

REPAYMENT DIM ON LEASE-LOANS

Unless Congress Changes Policy of 1920s, Arms Won't Come Back.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Times Foreign Editor.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Unless Congress does a complete somersault on its old war-debt position, the war materials which it now proposes to lend or lease to Britain will never be paid back.

During the World War, contrary to the general impression, the United States did not lend money to the Allies. It lent goods, just as the President now proposes to do in his lease-lend bill. But when it was suggested that the Allies might repay in kind, Congress shouted an emphatic "no!"

"To do that," it said, "would hurt our industrial and agricultural interests and throw American workers out of their jobs. We want our money back or nothing." And they got nothing.

Expect Repetition

What happened then, the few old-timers left on Capitol Hill are now saying, is almost certain to be repeated, with minor variations. And this is what happened then—

When Arthur Balfour and Rene Viviani arrived in the United States in April, 1917, they told President Wilson that defeat stared them in the face unless America came to the rescue.

"We don't want money," they insisted. "What we want and must have are guns, munitions, trucks, automobiles, steel, copper, cotton, wheat, fats, foodstuffs, clothing, horses, cattle and other American products."

Treasury Footed Bills

That is what they got—not money. President Wilson and Congress told them to go ahead and order what they needed. The United States Treasury was doing the bill. This the Treasury did—accepting simple I. O. U.'s from the Allies and replenishing its bills by drastic new tax laws and huge Liberty Loan drives whereby American citizens shelled out hitherto inconceivable sums.

These I. O. U.'s added up to approximately 10 billion dollars. They constituted the war debt—to this day still very much misunderstood. Even President Coolidge seemed to think the Allies received money. He said, "they hired the money didn't they?" and both he and Congress wanted the money paid back.

No I. O. U.'s This Time

What the Allies had really borrowed, however, was a gigantic quantity of goods—the products of American farms, mines and factories, things turned out by American workers. They, not the Allies, received the Liberty Loan billions.

Today Great Britain and her associates are asking for only the same treatment they want planes, tanks, ships, guns, food, cotton, steel, copper, trucks, automobiles, fats, what is just as during the War. The only difference between then and now is a fancier design for financing the deal. Today the President proposes to forego the I. O. U.'s and lend the "defensive articles" themselves.

Eventually, however, according to the plan, the articles are to be turned to this country and repaid. This means that after the war Congress will have to accept payment in kind, something it refused to do after the World War. The pending lease-lend measure suggests that the actual articles that are leased or lent will be returned to this country. For the most part this will be impossible. As one observer expressed it, it is like lending a custard pie to a boy's camp and expecting to get it back after vacation. A warship might possibly be returned in fairly good condition, provided it escaped destruction, but most fighting equipment will be burned up or destroyed in one way or another. That is what it is for.

Same Thing Over Again

Thus after the war is over the United States will again face almost exactly the situation that existed after the World War. Will it be winter, if it is asked, or can it ever afford to accept billions of dollars' worth of British goods in return for the American products now being leased or lent to Britain?

The more realistic politicians here say no. After the war we will not want billions' of dollars' worth of ammunition, guns, planes and tanks, they say, because presumably by that time we will have as many as we need. Certainly we could hardly accept automobiles, trucks, Scotch whisky, cloth, Indian cotton, steel, copper, cutlery and other substitutes, because to do so would hurt our farms, factories and mines and put American workers in the headlines.

So, the realists insist, our aid to Britain must again be a gift regardless of the name it is called by.

FUGITIVE CAPTURED BENEATH BATHTUB

Four squads of police assisted by several State Police today "cornered" an escaped Pendleton Reformatory prisoner in the 1100 block Senate Ave.—under a bathtub.

Police said the youth, Ernest Goble, serving a sentence for breaking, left the Reformatory last night and stole a sedan.

Indianapolis police located the car on Senate Ave., and while searching for him were directed to a bathroom in a nearby house.

At first it appeared empty. Skeptical but overlooking nothing one of the police stooped over and peered under the old-fashioned tub.

"You don't need your guns, fellas," Goble advised them as he wriggled out of his hiding place.

BIDS ACCEPTED FOR HOSPITAL SUPPLIES

Bids for about \$50,000 worth of City Hospital supplies were accepted and approved last night by the Board of Health.

The supplies range from either to hospital uniforms. Dr. Charles Myers, hospital superintendent, said the bids are the regular ones received shortly after the first of each year.

Bids also were asked for new files for the City's vital statistics department.

British Troops Enjoy Grave Situation



A British battalion in the western Libyan desert finds this old Roman tomb ideal for headquarters. Niches formerly housing the Seven Dwarfs. Photo passed by British censor.

Hoosiers in Washington

Redistricting Bill Is Vexing To Larrabee and Harness

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Two Indiana Congressmen, one a Republican and the other a Democrat, are doing the lion's share of worrying about the Indiana reapportionment which will reduce the House delegation from 12 to 11.

The Democrat is Rep. William H. Larrabee, whose Eleventh Congressional District is said to be slated for slighting by the Indiana Legislature, which has a Republican majority in both Houses.

Rep. Forest A. Harness is the G. O. P. Congressman who is worried. He has heard that in the dismembering of Rep. Larrabee's district, his (Fifth) will draw Madison County.

In 1940, a Republican year, in Madison, Madison County gave Rep. Larrabee a 3,696 majority.

Since Rep. Harness was re-elected by 13,500, he could absorb that much of a Democratic vote without losing his seat. But he would prefer having a normally Republican county added—if any.

Rep. Charles A. Halleck, Second District Republican, is the least worried of the three about the redistricting.

In addition to the fact that his district was carved out for the late Rep. Will R. Wood with the help of his being perpetually Republican, Rep. Halleck's friend, State Rep. Walter S. Baker, of Marshall County, is chairman of the House Committee on Congressional Apportionment.

Rep. Louis Ludlow, Twelfth District Democrat, may have all Marion County to run in next time. This will give him a large bloc of nominally Democratic votes on the South Side of Indianapolis, but it also will add Republican Irvington, which Rep. Larrabee never was able to carry.

With 12 Congressmen, and 11 seats there are bound to be headaches, but the general attitude is that of a pedestrian crossing the street against a traffic light—he thinks that the accidents always happen to the other fellow.

Sumpitucus Sanctum

Former Senator Sherman Minow has a private office in the State Department as big as that of the inner sanctum of the Governor of Indiana at the Statehouse.

The ceilings are 20 feet high and covered with classic murals.

He is located directly across the street from President Roosevelt's White House office and connected by private wire with the White House switchboard, as are all of the Administrative Assistants to the President.

Mr. Minow seems to be a pet peave of Frank R. Kent, the Baltimore Sun. Twice recently he has directed his column to dishing our razzberries to "Shay."

His latest suggests that the Administrative Assistant appointment is but a stop-gap toward putting the former Indiana Senator on the Federal bench. Mr. Kent does not favor that.

No discussion of a Court appointment was carried on between the President and Mr. Minow the day the latter called him to the White House and gave him his new \$10,000 job.

There long have been rumors that he might go on a Federal bench here, in Indiana or Chicago, and even the Supreme Court has been mentioned. The latest "plot," which Mr. Minow terms "utterly fantastic," is that he would first be made Attorney General and then appointed to the Supreme Court.

The details are predicated on the retirement of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, some time after administering President Roosevelt's third term oath, and the appointment to the Chief Justiceship of Attorney General Robert H. Jackson.

Then Mr. Minow would take Jackson's place until Justice James Clark McReynolds resigns, when Mr. Minow would be appointed to the High Court.

This would make three New Dealers landing on the bench by the same route, the third being Justice Frank Murphy.

Wickard a Cinch?

There also were rumors here this week that Undersecretary Paul H. Appleby was being bound to succeed Secretary of Agriculture

BUSHVILLE MAN DIES IN CRASH

Car Sideswipes Truck; Local
Accident Fatal to 2d
Woman.

A man was killed and a woman seriously injured last night when a tractor-trailer driven by an Indianapolis man was sideswiped by an automobile on State Road 44, three miles west of Rushville, Ind.

In Marion County, a truck-car collision southwest of the city Thursday claimed its second life yesterday and an 18-year-old youth was critically injured in an accident at 36th St. and Keystone Ave.

Herman McDonald, 21, of Rushville, died of fractured skull in the Rushville wreck, State Police said. Mildred Barnes, 32, also of Rushville, was injured and two other occupants were injured slightly.

Truck Driver Unhurt

The driver of the trailer, Frank Hensley, 565 W. 15th St., was not injured, police reported.

Mrs. Catherine Brogan, 32, of Bedford, Ind., died in the Long Hospital from injuries received in a collision at Epler Ave. and the Elbow Road Thursday. Mrs. Teresa Fischer, 61, also of Bedford, died earlier. Mrs. Brogan was the driver of the machine.

James Webb, 18, of 710 Lord St., is in the City Hospital with injuries received in the accident on 36th St.

He was thrown from a bicycle and struck by a car.

George of Blanchester, O., was struck by a bus while crossing New York and New Jersey Sts. He received a possible fractured skull and was taken to the City Hospital.

Sideswipes Truck

Halfert Jones, 59, of 12 S. Elder Ave., attempted to pass a truck in 750 block W. Washington St. today, skidded on the slippery pavement and sideswiped a tractor-trailer going in the opposite direction. Mr. Jones received a possible fractured skull and was taken to City Hospital.

A passenger in his car, Otis White, 48, of 238 N. Miley Ave., was treated for head lacerations. The driver of the tractor-trailer was not injured.

Struck by a taxicab as they were crossing 9th and Pennsylvania Sts. last night, a youth and a girl were injured and taken to the Methodist Hospital where their condition is considered "fair" today.

They were John Ansley, 18, of 930 N. Alabama St., and Miss Mary Moloy, 15, of 932 N. Alabama St.

Weaver Killed in Columbia City Accident

COLUMBIA CITY, Ind., Jan. 18 (U. P.)—Hagop Kaloustian, 50, woolen mill weaver, was injured fatally last night when struck by an automobile driven by Max Drudge, Columbia City. Police said they were attempting to locate Mr. Kaloustian's mother and brother, believed living in Providence, R. I.

Committee reports were given at

a meeting of the company at the Athletic Club last night.

Of the firm's 117 drivers, 88 had no accident during 1940. A total of 48 men had not had an accident in four years, and 10 men have had no accidents for 10 years. Sixteen drivers hold two-year records and 21 hold one-year records.

Lenis Firestone was made chairman of the 41 safety committee and Ernest King was chosen vice chairman. P. A. Smith was re-elected secretary.

E. V. Mitchell, sales manager, was toasts master of the dinner-meeting.

IRENE DUNN ILL

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 18 (U. P.)—Actress Irene Dunn was under a physician's care today at nearby Arrowhead Springs. She has influenza, but her condition was reported satisfactory. Her illness upset the production schedule of her next picture, "Penny Serenade."

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