

Reorganization Plans Are Laid Before Harding

Consolidation of Army and Navy Departments Understood to Be Feature of Scheme.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Plans for reorganization of the government departments, as worked out by Walter F. Brown, chairman of the joint congressional commission charged with that task, were laid before President Harding, but were not made public, pending consideration by the president and his cabinet and their transmission to congress.

The proposals, however, are understood to be preliminary in nature. They are said to embody recommendations for the consolidation of the War and Navy departments into one department to be known as the Department of National Defense and for creation of a new department to be called the Department of Public Welfare.

Would Have Secretary. The Department of National Defense, as it has been considered by Mr. Brown, would have a secretary and under that officer under-secretaries for war and for navy. The plan is that the Department of National Defense be consolidated with other bureaus in the Department of Public Welfare. It is understood to have been organized by the department and its generally have opposed the reorganization of the War and Navy departments into one department. The principal transfers to be recommended were:

Other Transfers. The bureau of good roads and highways from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Commerce; the forest service from the Department of Agriculture to the Interior department; the patent office and the bureau of education from the Interior department to the new Public Welfare department; the coast guard service from the Treasury to the Department of National Defense and the consolidation of all the secret service agencies in the Department of Justice.

Debate in the senate several days ago on the work of the commission developed that practically all the work done thus far had been done by Mr. Brown, who was appointed by the president and designated by him as chairman.

Beech Camp, M. W. A., Plans Unusual Ceremony

At Beech camp, Modern Woodmen is planning the biggest meeting woodcraft in Douglas county has ever seen. The occasion is the installing of new officers next Friday, January 27, at the Swedish auditorium. A battalion of six forester teams, 100 men, under the command of Maj. Henry C. Stafford, will conduct the ceremony. Sixteen camp foresters of Elk City, under Captain Frey, will present the flag; Irvington camp foresters, under Captain Miller, will honor squad; G. S. Grinstead, personal representative of Head Consul A. R. Talbot; Bennington camp foresters, under Captain Grau, will be honor guard to Supreme Organizer Ralph Johnson; Omaha camp 120, foresters, under Captain Martin, will be honor guard to the installing officer, John S. King; B. and M. foresters (Omaha), under Captain Thompson, honor guard to State Deputy E. E. Kester, and Beech camp's foresters, under Captain Borat, will be the official ceremonial team.

All Modern Woodmen of Douglas county are invited to be present and 600 Woodmen who reside in Omaha but who belong to camps scattered all over the country, are receiving formal invitations to attend.

Neighbor Ray J. Sutton, consultant, who is responsible for the monster meeting, plans to make this year a record-breaker for Beech camp.

Economies Considered at Rail Meet at Alliance

Alliance, Neb., Jan. 22.—(Special)—Further economies in railroad operation on the Alliance and adjoining divisions of the Burlington were discussed by superintendents and master mechanics of the district at a special meeting in Alliance. Those in attendance were General Superintendent A. G. Smart and Division Superintendent F. G. Gurley; Superintendent F. Cone and Master Mechanic G. E. Johnson of Sheridan, Wyo.; Superintendent J. C. Grinstead and Master Mechanic C. E. Melsler of Casper, Wyo.; Superintendent C. C. Holtri and Master Mechanic C. O. Davenport of Sterling, Colo.; and L. E. Caldwell of the general manager's staff at Omaha. While railroad business was declared to be somewhat better than it was a year ago, the officials stated that further economies must be brought about if the working forces are to be saved from further cuts.

Medical Association Is Formed by Western Doctors

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Michigan Miners, Idle Seven Months, Demand Assistance

Iron Mountain, Mich., Jan. 22.—Two hundred and fifty miners, idle for seven months and pressed by the hard times for food and clothing, walked in groups to the office of the county superintendent of poor and made a pitiable plea for assistance. "We must have food and clothes; we must live," they declared. The men were peaceful and orderly, but demanded help. Some said their children were barefooted and that they had no food to give them at times.

The men claimed they had been discriminated against in obtaining work at the Ford plant and the Von Platen Fox saw mill. They declared nonresidents and strangers were given the preference. The men were told their plea for help would be given attention.

Aid to Farmers First Problem of Conference

Five Days Allotted to Discussion of Economic Situation at National Agricultural Meeting.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Five days have been allotted to the national agricultural conference which meets Monday to study conditions of the farmers and suggest remedies.

The program made public showed that the acute distress of the farmers is to be given first consideration, after which the conference will take up consideration of a permanent agricultural policy designed to avoid periods of depression such as at present.

Representative Anderson, Minnesota, chairman of the joint congressional commission of agricultural inquiry, will speak on agricultural prices and the situation.

The agricultural situation and suggested remedies will be presented Monday through reports from representatives of the leading agricultural regions. A. Sykes of Ida Grove, Ia., will present the situation for the corn belt; John H. Hagen of Deering, N. D., for the wheat regions, and Fred Bisby of Long Beach, Cal., for the range country.

Industries to Follow. Representatives of allied industries will follow with discussions touching the effect of agricultural depression on other industries. These include the implement, milking, packing and fertilizer industries.

The European situation, in its relation to American agriculture, will be discussed Tuesday by G. F. Warren of Ithaca, N. Y., followed by Eugene Meyer, jr., managing director of the War Finance corporation, on the financial emergency in agriculture.

The financial policy, in its relation to price levels, will also be discussed Tuesday by Wesley Mitchell of New York.

Beginning Tuesday, the afternoons will be given over to committee meetings along the general lines of production, financing, transportation and marketing. The mornings will be taken up with general sessions.

Discussions from the floor on the five-day rule will be permitted at the close of each conference session.

To Outline Co-operation. Fundamentals of co-operative marketing will be outlined to the delegates Wednesday by G. Harold Powell of Los Angeles, and the position of the independent distributor by William L. Wagner of Chicago. Ten-minute discussions of marketing will also be heard Wednesday from Robert McDougall, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, among others.

Committees are expected to have their reports ready Thursday and Friday.

Negro Convicted of Thorsdale Murder

Des Moines, Jan. 22.—Joe Williams, negro, was found guilty of first degree murder by a jury in district court here in connection with his second trial for the slaying, June 2, of Miss Sara Barbara Thorsdale, Valley Junction school teacher. The jury, which was out five hours, recommended Williams be executed.

Wisconsin Representative Urges Graduated Gift Tax

Washington, Jan. 22.—A graduated gift tax, ranging from 1 per cent on amounts exceeding \$100 to 25 per cent on gifts in excess of \$10,000, is proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Frear, republican, Wisconsin, a member of the ways and means committee. The estate tax, Mr. Frear said, is avoided in many instances by distribution of property gifts. A gift tax would

Rejected, Shoots Woman

New York, Jan. 22.—Rudolph Carroll, a rejected suitor, shot and seriously wounded Mrs. Anna Butler, as she emerged from her home and then turned the weapon on himself, inflicting a wound from which he died.

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Looking Forward
From a Bulletin of the National City Bank of New York.
The third year has passed since the armistice was signed, and the world is yet far from restored to normal working conditions, not to speak of recovery from the losses sustained in the conflict. In Europe much work has been done for the rebuilding or restoration of properties that were destroyed or that suffered deterioration, and progress has been made in the reorganization of production. The railroads are in much better condition than in 1919, the coal mines have been in part restored and industry generally, so far as physical facilities are concerned, is now able to operate in a fairly efficient manner. Moreover, social conditions are in some respects notably improved. The revolutionary spirit has subsided, the people appear to be willing to work. The crops in Europe west of Russia were good in 1921, the agricultural class is doing well, and in most of the countries on the continent that class is very powerful in the governments and exercises a conservative influence.

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The most serious feature of the European situation is the state of the currencies, to which we gave some attention last month. The governments have been running upon a scale of expenditures ever since the war that they have been unable or unwilling to meet by taxation, and have resorted to currency issues to cover the deficits, until the position of some of them is critical. As yet, the peoples are not sufficiently impressed with the gravity of the situation to support the governments in necessary measures of reform. There is unwillingness, both on the parts of the governments and peoples, to face the stern conditions of the time. Production is reduced, trade is demoralized, the resources of the peoples are diminished, and until these difficulties are overcome they must be met by adjustments in public and private expenditures. The fall of the German mark, and notice from the German government that it will not make the January reparations payments in full, has reopened the reparations question, which, of course, is the paramount issue in Europe.

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Hopeful Signs.
Over and against these disquieting conditions there have been of late certain important developments, which give promise of substantial relief from some of the burdens of taxation, of better international relations and a better spirit in the world. The international conference, in Washington, after raising hopes very high, came to a disappointing conclusion upon the submarines, but this will not obscure its very substantial achievements. The prospect for a settlement of the status of Ireland which will give peace and the stimulus of new ambitions to the Irish people and at the same time relieve England from the expense and distraction which the Irish question has involved is also of large significance. The co-operation and leadership of England is needed in the financial rehabilitation of Europe, and peace with Ireland is an important condition for its effective participation. Finally, there are signs in France of a growing appreciation of the necessity for maintaining the financial stability of all Europe, giving ground for hope that at the coming meeting of the supreme council of the allies some plan will be developed by which the immediate menace involved in the reparations situation will be removed. There are certain facts which must have consideration, whatever the judgment may be as to Germany's moral obligations. The state of world markets is not such as to make it possible for Germany to build up great export balances at this time, and as a matter of fact Germany's imports have exceeded its exports during the last year.

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