

BRYAN DENIES SHIP BILL ANGRERS LION

Secretary Asserts Report Grey Told U. S. Buying Tenth Ships Unneutral is Untrue.

MUCH DISCUSSION IN CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Diplomatic phases of the proposed purchase of ships by the United States government were widely discussed today as a result of the publication of a report that Sir Edward Grey had informed the State department that such purchases including German or Austrian ships, would be regarded as constituting an unneutral act.

It was stated positively at the State department, as it is in the British, that no communication, official or otherwise, on the subject had been received from Sir Edward. Not only has the American government not asked or received the formal views of Great Britain, but no expressions of an official character have come from either Russia or France.

Not Parallel Cases.

References have been made to the subject of transfers of flag in diplomatic correspondence over the steamship traffic as previously over the Brindille, but these are held by the State department not to be parallel cases as they involve transactions between private individuals whereas the bill pending in the senate would make the United States government a party to any purchase of vessels made under it.

Inasmuch as the State department holds that what might have been said in the Dada and Brindille cases does not apply to government purchases, majority Underwood in the house on behalf of the State department denies that the pending ship bill had been the subject of official communication between the Washington government and Great Britain.

Views of British Embassy.

At the British embassy the view was volunteered that since the pending bill had not yet passed, negotiations would not be proper, and that even if the bill were enacted there would be no reason to suppose that the United States government, exercising the powers designated by the legislation, would commit any unneutral act.

Distinction Drawn.

Although the British ambassador discussed the subject orally with Secretary Bryan recently, a distinction was drawn at the embassy today between the personal views and any official expression of the American government declared was not in contemplation as they have not even decided yet whether it even will be necessary to purchase any belligerent vessels to obtain at a reasonable price ships to carry American troops.

Threatened Raid on British Trade is On; 3 Ships Go

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Creates Sensation.

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One Other Sunk at Least.

At least one other vessel besides the Ben Cruchan was sunk by the German submarine No. 21. This fact became known tonight when a trawler brought in the eleven members of the crew of the steamer Linda Blanche, which was sent to the bottom by the German raider.

Belgian Babies Not in Danger of Milk Famine

NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Apprehensions that there might be suffering among Belgian babies and young children because of a shortage in milk supplies has been removed for the time being, the Commission for Relief in Belgium announced tonight. From its own purchases and through donations, it has already sent forward, has in hand or on order for early shipment 2,600 cases of 3.50 lbs cans of condensed, un-sweetened and sweetened milk.

Tornado Sweeps East Side of Oklahoma Burg

TULSA, Okla., Jan. 31.—A tornado swept the east side of Tulsa tonight, inflicting five persons. Mrs. J. A. Manzan probably will die.

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Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 50 cents.

French Force Way to Victory on Field of Ice Through Barbed Wire

PARIS, Jan. 31.—The following semi-official account of a French success in the Vosges is given: "In the Vosges, Hartmann-Wellerkopf was held by two sections in the beginning. (A section numbers sixteen men). Later these were reinforced by three companies. Here our chasseurs made a heroic stand, but this force was obliged to succor the small guard at the summit which was furiously attacked by important forces of the enemy. In a heavy snow storm and fog and unable to see more than ten yards ahead of them, this small detachment, knowing that the guard had only 300 cartridges, set out January 29 over the rocky declivity, which was obstructed by thickets, to save their comrades.

"Two companies tried to reach the enemy's left; two others marched toward the right, but the Germans were strongly organized and the advance was slow. The men, slipping on the ice and falling back on accessory defenses, fought all day. From the summit the guard heard the firing, and in the evening their trumpets sounded a salute. Our men continued to gain ground on the left up the slope, but slowly. The chasseurs held out. Assault after assault was delivered. Two officers fell at the head of their men, but in spite of the ice and barbed wire the force advanced.

"At nightfall nothing more was heard from the summit and the handful of valiant defenders succumbed before help arrived. The following party now commands the summit of the heights, preventing any offensive movement by the enemy."

Women Vote in Yankton.

YANKTON, S. D., Jan. 30.—(Special Telegram.)—By the close majority of ninety-two new school house bonds for \$100,000, carried today. Women voted for first time.

U. P. SUBS THE ROCK ISLAND FARM LABOR 'CHANGE HERE

Seeks to Prevent Letter from Running Local Trains Over Leased Track.

PERTAINS TO TOPEKA TRAFFIC

One of the most important suits that have been instituted at Council Bluffs for many years was filed Saturday in the federal court by Attorney George S. Wright, general attorney in Iowa, for the Union Pacific Railroad company. The Union Pacific is the plaintiff and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad company is the defendant. It calls for judicial construction of several clauses of a 500-year lease given the Rock Island by the Union Pacific, and involves vast sums of money.

The action is an application for an injunction to restrain the Rock Island road from operating its trains between Kansas City, Okla., and Topeka for the purpose of obtaining any of the local traffic between those two points.

Made Long Contract.

On March 13, 1883, the Kansas Pacific Railroad company, which later became a part of the Union Pacific system, made a contract with the Union Pacific by which it was given the privilege of operating its through trains, freight and passenger, between Kansas City and Topeka over the Kansas Pacific's lines, but was not to do any local business of any character between those points during this long period of 100 years.

The conditions of the contract-lease were faithfully observed until within the last few years, when the Rock Island company surreptitiously broke it to some degree. As the country became more densely populated the temptation to engage in local business increased and it is asserted that this business has reached profitable proportions in the last year. If any protests were made by the Union Pacific officials they lacked the force to compel action, and the Rock Island people went after the business more energetically than ever.

It was intimated in railway circles yesterday that the Rock Island would like to get rid of its 100-year lease, and its deliberate violation is part of a prepared plan to bring about its termination. The lease is profitable to the Union Pacific if its terms are fully complied with, for the annual rental for the use of the tracks amounts to a pretty sum. The Union Pacific is very willing for its rival to use the tracks as long as it is compelled to pay the price. If the Rock Island could break its lease it could then be free to build competing lines, and it was intimated that for this reason the 100-year lease looms up as an ever-increasing incus.

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IOWA SOLONS PEACEABLE Work is Progressing with View of Compromise Over Matters Where There is a Difference.

TEMPERANCE PEOPLE ACTIVE

(From a Staff Correspondent.) "DES MOINES, Jan. 31.—(Special.)—The most significant feature of the legislative session of the Thirty-sixth general assembly thus far made evident is a general disposition to compromise and arrival of results by compromise and concession, rather than fighting it out.

There have been no bitter words in session or in committees. There has been no sharp contest for control of this or that measure. Only a few of the members have started to get together with high hand and they are not getting very far with their aggressiveness. A few are exploiting themselves in every possible way, but it is well understood that this is because they are candidates for something else and desire the advertising for other purposes.

There has not been, thus far, any discussion over appointments to office. The governor sent to the senate for confirmation the names of a number of his recess appointees, and all who have been reported on have been confirmed. While there was some effort to make political capital out of the perhaps unfortunate radicalism of the governor's remarks in his message, yet there is no resentment against the governor, and in the end there will be filed a report on the matter which caused the reaction that will make plain to the people that some conditions are being made to correct them.

Wet and Dry Fight.

A strenuous effort has been made to stir up strife over temperance questions. It seems to have failed. From the very first the dry forces have been engaged in exploiting the alleged big fight over the organization. They have fairly flooded the legislature with bills. They have twisted everything into a wet and dry fight. But the situation has not changed a particle since the temperance matters and, in truth, most of the members look upon the temperance legislation as a political matter thrown in to obstruct legislation. There is not, as yet, any serious division on the temperance question. The control is with a few who refuse to get excited one way or another.

The flood of bills presented at the beginning of the session presents nothing essentially new. There are bills to regulate almost everything of a larger number of bills affecting railroads are here, and some of them with merit. There are bills to license plumbers, barbers, chiropractors and others. Bills affecting county officials are numerous. A number of the bills before the legislature are really to correct palpable errors found in the Code, largely by reason of the Code revision. A few bills to raise salaries have been introduced.

The only appropriation bills in sight as yet are those to give for the Iowa exhibit at San Francisco and to give to the losers by reason of the fight on foot and mouth disease. Both of the bills are recognized as having merit, but of course all appropriations will be made in the light of what is to follow. Two subjects here mentioned will consume a fifth of all the available funds for extraordinary expenditures, if allowed.

Highway Engineers.

The State highway commission has issued orders to the effect that persons employed as county highway engineers must cut out the private work and devote themselves to the public business. During the last year there has been much complaint about some of the engineers having several positions or doing work for several masters. Trouble has arisen largely from this situation. In one county an engineer had one work for two or three cities and districts all at one time, with the result that he did not get along very well with the county work. It is declared that as the work is progressing, even in the smallest of the counties there will be enough work to take up all the time of the men. The highway commission has also issued a statement to the Boards of Supervisors asking them to be sure to employ only competent engineers, as it pays at all times to employ only good engineers. To do this it will be found necessary to pass laws.

Discrimination.

A somewhat unusual lawsuit has been started in district court on the ground of discrimination. It is a claim of \$4,000 rebate from the electric light and power company, as overcharges covering a number of years service to the Homestead company. The company sets up the claim that while it was paying the regular published rate for its power, it has had a rival concern in the same business, the Register and Leader company, was engaged in getting the same power for 33 per cent lower rates. Rebate of this discrimination the Homestead company has been held up for over \$4,000 and asks that this be returned to it.

Department Vindicated.

Some time ago the state insurance department received from insurance companies a report on the office of manager of the Modern Brotherhood of America, with headquarters in Mason City. The report showed that the accounts of the fraternal association were kept. Later suit was brought in court to compel the company to permit a committee of members to make a real investigation and this has been done. Now the committee of investigation has made a report very similar to that of the insurance examiners, finding that the business has been well managed. An insurgent faction is at work trying to gain control and this one step in the movement.

Money for Police Pension.

The Des Moines police pension board is preparing to ask an increase in the levy which its funds are raised. During the last three years unusual demands have been made on the fund until now \$112 is being paid on yearly. The following named former officers receive pensions: Youngberg, Neis De Ford, Suits, Johnson, Cohen, France, Shaffer, Ed De Ford, Dickery, Mrs. Jerry Courtney, widow of an officer, receives \$29 a month and three children get \$4 each.

Upholds, former secretary of agriculture in an interview while in Des Moines.

Washington Affairs

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Mrs. Patterson said she went inside the station presently and her husband followed in a few minutes.

"He said, 'Mamma, that man hit me a awful blow over my heart—an awful blow,' she testified. He raised his arms to show me. I tried to hold him up, but he fell to his knees and I saw blood on him. He had been stabbed to the heart."

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He is particularly interested in the manner the fight is being made because he has seen several outbreaks and the office under his direction adopted the policy which has since been continued of stamping out the disease by causing the killing of the infected herds.

Trial of the Plumber Cases.

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New Buildings at College.

The State Board of Education has just completed its budget on the building work to be done at the educational institutions out of the millage taxes and a resolution for approval of the plans will be presented to the legislature in a few days. The resolution will ask approval of the following expenditures during the next biennium: State College, Ames—New animal husbandry laboratories, \$50,000; new hospital, \$30,000; additional unit to dormitory, \$20,000; agricultural engineering building, \$100,000; building for study of bacteriology and zoology, \$65,000.

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