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TO SUSPEND WORK ON SHIPS AT ONCE

Capital Ships Consigned to Scrap Heap by Naval Treaty Would not be Destroyed Until Pact Has Been Ratified

Washington, Feb. 3.—Preparatory to a suspension of work on the American capital ships to be scrapped under the naval treaty, President Harding has asked Secretary Denby to provide him immediately with full information as to the status of the ships under construction.

Although the President does not expect to take any affirmative step toward scrapping the ships until all the powers have ratified the treaty, it is probable that there may be a suspension of the work on all of the prescribed vessels within a few days.

It was said at the White House today that Mr. Harding expected to submit the naval agreement and the other treaties of the arms conference to the Senate within a very few days after they were signed. He has not decided whether to take them to the Capitol in person.

Plans of the Navy Department, so far as is known, are for suspension of construction work on those ships to be scrapped under the naval limitation treaty pending ratification of the treaty. Contracts for the building of the vessels would not be cancelled, it was indicated until the limitation pact become effective.

Included in the ships under construction and not to be completed under the treaty are the six 40,000-ton battleships and four of the six battle cruisers. One ship of the West Virginia class, now virtually completed, also is to be destroyed as a fighting unit, although this will not be done until the limitations treaty is in effect.

Two of the six battle cruisers are to be converted into airplane carriers, a provision to that effect having been made in the treaty in the separate item authorizing the retention of not more than two vessels of 33,000 tons each for the purpose.

Final decision has not been made by the Navy Department as yet as to which two of the three West Virginia class battleships under construction are to be retained. The original committee agreement in the discussion between the American, British and Japanese delegations mentioned the Colorado and Washington as the ships to be retained by the United States, as the equivalent to the retention by Japan of the Mutsu. It seems more probable, however, that the West Virginia will be retained and the Washington scrapped, as some naval experts have figured that a saving of more than half a million dollars would be made in the expense of completion in that case.

Conversion of the two selected battle-cruisers into airplane carriers probably cannot be undertaken until the treaty has been ratified so that work on all six of these vessels probably will be at a standstill until the treaty has been put through the Senate.

It has been indicated, however, that the department might seek authority of Congress to transfer sums now available for the completion of new battleships and battle cruisers to the construction of submarines and auxiliary craft in the building program which are not affected by the treaty. Among these are the ten scout cruisers for which the department recently sought authority to increase the cost due to the failure of building materials to have dropped in price to the extent anticipated when the original estimates were submitted.

Suspension of work on capital ships rather than cancellation of contracts it was said today at the Navy Department, probably would increase the cost of the government of the settlement of claims of contractors when the final adjustment is made for the breaking up of these vessels. This increase would not be equal, however, it was said to the expenditures necessary if work is to be continued on the ships during the time the treaty is under consideration for ratification. The rate of expenditure construction now averages about \$5,000,000 a month.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy Aids Nature

Medicines that aid nature are always most effectual. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy acts on this plan. It allays the cough, relieves the lungs, aids expectoration, opens the secretions and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. Thousands have testified to its good qualities. Try it when you have a cough or cold.

CREW OF VESSEL PRAY THREE DAYS

Prayers Answered Just in the Nick of Time; Women Voted "Hoodoos"

New York, Feb. 4.—The story of three days of prayer in a raging sea, and of prayers answered in the nick of time to save them from a watery grave, was told by two women and six men of the crew of the Nova Scotian schooner. Donald L. Cook, who arrived today on tankers from Mexico, where they had been landed by the British steamer San Eduardo.

The battered, water-logged hulk of the Cook went down less than two hours after they had been taken off, the rescued mariners declared.

The woman, Mrs. May Oxner, wife of the skipper, and Mrs. Bennett Peeler, wife of the cook, were unanimously voted "hoodoos" by the crew, and Captain Oxner declared they would be returned to their homes in Nova Scotia and never would be taken to sea again.

The schooner sailed from Lunenburg, N. S., early in December, and was coasting down toward Jamaica with a cargo of lumber when she was struck on December 14 by a terrific storm.

Her sails and her mast were carried away, the cabin wrecked, and the vessel's hold filled with water. The food supply was ruined so that all were foodless for three days before they were picked up by the San Eduardo.

Mrs. Oxner was authority for the statement that the crew prayed for three days for succor. Just as they were at the point of abandoning hope, their prayers were answered by the appearance of the San Eduardo, she said.

WELL DRESSED "PARSON" IS FLASHING CHECKS

Travels in Flivver and Gets Money from Banks

Greensboro, Feb. 3.—Police throughout this section are on the watch for a check-flashing "parson" riding about in a car that is not his, a slick individual who marches up to banks and presents paper, "for revival services" and gets the money.

Any way, he got it at Morven from the bank there, with a check made out to "Rev. Thomas H. Harris," a \$60 document, signed by "L. E. Paschal, treasurer, St. John Baptist church fund." In the lower left hand corner, just for pretense of receipt were the words, "For revival services, Jan. 10-17, 1922." The check was drawn on a bank at Darlington, S. C., and it looked natural, looked like money and the "minister" got it and rattled away in his flivver.

When the check was returned from the South Carolina bank, with the information that that bank's officials knew no Rev. Thomas H. Harris, no L. E. Paschal and that there is no St. John's Baptist church fund on deposit there, the Morven bank men knew that they had entertained a wolf in sheep's clothing. The South Carolina bank gave the further information that they had been troubled by similar checks.

The Morven authorities sent word to the Greensboro chief of police to look out for the "parson." He is dressed as much like a reverend as any reverend and has the proper sober ministerial manner, it is said, with just a dash of the pep of the modern revivalist.

Greensboro's Rich Haled Into Court

Greensboro, Jan. 30.—Being summoned to police court as defendants was a new experience for some of the richest and socially prominent persons in Greensboro today, but many of them found themselves there taxed with the costs of the action.

They forgot to mind the city manager when he issued a warning that every person must keep the snow cleared from the sidewalk in front of his property. They were used to such warnings. Every time it has snowed before the "warning" appeared in the newspapers.

They never had been jacked up in court about it. But C. P. Painter, the city manager, said that the snow must go and policemen went around and took some names. Rich and poor, black and white, weak and strong, were caught in the net—and they had no excuses.

MAIL ORDER HOUSE HAS SEEN BEST DAY

Home Merchants Are Coming into Their Own; Sears-Roebuck Lost \$16,000,000

Raleigh, Feb. 2.—Mail order houses in the east and west are finding that they can no longer compete with home town merchants and as a result the "country merchant has recaptured a great mass of farmer trade in the last year," says the Daily News Record, of New York City, which has just received opinions on the mail order business in general from all sections of the country.

From the resume made public by the New York retailer's daily paper it is indicated that North Carolina farmers and farmers in other states of the south are doing their trading at home advantageously, the merchants having just recently sought to divert the steady stream of money which in years past went to mail order houses in the east and west. The News Record's opinions emphasize the fact that the mail order houses have seen their best days, this being seen in the announcement from big department stores that have done away with their mail order departments.

Using the 16 million dollar loss sustained in 1921 by Sears, Roebuck and Company, probably the largest mail order house in this country, as a basis the New York publication queried business men and retailers in all sections of the country and from the responses gives the following reasons for the decline in all mail order businesses.

"Various causes are ascribed in the decreased business of the big mail order houses in Chicago. The most general opinion is that it was due mainly to the lowered buying power of the farmer. The inability of keeping up with a declining market with a bulky and expensive catalogue supposed to last for months is generally admitted, and the advantages of the small town merchant in such a market is pointed out.

"The country merchant, it is declared, has recaptured a great mass of farmer trade in the last year of exchanging his goods for farm products, by extending credits and by advertising that his prices are lower than those shown in any mail order catalog. This next year is seen as one of great opportunity for the small retailer. He may hold the farmer and make further inroads in catalog business or he may lose much or little of what he has gained.

"The influence of the automobile toward easier and quicker transportation is admitted by many business men interviewed to have hurt the mail order business. It is much more desirable to motor to the nearest town and purchase over the counter, than the catalog is doomed to a speedy death, some declare. They believe the best days of the mail order houses are in the past."

A Log Rat Trap

Mr. Brownlow Traywick of New Salem township has perhaps had more tales told about him than anybody in the county. Whatever else may be said about Brownlow, he is no fool. For some time he has been troubled with rats about his barn. He tried poisoning and that wouldn't work, for they were wise old fellows. Finally he originated a plan of his own. He went into the woods and sawed a hollow log about eight feet long and nailed a plank over one end, leaving the other open. He placed the log in his barn and piled fodder upon it and waited a few days for the rats to learn that it was an excellent place in which to hide. Then he went back to the barn and moved his fodder and raised cane in general. The rats at once took refuge in the hollow log. Brownlow then closed in upon them and stopped up the end of the log that had been left open and the rats were at his mercy. He took his log full of rats to an open field and killed twenty-five, from grand-father to grandson.

When the writer was a boy on the farm an old-time log barn stood in the lot near the crib. There was a hollow log in that barn and many times have I seen big rats run into that log and make their escape. Perhaps Brownlow has had a similar experience which suggested to him the possibility of making a wholesale killing through the use of a hollow log that could be removed and carried into an open field where the rats had no chance of making a get-away. —Monroe Journal.

SIX MONTHS IN JAIL BUT HE WON'T SQUEAL

Rugged Mountaineer in Prison Because Somebody Made Liquor on Land

"I didn't even know the still was in there until one day my wife asked me about the noise down the branch," declares Ervin Hardin, about 62 years old, who has completed the large part of a six months prison sentence for allowing a still to be operated on his land. He was convicted by the Federal court sitting at Salisbury, and was sent to the Iredell jail to serve his sentence, says the Statesville Sentinel. His home is in Wilkes county near the forks of the Hunting creek, Summers township.

Friends of the old man say that he is serving the sentence rather than "squeal" on his friends whom he knew were operating the still, but when a newspaper man asked him about that he laughed heartily, and said, "Let's let that pass."

Mr. Hardin is typical of the Brushy mountain foothill native. He is stocky, muscular as a wrestler, and has a wildcat gleam in his eyes. He has iron grey hair, glossy as a Norman, and a face as clear of hardened lines as a Salvation army leader.

"You didn't even know the still was there until it had been there several days?" he was asked.

"Not a word," the old man said. "One day I came in from the fields and the old woman asked me what that noise down the branch was about. I told her I didn't know, but I'd go down and see. When I went I found out what was being done. The still had been there about three or four days," he said.

"Did you know the men?"

"I ain't atelling that," he replied.

"Were they your boys?" he was asked.

"I ain't atelling that either," he said.

"Well, how did they connect you with the still?"

"Well, the officers found it on my land, it was within a few hundred yards of my home, and they found some whiskey-making stuff at my barn. They concluded that I must be the guilty one, arrested me, and here I am in jail."

The old man did not know how old he was, but remembered how old he was when he was married, and how long it had been since he was married; so placing the two together, it was found that he was about 62 years old.

"I can't read a word or write a word," he explained. "That's why I don't know exactly how old I am. We have a record, which is kept by my daughter, in the family Bible at home."

"There were no such things as schools when I was growing up," he said using words almost as well chosen as the ones the writer has chosen for him. "I never saw inside a school house, never learned a single one of the letters of the alphabet, and never learned to write a word."

This old man has not laid down his life for a friend but he certainly has laid out six months of it for a group of friends, those who know him say.

"Yes, we know it is a violation of the law to make whiskey," he said, "but you know a fellow gets in the habit of doing a thing and he doesn't like to be pestered about it. I'm through with this business of making whiskey, though," he declared, "and when I get out of this I'm going home to the old woman, and we are going to dig a living out of that little farm, and we are going to be happy, and the next time we hear 'noises down the branch' we are going to send the dogs after them, and if they don't move, Uncle Sam has a pack that will make them skeedaddle."

Old Lead Bullets as big as Hazelnuts

Burlington, Feb. 1.—While plowing on his farm recently, C. W. Keck, whose farm covers a portion of the Alamance battleground, plowed several old leaden bullets, ranging in size from a large pea to a full sized hazelnut. The bullets are battered and disfigured to some extent, indicating that they were used during the battle that took place between the British soldiers and the regulators. One of the balls bears marks of having penetrated a human body. Three of the bullets have been put on display in the window of the local chamber of commerce and those who look upon them are reminded of the battle of Alamance during the historical days of the revolution.

TOM WATSON IS STORMY PETREL AT THE CAPITAL

Fiery Georgia Senator is An Anti-on Anything Majority May Propose

Washington, Feb. 1.—If every body else is agreed on a question then Senator Tom Watson will oppose it. That is the consensus of opinion among national legislators who have watched this fiery Georgian during nearly a year of tumultuous conduct, with indications that he will continue to keep the Upper House in an uproar through the five years he still has to serve.

Senator Watson was elected a member of Congress in 1896 on the wave of Populist sentiment, serving one term. In 1896 he was nominated for the vice-presidency by the St. Louis Populist convention, which endorsed Bryan for the presidential nomination.

The Georgia legislator has aroused various Catholic organizations to protest against his senate membership and to demand that he be unseated. Watson invited Senator Moses and others to come outside the senate chamber to settle differences. He has clashed verbally with Senator Penrose and then used many harsh words against Penrose in a long harangue. Watson supported William J. Simmons, head of the Ku Klux Klan, in the imperial wizard's testimony before the house rules committee. His sensational charges of wholesale hangings in the American Expeditionary Forces aroused the country and led to an official investigation.

Whenever Watson gets up to speak on the floor of the senate something is sure to happen. He has found that these speeches gets his name in the newspapers, and he dislikes this not at all.

In 1910 Watson published a book, "The Roman Catholic Hierarchy," which got him into a lot of trouble and caused his indictment in 1914. The indictment was quashed and another substituted on which he was tried. The first jury disagreed and the second acquitted him. Watson then renewed his anti-Catholic campaign, which has increased in bitterness. Recently the National War Council protested against his use of the senate office building as headquarters for his anti-Catholic campaign and sent a letter to senators demanding that his seat be forfeited.

Watson's great ambition seems to be that of an anti. He does not confide himself to personalities, and woe betide the unfortunate man crossing his path. He will threaten a fist fight, a duel or else a speech.

His election to the senate followed a three-cornered fight in his own state for the Democratic nomination in which he stood as the anti-Wilson anti-League of Nations and anti-war measures candidate. He freely admits and is proud of the fact that his publications opposed the draft law, the espionage act and other war measures. Throughout the period of America's participation in the war these publications railed at the government, attacked the army and the draft law and ever since have attempted to make it appear that this government did wrong in entering the war.

Met outside the senate chamber, Senator Watson is personally a charming man. He has an engaging mild manner. Even when he rises to his feet to begin a speech there is no suggestion of the uproar that he probably will raise before he is thru. He begins his speech in a well-modulated voice and then works up nearly to the point of frenzy when some one doubts the wisdom of his opinions.

Murderers Will Die by Lethal Gas in Nevada

Carson City, Nev., Jan. 30.—Hugie Sing and E. Z. John will be the first pair to die by lethal gas, the new means of execution in Nevada, following their conviction for murder. The sentence was pronounced at Hawthorne, Nev., by Judge E. J. Walsh after their slaying of Wong Lee in a recent Tong war.

The men will die during the last week of April. The gas will be injected into their death cells at some time during that week and unknown to the occupants. They will be pronounced dead and the State is satisfied that justice is complete.

The new method of execution was only recently adopted and supplants the former firing squad in which the victims were backed against a wall and shot to death, one of the guns containing the fatal bullet.

Is it Safe to Teach the Bible in our Public Schools

Lyman Abbott in the Outlook
Have the people of the state a right to provide thru their legislature for the reading of the English Bible in exercises of the public schools?

Have they the right to open the school with religious exercises—prayer, singing and reading of the Bible?

Have they the right to teach the contents of the Bible?

In a comparatively recent case the supreme court of the state of Washington has decided that under the constitution of that state the people possess no one of these rights. The school authorities cannot even examine students in Bible study carried on out of school and give them credit for a successful passing of such examination.

What is the Bible?
It is a condition of the history, the laws and the literature of an ancient people to whom, more than to any other ancient people, we are indebted for some of the fundamental elements in our modern civilization.

It is a collection of the history probably the first attempt in history to put constitutional limits on the powers of an absolute monarch; to organize a national popular assembly containing representatives of the plain people; to provide popular, if not universal, suffrage; to guard the state against the danger of a landed aristocracy; to make the priesthood absolutely dependent on the people for their subsistence; to provide popular education for the peasant class; to create a quasi-federate union of independent states united in one national organization. To the ancient Hebrews we are largely indebted for the germs of our political institutions.

There is not in any literature, ancient or modern, a better epitome of moral rights and moral duties than the Ten Commandments and the sermon on the Mount. To the Hebrews we are largely indebted for our moral ideals.

There is not in any literature a clearer expression of religious reverence for a God of Character as distinguished from a God of power than the 133rd Psalm. To the Hebrews we are largely indebted for our religious ideals.

There is not in any literature a life more worthy of our following or a character more worthy of our reverent admiration than Jesus of Nazareth. Pagan, Jew, and Christian unite in tributes to him.

There is no one collection of English literature which furnishes the pupil so many illustrations of pure and elevated English as the King James Version of the Bible, none to which references are so frequent in all literature since the seventeenth century.

The books of this unique collection were written in different epochs by authors of different intellectual ability and of widely different temperaments, from the moralist to the mystic, but all of them inspired by religious spirit—that is, a spirit of justice, mercy, reverence and humility. For this reason the collection is rightly classed as religious literature.

Why should the state forbid its youth from becoming acquainted with this ancient literature in the only schools which the majority of its youth will ever attend, the schools established, supported and controlled by the state? An overwhelming majority of the states encourage this larger liberty. The few who deny it say to their teachers, you may teach the Vedic hymns but not the Hebrew Greek myths but not the Hebrew stories, the Proverbs of Rochefoucauld but not the Proverbs of Solomon, the laws of Justinian but not the laws of Moses, the fables of Aesop but not the parables of Jesus. Why? Because the few ecclesiastics are unwilling that the Bible should be taught as other collections of literature are taught and a few religious enthusiasts fear that their children will be contaminated by the public reading in the schools of the Book which was an inspiration to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

—Lyman Abbott in the Outlook.

They Appeal to Our Sympathies

The billions and dyspeptic are constant sufferers and appeal to our sympathies. Many such, however, have been completely restored to health by the use of Chamberlain's Tablets. These tablets strengthen the stomach, invigorate the liver and improve the digestion. They also cause a gentle movement of the bowels. When you have any trouble with your stomach, give them a trial.