

+

+

+

CALVIN COOLIDGE

REMARKS

by the PRESIDENT to  
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

VOLUME IV

January 2, 1925 - June 26, 1925

+

+

+

Coolidge Collection

ny

+C77

+1923-29

v. 4

VOLUME IV

January 2, 1923 - June 13, 1929



January 2, 1925.

Remarks by the President at the Newspaper Conference.

I presume this inquiry refers to what I understand is the Assistant District Attorney of New Jersey. I knew that there was some difficulty in that office. I didn't know just what the particulars were. I knew that the Attorney General was about to take some action, which I think he has taken today, relative to either a District Attorney or an Assistant District Attorney up there, named Van Riper. His reasons I think are set out in some detail in a communication that he sent up there, so that anyone can get them from reading his letter.

I haven't any comment to make on Senator Robinson's resolution. I thought that Senator Smoot or someone had already introduced a resolution calling for an investigation of the investigation made by the Tariff Commission into the different costs between production of sugar in this country and production of sugar abroad. I judged Senator Robinson's resolution was something of the same nature.

I haven't received any further reports from the Committee that is studying the shipping problem. One report came in, which I have given to Mr. Jones, Senator Jones, Chairman of that Committee in the Senate, in order that he might look at it, but the other report has not come in.

I haven't received any text or outline of the French Government's note. I wouldn't want to assume that there was one, suggesting terms of settlement of the French debt to the United States, and including a proposal for a ten year moratorium. I don't want to be ungracious enough to say that I told you so, but so far as any information has come to me it seems to bear out the supposition that I made either at the last or the next to the last conference that Mr. Clementele hadn't made any definite statements that undertook to bind the French Government, suggesting that the suggestion was made about that they wouldn't do anything about their debt. So far as suggestions have come to me from an authoritative source, they are to the effect that that wasn't at all intended by him. I think I did suggest at the last session that I doubted very much if responsible officials of the French Government were making any suggestions of repudiation, and that while some individual might make some



statement that squinted in that direction, we ought not to impute that to the French Government or the French people any more than we would impute some improper proposal to our Government or our people, that apparently was biased by some public official over here. I am very glad to be able to report that that is apparently the case. Mr. Clementele seemed to indicate that his report was improperly reported and that there were things in it that indicated a desire on his part to pay what the French owe the United States, and not at all a desire to repudiate.

There has been some intimation that Commissioner Potter might retire from the Interstate Commerce Commission. I hope to be able to have him stay on for a while, but he is very anxious, I know, to return to private business.

Mr. President, one question on the debt. Do you mind our asking whether the Cabinet has any real knowledge of the mission in this country of the members of the Bank of England?

No. I am quite certain that he is not here on any matter in connection with our Government. Whether he is here in relation to some matter that might affect his own Government, I do not know. He frequently comes over here, much more frequently than the public realizes, I suppose for the purpose of transacting a banking business. This time I believe he was seen on board a boat by some diligent representative of the press, so that his presence here was reported. But he hasn't come, I am certain, to transact any business with our Government.

There is nothing I can say this morning in relation to the call on me of Lord Cecil. It was that ordinary call of courtesy that is made by foreigners when they come to town, I suppose to satisfy a mutual desire to see what kind of people each of us may be, mutual curiosity perhaps in order that he might see what I looked like and that I might see what he looked like. We chatted about various things that I chat about here in the newspaper conferences. Nothing new developed. I usually inquire, and did of him, if the situation was clearing up in Europe, if there was a prospect of stability. He thought there was. That is as we long know over here. He wanted to know if I could give him any message, and I told him I didn't know of anything other than that he might say I was pleased with the friendly relations that



exist between this country and his country. That is rather barren, I am afraid, of news, but there wasn't much of any news in the call.

I don't know anything about the outlook for the bill extending the life of the District Rent Commission. I know there are difficulties in rents here in this town, and I am especially desirous of preventing those difficulties if I can <sup>be-</sup> cause they touch intimately the life of the Government employees. One of the members of the Commission I sent for, and asked him if he could suggest any remedy, and he thought he might draw a bill. He has drawn a bill, and I sent that to the House Chairman and the Senate Chairman, with the request that they submit it to their Committees for their consideration. I did that because it is impossible to get any action of a legislative committee unless some bill is submitted to them for their consideration. When the bill is submitted they make such changes in it, after hearings, as they think might be desired. I don't know much in detail about the rent situation in the District. I am having some studies made. It is already reported that I have undertaken to make a census of the vacant rents here. I don't know how much that would mean. I suppose an apartment would be listed as vacant when it might not be in a really habitable condition. But I think we can get some information from that. It may be necessary to make quite an extended study of the financial and economic condition here in the District in relation to its housing and in relation to the effect it has on the welfare of the people that live here. This is a district especially set apart for the transaction of the business of the United States Government, and I want to maintain conditions here such that the people who come here for the purpose of transacting that business can live in comfortable circumstances at a moderate cost. I don't expect that people that build are going to go on building them without making a profit, but on the other hand, and this is a phrase I have used very frequently, "I don't want conditions to develop here under which the employees of the United States Government are going to be exploited." It is necessary that they live here in the District. They haven't any choice about it, and the Government must have them here to transact its business. If their cost of living is advanced that is going to make a demand, which will be justified, for an increase in wages. That will mean another increase in the cost of living, another general increase over the country for a demand for higher wages. I think it would be better to proceed with moderate



profits all around and to do what I can to prevent any unreasonable charges being made for rents. I don't know what can be done. It is a very difficult question. It is difficult to handle. A person has his choice as to whether he will erect a tenement apartment, and after he has erected it he has his choice as to what rent he will charge for it. Of course the Constitution protects the property of persons from being taken away from them without due process of law. As I remarked to someone the other day, "I want to protect not only the person who has property and his real estate, but I would like to protect also the pay of the employee and not have that taken away from him without due process of law." I think we can work out something that will be reasonably fair and equitable.

I haven't reached any final decision about the appointment of a local Chairman for the inaugural ceremonies. Mr. Galliher has been suggested to me. That seems a very acceptable suggestion. I rather expect that I shall expect him to take that place.

I can't give any statement that would be of any value about the resolution of Senator Borah for an international conference. Such comment as I have seen about it and the report of its scope seem to indicate to me that it is rather broader than what would be likely to be practical and under which we would be likely to get any results that were worth while. I think the best chance for getting an international conference that will secure practical results for us is to have it as limited in scope as we can, rather than to undertake to broaden it out in a great many fields that will cause endless discussion and entangle one question with another, so that we can get little action at all. This, I see, relates to economic questions. Of course economic questions is a field that covers all creation. I haven't read the resolution, so that I don't want to say that the resolution is as broad as that. Senator Borah has a very good comprehension of our international relations, and I should expect that he would draw a resolution with a good deal of care, so I am only referring to such reports as I have seen about it which would seem to indicate that it is rather broader in its scope than anything I would feel justified in approving. I feel quite certain that Senator Borah and I after a conference of that kind would be able to agree on it.



January 6, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

Here is a suggestion about a bill that has been introduced authorizing Cabinet members and other departmental heads to participate in debates on the floor of the House and Senate. I haven't any mature judgment about that. I should say it would depend mostly on whether the House and Senate wanted to have Cabinet members come on the floor, or department heads, and debate questions. It is a step, of course, toward the parliamentary form of government. That is a form of government that is well recognized and of course of great maturity on account of the policy of the English speaking people. Our own notion has been to keep somewhat separate the executive department and the legislative department. That can't be done in its entirety, but that is the policy that has been laid down in this country. There are a great many good points about it. Department heads and Cabinet members of course are constantly before the committees of the House and Senate, which gives them access to the members of the Congress and gives the Congress access to all the information that they have. Now, whether it would be expected that they would go on the floor and take positions in opposition to the reports of committees or not, I do not know. Many questions would come up, of course, in case the executive branch was of one party and Congress of another party, and there would be a very interesting situation. Whether, then, the Congress would want to invite the representatives of the opposition party to come on the floor, I can't tell. These are just offhand thoughts that come to me. It is an interesting subject, but I can't give an offhand opinion of it that is of any value. My attitude towards it is my general attitude toward all legislation. When a proposal of this kind is made it becomes the business of the committee to which it is referred to consider it and hear the evidence, and try to decide in accordance with the evidence and their own judgment about it. That is an opportunity that I don't have a chance to participate in much at this time. I am so constantly employed otherwise that I don't have a chance to call in people of various and divergent views and get the benefit of their information, so that I have to take a ~~shot~~ <sup>shot</sup> at these things somewhat on the wing. If the Congress wanted to do this, I don't see any reason why I should oppose it. On the other hand, if the Congress made up their mind that it was something in which they did not want to engage, I shouldn't have the slightest disposition to advocate it.



There is nothing I can say in relation to a new arms conference. It has no relationship, so far as I can see, to any discussion about our debts. It is held up at the present time, as I have already indicated, on account of the proposal that is pending to have a conference on that subject under the patronage of the League of Nations.

Senator Reed and Senator Pepper came in this morning to talk about possible appointments in the future, in case that vacancies might occur. They had nothing to suggest about any pending vacancy.

I haven't chosen anyone to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

I should not take up the matter of the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution with the Governors. That is a matter on which I explained my opinion in my speech of acceptance, and I think there is some reference to it in our party platform. I am still in harmony with my speech of acceptance and so far as I know also with my party platform. But I realize that this is not a matter that comes under the jurisdiction of the President. It is a matter in the decision of the Congress and then in the decision of the state legislatures. Nor does it come under the jurisdiction of Governors, so that <sup>for</sup> the President of the United States and the Governors of the different states to sit down and discuss a question over which they had no jurisdiction I should think would be somewhat of a barren operation.

Mr. President, do you expect to appoint an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture before the 4th of March?

Well, I had thought that I might, if I found someone that might be available to become Secretary of Agriculture. He might go in as an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture during this pending vacancy, in order to have an opportunity to inform himself about the needs of the Department.

I haven't had a chance to examine the report of the special committee on shipping needs. I want to talk with some of the members of that committee. Both reports have now been made, one in relation to keeping our shipping going, keeping it built up so that it will not deteriorate, and the other in relation to coordination between our shipments on land and our shipments on sea. I have received both those reports. One I have let be taken by Senator Jones, the Chairman of that committee. I think the other is being examined by the Shipping Board. But I am not so certain on that. They were represented on the



Committee. I don't know as there is any need of that. It was on my desk yesterday and someone wanted to see it, and I think Mr. Slomp took it for that purpose.

Mr. President, could you differentiate between the report Senator Jones has and the other one?

Well, I think he has the one dealing with coordination between land shipments and sea shipments.

Now, I have one or two inquiries about the rent legislation. There again I am under that difficulty that I mentioned a few minutes ago, of not being able to inform myself about all the facts or listen to all the arguments of those that have made investigations and are therefore able to give me the benefit of their mature judgment. What I am trying to do, as I have explained, is to protect especially the Government employees of the District from charges of rent that are not warranted by the investment. That is a matter of a good deal of difficulty under our Constitution, and I don't know whether it can be adequately done. I asked Mr. Whaley to come in and see me, on account of the constant complaints that had been made to their office about increases in rents and allegations that real estate here was being covered up with trusts far in excess of the value of the real estate or far in excess of the cost, and probably in excess of its reproduction value. I wanted that investigated. Now, that is about all the President can do - is to direct an investigation of alleged grievances that are brought to him. My first application was to Mr. Whaley. He thought he could prepare a bill that would remedy the situation. I told him to prepare it. He has done so. I haven't examined the bill with care enough so that I would know it meets the situation, or whether it is constitutional in all its provisions, but I have done what I would naturally do - submit it to the Chairman of the House Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Committee. I wasn't able to tell them that I submitted it as a recommendation, but I submitted it for their consideration, and I indicated in my letter that it was an important subject. I expected that, having the bill before them they would then hold hearings and get information that would warrant some kind of a conclusion on their part and report it to the House and Senate and there let it be debated and determined. This is a kind of legislation



that I approach with a great deal of hesitancy. We have got so many regulatory laws already that in general I feel that we would be just as well off if we didn't have any more. I want to give people all the freedom of action that is possible for them to have, but when it is obvious that the freedom of action is abused, why of course someone is going to come along and take that freedom of action away. That follows inevitably and certainly, and can't be prevented. Oftentimes, as a result, many people that are entirely innocent of any wrongdoing or wrong intentions are injured as a result. It is probable that some of our railroads could have been better off, if we hadn't had so much railroad legislation. But the general condition warranted it, and apparently it was necessary to impose it. Now, it is probable that a large number of owners of real estate in the District that has been built for the purpose of rental are conducting their business in a perfectly legitimate way, and it will be a hardship to put them under regulation. But if there are abuses, there is no other way in which remedy can be applied, and we shall have to adopt something of that kind. I feel that a good deal can be done by real estate men and the banks and loan associations, if they will take hold of this situation themselves and apply the remedy to it that I think they can apply. That isn't always a pleasant operation, to go and tell someone he is doing something wrong and to stop, and it isn't a pleasant operation for the President to suggest to the Congress that people are engaged in wrong practices and it ought to be stopped by legislation. I am not making any criticism of the banks in general, or the real estate interests here, for not being able to apply that remedy. I think perhaps they can help, if they will, through their organization. It may be that something can be worked out that way. Now, I have only one desire here, which has been constant and uniform, and that is to find out what the real abuses are and apply any reasonable remedy, in order that the Government of the United States may use these square miles that have been especially dedicated to its use to maintain an organization with reasonable economic conditions to perform the business of the Government. I don't know about this bill. It may be a good bill and it may not be a good bill. That will be developed by the hearings, and by the facts and arguments. I am having a survey made of real estate conditions here to find out what vacancies there are. A great many times the law of supply and demand will take care of a situation. As



I remarked to someone yesterday, if you are living in a house and the landlord comes in and says the first of next month the rent is going to be increased 100% you are not helped very much by being told that all over the city there are a great many vacant houses. You can't fairly be called upon to make that increased payment for the privilege of living in the house in which you are. I have no doubt that a great many people desire to live in a particular locality, sometimes it may be in the fashionable locality, rather than in some other part of the city. I think I have indicated to you fairly well what I have in mind and what I am trying to do, and I hope that out of our activities we may be able to remedy such evils as exist.

There haven't been any decisions about the judges in the District of Columbia.

I don't think that the appointment of Attorney General Stone to the Supreme Bench will cause any delay in the selection of Federal judges either here in the District or New York, Ohio, or North Carolina. I conferred with him this morning. He is working on all those cases and making investigations that I think will enable him to let me have a decision within a short time. It takes some time to get them confirmed by the Senate, and he undoubtedly will want to stay in his office for some days in order to clear up some things of that kind.

Mr. President, do you expect to name any successor to Mr. Stone very soon?

I expect to name one just as soon as I can make a choice of someone. I think, very soon.

There has been no decision about judges other than those which have been sent in.

These other questions seem to be duplicates or triplicates of those that I have already discussed.



January 9, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't know of any objection to making public the report of the committee on shipping needs, or either of those committees. The report is rather voluminous. I don't know whether it is on Mr. Slomp's desk at the present time or whether he sent it to the Shipping Board. There may be something in it that someone thinks had better not be made public at the present time, but I don't know of any reason why they should not both be made public.

I am opposed to raising the elevation of the guns on U. S. battleships for reasons I have already given. I don't know why there is constant agitation about that, unless it be the result of an attempt to try and break down our system of limitation of armaments and resort to the old policy of competition. Now, I don't think it is a question of whether by a technical construction of the treaty we have a right to elevate these guns. Suppose we have; suppose we haven't. If we are going to have the policy here of limitation of armaments, we shall never have it by reason of that treaty we have made, but by reason of a public sentiment that exists in the country in favor of that policy. If you break down the public sentiment you will begin to dig down under the treaties that are in existence at the present time, and when you get far enough under them they will explode something and destroy them. That is the main reason why I am opposed to the elevation of the guns. \$8,000,000 is not a large sum to expend for the elevation of guns, but the work will extend over some years. Then these ships, as I have already explained, will become obsolete in a short time, and our naval treaty lasts ten years and is drawing to a close. I think it is much more important to do what we can to promote sentiment here as in favor of limitation of armaments and against competition than in that direction. Otherwise, we will be right back in the place that civilization has found itself ever since it began and an inability to rely on anything except the number of guns that it has for the protection of its interests. I am desirous of promoting the other policy, so I am opposed to elevating the guns at this time. I think it would be hailed as the beginning of the breaking down of that policy. I am sending up to the Senate in response to their resolution, a copy of the letter which Secretary Hughes, after consulting with me had already sent to the Committee on Naval Affairs in the House, which gives all the information and some other information



that the Senate has requested. Japan as I understand it doesn't think it is contrary to the terms of the treaty, but the British have raised that question.

Is that the same letter, Mr. President, that was read yesterday in the House?

The House Committee, yes, relative to the position of different governments on it.

Secretary Wilbur thinks that the Navy General Board will report very soon on the comparative value of aircraft, surface craft and submarine craft.

I can't give you any information yet about the bringing of the 24th U. S. Infantry, that is a colored Brigade, to Washington on the 4th of March.

There have been no developments relative to a Register of the Treasury. I know that Senator Watson has spoken to me about some colored men in Indiana. that would be available for appointment, and I think one of them is Mr. Kidrington.

I will try and have something prepared for the unveiling of the picture of Crispus Attucks at the Crispus Attucks Press Club.

I haven't decided anything further about the plans for the inauguration.

The only suggestion I made to the bankers and real estate men about the rents was the one I made at the conference. That was carried through the press, and I have seen by the papers that they will undertake to take some action. I assume that if legislation were passed, they would assist in its enforcement. Their action, I think, is confirmatory of my feeling that there have been some abuses here in the District that ought to be remedied, and I am very much delighted to have their cooperation in attempting to provide a remedy for anything of that kind. I think they can be of very substantial benefit in that direction. I have been over this matter with you several times, and I don't know as I need to discuss it further at this session.

I haven't any mature views which I can apply to particular instances about the reduction of the interest rate on government loans to railroads. I am glad to state my general view, and that would be, of course, that we make that rate of interest as low as possible. It is a charge on the service and ultimately has to be paid by the people, and the lower we make it why the lower freight and passenger rates of railroad service will be. So that I don't want the Government to have to provide money for loans and charge a rate of interest which is less than that which the Government has to pay for the money it might



borrow for that or some other purpose, but I want the interest to be just as low as we can make it. I think the present rate is 6%. I judge that it would be perfectly feasible to make a considerable reduction from 6%. 5% I should say there would be no doubt about.  $4\frac{3}{4}\%$  I should expect might be a very good rate. But when we get down to  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ , well that might be a little low. I should say somewhere in there we could fix a rate of interest. There might be an embarrassment that would arise by reason of charging one railroad one rate and another railroad another rate, but I think that can be arranged. Those securities that the Government holds could be taken care of. If some have been sold, well there perhaps might be an embarrassment. I don't know whether any have been sold or not. It was my impression that some of the railroads gave their obligations to the Government and the Government disposed of them in the market. ~~Whether~~ Whether anything could be done to get these all on the same basis, or whether those that had been sold would have to be left on the 6% basis, I don't know. I should like to see them all treated on a uniform basis, if possible.

Here is a question that I am going to answer, but which I am hoping you won't say anything about. There has been absolutely no intimation to me from any source that Associate Justice Holmes would retire from the Supreme Court. Everything indicates and seems to point in the other direction. He seems to be vigorous, alert, and entirely well, and while physically he is not so vigorous as a man of 50, yet I don't see anything in his physical condition that prevents him from discharging fully and completely and satisfactorily all of his official duties.

Commissioner Potter has indicated to me that he wants to retire from the Interstate Commerce Commission, that is sometime in the future. I don't know just when, and he doesn't know.

That seems to cover everything.



January 13, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't had any report from the Agricultural Conference on the livestock industry. I think I have discussed that informally at different times with several members of the conference. They have made no report about it.

I haven't decided who will be nominated for judge at San Francisco.

Secretary Davis didn't discuss his journey to South America, nor did he say anything about including all countries of this hemisphere within the immigration quota law. If he has made up his mind about it, he hasn't taken it up with me. I haven't had a chance to talk with him very much since he returned. I am going to try and talk with him in the near future.

The status of Nelson B. Gaskill as a member of the Federal Trade Commission is that I gave him a recess appointment and I haven't determined yet to send his nomination to the Senate. That is the same with relation to David Lewis, who is a member of the Tariff Commission. Both those men are good men, but I have thought that perhaps on investigation I might want to make a change. I have noticed in the morning paper, in connection with this, some suggestion of someone trying to raise money to influence the appointment or refusal to appoint David Lewis, a member of the Tariff Commission. I shouldn't be influenced by that one way or the other. I will try to make a decision according to the proposed appointee, and not in accordance with the virtues or lack of virtues of people on the outside. I don't favor the raising of money for purposes of this kind. We have just had an experience of that kind in relation to the postal pay bill, that was most disturbing. But it won't make any difference with me or my decision about these cases, whether money has been raised or hasn't been raised. I shall try to decide the question in connection with the merits of Mr. Lewis or anyone else.

There is nothing that I can say about the Russian situation that is materially different from that which I have said in the past. If you will recall my message of 1923, in which I spoke of this, and some other comments that I have made on it in different addresses, I have been hopeful that a situation would develop there so that that great country could take up the burdens of civilization with the rest of us. I laid down some rules which were amplified in a note that Mr. Hughes sent in relation to Russia, somewhat less



than a year ago. I think that the Russian people have made some progress since then. But their progress is slow, and it hasn't been so rapid as I hoped it might be.

There isn't anything that I can say other than what is already in the press relative to the agreement that has been made for the payment out of reparations of money to the United States. I have seen the correspondence, I think all of it, that has passed between our representatives there and the State Department, and the notes that have come in and the notes that have been sent out, and while in making settlements of this kind you never get all you want, I think that the outcome there has been fair - not so much as we would have liked, but we haven't wanted to stand as a rapacious creditor but also to assert firmly the rights of the United States and of its citizens. That has been done. There was quite a question one time as to whether our claims were to be recognized. There were suggestions from some of the governments that they didn't want to recognize our claims. They were fully recognized. It isn't of so much importance that they be paid quickly as that their justice be recognized and that an effort be exercised and entered into for paying them as fast as can be.

Mr. President, did you say that this settlement requires action by the Congress?

I don't think so. I wouldn't be certain about that, but I don't think it does.

I have noticed reports about Ambassador Houghton. He is one of the men in the public service of distinction and ability that has performed well the office that he holds now, and he is under consideration for the post at London. Not exclusively so. There are others that stand in a like relationship and they will also be considered.

Can you mention any other, Mr. President?

No, I think I will leave it there. But I have noticed several names in the press. I don't think any name has appeared in the press that hasn't been under consideration in relation to this post.

I don't think there is any substance in the reports that a change in the State Department will bring a change in America's foreign policy. Of course the constant development of the foreign policy is going ahead, but I am not cons-



cious of any desire on my part to change its direction. I think that of all the members of my Cabinet, probably Secretary Hughes, as would be natural in relation to foreign affairs, consults me more with relation to the details of the office and the decisions that are to be made, than any other member of the Cabinet, so that I am constantly informed of what is taking place and we advise together about all the decisions that are made, of any importance. I don't know of any desire on my part to change in any material respect our foreign policy, but simply to proceed with the policy that we have already adopted, and develop and enlarge it.

I think it will be possible to get any farm legislation that the conference may desire to have before the adjournment of Congress.

You think it will be, Mr. President?

I think so. I don't know just what the conference is going to suggest. I imagine that anything that this conference say they would like to have would be so representative of the desire on the part of the farm population that it would go through with scarcely any opposition.

That will take the form of relief for the cattle men?

I don't know whether they are going to find it necessary for legislation in that respect.

Cooperative marketing?

There again I am not certain what may be necessary in the way of legislation. There are bills pending that have had a good deal of public discussion and thought on the part of the Congress. Undoubtedly they would form a basis for any action that was necessary in the way of cooperative marketing. The cattle end perhaps needs some extension of credit. We have extended a great deal of credit to it and I have recently put a man on the Farm Loan Board from the War Finance Corporation who ~~did~~ had special charge of the cattle industry relief, so that he will be able to function in that respect.



I am expecting that the American guard of about 100 marines will be speedily withdrawn from Nicaragua. Of course the Government there at present, and certainly in the past, has been rather solicitous to have them remain, thinking that although they are a small force on account of what they represent they give a stability and security to the government. But quite naturally Nicaragua might come to a time when it is able to provide its own security and not rely on us for that purpose and a time when we feel that American interests will be secure under the protection of the Nicaraguan Government without any military protection from our own Government. We think that time is approaching and are planning to withdraw the guard. I don't know just how soon, but I know that that has been determined to be our course.

I don't expect any further changes in the Cabinet, and I am very glad to report that notwithstanding some thought that Secretary Davis had that he might wish to retire on the 4th of March, he has come to the conclusion that it will be possible for him to remain. He had some doubt about his organization of the Moose, of which he is the head, which makes him responsible for the welfare of quite a good many people and the supervision of some \$30,000,000 of property, but he has given me the encouraging report this morning that evidently that organization is going to give their consent that he still remain in the Cabinet, and if that is the case I shall be delighted to have him stay.

Any other changes, Mr. President?

I don't know of any other changes.

Can you give us a "slant" on the Secretary of Agriculture?

No, I can't. I wish you would give me one. Of course the present Secretary will retire to become Governor of West Virginia on the 4th of March, and I shall have to get someone to take his place. The trouble with agriculture at the present time is in the marketing end. The Secretaries in the past have perhaps been roughly divided into two classes. There has been the practical farmer and the man from some agricultural institution, perhaps an economist or something of that kind. Those are the classes that have served as Secretaries in the past. What I would like to find is a man that can organize the business of agriculture. We are able to get along very well with our production. The agricultural college, of course, is putting its emphasis on production. That has been the teaching. It



has not put so much emphasis on marketing. It is the marketing end that has to be organized at the present time and carried along and made effective, in order that the farmer may secure the results of his industry, and not have so much of it dissipated between the farmer and the consumer. That is a great economic problem. It is the great economic problem, to my mind, of the present time, - how to secure for our farming population the rewards that they ought to have as a result of their industry.

Mr. President, are you still of a mind of appointing an Asst. Secretary?

That is the reason I have left that position open, rather than going out and trying to find someone/<sup>who</sup>would be a permanent Assistant Secretary.

You have under consideration some men, of course?

Yes. I have got a good many under consideration that have been sug-



January 16, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I haven't appointed the three members of the commission to represent the United States at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Lexington-Concord Battle. That came to my desk two or three days ago. I have sent for Mr. Luce, Representative Luce, of Massachusetts, who introduced the resolution, to confer with him about the appointments. I think he is coming in this afternoon.

I can't set any time about the appointment of the Ambassador to Berlin. Ambassador Houghton hasn't yet resigned. I don't know just how long it will take him to close up his affairs there. I don't think it would be quite correct to say that there is any leading candidate for the post. I have several names under consideration.

I have just signed the bill for an additional Federal Judge in Indiana. I don't know the names of any people that are under consideration there. I don't think that any names have been submitted to me, and I didn't sign the bill until this morning. I don't know of any suggestions that have yet been made of any names. Now I am not certain, but there were two or three Indiana Representatives and Senator Watson in this morning, and I don't know but they mentioned incidentally some names that have been suggested out there, but they were so much in the way of mere suggestions, rather than names, that were to be taken up for serious consideration, that I didn't give enough attention to any names, if there were any mentioned, so that I can't recall any specific names.

The report of the committee on shipping will be used for my information and guidance, and I hope it may be helpful to the Congress in any study that they might want to make of the present shipping needs. I also expect it will be helpful to the Shipping Board and the President of the Fleet Corporation in determining what action they ought to take for the promotion of our shipping interests.

There has been absolutely no further consideration given to the matter of an Arms Conference. I don't know of any obligation that our country has incurred as a result of the Paris settlement, relative to the amount of money that is coming to us, excepting the very obvious one that we would accept the amounts that are specified in the settlement. That is settled and determined, but so far as I know, no other obligation rests on us as a result of our agreement to accept that amount as our proportion.



Here is another inquiry about a successor to Ambassador Houghton - as to whether I will seek a successor to him in the diplomatic service or in private life. I think the correct answer to that will be that I will seek him in both places. Where I shall find him, of course I do not know.

I haven't had any suggestions from any one that they are intending to retire from the public service, other than those already mentioned in the public prints.

I don't know when Representative Sanders will come to this office. I talked with him about it very soon after the opening of Congress. Mr. Slomp has not made any formal resignation. He is going to stay as long as he can. I don't know just when he will think it becomes necessary for him to take up his duties with his law firm.

Secretary Hoover and I talked about the Secretaryship of Agriculture. I have here a list of names of those who have been proposed for that position. There are some good men. His name is among them, but from my conversation with him I feel sure that he thinks he can do more good for agriculture as Secretary of Commerce than he could as Secretary of Agriculture. ~~Do~~

Mr. President, do you know the number of names mentioned?

Well, I can't tell how many there are here. I should think I had here 25 or 30 pages, and they will average, oh, perhaps 6 to the page.

Mr. President, do you expect the Secretary of Commerce to remain in that position?

Oh yes. He has had several opportunities to accept other positions since he has been Secretary of Commerce, but he is so interested in that particular work that he feels confident that he can make a larger contribution to it as Secretary of Commerce than he can in any other position.

The only reason that the name of Captain Robison was not sent to the Senate at this time is the obvious one that I want to wait and see what develops in relation to the oil leases. Now, I don't want that taken as the slightest reflection on the Captain. I have saved his place for him, so that when he is promoted he will go into the place that he would have gone into had I sent his name up at this time. But there was some question made about it, so I thought that at present I would not send in his name.



I don't know that anyone is scheduled to succeed Major Haynes in the Prohibition Department. There is some legislation pending about that, and I do not think any action would be taken until the outcome of that legislation should be known.

I don't know as I can successfully discuss proposed legislation and proposed penalties, relative to the violations of the prohibitory law. It is suggested here that there is a bill pending which imposes jail sentences on dry law violators; makes them mandatory. Well, I should say offhand that that would be excessive. There are many violations of the dry law which are not very serious. There are other things that are exceedingly serious. I suppose having a flask of alcoholic liquor in one's possession is a violation of the law. Now that ~~that~~ might not be serious at all. Undertaking to make money out of the sale of liquor at this time, of course, is serious. Now whether - I am not familiar enough with the provisions of the law to say whether there ought to be any change in the law relative to making sentences mandatory or not. It was assumed that under the present law there was an opportunity for the judge to impose a jail sentence, if he thought the violation required it.

I don't know just what shape the appropriation bill is in for the District of Columbia. Here is an inquiry about a very laudable desire on the part of some of our people to establish here an arboretum. Now I share with everybody a desire to have an arboretum in the District of Columbia, but I think the present appropriation bill carries some \$600,000.00 for the purchase of additional land in the District of Columbia. There is a bill pending carrying \$14,000,000 for the building of the Memorial Bridge. So that when it comes to a question of whether the financial policy of the Government ought to provide several hundred thousand dollars more to establish an arboretum this year, I think there is considerable doubt about it. It isn't necessary to buy a lot of other land for some other purpose, when part of this \$600,000 could be applied for this purpose, when perhaps some arrangement could be made for it during the present year. If this is going to call for several hundred thousand dollars in addition to the \$600,000 already provided for, then I should think it would become a matter of some difficulty.

I have already mentioned Secretary Hoover and given you in a word what I understand is the result of our agreement about reparations. Of course our country wants to see the Dawes Plan succeed. We should make that known at all times. Of course it is understood by the people of this country and the people abroad that



we are exceedingly anxious to see that a success.

There isn't any foundation of which I am aware for the statement that is said here to appear in the afternoon press to the effect that another Arms Conference will be called this spring by me. That is entirely in the same condition it has been in the past. Of course the closing up of questions in Europe all the time makes the situation better and better, so that we appear to be going toward the condition that such a proposal might be thought to meet with some success, but while things are going well in that direction there is the proposal of the League for a conference on their account, and we shall have to wait and see what that results in before I can give the matter any further consideration in the way of making a decision about it.

I haven't had a chance to confer with Governor Towner. He will reach the city within a day or two. I imagine that he will be in to call on me very shortly, and perhaps an engagement has already been made. If so I don't recall about it. Very likely I wouldn't know until it came onto my desk for whatever day it was made.

I think that it is always necessary to call a session of the Senate to meet on inauguration day, so that it goes without saying that there will be a special session of the Senate that convenes at 12:00 o'clock on the 4th day of March immediately following the adjournment of the old Congress. Now, whether the Senate at that time or the day succeeding will want to give any consideration to the World Court, I don't know. I think that is to be taken up in the present session. Whether they will find time for such a discussion of it that they can bring it to a vote, again I am obliged to say I don't know.



Tuesday, January 20, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I have just received this morning the report of Director General Davis of the Railroad Administration. The course of procedure here in the office is that reports of that kind go first to the Director of the Budget to see if there is anything in them that might conflict with my financial policy, then they are transmitted to the Congress, if there is nothing in them that appears to be a recommendation about which I should want to have a change made. Otherwise, I might send up to Congress a report from some department recommending considerable expenditures of money and that might be supposed had my approval. So that I have them first gone over by the Director of the Budget to see if there is any expenditure of money suggested, and if there is, I can consider if that is something I might want to recommend. It is an important report. There will be a mimeograph given out some time during the day in relation to it, so that you will be well supplied with a resume of the material that is contained in the report. It gives the results of the negotiations between the Government and the railroads and the settlement of all pending claims - those that the railroads had against the Government and those that the Government had against the railroads. I think the figures that struck me as having the most significance were those that indicated that the claims presented against the Government amounted to \$1,011,000,000. Those were the claims of the railroads against the Government. There were certain offsets, admitted I think in advance, though I am not certain about that, as claims of the Government against the railroads, some 400 odd millions, which would leave a balance of between \$500,000,000 and \$600,000,000. Those were finally adjusted by the expenditure on the part of the Government of between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000, which shows the care, I think, and judgment and discretion exercised by the Railroad Administration in making the settlements. It hasn't undertaken to impose upon the railroads, but tried to make fair settlements with them, with the results that I have indicated.

I didn't intend to do anything more in my remarks at the last conference about the retirement of Prohibition Commissioner Haynes, than to confirm the rumor that was afloat. I presume you all have in mind that perhaps since I have been in office, and perhaps before that, there have been constant rumors about



the retirement of Commissioner Haynes. There is that same condition now. I thought I indicated that it was a rumor that the officials weren't undertaking to make any decision about it, as to whether he should stay or shouldn't stay, until after it was decided what legislation might be passed at the present session of the Congress. There would be only one reason for making a change, and that would be an attempt to provide a better administration of the office. Now I don't want that to be understood as a criticism of Major Haynes. I think he has done excellently-well-in a very difficult situation. There have been suggestions from time to time that someone else might do better. If it should be thought by those who have the responsibility for his continuing in office that that was the case, why of course that would warrant a change. I have forgotten whether he is appointed by the President or by the Secretary of the Treasury. That is all there is to it. If anyone is appointed, he will be appointed, I am sure, for the purpose of securing a better execution of the law. I want to repeat again that that is not any criticism of Major Haynes. He went in there when it was necessary to build up the organization, and I think has been eminently successful in dealing with a very difficult situation.

I don't think I can elaborate in any way the statement that I made at the last conference relative to the effect of the Paris agreement. I thought that was very carefully covered by the statement put out yesterday by the Secretary of State. It seems to me that that covers every question that could be involved. It covers the issue. The different kinds of gossip that may be afloat about it are not important. The real question is that which he made perfectly clear in the statement, that we do not understand that we are involved in any way.

I am very much in hopes that the Isle of Pines treaty will be ratified. In and of itself it is not a matter of extreme importance. It is a small island. I don't know of any purpose that the United States would serve by undertaking to hold it, and of course it would be interpreted all through Latin-America as an attempt on the part of our country to seize some territory that belonged to somebody else. That is my main object in wishing that this treaty should be



ratified - to avoid any suggestion of that kind. We are now on excellent terms with Latin-American countries. I don't want to give them any cause for apprehension. The Isle of Pines country is now under the government of Cuba, and I can't imagine the Cuban Government being willing to retire from it, and certainly I have no expectation that the United States Government would ever go down there and undertake to impose its authority over the island. I thought the situation had been made perfectly clear by Judge Day, who negotiated the treaty and who I am told afterwards had some statement inserted in a decision of the Supreme Court which confirmed the report that Judge Day had never held that the United States had any jurisdiction over the island. The United States never has exercised any. There are some Americans living down there. They would gain nothing by not having the treaty ratified. They would simply go on in the same condition they are now living under the Cuban Government.

Judge Young, George M. Young, former member of the House from North Dakota, and now a member - is he a member of the Board of Appraisers?

Customs Court of Appeals, Mr. President.

I thought he was judge of some Court of Appeals. He came in to suggest that perhaps within the next year or so it might be desirable to take up a revision of the administration of our customs laws, both through legislation and perhaps through a change of some of the methods that are now in vogue - not anything of present importance.

I haven't made any decision about a Secretary of Agriculture.

I have had absolutely no intimation that Ambassador Herrick is about to retire.

Here is a question that I am glad was asked, because it gives an opportunity to clear up what I think was a misapprehension. It is true that Postmaster General New is expected to remain in the Cabinet, and I don't know of the slightest foundation for the fact or the suggestion that his remaining is contingent upon the retirement of any Assistant Postmasters General. I think they are all giving excellent service, and it is my understanding that they are all willing to remain in the service. Certainly I desire that they should remain. I think there was some report that he was going to remain on condition that all of them, or some of them, retired. I can't imagine how that report



emanated, and don't know of the slightest foundation for it.

I am expecting to attend the opera next Monday evening in the New Washington Auditorium after the business meeting of the Government. That is the Budget meeting, which we hold semi-annually. I shall go there and speak, and expect to remain while General Lord is speaking and at the conclusion of that meeting I am expecting to go to the Washington Auditorium.

I don't know as I can comment interestingly or informingly on the reception that has been accorded to General Pershing at Buenos Aires, other than to say that of course it is gratifying and an indication of the sentiment, that I just expressed, of a most friendly feeling on the part of South Americans toward our own country.

I have already spoken about the Isle of Pines treaty.

I haven't made any decision about the Federal Judicial vacancy in Northern California.

I think the report of the Navy General Board relative to the different types of naval craft, aircraft, surface craft and submarines, will be filed with me today. It is true that I have had a suggestion that Walter Dambrosch should be considered for the American Embassy at Berlin. No decision has been made on that. I am not certain where Mr. Dambrosch was born. It is rather unusual, though not impossible, to send a national of our country back to represent this country if the proposed post be the location of his own birth. That is not an insurmountable obstacle, but hasn't been considered to be promising of the best results. I am sure, though, that Mr. Dambrosch would serve our country in any capacity with entire fidelity to America.



Friday, January 23, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't think there is anything new that I can say about the French debt. I have indicated several times that I didn't like to discuss it. Any discussion by me would perhaps be misunderstood, and I think that anything I might say about it should be said direct to the French authorities. I haven't read the text of Senator Borah's speech. I saw the headlines about it. Last night was the night that we spent several hours receiving people, so I didn't get a chance to see the paper.

Mr. President, would you mind informing us whether the United States in the case of any of its European debtors has ever made any request for payment?

I think so. I don't know just what the nature of that has been. We have as you know appointed a Commission, and several Commissioners have been abroad. I had understood that they sounded out the sentiment of some of the countries. We haven't billed anyone, or approached that method of operation. We haven't done anything formally. There has been a great deal done informally. But I understand that the Debt Commission immediately on its appointment asked for a conference and conferences were had. The British sent representatives over here, the French sent a representative over - one representative anyway, and I don't know but there were more at that time - to confer with the Commission. I think each of the debtor countries have approached the Commission on the subject.

I don't know just when the report of the Navy General Board will be ready for publication. As a consequence of it I have asked the General Board certain questions, and when those answers have been prepared I should think the whole thing could be made public.

I don't now have in mind the name of Andrew C. Pearson, of Montclair, N.J., as having been suggested to me as a possible Secretary of Agriculture. I showed you that list I had the other day. It is a very long list, and since then it hasn't been on my desk - outside at the present - so I couldn't tell now whether his name is among those or not.

I don't know as I can give you any particular desire of mine in relation to different things that are before the Senate, in relation to the order in which they should be taken up. I don't know whether it will be possible to take up the



Lauzanne treaty and get that through, or whether it would be possible to take up the World Court and get that through. I would like both of those things done as speedily as possible, but in order to know which ought to be taken up first I should have to confer with some of the men in the Senate and find out what their opinion might be, as I leave those things entirely to the Senators who know what I want and who are working away at those things as fast as they can.

This is the first information I have had about the free bill, that is, being brought specifically to my attention. That is the bill to extend the period permitting the use of the naval radio on the Pacific for commercial use. I think we had that up in the Cabinet more than two years ago, and at that time it was decided to take the naval radio out of the commercial and express business, so that it now has a very limited use for that purpose. I do not know whether conditions have changed, so that that use can be enlarged. I don't know. But the feeling at the time, as I recall it, was that it would be best to keep ~~the~~ strictly naval radio for naval purposes as fully as possible. Of course it would be best to keep it entirely for naval purposes. There was some time allotted for the transmission of commercial messages, but the feeling was that it ought to be used exclusively for Government business, as I understood it at that time, but on account of exigencies, there not being other radio at that time, I think that has since been remedied, that would do this business, it was permitted as an emergency measure. That is the way the thing lies in my mind. Now, whether any change could be made, I don't know. I should have to inquire from the Navy Department what the situation is, and what the desire is to make the change. I think the general feeling was the Government ought not to be in commercial business.

Mr. President, at that time of which you speak, I think that privilege was extended for two years, but not on the radio across the Atlantic on the ground that that was competition between the Navy Dept. and the Radio Corporation, but it was allowed to remain in the Pacific until there could be commercial advantages in radio extended to the press, and the extension was granted, I believe ~~with~~ with that in view, until they could put them in the Pacific.

What is the condition there now?

The same as it was two years ago Mr. President.



Well, if the condition is the same now as it was two years ago, why then I should think the Government would take the same action it did then. It lay in my mind that it was an emergency measure.

The extension, Mr. President, I believe expires on June 30th. I think the free bill is an attempt to make it permanent.

Well, I should doubt the desirability of making it permanent. If it is to be made permanent why then it would be doubtful if private enterprise would enter that field.

Mr. President, I think that is a mistake. I think the free bill extends it a year and a half after June.

I do not think there is a necessity for legislation, but I am not certain about that. The most I can say about that question is that I am not certain. I know it was brought up in the Cabinet meeting and it is my understanding it was a temporary measure somewhat restricting what the past practice had been. I should favor extending it, by the action of the Navy Dept., to cover the present emergency.

I don't know what I am going to put in my inaugural address. I suppose that will be a standard question from now until the address gets into the hands of the press. If any of you think of anything that ought to be covered in the address, I should be obliged to you if you will suggest the subject to me at any time.

Nothing has been decided about a Secretary of Agriculture.

I don't know when Commissioner Potter is going to retire. He suggested that he did wish to retire and no successor has been decided upon. I have half a dozen men under contemplation.

My conference today with Mr. Brush was almost entirely of a personal nature. He didn't seem to have any special business with me. I asked him how the shipping business was going on. I was very glad to get his report that he thought the Government shipping business was doing somewhat better, especially in the Pacific, he thought they were doing quite a little better. In the Atlantic they hadn't made so much progress.

I haven't any plans for speaking away from Washington after the first of March. I am going out speaking just as little as I can and keep the public peace. The pressure on me is great at all times. There were eight delegations

4.

in yesterday forenoon and asked me to make speeches, but it is very difficult for me to get out for that purpose.

I am not aware of any special significance to this country in the reported new treaty between Japan and Russia.

I am in favor - that is, I don't find it contrary to my financial policy, I think that is the form of the expression - of a bill carrying the authorization for an appropriation of \$15,000 for the survey of proposed national parks in the Blue Ridge and the Smoky Mountains between Tennessee and North Carolina. The Federal bureau discussed that with me and I have advised the Director of the Budget to send a communication to Congress to that effect.

That seems to cover the questions.



Tuesday, January 27, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I haven't any specific plan for the reduction of personnel in the clerical forces of the District of Columbia. I think in the last four years we have reduced personnel something like 100,000. Of course there is quite a large personnel now employed in the Adjutant General's Department on the work growing out of the law for the adjusted compensation or the bonus bill. As that work closes up a good many clerks there can probably be dispensed with. Some of them have been transferred to other places. And I wasn't referring last night particularly to the District of Columbia, nor was my suggestion last night one that was new. In practically every address I have made to the business organization of the Government I have suggested that the cost of personnel was one of the very largest items. A great many people came in, as you know, during the war - in the employment of the Government - and it is with a good deal of difficulty that they are discharged. It is a matter we don't like to do, but for that reason it is necessary for me constantly to call it to the attention of the heads of the departments and the managers of the business organization, so that they may make constant and careful surveys to see what is necessary in that respect.

Mr. President, has any plan of dismissals been worked out yet to carry out the scheme?

No, that is for every department to work out itself.

Have you any information from the heads of departments as to what plan would be the most feasible?

No. As I say, it is a general suggestion of what has to be met and an effort that the heads of the departments have to be constantly engaged in, otherwise the departments will be loaded up with a great many more people than is necessary for the conduct of its business. It seems to me that the Budget Bureau cut the appropriation for the White House, so that it would be expected that we might dispense with the services of one or two people there. That is the only specific instance that I have in mind. This, of course, didn't refer to the City of Washington particularly. It referred to personnel all over the United States.



Mr. President, is it the intention that immediate action be taken by the Departments to list the names of certain employees who are to be taken off the roll?

Well, I want constant effort in that direction, a constant checking up by the department to see whether they have any more employees than is necessary to carry on the work of the department. Whenever they find that is the case, well, they can drop them off. As I said at the outset, I think we have dropped off about 100,000, and I don't know, it may be more than that, in the last four years.

I can't make any definite decision about attending the Associated Advertising Clubs at Houston, Texas, in May. As I told the delegation this morning that came to extend the invitation, I would like very much to go South at some time, but whether I can get away there this spring or not is entirely uncertain, and I wasn't able to give them very much encouragement about it.

There isn't anything I can say about the nomination of Attorney General Stone for the Supreme Court. The matter is in the hands of the Senate.

There is nothing definitely decided about a Secretary of Agriculture or an Ambassador to Germany.

I had the majority leaders of the Senate and House, and the Chairman of the Senate Committee and House Committee, and the ranking minority men on the Senate and House Committee, of Agriculture, and three or four - the Secretary of Agriculture - and three or four other members of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture in this morning, in order that I might lay before them the preliminary report of the Agricultural Conference, and suggest to them that they take it up and see if they could draft bills for the purpose of immediate consideration. I shall probably send a short message transmitting it to the Congress. It has already been delivered to the press for release tomorrow morning, so that my message will perhaps go up late this afternoon, or perhaps first thing after the assembling of the Congress tomorrow, transmitting informally these recommendations to the Congress for their action. I had this preliminary conference with the members - Senator Norris by the way was unable to come, so the ranking man, Senator McNary, came - and I wanted them to get all the start possible in drafting the bills. They seemed to be favorably inclined towards im-



mediate action.

Action by this Congress, Mr. President?

I think so, yes.

The suggestions that have been made by the Congress are almost all in line with pending legislation. Some of them are exactly in line with bills already pending. Some of them are sufficiently in line with bills so that all that would be necessary would be the amending of certain bills. So, not being new and novel, I think that it would be possible to get some action from the present Congress, and those members that I talked with this morning seemed to be hopeful that that could be done.

I haven't had any suggestion about the District Attorney of New York. I don't think any suggestion has come to me before. I had noticed a press report that he might resign, but that is entirely the limit of my information in relation to that office.

I have already referred to the conference I had this morning with some members of the Senate and House. I would have been pleased to have the entire Committees of the Senate and House present, but that would make such a large gathering that I couldn't very well accommodate them at breakfast.

I haven't had any suggestion coming to me about the appointment of Senator Sterling of South Dakota for Prohibition Commissioner. This inquiry here is the first intimation I have had of anything of that kind. I haven't had him under consideration.

I want very much to get up to Massachusetts either the 19th of April or the 17th of June to attend the 150th anniversary of the battle of Lexington and Concord and the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. I have also had an invitation to go up to the Quincy anniversary. I think that is the 300th anniversary or something of that kind of the founding of the town. I haven't made any decision about those. I can't make any formal decision except to express the hope that I might be there at the Lexington and Concord celebration or the Bunker Hill celebration. I haven't any detailed information about what action can be taken in relation to the Chicago drainage canal. I understood that the Secretary of War had made some statement about that, - it being in his hands - to Senator McKinley, who had applied to him. I thought the statement he made covered the situation, which was that Chicago ought



to take immediate action to comply with the law and that meantime the Department would do everything it could to prevent any danger to the public health of the city.

I don't know that there is any comment I can make relative to a visit that former Secretary of State Bryan made on me the other day. He and I are both interested in doing everything possible to promote peace. I told him I was very glad to see that he was using his efforts in that direction. There was some mention made about some plan that contemplated action in relation to our debts that are due to us from foreign governments. About that I can't make any statement, other than that which I have constantly made; that the position of our Government is embodied in the Act of Congress. I haven't any authority to make any other suggestion than to carry out that act.

I haven't made any decision about the vacancy in the Federal bench for the northern District of California.

I haven't had any recommendation from the Attorney General relative to an application for a pardon by Peter McDonnell, of San Francisco. From what I had learned of the circumstances I hadn't expected any recommendation. The recommendation will come - I am not certain about that - I was going to say that no recommendation would come here unless the recommendation was favorable. Now that isn't the case. It may be that that recommendation has come here and that I have acted on it. Sometimes 10 or 15 of those come over, and I don't pay so much attention to the names as I do the case. I look at the papers and see what the circumstances are and in almost every case I have agreed with the recommendation that comes from the Department of Justice. I am very sure that no suggestion favorable, or recommendation favorable to a pardon, has come, and from what I heard of the case I do not think that any such recommendation is likely to come. I only get some vague ideas about cases that are pending, and of course make no final determination about them until they are formally laid before me with the recommendation of the Department of Justice.

That seems to cover the inquiries this morning.



Friday, January 30, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

There has been so much discussion already about party regularity and as to who ought to take part in the choice of election of the party officers that I don't think I can add anything to it. I suppose that if our party has appealed to the country and indicated before election that it intends to pursue a certain course of action, that an honest carrying out of that promise will make it necessary that the management of the Government should be placed in the control of those who believe in the party policies that they promised to carry out. It isn't a question of excluding somebody or anything of that kind; it's merely an attempt to carry out the pledges that have been made to the people.

The only reason that anyone suggested to me for the appointment of Mr. Woodlock to the Interstate Commerce Commission was his great familiarity with railroad finances and the necessity of having one man on the Commission at this time who especially understood that part of the work of the Commission. Some other members of the Commission understand other parts of the work and are experts in that direction, but Mr. Woodlock was chosen as a man who is especially expert, by reason of his studies and abilities, in railroad finance. The Commission has a good deal of work to do at present on that subject, by reason of its having jurisdiction over the issuance of stocks and bonds of railroads. It is always a hazardous thing to say some one person is the best man in any line, but it was represented to me that Mr. Woodlock stands as high as anyone, and was represented to me as the best man on the subject of railroad finance that there was in the country.

There is a provision in the pending Rivers and Harbors bill which undertakes to provide for the completion of the projects that have now been - not only in this bill but other projects - that have heretofore been authorized - within the next five years. There are already authorized some \$200,000,000 worth of projects. This adds \$39,000,000 more, making somewhere near \$250,000,000. Now there is a base charge or an overhead charge for the cost of keeping the present projects running which I think amounts to about \$20,000,000 a year, so that I am advised by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget that to put a provision of that kind into this bill would mean a declaration of policy of expending some-



thing over \$60,000,000 a year for the next five years. Now that would take away from me, the Presidential office, the jurisdiction over the budget. I don't think that ought to be done. So I want to have that provision taken out. I don't understand that it makes any difference with the Ohio River project, which is now being carried on under the policy that would complete it in 1929. About the Mississippi and Missouri, I am not so certain whether - I don't know as they were ever completely finished.

Mr. President, is it your understanding that it will be eliminated?

I want to have it eliminated. Otherwise it undertakes to make a declaration now of how much money should be appropriated during the next five years for rivers and harbors.

Mr. President, I was asking if the Committee had advised you of their views.

I don't know about that. I have advised them of what my views are, and I think that provision ought to come out. Otherwise it takes the entire rivers and harbors projects out of the jurisdiction of the budget, which ought not to be done.

I haven't made any decision about a successor to Ambassador Houghton our Ambassador to Berlin, and I don't know just when I shall make a decision about that.

I don't think I can make any comment relative to the proposals of the French and German Governments for a security pact for the guarantee of European peace. I don't know any way that America could cooperate in that. It seems to me that it is almost entirely a European political subject in which we can't take any very helpful part.

There was nothing said, when I received the new Ambassador from France, about any negotiations relative to the payment of the French debt.

I don't know whether the Federal Government has taken any steps about the diptheria epidemic at Nome, Alaska. I have noticed that some efforts were being made up there, and as practically all the Government efforts there would be efforts by the Federal Government, I take it that that is being done. But nothing about it has been brought to my attention.

I haven't begun any special work on my inaugural address - not in the way of getting any on paper.



I think it might be helpful for the conferees on the Muscle Shoals bill to confer with Secretaries Hughes and Hoover. It may be that they have such information that they wouldn't need to do that. I judge they might be helpful to them, because if I had that question before me I should turn to those two members of the Cabinet for assistance in its solution, - Secretary Weeks because of his familiarity with it, it has been in his Department, and Secretary Hoover because of his training as an engineer and his general knowledge of industrial development projects.

I don't think I can comment either on the continuance of the occupation of Cologne and the Ruhr by the French. There are a great many suppositions as to what may happen if that continues.

I have already indicated that I don't know of anything that our people can do about a French and German security agreement.

I don't know whether an Ambassador to Berlin will be appointed before the return to this country of Mr. Kellogg. I hardly think that would be done, for the reason that Mr. Kellogg wouldn't be over here and wouldn't be confirmed. Until that is done, Mr. Houghton couldn't be appointed Ambassador to London, and until that was done there would be no vacancy at Berlin.

I haven't had any reports from the Oil Conservation Board. Though I am not able to tell to what extent there is cooperation in the petroleum industry in the development of a conservation policy, I appointed that board with the purpose of undertaking to have a conservation of our petroleum products, or rather their sources, and wanted to extend them over as long a period as possible and see what could be done to prevent the violent fluctuations in production and the violent fluctuations in the price of petroleum products.

My consultation with Admiral Palmer yesterday was along general lines. He indicated to me some progress that he is making in the operation of the fleet and especially progress that is being made in the reduction of expenditures. Last year I think the call on the Treasury was for about \$50,000,000. For the next year he thinks he can reduce that to about \$24,000,000.

I haven't anything definite about the German commercial treaty. I have spoken to Senator Borah about that once or twice, and I know he has it under consideration to take up.

I haven't made any decision about a Secretary of Agriculture.



4.

I understand that Emory R. Buckner will probably be recommended to me for the appointment to succeed U. S. Attorney Hayward in the City of New York. I got that impression from a conversation I had with Attorney General Stone this morning.

Nothing has come to me relative to any executive clemency for Carlos Tresca, the editor of an Italian language newspaper. Now that doesn't mean nothing has been sent here. If anything has come it would be sent to the Dept. of Justice for their investigation and report to me, but no report has come to me from the Department of Justice relative to that.

That seems to cover the questions.



Tuesday, February 3, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't see that the report of the Agricultural Conference in relation to the protective tariff on agricultural products has any particular bearing on the question of the tariff on sugar. It may have some, but it doesn't occur to me that it has any special bearing on that.

I don't know of any recent steps that have been taken by France to start discussions about the American debt. There might have been some taken with the Commission that haven't come to my attention.

The matter of Muscle Shoals is before the Committee on Conference of the House and Senate, and they are in consultation with various members of the Cabinet, so that I am not familiar with the details of what they are considering and therefore can't give any judgment that is worth much about the offer of Mr. Ford to place his resources at the disposal of the Government, other than to say that I think it is a very generous offer and that if circumstances arise so that we can take advantage of it I think we might well do so. Now it may be that my judgment about that is all wrong, because I am not in touch with the circumstances, but it seems to me that that might be very helpful. I don't know just how far that is a justification or an opposition to the theory of government ownership and operation. It might be a matter of comment. It seems to indicate, perhaps, that the Government hasn't at present sufficient resources at its disposal and it was necessary to apply to private sources, but I suppose that is always the case in matters of this kind. Some private sources will be making investigations and experiments and research, and upon those technical questions the Government almost always has to get experts from outside of its own personnel.

There isn't anything I can say about the Child Labor Amendment. My position has already been made plain, I think, in my speech of acceptance.

I haven't enough of the details about the postal pay bill that passed the Senate to be certain about it. There is some claim that that would provide a revenue of \$46,000,000. Some claim that it would be very much less than that. I should very much wish to have more than \$46,000,000 to meet what will ultimately be about \$100,000,000. But that will undoubtedly be taken care of in the House. Now, my statement in my message disapproving the pay bill that



was passed last spring gave my position as clearly as I know how to state it, and it was that there ought to be legislation for revenue that would approximate - I think that was the world I used - the proposed expenditure.

I don't know as I can quite say that I have been assured of any Congressional action on agricultural legislation at this session. The report of the Conference has been laid before the Congress. They will have had at the end of the session about five weeks to act on it, and I think they ought to secure action within that time. The members of the House Committee and Senate Committee that I conferred with the other morning thought that they could secure some action at this session. The members of the Congress, and especially the members of the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture come from the agricultural regions. They are much better informed than I am as to the necessity for present action. If they think that there is an emergency that requires immediate action, why those two committees of course can draft legislation and present it for immediate action of the Congress and the representatives of the agricultural regions can make known to the Congress their position in relation to it and give the Congress information as to whether there is an exigency that requires immediate legislation. If there is an exigency, I am certain that the Congress will be able to pass legislation at this session. Now, if some other action indicates something else, and the committees of the Senate and House entrusted with looking after the welfare of agriculture think there isn't any need of haste and don't show any great interest in trying to get legislation through, I should think that would be a very fair indication to me that there wasn't any necessity for an extra session of the Congress to consider legislation of this kind, and it will have a good deal of influence in determining my action in that respect. That is all right to say in reply to the inquiry that if agricultural legislation isn't passed at this session whether I should think it would be necessary to call an extra session.

I haven't made any decision about either an Ambassador to Germany or a new Secretary of Agriculture.

I am anxious to have some legislation for the protection of Government employees in relation to rent passed at this session.

I am not certain just what the Temple bill is. I think it is for the



examination of lands in the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Great Smoking Mountains as such for a national park. I have had the question of a small appropriation of \$15,000 or \$20,000 for surveys of proposed lands that could be dedicated to park purposes in these regions up before me in connection with the Bureau of the Budget, and the Bureau of the Budget I think has reported that such an appropriation would be in accordance with my financial policy. That was a virtual endorsement of the appropriation to make a survey. I think that probably is what the Temple bill is.

I don't think that any intimation in relation to the Italian debt has come to this Government. If so, I haven't any knowledge about it; though, as I said about the French debt, it might have been made to the Debt Commission without my knowledge.

I expect that there will be a special session of the Senate to meet on March 4th. That seems to have been the universal practice for some time in the past and probably will be necessary this coming 4th of March. It is my present expectation.

I think that some time between now and the first of March I shall be able to finish my studies on the Tacna-Rica boundary dispute, so that about that time I shall be ready to make a decision.

I don't think it is necessary for the President periodically to address the country by radio. The newspaper reporters do very well for me in that direction. I doubt whether I could improve very much on the service that they render at present. There are certain occasions when I am making an address when it is very fine that the country can hear it, by radio, but it doesn't seem to me that there is any necessity, or that there will be any particular value, for the President to undertake any periodic addresses of that kind at fixed and certain times.

Very little came up in the Cabinet meeting today. Nothing except a few routine departmental questions.

There are several names under consideration for appointment to the Ambassadorship to Germany; not any one of them perhaps more under consideration than another.



Friday, February 6, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I have several inquiries here about General Mitchell. I don't think there is any comment that I can make about that. I haven't any explicit and definite information of any action that may be necessary to improve the service. The account of his testimony will be given very careful consideration by the War and Navy Departments. I understand that it is the policy of both the War and Navy Departments to give their officers very wide latitude in testifying before the congressional committees. Amenities are usually observed. One of them, I think, is that one branch of the service should not say anything that might be construed as criticism of another branch.

I thought the Muscle Shoals bill as I understand it - I don't know the details of it fully and accurately - fairly satisfactory. We never get any legislation that is entirely satisfactory to any one person. There naturally has to be a compromise of different ideas. There are one or two things in this bill that I should prefer to have a little different, but I am not enough acquainted with all the circumstances to know whether such a change is warranted. I think there is a provision in it for building another dam. My objection here - one of the objects, if possible, is to get the Government out of the ownership of this property so that we may not be required to make any further investment. May be we can't get out without making a further investment. I wish that we might. Another is the provision that in case the property were leased, at the expiration of the lease, if it couldn't be leased again, the Government should take over the property that might be connected with the Muscle Shoals. I wish we didn't have to put that into the bill. I can see very well that when you are going to lease property of that kind, that they would want some provision that at the end of the lease the improvements that they might have made on it would not be confiscated, that there be some method of either renewing the lease, or if somebody else took it, or the Government took it, making some compensation for their improvements. Of course that might be diminished so as to include merely that property used for the purpose of making nitrates. I don't know whether that is practical or not.

I haven't determined on any Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Fields of Oklahoma has been under consideration, but no more so than perhaps half



a dozen others.

I haven't determined on any Ambassador to Berlin. I know Ira Nelson Morris, our former Minister or Ambassador to Sweden - that is an Embassy I think. He is a very excellent man, but I had not thought of sending him to Berlin. I should like to place him somewhere.

Not much of anything at today's Cabinet meeting. The Postmaster General told me about the provisions of the Postal Pay bill and the increase in postal rates which seem to make it a fairly satisfactory bill as it stands. He thinks the revenue would amount to over \$60,000,000 - \$61,000,000 or \$62,000,000 - and it is made retroactive only until the first of January. Those, I think, are both improvements over the Senate bill.

I didn't have any information about reported frauds and irregularities in the recent Porto Rican elections. I don't think that either of the Porto Ricans who were in here this morning mentioned it. They were talking more about the economic conditions. I was more interested to see what we could do to improve them. Many of the people of Porto Rico are laborers, a low class of labor, and compensation is small, and if anything could be done to improve the economic condition of the Island is something to interest me more than past frauds in elections. So the matter of elections was not mentioned. I don't think I had heard anything about it.

I suppose the Attorney General will stay until the Court reconvenes, which I understand is the 2nd of March, though he told me this afternoon that he would like to get away for a week if he could.

I did have some talk with General Mitchell and some representative of the Curtis Publishing Company relative to some articles that he was to publish in the Saturday Evening Post. All I could tell him was that I was perfectly willing that he should proceed in any way that had the approval of his superior officers.

I don't know as I can give you any more information about what was expected of the members of the Cabinet that were appointed on the matter of oil conservation, other than what was set out in my letter at that time. It was apparent that there was at that time an overproduction of oil which I expected would result in the - if it is not too strong to say - a waste, which



would result in a shortage and that result in a greatly increased price. It was in order to prevent excesses of that kind on one side or the other that I thought we ought to do what we could in the way of conservation, so that there might be an orderly production for the actual needs of the country in such a way as to keep the market fairly well supplied and not run into a shortage of oil in the future .

There has been no further consideration about the maneuvers of the fleet in the Pacific.

I don't know about the appropriations of the Congress. It says here that they have already exceeded the Budget estimate by \$43,000,000. That is possibly true, though I didn't understand that that was the situation. Unless it has been carefully verified, I should be inclined to doubt it. It has almost always happened in the past that the Congress has been able to diminish budget estimates. But an increase of \$43,000,000 on appropriations which run up to over \$3,500,000,000 is not an excessive amount, and of course the Budget Bureau is unable to tell exactly what the requirements are. Oftentimes circumstances develop after they have made their investigations which warrant an increase in an appropriation. Sometimes circumstances develop which warrant a decrease. The great value of the Budget Bureau is the constant supervision that it has and the constant checking up and holding of the Departments up to high effort for economy and preventing a competition between the different Departments for appropriations. I don't think that is any indication that the budget program is breaking down. That is about 1% - I think my figures are about right - \$43,000,000 would be about 1% of \$4,300,000,000 . We appropriate over \$3,500,000,000.

I don't think I have any comment to make on what Senator Norris may have said in a debate.

I don't know of any specific changes that are in contemplation in our diplomatic representation in South America. I am glad of an opportunity to say that I want to keep our representation there up to a high mark, as a kind of an indication to those countries of the esteem in which they are held, and I know it is pleasing to them to send men that have already achieved something of a reputation at home. That is what I would like to do. I haven't any plans about changing the representation abroad. Changes occur from time to time as a matter of course.



I have already commented about the two members, one of them a member of the legislature of Porto Rico, and the other a lawyer there, who came in this morning.

I don't know as I can give any further information, than that which is in the press relative to the withdrawal of the American representatives from the Geneva Narcotic Conference. We received a telegram from Mr. Porter a few days ago in which he stated that it was his opinion that he wouldn't serve any useful purpose by continuing his efforts there, and he was authorized, if in his judgment it seemed best, to withdraw. There is a distinction; he wasn't directed to withdraw - he was authorized to withdraw if in his judgment it seemed the best thing to do. He was given permission to use his own judgment. I ~~know~~note by the press, and very likely information has reached the State Department in relation to that, that he has already done it.

No mention was made of General Mitchell's testimony at the Cabinet meeting.

I haven't any information about the diphtheria epidemic at Nome, other than what I have received from the Interior Department. That, I presume, is already public; that there had been 28 cases, 10 white people and 18 natives, and there have been 5 deaths, 2 white people and 3 natives. That is a serious situation and the Government is doing what it can to alleviate it.

That seems to cover the inquiries of the day.



Tuesday, February 10, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I haven't offered to keep Secretary Gore in the Cabinet. It goes without saying that I should be pleased to retain him there. I think he has given an especially good administration of the Agricultural Department, but the people of his state have chosen him to be Governor and he couldn't very well disregard that election and ask to be released if it would make necessary a new election down there, which would be one reason. But the other reason would be that the people have chosen him for Governor and he can't disregard that election and neither can I. It would hardly be right for the President to ask a man who has just been chosen Governor of a state to relinquish that office for the purpose of taking office here. You will recall that he had already been elected when I appointed him as Secretary of Agriculture.

I haven't written much of anything on my inaugural address. My idea is to have it rather short. That is the idea that I always start out on about making an address or a message to the Congress, but a great many things come up as you look over the field that you think require some comment, and it grows and grows. One method of preventing that is not to start to write it until the time is so short that you can't make it long. But I want to get this out in time to give the press the advantage of an early opportunity at it. I glanced at the first inaugural address of Grover Cleveland the other day. It only covers - well not much more than three pages of those papers of the President ~~of~~ that was printed in a book that is about that size (indicating the size). I don't believe it could have consumed in its delivery over 12 or 15 minutes. I recall reading not very long ago that President Cleveland had never been in Washington until he came here to be inaugurated President, although he had been Governor of the great state of New York. Governor McCall of Massachusetts, the second greatest state, I remember, went to the Senate and sat down there during the ceremonies, and then delivered his address without any notes. I don't think that has been the custom, I don't believe it had ever been done before, and I doubt if it has been done since. But I glanced at President Cleveland's address and ~~xx~~ it was a very short address.



Mr. President, while we are on the subject of inauguration would you mind telling us whether in the matter of the ceremonies there will be any relaxation by you?

I don't know just what you mean by relaxation. I want all the newspaper men to come. If any of you want to parade I will be glad to have you. Do you want any more relaxation?

Mr. President, I think the inaugural committee of Washington does in the sense that it wishes the parade to be somewhat more elaborate and more informal.

I think it will work out rather satisfactorily. I appreciate the compliment of people that want to come and join in a parade, but unless we set a limit to it somewhere there is almost no place to stop; it creates confusion and always more or less disappointment; and I would rather have the disappointment in relation to a short parade than to have it in other directions. I want the public to participate insofar as they can, in the inaugural. Now, as they did four years ago, they have the advantage of amplifiers, so that many thousands can hear the delivery of the message, which naturally I think is quite important, that couldn't in years gone by hear at all. That will be helpful. Some of the men in the Congress tell me that the inaugural four years ago was, on the whole, the most satisfactory that they have had. They didn't have any parade at all, but I thought it would be appropriate to have a parade, particularly of the Army and Navy and such Governors as want to come and participate in it, bringing with them their party, which I thought would be very well limited to 100 - 50 I thought at first, but the committee thought 100, so it has been put at 100. That will give the people who will assemble along the line a chance to look at the Governors of the various states and those that may come with them.

I have decided to appoint Mr. Caswell as Collector of Customs in Minn. Mr. Schall, the Senator-elect up there, presented the name of Mr. Williams, who is a very fine man, but I was already committed to Mr. Caswell, so that I want to see if I can't find some other position for Mr. Williams.



I haven't seen the bill that Mr. Borah introduced relative to the alien property, and feel a little hesitancy about commenting on the bill very much until I should see it. I share in what I understand is his desire to preserve the policy of this country in not seizing private property in case of war. That is a policy that is an advantage to this country, because our nationals have property located all over the globe. I think that is a sound policy. We have undertaken to perpetuate that policy and provide for it and emphasize it in the treaty we made with Germany, which provides that the German Government shall reimburse its nationals for the property that we hold here. It is held as security for the payment of funds that are due to our Government and especially to our private individuals, our own citizens. The difficulty about returning it is the fact that there are other people that are creditors of Germany besides ourselves. That is a very fundamental difficulty. Other nations have appropriated the property that they held. We want Germany to pay us whatever is due, some \$500,000,000 or \$600,000,000, and naturally if we took this security that we hold and turned it back and then said that Germany must pay us out of some other funds, other countries would have something to say about it. They would say, "Do you propose that we should relinquish money that ought to go to us, in order that you may turn back this property that you hold to the German people?" That is a good deal of a difficulty. They would be very loath to let us have money, which they say ought to go to them, to take the place of this alien property that we hold. Now that is not an insuperable difficulty of course, but it is a difficulty. It would have to be considered very carefully in deciding whether we could return this property that we have. Now Senator Borah knows about those things and is undoubtedly taking account of them, and there may be provisions in his bill to meet those possible objections. I haven't seen the bill and don't want to be understood as commenting on the bill. I have a great deal of confidence in any bill that Mr. Borah might present for support.

I don't think it has been demonstrated yet that the flexible tariff is unworkable. It is a new policy and one that I think may be valuable. There are some difficulties in the administration of it, but I am not convinced yet that -



in fact, I very much hope that it will turn out to be a very helpful method in determining the rates and schedules that ought to be in operation. It is especially helpful at this time, because when our tariff bill was passed foreign exchange was in a quite different place from what it is now. It is fluctuating and unstablized and very likely it would have quite an effect in determing what a schedule ought to be. It was very difficult at that time to pass a bill that would be anywhere near satisfactory, without some provision in it for flexibility. Now, we are going to have a tariff in this country for a good many years. It is about the easiest way of raising money and we ought gradually to work it into a scientific arrangement, as much so as we possibly can. I think the studies of the Tariff Commission and the opportunity to have a flexibility in the rates ought to be very helpful. I am not expecting it to have a great effect in one or two years, but over a series of years it has so much promise that I wouldn't, so far as I know now, favor discarding it right away. Now others may have additional information to what I have which might change my views. I am just giving an offhand opinion of what has been the result of my study of it and my experience with it.

I don't know that I have any mature views about the proposal to create a unified and independent Air Service. I haven't been inclined to favor it. One of the reasons is that they are putting through a reorganization bill, or are going to, and one of the first proposals there was that we should have an entirely unified Army and Navy; to put that all under one term, "National Defense" or something of that kind, with sub-heads of those who are to look after the Army and those who are to look after the Navy. This runs counter to the general policy. I think the general policy of Government administration at the present time is unification, rather than the establishment of new and independent services. Then the Air Service is a new arm of the service and has not yet been developed. We don't know what its value is. It is evidently a service that holds great promise, and I consider it as a very important adjunct of our national defense. I want to see it developed to its fullest extent. That can be done by discussion, exchange of views, and experimentation. I have noticed several suggestions that we have spent some \$400,000,000 on the air service and don't seem to have secured any very great results. I think one of the reasons is in the word I have just



used. It is still in its experimental stage. If you have had any experience at all with government experimentation you know it requires a good deal of money to carry on. My first experience came when I was in the legislature, I think I was in the Senate and was Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. The experimental station at the Agricultural College pursued a great many experiments that didn't turn out to be of any great value, other than to demonstrate that results could not be secured by that line of procedure. Now, it is the same in our Air Service. We have to make experiments with plans of different makes, patterns, engines, and everything of that kind, and oftentimes the experiment only demonstrates that if you want to secure a result you have to proceed in another direction. That costs money. So I don't think it is a real criticism that although we have spent a great deal of money we have not accomplished altogether results on the practical side.

No, I don't think the views of Mr. Hearst and Mr. Sykes, of Iowa, who came in this morning relative to the appointment of a new Secretary of Agriculture caused any delay, because I found they were in practical harmony with my own views. I am trying to get a man who especially represents agriculture and who is sympathetic with the cooperative movement. I think its the organization of Mr. (I don't know now which one it was, who is President of some producer's cooperative association) that handles a good deal of livestock - yes, Mr. Sykes. He showed that for the week ending February 6th their shipments of livestock totaled 444 cars. The highest that any other had was 255. Now that shows the development of cooperative movement. I think that is a very promising field of development for the benefit of agriculture and any Secretary of agriculture that I have I should expect to be sympathetic with that policy. Certainly he will be if he carries out my desires relative to the administration of the Department.

I haven't received any suggestion at all about Judge English of the Eastern Illinois District. I had known that there was some investigation going on, by the House Judicial Committee. Nothing came to me in any official way. My information was that it hadn't seemed to develop very much. But about that I haven't any information that you wouldn't have.



February 13, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I am expecting to release the report of the special board on the air problem (the Naval Board) the first thing next week. I found that it raised several supplementary questions that I wanted to get answered and the desire to have the answers to those questions go out with the report itself has caused the delay.

I haven't had any special talk about the rent control bill. Senator Ball spoke to me about it and thought that they could secure some legislation. He said the committee is working to perfect legislation that would be a remedy for the situation.

I think I have sent to the Congress a recommendation for an appropriation for \$50,000, through the Budget, for the repair of the roof on the White House. I don't know whether that is to be used on the roof itself. I think it is more especially to be used for making it safe from fires, enclosing wires, and so on - there are a great many pipes and wires running up in the space between the roof and the upper floor-and perhaps for strengthening the roof or something of that kind. The long time that the roof has been on has resulted in some settling of the timbers. I want to see that it is put in shape where it wont break down anywhere.

I haven't any idea whether the Department of Justice plans any further prosecution on account of the Veterans Bureau cases. It would be rather unusual if I knew about it. If they were planning any further prosecutions, I imagine they think they ought not to give it to the press until they had moved or taken some action in the courts.

I think I have signed the bill limiting the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court over the Department of Justice. That came over from the Department of Justice before lunch, I think, and I signed it just before I went to lunch. It had the recommendation of the Attorney General saying that while there were some things in the bill that he would have had different, he thought on the whole the bill was an improvement over the present situation. I recall that bill going over the desk and reading the report of the Attorney General in looking over the bill. That was either just before or just after lunch. If there had been any delay it had been due to the time it had taken to make a careful and thorough



study of it in the Department of Justice.

I don't know of anything I can say more about the return of alien property than what I said the other day. I spoke then more about the practical difficulties. Of course, when it comes to a question as to what our rights are, I suppose they are absolutely in our own hands. We have a right to return it if we wish. But the effect it might have on other nations that are interested in securing money from Germany to meet their claims, I think would be what I have indicated. I think it is entirely a domestic subject, limited of course only by the treaty that we made with Germany. Insofar as that may limit it, it is a little outside of a domestic question, but no other nation other than Germany and the United States has any legal right about it, as I understand it. I think that is set out perhaps in the last paragraph of the Paris agreement, which specifically says that it doesn't change any rights of the different signatories.

I don't know of any understandings that were reached at the Paris Conference, other than those incorporated in the published text of the agreement. Any understanding that might have been reached between the European powers I would know nothing about, and I don't know of any in relation to ourselves.

Mr. President can I revert to the German property settlement? You told us Tuesday that ~~y~~ you hadn't read the text of Senator Borah's bill. Have you read it since?

No, I haven't read it. I have talked with Senator Borah and he and I seem to be in entire accord in relation to it. He would like to see the property returned, but he doesn't feel that it is a matter that can be taken up now, and I have the same view about it. We would like to keep intact that great principle of not having private property seized during a war. We undertook to assert that principle, of course, in the treaty that was made with Germany, by the provision that the German Government was to repay the German nationals for their property that we had seized. Now conditions change. There may be some way that can be figured out by which we can return the property. Perhaps Mr. Borah can figure out some method that will seem acceptable. Perhaps I can. We haven't been able to do so at the present time, and I don't think any suitable provisions (I notice suitable provisions here is in quotation marks, referring I suppose to language



that is in the Knox-Porter resolution and which is incorporated in the Germany treaty), I don't think any suitable provisions have yet been arrived at under which we can return the German property.

I can't make any comment about deferring consideration on the nomination of Charles B. Warren until after the 4th of March. I have sent up the nomination. I want him to be confirmed. The Senate will have to be the judge of when the best time comes for consideration of the nomination. They have to get the appropriation bills through, and some other legislation. This is a matter that will be decided by the Senate alone, and they may think that for that reason they shouldn't spend any great amount of time discussing it before the 4th of March because they can decide it after the 4th and it isn't necessary to legislate before the 4th of March. What I want to make plain is that it is entirely in the hands of the Senate for such action as they may think is most feasible, taking everything into consideration, the shortness of the time, necessity for legislation, possibility of some debate, and everything of that nature.

I don't know of anything in the agreement reached in Paris that is in any way embarrassing to the administration, and I don't know of any basis for the report that Ambassador Kellogg was thinking of not taking the position of Secretary of State. I think his experience in the last year and a half in Europe gives him a knowledge of affairs over there that will be especially helpful in the present administration of the office of Secretary.

I have already spoken about the report of the Navy General Board.

I don't think I have decided upon any specific appointment for the new Chief Justice in the Philippines, to succeed the late Chief Justice. I do feel that we should continue the policy there of appointing a native Filipino. I think that several recommendations have been made and nearly all of them would seem to be satisfactory. Very likely I can make a choice there after consultation with the Secretary of War and the Department of Justice within a short time.

I haven't been advised of the recommendations to be made in the forthcoming report of the House Committee which inquired into conditions in veterans' hospitals. That wouldn't naturally come to me. The recommendations would be made - well there is a certain element that might come - the recommendations would usually



4.

be made relative to legislation and there might be recommendations relative to administration, and when they come to me I should try and have them put into effect. That is a matter that would more likely have been discussed with the head of the Veterans' Bureau, General Hines, than with me.

That covers the inquiries of the day.



Tuesday, February 17, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't know of anything that would indicate that the Russian Soviet Government might be recognized in the near future.

I haven't any public statements that I know of to make relative to the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment. My position on that was put into my speech of acceptance.

I don't know what states are expected to be invited to the World Radio Conference. I suppose that will be determined on by those in control of the conference. I don't think any determination has been made at the present time.

My inaugural address will not be ready for next Friday. I don't expect it will be ready until some time next week, probably the latter part of the week. But I am quite certain that it will be short enough so that there will not be any great difficulty in distributing it.

I didn't know that my selection of George P. Parkes to be Governor of Alaska was especially unexpected. Of course I conferred with the Secretary of Interior about it. Mr. Parkes has been in the service of the United States for quite a long time and was a resident of Alaska. It seemed to the Department and myself that it would be quite helpful if we had a resident of Alaska to be Governor of that territory. I followed there the same precedent that I found to have been established and which I followed in relation to the appointment of the Governor of Hawaii. The present Governor there is a resident of the Hawaiian Islands and I reappointed him. Governor Bone, the present Governor of Alaska is a very excellent man. He is known to you, perhaps, as a newspaperman who was in Washington, and if I wanted to choose anyone who is not a resident of Alaska, I don't know where I could get a better man than Governor Bone. We did think it would be much better policy to have a resident of the territory.

Nothing of importance came up at the Cabinet Meeting today. Two or three matters of a very trifling nature.

The report of the Aircraft Board, I think you have, or it will be given out this morning and you will get the entire report. There was some question as to when it was to be published. I think the Navy wanted it to be out in several days. It is quite voluminous and it is worthy of considerable study before



it is printed and before it may be commented on. There has gone along with it a ~~xxxx~~ statement that I am giving out as to recommendations that I am making to the Congress, on account of the recommendations that have come to me in this report, so that you will see what I am doing in response to the report that has been made to me.

I haven't chosen anyone to be Ambassador to Germany.

I have already said I can't tell when my inaugural address will be ready, but I very much think it will be ready next week.sometime.

I haven't accepted any invitations without reservation. I have had a number of invitations under contemplation, Minneapolis, and the Commander of the American Legion came in yesterday to speak to me about going to Indianapolis. I have an invitation to go to the University of Michigan. It was extended to me last year and I wasn't able to undertake it then. I thought it would look very much more easier if it was put off a year, but it is beginning to look harder and harder every day. But I do very much want to go up there, and I am very much distressed at the illness of President Burton, of Michigan University, who, as you will recall, was the man who placed my name in nomination at the National Convention. He had pneumonia that developed into other complications, which makes his illness very serious. I have got a list of invitations about a column long. I don't know as there is any use in rehearsing them. I will go whenever I can. But there are a good many difficulties. I have to take a train of people with me and one invitation always results in the issuance of a great many more. If I publish that I am going to Minneapolis, it is assumed that I can stop at every place between here and that town and go on to the stations beyond that. I would like to do those things, if I had the time and strength to do it. Necessarily my efforts in that direction have to be very much limited.

I think that covers the questions for the day.



Tuesday, February 24, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I think my inaugural address will be ready the latter part of this week.

Representative Burton came in this morning to renew an invitation to me to go to Cleveland to make a speech.

I haven't any information about any action by the Department of Justice.

I am working on the Tacna-Arica boundary question with Secretary Hughes. I don't know just when we can get around to make that final decision. The record is very long, somewhat more intricate than we thought at first when we came to examine it. Whether it will be in such condition that I can get any decision on it by the 4th of March I am not sure. I hoped that I could, but there is so much more involved than I had expected to find, that it is somewhat doubtful.

Nothing but some small departmental matters were considered at the Cabinet session. I talked with the Postmaster General of the present condition of the postal pay bill, but nothing developed there beyond what is already known. I am especially solicitous that he should keep in touch with that situation, in order that I might have information at hand as to the amount of revenue that will probably be raised by the bill that may finally come to me. I see it is proposed to put that bill into effect the first of January. That means that the increase of revenue begins the 15th of April. That means  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months that the expense is to run without any income. That will mean something like \$22,000,000 out of the taxpayers before those who use the service begin to make any contribution towards the increase in cost of maintenance.

Mr. President, have any Cabinet members ever reported progress in eliminating surplus employees. I

I don't know that any have especially. We sometimes - some Cabinet member may say that "Now in my department the situation is such that we are going to be able to discontinue the work of some employees and I wish that other departments would keep that in mind, in order to provide employment for them when they go out of service. There is a constant change of employees, some leaving one department and going to another. I suppose that the work being done on the bonus legislation will begin to diminish so that quite a number of those employees will not need to



be employed longer, and other departments have been requested to see what they can do to furnish employment for them.

There isn't anything that I can say about our European debts. As I have suggested before, I don't like constantly to talk about that. It gives the impression abroad that we are trying to coerce them, or something of that kind. It isn't helpful in our foreign relations, nor is it helpful in securing a state of mind that will result in making payments to us.

I don't know what I can do in addition to that which has already been done relative to rent legislation. I have suggested to members of the House and Senate that they make every possible effort to get some rent legislation. I understand that the prospect is not very good on account of the threat of a filibuster by certain of the opposition. The people won't have any rent legislation. That is a method that can be adopted at this point in the session to avoid a determination of the question on its merits.

I haven't any information about whether Ambassador Moore will wish to stay at Madrid or how much longer he may wish to stay.

I haven't made any indication about my decision as to how to deal with the bill increasing the salary of members of Congress. That will come to me in its regular course after it goes to the departments interested and those on whose advice I rely in financial matters of this kind.

Mr. John T. Adams is not under consideration for Ambassador to Germany.

I don't know of any action that I could take relative to the charge for rents here in the District, if there isn't any legislation. I shall take any action that it may be possible to take, if there is no legislation. I don't know of any authority under the law for any action. What I mean is that I shall use every power that I have to remedy any abuse that may arise.

I haven't any plan about taking a vacation trip after the 4th of March. The Senate will be in session and I shall have some appointments to work out which undoubtedly will keep me in Washington for some time.

There isn't anything further that I can say about the salary of members of Congress.

I don't think the President could take any action about appointing a com-



mission relative to some work that is being done at Stone Mountain, Georgia.

I am not certain about an invitation that has come to me from Princeton University. I was invited to go up there last year. I think I have been invited to go this year. But I am doubtful if I should be able to accept an invitation of that kind. If I went to any university, I had it in mind to go to the University of Michigan. Dr. Burton is gone. Whether that will make any difference in my ~~mind~~ desire to go there I haven't thought yet. Then, of course, these commencements come at the time when they are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. If I am ever go give that any attention, I have to give it this year. There will be other opportunities to be a guest of various universities.

The China Trade Act hasn't come to me yet, I am told. I made inquiries of Mr. Forster, who said the bill had not yet come here.

I was unaware of any announcement that I had any thought of sending a commission to China. If any such announcement was made it was made without any authority from me or any knowledge of it on my part. I don't recall that I had ever had any such action under consideration. Maybe someone has come in and suggested it, but I don't recall any such discussion and I don't know of any slightest reason for sending any commission there.

I haven't any information about concessions in Sangahlin for the Sinclair oil interests. No report about that has come to me about that. It is said here that such concessions have been cancelled. No report has come to me and it is very unlikely that it would come here. If it were a matter in which any American concerns were interested, it would be taken up in the State Department.

That seems to cover the inquiries.



February 27, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't know as I can make any particular comment about the rejection of the Conference agricultural bill. I don't know enough about the details of these bills to discuss the detail with any intelligence. I have been going more particularly on my confidence in people that have made recommendations and not on my particular knowledge of the recommendations that have been made. Now here we have the heads of five great farm organizations and three or four experts from our agricultural institutions that are supposed to know something about farm economics. They made some recommendations about legislation. I don't think there would be anything in those recommendations that are likely to be harmful to the farmer. Now, you don't have to study the farm question but a very short time to find out that every time there is any effort made to help the farmer the people that live off the farmer or off the distribution of his products almost always come in and resist anything being done. I don't know what the reason for that is. They seem to think that if the farmer is going to be helped that means they are going to be injured. I don't agree with that view. The better off the farmer is the better off those will be that deal with him. But there does seem to be a very determined opposition on the part of those who act as distributors, not all of them, but quite a number of them, to any assistance being rendered the farmer. And they don't come in themselves and say "I am dealing in farm produce." They reach over and get the farmer to come in and oppose it himself. Now that is a reaction that always occurs, so that we are not going to get any farm legislation without opposition, and the opposition will apparently come from the farmer when of course those with experience know very well that it originates with others. Then there are those who are determined that nothing shall be done for the farmer unless they do it. I have a good deal of sympathy with them and wish they would do more than they do. I am very glad to hand over to them the work of doing something for the farmer if they will do it, but they haven't been able to accomplish very much, and therefore I was hopeful that this farm conference recommendation would receive favorable action from the Congress. I am not entirely certain that it will not result that way now. I am told that if the Senate will pass that bill there is every indication



that the House will then accept it. That is the report that comes to me. I think you know of the general effort I have been making, and I will be very glad to assume my share of the responsibility for it. I have done all I can, and now somebody else can do their's. I shall continue my efforts to help the farmer and I shall be glad to cooperate with anyone that is desirous of working in the same direction. Now what I have said here is not in the way of criticism and fault-finding. It is merely the statement of a set of facts and conditions which exist, and which should be taken into account when we are trying to do anything about farm legislation. I don't know whether there could be any substitute for the Conference measure. There could be other kinds of legislation. I doubt very much if there could be anything that could be substituted for it that would be nearly as helpful. Something else might go part way and I am always willing to go part way with anyone that doesn't want to go so far as I think it would be well to go, and not be in the position of saying, "if you don't want to go the whole distance we wont go anywhere."

I don't believe I can make any suggestions about the approval or disapproval of bills.

There isn't anything more that I can say about Russia. I don't believe it is helpful to have me constantly make some comment about Russia. My position has been pretty clearly stated in my different messages and addresses. Conditions change. We have been hopeful all the time that conditions in Russia will change.

I can't make any comment about the illness of President Ebert of Germany, other than to express my regret. If it is proper, I think I may say that he has seemed to me to be doing the very best he could in a difficult situation and undertaking candidly to try and fulfill the obligations of his country.

I don't expect to confer either today or tomorrow with Ambassador Kellogg. He dined with us last night. Very naturally we talked about things abroad, not so much in relation to affairs directly affecting the United States as in relation to the general affairs of Europe. I was very much pleased to learn from him that he takes an optimistic attitude about conditions over there, not regarding every difficulty as settled or every problem solved at the present time, but very much pleased with the great progress that has been made, and he is very hopeful that the remaining problems can be solved by the same methods and as



3.

satisfactorily as those that have already been disposed of.

I haven't done anything about action under any present law in relation to rents here in the District, as I indicated at another conference. If legislation fails and we haven't any additional powers to those which we already have, I shall undertake to apply the present powers that are provided in the law for the remedy of any evil that may be found to exist. My reason for action here has been a little different, as you already understand, from the ordinary desire of the Executive to protect the public. That is always a reason for action. But here I had in mind not merely the protection of the public, but more particularly and primarily the protection of the employees of the U. S. Government. So many of them are rent payers in the District, and as I thought that the U. S. Government owed them a particular duty submitted that proposal to the Congress to see if the House and Senate could find a solution of it. A great deal of argument could be made that the best thing to be done would be to let the situation alone and have it taken care of by the law of supply and demand. If no legislation is passed, I hope that is correct. I was afraid it wouldn't. If you are running a manufacturing plant here and can't operate it successfully, why some other location would carry on the business and the public wouldn't suffer very much. But we can't move the business of the United States and send it anywhere, and the people that transact it have to live in this vicinity. That is one of the reasons why I planned to do whatever I might be able to do to afford them reasonable rentals, and of course having in mind those that invest in realty who are entitled to reasonable rents and a reasonable profit.

Will the President suggest to the Attorney General whether he has or find out whether he has any additional powers?

I am going to inquire about that if there is a continuation of difficulty here. Of course I shall find out from the Attorney General whether there is any legal remedy that we can apply. The Attorney General has been constantly engaged on this question. I think he has examined to see if there has been any violation of the law, but so far as I know he hadn't found any violation of the law that seemed to be clear enough and evidence sufficient to warrant any action on his part. It is possible that they might find some action that can be applied, ~~by~~ by way of injunction or something of that nature. Sometimes publicity is helpful.



March 3, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I haven't any information other than this question about the appointment of a commission of three to investigate production methods at Muscle Shoals on the resolution of Representative Madden. If such a resolution comes down, I haven't the slightest doubt that I should respond to it favorably.

Mrs. Coolidge and I will not attend the Charity Ball tomorrow night. I think we may drop in to the Opera this evening for a short time.

Mr. President, will your father accompany you?

I don't think so.

I haven't signed the bill or resolution, whichever it is, I presume it is a resolution, relative to the sesquicentennial of the signing of the declaration of independence at Philadelphia. I knew that it provided for the appointment of a commission representing the different states and so on, and I shall make those appointments right away.

I don't know when the successor of Judge McGee will be appointed. I have called that to the attention of the Department of Justice, asking them to make investigations and suggestions and look up someone that they thought would be qualified to serve. I haven't had any report from them. If the report should come in today, why I would send it up. I imagine that we won't get any report on that until the coming in of the next session of the Senate, the extra session I mean.

Mr. President, can you tell us state that appointment is in.

Mr. McGee is from Minneapolis. It is a Minnesota appointment.

I don't know yet who I shall appoint a Marshal for the Western District of Texas. I think there are two candidates there, a Major Glover of San Antonio, and a man named Scott White of El Paso. The main question there seems to be one of geographical distribution. Other portions of the state have been honored with appointments and El Paso is very anxious to have this appointment go to that town.

I don't know as I can make any particular comment about the resolution providing for American participation in the Seville Exposition at Seville, Spain. I have known a little of something about that and have favored participation of our country, if this is the Spanish Exposition that I think it is. They will have an exposition in Spain, of international character, and I was desirous that our country should participate.



I haven't any information about the funding of the French and Italian loans, other than that which has already been published and given out by Secretary Mellon.

I don't know of any marked and particular change in the foreign debt situation. I think the situation is gradually improving because of the better condition that Europe is gradually getting into, the settlement of its own affairs and the reparations question. That being out of the way, I should imagine it would give them opportunity to give a little more consideration to payment of their foreign obligations.

I shall take the oath of office tomorrow on a bible that was given to me by my grandmother. That was the family bible to which I referred the other day. Someone wrote in and wanted to furnish a bible that ~~was the same~~ George Washington had used, and I wrote thanking them and saying I had this family bible and preferred to use that. It will be opened at the first chapter of John, which happens to be the first chapter of the bible that I can recall reading. My grandfather was ill for a long time before he passed away and I used to read that chapter of the bible to him when I was a small boy not more than four or five years old.

You say your grandfather, Mr. President?

Yes. So that I thought I would open the bible at that chapter and use the bible that my grandmother gave to me.



March 6, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't any information other than this question about the dismissal of William T. Lopp, Chief of the Alaska Division of the Bureau of Education, so I am unable to give any information about it.

I haven't any plan at the present time about an extra session of the Congress. Of course you never know what may occur. I don't see anything that is likely to occur now that will call for an extra session.

I haven't decided about any judicial appointments. I am naturally awaiting the ratification of Mr. Warren as Attorney General, in order that I might have the advantage of investigation of such candidates as are proposed.

I don't know as there is anything I can say about farm legislation that hasn't already been said. The opposition that arose to the suggestions and recommendations of the agricultural conference didn't seem to come from the farmers themselves, but rather they came from those that were dealing in farm produce, which is always the case. Every time I try to do anything for the farmer, I always find a very distinct opposition from those who are dealing in farm produce and it comes from certain people that are engaged in organizing the farmer, - evidently on the theory that if the United States Government undertook to perform certain services in relation to cooperative marketing that those who are now performing services of that kind wouldn't need to be longer employed. I don't want to do anyone any injustice about that, but that seemed to be the nature of the opposition. I think that when the recommendations get down to the farmers themselves where they have a chance to look them over, to consider them and study them a little more, that a very large part of the opposition will disappear and that legislation substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the conference will probably be recorded, and I hope passed.

Mr. President, did you refer to opposition from the cooperatives themselves?

I made the statement that certain opposition came from those who were engaged in organizing the farmers. Now, I don't think that opposition will have any real foundation when those who are interested, both those who are now engaged in the cooperative movement and the farmers themselves and those who are engaged



in the marketing of farm produce all have a chance to give the proposals a little more mature consideration. I think they will very likely see that they are to the advantage of all concerned and that we will get legislation substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the conference.

I don't think any one has been determined on as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. I have mentioned that matter to Secretary Jardine, who is considering the different suggestions that have been made. Naturally I shall be guided very largely by what he might have to suggest.

I don't ~~think~~ see that I can give any encouragement about any trip to Texas in the immediate future. I want to go to Minneapolis, but I haven't given any final answer about that. That is early in June, I believe, and there are no other invitations save, I think, there are some to go up to Massachusetts for Concord and Lexington and Bunker Hill celebrations, and those I haven't been able finally to determine.

Have you determined about Michigan, Mr. President?

Not finally. I stated I think the other day that I had expected to go up there, particularly in response to the invitation of Dr. Burton, who has now passed away, and I don't know that that will make a determining difference. It does make a difference in my desire to go, naturally.

I think very likely that I shall nominate someone for Ambassador to Germany before the special session of the Senate adjourns. I want to get that post filled as soon as I can.

There were some things about the Civil Service Retirement law that I thought were good and some suggestions ~~th~~ about certain parts of it that I wasn't so much in favor of. There were certain parts of it that I was informed were very difficult, if not impossible, of administration. If there had been more time perhaps those could have been amended and some legislation in relation to Civil Service retirement enacted. I am willing to go far enough to say that I am in favor of the general proposal and some changes in the Civil Service retirement law, and perhaps some increases in the payments that would be made under such a bill.

Any specific provisions that the President has in mind?



I think especially those in relation to 4th Class Postmasters are considered to be difficult. I don't usually like to comment on magazine articles. Of course if I start in to correct all the statements that are made in the magazines and the press I should have very little time for anything else. But here is one that represents me as adverse to appointing women to any federal position higher than those held by women when I took office. I like to see the states, not exactly taking the lead, but indicating their desires in relation to having certain offices held by women before I should take very much action in that respect. I want some indication of the public sentiment of a state in relation to their desire about women holding office. We have a great many women holding office under the Federal Government. I have appointed some. I expect to appoint a great many more. I haven't any specific policy about it other than to go on appointing women as I have in the past. Very likely the time will come when I may appoint some woman to a position higher than that which is held now. I certainly never had any policy of not doing that.

Will that apply, possibly, to the Cabinet, Mr. President?

Well, I have never given that much consideration. <sup>P</sup> I never made up my mind about that. I haven't made up my mind, as I have said already, about the Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill celebrations.

I am going to look over the Tariff Commission's report on linseed oil. I expect to do that right away and come to some determination in relation to it.

I haven't any present intention of sending a message to the Senate relative to the World Court. That is already before the Senate. I have made my declaration on it times enough, so that I think every Senator knows what my position is and it is also in the party platform.

Commissioner Burgess of the Tariff Commission has indicated once or twice that he wanted to retire from that Commission at some time, but I don't understand that there is any immediate prospect. He simply indicated that he would like to retire some time.

There wasn't anything taken up at the Cabinet meeting this morning.

That seems to cover the questions of the day.



March 10, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I haven't made any decision yet about the Ambassador to Germany. Have several names under consideration, but there hasn't been any final decision about any of them.

I don't know how I can elaborate my views about party responsibility further than what I outlined in my address the other day. The only thing I didn't say there was perhaps, which might be stressed some, that it isn't any question of disciplining anybody or punishing anybody. You don't punish anyone for belonging to a separate party - not belonging to ours. I expect that if you have been to the country and asked the country to support certain principles which you hold out to the country that you represent, and the country has elected you to office, the only honorable thing to do is so to organize the administration of that government to which you have been elected as to try to insure the putting into effect of the principles that you told the country you represent. Otherwise, there wouldn't be the slightest reason when it came to organize the Congress that you should say, if the Republicans have domination there, that the Republicans should have the majority of the committees, or if the Democrats have domination, that the Democrats should have a majority, on each committee, or that the chairmanships which are important in influencing the course of committee conduct, should be held by Republicans or Democrats. It seems to me that that is the fundamental determination. Of course it isn't at all a question of any reward or punishment, simply a question of trying to put into effect what you said you were going to do when you asked the country to elect you to office.

I am not expecting to send further nominations of judges in the Department of Justice to the Senate until I have the advantage of the advice of the new Attorney General. I shall have to hold up the submission of nominations there for judicial positions and so on until the new Attorney General comes in.

We have a good many things under consideration in the foreign service. None of them are determined. If anyone is in office, why it is safe for you to assume that he is going to stay in office until further notice. I can't tell what changes are going to be made, what men are going to be retained, what men are to be taken out. The Department is going over the entire situation very carefully



Some men have resigned, some resignations are going to be accepted, and some are not. Here is an inquiry about Ambassador Moore. That is a typical case. I understand he is going to return to Spain. How long he is going to stay, I don't know. What I have said is applicable to this question as to whether I can announce any changes in foreign posts.

I think there are one or two nominations going up today for Central-American posts. As it is now 12:00 o'clock, I think very likely the press already has them or perhaps in accordance with the custom I wouldn't say anything about them. I think the practice exists to give those out when they are sent up.

Here is an inquiry about the Circuit Judges of the 8th District. Perhaps I have already covered that by saying I can't pass on those questions until I have reports from the Attorney General. I haven't any particular intention about confining to one party or the other. Generally speaking, I find Republicans if there are Republicans that seem to be qualified, though I have appointed some Democrats to the bench, and expect to continue to appoint Democrats. I don't regard it as a partisan measure entirely. I don't want to make the judiciary so much a matter of partisan politics as I might some other appointments, and I expect in the future to do as I have in the past, appoint some Democrats to the bench. So I can't give you any information about the judges in Minnesota or the 8th Circuit, as I have indicated.

I haven't heard a word about Judge English. No resignation so far as I know has reached me. I haven't been able to go through all my papers this morning on account of some appointments that I had in the meeting of the Cabinet, but I know of no resignation. It might be sent directly to me, it might be sent to the Department of Justice. But I don't have any information about it whatever. So I think I would proceed there, if I haven't any information that a person ~~has~~ has resigned, to consider it that he hasn't resigned.

I have no further information about Major Haynes, Prohibition Commissioner. He is in office, and you may consider him to stay in office until further notice.

I don't think any decision has been made about an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. The name of Mr. Creel, of Nevada, has come to my attention along with a good many names. I have referred them to the Secretary of Agriculture, and he will make up his mind on what he wants to recommend after consultation with me.



3.

I have already said I didn't decide on an Ambassador to Germany.

I don't know of any message that I might send to the Senate. Something might come up. I don't know of anything now other than the usual nomination messages. That seems to cover the inquiries.



NEWSPAPER CONFERENCE --

Friday, March 13, 1925.

I have here several questions today about the possibility of another arms conference for the limitation of naval armament. I do not know that there is anything new I can say about that. The only change that there is in the conditions -- and I appreciate that it is an important change, and may have perhaps a very deciding and favorable result so far as we are concerned in the desire of having an arms conference -- is the news item relative to the conference that had been proposed in Europe. I judge that that has been abandoned. I am not entirely certain about that. If it has been, it would leave the way open for further consideration here. Of course, there are a great many things that enter into a question of that kind. Mr. Kellogg and I have been very busy on routine matters of his Department, and I have not had a chance to discuss with him anything of this nature. We cannot sit down here in peace and decide whether something of that kind would be feasible. The method of procedure would be to send out to the different nations to see whether they would look with favor on an invitation to attend such a conference. If it was found that they would, we could then proceed. If it was found that some of them would not want to come, that might make a conference impossible; or it might be possible to leave out some and go forward with the others. But I haven't anything - as I often use the phrase - definitely in mind about it other than what I have already stated in my public addresses and statements.

I want to see a further limitation of naval armament. I would delight to see something relative to a limitation of land armament, but we have made our reduction of land armament



and we haven't anything we could offer in that respect. Several of the European nations have made their reduction, so that they have nothing to offer. And I would not want to put the United States and other nations in a position of attempting to coerce any of the nations that might have considerable land armaments into a reduction against their will, as such action would not be helpful - it would not be productive of that harmony and peaceful intercourse that we want to maintain with all other armed countries. But if it appears that the European proposal has been definitely abandoned, why then I am going to take up with Secretary Kellogg seriously the question of whether the time has come when we can take some steps.

By the way, I notice some suggestion in some paper that I had stated that some approaches had been made. I was not conscious of making any statement other than that the United States had not approached any one. I think some of the British people talked to Secretary Kellogg quite informally, not in the nature of an approach, and discussed the general situation with him shortly before he came here, and it was so stated on the floor of Parliament, but it wasn't anything in the way of formal proposals, and it did not emanate from us.

QUERY: No approaches were made by this Government?

THE PRESIDENT: What took place was exactly what was stated on the floor of Parliament - that one of the British Ministers had talked with Secretary Kellogg about it.

QUERY: No approaches were made on the part of Great Britain?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It would be rather unfortunate if some other European nations thought we had approached Great Britain and had neglected to approach them. Of course,



we would not do anything of that kind. Any approaches that we would make would be made simultaneously to all of those countries that might possibly be interested.

QUERY: Is it possible that suggestions from the United States might come very soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot give you anything more definite than what I have said. If it appears that this European proposal has been definitely abandoned, then I am going to take the matter up with Mr. Kellogg and give it serious consideration.

QUERY: Have you given any thought as to when such a conference could be held and where?

THE PRESIDENT: I would prefer to hold it in Washington. That is a mere preference on my part. It might develop that some other place might be more desirable. I think this is a desirable atmosphere for holding such a conference.

QUERY: Have you had any time in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

THE PRESIDENT (Continuing): Here is another interesting question -- I touched on this general subject slightly in my Inaugural Speech -- asking whether I will not discuss the possibility of early withdrawal of the American occupation of Haiti. Of course, we want to withdraw. We had made some plans to withdraw. We have there a few marines - sent there for the purpose of maintaining peace and order and protecting American interests, and, incidentally, perhaps more than incidental, for protecting also the Haitians. But the Government of Haiti sent a very strong request that we continue the occupation, and that we have done.

I am reminded in relation to that of the great satis-



faction I have in the Isle of Pines Treaty being ratified. That has been pending for nearly twenty-one years, and I am sure that the ratification of it would have a very decidedly good effect all over Latin America. It seems to me that it demonstrates pretty conclusively that our country wants to do right by all other countries; that it has no disposition to grab anything because it has the power to do it, but it rather shows the disposition to deal equitably, fairly, justly and honorably in general with the rights of the smaller countries, and, especially, to deal fairly with Cuba, in which we are interested, and over which we attempt to exercise a beneficent influence.

I haven't decided on a successor to Ambassador Houghton. If I could decide upon one and get the nomination confirmed at the present session I should like it very much, but it is a matter that requires a good deal of investigation of each candidate. I have not yet been able to settle finally on any one.

I have an inquiry here about Mr. Warren and his appointment as Attorney General. I chose him, as I have told you, after careful investigation and my own knowledge of him, and after an investigation made by the Department of Justice into that case that was tried in the Courts relative to the American Sugar Company and the beet sugar companies in Michigan; and it did not appear to us that there was anything there that constituted any blemish on his record. I thought that he was a man of high character, eminence at the bar, and great ability, and would make a fine Attorney General. He has given a great deal of time to public service and has been willing to accept this position at a good deal of personal sacrifice.



The sacrifice he has already made would be represented by a very large sum. I thought that he had failed of confirmation by such a narrow margin, and the vote was taken at a time when it was not possible adequately to present to the Senate his qualifications. I think the judgment to take the vote at that time was correct. Those of you who know about the Senate know that a condition will develop where you can take a vote and then if some one gets up and says two words it may be two weeks before another vote may be taken. But a great deal could have been said about Mr. Warren as to his standing and as to the high opinion that the people of Michigan hold in relation to him, and it would have to be put on record, and so, on account of this sacrifice that he has made and he having been willing to accept the office because I sought him out and solicited him, I thought I ought to give him the benefit of another nomination, and so I have done that. Now, I do not know what the attitude of the Senate will be. They will have to determine that.

I have here an ingenious suggestion that shows perhaps the difficulty of living up to what the standards of some of the Senators seem to be in relation to appointees to public office. This suggestion is that I should ask the Senate to send me a list of a dozen men - ideal men. Now, I cannot find such men, but some Senators evidently think that there are some whom I ought to present for the office: —

Irreproachable private character; proper legal standard; requisite executive ability; never in any way connected with any large corporate interest; never publicly discussed in a detrimental way.

Now, of course I have to appoint human beings to office. I want them to be honest and conscientious and desirous of performing public service, but I cannot find any men who quite come up to that standard and I doubt if there are any in existence. If I have to be held up to a standard as high as



that, I shall not be able to make any appointments.

QUERY: Is the person who submitted those qualifications suggesting any names?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He says I ought to ask the Senate for a dozen men who could meet those requirements.

QUERY: Is he humorous?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is a suggestion, so that I may put the Senate "in a hole", as they say. I suppose that is the meaning of it. Of course, that I do not care to engage in.

QUERY: Do you care to express any opinion as to whether Mr. Warren ought to have a chance of self-defense?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that his qualifications ought to be presented to the Senate and go into the record, and that is one of the reasons why I have re-submitted his name. Telegrams have come in from people in Michigan, and I think that because of his character and eminence, it would be proper to have those go in the record.

THE PRESIDENT (Continuing): I haven't thought much, if anything, about a recess appointment. I hope very much that the necessity for that will not arise. I cannot make any statement because I haven't reached any determination. I simply try to discharge my duties as President of the United States in a way that would seem to be best for the people. I haven't a private opinion about it. I presume there are a good many other good men who could be appointed, though I haven't been able to think of any one that I could appoint who seemed to possess the qualifications as well as Mr. Warren does. There may be a good many others, and undoubtedly there are. I do



not know whether he would consent to a recess appointment. It is doubtful. I haven't considered that.

I think the Senate ought to realize that I have to have about me those in whom I have confidence; and unless they find a real blemish on a man, I do not think they ought to make partisan politics out of appointments to the Cabinet. I do not object to their criticising anything I do or any nomination I may make - that is to be expected - but I do not think it ought to be made a partisan question as to whether the nomination should be rejected. Otherwise, I would be in a position where I would not be able to function -- I would not be able to fill up my Cabinet. I realize the responsibility that the Senate has. I want to discharge my responsibility with such candor as I can, and I think probably the Senate will do the same.

I expect to appoint a Muscle Shoals Commission in accordance with the resolution or order (whichever it may have been) which was sent down here from the House.

I haven't any definite plans about trips away from Washington not already disclosed.

I did express the hope to Senator Borah this morning that the Senate would act on the Lausanne Treaty before adjourning. He also hoped that it might and is going to make an investigation to see if that can be done. It may appear that it is not wise to press the Treaty at this time. It is very important to our Missionary interests. I am told that every Missionary in Turkey is in favor of the Treaty, and it is also important on account of our commercial interests; and, in connection with our diplomatic interests, it would definitely fix our relations with Turkey by means of the ratification of this Treaty.



QUERY: Have you any information as to when the Senate may adjourn?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't.

THE PRESIDENT (Continuing): I have one question here whether some cases might come up relative to the sugar interests arising out of the Federal Trade Commission's reports. I do not think any case can come up there that would involve Mr. Warren or his former interests in any way. I understood that the company in which he had been interested had informed the Federal Trade Commission that they were perfectly willing that any order that the Commission might want to make should be made, and that there was nothing in which they had any interest.

I haven't decided yet about what I can do about filling the vacancy on the Interstate Commerce Commission.

I haven't had any report from the Department of Justice about any frauds in the distribution of Federal patronage in South Carolina and Georgia. I have seen that there were items in the papers about an investigation, which would not ordinarily come to me.

I am planning to carry out the order - I guess it was an Act of Congress - relative to the International Trades Exposition, to be held in New Orleans in September, and papers are being prepared in the State Department, I am told by Senator Ransdell, for my execution or signature relative to that. There is one which provides that I am to authorize some one to go about the United States, and I think there are others for inviting foreign countries.

I have never heard anything about the complaints in Boston as to the shipment of liquors into that territory from



Maryland and Pennsylvania. There may be some things like that but they have not come to my attention.

Here is an inquiry about the vacancy on the International Joint Commission having to do with the boundary between the United States and Canada, and an inquiry about the action which that Commission might take relative to the pollution of waters. It was my impression that the Commission did not act in cases of that kind. It is a Commission on the boundary rather than on waterways, and I think some one mentioned that to me not longer ago than yesterday when I made some inquiry. I do not think it is necessary for any treaty to be made for the International Commission to take any necessary steps relative to the stoppage of pollution, but about that I haven't any definite information. I do not know that they have any power. I think that we have ratified, or are about to ratify a boundary treaty between this country and Canada in a day or two. There are two eminent men on that Commission, both of them former Senators, - former Senator Clarke and former Senator DuBois, - who are able to take care of any interest that may arise under it; and while I expect to appoint a third member I haven't yet decided who ought to be appointed.

-----



NEWSPAPER CONFERENCE -- Tuesday, March 17, 1925.

I haven't reached any final decision about the Attorney General. I have several inquiries here. Senator Curtis and Senator Robinson are coming down as a committee to wait on the President - I suppose to inquire whether there is any more business to submit to the Senate, and if not, what arrangements can be made for adjournment. I want to talk with them about this situation. I do not think, from my talks with Mr. Warren, I am convinced that he does not desire to take a recess appointment. He would take one if I insisted on it, but that is not his desire.

At this point there was quite noticeable commotion and the President said:

Well, now, if the members of the conference do not care to stay and hear what I have to say, I do not know whether I want to continue the conference. That is hardly courteous to the President, to come in and immediately when I make a statement, rush out.

A member of the conference stated to the President that he did not think any discourtesy was intended, and the President continued:

I think it is due to me when I make a statement that they (the members of the conference) wait to see what the statement is before they rush out. I am not imputing anything. I am conscious of the great courtesy of the members of the conference to me always. So I say no final decision has been made. I want to confer with the two Senators who are coming down and see what plans can be worked out. I do not think Mr. Warren wants to take a recess appointment. Perhaps he would take one if I -- I do not know just how to phrase it -- insisted that he perform this additional public service. He has already responded very generously to our request. I do not know what to do about trying to get another appointee. I hesitate a good deal to subject any one I might appoint to any such ordeal as confronted Mr. Warren. I



do not know whether I can get other men who are willing to put themselves to such a hazard or not. I think perhaps I can, but, nevertheless, if they are willing to do it I hesitate to subject them to anything of this kind. So I will have to talk with the two Senators and see what I can find out about the situation.

QUERY: When are they coming?

THE PRESIDENT: They just sent down word - left word yesterday - that they would want to confer with me this morning immediately on the convening of the Senate. They will be down very soon.

THE PRESIDENT (Continuing): I haven't seen anything about calling a world currency conference except an item in the newspapers, and I do not know enough about that subject to make any intelligent discussion of it. Senator Oddie thought the remarks about the plan, whatever it was, attributed to him in the newspapers had not emanated from him. That is not the question. The question is whether the plan was good, but I haven't taken up that at all and haven't any present plan about it. It is very natural that I would like to do anything I could that would be of benefit in the way of stabilizing the world's currency or anything of that kind, but I do not know of any action that is thought of at the present time.

A member of the conference stated that the newspaper articles were based on Senator Oddie's letter to the Gold and Silver Inquiry Commission which investigated the international currency situation.

THE PRESIDENT (Continuing): Well, that may be so. I know he has been very much interested in that kind of work, and I have here (picking up the book) this volume of "European Currency and Finance" that has been prepared by the Commission of Gold and Silver Inquiry, of which Senator Oddie is the Chairman. I suppose what he meant was that he had not intended to make any newspaper statement about it. I did not understand that he thought that his position had been misinterpreted.

I have already spoken about the situation in relation to Mr. Warren.



I do not think the Government has done anything relative to the St. Paul Railroad. I do not know that it has been presented other than the effort that was made for legislation. You will recall a bill was presented to Congress asking that authority be given to the Treasury to reduce the rate of interest, and the bill did not pass. I think it was not reported out of committee. A great effort was made to do that. So while this road owes the United States Government some forty or fifty million dollars on obligations bearing six per cent interest -- which are secured, and I think the security is fairly good -- the Government is very much interested in assisting this enterprise or any other enterprise it can. We did not get any legislation that would enable us to reduce the rate of interest. So I do not know of any other application that has been made to the Government for the purpose of relieving this road. I do not know of any possibility of any relief from the debt that the railroad owes to the Government. I do not know that this question is made in that light. I suppose relief is meant in the reduction of the interest or something of that nature. An attempt was made to get authority to grant relief from six percent down to four and a half per cent. That was not successful.

I am working on the report of the Tariff Commission on the rates on linseed oil. It is very difficult to get information on the part of the Commission that will give them an exact standard on which to make a report. Quite naturally the linseed oil people abroad are not anxious to have our rates high, and such information as is secured from that source is very likely to be that that would point to the lowering of the rates, and any information that might exist abroad that might tend to keep the rates where they are, or raise them, would not be secured. I think they secured information from only one or two producers abroad. That is just an example of some of the difficulties in arriving at a final decision on my part. The whole report is full of difficulties of that kind. The Tariff Commission made the best efforts it could make. I think they furnished me with a report on which I can base a decision.



Nothing further has been done about the sugar tariff.

I do not think any reports are coming to me from the Civil Service Commission about personnel. I do not recall any. I do not know of any considerable reductions that are likely to be made in the Government working force. I did speak the other day at a conference of a reduction that would naturally be made in that force that is carrying on the work of administering the bonus - because that is a temporary piece of work - and the effort that was made by the different departments to employ those who are losing their positions there rather than to seek those who are trying to come in from the outside.

I haven't had any reply from Mr. Carter as to any charges that have been made against him. I do not know that I had sent him any communication that called for a reply. It may be that some letter has come here to the office and in the usual course of business been referred to him -- perhaps by my notation on it or in the usual course in the outside office -- but I do not recall anything of that kind. I do recall that some paper came over suggesting that the law had not been carefully complied with in making some discharges in the Public Printing Office and that communication I sent to the Department of Justice. I imagine that they will be able to give me a report on that very soon.

I do not think I will be able to appoint a District Judge for the Western District of Michigan before the Senate adjourns because they do not yet seem to be agreed up there on those sources of information that would naturally be my avenue of approach as to what nomination ought to be made. When there is a vacancy in a place for Judge or something of that kind a lot of suggestions come in which on investigation usually finally taper down some, and that process has not gone on very much in the matter of the Michigan Judgeship. So I do not believe that I am going to get sufficient information before the adjournment of the Senate as to what ought to be done up there in order to make any decision.



I do not think there is anything further that I can say about any possible conference for a limitation of armament. That is a matter that is quite unformulated. While I have mentioned it casually to the Secretary of State, yet he has been so busy, during these first few days of his holding that office, about the routine and trying to get some foreign appointments ready, that we haven't had an opportunity to take that up.

I think that covers the inquiries of today.

-----



NEWSPAPER CONFERENCE

Friday, March 20, 1925.

THE PRESIDENT:

I do not know of any foundation for any suggestion that Chairman O'Connor of the Shipping Board is not to remain. I hope he will. I think he is in entire sympathy with, what might be called, my shipping policies, or rather in the way I am trying to have the Shipping Board business conducted.

There has been some suggestion that I might go to Swampscott for a vacation this summer, but nothing definite has been arranged about it. I haven't the slightest idea whether I shall go up there or not. I would like to get up to New England somewhere. I suppose a number of you boys would like to go up to Plymouth again, but the conveniences there are not very good for any extended stay. Of course, it depends more or less on the weather here. If it begins to grow very hot early in the season I should have more of a desire to get away for an extended stay. If it should continue cool as it did last year through June and July, I would not mind very much staying here in the White House. I know it isn't a good idea to stay here during the entire summer. It would be much better to get away into a little higher altitude and into a cooler climate.

I do not know as I can make any comment on the reports that France regards a security pact as a necessary preliminary to a conference on limitation of armaments.

Mr. MacMurray is in the State Department and I think he is in charge of Eastern Affairs. He is our expert on Eastern affairs, that is, China and Japan, and eminently qualified to be Minister to China, and his name has been under consideration.



I have not yet made any decision about it, and I am sure that the Secretary of State has not made any decision about any recommendation. Mr. MacMurray's name is not under consideration any more than several other names.

I noticed the headline about the Federal Grand Jury at Philadelphia that is investigating liquor conditions. I did not read the article to see what their recommendations were. The thing that did strike me though in the headline was that they had not made any indictments or found any indictments. The Grand Jury is a body that under our law frequently comes together to consider questions affecting the enforcement of laws, and it is not infrequent that they make reports other than merely to find or report indictments. Often times quite important procedures have been brought about as a result of a report by a Grand Jury. Now, one of the suggestions that, it is said here, was made was that prohibition agents and employees should be placed under civil service. That is my opinion, and I have made two recommendations at least to Congress suggesting that a law be passed for that purpose. None has yet been passed. I think that such a law might be helpful. Now, the other suggestion is that the administration of the enforcement law be placed in the Department of Justice. Well, now, I am not quite so certain about that. When I first considered the matter I was rather inclined to think that that would be helpful, but on further study and talking with Major Haynes I did not feel quite so certain that that would be. Of course, a great deal of the enforcement of the law -- I am now talking about the United States enforcement -- is in the Department of Justice. They bring suits there on which many, many millions of dollars of fines have been collected, and many years of prison sentences have been imposed. But the administration of the law is connect-



ed in a way also with our revenues, and some of that work that necessarily goes on is in the Treasury Department. So there is some foundation for keeping it there. I think it was thought at the time that it would tend more to help keep an administration that had a single motive than it would be to put it into the Department of Justice. I have heard also that it was a question of personalities. Somebody thought one person in the Department of Justice was not so favorable to the enforcement of law as some person in the Department of the Treasury. Now, in addition to that it seems to me there should have been another finding to the effect that the United States Government is not equipped in and of itself to secure ~~adequate~~ an adequate enforcement of the prohibition law. The Constitutional amendment did not contemplate that it should be, but, rather, contemplated that the enforcement would go on by the local authorities under national prohibition, exactly as it had gone on in the enforcement of laws relative to the sale of intoxicating liquors before the national prohibition law had been passed, with the addition that the United States Government also had authority to engage in the enforcement. I think it is quite apparent that unless they - the municipal authorities - I mean city and town and state - cooperate thoroughly and heartily in the enforcement of the prohibitory law, that enforcement is not nearly so good. The United States Government can do a great deal. It ought to supervise the main sources, it ought to do everything it can, (and nobody else can do it), to prevent smuggling. And it ought to look after the withdrawal of liquor from storage. But when you come down to the small sales in the localities, that, of course, is preeminently the work for the local policeman, and unless the local policeman functions in that respect, it is very difficult to get an adequate enforce-



ment unless the United States Government wants to duplicate the police force of the country - which, of course, is hardly to be thought of.

I have not decided what to do about the appointment of a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. I sympathize very greatly with those people who would like to have an appointment made in the South, and I offered the appointment to the only man I could find down in the south-eastern part of the country who seemed to be qualified for this particular place, which is a technical place, - not a question of rate-making so much as it is of understanding the intricacies of railroad finance. There are a good many men in the South who could undertake the work of rate-making, but I did not find any one in the South-east except the man in South Carolina, who is familiar with the requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and that man was in the receipt of a considerable income from his private efforts and did not now want to enter the public service.

No decision has been made as to who will be the Minister to China. And I have not determined on all of the personnel of the Muscle Shoals Commission. I am looking up two or three engineers.

I do not know that there is anything I can say about the Tacna-Arica decision that is not better said in the decision itself. The decision must carry its own conviction. It is a decision that has been made for the purpose of settling a long-standing dispute.

I do not know that any memorial has come to me from the "Friends of the Magyar Republic" relative to the case of Count Karolyi. There may be one on my desk that may have come from the



outside office. There is no comment that I could make. The decision of the United States was explicitly set out in a letter that was prepared and sent to the Committee on Foreign Relations while Mr. Hughes was Secretary of State.

I do not know that there is anything I can say about the transfer of the Patent Office to the Department of Commerce other than that that seemed to be the more natural place for it. It is distinctly a commercial enterprise. It does not naturally fall in with the work of the Department of the Interior, though it went there because it was set out long before there was a Department of Commerce. I do not know of any other changes that are contemplated. I do not think that there is any foundation for a suggestion that the Bureau of Mines should be transferred, or that the Pension Office might be placed under the Veterans' Bureau. I do not know of any economies that would be effected by changes of that kind or of any betterment in the public service, though I have to modify that with the statement that I have not given it careful and minute thought and have not considered any suggestion that an investigation of the question be made.

I am pleased to see this report that the Washington Real Estate Board is setting ~~itself~~ up within itself some kind of machinery to deal with the rent questions. I think that is an eminently fitting thing for it to do and will provide a method by which complaints can be made and investigations made and suggestions, even though they be but voluntary for remedying evils, that would be helpful.

I do not know of anything I can say about the complaint of the employees of the Government Printing Office. I understood there were some removals there because the Government is not doing as much printing as it formerly did and there was not work for all those who were employed there at the present time.



I haven't chosen any successor to the Alien Property Custodian. I have several names under consideration. A Mr. Wilson over there, and a Judge Abbott over there, have been suggested to me, and several others, whose names I do not know recall, on the outside of the department.

In relation to the Government Printing Office, I have indicated my desire to investigate any alleged violation of the laws in the discharge of any employees, and to remedy any such violations if ~~there were~~ found to have any existence in fact.

-----



March 24, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I think I can appoint the Commission on Muscle Shoals very soon. I have to look up some engineers and take a little time to do that, and find out whether they will be willing to serve. I think that work is practically completed. I think the Commission will be made up of five or six individuals, and I expect that some of its members will be persons connected with the administration, perhaps some of the members of the Cabinet. That isn't entirely decided yet, but that is what I have as a hypothesis that I am trying to work out.

Now this - I have two or three inquiries here about resignations. That rumor didn't originate in my office and you can get the best information by direct inquiry of persons affected. If they have any such intention, it hasn't been revealed to me. As I have already suggested, I think you will be most likely to be correct if you consider that the affairs as they are are going to remain as they are, though I know that that would reduce the news value and the interest of your readers, perhaps, in what you might report.

Not anything special came up this morning in the Cabinet meeting. I made some inquiries about the general business situation. Secretary Davis says there is some unemployment, apparently about the normal amount. What he is especially gratified at is the apparent inclination on the part of employers and employees to agree on wage scales whenever present contracts expire and to go on on substantially the present basis, and those agreements are being made without a great deal of difficulty. Mr. Mellon reports that insofar as he can observe there is a very general and healthy condition of good business. Those industries that are supposed to be barometers or indicators of what the general business condition is throughout the country all seem to indicate that it is fairly good. There has been some speculation in securities that seems to have been somewhat overdone that has caused a reaction in speculation, but it hasn't seemed to have any result in diminishing the general business activity.

I have got on my desk the invitation to attend the Commencement exercises at the University of Michigan. I think I already indicated that I was going up there more or less on account of Dr. Burton, who has passed away, and that will



2.

make some difference in my desire to go, so the matter is undecided.

I don't think I have made any appointments yet on the Commission to represent the United States in the Exposition at Seville, Spain. I want to get that cleaned up and all these appointments that are required by acts and resolves of the recent Congress out of the way as soon as I can.

I haven't reached any decision about the member of the Boundary Commission in the Tacna-Arica case. I am looking for a competent engineer. I understand that what you have in mind in this question is the member of the Commission that is to run the boundary line. General Pershing has been designated to be the person who is to take the plebescite. The engineer that is to run the boundary commission hasn't yet been selected.

No decision has been made about diplomatic posts, other than those which have already been announced. I am going to take that up with the Secretary of State right away.

I am waiting until Secretary Weeks gets back before making a final decision about the Lexington-Concord celebration. The Vice President has arranged to go up and Secretary Weeks represents me, so I am not certain whether I shall go or not. I should think I would be present either at that celebration or the Bunker Hill celebration in June, though there is a celebration on the 3rd of July in Cambridge, celebrating the anniversary of the date of taking command of the Continental Armies by General Washington that is equally important.

I am uncertain about the resignation of Minister Washburn, at Vienna. Whether he is expecting to retire or not, I don't know.

I think that the two Senators from Indiana suggested the name of Harry Bassett as a member of the United States Employees Compensation Commission. I am not certain about that name, but I think that was the name they suggested. The matter is under consideration.

No final decision has been made in relation to Merrill Otis, of St. Joseph, Mo., to fill the vacancy that will occur when Judge Van Valkenberg will go to the Circuit bench. He has been recommended to me by Senator Spencer and Dr. Clement, who is the National Committeeman from Missouri. I think Senator Spencer has also indicated that he will be agreeable to the appointment of some other man in



Missouri, but I rather expect that Mr. Otis will be appointed. He is here now in the Dept. of Justice and has been at work for some time. He has had a notable legal career in Missouri and served, I think, as Chairman of the Public Service Commission out there.

I haven't decided yet about giving Mr. Woodlock a recess appointment. I am expecting to get in contact with him to see whether he will be willing to accept a recess appointment.

I can't give you any further information about the linseed oil tariff, other than to say that it is being investigated.

No decision has been made about a successor to Colonel Miller. He will remain as the Alien Property Custodian until his successor is appointed and qualified, under the arrangement that was in existence the other time when he was away. Director Abbott and General Counsel, Judge Wilson, have my authority to act in his absence.

I don't know whether it is going to be necessary for General Pershing to be relieved as Chairman of the Battle Monuments Commission because of his going to South America. I didn't imagine that it would be necessary. My inclination would be to do whatever he wished to have done. He said nothing about that and as I don't see any conflict in the two positions I should expect that he would stay on as Chairman.

I haven't had any conference with Secretary Kellogg, either on the Mayflower or anywhere else, relative to a further Arms Conference except the general suggestion that he look into the question and see what would remain to be done to carry out some plans that were proposed at the last conference, and whether it would seem feasible to make suggestions to foreign countries as to whether they would desire to entertain any suggestions about it at this time. So all that is doing in relation to the Arms Conference, or a proposal for one, is being done in the office of the Secretary of State to check up and see what there is.

I haven't any information other than this question about what change Mr. Owen J. Roberts, who is one of the counsel prosecuting the Teapot Dome case, has made in relation to Admiral Robison. Quite naturally I was waiting to see what might happen there before recommending the Admiral for further promotion. I



4.

don't want that understood as any reflection on him whatever. It is merely a neutral position, waiting to see if anything developed that would in any way interfere.

That seems to cover the questions this morning.



March 27, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

The members of the Muscle Shoals Commission will be paid a compensation for their services. I don't know that I have designated any Chairman. I rather took it for granted that the first man on the list, Ex-Representative McKenzie, would act as Chairman. It isn't technically a Commission. Undoubtedly it will be referred to as such, and perhaps that is the easiest way to designate it. In my letter of notice - of appointment - I advised the men that I asked to serve that they would be associated, if you want to call it that, or advised by the Secretary of War, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce. I don't know when they will hold their first meeting. I suppose very soon.

I don't expect to make any landings on this trip that I am about to take on the Mayflower. I think Senator and Mrs. Gillett are going with me, Mr. and Mrs. Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Hert, and our own family.

I haven't made any decision about the new Minister to China. There are several names under consideration. One of them is Mr. MacMurray of the Dept. My hesitation about him is to decide whether he would be of more value here in Washington serving in the Department, or of more value in China. He is an expert on Eastern affairs in the State Department - not the only one, but he is regarded as the chief expert.

I don't know that any particular action has been taken on the part of the Government relative to receivership for the St. Paul Railroad. The matter was considered prior to the receivership by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce. There didn't seem to be anything that could be done about it. Such action will be taken as to protect any interest that the Government may have. The Government is one of the large creditors, though I believe its loan is secured.

There is nothing that I can say further about another arms limitation. Senator Borah and I spoke of it somewhat incidentally. It is a matter that he has been interested in. I think you may recall that it was he who proposed, and I think the proposal was adopted, putting a suggestion into the Navy Appropriation bill in the spring of 1921, a suggestion for the calling of a conference. I think



each Naval Appropriation bill since that has carried a suggestion of that kind. There is one in the present bill - the principle of having an arms conference, for an agreement between nations for the reduction of armaments.

Now, I haven't any plan to leave Washington about June 17th. I doubt very much if Mrs. Stearns said anything of the kind. I haven't made any arrangements in relation to that.

I don't know of any plan to consider any tariff bill at the next session of the Congress.

There isn't anything further that I can say about prohibition enforcement. I am making every effort to enforce the law and am going to continue to.

I expect to be back on the Mayflower Monday morning, possibly Sunday night, probably Monday morning.

McKenzie Moss has been mentioned as a possible appointee for Alien Property Custodian. I think Mr. Wilson in the office over there has been mentioned. Judge Abbott who also is in that office has been mentioned - perhaps half a dozen others. I haven't made any decision about it yet.

I haven't any information about the Government Printing Office matter. I indicated the other day that I had a communication suggesting that there had been some technical violation of the law relative to the discharge of some veterans. That will be investigated and if any persons have been discharged that there has been any error about, they will be reinstated. I assume that goes without saying.

The Fine Arts Commission had an interesting suggestion this morning that they made to me relative to medals. We have a man in the Department who makes the models for medals in connection with his work relative to the models that he makes, I suppose for our coins. The Fine Arts Commission suggested that it would be worth while to get some of the best talent in the country to make models for important medals. There is always a medal made showing the face of the President. They said that those medals went into collections abroad where a good deal of work is done on the making of medals, and a good deal made of it, and unless we get the very best talent we had in this country for that purpose, the comparison between our medals in foreign collections and those that represented foreign governments,



3.

those medals that represent foreign governments, the comparison wouldn't be very favorable. I don't know just what can be done about that.

Mr. President, did they mean that there should be competition?

Well, they didn't suggest that, but suggested that for these more important medals perhaps we could get someone outside the mint to make the models. I think perhaps that can be done.

That seems to cover the questions of the day.



Tuesday, March 31, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't any official information relative to the attitude of the French Government towards an Arms Conference. I don't know that any has been received at the State Department.

I have suggested to the War Department that it go ahead in relation to the drills of the National Guard and hold such drills as are required by law. I understand that that will be done and that it will be satisfactory to those who have talked with me about the matter, who represent the National Guard association.

Mr. President, can you tell approximately how much that would cost?

No, I can't tell how much that would cost or whether they can make any saving or not. They ought to hold whatever drills the law requires them to hold. If they can save anything, I would like to have that done.

No choice of a District Judge has been made in New Jersey on account of the probable declination of Mr. McCarthy.

I understand that the War Department has made a lease of some property in Newark, which was taken for war purposes, to private parties, so that I think that disposes of the request that it be turned over to the Shipping Board, for the present.

I don't know of any communication that has come either to me or to the State Department from Peru, relative to the Tacna-Arica award.

I think that Minister Brentano, in Budapesth, has sent in his resignation. I think it came in with others about the first of March. I don't know whether it will be accepted or not, though it lay in my mind that that was one of the resignations that would be accepted as he wanted to retire. His resignation was something more than a formal resignation.

There isn't anything I can say about the investigation by the Federal Grand Jury in Philadelphia. I think that it has been submitted to the Treasury Department. I hope it will be helpful to them in their efforts to enforce the prohibitory laws.

No decision has been made, so far as I know, about leasing the power at Muscle Shoals. My attitude toward it would probably be to advise with the Commission - though it isn't technically that - which I have appointed, to consider that whole question and see whether in their opinion the leasing of the



power there might in any way interfere with the final disposition. My policy would be to lease the power there we can and secure any possible income from leasing the power, unless such lease might interfere with a probable final disposition of the property and so cause us more loss than we would secure from the leasing of power.

I don't think it is going to be possible for me to attend the 150th anniversary of the battles of Concord and Lexington.

No final report from the Department of Justice on the alleged violation of the law by the Public Printer has been received. I think that is in process of correspondence between the Dept. and my office and the Public Printer, in order to ascertain accurately the facts involved. My desire, and no doubt the desire of the Public Printer, would be to observe very carefully the law, and if there has been any mistake about the law to rectify it.

I have heard very little, if anything, about a Personnel Manager for the federal service. I have seen some newspaper discussion about it, but I think that other than that it has not been taken up with me.

I haven't received any report from the Secretary of Agriculture in relation to grain speculation. I shouldn't expect to receive any about it. The law that was passed two or three years ago relative to dealing in grain futures is the one I assume under which the Secretary of Agriculture acts. I don't know that his acts at the present have been any different from those in the past, but on account of the fluctuations in the price of grain having been called more particularly to public attention he has authority there, and under the law is directed, as I understand it, to secure reports constantly as to dealings in grain, in order that he may be informed of any condition that arises that would be harmful to the public interest and take such action as is necessary to protect the public interest. I don't understand that that means it is the business of the Government to protect grain speculators, but to protect the public from the grain speculators or others that would be detrimental to the public interest. I think the law was passed with a special desire to protect the producers of grain from having prices artificially influenced, against the interests of the grain raisers.

The Department of Justice has under consideration and investigation several suggestions for places on the bench to succeed Judge Bledsoe, in



southern California, and Judge Ross, of Oregon, who is on the Circuit Bench.

No final decision has been made about that.

I don't know of any proposal to take any action in relation to Russia at the present time.

I don't think it would be quite correct, perhaps it would be rather strong, to say the President was disturbed over the extent of private loan commitments in foreign countries. That is pretty much a matter of private determination and control. The United States Government does very little in relation to loans that are made abroad. The same as in everything else, the President might have an opinion about it. My opinion is, as I have constantly said in addresses and so on, that I thought perhaps our country might do what it could legitimately to help make loans for reproductive purposes. I don't know that there has been any overextension in that respect. Of course there are two classes of loans, loans that are made to foreign governments by private individuals, and loans that are made to private individuals. I don't think that loans that are made to private individuals hardly ever come to the attention of the Government. I am not certain about that, but I think it is not usual. When loans are made to a foreign government, well then it is usual to inquire of the Government whether it has any objection and it would be very seldom that the Government would have any objection. I think that several times the formula under which we have been trying to proceed has been stated, and that is as I have indicated just now - that we want loans made for the rehabilitation of foreign countries and look with approval on loans made for the rehabilitation of Europe for stabilizing their currency and for reproductive purposes, but that we wouldn't look with favor on loans that might be made for military purposes, maintaining large armaments, and matters of that kind. I am not familiar offhand with the extent of loans which already have been made, and of course it would be necessary to differentiate between foreign countries. There are some foreign countries where, if they wanted a loan, we could say right away there wouldn't be any objection to making them a loan, and some foreign countries that anything in the way of a loan would at once put our Government on inquiry.

That seems to cover the inquiries of the morning.



April 3, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't know of any development relative to former employees of the Government Printing Office that have been laid off.

I have very little direct information about the arrests that have been made in the Internal Revenue Bureau of those who have been charged with improperly attempting to influence the making of taxes, or assessment of taxes. It is of course exceedingly important that the public have confidence in that Bureau and it is very desirable that if there has been any misconduct there that it be found out, punished and prevented in the future. I wish you would be a little careful about my comments about the punishment. I don't want to assume that because certain persons are charged with crime that they are guilty. It would hardly be fair so to judge them until they are declared guilty by competent court jurists. So I don't want to appear as saying someone is guilty. It says here that 14 arrests have been made, which indicates that the Bureau is taking very vigilant action to correct any misconduct that has existed there.

I have appointed Senator Ball to the District Rent Commission, because he was Chairman of the District Committee in the Senate, and his knowledge of the situation especially qualifies him to undertake that public service. The Commission goes out of existence in 6 or 8 weeks, I think the latter part of May, the 22nd, and quite naturally it would be useless to put a man on there that didn't have an intimate knowledge of the situation already. He wouldn't have a chance to learn the requirements of the place. So I have asked Senator Ball to undertake this purely as a matter of public service on his part. He has been most helpful as Chairman of that Committee in the Senate, and I am hopeful that he will be willing to carry on this work until the Commission goes out of existence. Of course it wasn't a place that he sought, but the place sought him. I very much hope he will be willing to hold that place and do whatever may be necessary there. Mr. Whaley resigned.

There isn't anything that I can say about an Arms Conference or foreign debts.



I haven't received yet the note of Peru in the Tacna-Arica case. The Secretary of State told me that it had been delivered to him and was being studied by our experts to see what, if any, reply ought to be made. This isn't a matter really that affects the United States Government. ~~It~~ There was an agreement between Chile and Peru that the President should arbitrate the differences that had existed there for some 40 years, and while that agreement was made in the lifetime of President Harding it became incumbent upon me to take it up and carry it on, which I did, so that these notes here are not notes to the United States Government, but notes to me. I don't understand that this note is signed by the Peruvian Government, but signed by one of their representatives that had acted for them in the Tacna-Arica case. As I don't know the contents of the note intimately and accurately, I can't comment on it at all, other than to say that it is being considered by our experts and whatever reply it is necessary to make will be made. I should assume that if anyone took the note and then took the findings of the arbitration, that they would find most of the answers to the note set forth in great detail in the arbitration itself. I don't know that that is so, but I rather imagine it will be. This is a case where we have to exercise patience. The Peruvians are naturally solicitous about the possibility of losing some territory that they regard as part of their own, and I want them to feel that the arbitration will be carried out carefully and as accurately as possible, of course in very good faith, and all of their rights will be scrupulously observed and protected in accordance with the decision, the plan and the stipulations made in the article of award.

I don't know much of anything about the sale of vessels by the Shipping Board. I knew that there had been bids submitted, but as the law specifically makes the Shipping Board responsible for the decisions I never have given it personal consideration. I have made no study of it. I knew that there were bids and in a general way what the bids were. I think perhaps it is fair to assume that the Board has tried to do the right thing, until the contrary is shown.

I learned this morning that Secretary Weeks had been ill, but I am very much gratified to say that the report was that he is very much better this morning, so that I think in the course of a few days he will be about again and able to do his usual work.



No final decision has been reached, I think, about the Minister to China, though it is the expectation of myself and the Secretary of State that Mr. MacMurray will be named for that post. It is a place requiring training and technical skill at this time. Mr. MacMurray is our expert in that field and is especially qualified, we think, to hold that place.

Dr. Culbertson has not been offered the post at Madrid. I think the boys are advertising that post a little too much, and we are getting too many applications about it. As Mr. Moore is still there and likely to stay for the present, I can't gratify anybody about it at the present time. I don't know when Mr. Moore is likely to retire. He has been there now two years or so and will retire some time, but that is in the future.

I am not expecting to take any week end trip on the Mayflower.

I do expect to go up to Minnesota in June to attend the centennial of the settlement over here of the Norwegians. Of course I can't be entirely sure about that.

Mr. President, will there be any stops made?

No ---- no ----- no.

I don't understand that Assistant Secretary Andrews' coming into the Treasury Dept. at all changes the policy in relation to prohibition enforcement. He will act as the special representative, as I understand it, of Secretary Mellon, and be a liaison officer between Secretary Mellon and Major Haynes to do whatever is necessary and make prohibition enforcement as effective as possible. I suppose that simply means that he goes in to help Sec. Mellon in his relations with Major Haynes, instead of Mr. Mellon undertaking to perform all the contacts personally with Major Haynes. Mr. Andrews will take that work up.

There was no discussion in the Cabinet meeting this morning, - a very short meeting and nothing of importance came up.

That seems to cover the questions.



Tuesday, April 7, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I didn't have any ulterior motive in my remarks of a week ago in relation to loans to foreign governments. I don't think any inferences ought to be drawn from it. I thought they were clear enough and plain enough - simply a restatement of the policy of our Government and, I think, of our banking concerns here. I don't believe it is helpful for me to have a constant discussion on my part of our foreign debts. So I rather avoid talking about it. There are questions that come in constantly about it. That is perhaps natural. I don't think constant comment about it on my part is helpful to the situation. I am going to try to avoid comment about it, unless there is some specific thing that I can report or some specific action that is contemplated.

I don't think I can talk about the report that was in the Washington Post this morning, relative to the Russo-Japanese treaty, other than to say that I didn't understand that the situation was such as was reported in the article. I didn't read the article carefully. I noticed the headlines and a little of it. I didn't understand that the situation was as is set out, but I haven't any definite information about it. I thought that reports that were made heretofore, or which I did think were correct, were at variance with the statement that was made there.

I don't think I can make any definite announcement as to my summer plans. I want to get a chance to get away some time during the summer, but it is necessarily all tentative.

I haven't given any thought to the matter of textile tariffs, so that I haven't any definite opinion to express in relation to it.

There is no new development in relation to an arms conference. The possibilities of the situation are being studied. That is all that I can say at the present time. That is another subject that I don't like to discuss constantly. A constant discussion of it doesn't bring us anywhere. Unless there is some development or some plan to be proposed, I don't believe I can say much more about it.

I haven't decided on anyone yet for the International Joint Commission. That is the boundary commission which has jurisdiction over boundaries between our country and Canada.



It wont be possible for me to attend the Mecklenburg celebration at Charlotte, N.C., on May 20th. I have been invited to attend and told them it wouldn't be possible for me to go. I think, though, they are intending to send a committee up here to reiterate the invitation. Of course if they want to do that I will receive the committee and hear what they have to say, but I think they have been advised that I don't see any possibility for me to accept their invitation.

I don't know of any addresses that I am likely to make outside of Washington prior to my going up to Minneapolis. There may something come up, but I don't have anything in mind at the present time.

No decision has been made relative to the appointment of a Federal judge in New Jersey. There are 8 or 10 names under consideration, but the investigation hasn't progressed far enough to reach any new determination. There was a judge appointed over there, but on account of illness he doesn't feel he can serve.

I don't know when I can reach a decision about the linseed oil tariff. My recollection is that the Commission sent to me a minority and a majority report. It makes it somewhat difficult for me to make up my mind about it, when the Tariff Commission are not able to agree on it. No decision has been made about the California judgeships. There is a vacancy there on the District Court in the Southern District, and on the Circuit Court in the 9th Circuit.

I haven't any more information about the disagreement between the Public Printer and some of the employees.

That seems to cover the inquiries of the day.



Friday, April 10, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I don't know of any basis for the published stories that Secretary Weeks has resigned, nor do I know that there is any indication that he will resign. He is ill, but every report that I get in relation to his health indicates that he is making a complete recovery. Now, I don't know anything about his intentions.

Here is an interesting suggestion that there isn't very much on the horizon and would like to have me give some suggestions about news. I don't know what I can do about that. I want to help everyone I can. That inquiry about Secretary Weeks suggests to me that if you wanted to dig up a newspaper story about newspaper stories that have been published and didn't prove to be true, it makes quite a long story. Since I have been President three members of my Cabinet have resigned and one has died. I don't know how many of them the newspapers have resigned for me and how many reports have come that they were about to resign or had resigned. Perhaps some of you that have enterprise and enjoy research would like to look over that list and write a newspaper story about it, if you are short of some kind of copy.

I am glad to have any questions asked about anything. I don't want anybody to hesitate about asking questions. That is what I meant by my suggestion, I think at the last conference. I don't want to cut off newspaper discussion about anything. But it isn't helpful for me to keep talking about certain foreign relations unless there is some development that warrants some statement on my part. I didn't really want to keep rehashing practically the same thing, because it irritates foreign countries oftentimes and they wonder why the White House keeps making statements that don't appear to them to be very helpful.

The report of the Tariff Commission on potassium chlorate has come to me and I have sent it over to the Treasury to see if they have any suggestions to make on it. That is what I always do with those reports. It will probably be back here and ready for action in a very short time.

Question. Mr. President, is that a unanimous report?

Yes, that is a unanimous report.

I haven't had any advice from the Treasury as to the probable effect of the volume of March 15th income tax collections on tax revision. Mr. Mellon,



2.

as you know, has been away for 10 days or so, and I haven't had a chance to talk with him since he got back about that matter. That is an interesting suggestion, and I shall want to take it up with him very soon.

I don't know that there is anything that I can add to what I have already said about the enforcement of the prohibitory law and the observance of it.

I haven't seen any report relative to the Chapman trial that gave any reason for any action on the part of the Federal Government. He is serving sentence - or was serving sentence - as I understand it, at Atlanta and escaped and was then taken by the Connecticut authorities and tried up there. I have assumed that the trial up there would be permitted to take its course. If he hadn't been convicted up there, of course the U. S. would have claimed him and returned him to Atlanta.

Question: Would it be necessary for the Government to issue an order or some court to issue an order abrogating the original sentence which he was to serve?

Answer: I can't tell you just what the technical requirements are. he was out of the jurisdiction of the United States authorities and was arrested by the Connecticut authorities. ~~It is a technical matter that the Government is~~

Question: Mr. President, he was arrested by United States authorities.

Answer: Then whatever action was necessary has already been taken. It lay in my mind that he was arrested by the Connecticut authorities, but if he was arrested by the United States authorities and turned over, why I suppose that action is a continuing action until his sentence has been executed up there. Now, what right we have to claim him meantime, I don't know. I suppose that the action will stand and that he will be subject to the Connecticut authorities until his trial is ended and sentence ~~executed~~ executed. Of course, if it is a death sentence, why that is all there is to it. If he served a sentence, why then I suppose the natural way would be to have him retaken at the expiration of that sentence for the serving of his sentence in Atlanta. I don't know of any plan on the part of the United States Government to take any action, other than what it has taken. There might be some plan I don't know about. That is entirely in the hands of the Department of Justice, so it didn't come to my attention at all.



I don't know of any suggested survey of the independent bureaus and establishments. There is a certain survey going on all the time when suggestions come in for the budget. Outside of that I don't know of anything, and I don't know of any plan that is under way for reorganizing the Executive Departments. Mr. Madden didn't mention that this morning. He came in to say that he is about to take a trip abroad and inquired if he might bring in his grandchildren some time - he has three very promising grandchildren running from 7 to 12 or 15 - and I told him I would be delighted to see them.

There was nothing in the Cabinet meeting this morning.

I don't know of any development in relation to the Printing Office.

I have never had a chance to discuss with Representative Madden at any length a proposal that I know he has had in mind, for an annual rebate to taxpayers out of surplus funds in the Treasury. That hasn't been really necessary to consider up to the present time, because if there are surplus funds they are disposed of by taking them and paying off debts, which, in effect, is a rebate to the taxpayers. Now, whether it would be best to continue that method or whether some other method might be adopted, I am not prepared to say. I think there would be a good deal of difficulty about an annual rebate. It would require a good deal of bookkeeping and so on and so forth. I am rather inclined to think that the ~~next~~ present method is much more feasible - of taking any surplus money that you have and paying your debts with it. If there is apparently a large and likely to be a continuing surplus, why then you revise your tax laws and make a permanent rebate so that the money doesn't go into the Treasury from the taxpayer, and therefore doesn't have to be paid out. That of course is the feasible and practical way of dealing with a surplus. The other way might be adopted. I can see certain difficulties of execution that make it a somewhat <sup>difficult</sup> ~~unfavorable~~ proposition. But Mr. Madden is very familiar with the finances of the nation, and is a very excellent authority on them, and I shouldn't want to condemn out of hand, and don't want to be understood as condemning out of hand, any proposal that he seriously made, because I should feel pretty certain that when I came to talk with him I should find it is based on pretty sound and practical reason.

I don't know as I can comment on the resignation of Premier Herriot in a way that would be helpful. He came into power, as I recall it, on the suggestion of a little more liberal government over there and on a desire to arrange some settlement



with Germany relative to reparations. Now that was accomplished. It is a real accomplishment and I think a piece of work in which he can take a good deal of satisfaction. I judge that he has gone out of power on account of the great difficulty that has attended the French finances at the present time. I noticed the afternoon paper says that his statement is that he is not to blame about that, and that the difficulty existed before he came into power and is not the result of his action. I don't know what the effect will be on France. I imagine it will depend more or less on who comes into power over there. It is difficult for me to comment about it. Of course it is rather delicate to say much of anything about that. I guess that is about all I can say.

The correspondents started to leave the room.

I am not finished yet. There are some more questions here. That is about all I can say about Premier Herriot. I recall he was in to see me at one time.

Now, I haven't in mind the Russian and Japanese treaty, but I am very certain that it has been published in full and if any one wants to know just what there is in it and just what it provides for, and so on, of course the best way to do is to go and get the treaty and read it. There are certain interests that are not pleased with it, and there are those that put an interpretation on it that is different from what I supposed that the treaty warranted. But the way to find out just what the treaty provides for is to get the treaty out and read it, rather than rely on outside comment of those who are interested in it or those who are not interested in it.

That seems to cover the questions.



April 14, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I don't know enough about the fishing possibilities of the Tidal Basin to make any intelligent comment on the suggestion that that Basin<sup>A</sup> should be stocked with fish. I have advocated out of doors life, but whether that would be conducive to any success in that direction, I don't know. Fishing I have always identified more with the sport of children, than that of grown people. I suppose that is more or less because of my own experience. I used to fish when I was a boy, with a good deal of satisfaction. You who were up in Vermont with me remember the brook that runs down through the meadow. When I was a boy that looked to me to be a large and important stream. I used to repair to it as often as I could after school and catch a few fish there. That was about the extent of my fishing experience. Now, other people get a good deal of satisfaction in going to Florida, or into the north woods to fish. Stocking the Tidal Basin wouldn't minister very much to the desires of people of that kind. So that I should think, after a moment's consideration, it would probably appear that about the only good it would do would be to furnish a place for the small boy. If it really would, I think it might be worth while. But I should want to have it carefully investigated by the fish department, either of the Department of Commerce or of Agriculture, or by the committee that has a special interest in out of door sports, to see what could be done.

Right along with that is an inquiry here about the Junior Achievement Club work. That was brought to my attention yesterday by a visit here of some New England people that are organizing that work among children, more especially in the textile industry. I judge that was the industry that was exhibited here. Some of the younger people making certain materials - you saw them present a scarf to Mrs. Coolidge and one to me that was made by them. Now, this Junior Club work, of course, I came in contact with when I was young. I think father organized it mostly in my childhood. That isn't possible for those children that live in cities and whose parents are engaged in the textile industry. Where that is the case, I should think something of this kind was a first-class proposal. It gives those young people an interest, it gives them something to do. They see they are making a real achievement. I should think it would be very much worth while.



Of course when you get into the open country this work is really going on in different farm organizations. The boys have pig clubs, where they raise a pig for market. Now that extends to cattle, and the chicken and egg industry is one that lends itself very well to occupation for the young people, and of course the cultivation of the fields. My grandfather died when I was six years old, and I know before he died I had begun to sow wheat at his instigation. Had he lived, perhaps I would be sowing wheat now. (laughter) It reminds me, perhaps I have mentioned it before, of a very wise old judge in Northampton who thought we might all be better off if we were engaged with a hoe and potato. So I am very much in favor of these Junior Achievement Clubs work, and one form of it would be adaptable to city life, those who are in textile centers, and another form of it would be adapted to life in the open country. I think commendable progress is being made in both cases.

I don't know of any new development relative to the discharge of employees in the Government Printing Office. That is being investigated to see if there have been any errors. If there have been, why of course they will be rectified.

I don't know of any special proposal about legislation to give the President power to transfer and consolidate various bureaus of the Federal establishment. I hadn't given that any special thought, because I had been interested in the reorganization bill which has never been acted on, and which I suppose will come up for action ~~at~~ in the next Congress, which takes care of that kind of work. Now, looked at from its business side, of course the work of the Government has to be constantly supervised and checked up like the work of any business. Otherwise, it runs to seed. I don't know whether any of you happened to hear the story about the sentinel that was posted in the Garden of the European emperors, and finally someone undertook to inquire why the sentinel was posted at that particular place. Careful investigation revealed that more than 100 years before that there had been a rose bush and that bush had a very handsome flower on it and the empress wanted that flower protected. So the sentinel had been posted there to protect that flower, and nobody having looked into the matter the sentinel was still on duty years after the rose bush was gone. Now, unless you keep constant supervision over any kind of business, newspaper



3.

business, or the business of running the Government, it will run to seed and you will have men trying to function when the reason for their functions no longer exists. So that we have to keep constant supervision over the executive department and, of course, at this time we haven't yet finished up all the work of getting rid of our war activities. We ran into a great many activities at that time that are not needed in time of peace. While those are mostly closed up, yet it is a good idea to be constantly watchful to see if we are trying to carry on any activities of government that are no longer needed. While I am constantly engaged in this general idea, I haven't at the present time any specific plan about it, nor am I doing anything more than would be the ordinary routine of the executive department.

The Assistant Secretary of Labor, Mr. Henning, is one of those under consideration for appointment in the Southern District of California. I think there are quite a number of other names suggested. I don't want to mention him to the exclusion of any others, but he is the only one that is inquired of here. It is a fact that that name is under consideration, but perhaps not more so than quite a number of other names.

I don't know of any foundation for any report that Mr. Butler is to retire as Chairman of the National Committee, and I am very certain that he has never mentioned that to me and feel quite certain that he doesn't intend to retire. I think we will have to revert to the old rule that I have mentioned, which is analagous to that rule in physics that a body at rest remains at rest and a body in motion continues to go forward in a straight line until acted on by some outside force. I have forgotten whether that is one of Newton's, or some rule of that kind. But it is applicable especially to people holding office, and any suggestion of resignation from office you are always warranted in viewing with suspicion.

Now, I have just had presented to me this morning by the Police Commissioner of New, Senator Wadsworth, and one or two other people, Mr. Enright is Commissioner of Police, and I have forgotten who else came in, a very ~~handsome~~ handsomely engraved invitation to attend the International Police Conference which is to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria, at 7.00 o'clock on Thursday, the 14th day of May next. I think it is rather doubt-



ful whether I will be able to go up there. I am interested in this conference and the work which they are doing. I have been interested in some legislation that Mr. Enright proposed and which I mentioned in my message to the Congress. last December, relative to having some central agency for criminal records - instead of it being scattered over 48 states and different cities try to have one central agency where if a person has a criminal record it can be ascertained.

Here is a suggestion that instead of shaking hands with people that come here to the White House, that they be assembled out on the lawn and I go out and make them a speech. I don't view that with much approval. I do not at all dislike shaking hands. It brings me into a personal contact which you can't get any other way. I am sure that the people that come to Washington are much more pleased with an opportunity to pass through the line and shake hands with me, even though it is a rather formal and distant method of greeting, than they would be to gather anywhere and have me say a few words to them. I also know that it takes me less time and is easier for me. I rather like the handshaking. I can't give up more than 15 minutes or half an hour each day to it, but I can take care of a good many people here in that length ~~ordinar~~ of time.

I have, I think, received a telegram from some one in Syracuse relative to the U. S. Attorney. I believe it was quite a long communication, as I recall it, and related to an official of the Department of Justice that was sent over there. I noticed one statement in it that would perhaps bear investigation. The suggestion was that the amount of fines collected were not commensurate with the amount of fees that used to be secured from licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor. That was rather a novel proposition to make. Of course it is not the business of the United States District Attorney to collect as much in fines as used to be secured in fees for licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors, but the communication has gone to the Dept. of Justice for such action as they find is warranted upon investigation.



There was nothing particularly developed in the Cabinet meeting this morning, other than the report from Secretary Hoover, which I presume will be given to the press, relative to our exports and imports. The last month I think they were the largest of any during peace time, and if they were reduced to the same value in dollars and cents it would be - so as to have them the same as would be represented by prices before the war - they showed that our exports and imports are about 50% larger than they were in 1914. Now, no other countries that were engaged in the Great War have been able to make any showing like that, and I think substantially all of them have exports and imports nowhere near what they were before the war; some of them very much less. But those of Great Britain, I think, are just about even. That is larger than what I thought their increase had been. My last investigation I think showed that figure not more than 25%. Now that is not a  $\frac{1}{2}$  for a long period, just a short period, but that amount ran about 50% larger when reduced to the same ratio price, which is an encouraging sign of the business activity of the country.

Thank you.



Friday, April 17, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Correspondents.

I haven't any information about the dirigible Los Angeles taking any pictures of those who might be supposed to be engaged in smuggling. This is the first I have heard about it.

The new Alien Property Custodian quite naturally wanted to have an audit made so as to show what property came to his hands and for that purpose it was arranged with the Comptroller General that some of the accountants at his office be used. That is the usual method of turning over property from one Custodian to another - to take an audit at the time, in order that the man going out may know what is turned over and the man coming in know what comes into his hands.

I don't know of any plans of the Debt Commission to meet in the near future. I think some of them are in the west and some of them in Europe. I guess - I am sure Representative Burton is and Senator Smoot may be out of Washington. I judge that there isn't any plan to meet in the near future.

Question. Mr. President, to revert to the Alien Property for the moment, would you mind telling us whether there is any progress or plan of what to do with the German property?

Answer. That is all decided in the treaty between the United States and Germany.

I haven't any further plan about attending the Mecklenburg celebration. A very large committee came to me yesterday and invited me to come, but I don't see at the present time how it is going to be possible for me to go.

There wasn't anything came up at the Cabinet meeting ~~meeting~~ this morning except small interdepartmental matters.

I haven't heard of any refusal on the part of any of the foreign governments to grant diplomatic status to Treasury agents engaged in customs work abroad. I don't know just what the practice has been in that connection, so I am really not able to give you much of any information about that.

I don't think there is anything new that I can say about loans that American bankers have made abroad. That goes on the same as any other kind of foreign business. The bankers make their loans when they think it will be a profitable business to make them. I am speaking now of loans made for



private purposes there. I can't tell, of course, without having the facts before me and getting the statistics and knowing what the loans are made for, knowing what imports we are having and what exports we are having, as to the effect of such loans on our protective policy. I didn't see the speech that is referred to, said to have been made by Senator Butler recently on this subject, and not having seen it I can't very well comment on it. The only thing I can say that would give any indication about its effect up to date on our protective policy is what Mr. Hoover mentioned at the last Cabinet meeting, which I think I mentioned here, so I have decided to bring out this item of it - that our gains in imports were gains in the importation of raw materials and our gains in exports were gains in exportation of manufacturing products. That is along one line that the protective policy has sought to produce and stimulate. It is very difficult, as you know, to say what raw material is. Some say there isn't any such thing as raw material. What I mean is - in a general way I mean products like wool and those things that go into further manufacture after they come into this country. That may not be considered as raw material in a certain sense of the word. But by raw materials I mean those products that were not really for final consumption.

It wouldn't be possible to make any change in the rules that govern the conduct of a conference between the newspaper association and the President. Every one of you men who come in here to the conference know what those rules are and the need to observe them carefully. The - I speak of the question that has been propounded here relative to quotation. If anybody has any doubt about it, let him consult with the Secretary of the White House Press Association, who will give him all the information he desires.



Tuesday, April 21, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Several inquiries have been made about a statement that the Secretary of State gave relative to the present position on the recognition of Russia. I understand that that came about in this way - that when Secretary Kellogg became Secretary of State there were rumors that that might change the attitude of the State Department toward Russia, and that in response to several inquiries of that kind he sent notice that there wasn't any change at the present time. More a matter of the details of the office. It hadn't any particular significance.

I did make an inquiry of the Shipping Board<sup>not</sup> in relation to the sale of ships that is contemplated, but made an inquiry as to whether part of the Board were going to appear in court in opposition to the rest of the Board. I was informed that some of them were appearing in court. I didn't know whether the idea was in opposition to the rest of the Board, but the information consisted of filing with me their personal answers; individual answers were made by different members of the Board. Those are on file in court. That is all the information I have. I wasn't making any inquiry about the sale of the ships. My inquiry was as to the administration of the Shipping Board affairs, as to whether a part of the Board were in conflict with the Board or a part of the Board while the remaining members of the Board were in effect joining a suit against the Board or a suit against the Government. I was told that the complaint had been issued by the court against each member individually and that they were making some individual answers. Those answers are on file in the court. I don't know exactly what their contents are.

I don't think I am going to be at Boston on the 17th of June. It is possible that I may be in Cambridge on the 3rd of July.

There are no negotiations going on relative to an arms conference. I have already given you all the information there is about that. The matter is being looked up in the State Dept.

It doesn't appear that I shall be able to attend the commencement exercises at the University of Michigan. I was going over there especially at the invitation of President Burton, who is deceased.



I am advised that some marines were landed in Honduras from one of our war vessels that are in that territory. We haven't had any definite information yet as to the nature of the difficulties there. The commanders of U. S. battle-ships have general authority, when they are in foreign waters and are convinced that American lives or property are in jeopardy , to land marines for their protection. That is what took place in this instance. We don't know of any lives that have been lost. I am speaking now not only of American lives, but of the natives of Honduras. We do understand, though, that there is some threat of revolution and disorder in some parts of that country, but so far as we have any information it doesn't appear yet to be serious.

I don't know just when an appointment will be made to fill the vacancies at Rumania, Finland or Siam. Mr. Jay is in Rumania conducting some negotiations that are pending there. We may keep him there until those negotiations are in such shape that he could turn them over to his successor.

Most all of the questions today are in relation to Russia and the Shipping Board, which I think I have answered in a way that members of the conference will understand.

That seems to cover all the questions this morning.

I expect to see you all at the baseball game tomorrow.



Friday, April 24, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I haven't seen the proposal said to have been made by General Pershing that the Government give financial assistance to our American Merchant Marine. That is a subject that has been under consideration by the Congress a number of times and they never passed a bill of that kind. I doubt very much if they could be persuaded to pass a bill of that nature now, notwithstanding the fact that the Shipping Board costs annually ~~22~~ expenses above receipts, from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000, not counting depreciation. You will all recall the effort that was made during President Harding's administration to provide a law of this kind, which failed. I think the effort that had been made previously to that was made by Senator Hanna, when he was in Washington along about 1900. That failed also. The Harding Shipping Board merchant marine bill went through the House, as I recall. It was said there were sufficient votes in the Senate to pass it, but it didn't come to a vote there. It was laid aside, as I recall, until the new election changed the complexion of the Senate in such a way that it was thought it couldn't pass and wasn't afterwards taken up and pressed for passage. That is a method that is adopted by countries that have a large merchant marine.

Question. Do you favor a subsidy, Mr. President?

Answer. Well, I should want to know what the nature of the assistance was going to be and how much it was going to cost, and what would probably be its effect.

I am not in favor of presenting a bill for that purpose at the present time, but if somebody has a plan I should look at it with a great deal of interest. Of course it is to be remembered that a great many American ships are being operated, some of them at a fair return, without the aid of any direct financial assistance from the United States Government. It has always been thought that if we were to have an adequate merchant marine, one that would give adequate service to all parts of the country and provide sufficient merchant ships to aid in defense in case of a national emergency, that it would be necessary to give it some financial assistance by the United States Treasury.



I haven't any official information about the disturbances in Bulgaria or a possible crisis involving Jugo-slavia, so that all I can say about that is, that like other Americans, I regret that either of those countries is involved in any internal or external difficulties, and trust that they may be able to find a way of peaceably composing them.

From such inquiries as I made and such information that came to me, I didn't see any reason for taking any action in relation to the Shipping Board. The rumor that came to me was that part of the Board were to appear in court in a way that I thought was virtually a suit against the United States Government and a suit against the Board itself. Some communications that came to me said that that was not the case, so I don't see any reason for taking any further action .

There are no additional diplomatic appointments.

I rather hope to take a trip on the Mayflower tomorrow afternoon. I am not yet certain about it, but I may be able to get away in time.

I have already spoken of the Shipping Board.

The weather yesterday and today nodoubt prompts this inquiry about plans for a summer vacation. I still hope that I may be able to get up to New England some time during the summer for a stay of a month or so. The climate of Washington, if one stays here all through the season, is rather difficult to bear, not only because of the discomfort of it, but because of the drain it makes on your vitality. So that it would be a good plan if I could get away for three or four weeks. I should certainly go up to Vermont for a short stay, unless something intervenes, which is difficult to imagine now, and I would like to extend that stay in New England to include a month or more.

I am not certain whether the Secretary of Labor has in mind any one to take the place of Mr. Henning. I think he has, but he has not given me the name. I shall of course advise with him about it, and probably appoint whoever he thinks it would be desirable for him to have to assist him. He and Mr. Henning have been old time friends, and for that reason he has relied on Mr. Henning a great deal on account of his ability as a lawyer to assist and advise in the conduct of the Department of Labor. He will be making an effort to get another man that is Mr. Henning's equal in that respect, though of course the Secretary himself has now become so familiar with the routine ques-



tions of his department, I presume he doesn't require the legal assistance that he did when he first went in there.

Here is another inquiry about my possible visit to Charlotte, N.C. on May 20th, to attend the Mecklenberg celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence - the Mecklenberg declaration - and I do not see how it is going to be possible for me to go down there. I have appointed a committee to represent the United States Government in accordance with a resolution that went through the Congress, so the United States Government will be fairly well represented. Whether it will be possible for any members of the Cabinet to go, I am not certain. Of course there are members of the House and Senate from North Carolina itself, who will be present and participate and assist in an unofficial representation of those who are engaged in administering the Government of the United States.



Tuesday, April 28, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

I have sent the report of the Tariff Commission on the tariff on linseed oil to the Agricultural Department to get a report from them on the relation of the production of linseed oil to the growing of flax and the general effect on agriculture. I want to find out whether a reduction of the tariff on linseed oil would be likely to be injurious to the farmers of the west that raise flax, what the value of the flax industry is to agriculture in general, in order to see whether I ought to take any action or not. The Tariff Commission didn't take into consideration whether conditions were such in any particular industry like agriculture, or manufacturing, or anything of that kind, that it would be unwise, even if there is a difference in cost that seemed to indicate that a change either up or down could be made, to make it. Those other and outside elements are left for my consideration, and the Tariff Commission doesn't consider them at all in making their report on the difference in cost of production. I suppose it is my duty to consider whether there is this difference in cost of production and the conditions of the industry, and whether it would be disastrous to any particular interest in this country to do so, or whether it would be helpful to them. Of course as linseed oil comes from flax and flax seed, I have sent that to the Department of Agriculture to get their report on what the probable effect will be on the agricultural interests if the change should be made in the tariff on linseed oil.

I don't know of any developments in relation to the appointment of Dr. Culbertson to a diplomatic post. I had been President but a very short time when he came to me and said he had an understanding with President Harding that he was to try and provide him with some post abroad, either in the commercial field or in the diplomatic field. I have had that in mind and conferred with him in relation to it several times, but until there were the changes that have been in anticipation this spring there ~~had~~ hadn't seemed to be any place that I could offer to him that was attractive. So he became a member of the Tariff Board. But it isn't any - I don't know how long the matter had been under contemplation between Dr. Culbertson and President Harding, I understood for some little time - it isn't any new thought. It is the carrying out of a plan that Dr. Culbertson had in contemplation for three or four years, and I am trying to



find a place that will be acceptable to him. There are no new developments in it.

No suggestions for financial aid to the Merchant Marine have been presented to me, and I haven't at present in mind any plan, nor am I expected to propose any plan looking in that direction.

I don't think I have any comment that I want to make on the German election.

The Secretary of Labor reported at the Cabinet meeting the settlement of two controversies in the building trades between employers and employees, one in Boston where I believe he said they had entered into a three-year contract, and one at Gary, Ind. He said that his men report to him that the call for employees in the building trades is very strong, and that more and more people are going into that employment every day. That is interesting, perhaps, as an indication of a business development, the building trades being<sup>a</sup>/rather fundamental and key industry. When that is going it reaches out into the lumber, steel, and a good many other materials, that tend to stimulate general production and general business activity. Mr. Mellon also said that deposits in banks were very large, and that clearing house - clearings that go through the clearing house, were at about their record. Mr. Hoover reported that the loadings of freight were larger than they were last year.

I haven't made any decision about the appointment of any one on the International Joint Commission. That is the boundary commission.

Senator Ball was in yesterday, I think that most of what he discussed with me has already been reported. But I thought that he had rather reached the foundation of the building situation, which is the rent situation, here in the District. He said that to a very large extent it was due to the high cost of operations here, and that one of the fundamental difficulties is the cost of money, the banks in the District loaning about 40% of what is necessary to engage in building operations and the rest of the money being borrowed at rates that run 12, 15 or even as high as 20%. That is the conclusion that Secretary Hoover and I come to in our discussions. And that one of the things that could be done that would help the rent situation very much in the District would be to provide a means of financing; that is, if a company could be established that would provide credit at a reasonable cost - this 40% goes at 6% and the rest at these high rates -



it would be possible then to build at less expense and have a less high rental. Dr. Ball said that it was impossible to build houses here in town at present at an expense of much less than \$200 a room, which makes rents run up pretty high.

Question: Did you see just what the plan is that he is suggesting?

I told him I wished he would talk with Mr. Hoover to see if they could devise a practical plan. The only practical plan I have in mind is to try to establish a company here, part banking and part building loan association, perhaps participated in by most banks, that could furnish capital at a reasonable expense.

Question: With governmental connections, Mr. President?

Answer: No. I don't want to have governmental connection in relation to it, other than the ordinary corporate body has. I think that if a company of that kind were started, with perhaps a capital of <sup>not</sup> more than \$3,000,000, that it would aid very materially in financing the building operations of the District at a considerable less expense than is necessary now.

Question: You said \$200 a room?

Answer: I think that is what he said.

Question: Isn't it \$2,000, Mr. President.

(There followed some discussion among the correspondents as to the correct amount.) (It was thought Sen. Ball meant the rental of a room could not be less than \$20.)

I am quite certain that he said \$200, but I am glad you corrected it and brought it to my attention, because as I thought that over, it didn't seem quite reasonable.

I don't know but what he said rental. I was mistaken about that. He said the cost was such that it was necessary to charge a rental of about \$200 a room - that is on new construction work, which makes rents, as is at once apparent, very high.



Friday, May 1, 1925.

Remarks by the President to the Newspaper Men.

Here is an inquiry about Ambassador Sheffield and the situation in Mexico. I had a letter from the Ambassador last week I should say, saying that (no I don't know that it would do any harm to give this out, I suppose it is public) that Yale University was going to confer a degree on him. I think there is no impropriety in announcing that. It has been decided. He is going to be present to take it. And of course he wants to come up to have that degree conferred on him. And that when he was up here of course he would like to come to Washington and talk with the State Department and myself. I didn't get from his letter that there were any unfavorable developments in the Mexican situation, but rather that conditions were very promising there. There are always problems in Mexico, but I judge from the tone of his letter that he thought things were working along exceedingly well, so far as American interests are concerned.

The reports that come to me about Secretary Weeks are all very encouraging. I understand that he is sitting up and that they expect him to be out in a short time. It takes some little while for him to get his strength back after a serious illness, but he is making all the progress that can be hoped for.

I can't give anything that is very certain about my summer plans. I have no objection to having any of them published that are determined on, and I don't object to any speculations that you want to make on it. I shall have to be in Washington until the latter part of June. There is a Budget meeting on the 22nd of June, semi-annual meeting, so that I can't get away until after that, and when that is over, so far as I can see now, I am liable to go most any time. I think you would be safe in advising your offices that they had better provide quarters for you up there in New England soon after that time. Now, I am not certain of course when I can go, as I say, but you ought to file a notice with your office that they should make some kind of reservations up there.

Question: Mr. President, what is the best hotel in Plymouth?

Answer: The best I know of is the Coolidge House.

(Laughter)



Question: Mr. President, do you think - is it your intention to go up on the Mayflower?

Answer: I don't think so.

I don't think any one has been decided on for appointment to the New Jersey judgeship. There is quite a list of names that have been proposed. Senator Edge I believe is to call on me tomorrow, and that is one of the matters I am determined to take up with him. It is mostly due to his absence that I haven't been able to decide on any one. I want to advise with him before making a final decision.

I haven't any very definite information about issuing passports to married women in their maiden name. I should judge that would be determined by the statutes, though it may be just a matter of practice. I suppose every person has some regular name. Up in Massachusetts I don't think it would be possible to summon a married women into court under her maiden name, though it is possible to refer to any one as John Doe or Richard Roe, even if you don't know their name, and the service is made on that person. They come into court and you amend your writ after you find out what their correct name is. I suppose the name that goes into a passport is for the purpose of identifying that person. The natural thing to do would be to put in the legal name of the person. Now this is all speculation. It is rather idle to speculate about a statute. If it is covered by statute, why of course the thing to do is to issue the passport according to the terms of the statute. If it is a matter of practice, why that can be varied. It might cause confusion to foreign countries, to those who are charged with being vised with notice, so that they could not identify a person if the name given was the maiden name when the person is really a married woman. I don't know just why the Department has refused to issue passports to women in their maiden name, but I suppose because it has been the universal rule of the Department.

Question: Mr. President, Mr. Kellogg says it is up to the President. The regulations provide that the President can change it if he wishes to.

Answer: Well, it hasn't been brought to my attention officially. If it is, I will examine it with the State Department. I am sure the desire is to accommodate the person, keeping always in mind that it should be such a document as will enable those who are to be vised by notice of the passport that this is the person described in the passport. I don't know whether I ought to



consult with the husbands of the married women about the rule or not.

I haven't had a chance to give any mature deliberation to the suggestion of Chairman O'Connor of the Shipping Board for the payment by the U. S. Government of part of the wages of the seamen of the Merchant Marine. I should judge that if that policy were to be adopted it would have to be adopted almost entirely on the theory that these are not merely merchant marine reserves, but that they are naval reserves. Now, if the Navy Department should say that something of this kind would be a benefit to the country, in the nature of national defense, I can see that there would be quite a strong reason for adopting a suggestion of this kind. But if it is merely a matter of trying to help the shipping business, why then of course you have got to consider whether you want to help that any more than you want to help some other business; whether you want to pay part of the wages of the men that are employed in shipping any more than you would want to pay part of the wages of men that are employed on farms, in the mines, or in factories. I think if this policy were to be adopted, it would have to rest on the benefit that the national defense would secure from it. As to whether that would be necessary or desirable, I should want to talk with the Navy Department.

There isn't anything I can give out about diplomatic appointments to Finland, Siam or Albania. There are some men under consideration. As you know, even after deciding, and I haven't decided on any one for these places, we have to inquire if that person will be agreeable to the country to which he is to be accredited, and we always prefer to make that inquiry before the name is published, because if something should happen that the person wasn't agreeable, why then the proposed person would be embarrassed by having it published that he was to have an appointment and didn't get it, and that the country to which it was proposed to send him didn't want him. So we wait <sup>it</sup> to finish those inquiries before we make appointments public.

I haven't determined on any person to succeed Solicitor General Beck.

Governor Brewster came in and invited me to go to the Governors Conference at Poland Springs. I should like to go to that, I became quite interested in Governors Conferences when I was Governor. I used to go to some of them when I was Lieutenant Governor. I told Governor Brewster I couldn't give him very much en-



couragement about it. I have several things to do about that time. Whether I could get up to Maine or not is quite problematical.

Now that Congress isn't in session I am rather aware of the paucity of news, though of course there are a lot of small things that are always developing in relation to our Government, and many times they have larger import and interest. I want to be helpful in any way I can to guide the press in their efforts for news items. My own thought about the situation at the present time is that I would like it if the country could thing as little as possible about the Government and give their time and attention more undividedly about the conduct of the private business of our country. If that is a thought that you can develop in any way, I think it would be helpful. There are going to be a few months here when the Congress wont be in session, and when, so far as I can tell, there wont be any very large governmental matters projected by the Executive, and it is with that in view that the country may be relieved from having to look to Washington every day or two to see what is going to be done and given an opportunity to feel that things are as settled as they can be and the uncertainties removed as much as they can be, and that there is a foundation on which they can make commitments for the carrying on of their business without being in jeopardy of change of law or something of that kind that might change conditions in such a way that their investments would become uncertain.



Tuesday, May 5, 1925.

Remarks by the President to Newspaper Men.

I don't know of any special comment that I can make on the speech of Ambassador Houghton. Of course it is made on his own responsibility and I hope it will be helpful to the situation, both in Europe and in this country, as an interpretation of what our country is trying to do and what Europe may expect, and what we hope may be accomplished over there. I should think the situation in Europe, so far as the encouragement of making private loans by American bankers is concerned, is somewhat improving. The English appear to be going back onto the gold standard, probably accompanied by Holland. Financially that would be a stabilization of currency and exchange, though when it comes to making loans generally in Europe, of course it would have to be done with discretion. Some countries could be helped that way and others it might be doubtful about.

I am not planning to leave Washington on any occasion that I know of, other than the trip to St. Paul before I try to get away for a short vacation.

I don't believe that I had better make any comment on the result of the recent German election. Unless I wanted to go into a very long and detailed explanation, there would be very grave danger that any comment I might make would be misapprehended.

I haven't made any appointments yet of the Commissioners or the Commissioner General who serve as representatives of our country in the Spanish Exposition, which is to be held at Seville. One of the reasons is that where there has been a law passed authorizing the appointments and providing for an appropriation, no appropriation was made. There is no money with which to act at the present time. I am not certain, but I presume that would make it necessary to wait until next December when the Congress reconvenes and then make an appropriation, though I may pick out some men and <sup>hand</sup> ~~have~~ them in before that time, in order that they may be ready to take action right away when the money becomes available.



Of course I should like very much to have the original Wright airplane left in this country as a record of what Americans have done, though I realize that it is the property of Mr. Wright and he has a perfect right to put it anywhere that he thinks will be most agreeable to himself. While those original models are always of interest historically, the main thing of course is the developed plane. I have noticed, I think, in the Grand Central Station of New York some old models of engines, locomotives and cars. Those are interesting, but for the use of the present day, why we turn to the present development of the transportation industry, and of course we turn to that in the airplane industry. While it would be interesting and desirable to have this original model <sup>here</sup>, I don't think it is of great importance.

No successor has been decided on yet for Solicitor General Beck.

I don't think that the Secretary of Agriculture would submit to me any findings in the Armour-Morris merger case. I understand that is a matter that is entirely under his jurisdiction, under the statute, and I wouldn't have any authority to act in relation to it. So that I suppose the matter will be left entirely to his Department. They have special counsel that have to advise him, so that I think he wouldn't need to call on the Attorney General for any legal advice.

No person has been selected yet to succeed Dr. Culbertson on the Tariff Commission.

There hasn't been any decision made in the New Jersey judgeship.

I don't know as I can say anything about the prospect of rental conditions in the District, other than what has already been in the press. I talked the other day with Senator Ball about it, and the Chairman, Mr. Metzgerott came in and discussed it with me. But the Chairman didn't seem to have any new information, other than that he feared that there would be quite an increase in rents when the present Commission goes out of existence. I should very much regret having that occur. I had understood that the Real Estate Board here had provided a committee that was prepared to take such action as a voluntary committee could, to prevent anything of that kind.

That seems to cover the questions of the day.



Friday, May 8, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Correspondents Conference.

I have a couple of rumors. One is that the President is searching for a man to reorganize the Veterans Bureau and that General Hines is leaving. The other one is a question as to what I can say about the report that General Hines is about to retire from the head of the Veterans Bureau and that Colonel Arthur Woods is going to succeed him.

I was thinking that perhaps this rumor was a mistaken rumor, and that they meant Major Haynes, the prohibition enforcer - which reminded me a little of a story that Governor Sproul told when he came up to Northampton to celebrate with the neighbors my election as Vice President. He spoke about some experience he had with some of his friends in Pennsylvania. He went out somewhere to make some inquiries about a spaghetti factory, asked a man on the street if he knew where the spaghetti factory was, and the man said "no". Then the man followed him up the street a ways and said "Perhaps you mean the noodle factory." And he said, well perhaps it was the noodle factory. And the man said "Vell, I don't know where that is either." Perhaps the rumor didn't apply either to General Hines of the Veterans Bureau or Major Haynes of the Prohibition Department. I am glad to see here the commendation of Commander Drain of the American Legion, who said this morning that the Legion and the Bureau had never been working in closer harmony than at present. I don't know where the rumor could have started and it has no foundation in fact, so far as it relates to anything in my mind. I am very sure that General Hines is going to stay there and continue in his present situation.

I don't know of any comment that I can make on the address of Ambassador Houghton. Anything that could be said in elucidation of it I should think would be merely repeating the language of the address. I am making some effort not only at the Naval Academy, but at West Point, to encourage a little further education in aviation. You already have the report of Secretary Wilbur relative to what is proposed at Annapolis. Apparently they give considerable instruction, according to their ideas, at West Point - 58½ hours I think they told me, but the general feeling is that they are not giving so much instruction in aviation as would be desirable. Some of the members of the Senate reported to me that they thought they didn't give any instruction there, though it turns out that they do give some. I am going to try to encourage them to make a careful investigation and see if a



2.

little more education in that direction wouldn't be helpful.

That seems to be all the questions that you have for the day.



Tuesday, May 14, 1925.

Remarks by the President at the Press Conference.

I don't know that I can add anything to what I have already indicated about the policy of leasing power at Muscle Shoals. I suggested that the opinion be taken of the Commission that is working on that. I suppose the question will be, - How can we so manage that property as to secure the largest public service from it in the end and the largest return commensurate with that policy in the end to the public treasury. Now it may be that if we should go ahead and make a lease of that power at the present time it would so hamper any disposition that we might want to make of the property in the future that we would lose more than we had gained in the present rental of the power. That would be the question that I should want to have investigated, and on the answer to it would depend whether it would be well to make any lease of that power at the present time. I hesitated very much to make any present disposition of the power that might possibly hamper the final and complete solution of the problem there. This would be a temporary disposal of the power and would not be a permanent disposal of the property.

I haven't made any determination yet about the tariff on linseed oil.

I have received the recommendation of the American Steamship Owners Association, and I am having it studied by some departments that are interested in it to see what suggestions they want to make to me in relation to it. From such investigation as I had already made about the extension of the coastwise laws to the Philippines I had come to the conclusion that at the present time it wasn't expedient to do that, on account of the great interference that would accrue to the present method of conducting business in the Philippines by some foreign shipping, having in mind the convenience of the transaction of business for the people that live in the Philippines. I don't know whether it is expedient to reduce the Shipping Board personnel to three members. I told the Shipping Board that if they would turn over to Admiral Palmer the operation of the Emergency Fleet Corporation I should not press at the last session of the Congress any suggestion for any reorganization of the Shipping Board.



The recommendations of the British Royal Food Commission come to my attention through the press, but that is included in a document of about 200 pages which, so far as I know, has not yet been received in this country. It will be interesting to study it when it is received here, for the purpose of seeing whether it might have any influence on our exports. The interesting thing about it is that the suggestions that they make, as I understand them, are for the purpose of keeping down the price of food in the United Kingdom, while the suggestions that are being made over here relative to agriculture and the efforts that are being made ~~over there~~ on the part of the Government have been rather for the purpose of increasing the prices of agricultural products, in order to put farming on a business and paying basis.

No decision has been made about the appointment of a Solicitor General.

I haven't found that it was possible to make a trip to Charlotte, N.C. to attend the Mecklenberg celebration. I think we shall be ably represented there by the people that I have appointed under the Congressional resolution.

I don't think there is any discussion that I can make about the election of General Von Hindenburg to the Presidency of Germany.

Nor do I know of any comment that I could make regarding the death of General Mangin, of France, who commanded during the World War French and American forces. I imagine that you might get some interesting comment from people in the War Department that came into touch with the General, as to their personal recollections of him and their associations with him.

There hasn't been any appointment made on the International Joint Commission.

Dr. Culbertson hasn't retired yet from the Tariff Commission, so that no appointment can be made there. Mr. Burgess has wanted to retire for six months or more, but doesn't intend to retire just yet. He has something there that the Commission is working on that he wants to finish up before he retires.

I don't know that I have formally accepted an invitation to speak at Cambridge, July 3rd, but I expect to do that if I am in Massachusetts. I doubt very much if I should be able to attend the Governors' Conference, in Maine, which comes about that time.



I have had recently some communications come in relative to the purchase of foreign supplies by the War and Navy Departments, the inference being that we ought always to purchase American supplies, and I am rather sympathetic to that view. The reason that American supplies are not always purchased is on account of the statute that provides that these supplies should be purchased from the lowest responsible bidder, and it sometimes happens that foreign merchandise is offered at a lower price than American merchandise or supplies, and in those cases it is embarrassing for the War and Navy Dept. to refuse the lowest responsible bid and give the preference to American produced merchandise and supplies. I think that is a question that ought to be taken up by the Congress and the law amended so that the Departments would have a chance to exercise their discretion. I can imagine a condition where it would be for the public benefit to purchase some foreign supplies. There might be a shortage of the necessities of life in this country, so that the going into the market of the Government and purchasing a large amount would tend to deplete the market, raise the prices, and it would then be for the general welfare if the Government should purchase some supplies from abroad. So I think they ought to have that privilege, but there are other times when there is a surplus of produce and supplies here, and then for the Departments to be obliged to purchase abroad of course simply increases a condition here that is unsatisfactory. If there was a cargo of merchandise at the New York docks that was going to be entered here, and a trainload on the same docks that was going to be distributed, it would make very little difference to the general result here whether the United States took the cargo that was on the docks or whether it took the trainload. One would offset the other. But I am very much in favor of purchasing supplies, wherever we can do so, that are produced in this country; and that is always done, when it can be, sometimes by refusing bids from abroad when it is almost necessary to disregard the law in doing that.

I am rather uncertain whether I can say anything that would be helpful regarding the debt of France. I don't like to be constantly discussing that, because of the irritation that it might arouse, and such an irritation might defeat our purpose to try to secure a settlement. But it is a fact, as I think has already been published, that we are having negotiations for the purpose



of seeing if some plan of settlement cannot be arranged.

I haven't made up my mind yet about the plan of the War Department to have some military display on Armistice Day. My first thought about that is not very favorable. Armistice Day is a day that we rather dedicate here to the consideration of peace, and thoughts of that kind, rather than to military defense. Of course they have a relationship, it is very obvious, but I think I have received this morning a telegram of disapproval of having anything like military preparation interfere with the usual observance of Armistice Day. Then there is another thing to be considered, and that is the fact that this is a somewhat voluntary action on the part of the people and on the part of the Government. There isn't any direct provision in law for it, and if it is a matter that the War Department wish to have done annually, I rather think that there ought to be some legislation. Congress ought to indicate that it is an observance that they approve of and wish the public money to be expended in order to carry it on. This was done in the War Department without any previous consultation with me and the report came over to me last night in relation to it, which I haven't had an opportunity to study. It came over just as I was leaving the office. I should want to find out somewhat about what expenditure of public money is required. Last year it was carried on in conjunction with the voluntary action of the Governors of the different states. Now I don't know whether they would want to call on their people this year. I don't feel that I want to crowd this on to the state governments in any way. If they should voluntarily indicate to me that it is an observance in which they would like to participate, why I should feel that the United States Government, through the War Department, would be justified in going a long way in meeting their desires. Upon the other hand, if the Governors feel that this is a good deal of an expense to the State indirectly, and also by reason of its interfering with the usual transaction of business by closing down factories and the shutting up of places of commercial activity (but indirectly it is a very large expense), why it might seem it wasn't expedient to have it done.



I don't know just what proposal has been made to exempt American business men abroad from domestic income taxes. That was proposed, I think, at a time when I was presiding over the Senate, and it is my recollection that it didn't carry. It was proposed in relation with setting up some corporations for trading in China. It may be that there ought to be some relief for those who earn incomes abroad and who happen to be American citizens having to pay taxes I suppose abroad, because of their residence there, and also being taxed on account of their being American citizens here. That results in double taxation and makes it difficult, if not impossible, for our American business men to compete with the business men of other nations. There may be something of that kind that would be a determining factor. I am not familiar enough with the whole details to give a settled opinion as to just what ought to be done. I would say that I would like very much to put the American business men on a parity with the business men of other nations in the transaction of their business abroad. I can see that if the American business man goes to South America to carry on his business there and finds that the business men of other nations already there don't have to pay taxes, while he does, that puts a handicap on him that interferes with the extension of our foreign commerce. It may be that we would secure a larger revenue from developing our foreign commerce by giving American business men some relief in this direction. I shouldn't want to approve a law that would merely provide that American business men living abroad would therefore be exempt from paying taxes in America. What I mean by that is that I wouldn't want this to be used as a method of avoiding taxes, but if it is to be approved at all it must be approved for the purpose of extending our commerce, giving our business men the same advantages that those of other nations have, and being for the general welfare, and not merely for the relief of some individual taxpayer.

I haven't, as I have already said, decided on a successor to General Beck.



Friday, May 15, 1925.

Remarks of the President at the Press Conference.

There are no developments as far as I know in relation to the settlement of debts abroad. Perhaps it would be helpful if I reiterate again that the thing to keep in mind is that there is a law of Congress which authorizes a settlement and that is the only basis on which any settlement can be made. If a settlement is to be made on any other basis than that, it will have to be made with the consent of Congress by the enactment of legislation. There is no authority to make any settlement except with that authority that is given in the law which Congress enacted setting up a Commission.

I have here several inquiries about the sale of Government ships. I haven't any policy about that other than that which I have announced in my several messages to the Congress, which was, shortly, to operate the ships until they could be sold. That is the policy that was announced in the Jones bill. I haven't any personal information as to the offer that was alleged to have been made by Henry Ford. The only information I have about it is that which I have seen in the press. There wasn't any reason why I should have any information other than that, because the law places the sale of those ships in the hands of the Shipping Board. They have full authority and have the right to act in accordance with the United States statute that is applicable to the sales of ships. I should be very glad to talk with any of them and give them the benefit of any advice I might have, but at the present time I haven't had any conference with any of them relative to sales. I don't know what the terms are of the offer that has been made, or whether an explicit offer has been made, so I can't pass any final judgment on it.

I don't know anything about the changes in the rules of the Federal Trade Commission, other than what I have seen reported in the press. I think quite a good deal more than a year ago some of the Trade Commissioners spoke to me about those rules. I think it is the one applicable to publicity, but nothing was done at that time. I don't know whether a rule could be adopted that would be correctly applicable to all cases. I should think some cases would want to be treated in one way and some in another way. Of course every one recognizes the harm that might come from bringing a complaint against a concern on an ex-parte hearing, exparte evidence, and making it public before the concern has



been given opportunity to answer it or to make any suggestions relative to it.

I think it is fair for the Federal Trade Commission so to carry on their operations as to do as little harm as possible to the trade of the country and at the same time insist upon fair methods of competition and decent trade operations. Competition of course is competition, and people may sometimes think they are harmed by it. The Federal Trade Commission has very broad powers and they ought to conduct their affairs in a way as, I say, to do as little harm as possible and at the same time insist upon there being fair and just methods of conduct of trade by the different people that are employed in it.

I haven't had any report about the number of employees taken on by the different departments or discharged by the different departments for the month of April.

Several of the Governors are to be in town and wanted to come and see me. I thought perhaps I could see them best if they came in to lunch or dinner. I understand they are coming to dinner tonight. I don't know that they have any special thing to confer with me about, nor have I anything special to confer with them about. I imagine that they came to present to me in person an invitation to attend the Governors' conference in Maine. I doubt very much if I can get up there, but I should be glad to confer with them about that.

I haven't made any conclusions about Defense Day. I do think that it would be unfortunate to use Armistice Day for that purpose, almost as unfortunate, not quite so, as to devote Decoration Day to a purpose of that kind. The only holiday that I think of that would seem to be applicable would be the 4th of July. As I said at the last conference, if it is proposed to have a yearly gathering of this kind I think something ought to be provided by the Congress in relation to it. Last year we held the day rather in honor of General Pershing, who was about to retire from the service, about the 12th of September, I think that was his last day of service. It was somewhat in honor of him that Defense Day was held.

I don't know of any appointments I have made that haven't already been announced. I have made one or two in Porto Rico that I think have already been given to the press, several in the Department of Labor that the press already has, and a Deputy Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner in the Pension Bureau has already been given out today.



Mr. Haney of the Shipping Board I expect to reappoint. He has indicated that he is willing to serve. He was very doubtful if he would be able to serve, whether he could continue on account of his desire to return to his practice. I think he said the firm of which he is a member would need his assistance in carrying on their practice of law, but I was informed yesterday by Senator McNary that he was willing to be reappointed.

Did you get any information, Mr. Sanders, about the cost of the Coast Guard?

I haven't got it yet, Mr. President.

I haven't any figures relative to the cost of the Coast Guard used against rum running, but I think you will be safe in assuming that that effort is being made within the appropriation. I don't recall just the amount of that appropriation. We had, I think, some \$8,000,000 or \$10,000,000 appropriated for the purpose of providing ships and boats for the Coast Guard - additional boats, and I don't know how much the annual appropriation is. I don't know of any justification for the suggestion that it would cost about \$100,000,000. I think if you would inquire at the Treasury you will find that they are carrying on the operations within the appropriation.

Here is an inquiry about a statement that is alleged to have been made by Wayne B. Wheeler, that the ships of the Navy ought to be used in Coast Guard Service in an attempt to prevent smuggling. So far as I have ever made any investigation in that direction, I haven't come to that conclusion. Further investigation on my part might change my views, but I haven't arrived at that opinion yet. The Navy is for the distinct purpose of national defense, rather than for the work of police duty which deals with smuggling and other violations of the law.

I am not quite certain when I shall go to Swampscott. It will be some time late in June; I think after the business day or the Budget meeting. I don't know of any foundation for that report that I was to go on the 25th of June.

I have already spoken of the Governors' Conference and the dinner that the Governors are to have with me this evening.

I have already spoken about Defense Day.

I think I have covered all the information I have relative to the offer of Henry Ford for some of the ships of the shipping fleet.



I don't know that I have any special view about the activities of the government agencies against liquor smugglers any more than every one would understand that it is my duty to do what I can to see that the laws are enforced. I had no special information about what was to be done. That is carried out by the prohibition enforcing agencies in the Department of the Treasury. Mr. Mellon has been very solicitous to do what he could to prevent smuggling and Mr. Andrews was brought into the Department to help work out the problem of enforcement of prohibition.

No appointment has been made as Minister to Siam.

I think the Secretary of State has virtually decided to promote some one in the Department to be the successor of Mr. MacMurray, but about that I am not entirely certain, because he has not made a final decision. He seemed to think that that probably would be the best solution. He has made no final decision about it. I could only make the obvious comment about the sudden death of General Miles, who was formerly in command of the Army; he had general command I think of the Army at the time of the Spanish War - I knew him slightly. I think he called Massachusetts his official residence. I used to see him up there some. He was a man whose military work reaches back before the Civil War, where he set a record for service, and in the Indian wars, and finally actively in the Spanish war. He was a good representative of the soldierly qualities of Americans.

I should be in favor of some limitation on the sale of poison gases. We already have treaties made at the Washington Conference which limit the use of poison gases in warfare. Now, I don't know just what plan ought to be adopted, in order to carry ~~out~~ that out. It ought to be a plan that would interfere as little as possible with the legitimate use and sale of chemicals. We sell a good deal of iron and steel abroad which might be manufactured into munitions of war, or rather war supplies and war weapons, and it may be that certain chemicals that we sell abroad in that way could be turned into poison gases, but which every one knows shouldn't be used for that purpose. I should like to see a treaty adopted or a law made that would not unreasonably interfere with peacetime activities or any peaceful commercial transactions. It may not be possible to draft a plan to carry it out exactly along that line, but I should like to see a plan adopted that would adhere to that plan as nearly as possible.



I don't know as there is anything I can say about the letter from Commander Drain, other than that he indicated he was in favor of a National Defense Day. I think that is the general attitude of the most of the Legion, not all of them. I haven't any additional information about rents in the District and unless there is some collusion or conspiracy to raise rents I don't know of any way that the power of injunction could be used. I should regret very much to see an increase in rents here when the District Rent Commission goes out of existence. If anything of that kind should occur I should think it would be very likely that the next session of Congress would revive the Rent Commission. Meantime, I should take such action as I have authority to take to protect the rights of the Government employees in the District against having to pay excessive rents.

I expect to take a trip on the Mayflower tomorrow afternoon over Sunday. No successor has been decided upon for the place of Solicitor General.

The chemists that talked with me yesterday discussed generally what I have already outlined - that it would be unfortunate to enter into any arrangement that would undreasonably interfere with the sale and peace time use of chemicals, even though those chemicals might be used at some other time for the preparation and use of poison gas.



Tuesday, May 19, 1925.

Notes of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't had a chance to confer with the War Department relative to what arrangements they want to make for the observance of a National Defense Day. The Chief of Staff, General Hines, I think is one of the referees that went to Honolulu with the fleet, so that I haven't been able to talk with him; and Mr. Davis has been away quite a little and is away now.

I don't know that there are any new developments in the debt on this end. I don't know exactly to how many countries the suggestion has been made that the matter be considered at this time; I think several; it being thought that it was an appropriate time to take up the matter to see if it wasn't possible to arrange some adjustments.

The Department hasn't made any formal recommendation in relation to the appointment of a judge for New Jersey. But I think that they practically concluded their investigation and I expect to make an appointment there very soon, perhaps this week.

I am not certain of the day that I shall leave for St. Paul. It is somewhere around the 6th or 8th of June. I don't think I will need to have a special train from here to Chicago. There are several very acceptable trains that run up there and very likely I might follow the same practice that I adopted when I went to Chicago last fall, which was to have a compartment car that was devoted entirely to the use of my party and myself. Now it may be that they will want to run a second section that will be devoted practically entirely to the Presidential party that goes up there, my official party, the press and other people that might be considered as a part of the party that goes up to take part in the celebration. Whether I will have to have a special train from Chicago or not, I haven't made investigation to see. It may be that there won't be any regular train that would be adapted to what I would want and that I will have a special train from there, though very likely I shall find that there are reasonable connections and can pursue the same policy there that I would from here to Chicago. That doesn't seem to interfere with the desirable privacy that the President ought perhaps to have in travelling, nor can I see that it interferes in any way with the taking of the necessary safeguards to provide every possible means of safety.



I don't think I shall be able to get to the horse show tomorrow afternoon. Mrs. Coolidge, I believe, is going. I doubt if I will have time to get over there.

I haven't any special comment to make on the proposal of the Interstate Commerce Commission to investigate the affairs of the St. Paul Railroad, other than the general ~~xxxx~~ knowledge that the Commission would of course be taking such action as it thought necessary to protect the public interest and conserve and restore that road to its present and future usefulness as an important arm of transportation in the northwest. That includes a great deal. Primarily it includes necessary transportation, it includes the protection of the rights of the investors in the roads, and trying to devise a reasonable plan for the return of the road to its normal functions.

I didn't have a chance to talk in any detail with Mr. Yoakum about his suggestions on international debt settlements. He very properly brought them to me set out on paper. I don't know whether he gave out a copy. Did he give out a copy to the press? Well, then the press already has it. He came in at 9:00 this morning. I talked with him a little while. I have been tied up with conferences and the Cabinet meeting ever since then, and didn't see the suggestions. Mr. Yoakum is a man of large business affairs and very likely may have some suggestion that would be helpful, but I don't know about the details of the suggestions that he submitted. I have sent his communication to the State Department for consideration and a report to me, if necessary.

I haven't done anything about calling a Hague Conference. So far as I have considered that, it hasn't seemed that it would be feasible at this time, though I haven't given it matured consideration. I haven't looked into just what the suggestions that have been made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union may involve. I don't know whether all the details of them have yet been brought over here. I don't think it would have any relation to the adherence by this country to the Permanent Court of International Justice, either one way or the other.



Friday, May 22, 1925.

Report of Newspaper Conference.

There aren't any reports that come from me or from Ambassador Herrick to the effect that he is planning to retire, so I think that report is without foundation.

General Pershing is going on the Commission to take the plebecite in the Tacan-Arica Boundary dispute, so I don't see how he could take Ambassador Herrick's place if he was proposing to retire. I think that must also be without foundation.

I don't know who to appoint District Commissioner. I would be glad of any suggestions that any of you men may have in that respect, and I am indifferent as to whether he be a Democrat or a Republican. I think I would a little prefer to appoint a Democrat if I could find a fit person; mainly because Captain Oyster was a Democrat, perhaps it is reasonable to have a Democrat on the Board. I don't know what the politics may be of the Army member of the Board. Mr. Rudolph of course I know is a Republican. I don't think it is material, through, whether the third member be a Democrat or a Republican. I am willing to appoint any satisfactory person, pretty much regardless of his politics.

There is a difference, and I think they are on a different contract, between the debts of some of the nations that were contracted prior to the Armistice and those that were contracted after the Armistice for relief purposes. I think that applies to Belgium, but I don't know whether the statute setting up the Debt Commission makes any distinction. I am inclined to think that there is no distinction. If there is that distinction in the contract it might be possible to make a distinction in the settlement between those debts contracted before the Armistice and those contracted after the Armistice, which were for relief purposes. This was brought to my attention by an inquiry relative to the debt of Belgium.

I haven't made any appointments or decided upon any others than those that have been announced. I ~~am~~ made an appointment, the third appointment that I made of the judge in New Jersey, yesterday. I think this third one will stick. Senator Edge gave me a list of names before he went abroad, and I appointed one of them, and he afterwards sent me word that his health was bad and he couldn't



serve. I investigated and appointed another one, and I was informed that he had sent a telegram to the Department that he couldn't serve. That was Mr. Emory. So yesterday morning I got a telegram from Senator Edge that he would recommend the appointment of William Clark. That was satisfactory also and he was appointed. I understand he is willing to serve. He is a very excellent man and I am much pleased to make an appointment of that kind.

I haven't any information about the intention of the Department of Justice to appeal from the decision setting aside the consent decree that was entered in the packers case, by which they agreed to discontinue the shipment of groceries and canned goods, I think. I don't know what the intention of the Department of Justice is about that, or whether they have ever reached any decision, so if any one is particularly interested they better make their inquiry there. It might be a perfectly plain case and no reason for appeal. It may be that something has occurred that they are very much opposed to, and that they are going to make an appeal.

I don't know just when Assistant Attorney General Wells is to leave the Department, so I don't know just how soon it will be necessary to find a successor for him.

I haven't any information about any communications that may have been received at the State Department, either formal or informal, relative to our foreign debts. Nothing of any important nature has been received, so far as I am aware. I think I should have been informed if anything much had been received.

I think I can have press copies of my Minneapolis address about a week in advance, and my Memorial Day speech is substantially ready. I have been ~~working~~ working on it two or three days. I want to go over it once or twice more. I think I shall be able to sent it to the printer tomorrow.

I have already spoken about a Commissioner for the District. I haven't any special name under consideration now. I don't happen to know Mr. Townsend. I think very likely I have met him, but I can't recall him now. I am quite certain that John Hays Hammond is not a resident of the District within the meaning of the statute. It would be a fine thing to get a man of the type of Colonel Hammond, but I am afraid he is not eligible. I should be very much surprised if he would be willing to consider a position of that kind.



I have received from Senator Ball a suggestion about some building projects for the accommodation of those who work here in the District. I think his suggestion has a good deal of merit. There may be some other suggestions that would also have an equal or greater merit, but his suggestion of a plan for building and financing buildings seems to me to be entirely feasible and workable, and would result in bringing rents within reasonable requirements. I am going to take the matter up more in detail with Secretary Hoover to see if we can work out anything in relation to it.

I notice that the ladies got ahead of us in getting entertained on the Mayflower. I don't know whether the men present would be interested to go down on the Mayflower with me some day. You can talk that over among yourselves. If you think you will, let me know and we shall try and arrange an excursion some afternoon.



Tuesday, May 26, 1925.

Report of Newspaper Conference.

I haven't made any choice of a Solicitor General or a member of the Tariff Commission yet.

I couldn't give any opinion that would be worth very much about sending the Shenandoah or Los Angeles to the relief of the Amundsen expedition without conferring with the Navy Dept. I think you are likely to get much more authoritative information from them. Of course it goes without saying that I would be in favor of taking any action that our Government could take for the relief of that expedition. I don't know whether developments have been such as to warrant the assumption that the expedition is in such difficulty that it is necessary to send relief.

There hasn't been any action taken about the tariff on linseed oil, and of course the matter of the protection of the chemical industry I think will be duly considered by our representatives who are at Geneva undertaking to see if anything can be done to restrict the sale of war munitions and arms.

I have already spoken about the Amundsen Polar expedition.

Hawaii

The matter of a Circuit Judge in ~~Java~~ hadn't been brought to my attention until this question came in. I don't know of any reason why Judge Thompson shouldn't be reappointed. That would be my expected action, unless some reason develops that would lead me to suppose that a change would be helpful to the service. I believe in reappointing people in the service so far as I can, so long as their discharge of the functions of the office are reasonably good. I don't expect they will be perfect. I doubt if I could find any one that would undertake their place that could be considered perfect. If they are men of good character, good ability, good intentions, I want to have them reappointed.

There isn't any particular comment I can make about the appointment of a District Commissioner, other than that which I have already made. I don't expect to find any one that hasn't had some contact with the business of the District that would be qualified to serve. I don't think it would be necessary to try to find some one that was entirely outside the business interests of the District. I should feel very certain that any one who was appointed Commissioner would not come under improper influence or control ~~by any~~ of any business, whether they were banking, real estate or other local



business interests. I want to make the appointment right away. I am very much restricted in finding some one that is a resident of the District in accordance with the law. There are a number of men that live here and are residents to all intents and purposes, but that perhaps vote outside the District. If that is the case, I understand they are not eligible. I rather think that a change in that provision of the law would be helpful. I could think of three or four men that I know would make admirable commissioners, who live here and perhaps transact some business here, but they also have a home, a house and voting residence outside the District, and for that reason I can't appoint them. I don't know just how the law is framed, but there ought to be some change in it in order to give me an opportunity to make an appointment of that kind.

I didn't see the proposal of Julius Barnes relative to the development of new fields of commerce for German industry, so that their production wouldn't come on to the American market. That is more a business problem, I think, than it is a Government problem. The Government, though, would be pleased to cooperate, I am sure, in any reasonable proposal of that kind. If we expect to trade with Germany, why of course we are going to take some of her output and sell her some of ours. I think we should be reasonably protected here by reasonable tariff duties from any invasion of our market by manufacturers abroad.

I haven't any direct information about the suggestion that the United States be a participant in the proposal of the proposed Western European Security Pact. My first reaction about that would be that it is entirely a European question which should be settled by them. I don't exactly see how our Government could participate in it. I say that always with a desire to do anything that we can that is helpful without involving ourselves in the political questions of Europe.

I secured a letter I think from Secretary Work relative to the question of the right of way for the Meeker-Sylvester Reservoir cite in Colorado, of which I am sending a copy to Senator Sheppard. I thought that the letter covered the suggestions that he made and showed what Secretary Work was trying to do. I don't know whether the letter was given out for publication. It probably was not.



I don't know of any further action that will be taken in relation to discharge of certain veterans by the Public Printer, other than that which I have already taken, which as you know was to investigate<sup>and</sup>/if any had been discharged contrary to the provisions of law to try to see if they shouldn't be reinstated. I think that has been thoroughly covered, though if there are any further complaints they will be investigated as carefully as they can be.

I haven't received any recommendation - what is meant here I suppose is a report from the Tariff Commission relative to the tariff on butter.

That seems to cover the questions for the day.

Just a minute - about the trip on the Mayflower. I wish you would let Sec. Sanders know about how many will go. I thought we would leave about 2:00 o'clock and return sometime between 6:00 and 7:00, and if there are not so many of those belonging to the White House Press Association that makes it impossible, I am going to include an invitation to the White House photographers staff. My understanding is that there wont be more than 60 or 70 of the Press Association, and not more than 15 or 20 of the photographer's staff. If that is the case we can accommodate all. I would like to have some of the members of the Association at the rail so as to see that those who go on have the proper credentials. I am not going to issue any tickets or anything of that kind. If some of the officers or members of the staff will stand at the rail or the gang plank so as to be certain that those who go are those who have been invited, I will be able to provide I think for all that want to go.



Friday, May 29, 1925.

Report of Newspaper Correspondents.

I have had Frederick C. Delano under consideration for appointment to the vacancy on the District Commission. I don't know whether he is eligible or not. I thought at first that he was and then I understood he wasn't; then I understood again that he was eligible. There are several others that I also have under consideration, but their eligibility would be looked into by the Attorney General's office for the purpose of advising me about that. My understanding isn't clear yet whether he is eligible or not.

I have one or two inquiries here about the studies that I asked the War Department to make, and the questions here that are asked are really the questions that I have asked of the War Department. I can't very well answer them until I get the answers there. I think you will understand what the object is. It is to have the War Dept. study its needs and requirements in order to report to me what it could do if it had so much money this year, so much next, so much the year after and so on. Now it may be that it won't be possible for them to make any reduction. It may be that they can make more of a reduction than I had thought might be possible. But my inquiries are for the purpose of finding out what it is possible to do and at the same time of course maintain a reasonable military department. The inquiry there is very much the same as we constantly make of other departments to study their departments and see what reductions, if any, can be made.

Question: Mr. President can you say whether that was made only to the War Dept. or to other Departments also?

Answer: I think we are making the same inquiry of some other Depts. I don't know whether I have sent an inquiry to other Departments just lately, but other Departments have been inquired of in the same nature. So I can't tell whether a reduction of the War Dept. expenditures would make necessary a reduction in personnel or the size of the Regular Army. That is the purpose of the study - to see whether a reasonable service can be maintained at a somewhat less expenditure of money.



I am not familiar enough with the details of the requirements to know whether it would be desirable or helpful to send the Coast Guard Cutter Bear, which is now on duty in Alaskan waters, to make a search to determine whether Amundsen landed somewhere in Alaska. That is a question in geography that I can't answer without looking at the map. As I indicated last week, I should want the Government to take any action it can that might be necessary for relief. Of course the mystery has considerable news value. As long as Amundsen isn't found why there will be considerable newspaper comment about it, and it was revealed I noticed today for the first time, that he had given instructions not to send after him until after two weeks had elapsed. I don't know whether that is significant at all, but as long as he has given instructions of that kind he very likely had in mind that he might stay up there for some time.

I will have prepared so that I can give it out to you somewhat later a schedule of my Minnesota trip in order that you will get all the information that I have in relation to that, and I will put it on paper so that you may want to use it for your own convenience and guidance as a time table and so on.

I don't know just when I shall leave for Swampscott - soon after the budget meeting which I think is on the 22nd. I am not certain whether I can attend the Governors' Conference which is to be held in Maine.

I don't think I am to make any more speeches except the one I am to make tomorrow, the one at Annapolis and the one in Minnesota, though it seems there was something along in June that is tentative which I had thought I might respond to. But I don't know just what it is, I think something here in the District.

I have had mimeographed and given to the members of the press what I think is an accurate and detailed statement about some of the progress that we are making in aviation. I would like to have you use it as your own material. I think it is important and will be helpful to you in getting a clear idea of what the Government is doing, what progress it is making. I noticed some comparisons of what we have done here and what other Governments have done. I will be glad to furnish things of that kind from time to time if occasion may arise, if they seem to be something you might want to use. If it doesn't develop that your publishers want to use anything of that kind I won't undertake to bother you with it.



Tuesday, June 2, 1925.

Report of Newspaper Conference.

My request of the War Dept. was for a survey of their whole Department, to see under what plans they could carry on the Department on an appropriation of a certain sum of money. It doesn't relate to one phase of their activity any more than another.

I haven't given to the question of where negotiations ought to be carried on for the purpose of trying to fund our foreign debts any special attention. I had assumed all the while that they would be carried on here in Washington, though it is a matter over which I have only indirect jurisdiction because it is in the hands of the Debt Funding Commission. I should be very much inclined to take their advice about it. It is a good thing to have various suggestions. Oftentimes those are helpful, whether they come from private conference or whether they come from newspaper articles. But the matter is in the hands of the Debt Commission and they will be the ones that I think really ought to determine it. I understand that they think, so far as they have made any expression, that it would probably be better to negotiate here in Washington, though I don't understand that they have considered the subject so as to make any final determination about it or cut off the possibility of doing anything else, and that is their present plan as I understand it.

The matter of action on the World Court is in the hands of the United States Senate. I think they have set the 17th of December as the time when they will begin discussion on it. I assume that they expect to have some definite action on it at an early date. But I haven't any specific information as to the Senate. As you know it is rather dangerous to predict when the Senate will act on any particular question, unless they have set a definite time for a vote.

I haven't determined on the appointment of any officers, save those that have already been announced.

I think that there has been a request made of the Attorney General that he consider the question whether there is any authority in the President's office to transfer the Bureau of Mines from the Interior Department to the Department of Commerce, but I haven't received any reply to that inquiry. I think one may be forthcoming in the near future.



I haven't taken up with the Department of the Interior or the Department of Commerce any final determination of whether such transfer should be made or not. It is merely a matter of studying the situation to see what could be done and a consideration of the public welfare to see what ought to be done.

I want to get the appointments that I have before me made as soon as possible. The members of the Tariff Commission to take the place of Dr. Culbertson and Mr. Burgess are two, and I hope an early appointment --

I have several inquiries here about a motion picture. That brings up a somewhat interesting question. Now it has always been my policy to try to help any legitimate enterprise in the United States in any way I can. The only restriction that I feel about that is that I ought not to use the Presidential office for advertising purposes, and so oftentimes when I am asked for a word of commendation about certain commercial activities I feel that I can't properly give it. Now I suppose I am in the moving picture business to a greater extent than almost anybody else in the United States that isn't professionally engaged in it. The boys take motion pictures of me in the yard here and on every public occasion. I am very glad to have that done in these instances, because it is of general public interest, and then they dispose of them and charge admission to the public that want to go to motion picture houses and look at them. Now I understand that there was some arrangement made for a motion picture relative to the Naval Academy similar to that made relative to the Military Academy. I have seen that military academy picture. We had it on the boat one time and it was a very interesting picture. I am very glad to assist in any way that I can to bring to the public attention the life and activities of the Naval Academy. Now I don't know whether the newspaper comment that has been started in relation to this is for the purpose of advertising the film when it comes out. You will be the best judges of that and take such action in relation to it as you wish. But I haven't any objection to a picture being taken of me at the Naval Academy that would be used on the screen any more than I could object to a motion picture taken here in the back yard or a picture taken of me delivering an address. I don't see any difference in the principle of it. The only possible difference I can see is that this might be used exclusively by one motion picture concern. Now as I understand what is proposed, it is that all the motion picture concerns that wish to be represented at the Annapolis Academy tomorrow will have an equal



opportunity to take a motion picture of me and exhibit it. This line, as I understand it, of the graduating class will move before me and I am to hand them their diplomas. I don't understand that I am to hand diplomas to any one except those that are actual graduates of the Academy. Now if some one wants to take a picture of the line and other scenes to present the life of the Academy, I am perfectly willing to have that done. The only embarrassment about it, as I say, is that perhaps one moving picture concern would have that and another wouldn't, but every motion picture concern is going to have the privilege of taking the picture of me and to make use of it in any legitimate way they wish in the ordinary carrying on of their business. As I said at the outset, ~~while~~ I want always to help every legitimate concern in the United States. My only embarrassment is that there are so many competing concerns that those who didn't get the picture would say this is a kind of apple sauce (laughter broke out which continued during the next two or three sentences of the President and prevented accurate reporting of what he said.) As near as could be heard the President stated that other concerns would then wish to make apple sauce, and that he would probably be deluged with requests to sample their apple sauce and he should have to say that the conduct of the public business wouldn't enable him to partake of it.

I think we can have copies of the Minnesota speech tomorrow. I am undertaking to do that.

I hope to be able to name a District Commissioner within a very few days. There are quite a number of inquiries about that.

I have already covered I think the moving picture story.

That seems to cover the questions.



Friday, June 5, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I think that some of the marines are at Shanghai for the purpose of protecting American lives and property, and they will be used to whatever extent it is necessary that they should be used for that purpose. That is the only purpose that America ever lands any marines on foreign soil and they would have no other purpose in the present situation. You can get more detailed information I think from the Secretary of State's office, or from the Secretary of the Navy, than I have. I know that we have some war vessels in the harbor at Shanghai, and I think one or two others on the way there. Though we know - I know of nothing serious that has happened to any American citizens or any American property, but on account of the disorder there it is considered that they are in jeopardy and marines have been landed in order that they may have proper and ample protection. That is all the action that I know of that is contemplated in relation to China or Chinese territory.

The matter of giving any decoration to General Bundy hadn't been brought to my attention until this question came to me. I am pleased to have the question and will take the matter up with the War Department. It states here that he is the only Major General that has not been given an award or decoration. Some of our laws that provided for American decorations have gone out of existence on account of the lapse of time, but I assume that there are laws that would provide for giving a decoration to one who has earned it by reason of service.

I doubt very much if Representative Burton is correctly reported as having announced that this Government had called an International Conference for Limitation of Chemical Warfare. Before I can comment on that I should want to see just what he had said. I think that if he made any reference to that it is probably a very limited reference, one that is accompanied by quite a good many conditions. Of course if we have a conference on limitation of armaments I know of no reason why it wouldn't be possible to take that question up at that time. I should doubt very much if the foreign governments would care to come to this country merely for the purpose of a conference on the limitation of chemical warfare.



I haven't any information at all about what Soviet Russia may be planning to do in China. I don't have in mind at the present time the transfer of any other Government agencies to the Department of Commerce. An investigation may reveal that there are other departments that could be transferred to the Department of Commerce, or other transfers, but I haven't any others in mind now. Of course we are constantly surveying the ground in order to find out whether there are transfers that could be made that would result in better administration of Government agencies and doing the same amount of work, securing better if possible, but certainly as good results, with the expenditure of less money.

That seems to cover the inquiries of this afternoon.



Report of Newspaper Conference  
on train enroute Minneap. to Wash.  
Tuesday, June 9, 1925.

Here is an inquiry about economic and political impressions. I haven't thought at all about political impressions until I got this inquiry. I don't know that I received any distinctly political impressions. The impression that struck me more than anything else was rather of a patriotic impression, an apparent general satisfaction with conditions in the country. Of course I didn't have any opportunity to confer with any one about the economic condition of the northwest. I did learn that crop conditions through Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota are good. I saw one man that had just been through North Dakota and he said that the crop conditions there were very promising. If you can base the economic condition of the people on their appearance, the way they are dressed, the general appearance of prosperity, I should say that it was very good. I don't know that that has any significance now, but I noticed most of the ladies had on silk dresses and I/saw a rather general display of silk stockings.

I met a number of my relatives up there. There were three of my father's own cousins that came to call on me. They were children of the brothers and sisters of my grandmother. Her name was Brewer. Then I met some other relatives of more distant connections, the Briggses and Putnams.

The reception I thought was very impressive. I never saw anything like it excepting the turn-out at Boston at the time Joffre came over here in June 1917. I doubt very much if any President ever saw an equal number of people in one day. Perhaps I spoke to an equal number last October when the Holy Name Society was in Washington, but aside from that it was the largest audience. I rather think the



audience was larger than that in Washington that October Sunday. I think it was the latter part of September or October. Perhaps some of you will remember?

Answer: October, Mr. President.

And notwithstanding the difficulties that we encountered on account of the wind and threatening rain, I never had closer attention from an audience than that which was given to me yesterday.

Since I have been away from Washington we have had a dispatch from the State Dept. that the Belgium Government has agreed to come over here through its representatives to negotiate some settlement of their debt. I think they have already appointed a commission headed by Theunis. Is he the Prime Minister (addressing Sec. Kellogg).

Mr. Kellogg: He was the Prime Minister just prior to the present Prime Minister.

The President: That is the only dispatch I have had from Washington.

It is customary I suppose for those who are interested in those things to look into the possible inherited background of Presidents. Some one has dug out a tradition that my family, the Coolidges, came from a place in Normandy. The French spelling was Colynge. I have seen on the screen within a short time a picture of a castle in that town - I can't tell the name of the town. Now I assume that that meant that we had a Norman background, which as I indicated yesterday was a Norse or a Norwegian background. I have got so many backgrounds of one kind or another that I am pretty purely American, having I believe a little tinge of Indian blood in me. I



3.

simply speak of the Norman background as of a little interest on account of the Norwegian gathering yesterday. I have got several others that I don't need to dwell on - Scotch, and Colonel Hennessey says Irish.

Mr. President: Is there any objection to using direct quotes on what you said about the reception in Minneapolis and St. Paul yesterday?

The President: I think that is all right. But I will have it set up and look at it.



Friday , June 12, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't any information beyond what has already been published I think relative to the Tidal Basin Bathing Beach. I think I put into the Budget last year a recommendation for money to be used to keep that open as a bathing beach and you will undoubtedly recall who it was that made a motion in the Senate to have it taken out. It was taken out. I should be very glad to do anything I can to afford bathing facilities for the residents of Washington, I mean especially those that are here in the Government employ, but I don't know of any action that I can take beyond what is being taken by Colonel Sherrill, who has charge of Public Buildings and Grounds. I understood that he was doing what he could to see if some plan could be devised for using the Tidal Basin for bathing.

I don't think there is anything I can add to what Secretary Kellogg stated today in relation to our relations with Mexico and conditions in that country.

I haven't seen the suggestion of Senator Smoot ~~for~~ which he is said to have made that the Federal Government might retire from the inheritance tax field and the states retire from the income tax field. Very likely if he has made that statement it is the result of careful study by him. He is not given to making statements that haven't substantial foundation of logic and soundness. I can see quite a good many difficulties in securing the adoption of a plan of that kind, because it requires the action of a good many state legislatures, and I presume it would be quite difficult to get the different state legislatures to discontinue income taxation. I haven't any particular information about any except the Massachusetts tax law, but I should think it would be practically impossible for the Commonwealth of Mass. to give up the income taxes that it secures and try to get sufficient revenue entirely from inheritance taxes. Many states do not only have an income tax, but also an inheritance tax, so I should think there would be a good many practical difficulties in the way of putting this proposal into operation, though I can say that while I like the idea I don't know whether it would be possible to get it adopted. I discussed somewhat before the tax conference here the question of inheritance taxes, suggesting that the National Government perhaps ought to retire from that field and leave it to the states. I realize that we could not retire all at once. It would have to be a gradual retirement on account of the amount of revenue that we secure.



Ques. Mr. President: In going over Mr. Winston's speech yesterday, I wasn't sure that your statement that it oftentimes takes \$2 to collect \$1 meant the individual states or the Federal Government.

The President: I can't recall now just how those figures ran. I would have to get that address out and refresh my recollection about it. That was the cost, as I recall it, to the states.

I have already spoken about the bathing beach and Senator Smoot's tax suggestion.

I am going to Mass. some time after the 22nd. I should presume between the 22nd and the 25th. I am not certain which day.

I have suggested to the Shipping Board that it confer on Admiral Palmer the matter of negotiating sales of ships. That is as far as my suggestion goes. Because of the difficulty of any person negotiating with the Board of 7 members, I suggested that Admiral Palmer take the negotiations and draw up the contract and lay it on the desk of the Shipping Board for their approval or their disapproval. I did that because it has constantly come to my attention that people have become discouraged about attempting to negotiate with the Shipping Board for the purchase of ships. They want some single person to whom they can apply to make a trade. They don't find that it is expedient to negotiate with the whole 7.

I am not certain whether I shall go to the Governors' Conference at Poland Springs. I want very much to go up there. It is doubtful whether I can get there though.

As I have already said, I don't see that I can add anything to what I thought was the very clear statement that Secretary Kellogg gave out relative to Mexico.

I have already spoken of the sales of ships and my reason. I didn't have any other reason. It was simply for the convenience of those who ~~would~~ want to purchase ships and to make more certain ~~that~~ we can negotiate. It wasn't on account of any dissatisfaction with any sales that have been made, but because as I have said, people have suggested to me that they weren't able to carry on the negotiations with 7 men. I didn't have in mind anything other than the sale of ships. I don't know of any suggestions that are being considered at the present time for the sale of any ships. Maybe there are some; I don't know of any.



Tuesday, June 16, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I have an inquiry here about the Colorado River. I think I made a public statement about that last fall some time. I don't know of anything that I could add to it. I haven't got that statement before me, but if any one is interested in knowing my position they will find it by looking that up. I should say it was made about September or October. Now it may be that there have been some developments that would modify the position I then took. I am not in favor as a general proposition of putting the United States Government into the generation of power business. I am in favor of using public funds where it is necessary for flood control, but oftentimes that results in an incidental development of power. The way that I would like to see those things developed is for the head of the Government to take care of flood control, as we do in the Mississippi River, and private enterprise carry on the business of the generation and the distribution of power. Of course I haven't the time to discuss that in a general newspaper conference. I should need to give very careful consideration to any statement that would represent entirely my position and what might do for one place perhaps might not be applicable to another. I had hoped very much that the plan that had been worked out for the Colorado River water and power development by means of treaties between the different states up there would go into effect. I don't know whether that is becoming hopeless or not. Arizona has held it up. California has made some changes I think in their ratification, so that I don't know what plan can be adopted that may be for the best interests of the project.

I haven't any plan at the present time about a conference of Federal and State officials to negotiate an arrangement for separate tax fields so that the Federal Government would have the income taxes and the State Governments the inheritance taxes. While theoretically that may be sound, as I said at the last conference I can see difficulties in getting it into operation - illustrated by the great difficulty we had in four or five states on the water power proposition. It would probably require legislative action by a large number of states and that of course is difficult to secure. Oftentimes they have made a commitment to get a certain amount of revenue from income taxes and it might be exceedingly difficult for them to find a method by which they could get an equivalent amount of income entirely from inheritance taxes, though it might be worked out gradually. I haven't



talked with Senator Smoot about his plan. As I said the other day, he doesn't put out plans unless he has considered them carefully and usually he has the facts and figures to warrant a sound conclusion. He may have some method by which an adjustment of that kind could be made.

Question: Mr. President do you think you will be able to attend the Governors' Conference?

Answer: I think it is very doubtful, but I haven't fully decided yet.

I haven't had any report from the Tariff Commission about the duty on butter. I think I have seen some suggestion that some one made to repeal the flexible tariff provisions of the present tariff law. I doubt if there is any sentiment there of an appreciable amount.

I haven't any information about the affairs in China, other than what has already been given to the press.

I haven't had any protests about the executive order regarding discharges from Government departments. I don't think it is such as will seriously interfere in any way with the usual carrying on of the business of the departments and perhaps it will give some assurance to those who are employed that they will receive that kind of treatment which the law seems to contemplate, giving preference to certain individuals that come under certain conditions to stay in the Department, above other individuals that are under other conditions.

I don't know of any developments regarding the bathing beach. Some provision of the law has been brought to my attention that I didn't have particularly in mind at the last conference that seems to raise a question as to the authority of any one doing anything with the bathing beaches. Congress enacted a law abolishing the bathing beach that was contemplated for colored people and abolished also the bathing beach that was in existence for the white people. I should think under that statute it would be somewhat difficult to take any action.

I don't know of any development in the Mexican situation that I could comment on. I expect to have the address that I shall deliver at Cambridge on July 3rd ready for the press perhaps before I leave for Swampscott or soon thereafter. And I expect to go about the 23rd of June. I haven't fully decided yet, but I think it will be possible for me to get away on that day. I don't know just what time I can get away, perhaps go during the day or perhaps take a night train. I don't know. I think that - this is not for publication - the railroads



do not like to have the hour given out in advance of the time that the President will travel.

I am going to appoint Mr. Olds, who is now serving us - I can't recall his first name - on the Commission that is assessing some European claims, to be an Assistant Secretary of State. He takes the place that is made vacant by Mr. MacMurray, who has been made Minister to China. I haven't done anything about a Minister for Siam or a vacancy on the Tariff Commission. I haven't had any report from the Tariff Commission on butter, or straw hats, or gold leaf. I have a report on cotton gloves.

I have noticed once or twice that I would comment on a question at the top of the page and then afterwards I would remember that there were some more questions down the page that I had neglected to comment on. Of course there are some times questions that I don't think it wise to make any comment on; very seldom, once in a while I have neglected to speak of something that I intended to speak about because I ~~thought~~ talked about the first question and forgot there were others and went over to another paper.



Friday, June 19, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

I haven't received any further reports from the Tariff Commission.

I don't know when I shall make any further decisions on the two or three things that I have before me.

I haven't any plans in relation to shipping under consideration, other than those that have already been given to the press. I have received an invitation I believe to speak at the semi-centennial of the Reopening of the University of North Carolina, in October. I haven't made any final decision about that, and I can't say that I am very hopeful of going. I would like to go, but I doubt if I shall be able to go.

My ability to promote Captain Robison, now Admiral Robison, of course depends upon the report that comes to me from the Board. The Board hasn't recommended his promotion. I don't think they are going to sit again for some time. The decision in Colorado, it says Montana here but it is in Colorado, is one way and the decision of the California case is the other way. Both cases I suppose may be understood to be technically pending, because I have no doubt the defendant will appeal in the California case and presumably the Government, though I haven't any actual information about that and nothing has been said about it by counsel, will appeal in the Colorado case. So that it doesn't change the situation very much.

I have received a communication from Peru through the Peruvian Ambassador that Emanuel De Freyre Santander - I will let the good Spanish fellows pronounce that for me; I spell it because I am not certain that the Spanish men or the others would get the correct spelling from my pronunciation - has been appointed the Peruvian member of the Plebecite Commission. That of course is none the less gratifying news, notwithstanding that it was expected that the plebecite would go on.

I can't make any comment about the decision at Cheyenne relative to the oil leases, because any comment about that ought to come from the counsel.

Here is an inquiry as to whether I am prepared to announce the personnel of the Tacna-Arica Plebecite Commission. I take it that I have already answered that question. The other member here is General Pershing and I think we appoint one and Chile appoints one, which has already been done; and Peru appoints one, which has been done and fills the Commission.



2.

I have noticed this quotation here from the French note to Germany. That is probably in response to the memorandum of Germany's on the 20th of January, addressed at least to England and France, in which Germany ~~refer~~ offered to pledge itself to the Government of the United States as trustee. That is the only suggestion I have seen that the United States should associate itself in that way and I suppose it goes without saying that I don't ~~know~~ see how the United States could take that action. While we are interested of course in all the rest of the world and in the security of Europe, it is our long settled policy not to make political engagements of that kind, and I see no reason why it would be expected that we should make one in this instance, nor do I see any hope of the United States making an engagement of that nature. I don't believe that the different powers will make a suggestion of that kind to the United States.

That seems to cover the inquiries.

I think there may be a short conference Tuesday.



June 23, 1925.

Report of Newspaper Conference.

I don't know as I can say very much about my vacation. I expect to spend a considerable part of it trying to amuse the newspapermen (laughter). There is a friend of mine who lives in Lynn that is a large newspaper distributor, Ralph Bauer, who is going to have some kind of an Essex County Newspaper Men's gathering at his place in Amesbury, that I shall take the liberty of suggesting being increased by inviting all the out of town newspaper correspondents that happen to be attending on the President. I think you would like to go up there. He has a farm and it is a very interesting place, not very far from the residence of Whittier, if you would like to look at his old home where he wrote Snowbound. You better get a copy of Whittier and read Snowbound before you go there. It is a fine piece of work and it is the ~~best~~ piece that brought Whittier into prominent notice. You will see there the old home in which he was living the time that the theme of Snowbound took place. Of course I am not going up to Massachusetts with the expectation of getting a vacation. There isn't really a vacation for the Presidential office. I shall have to do the same work about that I am doing here, but I am going up to get a change of atmosphere and not be obliged to stay in Washington the entire year, because staying here is rather a draft on your vitality if you stay the whole summer. It is a very good plan to get away and get that change that will come from going to Swampscott where the temperature will be cooler, so on and so forth.



I haven't given any thought to the appointment of a new Vice Chairman for the Tariff Commission. That ought to be done very soon. I don't know what the Shipping Board is going to do about my suggestion. I have had a communication, I think from the Chairman, saying he was out of town and several of the Board were out of town, and as soon as they could get back to town they would attend to it. I am quite desirous that they should put that suggestion into execution. So far as I know, I can see no reason why it shouldn't be done. I don't mean that as a diminution of the powers and duties of the Shipping Board, but I am making that suggestion because of the great difficulty of negotiating with a Board of 7 members. Of course it isn't any desire to take away from them the duties that they have under the law of selling ships, but it is a suggestion to them as to the method that they ought to employ.

I haven't any explicit plans for making studies of possible legislative programs. Of course that is going on all the time, considering what might come up that would cause me to make certain recommendations to the Congress. I don't know of any developments in regard to the C. M. & St. P. Railroad. If there were developments it would be quite unusual that they should come to the attention of the Executive.

The President spoke to a member of the conference and was replied to as follows:

The President: Are you taking down in shorthand what I say:

Answer: Yes sir.

The President: Now I don't think that is right. I don't think that



is the proper thing to do. Who do you represent?

Answer: David Lawrence.

The President: Well, I wish you would tell Mr. Lawrence that I don't think it is the right thing to do. I will see to that myself.

I haven't made a final decision about going to the Conference at Poland Springs. I want to go up there but I think it is quite doubtful whether I will be able to go.

I haven't made any decision about the request of Rear Admiral Robison to retire. I have been guided very largely in that by what counsel for the Government, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Pomerene, might say would be the effect on the work they are trying to do.

I don't know of course just what will be done about reappointing Dist. Attorney Peyton Gordon. It is my expectation that he will be reappointed, but when I am making that statement it is always with the further statement that I do not think I ought to make promises absolutely in advance of what the Presidential office may do.

I expect to make routine appointments at Swampscott the same as they would be made here in Washington.

Here is a little announcement that Miss Laura Harlan will retire from her position as Social Secretary at the White House at the beginning of the next season, and the management of the formal ~~affairs~~ social occasions at the White House will be placed in the hands of some man attached to the State Department. It is



expected that Miss Mary Randolph will continue as the personal secretary of Mrs. Coolidge at the White House and no changes are anticipated there before autumn.

The President addressing the representative of David Lawrence said:

I don't object to you taking notes as to what I say, but I don't quite throw my communications to the conference into anything like finished style or anything that perhaps would naturally be associated with a Presidential utterance. It would interfere with me very much if I understood that it is to be taken down in shorthand here and then used outside for such purposes as any one might want to use them. What I say here is not to be taken down in shorthand other than that which is taken down by my stenographer for my purposes. Otherwise it greatly interferes with my freedom of expression and my trying to disclose to the Conference the things that I have in mind, which quite naturally, if they were to be used verbatim, I would want to give considerable thought to and perhaps throw into a little different form of language.



Friday, June 26, 1925.

Report of the Newspaper Conference.

Mr. Thomas White, Supervisor of Administration, is he now Colonel Hennessy -

I think so Mr. President -

just dropped in. I have not had a chance to do anything except to receive him. Of course he came to pay his respects. I am going to see if I can get him to stay to dinner. I noticed the suggestion of Sir Joshua Stamp that the United States must necessarily do something in order that Germany might pay its reparations and that the European Governments that are indebted to the United States might pay us. I didn't examine that with great care. Most of my information I think comes from editorial articles that I have read in relation to it. I took it that it is another one of the efforts that have been constantly made since the war to provide some method by which the United States would pay the reparations. There have been all kinds of left handed efforts to provide some method by which the reparations could be collected out of the people of the United States. If that is the intention of it, I don't believe the people of the United States will take kindly to it.

Now, the very large importations that we are having seem to me to be a sufficient answer to the suggestion that our tariffs should be lowered. Our foreign trade at the present time is greater than it ever was, 50% greater than it was before the war, while the other European countries are showing a less foreign trade. Now I don't want that to be misinterpreted. Of course the world



is in a condition in which it is in. Our people have got to bear their share of the burden and they will suffer the loss, you might call it that, of the inconvenience that is going to arise from this world condition and will be obliged, whether they want to or not, to share it with the other people of the world. But I don't believe that they would want to undertake a plan or be a party to one that would result in undertaking to make this country pay the reparations or cancel its debt.

I think it is very doubtful if I shall attend the Governors' Conference and I do want to go up to make a short visit to my father.as soon as I can after I have made my address at Cambridge, which is on the third. I thought it would be very pleasant for me if I could get home on my birthday, which is on the 4th. I don't know whether that can be arranged or not. I just had a communication from Vice President Dawes' Secretary that he has gone up to Newburyport and is going to stop on his way back.

I ~~may~~ shall not receive direct advices from Washington about pending things there in any different way than I would if I was in Washington - perhaps not quite so frequently but whenever there is anything that any of the departments desire to consult me about they will get me on the telephone or write to me, or in case of necessity run up. They can leave there at about 7:00 in the evening and be here about 7:00 in the morning.

Here is a question I don't quite understand. "Is Mr. Stetson to be retained in the diplomatic service?"

Question: Mr. President, we were informed this morning that a Mr. Pearson had



been named Minister to Finland.

The President: I haven't made that appointment and I doubt if that is correct.

It may be possible, but I don't think so.

Mr. Sanders handed the President a paper.

The President: Well I don't know about that. It may be that there is some plan on foot to put Mr. Stetson in Mr. Pearson's place and Mr. Pearson go to Finland.

Now that my recollection is afreshed about that I think Secretary Kellogg spoke to me about that before I came away, and I told him to make inquiries to see whether that would be agreeable to Mr. Stetson and Dr. Pearson. Very likely he has done so.

Question: Has Mr. Pearson a post now?

President: No. He is not in the diplomatic service. He has been appointed and the last I knew he was coming to Washington, as men do, in order to acquaint himself with such routine as is necessary and the questions between this country and the post to which he is assigned. And that is what Mr. Stetson is doing. Mr. Kellogg spoke to me about him and said the men in the Dept. were very well pleased with him. I don't want this published, but I presume the expenses of the post that Mr. Stetson had were rather high and he desired to get a post where the expenses wouldn't be so much. Dr. Pearson is a Scandinavian.



4.

I am enjoying my stay here very much and I hope you gentlemen are enjoying it also, and the ladies that you brought with you.

I think I shall take a little automobile ride tomorrow morning. I presume you would like to go along. What time would you like to start?

At your convenience, Mr. President. How far are we going?

The President: We will take a ride over toward Cambridge and come back in time for lunch.

What time do you plan to be in Cambridge, Mr. President?

I don't know. What I was trying to find out was what time you would like to start. I think leaving here about 9:00 o'clock would be all right. Will that be all right for you?

Yes, sir.