

Strength of Army Fixed at 140,000

Proposal Accepted by Senate Committee Provides for Increase of 25,000 Over Bill Passed by House.

Bitter Fight Predicted

By The Associated Press. Washington, May 17.—An army of 140,000 men, an average officer strength for the next year of approximately 12,530 was agreed upon late today by the senate appropriations subcommittee which has charge of the measure.

The subcommittee draft of the War Department appropriation bill which has yet to be acted upon by the full committee, proposes increases of 25,000 in the enlisted personnel and about 1,500 in officers, over the house provision. The officer strength is predicated upon the bill suggested by Gen. Pershing, and his proposals as to methods of cutting the present number of officers were accepted by the subcommittee in principle.

Although the size agreed upon by the subcommittee represents a cut of 10,000 from the strength asked for by the War department, its acceptance by the subcommittee with it was understood, only one vote against it, was regarded as forecasting its acceptance by the full appropriations committee and probably its passage by the senate.

Battle Expected. The question of the size of the army is expected to precipitate a battle between the house and senate, provided the latter sustains the committee action. The house engaged in a bitter fight over the appropriation bill, the final vote fixing the strength at 11,000 officers and 115,000 men.

The committee was unable to determine the cost of the service under the size of the army upon which it decided. The present pay rate expires automatically June 30, and if no other provision is made the pay schedule of 1908 will go into effect, but a bill for a new basis of pay has passed the house and awaits action in the senate.

The exact appropriation required to comply with that bill has not been estimated for the 140,000 army. Chairman Wadsworth of the subcommittee plans to seek action on the new pay bill late tomorrow.

Acceptance of the Pershing proposal affecting the officer strength would mean, it was said, that approximately 13,000 officers could be retained after July 1, but at the end of this year the number of officers would be close to 12,000.

Wandering Flyer Here on His Way to Siberia



Clarence Prest

Clarence Prest, 28, the wandering flyer, is in Omaha. Prest, in his 90-horsepower Curtiss biplane, is on his way from Buffalo, N. Y., to Siberia.

He always has made one daring trip by plane from Mexico into the arctic regions. On this trip, Prest says, he is preparing a travelogue.

He landed at Ak-Sar-Ben field Tuesday afternoon from Des Moines. Yesterday he expected to take moon pictures of Omaha from the air and to hop off for North Platte today on his way to the coast.

His route will lead him through Salt Lake City, Helena, Mont.; Glacier National park and Seattle, he said. "I expect to take 10,000 feet of pictures on the trip," he declared.

Prest travels alone. In the plane he carries fishing tackle, a rifle and tools which he might need if forced down in uninhabited territory. His home is in Las Vegas, Nev.

Probe of Death of Garage Man Made at Bristow. Bristow, Neb., May 17.—(Special Telegram.)—Walter R. Simmons, suspected of having murdered Frank Paul, Spencer, automobile dealer, whose body was found by a farmer Tuesday night, is now reported to be in the Boyd county jail at Butte.

Windy City Apartment House Fired

Chicago, May 17.—Police today searched for unexploded bombs believed to have been placed in a \$500,000 apartment building in North Chicago, which last night was damaged by fire, started, police say, by terrorists in connection with the so-called Chicago labor war.

Another development on which authorities work today was the confession, said by police to have been obtained yesterday from Mrs. Margaret Miller, wife of John Miller, under arrest as the alleged driver of the "death car," from which shots were fired killing two policemen early Wednesday in the labor feud.

Police connect the firing of the building with labor disorders through a man who warned two women in an adjoining building, "to hell with the Landis award," he shouted as he attempted to kick one of the women. He is being sought by the police.

Loss Estimated at \$250,000. The building damaged by fire with an estimated loss of \$250,000 was being erected under the Landis wage award, a decision handed down by K. M. Landis, former federal judge, acting as arbitrator, which was intended to settle labor disputes between contractors and members of the Chicago Building Trades council.

The structure was owned by a contractor who denied receiving threats. The 100 workmen on the building are divided into two classes, steam fitters and masons working under the Landis award and carpenters and plumbers working under the old union scale.

That the fire was incendiary has been proven beyond doubt, police say. All fire-fighting apparatus in North Chicago was called out and the stations filled with other engines in expectation that more fires would be kindled in accordance with a threat police are said to have received in which it was stated that unless all labor men in custody were released by last Saturday fires would be started all over the city.

Woman Confesses. The questioning of Mrs. Miller, police said, resulted in a confession from her in which the names of other occupants of the "death car" were given and it is substantiated by a previous confession said to have been obtained from her husband. Police said Mrs. Miller admitted caring for the occupants of the bandit car who were supposed to have been wounded by the policemen. Mrs. Miller also admitted sitting in conference with labor leaders in which bombings and attacks were discussed, police said, and admitted knowing that explosives were kept in the basement to be used by labor men in their fight against the Landis award.

Opinion of Judge Sears. In a written opinion of his decision Sears stated: "I find that the plaintiff is a man of absolutely upright character and at all times of kindly disposition towards his wife during their married period. I have also concluded that the defendant is a woman of exemplary character, the greatly endeared to her husband, and that she is entitled to the maintenance and support of her husband and children."

Retail Cost of Food Shows Slight Increase

Washington, May 17.—An increase of one-tenth of 1 per cent in the retail cost of food to the average family in the month ending April 15 was reported today by the Labor department's bureau of statistics. Of 43 food articles listed, 19 showed a decrease in price, including fresh milk, lamb, cabbage, bananas, 2 per cent, and butter, lard and baked beans, 1 per cent.

The articles showing an increase included onions, 19 per cent; oranges, 13 per cent; porkchops, 5 per cent; lamb and granulated sugar, 3 per cent; round steak, bacon and ham, 2 per cent.

Cities showing an "weighted" increase of 1 per cent or more in the average family expenditure for food during the month include: Savannah, 3 per cent; Kansas City, 2 per cent; Atlanta, Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Little Rock, Manchester, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Portland, Me.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle and Washington, 1 per cent. Fall River showed a decrease of 2 per cent, and Baltimore, Houston, St. Louis and Scranton, 1 per cent.

Decree Granted Clarence E. Hall in Divorce Suit. Clarence E. Hall, Union Pacific employe, was granted a divorce from Helen M. Hall, private secretary to E. John Brandeis, by District Judge Sears yesterday afternoon.

Hall charged cruelty. The case consumed the greater part of three days. The decree states that the "court upon consideration finds that the conduct of Mrs. Hall in abruptly abandoning her husband without frankly and fully disclosing to him the motives and reasons for the act, under circumstances that greatly tended to wound his feelings, constitutes extreme cruelty."

The court further finds that the plaintiff (Hall) in open court disclaims any intention to charge the defendant (Mrs. Hall) with adultery and the court finds no proof or evidence to justify any such charge," the decree further states.

Man Attempts to Kill His Mate With Himself. Ray Burton, 27, entered his wife's room 1919 Cass street, at 9:45 yesterday morning, dragged her into the hall, poured carbolic acid over her face and down her throat and then drained the bottle himself. Both were reported to be in a critical condition at Lord Lister hospital last night.

The tragedy followed the separation of the two five days ago. They came here 10 days ago, taking a room at 1710 Dodge street. Last Thursday he tried to choke her and she separated, according to Mrs. Burton. She obtained lodging at 1919 Cass street and obtained a position as a waitress.

Burlington Girl Jumps to Second in Omaha Bee Good Will Election; Three Girls Certain to Go to France

Two Days Remain to Settle Whether Two More Girls Win Trip.

Miss Katherine O'Brien, Burlington route candidate in The Omaha Bee election to send an Omaha girl to France with the American Good Will delegation, made a 20,000 vote jump yesterday and went to second place in the balloting.

Miss O'Brien's sensational jump from fourth to second place results from two record gains. On Monday she threw in 12,000 votes for the day. This represented the efforts by a committee of Burlington employes which undertook to organize Miss O'Brien's campaign after several other candidates were well in the running.

Three Girls Assured Trip. Yesterday's vote ran the total above the 230,000 mark and assured three girls trips to France. An additional girl will go for every 50,000 votes added to the grand total before the contest closes Friday.

Miss Nellie B. Donn, Union Pacific entrant, still stands in first place, with Miss Elizabeth Kaufmann, representing livestock interests, third, and Miss Ella Fenn, Advco girl, fourth. Miss Anna McNamara, M. E. Smith & Co. entrant, jumped to fifth place yesterday.

Deposits made today and tomorrow will include the voting period and winners will be announced in The Bee Saturday morning.

Final Balloting Instructions. According to the rules published at the beginning of the election, the solicitation of votes must cease Friday noon, May 19. Candidates and collectors will have until 3 o'clock p. m. to deposit their funds in the bank or to notify W. Dale Clark, treasurer, by wire, of any drafts or checks which are being mailed previous to that hour.

Man Attempts to Kill His Mate With Himself. Husband Drains Bottle After Pouring Acid Over Wife's Face and Down Her Throat.

Russia Accepts Allied Proposals. Genoa, May 17.—(By A. P.)—Russia has accepted the proposals of the powers for the meeting at The Hague to discuss the Russian situation, it was announced this afternoon.

Shipping Board Committee to Hold Hearing at St. Louis. Washington, May 17.—The committee of the shipping board, conducting hearings on section 28 of the merchant marine act which prohibits the making of preferential rates with foreign lines while American tonnage is available, will sit in St. Louis tomorrow.

Standings of Candidates. Miss Nellie B. Donn, Union Pacific 66,427; Katherine O'Brien, C. B. & Q. 53,201; Elizabeth Kaufmann, livestock interests 52,878; Ella Fenn, Advco girl 34,343; Anna McNamara, M. E. Smith & Co. 12,110; Kathleen Rossiter, Orchard-Wilhelm 11,130; Elizabeth Pace, Council Bluffs 3,503; Irene Rice, Alliance Times, Alliance, Neb. 2,087; Gladys Hitchcock, York 1,823; Myrtle Wood, Washab, Neb. 1,540; Mrs. Agnes Hall, Missouri Valley, Ia. 1,350; Anna Funk, Salon de Beauté 888.

Thousands Hear The Bee Good Will Concert by Radio. "Fine" Said Reports From Grand Island, Lincoln, Clinton, Ia., and Yankton, S. D.

An invisible audience scattered in cities, villages and farm houses throughout Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota heard the first stage entertainment to be broadcast by radio from Omaha when Orchard-Wilhelm company and Union Pacific railroad program at the Brandeis theater Tuesday night was transmitted into the ether by The Bee through the Omaha Grain Exchange station, WAAW.

Edmisten Defies Middle of Road Progressives. Lincoln, May 17.—(Special.)—J. H. Edmisten, third party chairman, hurled a deft thrust at the middle-of-the-roads who met at Grand Island yesterday to oppose the nomination for governor of J. N. Norton, by announcing that the real third party leaders at Lincoln would send out nomination petitions in a short time for Norton for governor and Arthur G. Wray for United States senator.

Edmisten refused to state whether Norton would subscribe to the third party platform adopted at the first Grand Island meeting, plates of which he has ignored so far in his public utterances.

Schooner on Rocks, Crew of 25 in Danger. San Francisco, May 17.—Wireless calls for help were sent early today by the auxiliary power schooner Ozmo, which was reported taking water rapidly after hitting the rocks at Cape Blanco on the southeastern coast of Oregon. A crew of approximately 25 was believed in grave danger.

California Congressman Scores Real Estate Men. Washington, May 17.—Criticizing congress for failure to extend the rent control law in the district of Columbia, which expires next Monday, Representative Raker, democrat, California, declared in the house that realtors were waiting for the law to die to jump rents and put people in the street.

British Cabinet to Bow to Commons on Education. London, May 17.—(By A. P.)—The British cabinet has decided to defer to the wishes of the house of commons and appoint a committee to inquire into the educational program on which the government was defeated by a narrow majority last night. Austen Chamberlain, the government leader, announced in the house this afternoon.

Four Persons Known Dead in Mexican Mine Fire. Tucson, Ariz., May 17.—A telegraphic report received here at 1 p. m. today by the Southern Pacific of Mexico declared that the Pajo mine, near Rosario, Singlas, is in flames and that the bodies of four dead have been removed. The Pajo mine is one of the oldest and largest in Mexico.

Regular Republican Organization Secretary Grants Progressive G. O. P. gubernatorial Candidate Winner. Leading by 4,765 Votes. Philadelphia, May 17.—Gifford Pinchot, former state forester, had increased his lead over Attorney General George E. Alter in the fight for the republican nomination for governor tonight, to 4,765 on unofficial returns of yesterday's primary. With only 619 districts out of a total of 7,934 to be heard from the vote was:

Philadelphia, Pa., May 17.—Gifford Pinchot "has apparently won the republican nomination for governor on the face of unofficial returns." W. Harry Baker, secretary of the state republican committee declared in a statement issued this afternoon.

Expressing confidence that he had won the nomination, Mr. Pinchot planned to leave Philadelphia today to go fishing.

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Nomination of Pinchot Conceded

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The Weather. Forecast. Thursday—Fair; not much change in temperature. Hourly Temperatures: 5 a. m. 54, 6 a. m. 54, 7 a. m. 54, 8 a. m. 54, 9 a. m. 54, 10 a. m. 54, 11 a. m. 54, 12 noon 54, 1 p. m. 54, 2 p. m. 54, 3 p. m. 54, 4 p. m. 54, 5 p. m. 54, 6 p. m. 54, 7 p. m. 54, 8 p. m. 54, 9 p. m. 54, 10 p. m. 54, 11 p. m. 54, 12 noon 54.