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## BROTHERHOOD CHIEFS MET MONDAY

To Draft Declaration of Principles Concerning Railway Bills in Conference—President Wilson's Statement Regarding Strike and Rights of Public, is Various Interpreted.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The attitude of organized railway employes toward the anti-strike provision of the Cummins railroad bill will be formally stated in a declaration of principles to be drafted by the heads of all the brotherhoods at a conference here Monday with President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor.

Labor leaders declared today that "nothing drastic was to be expected" but the general view among organized workers was that the affiliated trades would stand by the Railway Machinists' Union, which voted to quit work if Congress enacted the anti-strike provision. Senators and Representatives now in Washington expressed the opinion, however, that the House never would accept the bill as it came from the Senate and that even if it should pass President Wilson would veto it.

The possibility of a presidential veto has been given serious consideration by members of Congress, who realize the necessity of enacting proper legislation before the roads are handed back to their owners on March 1. Labor leaders in discussing this eventuality, also called attention today to this statement by the President in his message to Congress four weeks ago.

### Right to Strike.

The right of individuals to strike is inviolate and ought not to be interfered with by any process of government, but there is a predominant right of the government to protect all of its people and to assert its power and majesty against the challenge of any class."

### Variouly Interpreted.

This one sentence was variously interpreted—by brotherhood officers as a virtual announcement by the President that he would not sign a bill denying the right to strike—and by Senator Cummins and others as notice by the President that even the right to strike was inviolate the public stood over and above it.

### May Kill Section.

Regardless of what action might be taken by the brotherhoods, the belief prevailed in congressional circles that when the Senate and the House conferees got through with the Cummins and Esch bills no vestige of the anti-strike section would remain. The conference will begin work next week after Senator Cummins and Senator Kellogg, Republican, of Minnesota, return here from North Carolina.

### House of Senate Differ.

All of the Senate conferees voted for the labor clause and are expected to make a hard fight in conference for its retention. On straight Senate test an amendment to eliminate the section was defeated, 39 to 24. Some idea of the attitude of the House, however, was given today by members who said that the anti-strike clause could not command fifty votes in that body.

### Brotherhood Chiefs Meet.

The heads of the four big brotherhoods and the ten affiliated trades will be here Monday for the conference, with President Gompers which was called for the specific purpose of considering pending railroad legislation. Committees representing the six shop trades have an appointment that day with Director General Hines for discussion of wage demands, but it was said this might be deferred until Tuesday.

### To Make Wage Demands.

It was emphasized at federation headquarters that the two conferences had nothing in common, although it was admitted that the situation respecting wage demands

## OIL PRODUCERS REPLY TO CARRANZA STATEMENT ON MEXICAN PROPERTIES

Washington, Dec. 27.—The Mexican embassy is trying to begot the issue raised by Carranza's alleged prevention of drilling of new oil wells by American companies, it was charged today in a statement issued by the Association of American Producers in Mexico. The statement was issued as an answer to one given out yesterday by the Mexican embassy here.

"The Mexican embassy persists in endeavoring to begot the issue raised by the attempt to confiscate American oil properties, through discussion of what it is pleased to term 'potential production,'" the statement said.

"The only kind of production of any interest to Americans is the amount of Mexican oil of the kind absolutely necessary for American industries and mercantile marine purposes available after Mexican military forces have stopped the drilling campaign which was being actively conducted by American companies in the effort to keep up available supply.

"As to the latter point, the statements heretofore issued by the oil producers' association are strictly accurate and the Mexican embassy statement wholly misleading to the American public.

"The Mexican government can not, and has not attempted to deny the long series of its aggressive acts of confiscation of which the stoppage of drilling wells by American companies is merely an example. These acts have all been made the occasion of protests by the American government."

The Mexican embassy in its statement of yesterday said that the potential capacity of the 310 oil producing wells in Mexico is 2,000,000 barrels a day, of which only 220,000 barrels are being extracted daily. It said that the Mexican government is not preventing the production of oil by Americans although in some cases "it has been deemed expedient to exact compliance in the laws on boring of new wells."

### Wardlaw Lyon Here.

Wardlaw Lyon came down from Greenville this week and brightened up this corner of the world for several days.

Wardlaw says that of all the nice things which happened to him while he was undergoing treatment at Camp Gordon, he appreciated most a box sent to him and Kempton Billings by the Daughters of the Confederacy in Abbeville. Both were too unwell to acknowledge the receipt of the box when it was received, and in fact did not know to whom to send their thanks. He therefore requests that the Press and Banner say to the ladies who remembered them on that occasion that he and Kempton will always hold them in kind remembrance.

was somewhat changed in view of President Wilson's definite decision to turn back the roads in two months. In view of the short period of government control there was a feeling in some quarters that the direct or general might refuse to saddle a wage increase on the roads on the eve of their return to private operation. Most of the leaders insisted, however, that the demands would not be rejected since President Wilson had promised to use his influence to get more wages for railway men if the government failed to reduce the cost of living.

### Urge Speedy Action.

Although every effort will be made to expedite railroad legislation, some doubt was expressed today whether the Esch and Cummins bills could be cut to pieces and put together again by the time set for the end of the federal control of the roads. Meanwhile great pressure is being brought to bear on members of the Senate and House to speed up work, but there is little hope of getting the bill out of conference before the end of January.

## ENORMOUS TAX LEVY THREATENS GERMAN BUSINESS FOR 1920

Berlin, Dec. 28.—The spectre of the enormous emergency levy on property, which threatens drastically to reduce German industrial fortunes in the next ten years, makes it difficult for Germans to forecast the economic outlook of their country for 1920. Leaders in financial, political and social circles are divided in their opinions of the measures for national relief proposed by Mathias Erzberger, minister of finance.

There is a widespread belief among financiers, bankers, and financial writers in Germany, that if two of the Erzbergers plans are put into effect, Germany will face a future overcast with black clouds, if not actual ruin. The most important of these measures is the emergency levy on property, which, financial writers assert, will reduce industrial fortunes of 10,000,000 marks to less than 3,000,000 in a decade. The second measure is the income tax, which, it is claimed by some, will "beggar" every modest fortune as well as every great fortune.

Bankers say it all comes down to this: "America must come to our aid."

They wish a comparatively small, direct credit and disapprove of the much-discussed international loan, which, they believe, would saddle the debts of England and France on the United States and thereby, perhaps, reduce the amount of credit Germany might obtain.

### Erzberger's Days Numbered

The opinion appears to be gaining in Berlin financial quarters that Erzberger's days are numbered, and that he cannot long continue to exert his influence on the majority who pay least and therefore support his financial policy.

Berlin writers declare that Germany's political future depends in the last analysis upon the working out of the peace treaty and that until this document has been consummated in all its technical details, Germany will be unable to locate her fresh starting point. This is regarded here as the crux of the whole situation, and Germans expect the situation to remain acute until this has been accomplished.

Germany's more conservative political leaders frankly admit Bolshevik gains at the next election. They say the Reds may capture 10 seats instead of the 22 which they won a year ago, and that they may poll 5,000,000 instead of the 2,750,000 they obtained in the last national election. The conservatives, however, assert that the Independent, Spartacist and Communist elements will become less popular as the opportunities for work increases in Germany.

### Postponement of Elections

Political leaders say that indication point to an indefinite postponement of the elections on the ground that the present government on the strength of its popular mandate, is entitled to continue with a program of socialization at a pace in keeping with the nation's economic recovery. It is pointed out also that the new liberalism may satisfy itself with a life-long president as a substitute for a constitutional monarchy.

It is agreed by German industrial leaders that the German workers are weary of striking and that the labor situation has been improved so far as the shortage of coal and raw material permits. The authorities say that German industries are working an average of perhaps four hours daily, and that this is the limit possible with the present under supply of coal. When the coal situation improves it will be possible, they say, to make a real industrial beginning with raw materials.

### A Fine Boy.

Mrs. Thomas Pope and her fine young son, came up from Kinards and spent a day or two this week with Chief Justice and Mrs. Gary.

## PEACE PROVISIONS TO BE APPLICABLE REGARDLESS OF U. S.

Berlin, Via Basle, Dec. 26.—The allied reply to the latest German note regarding the peace treaty protocol, was published here today.

The first paragraph of the reply expresses satisfaction that the German government shares the point of view of the allies that the provisions of the treaty of peace are applicable from the moment of the treaty's entry into force, whether ratification by the United States has or has not occurred. The allies take note that Germany admits in principle no contracting party can refer to the non-participation of the United States in the first deposit of ratification documents as a ground for questioning any stipulation of the treaty.

The third paragraph expresses the determination of the allies to insist upon demanding the signing of the protocol with the provisions regarding compensation for the sinking of the German warships in Scapa Flow unchanged.

The fourth paragraph deals with the willingness of the allies to reduce the tonnage demanded if it is proved that the demand vitally endangers Germany.

## CLEMENCEAU CERTAIN TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT

Paris, Dec. 26.—President Poincare's successor will be elected on January 17, according to the inference generally drawn by the Parisian press from Premier Clemenceau's statement in the chamber that his cabinet would definitely resign on that date. It is also deduced from the premier's declaration that he will be a candidate for the presidency which means he will be elected virtually without opposition.

Speculation regarding "the Tiger's" successor as head of the cabinet is consequently eclipsing discussion as to the next president of the republic. Alexandre Millerand, governor of Alsace-Lorraine, seems to have great lead so far as predictions are concerned.

M. Clemenceau's acceptance of the presidency is so far taken for granted that gossip as to the next occupant of the Elysee palace has been almost completely stifled.

### Two Devils Here.

Charley Lyon and Fraser McDill, each of whom was at one time a devil in the Press and Banner office, and both of whom were devils together for a short while, have been visiting friends and relatives here during the holidays. Charley saw service across the waters in the Great War and lived up to the fighting reputation of his people, while Fraser was on the way with his gun cocked when the Kaiser called "half rope."

### R. GLENN KAY.

The friends of Mr. R. Glenn Kay, now of Elberton, but who formerly had charge of the Opera House at Abbeville for Mr. Verchott, will be sorry to learn that his place of business in Elberton was burned during the holidays. Mr. Kay has been transferred to Athens for sixty days, after which he expects to return to Elberton and take charge of the new building which his employers are now erecting.

### New Warehouse.

Abbeville is to have a new warehouse, Dr. G. A. Neuffer is to be at the head of the new institution. The books of subscription have been opened at the County Savings Bank, and already \$10,000 has been subscribed.

### Home From the City.

Miss Caroline Graves is spending the holidays with her father at Lattimer. She came down from Washington last Saturday and is enjoying the quiet of the country after the gay life of the big city.

## SECRETARY DANIELS TO LEAVE ADMIRAL SIMS' LETTER UNANSWERED

Washington, Dec. 26.—Secretary Daniels will leave unanswered the letter of Admiral Sims refusing to accept the distinguished service medal because of the alleged unfairness in the distribution of naval war honors, officers close to Daniels believed today.

In view of his official position, Secretary Daniels could not afford to enter into "an argumentative correspondence" with Admiral Sims as to the right or wrong of his policy in awarding war decorations, these officers said. Secretary Daniels said that he does not know yet whether he will answer the Sims letter, as he has not considered it fully.

It was pointed out, however, that Mr. Daniels' list of awards is not yet closed, no officer except Admiral Benson having been notified officially of his decoration and there being additional recommendations to be acted upon.

## GOOD ROADS MEETING

Col Chas. W. Thatcher, New York, Chief Engineer of Washington and Lee Highway, who spoke here before the holidays will return for other speaking engagements in the county. He has promised to be in Abbeville on Saturday in January, 5th to address the good roads' meeting then to be held. He also announces that he will speak at Lebanon School House on January 3rd. at 7 p. m.

The people of Lebanon section are arranging to give him a good audience when he appears there.

The Washington and Lee Highway according to Col. Thatcher is to extend from Quebec to Los Angeles and of course will pass through Abbeville, Lebanon and Atlanta.

## Census Enumerators.

The following additional appointments have been made, completing the census enumerators for this county:

Western Division, Abbeville Township: Mrs. James Ferguson.

Eastern Division, Abbeville Township: R. S. McComb.

Donalds Township: Robert G. Brownlee.

Colonel E. H. Aull, of Newberry, who has charge of the census taking in this district, was here yesterday and reports that his machinery is all ready to begin running on time, and he expects to have the complete figures in hand when the call comes from headquarters for the final report.

## SHORTAGE OF CATTLE WILL KEEP BEEF PRICES HIGH

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A shortage of 1,000,000 cattle in the year just closing will cause high prices for beef and beef products for at least seven years more, it was declared by M. F. Horine, statistician for the Union Stock Yards, in his annual report yesterday.

Mr. Horine said it will be impossible to make good the shortage of 1919 before 1927, and that the Department of Agriculture report concerning the number of cattle in the United States was too optimistic.

## ALLAN ROBERTSON HOME.

Allan Robertson, another of the Abbeville boys who is making good elsewhere, has been on a visit to his sisters, Misses Mae and Eugenia Robertson during the holidays. He made himself a Christmas present of a year's subscription to the Press and Banner while here, and will keep up with the progress of this town while away. He is making his home now in Oklahoma City.

## Leaving Us.

Mr. R. H. Kay left Saturday for Baltimore and New York, where he goes to select his stock of goods for his clothing business. Mr. Kay will go to Honea Path where he will open up an up-to-date clothing business. His friends in Abbeville wish him great success.

## TRADE COMMISSION WANTS SETTLEMENT

Public Asked About Guarantee Against Price Decline—After Answers Are Received Compilation to Be Made and Meeting Called—Hearing Will Be In March.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Business interests, labor unions and the public generally are to be sounded, out as to the sentiment in regard to the guarantee against price decline system said to be in use by many manufacturers and wholesalers in the sale of goods, the federal trade commission announcing tonight that it had sent out several thousand letters inquiring as to its opinion of the plan.

The guarantee against price decline system amounts to a guarantee by manufacturers and wholesalers in selling goods that should a decline in price occur before delivery of the goods the buyer shall benefit by the decline but if the market should rise before delivery, the manufacturer or wholesaler would assume the loss.

Complaints lodged, with the commission assert that working out of the plan tends to prevent a decrease in the cost of living.

The commission in a letter to boards of trade, civic bodies, trade organs and papers, labor groups and farmers' associations, made public today says:

"The question of guarantee against decline in prices has been the subject of so many complaints before the commission and opinion seems to be so diverse that the commission has determined to go into the whole matter thoroughly.

"As a basis for the necessary expenditures attending upon such an inquiry such formal complaints have been issued presenting various phases of the subject. To the end that every party at interest may be fully represented the commission is inviting, generally, producers, manufacturers, merchants (wholesale and retail) and consumers to declare their interest so that the commission may know what parties should be represented.

"The commission is asking you, therefore, to communicate as speedily and as widely as possible with your membership advising them of the invitation and to notify the commission of the nature of their interest in the subject, if any.

"As soon as this list of the parties at interest in the matter be compiled it is the purpose of the commission to invite each or any of them to submit his observations in writing. This follows the custom of the commission in numerous other similar cases. A reasonable time limit for the filing of written statements will be given after which they will be assembled and as far as possible classified and each correspondent will be furnished a copy of the whole document.

"As soon thereafter as is possible it is the purpose of the commission to call a general hearing at Washington at which parties at interest may be present in person, by representative or by counsel, and an orderly method for hearing the matter will be laid out."

Members of the commission said the proposed hearing probably would be held about the middle of March."

## Here From New York.

Mr. Walter D. Tusten is here from New York spending a few days with his sisters, Mrs. W. W. Bradley and Mrs. Eugene B. Gary. This is his first visit in some time and his old friends are glad to see him.

## COTTON MARKET.

December 29.	
Spot Cotton	39.50
January	37.75
March	35.57
May	33.65
July	32.20