



1—Mrs. Edmond Wallis, beautiful wife of new naval attaché of French embassy in Washington. 2—Scene at plant of the Western Marine and Salvage Co., at Alexandria, Va., where hundreds of wooden ships built during the war are being scrapped. 3—View of the great Spanish retreat in Morocco after the victories of the Riff tribesmen.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Navy Board Declares Battleship Still Is Backbone of Our Naval Defense.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

CONTRARY to the opinion of Brig. Gen. William Mitchell and those who support his contentions, the battleship is still the backbone of naval defense and the airplane, while a very valuable arm, will always be an auxiliary instrument of warfare against those attacks the battleship can be made practically invulnerable. Such is the finding of the special board of the navy created by President Coolidge to investigate the claims of those who asserted that aircraft could sweep navies from the seas.

This board, headed by Admiral Eberle, chief of naval operations, reported last week. Its conclusions, summarized, are those:

"The battleship is the element of ultimate force in the fleet, and all other elements are contributory to the fulfillment of its function as the final arbiter in sea warfare. The other elements have their important, and at times, indispensable functions.

"Aviation has introduced a new and highly important factor in warfare, both on land and sea. It was utilized on an enormous scale and with great effectiveness in land operations during the World war, but did not seriously influence sea operations. Its influence on naval warfare undoubtedly will increase in the future, but the prediction that it will assume paramount importance will not be realized.

"The airplane (heavier than air) is limited in performance by physical laws.

"The airplane (lighter than air) has some valuable characteristics, but due to great vulnerability, is of doubtful value in war.

"Aircraft cannot operate from territory that is not controlled by the military or naval forces of their own country.

"Aircraft cannot occupy territory, nor can they exercise control of the sea.

"Aircraft cannot reach distant overseas areas under their own power with any effective military load, and therefore, cannot operate alone offensively or defensively, and supplied with weapons and fuel.

"The battleship of today, while not invulnerable to airplane attack, still possesses very efficient structural protection, as shown by the experiments on the Washington. The battleship of the future can be so designed as to distribute her armor on decks and sides, and as to interior subdivision, that she will not be subjected to fatal damage from the air.

"The effect of plunging long range gun projectiles hits on a ship's deck has now become closely analogous to the effect of hits by heavy aerial bombs.

"By armor the battleship's deck with six or seven inches of armor, we effectively meet any practicable attack from the air and also attack by gun projectiles fired at the greatest probable battle ranges.

"The interior subdivision will resist any mining effort from aerial bombs. It cannot be said, therefore, that air attack has rendered the battleship obsolete.

"The observation value of the airplane has been extended to assisting gunnery by observing and reporting the fall of shot relative to the target.

"Airplanes have demonstrated their great value to the fleet in scouting, observation and bombing. The use of torpedo planes, gas and smoke screens is still in the process of development. Airplane carriers are necessary elements of a properly constituted fleet to carry airplanes to the scene of action."

As to the plan of unifying navy and army aviation in a separate department of the government, urged by General Mitchell and many others, the board says it would be most injurious to the continued efficiency of the fleet and is a step that should not be taken.

The board made recommendations for a rather elaborate immediate building program to be completed in three years at a cost of \$800,000,000 a year. For this the President has authorized this initial program costing \$200,000,000:

1. Modernization of three of the coal-burning battleships.
2. Continuation of the construction of the two aircraft carriers.
3. Three million dollars for airplanes for the carriers. (This is in addition to \$1,000,000 for this purpose included in the budget for 1925.)
4. Laying down and commencing the construction of two 10,000-ton cruisers.
5. Commencing the construction of submarines for patrol service on the Yangtze river.

COINCIDENT with the publication of this report came the story from Los Angeles of the performance of navy bombing squadron No. 2 under Lieutenant Commander J. Strong. From a height of 7,200 feet the bombers made 20 direct hits on a small sea target that was being towed at 15 miles an hour. Strong's comment was: "Brigadier General Mitchell was correct as to effectiveness of air bombardment on war vessels. We have known it for a long time. Today we proved it."

He added the assertion that his bombers were 1,200 feet above effective anti-aircraft gun range and said the test was made more difficult than expected because a bank of clouds necessitated much preliminary maneuvering to get a peek at the tiny target.

WASHINGTON dispatches of the same date declared that President Coolidge had decided to discipline General Mitchell for casting discredit on his superiors in the War Department and presumably would give him the choice of accepting removal from the office of assistant chief of the army air service and reduction to his regular rank of colonel, or resignation from the service. Mitchell is quoted as saying he would accept the demotion and continue to work for a unified air service.

High officers of the army and navy appeared before the house committee on aircraft to tell the nation's actual situation as to defense by air, and while their testimony was not made public, it was learned that they showed that the country was utterly unprepared to resist attack, so far as air craft are concerned.

Another interesting witness was Frank B. Gorin, secretary of the Chemical Warfare Association, who told the committee in polite language that Secretary of the Navy Wilbur did not know what he was talking about when he minimized the possibilities of poison gases in war. Gorin laughed at Wilbur's statement that it would require 5,000 planes and 3,700,000 pounds of mustard gas to attack a city the size of Washington. From 12 to 16 planes, he said, could demoralize a manufacturing center like Pittsburgh, and one ton of gas would cover a territory a mile square.

Eleven planes from Selfridge field have been carrying out winter maneuvers in Michigan that have taught the aviators most valuable lessons especially in the quick handling of the planes in extremely cold weather.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, it was admitted last week, is sounding out the powers on the advisability of calling another naval disarmament conference to extend the Washington treaty limitations to auxiliary craft. Our ambassadors have been carrying on preliminary conversations in London, Tokyo and Rome and are said to have met with considerable encouragement there. France also, of course, has been consulted but her attitude is not yet revealed. Her assent is necessary. A London paper says Mr. Kellogg, the retiring ambassador, is bringing to the President a message from Foreign Secretary Chamberlain stating that Great Britain would welcome American initiative in the calling of such a conference, which probably means that the British government recognizes that the Geneva peace protocol is practically dead. In Tokyo it was said Foreign Minister Shidehara would insist on preliminary conversations in that city to fix the agenda of the meeting.

THAT Germany's warlike preparations are continuing and that the Berlin government has not been acting in good faith are the charges made in the report of the interallied control commission, presented to Marshal Foch's Versailles committee, and the charges are supported by a great array of alleged facts. With this comes the report of the French government's position that evacuation of the whole or a part of the Rhineland would remove France's last tangible pledge for security against aggression without giving anything but vague promises to replace it.

THE tragedy of Sand cave, in Kentucky, reached its climax and conclusion when the miners sinking the shaft for the rescue of Floyd Collins got down to the unfortunate young man and found he had been dead for several days. To release his body from the imprisoning boulder that fell on his foot January 30 would have been difficult, and dangerous to others, so it was decided to make the cave his tomb. Funeral services were held on top of the hill and the entrance to the cavern were filled up. Above the shaft will rise a rock cairn that will stand as a memento of the unselfish and brave efforts of those who toiled for many days and nights to extricate the trapped man.

CONGRESS has now authorized a project that has been long urged by citizens of the North and the South as a symbol of national unity, and by artists and architects as well. It is the Arlington Memorial bridge to link the Lincoln Memorial on the north shore of the Potomac with the Arlington National cemetery and the old home of Gen. Robert E. Lee on the south side. The bridge is to cost \$14,750,000 and is to be the most beautiful structure of the kind in the world. It will be completed within the next six years.

IF THE senate has its way, the salaries of members of both houses will be raised from \$7,500 a year to \$10,000, and those of cabinet members from \$12,000 to \$15,000. This was provided for by a senate amendment to the legislative appropriation bill which was adopted without a record vote, despite the warm opposition of Senator Williams of Ohio and some others. It was considered likely the amendment would be approved in conference and accepted by the house.

WILLIAM M. JARDINE, president of the Kansas State Agricultural college, is to be secretary of agriculture after March 4. President Coolidge selected him from the field of some 200 candidates after long and careful consideration, for he feels that the operations of the Department of Agriculture will have much to do with the success of his administration, as well as with the prosperity of the country. Doctor Jardine, who began his career as a cow puncher in Montana, is a practical as well as a theoretical farmer and has a thorough knowledge of farm marketing.

DR. MARION LE ROY BERTON, president of the University of Michigan and one of the country's leading educators, died at Ann Arbor after several months of illness. He was a native of Iowa and was only fifty years old. Before going to Michigan in 1920 he had been president of Smith college and of the University of Minnesota. In the Republican national convention last June he made the speech placing Calvin Coolidge in nomination.

Frederic W. Upham, for years until last June the national treasurer of the Republican party and one of the leading business men of Chicago, died at Palm Beach, Fla., where he had gone in the hope of regaining his health. He was national committeeman from Illinois.

M. H. De Young, founder and publisher of the San Francisco Chronicle and one of the Golden Gate city's most notable figures, passed away rather suddenly after an emergency operation. Another death of note was that of Addison G. Proctor of St. Joseph, Mich., who was the last surviving member of the Republican convention of 1860 in Chicago that nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency.

THE WEEK'S EVENTS

IMPORTANT NEWS OF STATE, NATION AND THE WORLD BRIEFLY TOLD

ROUND ABOUT THE WORLD

A Condensed Record Of Happenings Of Interest From All Points Of The World

Foreign—

Doctor Pastianelli visited Premier Mussolini twice in one day. Mussolini is suffering from an attack of influenza. He found the patient's temperature had decreased, but still was slightly above normal. His pulse was excellent and his breathing and blood pressure was normal.

The Japanese cotton mill (Shanghai, China) strike has spread to thirteen mills, involving 30,000 operatives. The mill were recently attacked and much damage done.

Twenty-six persons were killed and fifteen seriously injured when a motor lorry, at Bombay, India, carrying a gay and elaborate native wedding party, toppled over an incline from a dark and narrow road.

The condition of King George, suffering at his London palace, from bronchitis, is reported unchanged, but his condition is satisfactory to his physicians.

Shanghai reports that fighting has again broken out between the followers of Sun Yat Sen and Chi Hsi. Sun Yat Sen forces claim the capture of Tamsui.

Premier Siph of Persia recently declared in the Persian national assembly that the necessary representations had been made for the return of the shah, and that he would hasten his return.

Fantastic-looking shoes are being made in Paris. Not only rich brocades and colored leather and all sorts of imitation jewels to be used, and real pearls for the distinctive ones.

A bombardment is bursting over the houses of Jeddah in Arabia. The fierce Wahabi tribesmen are determined to drive the puppet kings set up by the British. Ibn Saud is leader.

The report of the allied military control mission, on the state of Germany's disarmament, was delivered at the offices of the allied war committee, in Paris, presided over by Marshal Foch.

Dispatches, in Berlin, show that the Rumanian finance ministry ordered government departments to stop business relations with Germany.

Dispatches from the border of the Rio Grande do Sul, Brazilian government forces have fired on an Argentine launch, near Buenos Aires.

An ape, in the home of a Professor in Berlin, is each night given a bottle, rocked on his nurse's knee, and tucked away in a dainty little crib.

Advices received here from Grenada announce that an earthquake was experienced there. Damages not mentioned.

Washington—

The nomination of George Alexander Marks to be governor of Alaska has been confirmed by the senate.

Further extended hearings by the senate agriculture committee on the proposal for creation of a federal co-operative marketing board may be necessary because of the "avalanche" of protests.

A favorable report on the nomination of William M. Jardine of Kansas, to be secretary of agriculture, has been ordered by the senate agriculture committee. Chairman Norris said no opposition to the nomination was voiced in the committee. He expects quick confirmation in the senate.

A rivers and harbors bill carrying authorization for projects and surveys for which appropriations aggregating \$11,738,130 would be requested, has been reported favorably by the senate commerce committee.

Confidential information on the preparedness of the army and navy to defend the nation against attack from the air was given to the house aircraft committee behind closed doors, and although members would not disclose the plans, it has been learned that they were not thoroughly satisfied with the adequacy of the air service.

Increased gasoline prices have developed into sharp issues in both the houses of congress. In the senate a resolution by Senator Trammell, Democrat, Florida, for a federal trade commission investigation was debated for an hour without action, while in the house a committee examined bureau of mines officials in an effort to determine causes for recent, higher prices in Washington.

The senate has approved bills for the construction of bridges across the Savannah river near Abbeville, S. C.; Santee at St. James Ferry; Santee at Pinckney's Landing; Catawba between Chester and Lancaster counties, and Congaree, near Columbia, S. C.

For the first time since Henry Ford became involved in railroad operations, one of his transportation corporations applied to the interstate commerce commission for permission to issue new securities without simultaneously announcing that Mr. Ford himself would buy them.

The senate has recalled from the house the legislative appropriation bill containing a provision for an increase in salaries of members of congress and the vice president.

The house veterans' committee has reported a ten million dollar hospital construction measure, which would permit the director of the veterans' bureau to use the money wherever needed.

Due largely to a 4 1/2 per cent increase in farm products prices, the general level of wholesale commodity prices showed a decided advance during January.

The senate has confirmed the nomination of William M. Jardine to be secretary of agriculture.

By a vote of 231 to 120, the house has refused to accept the senate postal pay and increase bill.

President Coolidge added a new chapter to the air service controversy by making public the report of a special naval board convened by his direction, which found that the battleship remained "the final arbiter in sea warfare," and that the airplanes never would assume paramount importance.

Domestic—

Count Michael Karolyi, former president of Hungary, who came to this country to be with his sick wife, was allowed to enter New York City only on condition that he pledge himself not to write or speak for publication.

The Florence lake tunnel, 2,300 feet beneath the peaks of the Sierras, by which will be achieved unlimited electric power, has been completed.

Ralph Galilee, 17-year-old son of wealthy parents, and his 11-year-old bride, remain in hiding from the girl's father following their elopement to Alexandria, Va., where they were married.

Thomas L. Wann, Sr., retired capitalist and prominent socially, shot and killed his wife at St. Paul, Minn., and then committed suicide.

Chin Jack Lem, tong leader and reputed instigator of the recent Cleveland, Ohio, tong war between Hip Sing and On Leong tongs, was found guilty of extortion and sentenced to fifteen years in the Ohio penitentiary.

Victor Badzely, 29, was sentenced to solitary confinement in prison after he had pleaded guilty in circuit court at Midland, Mich., to murdering 11-year-old Lena Todd at Coleman, near Midland.

Scoring at a height of six thousand feet, five United States battle fleet bombing planes have completed a series of mimic warfare tests at San Pedro, Calif.

Harvey Fredericks, who, in the last two years placed the noose around the necks of twenty men who were executed in the state prison at San Quentin, Calif., is dead.

Judge Ben Lindsey, Denver, Colo., has filed a petition asking that the petition of his opponent, whom he defeated, be quashed, on the ground that said opponent was not even a resident of Denver.

Charles G. Dawes, it is announced at Chicago, will invade Washington February 28, preparatory to the inaugural ceremonies.

The New England Tobacco Growers' association has adopted resolutions asking congress to reduce the internal revenue taxes on cigars.

James Lane Allen, famous novelist, died recently, at the age of 75, at his home in New York City.

New York newspapers announce in their financial pages that the Shell Union Oil Corporation has placed itself on an annual dividend basis of \$1.40 a share, an increase from 35¢.

John Jones, negro, was electrocuted at the North Carolina state prison for the murder of Sam Small, a white farmer of Chowan county.

A resolution opposing an increase in second class postal rates and declaring that the publishing business now is paying the fourth advance in rate assessed against it in connection with special war taxes, was adopted by the International and Daily Press association, in session at Chicago.

Six witnesses, five of whom are negroes and who said they had been acquainted with the Everleigh club, a notorious resort here fifteen years ago, were introduced in the prosecution of W. E. D. Stokes, New York millionaire, accused of conspiracy to defame his wife, Helen Elwood Stokes. The Everleigh club is located in the suburbs of Chicago.

George Campbell Carson, 58, itinerant miner and "desert rat," as he termed himself, and for years the guest of a sailor lodging house in San Francisco, because he could afford no better, had little cause to complain of "the law's delay" or "the slings and arrows of an outrageous fortune." A decision of the United States circuit court of appeals has changed Carson's status by making him a potential multi-millionaire.

The annual report of the American Woolen company for 1924 shows a deficit of \$11,969,837 after dividend requirements.

Rioting between Mexican and American prisoners in the San Quentin prison (Calif.) caused the death of a Mexican, who, it is believed, was trampled and beaten so seriously that he died a few hours later.

Langdon C. Quin of Atlanta, Ga., has been elected a director of the Fidelity Fire Insurance company and the Fidelity Casualty company, it is announced at Dallas, Texas.

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