

Business Men Oppose Rail Ownership

A Washington dispatch, dated August 5, says: Formal announcement was made tonight of the final tabulations in the referendum conducted among business men by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States on the question of government ownership of railroads. More than 99 per cent of the vote, the official announcement said, was against it.

Announcement of the vote was accompanied by the following explanation of the reasons actuating the decision:

"1. Under government ownership the development of railroad facilities would depend upon congressional appropriations, which would prevent the anticipation of the transportation needs of the country. Appropriation would not be made in the amount and at the time needed to insure adequate development of the railroads. Political consideration might also control the amount of appropriations and the objects for which they were made.

FINANCIAL OBJECTION

"2. To acquire the railroads the government would have to pledge its credit for 18 to 20 billions of dollars at a time when other large financing for the government to dispose of the securities required to purchase the railroads and it would be necessary for the government to secure from 500 million to one billion dollars of new capital each year. If the government were to assume the burden of financing the railroads at the present time when the war debt is so large, its interest rate would necessarily be as high as, if not higher than, the rate at which corporations could secure capital.

"3. Government operation is seldom, if ever, as efficient as corporate management. Competition, the incentive to efficiency and progress in private enterprises, is absent from the government administration of affairs. Individual initiative is less, bureaucratic methods are more characteristic and the services rendered are less progressively efficient.

POLITICAL INFLUENCES

"4. While the government would presumably select officers and employes by means of efficiency tests, political influences would almost certainly be given weight in selecting men for official positions.

"5. Unless the government adopted the policy of fixing low rates and fares with the intention that any resulting deficit from operations should be placed as an increased burden of taxes upon the general public, rates and fares would be higher under government than under private operation. Under government operation expenses rise in relation to income, and the charges imposed by the government, if a deficit is to be avoided, must be higher than those which it would be necessary to permit railroad corporations to make.

EFFECT WOULD BE SERIOUS

"6. The political effect of government ownership and operation of railroads in the United States might be serious. There are now about 500,000 civil employes of the government. The addition to the public services of 2,000,000 railroad employes, the majority of whom are voters, would constitute a force of about 2,500,000 government employes interested in controlling the policy of the government as regards wages, hours and conditions of service. Such a body of employes might easily exercise a controlling influence upon state and national politics."

"ASK WILSON" LANSING SAYS TO SENATE OF COVENANT

A Washington, D. C., dispatch, dated August 6, says: Secretary Lansing, before the senate foreign relations committee today expressed the opinion that the Shantung provision of the peace treaty did not square with President Wilson's enunciated principle of self-determination, but maintained that the treaty as a whole carried out "substantially" the President's 14 points.

Declaring his unfamiliarity with many details of the peace negotiations and of the treaty itself, the secretary told the committee he was unable to answer many of its questions and reminded senators in answering others that he merely was expressing his own personal views.

"Ask the President," the secretary said when pressed for details of the Shantung and League of Nations negotiations. On three of the points raised he asked permission to refresh his memory and make a statement to the committee later, and when he was asked for a detailed construction of the labor and reparations clauses he protested that he could not be expected to carry the minutia of an 80,000 word document in his mind, and reminded the committee, it was much easier to "ask questions prepared beforehand" than to answer them offhand.

"CANNOT TRY KAISER"

As his own personal opinion, Mr. Lansing said that Japan would probably have signed the treaty without the Shantung provision; that the United States should ask no part of German reparation; that the kaiser could not be legally tried; and that the mutual guarantee of territorial integrity from external aggression, as contained in Article 10 of the league covenant imposed a moral obligation but not a legal one.

The secretary said it was true that the 14 points had not been discussed, to his knowledge, in the preparatory stages of the peace negotiations; that the American draft of the League of Nations never was "pressed" before the conference; that the President had asked the peace conference not to lay before the French senate the record of discussions of the league; and that the United States did not know of secret treaties between the allies and Japan regarding Shantung when this country, by the Lansing-Ishii agreement, recognized Japan's "special interest" in China.

It was not true, Secretary Lansing said, that he and other members of the American delegation "protested" against the Shantung settlement; that Great Britain "refused to permit" discussion of the freedom of the seas by the peace conference; or that any of the American expert advisers had resigned because they disagreed with the decision regarding Shantung.

BEFORE SENATE ALL DAY

The general basis on which the treaty was framed, said the secretary, was "common sense and general principles, with an avoidance of policy and expediency". Verbatim records of the discussions, he told the committee, had been left in Paris, adding that he would not favor giving to the senate the less complete transcript in the possession of the state department because it might cause "irritation" to other governments.

DECLARES BRITISH RULE OF FORCE IN IRELAND MUST END

A London cablegram, dated Aug. 8, says: The government's first step toward a settlement of the Irish question was taken last night when Pre-

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mier Lloyd George announced in a long awaited statement that the British rule of force in Ireland must end.

The prime minister was cheered tumultuously when in answering Sir Donald MacLean's demand for a clear cut statement on the government's policy, he promised a definite program regarding Ireland's fate at the earliest opportunity and declared the government would not shirk its responsibility.

"It is the business of the government," said he, "to frame a policy and submit it to the commons. Every political party in Ireland condemns the London Times' scheme, and all outside, as well as in the house, may depend that we shall do our duty and take the risks."

The utmost importance is attached to a speech by Lord Robert Cecil at closed session of the new Center party, in which he said:

"Ireland's salvation lies in real self-determination. We must go as far as we can in the direction of the wishes of the Irish themselves. We must not desert Ulster but give the rest of Ireland what it wants—the largest measure of independence possible.

"You will have to make financial adjustments between Ulster and the rest of Ireland. Ask the people of Ulster, county by county, if they wish to join the rest of Ireland; then you

will have a settlement with some prospects of finality."

With regard to the industrial crisis, Lord Robert said:

"Industrial peace in England can only be secured by giving labor a voice in the management. Nationalization is only a substitute for private employers and insufficient."

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Creating an Estate

All are striving to create an estate. When death comes, if there is no insurance, a forced sale of the property often causes a large loss, whereas, the proceeds from a life insurance policy will furnish ready money for the immediate needs and the executors of the estate can have time to dispose of the property to the best advantage.

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