

# THE WEEK IN THE UNITED STATES

## Rail Wage Cuts and Rates.

**T**WO moves of primary importance in adjustment of the railroad situation were made last week, one by the United States railroad labor board at Chicago and the other by President Harding.

The board ordered wages of all classes of labor reduced 12 per cent, effective July 1. The President appeared unexpectedly before the interstate commerce commission and discussed with its members the proposition of cutting freight rates, one which has engaged the attention of the commissioners without their having made a definite pronouncement upon its feasibility at this time.

Reaction of both labor and capital to the announcement of the rail labor board was entirely normal, that is to say each found fault with it. However, as was the case when the board recently stipulated for reductions in pay of unskilled labor, the union chiefs commented most conservatively upon the ruling, their main argument being that if wages are to be cut rate reductions should be immediately in order. Rail executives expressed disappointment that the lowering should be but 12 per cent, declaring they had hoped it would completely wipe out the \$600,000,000 annual increase ordered last year. As it is, the amount of loss to employes will be \$400,000,000.

President Harding's attitude seems to coincide with that of the labor men, though in advocating horizontal freight rate decreases he is moved by considerations of the economic welfare of the whole nation and not of any one class.

He was informed on the occasion of his informal call on the commission that the attention of that body at present is directed toward eliminating rate inequalities, but he made it plain that he regarded as most desirable more drastic treatment of freight schedules.

The position of the executives is that only a substantial increase in traffic will bring the authorized 5½ per cent return from rail tariffs, despite the forthcoming \$400,000,000 cut in operating costs. They are doubtful that rate reductions would be an infallible remedy for traffic stagnation, which they claim is attributable to causes more fundamental than present transportation charges.

## Jap Women and Armament.

**I**MMEDIATE and decisive approval has been given by Japanese women to the movement for reduction of national armaments promulgated by the National League of Women Voters at its recent convention in Cleveland, leaders in the organization declared last week.

Under the leadership of Mme. Yukio Ozaki of Tokio, the Japanese women have organized a women's peace society, it is reported, "dedicated to furthering disarmament, especially by promotion of an understanding between the United States and Japan," Mrs. Maud Wood Park, league president, said.

"The action of the Japanese women, following so closely the initiative taken by the National League of Women Voters is a great encouragement to the women of the committee on reduction of armament of the League of Women Voters which met in Washington on May 25, because it shows the interest with which women generally regard this subject," said Mrs. Park. "The resolution passed by the committee at its last meeting urging world-wide co-operation of women will undoubtedly meet immediate and whole-hearted response."

The acquaintance of Mrs. Park and Mme. Ozaki is of some years' standing, dating back to Mrs. Park's visit to the Orient when she was entertained by Mme. Ozaki and her husband, then mayor of Tokio. M. Ozaki is now lecturing throughout Japan in a campaign against armament.

## Barnes Defends Exchanges.

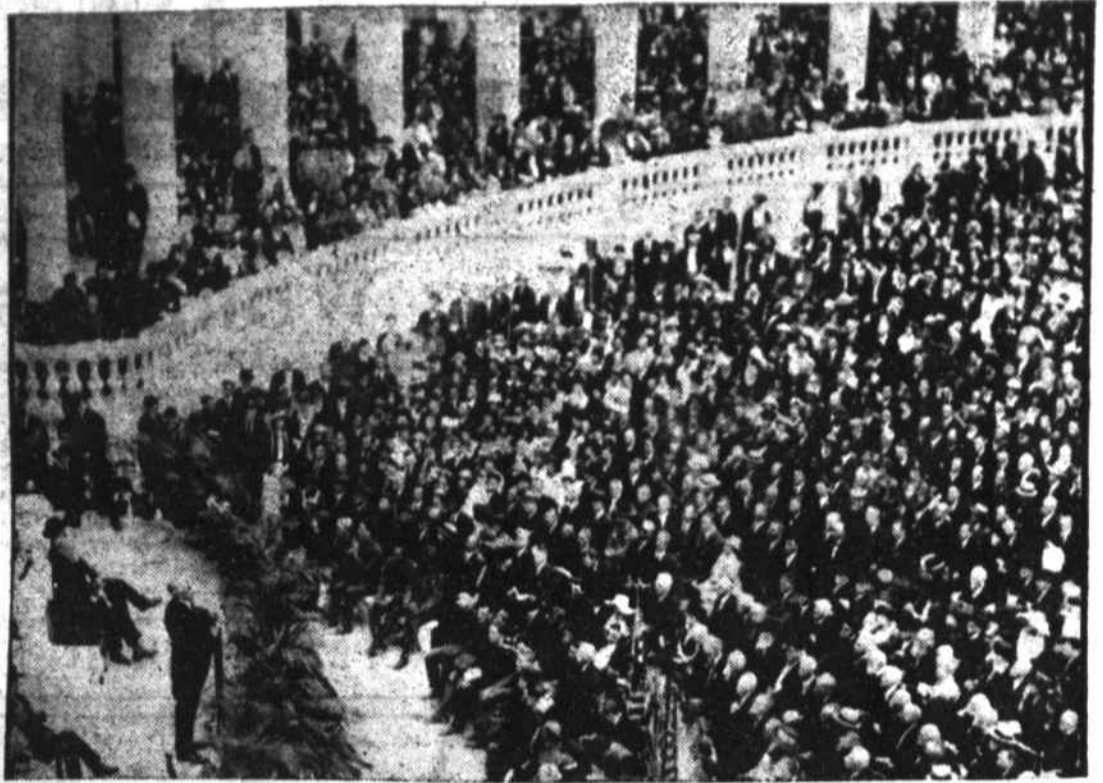
**T**HE "free and fair play of economic forces" is the desideratum in the marketing of grain as in other matters affecting the nation's welfare and if such fair play does not exist in the nation's great grain exchanges it can better be established by modifications within their organization than by "hasty legislative interferences into delicate processes of trade."

Such was the opinion voiced by Julius H. Barnes, former United States wheat director, before the senate committee on agriculture last week in opposing the Tinchler bill for drastic change regulation. The measure already has passed the lower house.

"I believe the day will come," said Mr. Barnes, "when the agricultural communities now clamoring for restrictions and regulations on these exchanges will recognize in them great servants of marketing. Some day producers themselves will join with the better members of the trades in perfecting these processes; not in destroying them.

"Legislation aimed at their elimination, assumes a solemn responsibility. The greatest care and study should be exercised that the vast, underlying, smoothly

## PRESIDENT HONORS HERO DEAD



RELATIVES of the nation's military dead made up a large portion of the throng of 15,000 that last Monday listened to President Harding's Memorial day address at Arlington National cemetery. He is shown speaking from the rostrum of the huge amphitheater.

functioning machinery of a national marketing service may not be wrecked or injured."

From New York comes the report that plans have been completed for organization of a farmers' finance corporation for the purpose of handling the grain crop on a co-operative basis under a capitalization of \$100,000,000. Incorporation papers are about to be filed, it was said.

## Race Riots in Tulsa.

**R**ACE war broke out in Tulsa, Okla., the southwestern oil metropolis, last Tuesday and before state troops dispatched by Governor Robertson gained control several score fatalities had resulted, the majority among negroes.

The trouble had its inception at the city jail where a negro, held for an alleged attack on a woman, was thought by his friends to be in danger of lynching by a throng of whites. Firing commenced and was not checked for hours. Early next day the whites started out with the avowed intention of "cleaning up" the black quarter, pursuing men and women from house to house and setting fire to more than 1,500 dwellings. Firemen were turned back by the white mobs.

Four companies of state troops took position with fixed bayonets and under command of Adj. Gen. Barrett succeeded in establishing order after thousands of negroes had fled panic stricken from the city. Strict military law was maintained.

## Price Fixing Probe.

Organizations thought possibly to be engaged in price-fixing are under close scrutiny by the department of justice, it was revealed last week when Attorney General Daugherty made known that one investigation in such a case had been completed and facts ascertained which may warrant legal action by the department.

The object of the probe, it was explained, is to ascertain to what extent business and trade bodies engaged in collection and dissemination of statistics of market conditions, production costs, etc., may or may not be active in fixing or attempting to fix prices. During the war there was a tendency to overlook possible breaches of federal law in this direction, it is said.

Several such organizations have been called to time and have given assurances they would cease their objectionable practices, it was further stated.

German currency deflation is said to be now in progress. The third week of March showed a decrease of 39,000,000 marks as compared with an increase of 1,115,000,000 marks during the corresponding week of the previous year.

Attention of American exporters has been called to a slight financial depression in Jamaica, a condition brought about by the decline in commodity prices both in England and the United States.

## War Heroes Memorialized.

**F**OR the first time in the history of the anniversary, Memorial day was internationalized last Monday. Not only were there gatherings at all national cemeteries and others in which soldiers lie buried, but in England, France and other allied nations tribute was paid to the fallen heroes of the United States who came to the rescue of European civilization in 1917.

As always, the most noteworthy celebration of the day took place at Arlington National cemetery where President Harding was the chief orator.

Before 15,000 persons, the majority relatives of the men in blue and khaki who sleep near the great amphitheater dedicated to them, the President eulogized the deeds of the departed and pledged America to take the lead in establishing world peace as a fitting tribute to those who fought for freedom.

"Our Memorial day," he declared, "is become an international occasion. It calls upon the fortunate free of many lands and countries to help in its observance, and equally to them and us it is a reminder of our common troth of civilization, humanity and everlasting justice."

The British ambassador, Sir Auckland Geddes, was among the prominent participants in the exercises. He brought a wreath which he deposited on a draped American banner "in the name of my king, George V, in the name of the people of the United Kingdom, of India and of the British dependencies throughout the world—in token of their admiration of the gallantry and devotion of American sons and daughters in the great war; in evidence of their sympathy with America, who today mourns and glorifies her dead; in undimmed memory of the sacrifices that America has made for individual liberty."

That President Harding is not fully in sympathy with Col. George Harvey, American ambassador to Great Britain, in the latter's definition of the motives which led this nation to enter the lists of world conflict, the words of his Memorial day address amply proved.

## New Theory of Cosmos.

Our world is relegated to a position of insignificance heretofore undreamt by conclusions of Dr. Harlow Shapleigh, who recently conducted astronomical observations at Mount Wilson in California and announced his results last week.

According to Dr. Shapleigh, the earth and the little solar system of which it is a minute part instead of being in the center of the universe is three hundred and sixty quintillion miles more or less off that center. The former far point of measurement for celestial calculations were the Pleiades, but Dr. Shapleigh's galaxy places them, too, in a position of insignificance and far from the center.

Brown coal is found through Gippsland and in other parts of the state of Victoria, Australia, in practically unlimited quantity. Its steaming value is estimated as only 50 per cent that of black coal, however,