

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM

VOL. XLVI, No. 25

Palladium, Est. 1831. Consolidated
with Sun-Telegram, 1907.

RICHMOND, IND., WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 8, 1920.

SINGLE COPY 3 CENTS

FRIENDLINESS IS INSPIRED BY HARDING

President-Elect Meets Many Persons in Washington—Does More Listening Than Talking—Plans Policy.

SEES SOLEMN DUTIES

By MARK SULLIVAN
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8.—When Senator Harding left Washington on Tuesday afternoon, he had spent almost exactly 40 hours in the capitol, he saw a good many persons, and they told him a good many things. Harding himself did more listening than talking. About the only thing that he himself initiated was a movement looking to as early action as is reasonable on what is conveniently called the League of Nations question, but is, in fact, the whole problem of our foreign relations. He brought this up with several members of the senate committee of foreign relations, and with other senators, and urged action on their part looking to arriving at common ground for action. Senator Harding has been himself a member of the foreign affairs committee and sat with it during all the sessions that dealt with the League of Nations. He knows the various points of view held by individual members, and he tried on Monday and Tuesday to make a beginning toward finding common ground on which all these different views can meet.

This is about the only affirmative thing that Harding did, about the only thing in which he took the initiative. But he listened to a lot of other things. Among the suggestions laid before him by one or another of those who called were the following:

Urged to Appoint

He was urged to name his secretary of state and his secretary of the treasury immediately, without waiting until he has made up his mind about the cabinet as a whole. The idea of those who urged this course was that the names of these two officials would carry a certain amount of weight with the public and would give business men and others interested a basis upon which to make their calculations for the future. It was urged, also, that these two officials should have a good deal of time before the 4th of March in which to study their problems and prepare themselves for prompt action after they take office. To this suggestion Senator Harding gave no sign or assent or dissent.

He was urged to ask the committee on finance of the senate to begin to hold meetings immediately, for the purpose of preparing a tentative program for revising the taxes. About this suggestion Senator Harding did nothing except to express a whole-hearted conviction that the taxes should be revised as early as practicable.

Bond Plan Urged.

Incidental to this plan for revision of taxes, Senator Harding was urged to give his endorsement to a plan for refunding the government debt, a plan which would extend all the Liberty Bonds for 60 years and would divide the refunding issue into three classes of bonds. One class free of income taxes on medium incomes, and a third free of income taxes on small incomes. The purpose of this division is, of course, to make the new issue as attractive as possible to different groups of investors.

Senator Harding was urged to assert leadership of the Republicans in the present Congress, without waiting until March 4. He was urged to act (Continued on Page Eight)

COMMISSION EXPENSES ARE TOLD BY WILSON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—A special message giving the complete expenses of the American peace commission during its work abroad was transmitted to the senate today by President Wilson.

Total expenditures amounted to \$1,651,191.09 from Dec. 1, 1918 to Dec. 4, 1920. The amount actually paid out was \$1,703,712.06, but repayments and gains in exchange reduced by \$52,520.97.

Some of the larger items are: Travel and subsistence \$28,442; subsistence \$193,629; salaries, \$209,871; wages and employees at Hotel Critton \$121,507; rents \$176,853; food, hotel and kitchen supplies, \$283,560; hired and laundering of linen at hotel, \$64,969; damage and loss of property at the hotel, \$125,870.

Various trips to Russia, Germany, Poland, Turkey, Holland, and Armenia cost \$229,726. Purchase of automobiles amounted to \$14,602, and confidential expenses of presidential party, \$17,534.

Sugar Reaches Low of 5.32 Cents Per Pound

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The sugar market continued its downward trend today with its centrifugal quoted at 5.32 cents per pound, the lowest price of the season.

British Government May Inquire About De Valera

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The British government is considering whether it will request the United States government friendship to take official notice of the anti-British activities in America of Prof. Eamonn de Valera, president of the Irish republic, according to a statement made today by Andrew Bonar Law in the house of commons in response to questions.



Marine Hero

FARM CROPS POOL URGED FOR RELIEF

Lever, Joint-Author Agricultural Extension Act, Recommends Nation Wide System to Steady Values.

BANKS ARE DEFENDED

By WILLIAM R. SANBORN.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 8.—"Agriculture is the greatest of all professions, involving the labor of 49 per cent of our people, and has \$25,000,000,000 of capital invested," said A. F. Lever, at the Farm bureau convention on Tuesday evening. Mr. Lever is joint author of the Smith-Lever agricultural extension act.

The speaker recommended that a nationwide system of pooling farm products in bonded warehouses, under national or state control, be devised, to prevent the flooding of our markets at harvest seasons. Mr. Lever says that it takes 12 months to prepare the land, sow the seed and to cultivate, harvest and market our various crops.

A system which would lead to the marketing of our crops over the entire crop year, instead of forcing 75 per cent of the output on the market in four months, would steady values, and act to prevent the annual drop in prices, every year. None of this can be accomplished under our present credit machinery, said the speaker.

Outline of Lever Plan.

The Lever plan as outlined, would embody the following features:

1. The standardization of staple agricultural products of a warehousable character, into grades or classes.

2. The building of a system of bonded warehouses and elevators for these products, under federal, state or both, regulation and inspection.

3. The issuance of uniform warehouse or elevator receipts for a given product.

4. The pooling, regionally, of these warehouse receipts in the hands of a government appointee.

5. The issuance against the pooled receipts of a certificate or bond, and the selling of the same to the investing public at such rates of interest as such collateral will command.

New Banking Laws Needed.

Mr. Lever insisted that our present banking laws do not cover the needs of the crop growers. The federal reserve act has accomplished much.

"But neither the federal reserve act, nor the farm loan act, furnishes the kind of credit necessary, if a real system of orderly marketing is to be built up."

"By the application of principles of business already operating successfully, the thing can be worked out, and this to the benefit of all our people," said Mr. Lever.

Consultations Continue

Meantime consultations about selections for the cabinet will continue, and it is not probable that the final list of appointments to Mr. Harding's official family will be complete before inauguration day.

During the remainder of the present week the president-elect plans to devote his attention almost wholly to correspondence that has accumulated since he left for his vacation on Nov. 6. He also hopes to find opportunity to make up on the golf links some of the outdoor exercise he missed during his voyage to Panama and his four days of travel and conferences in Virginia and the capital.

HARDING, REFRESHED, WORKS ON POLICIES FOR ADMINISTRATION

MARION, O., Dec. 8.—With his return to Marion today from his vacation trip to the tropics, President-elect Harding was ready to begin actual constructive work on the policies of the coming administration.

In Washington during the last two days he felt our opinions on many subjects and he let it be known today that he was well pleased with the result. He told his friends that he believed his ideal of party government and common understanding had been furthered by his talks with Republican leaders in and out of congress and that his canvass of sentiment regarding an association of nations had been particularly encouraging.

The work done in Washington was purely preliminary, however, and at least some of the senators with whom he discussed foreign affairs will come to Marion later to take part in the league conferences that are to begin early next week.

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SOVIET MOVEMENT SPREADS IN ARMENIA

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 8.—Reports reaching this city declare the war minister of Armenia has proclaimed a military dictatorship over that country. He is said to have joined Bolsheviks troops at Baku and to be advancing toward Erivan, where a soviet government was proclaimed Dec. 3.

Following the announcement that a soviet government for Armenia had been established a council of people's commissioners was constituted. It is composed of five members, including two generals.

The communist movement is reported to be spreading swiftly in Armenia and outbreaks are said to have occurred in the region of Alexandropol, which is occupied by Turkish nationalists.

Mr. Harding Declared that a Wrong Idea Exists in the Minds of Many

Many that the Federal reserve system has adopted a policy of radical deflation and that the farming interests have been the chief sufferers from this policy.

"No such policy has ever been undertaken," Mr. Harding asserted. "As a matter of fact, there has been during the past year an increase in the net volume of bank credit in currency, and efforts have been made to correct abuses and to bring about moderation and better judgment in the use of credit, which a year ago were being diverted into all kinds of speculative and non-productive channels."

Mr. Harding declared that efforts have been made to conserve the resources and credit power of the Federal reserve banks in order that they may better respond to the seasonal needs occasioned by the harvesting of the crops.

Remember," he continued, "that things are not as bad as they seem, and that the morale which is so necessary for an army to maintain in military campaign is just as essential in fighting industrial and business depression. Let us look on the bright side, and take care before advocating measures which seem to promise temporary relief, to consider their ultimate results.

Organization Work Program

The work of the convention Wednesday is being principally devoted to matters of organization. Great interest centers in the annual election, to be held this evening. It is not thought that J. R. Howard will have any opposition to re-election as president, no rival candidates being in sight.

Twelve directors will be elected and there are numerous candidates in the field. There are two prominent candidates for the office of vice-president: John G. Brown, president of the Indiana state federation, and Howard Leonard, of Eureka, Illinois, president of the Illinois Agricultural association.

Believe Smugglers Work On American Vessel

GENEVA, Dec. 8.—Search of the steamer America upon its arrival here yesterday revealed a quantity of tobacco, sugar and coffee, which, it is alleged, was being handled by smugglers.

In addition, the officers found 400,000 rubles in the custody of the wireless operator. He declared the money was not to be used for political purposes, but belonged to speculators. The money and goods have been resequestered by the police.

Revision of the Tariff Program is Begun

By Associated Press

VERDUN, France, Dec. 8.—Dedication ceremonies of the simplest character were held here today at the monument erected to preserve the famous "French of the bayonets." This monument, which is over a trench in which was entombed a battalion of French soldiers during the great struggle here in 1918 was made possible by a gift of 500,000 francs by George F. Rand, of Buffalo, N. Y., who was killed in an airplane accident in England last December, his son assuming the obligation.

President Millerand, surrounded by Marshals Foch, Joffre and Petain, General Lyautey, Minister of Pensions Massier and other members of the cabinet, took part in the exercises.

Hugh C. Wallace, American ambassador to France, standing uncovered on the steps of the long, massive concrete structure made the presentation address. He was followed by President Millerand.

Youngest Consul

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Republican members of the house ways and means committee meeting today in executive session to draft a program of procedure for the present session, decided to begin hearings as soon as possible with a view to revising the tariff.

Chairman Fordney said it also was possible that the committee would undertake hearings on tax revision.

FORMER SERVICE MEN IN PRESENT CONGRESS IMPATIENT AT DELAY

The Palladium News Bureau, 200 House Office Building, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8.—Former service men in the Sixth congressional district of Indiana are entering numerous complaints over delays experienced in having their claims for compensation acted upon by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

It is stated, however, that dissatisfaction with the methods of the War Risk Insurance bureau is general throughout the country and members of congress realize that one of the most important problems they are now confronted with is a reconstruction of that bureau so that it will function properly.

A flood of complaints has been turned loose upon the bureau in the past few days by members of congress returning to Washington for the reopening of congress. These complaints were principally against long delays in the consideration of claims for compensation and against disability classifications given in compensation awards.

Complaint From Richmond

Among the complaints submitted to Representative Richard N. Elliott of Indiana to be filed with the bureau is one that involves the case of a former soldier living in Richmond, Ind., who is now unable to do any work because he is suffering from tubercular peritonitis and who has been awarded only \$18 a month compensation notwithstanding the fact he is married.

Reclassification of disability has been asked for another Richmond service man, who has been unable to work for several months because of a dilated heart and who now receives only \$13.50 a month compensation, although he is married and has a wife and baby to support. This small award was granted to him several months after his claim for compensation had been filed.

Soldier Suffers

The American Legion Post in Richmond has called attention to the case of another former service man suffering from tuberculosis and said to be unable to do any work who is receiving only \$23.50 a month, on which he is expected to support himself, his wife and a child. It is stated that the Red Cross has been obliged to assist this man from time to time.

An opinion frequently expressed in Washington is that the system under which the bureau of War Risk Insurance operates is too cumbersome ever to accomplish satisfactory results.

Recommended Branches

It has been recommended that the plan of having all compensation and insurance claims pass through a central office in Washington be abandoned and that regional branches for the bureau be established throughout the country. It is recommended that under such a system consideration of claims would be facilitated and that the bureau would be better able to keep in personal touch with former service men.

It is understood that after the first of next year both house and senate committees intend to make investigations of the bureau for the purpose of formulating some plan for a complete reorganization.

American Legion Posts throughout the Sixth Indiana congressional district have plainly indicated their disapproval of the bureau as now organized and operated.

Investigate Payments

Investigation of war department payments to steamship owners for reconditioning ships used as the transports during the war which was begun yesterday by the special war expenditures investigation committee, continued with officers of the transport service as witnesses.

The immigration exclusion bill regarded by its supporters as one of the most important matters to be dealt with at this session, will not be taken up until Thursday when it will be the special order of business in the house.

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