

Palmer Ruled Federal Price Fixing Illegal

Opinion, Dated April 1, Is Made Public by Redfield After Resignation of Industrial Board

Unauthorized, He States

Indicates It Violated Anti-Trust Law and Statute Demanding Bids

WASHINGTON, May 10.—That every phase of the activity of the Department of Commerce's Industrial Board, which until its resignation yesterday was responsible for the price stabilizing effort of the government, was illegal, was indicated in an opinion given by Attorney-General A. Mitchell Palmer in a letter to Secretary Redfield dated April 1 and made public today.

Secretary Redfield yesterday mentioned and gave his interpretation of Attorney General Palmer's opinion as simply meaning that the course of the Industrial Board was without authority of law, but not necessarily illegal. He said yesterday that nobody had ever assumed that the board was created by any legal authority, and took the position that the Attorney General had not asserted that its purposes and proposed functions were illegal. Taken part by part, however, the conclusion seems inevitable that the Attorney General regards the whole undertaking as positively illegal. Summarized his opinion is:

First—If the proposed plan of designating prices were simply an arrangement between private producers it "would be in violation of the anti-trust laws."
Second—The legal status of the proposed plan would be the same if carried out by the Industrial Board.
Third—Concerning the proposed plan as simply a plan for arriving at prices at which government establishments shall purchase their requirements, the Attorney General said: "I am equally clear that the plan is unauthorized." He declared

A Soldier Says

"YES, I am for the league of nations, or any league of nations, as long as it prevents war," said Private W. C. Y. Jones, late of the 69th and now residing in Brooklyn. "You see," he continued slowly, "I thought that was one of the things I was fighting for."

"We finished this war all right," continued Private Jones with a decisive gesture, "and the reason I'm for the league of nations is because I hope it will finish war for all time. You don't know how much the men who have come back hate war. It's something you can't explain."

"I am for universal military training so long as it doesn't interfere with school, and for that reason I favor the Swiss system of training. I believe in military training, but not too much of it, because we went into the war to abolish militarism, and I don't want to see it started anywhere."

"I've found it to be the feeling among the boys that they think they should have had a voice on this prohibition question. Personally, I think it is a good thing, but I am in favor of light beers and wines."

"I don't know much about General Wood, but I once heard him speak at City College, which I attended before I joined the 69th. There's no question about his Americanism; it sticks out all over him. No, I don't think I would vote for a military man for President. I'd prefer a statesman, someone who knew more than military things."

that no fewer than thirty statutory provisions direct that the purchase of government supplies shall be by competitive bidding.

In view of these citations, it is held that the Attorney General was merely stating his position in a negative instead of in an affirmative way. The concluding sentence of the opinion reads:

"I am of the opinion, therefore, that the proposed plan of the Industrial Board of the Department of Commerce, viewed in any aspect, is unauthorized by law."

In view of the Attorney General's opinion, it is recalled that Walker D. Hines, Director General of Railways, whose consistent opposition to the Industrial Board finally brought it to an end, has steadily maintained that its programme was not only economically wrong, but actually illegal.

New U. S. Loan to France

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Establishment of a new credit of \$50,000,000 in favor of France was announced today by the Treasury. This makes France's total credit from the United States \$2,802,470,000 and credits for all the Allies \$9,288,829,000.

Put 'Dry' Issue Before Nation, Is Challenge

Debate Between Bryan and Windle in New York Is Suggested by Association Opposed to Prohibition

Law Called 'Un-Christian'

New 'Wet' League Launched With Slogan, "1,000,000 Members by January 16"

Challenge to take the whole subject of prohibition and its future national status before the people for ordered consideration was issued by the Anti-Saloon League yesterday by the Association Opposed to National Prohibition.

William Jennings Bryan, as presumably the foremost prohibition advocate, is suggested by the anti-prohibitionists as the man who should uphold the Anti-Saloon League position in open debate. Against him the opposition proposes to pit C. A. Windle, of Chicago, editor of "The Iconoclast." The subject of the debate is given as:

"Resolved, That the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and use of alco-

holic beverages is wrong in principle and un-Christian in character."

It is suggested that the debate be held at Madison Square Garden in connection with the forthcoming nationwide speaking campaign to be launched here by the Anti-Saloon forces.

A full schedule of procedure accompanies the challenge, which is addressed to the Rev. Dr. P. A. Baker, general superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, and is signed for the Association Opposed to National Prohibition by James Arthur Seavey, managing director of the organization here.

Start Anti-Prohibition League
Simultaneously further opposition to the impending prohibition régime manifested itself through the filing yesterday at the County Clerk's office of a certificate of incorporation of a new organization, to be known as the Anti-Prohibition League. This body, which in a preliminary statement disclaims all a preliminary statement disclaiming liquor, tobacco or other industrial interest, has adopted as its slogan: "One Million Members by January 16, 1920."

Its objects, as itemized in the certificate of incorporation, are to promote temperance through mass meetings, organization of state, county and local branches, circularization, etc., to discuss the rights of states; "in all proper and lawful ways to influence public opinion to the end that the standards of personal liberty of thought and conduct which were established by the founders of the government of the United States shall be maintained and safeguarded; to secure the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment by "unifying opposition thereto"; to conduct an educational campaign as to the essential differences in spirit and value between the American governmental system and that of "imperialistic systems," and to establish active cooperation in the anti-prohibition cause with workmen and all the other forces now lining up against prohibition.

The directors of the Anti-Prohibition League are Samuel McMillan, a builder and ex-Congressman; Joseph E. Corrihan, city magistrate; George Hiram Mann, a lawyer, of 51 Chambers Street; William J. Ellis, ex-Assemblyman; Monte Cutler, a newspaper man, who will direct the publicity, and James O. Stack, managing owner of the Hotel Majestic.

In the preliminary statement Mr. Mann announced that the league has already arranged to have Representative Reuben L. Haskell, of Brooklyn, introduce a bill for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment in the special Congressional session called for May 19 by President Wilson.

"The majority of voters in the United States are opposed to the prohibition amendment," said he. "This league was organized in response to the overwhelming popular demand which has been voiced already by three great groups of citizens—labor, the Catholic Church and the returning soldiers and sailors."

Mr. Mann characterized the league as "absolutely non-partisan and non-racial and all-American."

Plan "Dry" Demonstration

From the other side at the same time came a counter blast to the anti-prohibition demonstration set for June 14 in the form of an announcement from the Anti-Saloon League headquarters here that that organization is "perfecting plans for a general demonstration" in favor of prohibition, to be held on June 8 "in the churches throughout New York State." This is the Sunday immediately following the national convention of the Anti-Saloon League at Washington.

"At such time," says the Anti-Saloon statement, which is given out under the name of William H. Anderson, state superintendent, "the pastors will protest against the desecration of Flag Day by the 'wet' demand for a repeal of the law passed to protect the men who have fought to vindicate the flag."

In its debate challenge sent to the Anti-Saloon forces yesterday the Association Opposed to National Prohibition said:

"If the challenge is accepted it is

proposed that Mr. Windle open the debate with a speech of one hour, that Mr. Bryan follow with a speech of one and a half hours, and that Mr. Windle be given thirty minutes to close the debate and rebut Mr. Bryan's arguments. This will give each speaker the same amount of time. The Association Opposed to National Prohibition will defray half of the expenses of the hall and the music.

The Association Opposed to National Prohibition suggests, in order that the winner of the debate may be decided upon without bias and in a thoroughly judicial manner, that Justice John Proctor Clark, presiding justice of the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, First Judicial District, be asked to preside and give the decision. This association has no knowledge of what Justice Clark's views may be on the prohibition question. Or, if the Anti-Saloon League prefers, we shall be equally satisfied to let the question be decided by a rising vote of the audience that listens to the debate.

"If your organization has any fear as to what the decision may be, we shall be equally pleased that no decision be rendered, but that the matter be left to public opinion, as expressed in the newspapers and by the individuals who may hear the debate. It is high time that both sides of this question had a hearing on the same platform, and here is the opportunity for that hearing."

Pistol Shots Terrify Shoppers in Lawrence

Armed Stranger Runs Amuck Through City Streets and Wounds Three Pursuers

LAWRENCE, Mass., May 10.—A desperado threw Lawrence's Saturday night shopping throngs into an uproar to-night as he tore through the downtown streets, a pistol in one hand and a dirk in the other, pausing now and then over his half-mile course to give

battle to an ever growing crowd of pursuers. As the result of his gun play and dirk wielding, two policemen and a volunteer aid in the chase are at the Lawrence General Hospital. The desperado is under arrest, charged with intent to murder. He identified himself as Harry Hikian.

None of his victims is in serious condition.

Russian Dowager Empress And Daughter Reach London

LONDON, May 9.—Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna of Russia and her daughter, Grand Duchess Xenia, arrived in England to-day on board a British warship. They were met in this city by King George and Queen Mary and Queen Mother Alexandra.

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