

WILL CREATE GREAT NATIONAL MERCHANT FLEET

Paul Bigon Tells Policy To Win High Position in Economic Battle.

FOR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

Government Has Not Taken Up With U. S. Trouble Growing Out of Rate War.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—"Only the shortage of raw materials hinders France from pushing to completion an extensive program for her merchant marine," Paul Bigon, under-secretary of state for merchant marine, said in an exclusive interview with the New York Herald today. "In the economic battle which has commenced since the war between all the nations of the world, the French Government intends to pursue its policy for the creation of a great national fleet which will suffice to assure our commercial relations with the rest of the world."

"We had before the war a fleet of steamships hardly sufficient to maintain contact between France and her colonies and the great powers across the seas, especially the two Americas. Moreover, we unfortunately lost a considerable number of these ships."

Referring to the Jones law and the charge that the French Government intends to support French ship owners in the threatened rate war, M. Bigon declared that up to the present time the French ship owners affected have not asked for intervention by the French Government.

Marine Outlook Healthful.
"The government therefore considers the question as still pending between the shipping board and the owners interested," he continued. "But as we are occupied in assuring a healthy future for our national merchant marine, it is not to be doubted that in case of necessity the French Government will decide what measures must be taken to re-establish for the benefit of French shipping interests the equilibrium which would thus be upset by the intervention of the United States Government. You thus see that France is not only pursuing the execution of a program compatible with her role before and during the war, but also the mission which was approved by her allies themselves in the Versailles treaty."

"We have every confidence that the Allies will not attempt to prevent our enjoying all the benefits to be derived from this new role."

In so far as the ships seized by Brazil from enemy states are concerned, M. Bigon contended that the French Government favored the acquiring of these vessels by individual concerns.

Making Up War's Losses.
"One of the most difficult problems is that of replacing the tonnage lost during the war," he said. "Unfortunately, in the distribution of enemy ships we have been unable to get satisfaction in this respect. That is why the state has now assumed an active role in the nation's dockyards and is envisaging the construction of both passenger and freight ships. Moreover, out of half a million tons of shipping ordered from England nearly two years ago, two hundred thousand tons have been delivered."

"But it must be understood that the state is not building for itself, but for private companies or ultimate purchasers, and only because private shipbuilders are unable to realize our program fast enough for our national needs, are now studying the best means of distributing these vessels so as to assure the continuity of our shipping relations with our colonies and with the regions for which we have been accorded mandates."

"Whether a system of direct sale of these vessels to private interests or the creation of state controlled companies is adopted, it is certain that the state will retain the role of ship owner, which has aroused comment by our American friends."

Truck Load Of Whiskey Stolen

Batevan, Sask., Dec. 17.—A motor truck driven by Jake Glutting, containing a mixed load of cases and cases of liquor, was held up a few miles south of town Wednesday night by four men in two automobiles. The car was drawn across the road. Shots were fired. Glutting fled and when he returned with provincial police, he found the truck emptied.

SELECTED AS RHODES SCHOLAR.
Regina, Dec. 17.—Kenneth A. Hamilton, son of the mayor of Moose Jaw, was yesterday selected as Rhodes scholar for Saskatchewan for 1921. Nine applications were before the selection committee.

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U. S. TROOPS GUARDING PRISONER, FEAR AN ATTEMPT TO LYNCH

Shooting in Streets of Independence, Kansas, Follows Race Trouble.

NEGRO KILLS WHITE

Disorders Precipitated When Mayor Appeals to Colored Men.

Independence, Kas., Dec. 17.—Members of the home guard and American Legion were patrolling the streets here today as a result of race disorders last night in which a white boy and a negro were killed and four white men were wounded, three critically. Other home guard members and legionnaires, sworn in as deputy sheriffs, were on duty near the county jail where, according to Chief of Police Hall, a white boy, identified as R. R. Whitson, a white grocer, yesterday, precipitated the disorders. Whitson was reported to have been taken to the state prison at Lansing for safe keeping, and they were denied by Chief Hall, who said he had "an agreement with them" that they would be taken to the state prison. "They" Hall explained "means a number of men who are in town." Threats of lynchings were made late yesterday after Green had been captured at his home by a posse.

Shoots Without Warning.
The local officials were without information this morning as to whether National Guardsmen would be sent here as a precautionary measure. While the disorders were going on, the request for troops was telephoned to the governor's office at Topeka. According to officials the trouble was not unexpected and had been brewing all day yesterday. The climax came when Mayor Wadman and Chief Hall accosted a crowd of armed negroes on the street and urged them to go home. The negroes refused. While they were talking, a group of armed whites came up. According to witnesses, the whites fired first without warning shot dead Lawrence Cleannan, a white boy, before Hammer could lower his weapon. He was killed with bullets. The shooting was a signal for general encounter. Both sides were informed as to whether the firing spread rapidly, the combatants taking refuge behind whatever shelter they could find. It was then that the officers summoned aid but it was more than an hour and a half before the streets were finally cleared. Theaters closed and citizens were warned to remain indoors.

CANCER SUFFERER SUICIDES.
Saskatoon, Sask., Dec. 17.—With a 22-caliber rifle clutched in his hand, John Oliver, aged 73, a pioneer of South Battleford, was found dead on his bed yesterday. He had been suffering with cancer for years, and it is thought the illness deranged his mind.

WOMEN TO SERVE ON JURY AT TRIAL OF GANGSTER

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—A jury which included two women has been impaneled here to try Edward Murphy, pugilist and alleged gangster, accused of attacking a 7-year-old Reno girl early last Thanksgiving Day. Murphy, with four others, indicted for the attacks, is declared to have been an associate of the three men lynched at Santa Rosa last Friday morning only a few hours before they were to have gone on trial for the murder of three police officers a few days previous. Two prospective jurors, one a woman, in reply to questions, said they favored lynchings as the only proper penalty for offenses charged against the hanged men.

GERMANS CONVINCED HARD LUCK STORIES CANNOT MOVE ALLIES

Brussels, Dec. 17.—German ideas on the best solution of the reparations problem, and some indication as to how much Germany was prepared to pay were expected to be advanced at today's session of the second reparations conference. Members of the German delegation were frank in declaring yesterday's session unsatisfactory, and the younger and more progressive element believed it useless to continue bargaining on Germany's troubles. They declare the ears of the Allied delegates were tuned only to hear the tales of the damages which would be and when payment would be made.

IDENTIFICATION OF JOHN P. HAMMILL IS FULLY ESTABLISHED

Widow of Ottawa Millionaire Overcome With Grief. BRINGING BODY HOME

Family Physician Says Malady Due to Overwork.

Galveston, Texas, Dec. 17.—Mrs. John P. Hammill of Ottawa, today was preparing for the long journey back to her home in the Canadian Capital, bringing home the body of her husband, the former president of the Murphy-Gamble Company of this city, who disappeared mysteriously on November 11 last, and for whom a continent-wide search has been in progress since. The search ended at the morgue here last night when Mrs. Hammill positively identified the body of a man found dead from exposure here as that of her husband.

Identifies Husband.
Mrs. Hammill, accompanied by the family physician, arrived in Galveston late yesterday and went immediately to the undertaking establishment where the body was held. "Is he," she said, as she viewed the body. "He is much thinner, but it is he." Mrs. Hammill was overcome with grief and could not talk about her husband's disappearance for some time after viewing the body.

Dr. Robertson immediately recognized the body as that of his friend and patient. The identification of the body was the tragic climax to a journey from Ottawa to Galveston, which began in highest hope last Sunday. Both Mrs. Hammill and Dr. Robertson were unaware of the whereabouts of the Ottawa millionaire until a letter postmarked Port Worth, June 17, was received from him. The wife and family physician then began the journey to Texas fully confident that Mr. Hammill would be found and that the strange malady from which he was suffering would yield to the combined care of the two.

Read of Husband's Death.
First word of her husband's death reached Mrs. Hammill at St. Louis, a newspaper article informing her that the body of a man found dead in Galveston had been identified as that of her husband. Dr. Robertson said Mr. Hammill's strange disappearance was caused by a malady brought on by overwork. He said an old friend of his, possibly led Mr. Hammill to Port Worth thence to Galveston. Years ago he had visited both places and the doctor said these old visits had reassured themselves after his memory had failed him. By the same confusion of associations, Dr. Robertson accounts for the fact that Mr. Hammill although a stranger here, assisted in taking up a collection in a Port Worth church service recently. In Ottawa, the doctor explained, Mr. Hammill was accustomed to perform this service.

GERMAN DYE TRUST HOPES TO REGAIN WORLD'S MARKET

Large Amount of New Capital Required Is Being Readily Subscribed.

CLAIMS SUPERIORITY

Has Confidence in Ability To Surmount Restrictions Intended To Bar Its Activities.

BERLIN, Dec. 16.—All big concerns in Germany are going to fortify themselves with large amounts of new capital as to face the fight for the world's markets.

The most conspicuous feature of the German money market of late has been the fact that each of the three chief dye-making firms, Messrs. Frederick Bayer, Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik, and the Meister, Loeb and Co., is calling for 90,000,000 marks of fresh capital. The Anilin Fabrikation Company, another member of the trust, which lately announced a dividend of 18 per cent, is calling for an additional 30,000,000 marks. There is, I am told, a rush for these shares, as the public has confidence in the ability of these companies, and the latter are equally sure of their future.

A member of the board of directors of a well-known company, which during the last year multiplied its previous year's profits by sixfold, told me the other day that the dye trust was so certain of the superiority of its productions that it has no reason to suppose any restrictions will bar its activities in the world's best markets. Dye trust agents who have been in England, he said, returned greatly encouraged, and from most other countries reports are altogether satisfactory. Another big concern, that of Messrs. Franz Raschig & Co. of Muelheim, announced net profits of over 3,000,000 marks, as against 60,000 marks last year, and it increased its dividends from 30 to 40 per cent. The firm's report states that it has large orders in hand at good prices.

In order to speed up the dye business the trust is undertaking its largest investment in a new company with 500,000,000 marks capital, and the trust arrangement, made in August, 1916, has been extended so as to remain in force. The capital of the trust, formed of seven companies, will be 962,800,000 marks. Four of the chief firms of the trust employ nearly 1,000 research experts. Regarding foreign trade, the trust is pressing its export department to obtain relief from export restrictions, and the government is doing all it can in its own way. I learn that reports, even from such places as Venezuela and China, are very satisfactory. In Venezuela, Germany dyes are pushing out American products, while China took, in the three months of April, May and June, half the amount of the aniline dyes that England imported in six months. Holland is another market in which German dye firms are doing exceedingly well. During the first half of the present year Holland imported from Germany nearly 15,000,000 florins worth of all kinds of dyestuffs, which at the present rate of exchange means about 350,000,000 marks. Of that amount aniline and tar dyes accounted for 4,500,000 florins, against 180,000 florins for the first half of last year.

It is a curious fact that some German dye firms are running on coal. The United States Government dye firm agents who have been to the United States report an extremely cool reception, and it is recognized that there will still be a fight for the trade there.

ACTION AGAINST BOOTH COMPANY

Toronto, Dec. 17.—The attorney-general and the Golden Lake Lumber Company have entered an action in the Ontario court against J. R. Booth, Ottawa, to recover damages for alleged trespassing on the plaintiff's timber limits in the townships of Niven, Barron and Guthrie, in the district of Nipissing.

Shall the Immigration Flood Be Dammed?

Something more like panic than enthusiasm is manifested by our growing army of idle workers, which already numbers two million, according to the American Federation of Labor, over the vast reinforcements from the war-broken countries of Europe. Immigration officials, says the New York Tribune, state that seven out of ten of the immigrants now entering the U. S. A. are dependents—mostly women, children and old men. Mr. Frederick A. Wallis, commissioner of immigration at Ellis Island, says that he is informed that eight million emigrants are ready to come from Germany as soon as peace is declared, and he adds: "What will happen when the bars of Russia are let down can only be guessed." Other authorities and editors, however, deny and minimize all these alleged dangers, arguing that virtually every immigrant produces more than he consumes, and is, therefore, an asset rather than a liability; that instead of a labor surplus in this country we have an actual shortage of "cheap" or unskilled labor, the result of the stopping of all immigration during the war; that the farms, particularly, need such labor if they are to do their part in building up national prosperity; and that, as the New York Herald summarizes this point of view, "when we contemplate barring out immigration altogether, we contemplate economic suicide."

Read the leading article in THE LITERARY DIGEST this week (December 18) for an all-sided survey of this perplexing problem.

Other interesting news-articles in this number of THE DIGEST are:

- President Wilson's "Confession of Faith."
- First Aid to Farmers
- Our Neighbor Armenia
- West Virginia's War
- European Views of "New" America
- "Keeping" the Kaiser in Holland
- American Trade Conquests in India
- How to Lower Prices
- The Truth About American Dyes
- Saving the Lives of Clothes
- Straw Gas for Farm Use
- The Seesaw Windmill
- When Your Name Is Not Your Own
- The Storm About "Margot"
- A Film Duel
- Chicago Indicting Herself
- Operatically
- Christ and Buddha at Tokyo
- Are We Overdoing "Safety First"?
- Is the Jew Convertible?
- The Cannibal's Substitute for Religion
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