ASKS FOR NEW WAR TAX BILL

"Country's Crisis Is at Peak," the President's Message to Congress.

PLAIN DUTY TO COUNTRY

Business Must Be Forewarned of Burdens Which Inevitably Will Be Laid Upon It—All Citizens Called On to Practice Economy.

Washington.—Just as the German cannon were thundering their herald of the renewed offensive on the western battle front President Wilson appeared unexpectedly before congress and demanded that, laying political considerations and all others aside, it remain in session until it has enacted new war tax laws to finance the growing cost of the war and prepare the country for the burden it must bear. His speech follows:

"Gentlemen of the congress: It is with unaffected reluctance that I come to ask you to prolong your session long enough to provide more adequate resources for the treasury for the conduct of the war. I have reason to appreciate as fully as you do how arduous the session has been. Your labors have been severe and protracted.

"The summer is upon us in which labor and counsel are twice arduous and are constantly apt to be impaired by lassitude and fatigue. The elections are at hand and we ought as soon as possible to go and render an intimate account of our trusteeship to the people who delegated us to act for them in the weighty and anxious matters that crowd upon us in these days of critical choice and action. But we dare not go to the elections until we have done our duty to the full.

"These are days when duty stands stark and naked and even with closed eyes. We know it is there. Exposures are unavailing. We have either done our duty or we have not. The fact will be as gross and plain as the duty itself. In such a case lassitude and fatigue seem negligible enough. The facts are tonic and suffice to freshen the labor.

Must Provide More Revenue.

"And the facts are these: Additional revenues must manifestly be provided for. It would be a most unsound policy to raise too large a proportion of them by law, and it is evident that the $4,000,000,000 now provided for by taxation will not of themselves sustain the greatly enlarged budget to which we must immediately look forward.

"We cannot in fairness wait until the end of the fiscal year is at hand to apprise our people of the taxes they must pay on their earnings of the present calendar year, whose accountings and expenditures will then be closed. We cannot get increased taxes unless the country knows what they are to be and practices the necessary economy to make them available.

"Definiteness, early definiteness, as to what its tasks are to be is absolutely necessary for the successful administration of the treasury; it cannot frame fair and workable regulations in haste if it is not to know its exact task until the very eve of its performance.

"The present tax laws are marred, moreover, by inequities which ought to be remedied. Indisputable facts, every one; and we cannot alter or blind them. To state them is argument enough.

Sees Danger of Inflation.

"And yet perhaps you will permit me to dwell for a moment upon the situation they disclose. Enormous loans freely spent in the stimulation of industry of almost every sort produce inflations and extravagances which presently make the whole economic structure questionable and insecure and the very basis of credit is cut away. Only fair, equitably distributed taxation of the widest incidence and drawing chiefly from the sources which would be likely to demoralize credit by their very abundance, can prevent inflation and keep our industrial system free of speculation and waste. We shall naturally turn, therefore, I suppose, to war profits and incomes and luxuries for the additional taxes.

"But the war profits and incomes upon which the increased taxes will be levied will be the profits and incomes of the calendar year 1918.

"It would be manifestly unfair to wait until the early months of 1919 to say what they are to be. It might be difficult, I should imagine, to run the mill with water that already has gone over the wheel.

Taxes Not Paid Until June, 1919.

"Moreover, taxes of that sort will not be paid until the June of next year, and the treasury must anticipate them. It must use the money they are to produce before it is due. It must sell short-time certificates of indebtedness.

"In the autumn a much larger sale of long-time bonds must be effected than has yet been attempted. What are the bankers to think of the certificates if they do not certainly know where the money is to come from, which is to take them up? And how are investors to approach the purchase of bonds with any sort of confidence or knowledge of their own affairs if they do not know what taxes they are to pay and what economies and adjustments of their business they must effect? I cannot assure the country of a successful administration of the treasury in 1918 if the question of further taxation is to be left undecided until 1919.

Only Thought Now Is Win the War.

"The consideration that dominates every other now, and makes every other seem trivial and negligible, is the winning of the war. We are not only in the midst of the war; we are at the very peak and crisis of it.

World Facing Many New Problems.

"I am advising you to act upon this matter of taxation now, gentlemen, not because I do not know that you can see and interpret the facts and the duty they impose just as well and with as clear a perception of the obligations involved as I can, but because there is a certain solemn satisfaction in sharing with you the responsibilities of such a time.

"The world never stood in such case before. Men never before had so clear or so moving a vision of duty. I know that you will begrudge the work to be done here by us no more than the men begrudge us theirs who lie in the trenches and sally forth to their death. There is a stimulating comradeship knitting us all together. And this task to which I invite your immediate consideration will be performed under favorable influences if we will look to what the country is thinking and expecting, and care nothing at all for what is being said and believed in the lobbies of Washington hotels, where the atmosphere seems to make it possible to believe what is believed nowhere else.

United in War Purpose.

"Have you not felt the spirit of the nation rise and its thought become a single and common thought since these eventful days came in which we have been sending our boys to the other side? I think you must read that thought, as I do, to mean this, that the people of this country are not only united in the resolute purpose to win the war, but are ready and willing to bear any burden and undergo any sacrifice that it may be necessary for them to bear in order to win it.

"Hundreds of thousands of our men, carrying our hearts with them and our fortunes, are in the field, and ships are crowding faster and faster to the ports of France and England with regiment after regiment, thousand after thousand, to join them until the enemy shall be beaten and brought to a reckoning with mankind.

No Pause or Intermission.

"There can be no pause or intermission. The great enterprise must, on the contrary, be pushed with greater energy. The volume of our might must steadily and rapidly be augmented until there can be no question of resisting it. If that is to be accomplished, gentlemen, money must sustain it to the utmost. Our financial program must no more be left in doubt or suffered to lag than our ordnance program or our ship program or our munitions program or our program for making millions of men ready. These others are not programs, indeed, but mere plans upon paper, unless there is to be an unquestionable supply of money.

"That is the situation, and it is the situation which constrains the court, by choice or preference of ours. There is only one way to meet that duty. We must meet it without selfishness or fear of consequences.

Politics Adjourned in War Crisis.

"Politics is adjourned. The elections will go to those who think least of it. To those who go to the constituencies without explanation or excuse, with a plain record of duty faithfully and disinterestedly performed, I, for one, am always confident that the people of this country will give a just verdict upon the service of the men who set for them when the facts are such that no man can disguise or conceal them.

"There is no danger of deceit now. An intense and pitiless light beats upon every man and every action in this tragic plot of war that is now upon the stage. If tobbyists hurry to Washington to attempt to turn what you do in the matter of taxation to their protection or advantage, the light will beat also upon them. There is abundant fuel for the light in the records of the treasury with regard to profits of every sort. The profiteering that cannot be got at by the restraints of conscience and love of country can be got at by taxation. There is such profiteering now and the information with regard to it is available and indisputable.

"We need not be afraid to tax them. If we lay taxes justly. They know that the war must be paid for, and that it is they who must pay for it, and if the burden is justly distributed and the sacrifice made a common sacrifice from which none escapes who can bear it at all, they will endure it cheerfully and with a sort of solemn pride.

Facing Supreme Duty.

"I have always been proud to be an American, and was never more proud than now, when all that we have foreseen about our people is coming true. The great days have come when the only thing that they ask for or admire is duty, greatly and adequately done; when the only wish for America is that she may share freedom she enjoys; when a great, compelling sympathy wells up in their hearts for men everywhere who suffer and are oppressed and when they see at last the high uses for which their wealth has been piled up and their mighty power accumulated, counting neither blood nor treasure now that the final day of opportunity has come, rejoice to spend and to be spent through a long night of suffering and terror in order that they and men everywhere may see the dawn of a day of righteousness and justice and peace. Shall we grow weary when they bid us act?"

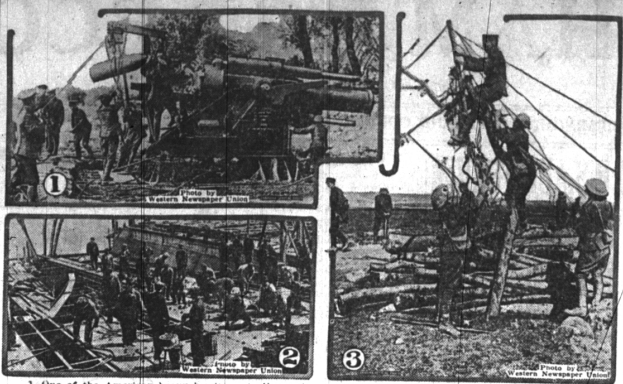

Photo by Western Newspaper Union. Photo by Western Newspaper Union. Photo by Western Newspaper Union.

1. One of the American heavy howitzers in France being loaded for action. 2. Riveters in the federal shipyards at Kearney, N. J., trying to beat the English record of 3,095 rivets in a nine-hour day. 3. Canadian engineers making an emergency telephone post out of a wrecked tree.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

America's Great Record in the Raising and Sending of Troops Is Revealed.

CROWDER HITS AT LOAFERS

Every Registered Man Must Fight or Engage in Useful Occupation—Allies Strike at Reorganizing German Armies—British Arrest Plotting Sinn Feiners.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Ninety thousand American troops landed in France in the first ten days of May; a million men to be on the other side in a year from the time the first were sent across the Atlantic; a grand total of 2,038,222 in active service or in training, to be increased to 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 before the end of the next fiscal year. Such is the proud record of the war department and its plans for the near future as stated to the house of representatives by Mr. Caldwell of the military affairs committee. The committee unanimously approved the $11,000,000,000 army appropriation bill and it was reported to the house.

Mr. Caldwell added: "The potential man power of America, for a seven year war, may be conservatively estimated at 20,000,000 fighting men of recognized military age—this out of a population of 125,000,000."

Continually harassed by the artillery record with that of Great Britain, he said: "We began with less, went further, and arrived with more in shorter time."

The army bill was so amended that President Wilson is given unlimited power to call drafted men to the colors.

As a step toward realizing the government's expectations in the matter of man power, Provost Marshal General Crowder on Thursday issued a drastic amendment to the selective service regulations, which will compel every man of draft age to either fight or work after July 1. Idlers and all engaged in non-useful occupations will be called in by draft boards and given their choice of joining the colors or finding some useful occupation. Among those affected by the order are gamblers and race track attendants, baseball players and other professional sportsmen, waiters and bartenders, theater ushers, passenger elevator operators and other attendants of clubs and hotels, domestics and clerks in stores.

In applying the rule deferred classification on account of dependents will be utterly disregarded, and local boards may take action whether they have original jurisdiction of the registrant or not.

It is believed in Washington that the "fight or work" plan will go a long way in solving the problem of getting sufficient labor for the farms, the shipyards and the munitions plants. Until the results of its operation are seen there will be no more talk of the conscription of labor.

Attorney General Gregory followed up General Crowder's order with the statement that all who leave the country to escape the draft will be prosecuted on their return.

That there will be enough ships to meet the requirements of the situation seems assured, for the shipyards are turning them out in steadily increasing numbers. At Rutgers college last week Secretary Daniels said that before another summer ends we shall have enough ships to carry millions of troops to France, and enough destroyers to see them there in safety. "The emperor of Germany" he added, "knows that when the United States builds enough ships his end has come, and we are going to build enough ships."

President Wilson has consented to restore to the original number the fleet of steamers employed to carry food to the ten million starving inhabitants of German-occupied Belgium and France, but on the other hand he has caused Holland to be notified that if it wants the remainder of the grain promised it by America it must send Dutch ships for it at once. The Netherlands government had prohibited the departure of Dutch vessels from its ports, where more than 400,000 tons of shipping are lying idle. The grain rations promised to Norway are going forward, in Norwegian bottoms.

The food situation in France has improved so much that the end of the regime of restrictions is in sight, and the three meatless days a week, only recently instituted, have given such excellent results that the measure will be of short duration. Many of the older French soldiers will be released for farm work as the American troops arrive in greater numbers.

In sharp contrast with this is the condition existing in Germany and Austria, where the people are reliably reported to be on the verge of starvation and of consequent rebellion. Washington is informed that even with the reduced ration planned for June 15 Germany will not have enough food to last through to the next harvest. The Berliner Tageblatt says horse meat and dog meat are being used by the poorer classes in Saxony, and the price has gone up.

The war prisoners of Germany of course are the greatest sufferers. The first contingent of Russian prisoners, 1,500 in number, to be exchanged under the recent agreement, has just reached Petrograd and they are described as "veritable walking dead men."

As was predicted in this review weeks ago, the food supply to be obtained from the Ukraine, of which the German government boasted so much in advance, has proved so small as to be almost inconsequential. And the kaiser's treacherous treatment of that country greatly aggravates the situation there, for the people do not propose to raise crops only to be robbed of them.

Continually harassed by the artillery and air forces of the allies, the German commanders were still laboring heavily last week to complete the reorganization of their armies on the west front for the resumption of the drive. So great was the task and so effective the interruptions that competent observers believed the offensive could not be begun again before the middle of June. Meanwhile General Foch and his associates, instead of waiting quietly to be attacked, took every opportunity to improve their situations, with the result that their lines grew stronger daily. First the British and then the French, always aided materially by the Americans, struck hard in local operations so extensive that in previous wars they would be classed as battles. The Anzacs started off the week by recapturing Villers-sur-Ancre, inflicting heavy losses on the Huns. Next the Poilus made one of their whirlwind attacks on a 4,000-yard front in the Loire region, near Kemmel, taking a considerable number of prisoners and holding the objectives gained, which strengthened their defensive positions around Scherpenberg, Mont Rouge and Mont Noir. On succeeding days the Germans were pushed back in other sectors, the allies always gaining ground of tactical importance. The Huns seemed to have lost much of their fighting spirit and their counter-attacks had little dash and no success.

The artillery firing on both sides increased during the week all along the line. The Germans were especially free with the use of gas shells, but in the American sector northwest of Toul, at least, they got more than they gave, for the Yankee batteries fairly deluged the German positions and cantonments in the Gerechamp wood with gas, inflicting severe punishment on the enemy.

The Americans carried out a number of spirited patrol actions and raids in their sector but had no extensive engagements.

Fighting and bombing operations of the aviators were extraordinarily numerous and exciting last week. Many machines on both sides were brought down, but the Huns were by far the greater sufferers. Among the noted air men lost was Major Raoul Lufbery, the American, who jumped from his blazing machine and was killed. Other American aviators were very active and many of them gained new laurels. The allied air men carried out numerous bombing raids over German towns, besides dropping many tons of explosives on the enemy's military establishments.

The Germans made a great air raid on London, killing 44 persons and losing five of their planes, and attempted two raids on Paris with little success. More satisfactory to the Hun mind were the results of some air raids on British hospitals behind the lines, for several hundred sick and wounded soldiers were killed and injured, and among the victims were several women nurses who would not desert their wards. The commander of the squadron of Gothas that made this characteristically brutal attack was brought down and captured and declared he did not see the Red Cross signs on the hospitals, though they were plainly visible.

Austria's renewed drive against Italy did not develop last week. And reports from Vienna said Austria had ceased all military operations in the east on May 20 in order to concentrate her forces on the Italian front, so it is likely the offensive will be started there very soon. The allies have little fear of the result.

The Germans captured the city of Abo in Finland and also occupied Bjorko, an island in the Gulf of Finland 80 miles from Petrograd. In Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, there was heavy fighting between the forces of Skoropadsky, the new Ukrainian dictator, and troops that remained faithful to the rada. In Baku, on the Caspian, which was previously reported captured by the Russians, the bolsheviki and Mussulmans fought long and bitterly. More than 2,000 were killed and much of the city was burned. The general situation in Russia was reported to be growing steadily worse except in Moscow. Petrograd is now entirely without bread.

Copenhagen dispatches say that General Mannerheim, commander in chief of the Finnish white guard, has resigned because he was ordered to invade the Russian province of Karelia.

Declaring that it had discovered an extensive and dangerous pro-German plot in Ireland, the British government descended upon the Sinn Fein suddenly and arrested several hundred members of that party, including its president, Professor de Valera, and practically all the other leaders. The coup raised a storm in Ireland and even the nationalists, though disclaiming any sympathy with the revolutionary aims of the Sinn Feiners, declared the government's action was not sincere and was taken to cloud the home rule and conscription situation. The Irish objectors to the draft seem to rely greatly on public opinion in the United States, and over here there is a tendency to suspend judgment concerning the Sinn Fein arrests until the British government adduces its proof of a plot.

It is said the existence of the plot was known for weeks by American secret agents and that such notorious Irishmen in America as Jeremiah O'Leary—now missing—were concerned in it. It is certain that no pro-German plotters in any of the allied countries will get any sympathy from the American government or the American people.

Director General McAdoo startled the country last week by summarily removing from their positions all presidents of railroads, in order to obtain more complete co-operation in the running of the lines, and, incidentally, to save about $20,000,000 a year in salaries. Many other high rail officials also have lost their jobs because they were doing little to earn their pay. It is Mr. McAdoo's intention to appoint a federal director of the roads in each region, and some of the best of the deposed presidents will get these places.

The government also has taken over the carrier business of the Pullman company, making it a part of the railway system. The company will be paid rental for its carrier industry based on the three-year average earnings prior to June 30, 1917.

Mrs Rose Pastor Stokes, well-known socialist, was found guilty of violating the espionage act by a federal court jury in Kansas City. She had attacked the government as an ally of the profiteers.

BIG INCREASE IN RAIL RATES MADE

Freight Tariffs Are Raised 25 Per Cent by McAdoo.

PASSENGER FARES UP ALSO

Order of Director General Follows Closely After Granting of Pay Raise to 2,000,000 Employees of Roads.

Washington.—To meet wage increases just announced, and higher costs of coal and other supplies this year Director General McAdoo has ordered railroad freight rates in the United States raised 25 per cent and passenger fares increased to 3 cents a mile from the present basis of about 2½ cents. It is estimated that the program will bring between $800,000,000 and $900,000,000 more revenues to the railroads within the next year. It represents by far the biggest rate increase in the history of railroads.

The new freight charges, which cover both class and commodity rates, become effective June 25 and the passenger increase will go into effect June 10.

Issued under authority granted by the railroad act to President Wilson acting through the director general, the order wipes out all interstate lower rates effective on either freight or passenger traffic.

Travelers in standard sleeping and parlor cars are required to pay 3½ cents a mile in addition to Pullman fares and in tourist sleeping cars 3¼ cents. Pullman rates remain the same.

Commutation and, other suburban rates on railroads are increased 10 per cent. Fares on electric interurban lines are not affected.

Special Rates Abolished.

Special excursion, mileage convention and tourist rates, with a few exceptions, are discontinued, privileges such as stop-overs and free side trips are abolished and excess baggage charges are increased.

Both freight and passenger rates on boat lines operated on the lakes, rivers or coastwise by railroads are to be raised proportionately with the general increases.

Export and import freight rates are ordered canceled and the higher domestic rates will apply to and from ports.

A number of flat increases, instead of percentage additions, are ordered for coal, coke, lumber, ore, stone, grain, cotton, live stock, meats, sugar, bullion and other commodities.

Coal Costs $160,000,000 More.

In announcing that the rate increases are required by public interest, Director General McAdoo referred to the rapidly rising cost of coal, which he estimated this year alone at $160,000,000 more than last year, and to higher cost of every other material entering into railroad transportation. Operating expenses, he estimated, would be between $830,000,000 and $860,000,000 greater this year than the $2,850,000,000 figure of last year.

No part of the increased rates is on account of the program of nearly a billion dollars of improvements, additions and new equipment this year, he explained.

"It is earnestly hoped," said the director general, "that all citizens affected directly or indirectly by this increase will accept and support the general principle of such increase as an equitable war measure and accept the additional burden in the same spirit of self-sacrifice in which they have accepted other inconveniences and burdens and the grievous personal losses which are part of the price that the nation is patriotically paying for world liberty."

Mr. McAdoo called attention to the fact that "there is no way in which the present increases will lure to private profit."

Profits Go Back to People.

"If they turn out to be more than are needed to meet the grave public exigency," he added, "they will promptly be readjusted so as to prevent any unnecessary burden upon the public. Pending such readjustment, the excess, if any, will be for the benefit of the people of the United States as a whole and not for the benefit of the private railroad owners of any of them.

"To the extent that savings can be effected and to the extent that reduced prices for the things the railroads must buy can be realized it will be the purpose of the director general to make front time to time appropriate reductions."

The provision that interstate rates shall be abolished wherever substitute intrastate rates between the same points exist and that all shall be raised to a standard national level, develops the first definite conflict between powers of the federal railroad administration and of the state railroad and public utilities commissions which, heretofore have claimed exclusive jurisdiction over interstate rates. Railroad rate agents will file tariffs containing the new rates with state commissions as well as with the interstate commerce commission, but state commissions are permitted no review under the railroad act.

Low Rate for Veterans.

Exceptions to the three-cent rate are made for soldiers and sailors, who may travel at one cent a mile when on furlough at their own expense and for persons attending the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Portland, Ore., and the United Confederate Veterans' reunion at Tulsa, Okla. Both of these organizations are permitted rates of one cent a mile, and for various state meetings of the veterans two cents will be charged.

Children under five years of age will be carried free, as at present, and those between five and twelve will be charged half of the new higher fare.

Commutation fares, which are raised ten per cent, are constructed to apply to persons having daily or frequent occasion to travel between their homes and places of employment or educational institutions.

To discourage the use of heavy sleeping and parlor cars the new order provides that the following minimum number of tickets should be bought for drawing room compartments or sections:

Two adult tickets for a drawing room in a sleeping car; two adult tickets for a compartment.

One and one-half ticket for a section; five adult tickets for exclusive occupancy of drawing rooms in a parlor car.

Passenger fares by water routes or by rail and water are to be increased proportionately with the higher rail charges.

Excess Baggage Charges.

The basis for computing charges for excess baggage is to be one-sixth of the normal passenger fare, with a minimum of 15 cents per 100 pounds and minimum collection of 25 cents per shipment.

The director general provides fully for the redemption of tickets and mileage books purchased before June 10 and rendered invalid after that date when the higher fares become effective. Unused portions of mileage books and unused or partially used tickets will be redeemed at their original purchase rate.

The 25 per cent increase in freight charges will apply generally to class and commodity rates, but minor variations will be necessary in many cases. For instance, where certain relationships exist between commercial centers the 25 per cent increase will apply to the longer distance and the rate to the nearer locality will be the same number of cents less, as under present schedules. In this way charges for short haul business will be raised more than 25 per cent.

2,000,000 Get Wage Raise.

General pay increases for nearly two million railroad employees were announced by Director General McAdoo, effective June 1 and retroactive to last January 1, carrying out substantially recommendations of the railroad wage commission. The aggregate of the increases probably will be more than $300,000,000 a year, half of which will be distributed within a few weeks as back pay in lump sums ranging from about $100 to nearly $200 each.

Scale of Increase.

Train employees, including members of the leading brotherhoods, will receive approximately the following proportional increases over 1915 pay, or their equivalent when pay is based on miles operated: Passenger engineers, 11 per cent; passenger firemen and helpers, 28 per cent; passenger conductors, 15 per cent; passenger baggagemen, 38 per cent; passenger brakemen and flagmen, 40 per cent; freight engineers, 15 per cent; freight firemen, and helpers 34 per cent; freight conductors, 20 per cent; freight brakemen and flagmen, 40 per cent. These increases must also deduct increases granted since 1915.

Special rates of pay are provided for office, messenger and chore boys, and similar employees under eighteen years, as follows: Twenty dollars increase a month where the pay in December, 1915, was from $30 to $45 a month; $15 increase where the rate was from $20 to $30 a month; $10 increase where the rate was less than $20 a month.

HOW RATES ARE RAISED

PASSENGER RATES.

Passenger fares are increased from the basic rate of 2½ cents a mile to 3 cents.

Tourist and round-trip rebates are abolished except in two specific cases, conventions of the G. A. R. and Confederate veterans.

Commutation rates will be increased 10 per cent.

Tickets and mileage bought before June 10 will be redeemed at the original price.

Soldiers and sailors on leave at their own expense pay 1 cent a mile.

PULLMAN RATES.

Three and one-half cents a mile will be charged in addition to Pullman and parlor car fares.

Two adult tickets for a drawing room and two adult tickets for a compartment must be bought.

Five adult tickets must be bought for exclusive use of a parlor car drawing room.

FREIGHT RATES.

Wheat, other grains and flour increased 25 per cent, not to exceed 6 cents a hundred.

Live stock—Increased 25 per cent, not to exceed 7 cents a hundred.

Meats—Increased 25 per cent, except that the rates from Mississippi river points to Mississippi river territory remain as the rates from St. Joseph, Mo.

Coal—Increase of 15 cents a net ton up to 50 cents, where the rate is $3 or more.

Coke—Increase of 15 cents a net ton up to 75 cents, where rate is $3.

Sugar—Twenty-five per cent increase without flat rate variations.

FIRM FOR MONROE DOCTRINE

War in Europe Has Strengthened Bonds Uniting South American Republics With This Country.

The Monroe doctrine stands! The policy of the United States will be unchanged in the western hemisphere.

Deeper, if anything, and more pronounced, will be the rooting of the historic doctrine when the war in Europe has been brought to a successful conclusion.

This is the interpretation in pan-American diplomatic circles of Secretary Lansing's address in opening the Guatemala-Honduras mediation conference at the Pan-American union.

It is, as it happens, the first formal occasion in which any allusion to the subject has been found appropriate or possible since the beginning of the war, and it made a good impression.

Secretary Lansing spoke of the wishes of the United States to assist in the work at hand, and he emphasized the fact that the conference is in line with "the great desire of the United States to see the republics of this hemisphere drawn into a closer union, a union founded upon impartial justice and a sympathetic respect for the rights of others."

Reports reaching the Pan-American union and the various Latin-American legations indicate that a number of South American republics will observe the Fourth of July this year as a tribute to the United States.

The mediation conference will continue in session for several weeks.

BRIEF INFORMATION

Sinuk Mary is the richest native woman in Alaska, and catches her own fish supply.

By building a concrete tank with a window in one side a Scotch physician succeeded in getting motion pictures of otters and other water animals.

John Hay was asked if he could recall the favorite hymn of Abraham Lincoln, and gave his opinion that the hymn beginning, "Father, whate'er of earthly bliss," was Lincoln's favorite.

A patent has been granted a Detroit woman for a screw hook that holds a plate above it and a cup below it at the same time.

By liquefying the gas helium a European scientist has succeeded in reaching temperatures within six degrees of the absolute zero.

There are five mints in the United States. The marks are: CC, for Carson City; O, for New Orleans; S, for San Francisco; D, for Denver. The coins from the Philadelphia mint are not marked.

Coming of Night.

Shadow creeps over lawns toward the lake, still radiant with day. Black and twittering, a bird picks its little path, delicately, near the border. The stillness of twilight reaches through the trees and seizes at length this small object. The immobility of its tiny organism is more wonderful than the immense stretching quiet of water and sky. From its glossy birdback the sun withdraws his pale fingers lingeringly and reluctant yields it to the night.—Exchange.

Easily Spared.

"Benedict Arnold had his own idea about treason."

"Huh?"

"When he decided he didn't care any longer for this country he moved out."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Local Color.

Bess—Heard the news? Jack has been hit in the chest by a shell.

Bell—Heavens and earth! I'll bet the pink sweater I knit him is entirely ruined.—Montreal Star.