

UNITED STATES FLEET BY 1925 SHOULD BE THE EQUAL OF THAT MAINTAINED BY ANY NATION

League of Nations Proposal Has Not Altered the General Board's Policy.

MUST PATROL THE SEAS America's Great Merchant Marine Increases Need For a Great Navy.

WAR HAS TAUGHT LESSON Admirals Badger and Barker Before House Committee.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Neither the end of hostilities nor proposals for a League of Nations has altered the policy of the general board of the navy in regard to making the American navy second to none in the world.

The general board believes that under the present world conditions and the conditions likely to obtain in the future, Admiral Badger said, "the United States navy should steadily continue to increase. Ultimately it should be equal to the most powerful maintained by any other nation in a few years."

"The duty of the navy in the future," the admiral said, "will be not only to guard the country against invasion, but to protect as well the great merchant marine which is the lifeblood of our country."

"The navy will always remain a factor of vast importance in international relations," Admiral Badger declared. "The great naval lesson of the war has been that the nation possessing the most powerful navy in the world is best able to drive the German merchant fleet from the sea and to keep open her own trade routes and yet, when the war commenced Germany possessed the second best navy in the world. It was not until she was unable to break through the greatest contributing cause of her ultimate collapse."

Completion of the three-year building program authorized in 1916 and which was halted by the submarine craft, was recommended by Admiral Badger. Work has not yet been started on six battleships, six battle cruisers, two scout cruisers, nine fleet destroyers, two destroyers tenders, and one fleet submarine tender, he said.

Admiral Badger said that before the committee was signed by Germany to surrender the greater part of the navy the general board had recommended a six-year building program which included 12 superdreadnaughts and 12 battle cruisers, but added that immediate necessities would be met by the three-year building program recommended by the secretary of the navy.

The program will add six battle cruisers to the six already authorized, he said, and at the same rate of authorization would make a total of 13 of these vessels built or building, he said. It is estimated she will have 10 or 20 by 1925.

Admiral Badger said that, type for 1919, American battleships compare favorably in power with those of any other nation, pointing out that the six battleships now being built or building are designed for a displacement of 43,000 tons, of 23 knots speed, a main battery of 16 sixteen-inch guns and are heavily armored. They will be the most powerful vessels in the world, he said.

Admiral Barker stated that provision for 108 destroyers is made in the 1923 three-year program. There are now 342 of these vessels built or building, he said, and there will therefore be a total of 450, compared with England's 516 at present.

Paris Is Dressing Up For The President's Arrival

Official Parties of Americans and Frenchmen Leave For Brest, Where Mr. Wilson Will Land This Morning—Window Spaces Sell at Fancy Prices in Paris.

Paris, Dec. 12.—Paris is awaiting the arrival of President Wilson and another national holiday for celebration of the allied victory. The official delegations to receive the American president left for Brest tonight. A luxurious special train was reserved for President Poincare. The French ministry was represented by Stephen Pichon, the foreign minister, and George Leygues, the minister of marine.

The official party of Americans to receive the president took an earlier special train. It included Col. E. M. House, Ambassador Sharp, General Pershing, Admiral Benson, General Bliss and Gordon Auchincloss, son-in-law of Colonel House.

CONFERENCE HEARS ORPHANAGE REPORT

Raleigh Institution of North Carolina Methodists Has Best Year in Its History. PENNIES FOR CENTENARY Dr. Thomas N. Ivey Shows That One Cent a Day Per Member Will Reach Goal of \$1,000,000.

By REV. T. A. SIKES. Goldsboro, Dec. 12.—Rev. A. S. Barnes, superintendent of the Methodist orphanage, read his report of the year's work of that institution at today's session of the North Carolina conference. This report indicates that this has been the best year in the history of the orphanage. Two hundred and forty-five children have been taken care of and more than \$67,000 has been received. Several thousand dollars have been added to the endowment fund.

The conference met in special session at 3 o'clock and religious services were conducted by Rev. A. L. Ormond. Bishop Darlington introduced Dr. F. S. Parker, of Nashville, Tenn., who spoke on the theme, "The Spiritual Resources of the Church." He emphasized the importance of the prayer life, and likened spiritual force to a mighty stream of water from a hose, unbroken and yet pliant. He showed the necessity of the spiritual force in the successful carrying out of our work. The prayer life is the Christ life. His miracles are not so necessary as His prayers. Only through human agency can we reach the world. Only through prayer can this agency become effective. The speaker closed with a strong appeal for a church-wide campaign of intercessory prayer.

In discussion of the church's Centenary movement to raise 25 million dollars for world evangelization and reconstruction, Dr. T. N. Ivey showed that it would only take one cent a day per member for the period of five years for the goal to be reached. The converted heathen, said he, put five-tenths of their income into the Kingdom of God. We Christian people in this land should think of nothing less than one-tenth.

Bishop Darlington appointed the conference Centenary commission as follows: Presiding Elders J. E. Underwood and J. C. Wooten; Pastors Wallye Hutson and C. J. Harrell; Laymen J. G. Brown, R. N. Page, D. F. Dixon, G. T. Ormond, and representing the woman's work, Miss Elizabeth Lamb and Mrs. Harvey Boyer.

CONFESSES PART IN ROBBERIES IN MORE THAN DOZEN CITIES Shereport, La., Dec. 12.—A man whom the police say is Fred W. Neal, alias Frank Harms, was taken into custody here tonight and according to the police has signed five confessions admitting participation in robberies in more than a dozen cities throughout the country.

BRITISH VOTERS WILL GO TO THE POLLS TOMORROW

Parliamentary Elections Occur In One Day For First Time In History.

CAMPAIGN A QUIET ONE Will Count Ballots Two Weeks Hence, When Soldier Vote Is Received.

London, Dec. 12.—British voters will go to the polls Saturday in the parliamentary elections under circumstances wholly novel in the history of the country. All the balloting will be done in one day, instead of there being elections in different districts spread over weeks, with long drawn-out excitement and suspense.

Aside from the politicians and the newspapers, no election in memory has been attended with so little public interest. As an example, a meeting which was to have been addressed by Dr. Christopher Addison, minister of reconstruction, attracted only a handful of boys and the curtain of the hall in which the speech was to have been delivered did not rise.

David Lloyd-George, the prime minister; Herbert H. Asquith and other political leaders, addressed crowded meetings, but this was not considered unusual as they usually draw large audiences no matter what their topic. There are 600 contested seats with a total of 1,818 candidates running for them. In 513 of these districts each candidate pledged to support Lloyd-George's government through thick or thin if elected. They are known as the "Unionist candidates."

OF THE 1,005 running outside the coalition, 271 are Asquith liberals, 39 conservatives and 376 laborites. The remainder are running on 16 different platforms, including 78 Sinn Feiners, 59 nationalists and various socialist groups, the federation of soldiers and agricultural women and men's factions.

MOREHEAD YARD PERMANENT. Directors Arrange to Keep Right On Building Ships.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The shipbuilding plant at Morehead City, operated by private capital, is to be permanently endowed. A meeting of the stockholders here today adopted such a policy and forecast for the enterprise a successful future. G. D. Cansfield of Morehead City; Charles L. Abernethy of New Bern, and David Stoneman of Winton, were the principal directors of the company.

The Morehead City plant has a government contract for building four ships, one having already been launched. A second steamer will be launched before the Christmas holidays. Mr. Abernethy stated today that the company is employing constantly between 400 and 500 workmen and that the government rating of the finished product has been of A-1 grade.

PLANNED TO PLAY JOKE ON VON PAPAN

"Third Party" Was to Swindle Him Out of Some Money.

Edward Lyle Fox Thus "Explains" Propaganda of Anti-Japanese Character—Overman Makes Public His Letter.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Chairman Overman of the senate committee investigating brewers and German propaganda today made public a letter from Edward Lyle Fox asserting that author of a scheme outlined to German agents in this country to stir up anti-Japanese feeling on the Pacific coast had no intention of the plan being carried out. The purpose, Fox said, "was rather to enable a third person to swindle Capt. Von Papan (former German military attaché here) out of a sum of money and then laugh at him."

Fox is one of the newspaper correspondents alleged to have been sent to Germany by autogenic agents in America to send back pro-German news to this country. Last week, A. Bruce Bielaski, of the department of justice, produced before the investigating committee a communication written by Fox and suggesting that anti-Japanese feeling be stirred up. Hiram Moe Green, editor of the Illustrated Sunday Magazine, was named in the communication and in his letter to Chairman Overman, Fox said a great injustice had been done Greene by involving him in the matter.

Railroad Executives Are Strong In Opposition To Mr. McAdoo's Suggestion

To Extend Period of Control Would Demoralize Organization of Roads.

CONFUSE THE PROBLEM Present Law Gives Sufficient Time in Which to Effect An Adjustment.

CONGRESS TAKES UP RAILROAD PROBLEM Next Week Senate Committee Will Discuss Various Phases Of the Subject.

BRIEF SENATE DEBATE In The Meantime, Industrial, Commercial, Labor Leaders and Others Meet and Discuss Formulation of Policy Toward Roads.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Recommendation of Director General McAdoo that government control of railroads be continued to January 1, 1924, gave impetus today to congressional consideration of legislation looking to resolution of the railway problem and also was the subject of brief debate in the senate.

The senate interstate commerce committee was called to meet next Thursday to discuss Mr. McAdoo's letter and other phases of the general railroad subject, while the house committee will meet tomorrow with the expectation that the director general's recommendation will be taken up.

Aside from the opposition voiced by Senator Kellogg of Minnesota, republican, on the floor of the senate today, members, both republicans and democrats, were said to have expressed disapproval of Mr. McAdoo's proposal but none of them spoke for publication.

Senator Kellogg charged that Mr. McAdoo really proposes a five year extension of permanent government ownership of the carriers. Senator Smith, South Carolina, chairman of the senate commerce committee, declared that Mr. McAdoo's proposal was merely personal opinion, but not conclusive upon congress to which President Wilson has submitted the question.

Senator Kellogg then asked how President Wilson's approval for the five-year extension had been secured when the president in his address to congress had disclaimed having any judgment on handling the railroad question.

While the senate was debating the subject a number of industrial, commercial, financial and labor leaders and students of transportation problems discussed the formulation of policy toward the roads at a conference called by the United States chamber of commerce. The conference will continue tomorrow in an effort to arrive at a basis of common principles acceptable by all interests to be promulgated for public discussion.

Walker D. Hines, assistant director-general of railroads, explained to the conference details of Mr. McAdoo's plan. Certainly to ask congress to extend government control to five years. He said that all interests urging immediate relinquishment of federal management specify there should be removal of legislation to eliminate old wasteful competition.

Among the thirty attending the conference were: Paul M. Warburg, former member of the federal reserve board; Harry A. Wheeler, president of the chamber of commerce, and E. G. Rhett, former president; Frank Morrison, secretary American Federation of Labor; Winthrop M. Daniels, chairman interstate commerce commission; Charles E. Elmquist, president National Association of Railway and Utility Commissioners; Charles P. Neill, representing the railroad administration's labor department; S. E. Heberling, president of the Switchmen's Union, and W. N. Doak, vice-president of the Trainmen's Brotherhood.

Director General McAdoo explained today to callers his belief that it would be well to take the railroad question out of politics at this time, even though it might become an issue in the 1920 campaign, when a congress is to be elected. He emphasized that it would be impracticable to continue government operation of railroads for 21 months after peace is declared because of the present distribution of the railroad employes morale, the interference by state authorities and the inability to prosecute a program of extensive improvements.

HUNDREDS OF MEN LEAVING NEWPORT NEWS CAMPS DAILY Newport News, Dec. 12.—Hundreds of men daily are leaving local camps. Many of these are mustered out of service here and go directly to their homes while others are sent to various camps for discharge. Yesterday 850 men left Camp Bustin for Camp Upton. Tomorrow a special train carrying 650 men from Fort Monroe will leave for Chicago and another train carrying 250 men from the same place will leave for St. Louis.

BIG PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT IS GIVEN APPROVAL

Southern Commercial Congress Practically Closes General Sessions.

ELECT OFFICERS TODAY Washington Will Be Named As the Convention City For Next Year.

Baltimore, Dec. 12.—The southern commercial congress practically closed its general sessions tonight when, at a joint session on agricultural finance and shipbuilding, a wide program was approved. The platform included 13 cardinal points, principal among which were the appropriation of the Bankhead measure for \$300,000,000 in five annual federal appropriations for highway and post road facilities and a gigantic increase of merchant marine with equal distribution, terminal betterment and general economical trade conditions with the south as a meritorious beneficiary.

The other 10 points comprised the systematic approval of general conditions as applying to railroad rates, inner water courses along the coast line and factors insuring cheap traffic and port developments, the stimulation of industrial enterprises, expansion of foreign trade relations, various facilities affecting the Gulf ports and exportation therefrom to the east through the Panama canal and to the west by means of a shorter route provided by the proposed Florida canal, extensions of the scope of rural credits, the establishment of branch reserve banks in foreign countries, the utilization of the vast resources of the south and other things.

The resolutions, the framework of which was drafted by a special executive committee in Atlanta last October, met general approval and will be officially adopted tomorrow at a meeting of the directorate of the congress at which time Washington will be named as the next convention city and new officers elected.

Richmond, Galveston, Chicago and St. Louis were bidders for the next convention. It was not generally known that Washington would be chosen. The explanation of this selection lies in the fact that during the Baltimore convention as with previous assemblies there has been a marked lack of co-ordination which can only be remedied by an assembly at the capital where the entire country is "after the war" program there will result numerous benefits growing out of closer touch with federal officers and committees. None of the advantages of the capital was mentioned in any of the other cities in the field.

SIMMONS WINS OUT FOR NITRATES FOR FARMERS

War Department Accedes to His Demand That the Stores Here Be Sold to Farmers.

By S. R. WINTERS. Washington, Dec. 12.—The cargo of nitrate of soda stored at Wilmington will be distributed to North Carolina farmers, the war department realizing the cost of the product without any profit thereon. Secretary of War Newton D. Baker today notified Senator Simmons of the action taken, the war department having abandoned its original intention of selling the soda to the highest bidder.

Cargoes of soda having taken port upon the signing of the armistice, stored at Green River, South Atlantic seaport towns, will likewise be distributed to the farmers under similar stipulation. Senator Simmons and other southern senators joined in an appeal to Secretary Baker that the soda be sold directly to the farmer rather than marketed to the highest bidder.

So, regardless of the ultimate policy of Secretary of Agriculture David P. Houston, in furnishing farmers soda at cost, the North Carolina farmers can be assured of obtaining some nitrates under the plan in operation last year. The plan was not known at the office of Senator Simmons the amount of the product stored at Wilmington, or whether it would suffice the needs of Eastern Carolina.

VIRGINIA-CAROLINA PEANUT GROWERS TO HOLD 1918 CROP Suffolk, Va., Dec. 12.—The Virginia-Carolina peanut growers' association in session today at Suffolk, after passing resolutions to hold the 1918 crop, still in the hands of the farmers, elected the following officers: President, W. S. Story of Courtland; Vice Secretary, T. B. Slade, Hamilton, N. C. Following an address by B. C. Moomaw, bureau of markets, Washington, D. C., it was voted to petition the food administration for a suspension of the exportation of peanuts to Japan and to continue the embargo on Japanese nuts.

FRENCH SOLDIERS TO GET INDEMNITY WHEN DEMOBILIZED Paris, Dec. 12.—The cabinet today authorized the introduction in parliament of a bill granting an indemnity of 250 francs to every man demobilized with additional payments according to length of service, citations and number of dependents. The payment of the extra indemnity will involve the expenditure of 1,484,000,000 francs. Allowances to the families of mobilized soldiers it was decided, should continue for six months after the soldier is discharged from active service.

LONDON INVITES WILSON TO ACCEPT ADDRESS IN GOLD BOX London, Dec. 12.—The corporation of the city of London today passed a resolution inviting President Wilson to accept an address of welcome in a gold box and asking him to a luncheon at the Guild Hall.