

POINCARE TAKES JOB BACK AGAIN

PREMIER FINDS WORK OF SETTING UP NEW GOVERNMENT HARD.

"IT IS GOING TO BE LONG"

He Grapples With Big Difficulty of Organizing New Cabinet to Fit New Situation.

Paris.—M. Poincare, despite the fact that he is finding the work of setting up a new government harder than he expected and has therefore been unable to complete it, informed President Millerand that he accepted the task of resuming the premiership and constructing a ministry.

After a morning of fair sailing, Mr. Poincare grappled with the big difficulties of organizing his cabinet to fit the new political situation resulting from the chamber's attitude on the pension bills and to accord with the policy of economies for which he has fought so hard for several weeks in the chamber and senate.

His conclusion after the day's negotiations as expressed to the newspaper men was: "It is going to be long."

This is as far as the premier has committed himself regarding his actual plans.

From his negotiations with members of parliament, however, the impression has developed that he is going to inaugurate in the formation of his cabinet the economies he has promised the country. He has in view, it is understood, a reduction of the ministries to seven or thereabouts, and the suppression of most of the undersecretaries of state.

The fact that M. Poincare was closeted for

nearly three hours with the ministers of war and public works indicates clearly that the nucleus of the new combination will be himself, M. Maginot and M. Le Trocquer.

Crop and Weather Report For South.

Washington.—Crop and weather conditions in Southern States during the past week were summarized by the Department of Agriculture as follows:

Another unseasonable cool and unfavorable week for farm work was experienced in Southern States. Rainfall was only moderate in many districts but it was mostly cloudy and the soil continued too wet for work except in a few central and west gulf sections. The soil was in fair condition in the southern portion of Texas, but, in general, corn and cotton planting is backward in that state while little or no farm work was possible in Oklahoma and Arkansas, where Spring activities are much behind. Heavy rains were damaging in Northern Florida and the cool wet weather was very unfavorable in other East Gulf and South Atlantic States. No cotton has yet been planted in Georgia, though planting usually is in progress in Southern Georgia at this time of year, while the season generally is two to three weeks late in eastern portions of the cotton belt.

The weather was generally too cool for truck and early gardens in Southern States. Truck made fair progress, however, in Texas, though many early-planted gardens were poor, and much replanting will be necessary. The low temperatures and rain and snow were unfavorable for potatoes and truck in Oklahoma and Arkansas with considerable damage to early planted potatoes.

Truck crops did fairly well in the immediate East Gulf sections but generally in the East Gulf and South Atlantic States conditions were unfavorable, with some rather extensive losses because of heavy rains in Northern Florida, where much replanting will have to be done. But little progress was made in potato planting in Virginia and Maryland.

Conditions were generally favorable for fruit in the Southeast, where much bloom was reported. The damage by frost in Texas has been less than first estimated. Strawberries were damaged by rain and cold in Florida, but citrus groves are in good condition with much bloom though moderate rains are needed in the south of the peninsula.

50,000 Attended Peach Festival.

Fort Valley, Ga.—Fifty thousand persons were expected to witness the annual coronation of the Georgia peach king and queen here. A sea of pink blossoms, budding from thousands of peach trees in the orchards, surrounds this little city. The town officials claim the distinction of having served the largest barbecue ever prepared in Georgia. Tons of meat were cooked.

Messenger Saves Holdup of Train, Pittsburgh, Pa.—A "tip" from a messenger of the American Express company was credited by police with having prevented a holdup of a Pennsylvania railroad train carrying a \$400,000 payroll at Beck's Run bridge, near Homestead, a suburb. Six police officers were injured in an automobile crash, when the police, prepared for the holdup, attempted to halt a speeding machine, believed to have been the bandits' get-away car, by blocking the road with their car. The driver, its only occupant, was arrested

IRISH FIRE IN BRITISH SOLDIERS, MANY HURT

Queenstown.—A motor car containing four men wearing the uniform of Free State officers drove to Pierhead 1000 and without warning fired a machine gun upon a party of about 50 persons, the majority of whom were British soldiers just landed from a military launch from Spike Island, a convict establishment.

The fire was aimed chiefly at the soldiers, many of whom fell. One of the soldiers was killed outright, four were wounded so severely that they are not expected to recover and 17 others received serious injuries. It is not certain whether and civilians were hurt.

RELIEF OF GERMAN CHILDREN

HOUSE PASSES \$10,000,000 BILL FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Measure Stipulates That Food Stuffs Be Bought in the United States.

Washington.—Disregarding party lines, the house adopted a resolution to appropriate \$10,000,000 for the purchase of food supplies for destitute women and children in Germany.

Sent to the senate by a vote of 240 to 87, the measure stipulates that the food stuffs are to be bought in the United States and transported to Germany in shipping board vessels.

Three hours were devoted to debate after which a score of amendments were offered. Only one, by Representative Jones, democrat, Texas, which provided that the supplies should be purchased wherever possible through farmers' organization, was adopted, 165 to 68.

An amendment by Representative Fitzgerald, republican, Ohio, would have sought to prevent expenditures of any of the appropriations until a soldiers bonus bill is enacted in the law.

It was thrown out on a point of order, while an amendment by Representative Underhill, republican, Massachusetts to withhold the appropriation until the German government spends an equal amount for the same purpose was rejected 108 to 84.

Amendments rejected by vice voice vote included one by Representative Burton, republican, North Dakota, to confine the supplies purchased to wheat, and another by Representative Wefald, farmer-labor, Minnesota, to increase the appropriation to \$20,000,000.

Representative Fish, republican, New York, author of the resolution and a former service man, led the fight for adoption while Representative Connally, democrat, Texas, directed the attack against the measure.

Representative Burton, republican, Ohio, declared the resolution to be constitutional, while an opposite view was taken by Representative Tucker, democrat, Virginia. The Ohio member said it afforded an opportunity for "charity" and needed relief. Mr. Tucker insisted it would tend to consolidate the German vote but would mean nothing as a relief measure because but two and one-fifth cents per day would be available for each of Germany's 2,500,000 children.

The resolution, Representative McKeown, democrat, Oklahoma, said, attempts to excuse the United States' "lack of foreign policy" and instead of relief France should be made to adopt "a proper course" towards Germany or "pay her debt to us." On the contrary, Representative Laguards, republican, Insurgent, New York, declared the bill would do "more good in five minutes than the League of Nations in five years."

Wilbur Heads Navy.

Washington.—Curtis D. Wilbur, of California, the new Secretary of the Navy, arrived in Washington, conferred with President Coolidge and then was installed at his desk at the Navy Department.

The new Secretary and Mrs. Wilbur were met at the station by two naval aides in one of the White House automobiles. Mr. Wilbur went direct to the White House and spent a quarter of an hour with the President in a general discussion of his new work.

"I have no preconceived ideas as to naval policies," the Secretary said. "I am taking it for granted that the naval establishment is well organized and will be able to run along while I pick up the threads."

Asked if he could be considered a "big Navy man," he said: "Well, I am for a pretty good sized Navy."

The new Secretary, although coming from California, said he had no definite opinion with respect to the Alameda naval base controversy.

One Killed, Three Hurt.

Gastonia, N. C.—Frank Spurge is dead and Ernest Cannon, Marvin Mauney and Linnay Rhyne, all of Stanley, injured as the result of an automobile accident.

Mauney was brought to a Gastonia hospital soon after the accident in the belief that his skull was fractured and that he was fatally injured. However, it was found that his principal injury consisted of a broken nose. He was taken to his home in Stanley and reports from him are to the effect that he is getting along nicely.

BERGDOLL LEAVES WITH MANY BAGS

GENERALLY ASSUMED HE IS QUITTING GERMANY FOR GOOD.

PLANS ARE NOT YET KNOWN

Thought Possible That Fugitive Is
Returning to America to Stand
Trial.

Eberbach, Baden.—Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, the American draft evader, left here for an unannounced destination. As he carried considerable luggage, it is generally assumed he is quitting Germany. He made other preparation prior to his departure which seemingly indicated he did not contemplate returning to Baden.

Friends of Bergdoll, who professed to be in his confidence, hinted that he was "going home to face the music," since he had become persona non grata with the Baden government, which it was stated, had issued to him a certificate of American citizenship which will enable him to cross the German frontier.

Bergdoll motored out of Eberbach in the direction of Frankfort, where it is believed he will take a train for Hamburg and sail for New York on the new liner of the Hamburg-American company.

The American draft evader was accompanied by Eugene Stecher, his chauffeur, who was with Bergdoll when the attempt was made to kidnap him last summer, and is said to be under indictment in Philadelphia for having aided Bergdoll to escape from the United States. Stecher, in keeping with his previous loyalty to Bergdoll, pretended to be ignorant of the draft evader's destination after leaving Eberbach, or regarding his present plans.

At the Hotel Kronepost, which has been Bergdoll's home and which was the scene of the attempted kidnapping, it was said Bergdoll had left no word which would indicate his early return. On the contrary, it was declared, from the amount of baggage Bergdoll carried away with him it seemed apparent that he was saying his final goodbye to Eberbach.

INCREASE SHOWN FARM WAGE AVERAGE.
Washington.—Farm wages averaged higher in the United States last year than in 1922. The Department of Agriculture announced here that last year's average was \$33.18 a month with board, compared with \$29.17 in 1922. Industrial competition for labor was the principal cause of the increases, which were shown in all geographic groups of States.

The largest increases were in the North Atlantic and East North Central States, and the smallest in the South Atlantic States. Farm wages per month with board averaged \$34.48 in the North Central States, \$39.41 in the East North Central States, \$51.25 in the Western, Mountain and Pacific Coast regions; \$37.54 in the West North Central States, \$24.93 in the South Atlantic States, and, \$24.13 in the South Central States.

LOWER RATES ON FARM PRODUCE URGED.

Washington.—Reorganization of the freight rate structure so as to bring "the lowest possible rates on agricultural products and livestock at the earliest time practicable would be ordered by Congress under a resolution approved by the senate interstate commerce committee.

Senator Smith, democrat, South Carolina, chairman of the committee, announced he would press for early action on the measure which would declare a general policy with respect to farm freight rates in line with that recommended by President Coolidge in his first annual message to Congress last December.

Several proposals for a horizontal decrease in farm rates by the interstate commerce commission have been made in the senate but in approving Chairman Smith's resolution, the senate committee decided it would be unwise to attempt to dictate any specific rate.

"This resolution," said Senator Smith, "is for the purpose of declaring the policy of Congress as to freight rates on agricultural products and directing the interstate commerce commission to carry this policy into effect."

"Congress having delegated to the interstate commerce commission the power to make rates, it was thought unwise to attempt to dictate any specific rate, but to direct the commission that in the exercise of its rate-making power that the products of agriculture should carry the lowest rate in the rate structure."

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD REPORTS.

Washington.—A further increase in production of basic commodities and a slight increase in employment for February and early March were reported by the federal reserve board.

Factory employment alone rose one per cent in February after declining in pay rolls in the three preceding months and, through a reduction in the part-time employment, the average weekly earnings of this class of labor was about five per cent over January.

GREENVILLE COTTON FIRE DAMAGE TOTALS \$165,000.

Greenville, S. C.—Damage to nearly 1,000 bales of cotton by the fire which burst forth in warehouse No. 1 of the American Spinning company here, and which has not yet been completely extinguished will run between \$165,000 and \$175,000.

The loss, however, is fully covered by insurance, Mr. Hogan said, and adjustment agents are expected to finish with the work of checking up the damage by the end of the week.

The cotton was removed from the warehouse when the fire had been sufficiently checked and is now being handled in the open. Mr. Morgan said that the smoldering fire would not be entirely conquered until probably late in the week, it being necessary to open each bale and separate good cotton from the damaged, the fire being put out at the same time.

MAY NOT REDUCE 1924 TAX

IMPETUS IS GIVEN MOVEMENT TO REMOVE 25 PER CENT REDUCTION.

Mellon Suggests That Resolution Take
Care of Proposed Cut Before
June 15.

Washington.—With the revenue bill facing several more weeks of study by the senate finance committee, impetus was given to the movement to remove the provision for a 25 per cent reduction in income taxes payable this year and incorporate it in a resolution for immediate action.

Secretary Mellon in letter to Rep-

resentative Ackerman, republican, New Jersey, commenting on the latter's resolution proposing to eliminate the September installment payments, said he preferred the proposed cut be made as provided in the revenue bill, but suggested the provision be taken care of by a resolution which would assure settlement of the proposed cut before June 15, when second installments are due.

The revenue bill would allow deduction of 25 per cent of the first installment to be made when the second installment is paid and further deductions of 25 per cent on the second and remaining installments when they are paid.

If the entire tax were paid on March 15 it would allow a 25 per cent refund. Elimination of the September payments as proposed by Representative Ackerman would disturb the cash position of the treasury in September, Mr. Mellon said.

The secretary's letter to Mr. Ackerman said:

"Your resolution provides in substance that a taxpayer paying personal income taxes in 1923 in quarterly installments may omit the September 15 installment and if he has paid in full on March 15 he is entitled to a refund of one-quarter of the amount paid after his return is audited by the treasury. With the principle that it is advisable to permit the taxpayers to get the benefit of the expected surplus in 1924 by a reduction of 25 per cent of the tax payable in the calendar year 1924, I am thoroughly in accord. There may be considerable administrative difficulty in the particular method which is contemplated by the resolution.

"It seems to me it would be simpler, and certainly preferable from the standpoint of the treasury, if the plan incorporated in the revenue act of 1924 in the form it was passed by the house were adopted in a separate resolution. Under this plan if the resolution were passed before June 15, the taxpayer could take that on that day a credit of 25 per cent of his March payment plus 25 per cent of his September payment and in December 25 per cent of that payment. If he had paid in full in March he would have refunded the 25 per cent credit."

Secretary Hughes' proposal that Jan-

Keen be placed on the same basis as other nations would prove "most objectionable," said the report, adding that it would place Japanese nationals in this country in conflict with naturalization laws and would discriminate in favor of Japan and against other Asiatic nations.

General Ferrera and Carles, revolu-

tary commanders, were said to have agreed to throw their united strength against Tegucigalpa in the final attack, the success of which was predicted in dispatches to the Navy Department.

In spite of the situation facing de-

facto government leaders they still

were described as determined to re-

sist and as having refused overtures

made by the diplomatic corps to com-

promise.

The revolutionary leaders have

promised to respect the neutral zone

in which the foreign and noncombat-

ant residents have taken refuge.

Two Blind Brothers Starve.

Chicago.—Death from starvation

claimed Endre and Theodore Kloster,

70 and 72 years old and blind since

birth, when their sister, Anna Kloster

65, who had cared for them, died sud-

denly, according to a theory of police,

who found the bodies of the three in

the building in which they had lived

50 years.

Dead for about ten days, the three

were found by a small boy, who, leav-

ing the building deserted, crawled

through a broken window in search of

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