

**THE BIGGEST WARSHIP BILL.**

America Gives Largest Single Order in World History. Hulls Cost \$112,000,000. Builders Pledged in Patriotism to Keep Down Other Expenses. Four Great Battleships and Four Battle Cruisers Promised by Private Yards at Minimum Price. Ten Per Cent Profit Asked by Contractors. Promise an Early Delivery, Secretary Daniels Says.

(Washington Post, 16.)

Contracts for what is believed to be the largest single order for fighting craft ever given by any nation were placed yesterday by the Navy Department. Private builders undertook to turn out four great battle cruisers and six scout cruisers, costing nearly \$12,000,000 for hulls and machinery alone, and pledged themselves to keep 70 per cent of their working forces on navy construction. In response to an appeal to their patriotism by Secretary Daniels, the major shipbuilders have agreed to accept 10 per cent net profit on the battle cruisers, whose cost will represent about \$76,000,000 of the total sum involved in the contracts. A fifth battle cruiser will be built at the Philadelphia navy yard so as not to strain the limit of facilities of private establishments. Both classes of cruisers ordered are new types to naval architecture, and are designed for speed of 35 knots an hour.

The scouts were awarded on bids submitted Wednesday, prices ranging from \$5,950,000 to \$5,996,000, and stipulated time of delivery from 30 to 32 months. These figures can be no guide to the actual cost or time, however, as under the emergency clause of the naval appropriation bill construction will be hastened to the limit, the government footing the bill for additional cost.

The battle cruisers, the fixed limit of cost of which is \$9,000,000 per ship, exclusive of speeding-up expense, were placed as follows: Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, two ships; Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, one ship; New York Shipbuilding Company, one ship.

Four of the scout cruisers will be built on the Pacific coast, two by the Seattle Construction Company and two by the Union Iron Works at San Francisco. The other two will be built by William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia. Cramp and the Union Iron Works may be called upon also to build a number of destroyers.

Of the authorized building program there remain to be contracted for 3 dreadnoughts, 38 submarines, the 15 destroyers and several auxiliary vessels. Bids will be opened early in April.

The ultimate cost to the government of the ships ordered yesterday will exceed by many millions the figures given for hull and machinery. It will cost \$465,092 per ship to arm and equip the scouts and \$5,357,810 additional for each battle cruiser. The shipbuilders having made financial sacrifices to meet the government's needs, Secretary Daniels is seeking similar agreements with the contractors who supply material and equipment to go in the ships. The orders will be distributed among the contractors so that no company will be unduly burdened. In a statement last night Secretary Daniels said: "The representatives of the Navy Department are to have the right to require the contractors to employ at all times the maximum number of men that can be utilized to push the work, and if a sufficient force of mechanics can be obtained, it is hoped that the battle cruisers may be finished in about three years."

**SIX PEERS KILLED IN THE WAR.**

And 120 Sons of English Nobles Have Fallen in France.

The cost of the war to the British nobility was revealed the other day by Lord Curzon, speaking in the House of Lords. He stated that 6 peers had been killed, 120 sons of peers killed and that 8 peerages were in danger of extinction through the death of their heirs in the war.—Kansas City Star.

**Girl Weighs 457 Pounds at 18.**

The local factory of the Randall-Landfield Cigar Company of Chicago is said to employ the largest cigar-maker in the world. She is Miss Ray Rexel, 18 years old, who weighs 457 pounds and was once a feature with a carnival company. Miss Rexel asserts that the seven members of her family weigh 3,150 pounds.—Benton Harbor (Mich.) Dispatch to the Detroit News.

**ORDER COMING OUT OF CHAOS.**

Revolution in Russia Is Gaining Support of the People. Committee of Duma and Soldiers and Workmen's Committee in Full Accord. New Ministry Pledges That the Old Court Crowd Shall Answer in Full for Their Crimes Against Russian People.

A dispatch from Petrograd, via London, dated March 16, says Russia today appeared to be in a fair way toward solving the greatest problem with which, perhaps, any nation was ever confronted. Order is growing with incredible rapidity out of the chaos of the last week, and the new government, gathering up the broken threads of national and municipal life, is striving to set the organization of the country in motion so that the conduct of the war will suffer as little as possible from the revolution.

The members of the new ministry already have assumed their posts and the government buildings, empty and deserted for four days, are again open for official business. The banks, all the commercial and financial houses and some of the factories have already responded to the new government's appeal, opened their doors and expressed a willingness to do everything in their power to effect as quick a recovery as possible from the paralysis of the last week. The soldier-policemen are guarding the streets, in place of the old gendarmes.

Hundreds of messages have been received from all over the country declaring the allegiance of important cities and fortresses to the new regime. Moscow, Kharkov, Tsarityn and Vologda already have formally acknowledged the new government, and, so far as is known, not a single section of the country still stands out for the old order of things. Supported by unanimous vote, the present government is in reality a government of the people.

According to the latest information, the executive committee of the duma and the committees of soldiers' and workmen's deputies, or at least have decided temporarily to waive all minor differences until the meeting of the constitutional assembly which will decide just what form the new government of Russia will take.

Meanwhile, it is reported that the government of the country will rest for three months in the hands of a committee of 12 and it is stated that the monarchy, for the time being, will be abolished.

**Old Regime Must Answer for Crimes.**

Addressing an assemblage of thousands of soldiers and civilians from the gallery of the lobby of the duma, Deputy Kerenski, the new Russian minister of justice, says a Reuter's dispatch from Petrograd dated Friday, announced that the provisional government took office by virtue of an agreement with workmen's and soldiers' delegates. The council of these delegates approved the agreement of several hundred votes to fifteen. The first act of the new government, M. Kerenski declared, has been the immediate publication of a decree of full amnesty. Continuing, the dispatch adds, the minister of justice said: "Our comrades of the second and fourth dumas who were banished illegally to the tundras of Siberia will be released forthwith. In my jurisdiction are all the premiers and ministers of the old regime. They will answer before the law for all crimes against the people."

"Show them no mercy!" many voices in the crowd are reported to have exclaimed. "Comrades," added M. Kerenski, "regenerated Russia will not have recourse to the shameful methods utilized by the old regime. Without trial, none will be condemned. All prisoners will be tried in open court."

"Comrades! soldiers, citizens! all measures taken by the new government will be published. Soldiers, I ask you to co-operate. Free Russia now is born and none will succeed in wresting liberty from the hands of the people. Do not listen to the promptings of the agents of the old regime. Listen to your officers. Long live free Russia!"

The speech was greeted by a storm of cheering.

**The Coonskin Cap.**

A teacher had told her class the story of the cap made for the little Abraham Lincoln from the skin of a coon killed by his father; and on the next day called upon a small boy to tell the story again in his own words. Very reluctantly the pupil arose, and, casting apologetic glances at a little negro classmate, stammered out, to his teacher's horror: "Once—Lincoln's father—killed—a little—black boy—and—made—a cap out of his skin for his own little boy!"—Rochester Times.

What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think.—Emerson.

**United States Submarine G-1**

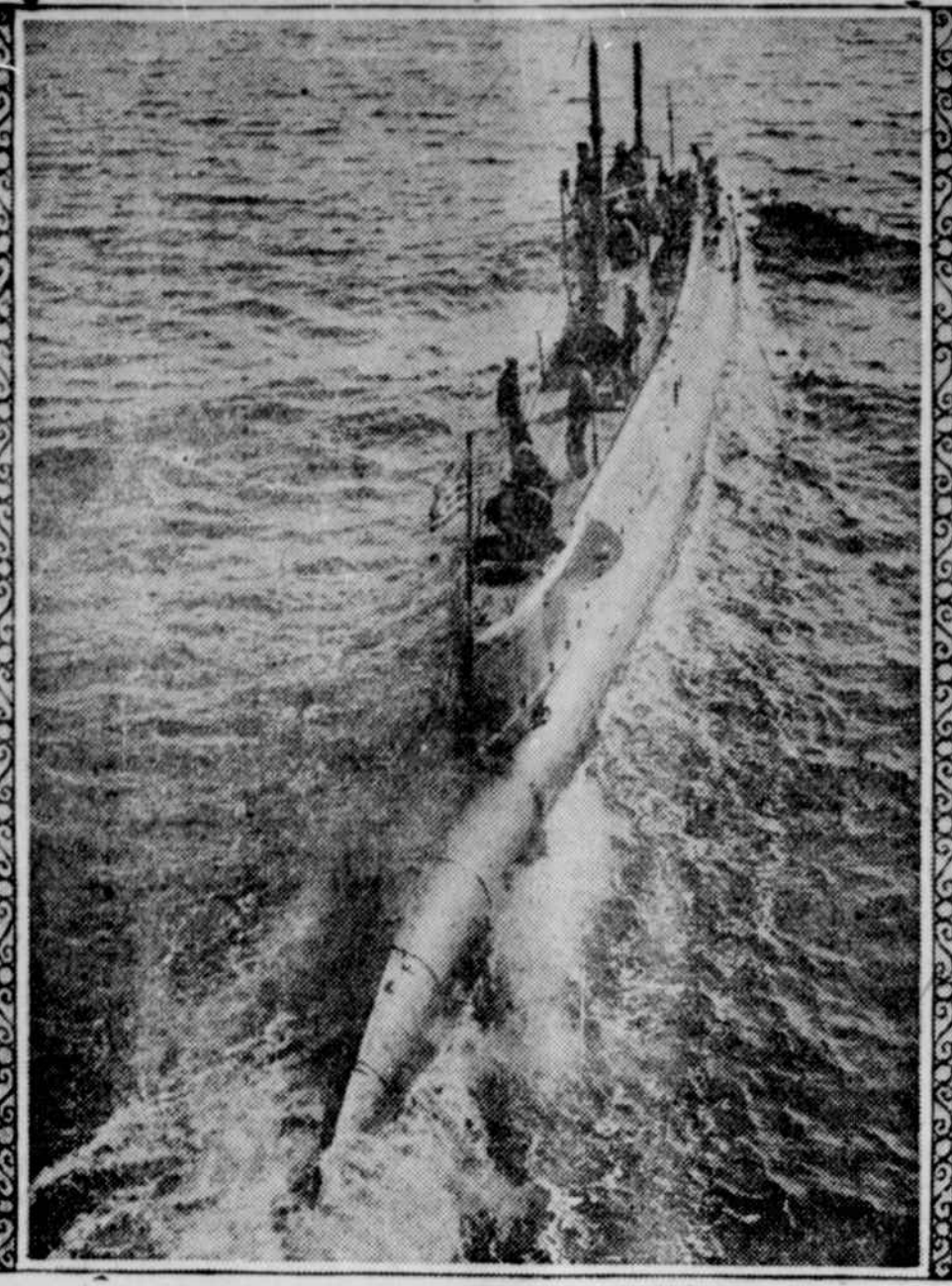


Photo by American Press Association. The submarine G-1 is a 525 ton submersible and carries six torpedo tubes. She is 160 feet in length and at her best can make over fourteen knots an hour.

**TO MARK BIRTHPLACE OF DAVIS**

Monument Over 350 Feet High Is Being Planned by Confederate Veterans. General Julian S. Carr Helping in the Enterprise.

The birthplace of Jefferson Davis on a farm near Fairview, Ky., is to be marked by a great limestone obelisk, according to plans which Confederate veterans are now trying to bring to completion.

A tract of 22 acres near Fairview, which originally formed a part of the farm upon which Jefferson Davis was born, was acquired several years ago by Colonel A. S. Cunningham, of Nashville, Tenn., publisher of The Confederate Veteran, and General Bennett H. Young, who was for four times elected Commander in Chief of the United Confederate Veterans. They raised about \$20,000, converting the tract into the Jefferson Davis Park, of Austin, Tex., announced sufficient to insure the completion of the project if others would assume a fair share, and Gen. Julian S. Carr, of Durham, N. C., has agreed to assume a further large share of the expense. In the meantime a campaign for further funds is in progress, and designs for the monument have been prepared with the intention of beginning work on the foundation this Spring.

The monument will be an obelisk of limestone and concrete 351 feet high, the tallest with the exception of the Washington monument of any other shaft of the kind in the world. The base will be 43 feet square with a room 18 feet square in the interior for the storing of relics. It is planned to have the shaft completed some time early in the coming Autumn and to dedicate it October 22, 1917. The site of the monument is only 100 miles, as the crow flies, from the site of the impressive Memorial Hall erected near Hodgenville, Ky., over the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born.—Charlotte Observer.

**A LITTLE SHOP TALK.**

Some people really hate the idea of getting a statement. Now, if any of our subscribers are in this class, they can get out by looking at their labels, (and if it shows the subscriber in arrears), and sending us a check or money order. In a few days we are going to begin sending out statements to those whose date on the label goes too far back. We have to collect to keep our business-going. When a subscriber is entered on our list we expect him to pay for the paper. If he doesn't expect to pay he should not ask us to put him on the list. Look at your label and act so we will not send you a statement.

**Twelve Million Under Arms.**

Former Ambassador Gerard, who has just returned from Germany, is reported as saying that there are twelve million men under arms in Germany. The Ambassador traveled 7,231 miles to make the trip home. He came through Switzerland to Paris and then to Madrid. From Spain he sailed to Havana, Cuba, and crossing to Key West, made the remainder of the trip to Washington by rail.

Preparation is half the battle, and nothing is lost by being on one's guard.—Don Quixote.

**SELMA GRADED SCHOOL.**

The Selma school is turning out quite a number of debaters. They are hoping to get into all contests and also be victorious. One group of the debaters is going to debate a team from Pine Level soon. Another group hopes to get into the contest held at Chapel Hill each year.

The grounds of the Selma school are being improved more and more every day. The Athletic Field back of the school is on the other side of a large ditch. Before you can get to the ditch, there is a space of ground that is so bad that you cannot get across on a rainy day. Leading to the ditch have been made two very fine gravel walks which are a great improvement to the grounds. There is a space being filled in also for Tennis Courts. E. E.

¶ ¶ ¶ The chapel program for last Tuesday was conducted by Rev. Mr. Proctor. The program consisted of songs only. As our chapel singing has been very weak, Mr. Proctor consented to give us practice in singing. The singing was very much better than usual. The songs were the national songs of the country and a few hymns.

The chapel for Thursday was conducted by Mr. Archer. The program consisted of two declamations, one by Thomas Fulghum, and one by Jennings Talton. Jennings Talton represented the Selma High School in a declamation contest at Wake Forest Friday, March 9, 1917.

The High School is making great progress in Palmer Writing. Though they have been taking this course only about three weeks, a few have already passed the first mile post, that is, the first twenty-five drills.

James Rose is not in school this year, but is doing his school work out of school. He is also working very hard on Palmer Writing. He is the second in school or in town to receive a progress button for passing the first hundred drills. D. S. R.

¶ ¶ ¶ Miss Harlowe, one of the fourth grade teachers, has started a basketry class. On Thursday evening, she took those who had joined and went after some pine leaves. They intend starting to work as soon as they can get their needles. The following belong to this class: Elma Pool, Zilphia Fulghum, Martha Ward, Pearl Avera, Nola Price, Mattie Hall and Rose Wilkinson.

Miss Hyman is teaching phonics to three of the high school girls. This course will be a great help to those who intend teaching. They will be graded on this each month. The following girls are taking it: Lillian Snipes has third grade reading, Louola Harmon has spelling in Miss Hyman's room, and Lena Johnson has reading and dictation in the second grade. L. R.

**Box Party at Mill Creek.**

There will be a box party at Mill Creek school, Saturday night, March 24th, 1917, for benefit of school. There will be other amusements, such as fishing and writing contests. The girls and boys know their part.

The public is cordially invited to come out and enjoy the evening with us.

MISS ELSIE COLE, C. B. THOMAS, Teachers.

Bentonville, R. F. D. No. 2.

**U-BOAT WAR HITS TRADE HARD.**

Falling Off of \$190,000,000 in Single Month. Largest in United States' History. Record Figures for First Half of February.

American exports and imports decreased almost \$790,000,000 in February—the first month of unrestricted German U-boat warfare, according to a report of the Department of Commerce at Washington City Saturday.

This is the largest loss in export and import trade in a single month ever reported.

The decrease was most decided during the first half of the month, when scores of merchant vessels loaded with cargoes for European countries were tied up in American ports, the owners being unwilling to take a chance in the war zone. During the last half of the month the export trade was slightly below normal.

The total exports for February amounted to \$466,523,034, while imports totalled \$199,576,597.

Gold imports during February amounted to \$103,766,495, while the exports of gold were \$22,068,059.

For the eight months ending February 28 the total exports showed an increase of \$1,496,013,216 over the same period in 1916.

Imports for the same period increased \$256,858,645.

The report shows that exports fell off \$147,032,959 compared with the previous high month, while imports decreased \$42,239,685.

Government officials attribute a large part of the enormous decrease in exports and imports to fear of the ruthless German submarine campaign.—New York Evening Sun.

**Consider the Hog.**

The market reports for March 7th showed that on that day hogs sold at Chicago Union Stock Yards for \$15.05 per hundred. Other markets paid corresponding prices and tens of thousands of head sold at these figures. These were the highest prices ever paid in any regular market for shipped hogs. To the significance of these facts we wish to direct attention.

The preferable and most profitable packing-house hog weighs about 175 pounds. At the price of \$15.00 per hundred this hog will bring \$26.25. There is no reason why the hog of this weight should be over seven months old. This means that the life of the profitable hog is spanned by the length of a single growing season. In other words, the investment is made, the hog crop produced, marketed, paid for and the investment with its accrued profit back in pocket inside of one year.

The first serious thought suggested by the present high price of hogs is the danger that farmers will be tempted to sell breeding stock, and thus "kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

The most pertinent argument against this course is that there is no reason for believing that present prices are temporary. On the contrary, there is every reason for believing that these prices, like other high prices for staple foodstuffs, are to continue high for some time, at least until after the next regular harvest season.

The logic of these facts is conclusive. Instead of hastening to get high prices for hogs now on hand, increase the hog crop by every possible means in order to have more hogs to sell at equally high prices next fall.

The advantages of this course are particularly pertinent and applicable to Southern farmers. With us the hog crop and the necessary feed crops can be started earlier and results become available sooner than in any other section of the country. March and September are the two most desirable months for the appearance of pigs. Food crops for the brood sows may be satisfactorily planted all through the spring. Then with advance summer peanuts, sweet potatoes, root crops, summer forage and fall grains provide for the whole herd the best crops for the growing and finishing of the hog crop.

Secondary considerations like relief from boll weevil attack, advantages of diversification and the fertilizing value of the crops fed must not be overlooked.

Kill not the sow that produces the golden pig.—Southern Ruralist.

**A Six-Million Dollar Bridge.**

The longest single span truss bridge in the world is the 720 foot main channel span of the Paducah and Illinois Railroad Company's bridge across the Ohio River at Metropolis, Ill. The bridge, including approaches, is over a mile in length and will be the connecting link between the great Northwest and the Southeast when the road is completed. The bridge will be completed this year and the construction work will cost approximately \$6,000,000.

The bee is never too busy to administer a stinging rebuke.

**25 Cent Books**

At Special Prices

For the Next Few Days We Will Sell Any Book in the List Below for 20 Cents; Any 3 Books for 50 Cents; Any 7 Books for \$1.00.

- The Boy Scouts and the Prize Penant.
  - The Boy Scouts as Forest Fire Fighters.
  - The Boy Scouts for Home Protection.
  - The Boy Scouts as County Fair Guides.
  - The Boy Scouts in the Great Flood.
  - The Boy Scouts on the Roll of Honor.
  - The Boy Scouts with the Red Cross.
  - The Boy Scouts with the Motion Picture Players.
  - The Boy Scouts of the Flying Squadron.
  - The Boy Scouts of Pioneer Camp.
  - The Boy Scouts of the Field Hospital.
  - The Boy Scouts of Naval Reserve.
  - The Boy Scouts for City Improvement.
  - A Fool for Love.
  - Wallingford, by Chester.
  - Trolley Folly, by Phillips.
  - The Motormaniacs, by Osborne.
  - Chimes from a Jester's Bell.
  - The Princess Elopes.
  - Four in Family.
  - The Fifth String, by Sousa.
  - Eccentric Mr. Clark.
  - A Girl From America, by Meade.
  - Strong and Steady, by Alger.
  - The Cornet of Horse, by Henty.
  - Four Years of Fighting.
  - Flower Fables, by Alcott.
  - Camping Out, by Stephens.
  - The Lamplighter, by Cummins.
  - Pretty Polly Pemberton.
  - Six Little Princesses.
  - A Sweet Girl Graduate.
  - A Modern Cinderella, by Alcott.
  - Bertha's Christmas Vision.
  - Paul, the Pedler, by Alger.
  - Aesop's Fables.
  - Wood's Natural History.
  - Andersen's Fairy Tales.
  - The Water Babies, by Kingsley.
  - Greek Heroes, by Kingsley.
  - Coming Back with the Spitball.
  - Wild Kitty, by Meade.
  - Tom Turner's Legacy, by Alger.
  - Through the Fray, by Henty.
  - Joe's Luck, by Alger.
  - In the New World, by Alger.
  - Poor Boys' Chances, by John Habberton.
  - Tom Thatcher's Fortune, by Alger.
  - The Automobile Girls Along the Hudson.
  - The Automobile Girls in the Berkshires.
  - The Automobile Girls at Newport.
  - The Young Editor.
  - Frank's Campaign, by Alger.
  - The Telegraph Boy, by Alger.
  - The Camp Fire Girls at Sunrise Hill.
  - Polly Perkins' Adventures.
  - The Campfire Girls in the Outside World.
  - The Campfire Girls in After Years.
  - My Days and Nights on the Battlefield.
- LIST NUMBER ONE OF 35-Cent Books.**
- Any book in this list for 25c., or any four books for 90c.
  - Campfires of the Wolf Patrol.
  - Pathfinder; or the Missing Tenderfoot.
  - Fast Nine; or a Challenge from Fairfield.
  - Great Hike; or The Pride of the Khashki Troupe.
  - Endurance Test; or How Clear Grit Won the Day.
  - Under Canvas; or The Hunt for the Cartaret Ghost.
  - Storm-bound; or A Vacation Among the Snowdrifts.
  - Elsie Dinsmore. (3 copies).
  - Count of Monte Cristo.
  - The Motor Maids by Rose, Shamrock and Thistle.
  - Her Senator, by Gunter.
  - Under Two Flags, by Onida.
  - The Camp on the Big Sunflower.
  - The Rivals of the Trail.
  - The Strange Cabin on Catamount Island.
  - Lost in the Great Dismal Swamp.
  - Caught in a Forest Fire.
  - Chums of the Campfire.
  - The Chouans, by Balzac.
  - A Tale of Two Cities.
  - Hans Brinker; or the Silver Skates.
  - Mr. Potter of Texas, by Gunter.
  - Peck's Uncle Ike and the Red Headed Boy.
  - The Schonberg-Cotta Family.
  - The Speedwell Boys and Their Racing Auto.
  - Larry Dexter and the Stolen Boy.
  - St. Elmo, by Evans.
  - The Little Minister.
  - Ishmael; or in the Depths.
  - Self-Raised; or From the Depths.
  - Tales From Shakespeare.
  - Helen's Babies, by Habberton.
  - The Bobsey Twins at the Seashore.
  - The Bobsey Twins at School.
  - The Bobsey Twins at Snow Lodge.
  - The Bobsey Twins at Meadow Brook.
  - The Bobsey Twins at Home.