a record vote the Senate to-day adopted a resolution requesting the Senate Banking Committee to report whether legislation to reduce the amount of currency in circulation was advisable as a means of reducing the cost of living. The resolution which was sponsored by Senator Myers, Democrat, Montana has been under debate for two days.

PROMISES SLOWED AIR PRODUCTION

Washington—Promises of speedy delivery of Liberty motors in sufficient numbers to supply the Allies, caused French and Italian manufacturers to slow up production early in 1918, the House Committee investigating aircraft expenditures was told to-day by Representative La Guardia, a former major of the air service.

MARRIAGE LICENCES

Frank W. Campbell, Pittsburgh, and Catherine R. Sanford, Kayser, George L. Southern, Bridgeport, and Blanch L. Ender, New Cumberland; Edward F. Hawk, Moon, and Ethyl M. McVerton; Joseph Mangell, Passaic, N. J., and Jennie Estlin, Steelton; Ernest J. Woz, Lebanon, and Anna W. Sant, Steelton.