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EFFECTS FOUND IN PENSION LAW

TORNEY GENERAL ADVISES SECRETARY FALL OF INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OF HIS FINDINGS—LEGAL OPINION GIVEN

Washington, March 9.—Approximately 20 per cent of the government employees in the classified service are barred from pension benefits of the retirement act under an opinion by Attorney General Daugherty transmitted to Secretary Fall who administers the act. Secretary Fall estimated today that 4,000 employees were affected and that out of 8,000 who had retired under the act, four-fifths, or 6,400 employees, have been drawing their pension illegally under the opinion.

The attorney general ruled, according to a review of the opinion submitted to Secretary Fall by the director of the interior department, that only those employees who held their positions as the result of competitive examination were entitled to the benefits of the retirement act. Thus, Secretary Fall said those employees who entered the classified service as the result of competitive examinations were entitled to the benefits of the retirement act. Thus, Secretary Fall said those employees who entered the classified service as the result of a presidential order without such examination to the number of 80,000 were excluded. The attorney general held further that while the president by executive order might include within the classified service particular positions and classes such an order would not embrace persons who hold particular positions except on competitive examinations.

In his review of the opinion the director of the interior department said that 56 per cent of the employees who have reached the retirement age, were retained in active service for two year periods under authority of the act because of special value to the government, did not enter the service through competition and would be excluded from the benefits. These, he declared, had with all other barred by the opinion been contributing 2 1-2 per cent of their monthly pay to the pension fund as required by the act.

Asserting that approximately 6,000 employees who had retired have been receiving pensions illegally, the solicitor said unless congress enacted legislation for their relief there was no way for their pay to continue.

Secretary Fall's attention was called by the solicitor to a ruling of the comptroller general that if a departmental disbursing agent pays a person money contrary to his construction of the law the agent is held personally responsible for repayment of the sum to be paid. The solicitor also said that the sum deducted from the salaries of the employees not benefiting must be refunded.

Secretary Fall said today that the interior department law officers had drawn up a bill which has been submitted to the proper committees of congress looking to relief from the situation created by the opinion so as to include the 80,000 within the meaning of the retirement act.

MAJ. FULP SPEAKS IN GREENWOOD

Major J. D. Fulp, Superintendent of the Abbeville Schools, was a speaker at the organization of a Parent-Teachers' Association in Greenwood yesterday. In his address Maj. Fulp declared that a Parent-Teachers' Association in Abbeville would accomplish great good and was a great factor in promoting better understanding between the teachers and the parents.

HOUSE MEMBERS WILL PASS BONUS

PREDICTIONS MADE PRIVATELY BY BOTH SIDES—ACTION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE SOUGHT UNTIL LATER IN THE MONTH. NO CONTEST SOON

Washington, March 9.—While the fight against the compromise soldiers' bonus bill continued today unabated, house members on both sides of the question predicted privately that the measure would be passed by the house.

Although a two-thirds vote would be required to put the bill through under such a procedure, Republican leaders were discussing the question of calling up the measure under a suspension of the rules. This would preclude the possibility of amendment and ordinarily would limit debate to 20 minutes on each side. The majority membership will be sounded out on this proposition but a decision probably will be withheld until after the return here late in the week of Chairman Fordney of the ways and means committee, who will have charge of the bill on the floor.

The next rules suspension day in the house will be Monday, March 20. Leaders said the army appropriation bill would be taken up next Tuesday ahead of the bonus bill and even if the latter measure were not called up under a suspension of the rules, it probably would not be considered before the week beginning March 30.

There was some discussion during the day as to President Harding's attitude with regard to the compromise bill. Representative Mondell of Wyoming, the majority leader, said he did not think the statement made at the White House yesterday that Mr. Harding occupied the same position that he did when he suggested a sales tax or postponement of the legislation was to be taken to mean that the executive was prepared to veto the measure.

Representative Hawley of Oregon, a Republican member of the ways and means committee, said the president had suggested a 90 day's delay in enactment of the legislation as an alternative for the sales tax and that in the view of the committee this suggestion had been met by making October 1, 1922, the effective date of the bill.

FREE SEED VICTORY

Winners in House Rejoice in Carnival Style

Washington, March 9.—The house of representatives today replaced in the agricultural appropriation bill the \$360,000 item for free seed which was cut out by the committee in framing the measure.

Friends of free seed, satisfied they would win again as they had for 20 years, acted like a crowd at a carnival during the brief battle, which they won by a vote of 145 to 65. Offered by Representative Langley (Republican) of Kentucky, as an amendment, Chairman Anderson, in charge of the bill, promptly made a point of order against it.

Representative Hicks (Republican) of New York, who was presiding, held the amendment in order while a great shout went up from both sides of the chamber.

Claiming that seed prices had dropped from the old high mark, Mr. Anderson sought to reduce the amount to \$240,000, but his proposal was howled down.

The 65 members voting against the gift let loose such a bellow that the chairman was in doubt. Representatives Mondell and Garrett, the party leaders, stood up to be counted with the winners.

AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. L. Ross Lynn, D. D., president of the Thornwell Orphanage at Clinton, will preach in the Presbyterian church here Sunday.

AMERICA DECLINES ITALY'S INVITATION

SECRETARY OF STATE HUGHES ADVISES AMBASSADOR RICCI UNITED STATES WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE IN GENOA.

Washington, March 9.—The American government today declined the invitation to participate in the international economic and financial conference to be held at Genoa next month, on the ground that the conference is not primarily an economic one "but is rather a conference of a political character in which the government of the United States could not helpfully participate."

The refusal to enter the conference was contained in a note from Secretary Hughes to Ambassador Ricci of Italy who had presented the invitation on behalf of his government which in turn was acting for the allied ambassadors' council.

Ambassador Ricci immediately communicated the text of the note to his government.

The note stated that while the American people were desirous of suitably assisting in the recovery of the economic life of Europe, the United States government could not be unmindful of the "clear conviction" of the people "that they should not unnecessarily become involved in European political questions."

The conviction was expressed that all considerations of economic revival would be futile without the establishment in Russia of the essential basis of production outlined in the public declaration of the American government on March 25, 1921, and urged that "adequate action" to that end be taken on the part of "those chiefly responsible for Russia's present economic disorder."

In that connection it was also pointed out in the note that the American government believes nothing should be done looking to the obtaining of economic advantages in Russia which "would impair the just opportunities of others," and warning was issued that "fair and equal economic opportunity" in Russia was expected by the United States in the interest of Russia itself as well as that of all other powers.

In conclusion the note expressed hope that progress would be made in preparing the way for "the eventual discussion and settlement of fundamental, economic and financial conditions relating to Europe which press for solution."

8,000 U. S. EMPLOYEES BARRED RETIREMENT

Washington, March 9.—A ruling by Attorney General Daugherty Wednesday deprived 8,000 civil service employees of their retirement pay, and also the money they have paid to the government providing for that pay. Those affected came into the service by presidential order, and not by competitive examination.

Legislation will be introduced in Congress to remedy the defect in the present law under which the ruling was made, as officials said it was an obvious injustice.

MISS LEILA RUSSELL

Miss Leila Russell came to Abbeville today from Winthrop College to help with the organization of the graduates of Winthrop College in this county. While in Abbeville she was the guest of Mrs. W. H. White on Greenville street. Miss Russell is making a tour of the state organizing the Winthrop Daughters and will go from Abbeville to Greenwood to hold a meeting there.

COTTON MARKET

The cotton market in Abbeville today was 18 1-4 cents.

RATES TOO HIGH MUST COME DOWN

RAILROADS LOSE 23 PER CENT PASSENGER BUSINESS—FINAL ARGUMENTS BEFORE I. C. C. INQUIRY INTO GENERAL RATE LEVELS HEARD

Washington, Mar. 9.—Increased passenger fares have lost to the railroads 23 per cent of the passenger business they had in 1920 and also the good will of the public, Fred W. Putnam, of the Minnesota railroad commission, declared today in the final arguments in the interstate commerce commission's inquiry into general rate levels.

"The railroads eighteen months ago had the good will of the public, and today they have lost it," Mr. Putnam asserted. "It is the relationship of the railroad users through the ticket windows and on the passenger trains that forms public opinion, not through the freight department."

Asked by the commission what rate of return he considered railroads ought to earn, he said, that if the commission held six per cent reasonable it should expect railroads to earn more than that in good times and less than that in periods of depression.

John S. Burchmore, counsel for the National Industrial Traffic league urged the commission whatever its action might be as to rates to issue a decision in the case to shippers would know the future.

"Freight rates are a species of tax laid on every commodity and practically every form of activity," Mr. Burchmore said. "The whole body of public opinion holds today that rates are too high and must come down; the only question is whether the railroads are able to bear reduction. On that point there is confusion and doubt and ignorance on the part of all disinterested observers. We asked the commission on this record to give us a decision as to just what the situation is, what it can do to reduce rates and what it cannot do—something that will remove the uncertainty surrounding business."

Commissioner Mayer suggested that conditions were changing and that any findings of that sort by the commission would not hold for more than three or six months.

"That will be helpful even for three months so that business men may plan and estimate with an assurance of finding conditions to fit their calculations," Mr. Burchmore responded.

MRS. D. POLIAKOFF HEARS FROM RUSSIA

Mrs. D. Poliakoff has just received a letter from her sister in the Province of Minske Russia saying that she had received a box sent to her by Mrs. Poliakoff sometime ago, and that it was in good shape and intact. If there are others who would like to send things to relatives in Russia this information will be of interest. Mrs. Poliakoff says her sister tells her that they have enough to eat; but that clothes are hard to get, and that if she sends another box to be sure and enclose a spool of thread and a hair comb.

AUGUSTA COTTON ROW HAS A \$2,000 FIRE

Augusta, Ga., March 9.—Fire that at one time appeared to threaten a large section of Cotton Row was put under control this afternoon after a general alarm had been turned in with a loss of only \$2,000. The sample room and office of the cotton firm of Luke and Fleming was gutted, and the offices of Frank Calhoun considerably damaged.

FERTILIZER ADVANCES

Guano has advanced \$1.50 a ton, and 16 per cent acid has advanced \$1.00 on the ton.

FEDERAL MONEY FOR GOOD ROADS

FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS IN POSTOFFICE BILL—ORDERED REPORTED BY SENATE POST- OFFICE COMMITTEE—TO IN- CREASE WITH YEARS.

Washington, March 9.—Appropriations of \$50,000,000 for federal road construction next year, \$1,900,000 for continuing the trans-continental airplane mail service and \$513,000 to repair the New York-Brooklyn pneumatic mail tube service are additions to the annual post-office appropriation bill carrying about \$624,000,000, which was ordered reported today by the senate post-office committee.

In addition to the \$50,000,000 for next year in carrying out the federal highway act, the committee declared for \$65,000,000 for 1924 and \$75,000,000 for 1925.

Altogether the senate committee added nearly \$70,000,000 in the postal budget as passed by the house. Among additions inserted were provisions for continuing the joint postal commission next year and for investigation of "star route" contracts for 1919 to 1921 to determine whether there should be readjustments of compensation.

An increase of 100 in the number of postoffice inspectors over the 420 authorized by the house also was recommended by the committee. The present force is 435 and Chief Inspector Simmons testified that the inspection force was "hopelessly behind" in its work. Depredations of parcel post mail, Mr. Simmons said, have increased the bureau's work greatly.

The \$1,900,000 authorized for continuing the trans-continental mail service, which the house refused to provide for, is the minimum for safe operation of the mail airplanes, officials told the committee, although \$300,000 less than the estimates. The committee was told that American airplane development was "negligible" compared with foreign airplane systems.

Eventually officials said it is hoped that private companies will take over the airplane mail transportation.

EXPORT COTTON GOES

Special Train Takes Shipment From Atlanta

Atlanta, March 9.—What was said to be the largest single shipment of export cotton from Atlanta since the World war began left today on a special train of 40 cars for Europe via Savannah. There were approximately 3,500 compressed bales and it was said the railroad freight charges to Savannah would be \$16,000 and the steamer freight charges from there to Europe \$7,000. The price was not stated.

Ruth and Schang Join Team.

New York, Mar. 9.—Babe Ruth and Wally Schang, the last Yankee players to be lined up for the coming baseball season, today left Hot Springs, Ark., for New Orleans, to join Manager Huggins and the remainder of his spring training squad.

MRS. GILLELAND'S CONDITION UNCHANGED

The friends of Mrs. Roy Gilleland will be sorry to know that her condition remains unchanged, but that she is considered as holding her own.

VISITING HER SON

Mrs. Thomas of Baltimore is in the city for a visit to her son, Mr. Arthur Thomas. Mrs. Thomas is at the Community House and is meeting with a warm welcome from the many friends of her son.

Mrs. Thomas has been spending the winter in Florida.

APPEAL BY DAVIS FOR COMMON SENSE

GOVERNMENT HAS NO DESIRE TO INTERFERE UNDULY, BUT HAS DUTY TO SAFEGUARD INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE AFFECTED

Washington, March 9.—Secretary of Labor Davis today broke the silence he has maintained during the ten days in which the government has actively sought intervention in the impending coal strike, to urge mine operators and the miners' union "in the name of common sense to get together and save the country from the costly results of a strike." The government has "no desire to interfere unduly," he announced, but "has a duty to safeguard the interests of the people who will be seriously affected by the suspension of coal mining."

Although no immediate responses were received at the secretary's office after the statement was issued, press dispatches immediately reflected the interest taken in it by representatives of unions and operators. Official reports to the department, however, were concerned largely with details concerning the discussion in the miners' organization, where Frank Farrington, the Illinois leader, and some other district heads are said to be beginning local negotiations in defiance of the policy of President John L. Lewis and the national executive board of the United Mine Workers. Reports also were received on the attitude of individual mine operators who have in the past entered into national wage agreements.

The department's agents have been assured that miners' locals in nearly all sections throughout union fields are "overwhelmingly voting to strike April 1," but this information has been discounted to a degree, officials said, because a strike vote is quite often taken so that the committee assigned to negotiate the issues can act with fullest authority.

There was no disposition in official circles today to reveal that Mr. Davis' statement which explained again the government's position on the result of the refusal of Pennsylvania and other mine operators in the central competitive field to enter negotiations looking to another national wage agreement. The union, it was pointed out here, has sought this course from the beginning and the operators have been unyielding in opposition, though willing in some cases to make local or district contracts with the union.

Luxury Tax Killed

Columbia, March 9.—The senate yesterday afternoon by a vote of 30 to 10 killed the luxury tax bill.

The house by a vote of 44 to 41 sustained the veto of Governor Cooper on the bill to enlarge the board of trustees of the University from seven to twenty-one members. The act is dead.

Seize Steamer With Whiskey

New York, March 9.—The American schooner Victor, loaded with more than 3,000 cases of American Scotch whiskeys, whose value was estimated by prohibition agents at nearly \$400,000 was seized by customs inspectors in the lower bay today and tied up at the Battery, pending court action.

MAYOR'S COURT

David Smith and Mamie Chase, colored, were before the Mayor's court this morning on a charge of disorderly conduct and fined \$20 and \$5 respectively.

HOME ON A VISIT

Prof. Robert Coleman is spending until Monday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Coleman. Prof. Coleman is traveling in the interest of the College of Charleston.