

Bryan Advocates U.S. Operation of Trunk Railways

Commoner Would Have States Handle Branch Lines—La Follette Takes Issue With Scheme.

By Universal Service.
Chicago, May 27.—Progressive leaders organized what will be known as "The National Conference of Valuation of American Railroads." It will have an organization in every state and will solicit the co-operation of the public.

Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin, was elected national chairman.

The organization will fix its own valuation of railroads, hoping to accomplish, in a few months what the Interstate Commerce commission has been working on for four years. With that end in view the new organization authorized the executive committee to retain legal counsel, engineers and accounting experts.

Other officers are: Representative George Huddleston, Alabama, first national vice chairman; Senator Robert L. Owen, Oklahoma, second national vice chairman; Edward Keating, Colorado, third national vice chairman; Representative W. T. Logan, South Carolina, secretary, and William H. Johnston, Washington, treasurer.

Observers tonight predicted that the country is on the eve of a great battle between corporate interests and champions of the public interest.

Bryan Addresses Meeting.

It was as a representative of the public that William Jennings Bryan today said he wished to address the conference.

Mr. Bryan spoke for two hours at the public session of the conference, advocating government ownership and operation of a trunk line reaching into every state, with branch lines owned and operated by the various states.

Hinting that a compromise might be reached on the question of revaluation, Mr. Bryan precipitated a clash with Senator La Follette, chairman of the conference, and its sponsor.

"I am unalterably opposed to a compromise," declared the Wisconsin senator at the close of Mr. Bryan's address.

Political observers attending the conference who Friday saw the possible foundation for a third party movement composed of farm-labor elements, today declared that no utterance of the various speakers could be so construed.

The 300 invited delegates were given to understand that the sole purpose of the conference was to lay plans for urging the Interstate Commerce commission to make an "equitable revaluation" of the roads with a view to bringing down freight and passenger rates and thus cut the high cost of living. Charges that values are greatly inflated were made by various speakers.

"When I was invited to address this conference from the standpoint of the public I first examined his general direction," said Mr. Bryan, "and I accepted the invitation."

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Favors U. S. Ownership.

"I believe the federal government ought to own a trunk line system running into every state," Mr. Bryan continued. "The states, under my plan, would own the feeder lines in their respective territories."

Developing his theme that while man was a God-made creature, a corporation was man-made, and therefore subservient to him, Mr. Bryan brought the galleries into applause when he said:

"I am in favor of keeping a man-made giant from injuring a God-made man."

It was his only attempt at an oratorical flight, the rest of the speech being delivered in simple statements, often spiced with epigrams.

Railroads, Mr. Bryan said, undoubtedly will claim the original cost of construction or the cost of reproduction, adding:

"Personally, I don't think we can decide which is correct now, but I believe in fighting for the best there is in sight."

It was this remark which Senator La Follette took exception to, asserting that "would not be satisfied with a compromise."

Agriculture at Low Ebb.

W. C. Langston, speaking for the farmers of the country, declared that agriculture is at its lowest ebb in the history of the United States. High freight rates were to blame for it, he said.

Loans and mortgages aggregating \$17,000,000,000, Mr. Langston said, were being made by the banks of the country, valued at \$77,000,000,000. Production last year totaled but \$11,000,000,000.

With every state in the so-called "farm bloc" represented at the railroad valuation conference, a call was issued for a national wheat conference to be held in Chicago, June 19 and 20.

The call was signed by Governors Prewitt of Minnesota, Small of Illinois, Davis of Kansas, Hyde of Missouri, Donahay of Ohio, Nestor of North Dakota, Walton of Oklahoma, Senators Capper of Kansas, and Copeland of New York, as well as executives of various national farmers organizations.

"The disastrous condition of a large portion of our agricultural population is very largely due to the price of wheat which, measured by the cost of production or by the purchase power of the farmers' dollar, is lower today than in a half century past," the call read.

The object of the conference is to see to it that a fair price for wheat

To Strik in European Opera

Phone for "Want" Ad to Atlantic

1000—or bring it to our office. In either case you will receive the same courteous and careful attention which characterizes Omaha Bee "Want" Ad service. No extra charges for sending your ad by phone.



Mme. Georgette Leblanc-Maeterlinck, first wife of the eminent novelist, Maurice Maeterlinck of Belgium, sailed for Europe recently. She'll star in Gamma Walska's theater in Paris.

More Arrests Are Expected in Rum Conspiracy Case

Five Attorneys Charged With Scheme to Defraud Government Through Wholesale Bribery.

Cleveland, May 27.—More arrests may be made in the alleged conspiracy to violate the Volstead law and defraud the government through wholesale bribery, United States Attorney A. E. Berstein said after Fred Counts, former prohibition agent here; his brother, A. Frank Counts, Cleveland attorney; Joseph H. Shearer, former Ohio prohibition director; and Samuel A. Hoskins, Columbus attorney, had been released on \$5,000 bail each.

The four, all lawyers, were taken before Federal Judge David C. Westenhaver and formally charged with two specific counts, based on 27 alleged "overt acts" growing out of the Auerbach alcohol diversion conspiracy in which Louis and Abraham Auerbach and three others pleaded guilty and were sentenced to Atlanta recently.

Every enterprise will be estimated on the basis of the number of workmen employed, each employee being appraised at 100 gold marks annually. The number of these is estimated at 15,000,000, thus the result will be 1,500,000,000 gold marks annually to cover the guarantees.

In other words the National Association of German Industries pledges itself to guarantee amounting to an effective of 1,500,000,000 gold marks.

The new German note will, therefore, contain double guarantees, those offered by the state and those supported by German industry. The state guarantees consist of first, customs; second, revenue derived from the alcohol and tobacco monopoly; third, profits accruing to railroads after the present deficit has been eliminated by increasing passenger tariff, 100 per cent, freight and freight tariff 50 per cent, beginning June 1.

Hoskins is charged with the alleged acceptance of \$1,700 at one time from Louis Auerbach through Samuel Rembrandt, Cleveland attorney, now in Atlanta, and \$21,000 from Auerbach through another party at another time, this money being paid for obtaining permits for withdrawal of ethyl alcohol from a Cincinnati warehouse, which was used for purposes in violation of the Volstead act.

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Germany to Place Lien on Property for Reparations

Mortgage of 25 Per Cent Will Be Placed on All Private Holdings to Cover Guarantees.

Berlin, May 27.—The plan of the German government to encumber German private property with a mortgage of 25 per cent of its gold value to cover the reparations guarantees, will be put into effect.

The plan has been under discussion for a fortnight by the executive board of the National Association of German Industries, and late Friday night the board informed Chancellor Cuno of its willingness to support the government's plan.

As this will necessitate the taking of an exact estimate of the gold value of every single industrial enterprise in Germany, which is obviously impossible to do at a moment's notice, the following provisional estimate will be made:

Every enterprise will be estimated on the basis of the number of workmen employed, each employee being appraised at 100 gold marks annually. The number of these is estimated at 15,000,000, thus the result will be 1,500,000,000 gold marks annually to cover the guarantees.

In other words the National Association of German Industries pledges itself to guarantee amounting to an effective of 1,500,000,000 gold marks.

The new German note will, therefore, contain double guarantees, those offered by the state and those supported by German industry. The state guarantees consist of first, customs; second, revenue derived from the alcohol and tobacco monopoly; third, profits accruing to railroads after the present deficit has been eliminated by increasing passenger tariff, 100 per cent, freight and freight tariff 50 per cent, beginning June 1.

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