

MR. LASKER WOULD SELL WOODEN FLEET FOR JUNK

U. S. Shipping Board's Chairman Vigorously Supports President's Subsidy Proposal Before Congressional Committee.

Washington, April 9.—Opening guns in President Harding's determined fight for a privately-owned American merchant marine were fired on Capitol Hill today by Walter D. Lasker, chairman of the United States Shipping Board. Appearing as star witness in defense of the Administration's ship-subsidy bill, Mr. Lasker delivered an earnest appeal in its behalf before the joint congressional committee on commerce and merchant marine.

The shipping chairman told an unblinkingly frank story of the colossal and costly failure of Uncle Sam as a ship operator. At present it represents a loss of \$4,000,000 a month, Mr. Lasker declared, unless the Government gets out of the shipping business completely and promptly.

"America as a merchant marine power will be bankrupt," in the name of the President, the shipping board executive again hewed defiance to foes of a subsidy. He demanded, as Mr. Harding did when he presented the project to Congress during the winter, that opponents of the ship-subsidy or present something better.

Mr. Lasker did not mince words in dealing with the outstanding fiasco of America's government-owned shipping venture—the wooden-ship tragedy. He dubbed the construction of wooden ships "a monumental folly." The hundreds of them now in federal possession, he said, are utterly worthless and can hardly be given away. Referring to Philip S. Pendleton of New York as "the Babe Ruth of the wooden-ship operating business," Mr. Lasker said even that expert's "battering average" proved to be lamentably low when he experimented with some of the Government's wooden hulks. Mr. Lasker explained that his plan is to dismantle the wooden fleet and sell it for junk.

Committee impressed.

The congressional committee heard the shipping chairman, under cross-examination, as picturesque though not as picturesque a witness as his fellow Chicagoan, Chase O. Dawes.

For 2½ hours without cessation Mr. Lasker read to the joint committee, of which Senator Wesley L. Jones (R.) of Washington, author of the 1920 Merchant Marine Law, is chairman, a prepared statement reviewing the entire shipping situation. It was a statesmanlike presentation, punctuated by courageous admissions of failure and asking boldly for the only feasible measure of preventing failure from becoming disaster. The committee, both senators and representatives, were unmistakably impressed with Mr. Lasker's argument. Cross-examination to which he was subjected throughout the entire afternoon developed for the most part to vindication of his "set" remarks. Democratic members of the House committee, mainly Representatives Hardy and Briggs of Texas.

Mr. Lasker's native state was led in his interrogation. Some of their inquiries were along the line of ascertaining whether there might not be hope for Government ownership and operation of ships under better conditions. "Not even under the best of conditions," Mr. Lasker retorted, "would results be anything but 'rotten'."

The shipping chairman voiced the belief that America's "potency" at sea in future depend on Congressional action with regard to the subsidy bill. The issue, he declared, is not merely that of a subsidy. Of immediate urgency is the disposition of the nation's vast war-built merchant fleet and the cutting of the annual loss of roughly \$50,000,000 in operation is now setting. Mr. Lasker's proposal is to sell the ships as soon as possible "at world prices," to take the Government out of the shipping industry; to encourage by every constitutional and practical method the fostering of privately-conducted oceanic and coastwise navigation, and otherwise to aid the American merchant flag in regaining its one-time prominence on the high seas.

Naval Reserve Feature.

A proposal submitted by Mr. Lasker, which excited lively attention was the scheme to create a "merchant marine naval reserve" of officers and men ready for service in the emergency of war. He suggested the personnel of such a reserve should consist of 30,000 men and 5,000 officers. It would be of invaluable service to the Government in the conduct of troop transport and the other auxiliary utilities the United States would require at sea if once more she should find herself immersed in an international conflict.

On the subject of garnering for American shipowners some of the rich

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DOMINANT QUESTION AT GENOA CONFERENCE

Recognition of Russia Will be First Topic Taken Under Consideration.

Genoa, Italy, April 9.—The recognition of Russia is a dominant question in the Genoa Conference and will probably be the first subject taken under consideration.

The Italian delegation to whom the direction of the conference has been entrusted, explains that Article One of the agenda is the pivot on which the conference work must turn. This makes reference to "examination of the best methods for the execution of the principles contained in the resolution passed at Cannes by the Supreme Council on January 5."

At Cannes, a consortium with Russia was mentioned, but this plan is stoutly resisted by Russia and in this she has the support of Poland, Estonia, and Lithuania, which are pledged to stand for Russian recognition and in opposition to a consortium.

Article Two refers to army reductions by Russia and the powers.

Article Three has to do with inter-allied debts.

Article Four deals with financial questions, and Article Five covers economic and commercial questions.

MORE LITERATURE ON GRAND TRUNK DEAL

Recent Comment in London Weekly Scathingly Scored by Contributor to Daily Press.

London, April 9.—(Canadian Press Cable)—A letter, signed "Canadian," appearing in the Daily Telegraph, anent the recent articles in a weekly review concerning the Grand Trunk reorganization award, declares that the articles were written with something like primitive savagery and proceeds to point out that the matter is now pending before the Privy Council.

"It is nothing short of astounding," says the letter, "that any responsible journal should permit, not only comment, but a verbal onslaught of unbridled fury in connection with a case now subjudice."

"If the offence does not savour of serious contempt of court, it is reprehensible as an apparent attempt to create an atmosphere hostile to Canada, so as to influence the deliberations of the Judicial Committee. The correspondent adds that the appeal will be heard in July though he does not give his authority for such a statement."

The Canadian Press finds in legal circles, at least, a bare anticipation that the appeal may be entered for the Easter term. If so, the appeal must be definitely entered before Thursday next.

It is understood the time for hearing several other important Canadian appeals is somewhat dependent on the Grand Trunk appeal for eminent Canadian counsel who will appear in the Grand Trunk case will take other cases to be heard at the same term.

PARLIAMENTARIANS PLAN FOR HOLIDAYS

Expected Private Members' Resolutions Will Occupy Attention of House Today.

Ottawa, April 9.—(By Canadian Press)—With the beginning of the Easter recess only two days away, parliamentarians are looking forward to the remaining sitting days being rather quiet. Several of them who reside at distant points left for their homes on Saturday night to take the fullest possible advantage of the holiday, and will start for Ottawa again at the end of next week.

In the House tomorrow it is expected that private members' resolutions, of which there are several standing on the order paper, will be dealt with, and Tuesday will in all probability be devoted to estimates.

Cabinet Council met twice on Saturday, but no announcement was available at the close of the meetings as to what matters had been discussed. It is believed, however, that attention is now being given to the railway statement of Hon. C. W. Kennedy, which is expected to be placed before the House shortly after the House resumes. There has been a suggestion, in fact, that it might be made before the recess in order that the members may have the several days of their holidays to delve into the facts and figures it contains.

Members of the Progressive Party met in caucus on Saturday for discussion of matters before the House, and also the Wheat Board situation as it now stands before the Agriculture Committee. In view of the interest of the Progressives in the work of that committee, it is expected that most of them who are members will wait until after the meeting of that body on Tuesday morning before leaving for their homes.

POSTPONE HEARING IN STILLMAN CASE

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., April 9.—Supreme Court Justice Morschauer Saturday adjourned for a week the April session of the case of Stillman v. Stillman, an allowance of \$4,850 with which to pay the expenses of the Canadian hearings in the divorce suit brought by her husband, James A. Stillman.

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PLANNING WELFARE OF EX-SERVICE MEN

Great Britain Hopes to Get Chance for Them Overseas.

London, April 9.—(Canadian Press Cable)—Admiral Lord Jellicoe, Admiral, speaking at Birmingham, intimated that he hoped soon to introduce a bill enabling Great Britain, in co-operation with the Dominions, to start a new scheme under which ex-service men and others will get a chance overseas.

The Government, he said, would not encourage men to go overseas unless reasonable arrangements are made for their obtaining employment.

TWO FISHERMEN BELIEVED DROWNED

Members of Crew of the Lunenburg Fishing Schooner Madeline Adams.

Lunenburg, N. S., April 9.—Reginald Steen, of Lunenburg, and Harry Finner, of Stonehurst, members of the crew of the Lunenburg fishing schooner Madeline Adams, strayed from their vessel on the fishing grounds last week and it is feared they have been drowned. This information was brought here today by Captain Knickle of the schooner Alecia, which arrived from the fishing banks with a catch of 250 quintals. Both Steen and Finner have families.

DRAWN INTO TEETH OF CIRCULAR SAW

Kildura, Ont., April 9.—Dwyer Coutts, single, aged 22, was instantly

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF VINNY RIDGE

Eleven Hundred Guests Celebrate Battle at Toronto—Lord Byng Present.

Toronto, April 9.—Ten Canadian Generals and hundreds of officers were among the 1100 guests at the banquet in Toronto Saturday night held in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Battle of Vinny Ridge, April 9, 1917. Major General Robert Rennie occupied the chair, and among those present were the Governor-General, Sir Arthur Currie and Hon. G. F. Graham, Minister of Militia.

There were only two speeches, the chairman submitting the health of the Governor-General and Lord Byng of Vinny rising in reply. His Excellency said that on the day of the battle the corps found itself as "one great whole Canadian body." He asked them to be the same in peace as in war and concluded by saying: "What we are going to do, I do not know, but we are going to make this Dominion, the finest in the world. And, gentlemen, we are going to be one in doing it."

General Sir Arthur Currie, who was accorded an ovation, said that the finest phrase that came out of the war was "Comrade" and declared that "the returned men have never yet since they returned played their part in cherishing those ideals for which they fought, and until we do that we are not going to be the force for good we ought to be."

Killed on Saturday when he was drawn into the teeth of a circular saw and horribly mutilated.

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\$25,000 HEART BALM FOR YARDMASTER

Adams Sued When He Found His Son, 7, Carrying Letters.

New York, April 9.—Charles Adams of Tottenham, Staten Island, a yardmaster for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, who brought suit for \$25,000 against Samuel Pressman, an automobile salesman of Stapleton, for alienating the affections of Mrs. Adams, won a verdict for \$25,000 last night by a jury before Justice Kapper in the Supreme Court at St. George.

It developed during the trial that Adams became suspicious of the relations between his wife and Pressman in March, 1911, when his seven-year-old son boasted about his "job." The boy said he was a letter carrier, and when his father questioned him, he said he carried letters for his mother and Pressman. Adams testified that later in the same month he caught his wife and Pressman together in the Adams home. Both Pressman and Mrs. Adams denied the charges.

RIVER CLEAR OF ICE AT FREDERICTON

Expect First Passenger Steamer at Capital Thursday—Little Shore Ice.

Fredricton, N. B., April 9.—The opening of the St. John River took place Saturday afternoon, and, after a steady run of ice last night and today, the river tonight is quite clear save for shore ice. There was no damage, the ice being soft and the water low. The first passenger steamer is expected Thursday and will be here before that, depending upon the run of ice in the lower river. The date of the opening is later than last year, but earlier than the average.

DEATH RESULTED FROM ABORTION

Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict—Husband of Woman Implicates Physician.

Kingston, Ont., April 9.—An inquest was held here Saturday afternoon by Dr. G. W. Graham, chief coronor of Toronto on the order of the Attorney General to enquire into the death of Mrs. Lillian McKee Lackie, the twenty-six year old wife of John Lackie, a farmer residing at Joyville, Mrs. Lackie died on the 21st of February.

On the evidence of the husband and Dr. James Miller, pathologist of Queens University, who made a post-mortem examination, the coroner's jury brought in this verdict: "We find from the evidence that Mrs. Lillian McKee Lackie came to her death from blood poisoning following abortion whether from natural cause or otherwise we are unable to determine."

The husband of the deceased swore that on the 10th of February he accompanied his wife to Kingston and went to Dr. A. W. Richardson's office. He testified that Dr. Richardson took his wife into his inner office and that he believed an operation was performed. She became ill on the way home and died three days later.

Dr. Richardson swore that he had performed no operation on the woman but had advised her against it. J. L. Whiting, K. C., Crown Attorney who examined the witnesses has reported the evidence to the Attorney General who will decide whether further proceedings will be taken.

Died

MAGEE—Entered into Life, Sunday April ninth, Mary D., beloved wife of John B. Magee. Funeral Tuesday from St. Andrew's Church, 2:30 p.m.

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