

Britain Protests Ship's Transfer To American Registry,

Expected Issue on President Wilson's Merchant Marine Programme Arises in Case of the Robert Dollar, Tramp Steamship, Flying British Flag but Owned by American, Which is Refused Clearance in Brazil on Hoisting the Stars and Stripes.

Washington, Sept. 25.—The expected issue between Great Britain and the United States over the efforts of this government, to create a merchant marine by the transfer of merchant vessels from foreign to American registry broke out recently through the action of the British Consul at Rio de Janeiro, who protested against the transfer of an American-owned tramp steamship from British to American registry. The British Consul asked the Brazilian government to refuse clearance to this vessel, the Robert Dollar, and the Brazilian government acceded to the request.

Late this afternoon word was received at the State Department that the Brazilian government could not release the vessel as an American vessel since that would make Brazil liable to the charge of having violated her neutrality.

The State Department at once prepared to fight the case in another direction. Fresh instructions were sent tonight to American diplomatic representatives abroad, presumably to London, opening up their light directly between the United States and Great Britain.

That this issue will be hard fought by Great Britain is made certain from its vital importance to British commerce on the seas. Even the seizure of these newly made American ships on the high seas and a costly court case before international courts is likely to result from the issue raised by the refusal of the British Consul to permit this vessel to hoist an American flag.

Complications Are Foreseen.

Opponents of the administration's merchant marine policy in Congress, have seized upon this case as proof of their contention that this attempt to create an American merchant marine at this time by the purchase or transfer to American registry of foreign vessels would involve the United States to serious complications with the European governments, especially Great Britain, which is regarded as bitterly opposed to this undertaking.

These opponents of the administration contend that the President's merchant marine scheme is in violation of international law, like to result in intrusions of the country's neutrality and to cause serious controversies with the European belligerents.

While the administration's legal advisers upon this question admit that opposition from Great Britain or some other European country is not an insurmountable obstacle, they profess to have complete faith in the correctness of the administration's attitude, and assert that the United States can be created in this way without giving the European belligerents good ground for a protest.

The case of the Robert Dollar apparently has forced this question to an issue between the United States and Great Britain. This steamship entered the harbor of Rio de Janeiro as a British merchant man, the property of a British corporation. This corporation however, is owned by an American, Robert Dollar, of San Francisco.

Mr. Dollar likewise is the owner of an American ship company, but like many American ship owners he had formed a subsidiary British corporation and had placed his vessels under British registry because of the more advantageous marine laws of that country. When, however, President Wilson suspended certain parts of the merchant marine regulations and made the requirements of American registry more satisfactory to ship owners, Mr. Dollar decided to transfer the ships of his British corporation to the books of his American corporation and place them under American registry.

British Consul Protested.

Consequently cable instructions were sent the captain of the Robert Dollar at Rio to haul down the British flag and hoist the Stars and Stripes. This the captain did, but when he asked the port authorities for clearance papers he ran into the British Consul, who declared that such a transfer of registry was improper. The British Consul requested the Brazilian authorities to refuse clearance, and this they did. The captain of the steamship called Mr. Dollar at San Francisco that his ship was not allowed to leave as an American vessel.

This is the first step taken by Great Britain to prevent the United States from taking advantage of the European situation to create a merchant marine as a rival of the peerless British merchant fleet to take the place of the German rival which Great Britain is making such extreme sacrifices to exterminate.

An authority on international law said of this case recently:

"Great Britain apparently is making a test case of the Robert Dollar. If the administration's merchant marine legislation is enacted into law, there will develop, I believe, a controversy in comparison with which the Panama Canal dispute will be insignificant. The British objections, however, seem more likely to result in the disruption of the administration's scheme for the enactment of this merchant marine legislation. The report from Rio de Janeiro shows that Great Britain has entered into this question in earnest. It is a very serious problem."

Brazil Unwilling to Yield.

The facts regarding the Robert Dollar were made known today by Representative Julius Kahn, of California, who took up the matter with the State Department at the request of Mr. Dollar. The State Department has maintained complete silence about the case. According to Mr. Kahn, however, the State Department has instructed the American Ambassador to Brazil, Mr. Edwin Morgan, to interfere with the Brazilian government to allow the steamship to leave Rio under the American flag.

The Brazilian government has replied that to do so might make her liable to the charge that she had violated her neutrality. There is nothing left now, therefore, except for the State Department to take the matter up directly with Great Britain.

At the British Embassy no secret has been made of the fact that the

British government proposed to protest against the creation of an American merchant marine in accordance with the announced programme of the administration. The French and Russian Ambassadors have already made an advance protest, inspired supposedly by Great Britain.

The administration's merchant marine programme was divided into two parts:—The creation of a government-owned merchant marine through the purchase of foreign merchant vessels which were to be transferred to American registry; and, second, the creation of a privately owned American merchant marine to be built up by inducing these Americans, who now own merchant vessels under foreign registry to transfer these vessels to American registry. To accomplish this the merchant marine regulations were made more attractive to ship owners.

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hood of the nation to come forward in its defense, and thereby demonstrate to the world that a free people can rise to the supreme heights of a great sacrifice without the wail of conscription.

"Another factor to be remembered is that upon the result of the struggle in which this country is now engaged, rests the preservation and maintenance of free and unfettered democratic government, which in its international relationships has in the past been recognized and must unquestionably prove to be the best guarantee for preservation of the peace of the world.

The mere contemplation of the overbearing and brutal methods to which people have to submit under a Government controlled by a military war should be sufficient to arouse the enthusiasm of the nation in resisting any attempt to impose similar conditions upon countries at present free from military domination.

"But if men have a duty to perform in the common interest of the State, surely the State has a duty to do for its citizens who are prepared and ready to make sacrifices in its defense and to undertake military duties, have a right to receive at the hands of the

State, a reasonable and assured recompense, not so much for themselves as for those who are dependent upon them, and no single member of the community would do otherwise than uphold a Government which in such an important and vital matter took a liberal and even generous view of its responsibilities towards those citizens who come forward to assist in the defence of their country. We respectfully commend this suggestion to the favorable consideration of the Government of the day.

"Long life to the free institutions of all democratically governed countries."

The Committee considered the advisability of holding the Trades Union Congress this year, but announced that in the present condition of affairs it was impossible to fix a date.

London, Sept. 25.—Throughout England and the Young Men's Christian Association has established 350 recreation and refreshment centers where

territorials are encouraged, training for active service on the continent. The tents are provided with writing materials, books, newspapers, games and a temperance bar at which drinks are sold at a nominal price. Music and organs are provided whenever possible and the soldiers are encouraged to sing and make the tent a social center. A bank is also maintained which enables the soldiers to put their money away for safe keeping.

These troops, would in Great Britain have accepted repeated requests of the Indian Government to be allowed to help "Raj" with men and money. The British Government, however, has refused to allow them to do so. The British Government, however, has refused to allow them to do so.

Thousands of Fighting British army at present upon thousands of fighting warriors to whom the Indian Government has been the bread of life after generation. will relieve Britain of her burden of the Indian Empire. This without reckoning the 140,000 men of the Indian army, who have been sent to the front.

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No peat is employed in the curing of the malt for McCallum's Perfection Scotch, and the "smoky" taste, so objectionable in many Scotch whiskies, is noticeably absent. Perfection, with all the "elegance" of a distinctively high-class Scotch, is a mellow, epicurean beverage, with a distinct appeal to the cultivated palate.

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Aggregate of National Estimates Disposed

The presence of Major Maharaja Bahadur Sir P. C. C. S. A. D. of Jodhpur; Sir Ganga Bahadur of Patiala, and other potentates with their army forces now at the front. British, coupled with the made in the House of Mr. C. Roberts, Under the Colonial Department, of the Imperial Service of the Indian States. These troops, would in Great Britain have accepted repeated requests of the Indian Government to be allowed to help "Raj" with men and money. The British Government, however, has refused to allow them to do so. The British Government, however, has refused to allow them to do so.

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