

SMASH!



Mrs. J. M. Broughton smashed a bottle of champagne against the sturdy side of the Zebulon B. Vance Saturday at noon, and a moment later the ship slid down the ways into the Cape Fear river. The champagne and the launching followed a short ceremony during which speeches were made by Homer L. Ferguson, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding company and chairman of the board of the North Carolina firm, Governor Broughton, and Capt. Edward Macauley, member of the U. S. Maritime commission. (Star-News Photo.)

ZEBULON VANCE LAUNCHED BEFORE CROWD OF 13,000; BROUGHTON, OTHERS SPEAK

MAY GET CARGO HERE

Broughton, Others Ask Maritime Commission To Order Loading Here

OUTLOOK IS GOOD

Rep. Clark Says 'There Is Good Chance' Proposal May Be Developed

Following the launching of the Zebulon B. Vance Saturday noon, Governor J. Melville Broughton, Mayor Hagrove Bellamy and C. D. Hogue, chairman of the Wilmington port commission, immediately asked the Maritime commission to direct that the first cargo to be taken aboard the vessel be loaded at the Port of Wilmington. The step was in keeping with the efforts of Wilmington interests to have the freighter transport the first lease-lend cargo to be moved through this port.

Write Robson In a letter to H. H. Robson, of the division of Emergency shipping, Maritime commission, the Governor and the local officials said:

"We hereby respectfully request that your commission direct that the first cargo to be taken by the ship 'Zebulon B. Vance' be loaded at Wilmington, North Carolina. We suggest, with deference, that it would be eminently fitting that this boat, built and launched at Wilmington and named for one of the most distinguished sons of the North State, be loaded at the place of its birth."

Earlier in the day, Governor Broughton said he believed that (Continued on Page Four; Col. 2)

SPEAKERS



Here are the speakers at Saturday's launching ceremony at the shipbuilding yards here. At left is Governor J. M. Broughton, whose wife christened the Zebulon Vance; center is Homer Ferguson, president of the parent Newport News Shipbuilding company and chairman of the board of the North Carolina firm; and at right is Edward Macauley, member of the United States Maritime commission. (Star-News photo.)

Army Bomber Adds Color To Zeb Vance Launching

ZOOMS ACROSS SHIP

Rep. Bland Praises North Carolina Shipbuilding Co. For Fast Construction

Material symbol of the function for which the Zebulon B. Vance was created, an Army B-18 bomber, its camouflaged fuselage glistening in the sun, zoomed across the ship as it lay on the ways just as Governor Broughton prophesied the part the "Liberty" vessel will play in the democracies' fight against aggression. The bomber appeared from the south, flew low over the Zebulon B. Vance, and continued on its way up the Cape Fear river. None of the Army officers in the stands

WELDERS INTEND TO STRIKE SOON

Walkout Of 75,000 Men In Shipyards And On Other Projects Slated Tuesday

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Dec. 6.—(AP)—A nation-wide walkout of welders, which had its beginnings in a jurisdictional strike of 67 men on a \$40,000,000 ordnance plant, today was called for Tuesday unless there is government intervention. At odds with the American Federation of Labor over rejection of demands for a separate union, the United Brotherhood of Welders, Cutters and Helpers, announced the strike would be effective throughout the country Tuesday morning. Lloyd Payne, Brotherhood secretary in announcing the executive board's decision in Washington,

TERMED 'PROUD DAY'

Governor Welcomes Revival Of Shipbuilding Industry In Wilmington

WORKERS ARE PRAISED

Mrs. Broughton Christens First Of 37 Liberty Ships To Be Built Here

Shipbuilding in Wilmington came of age for the second time Saturday at noon when an estimated 13,000 people were thrilled by the spectacle of the Zebulon B. Vance sliding gracefully into the Cape Fear river.

The culmination of 10 months of advance work and planning, the expenditure of many millions of dollars and the toil of thousands of men and women, the launching and all preceding ceremony were executed with split-second precision. Exactly at 12 o'clock the Vance slid into the river with hardly a ripple, slowly righted itself and was caught by waiting tugboats and lashed to a nearby pier.

Spectacular Event Described by Governor J. M. Broughton as a "proud and significant day," the launching was one of the most colorful and spectacular affairs in Wilmington's history. From early Saturday morning until a short while before noon, endless streams of people and automobiles filed toward the ship yards. At the hour of the christening by Mrs. Broughton, thousands of upturned faces surrounded the launching stand on every side. "I've always wanted to build a ship in my native state of North Carolina, and now we've done it. That is what Homer L. Ferguson, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding company, parent of the North Carolina company, told the crowds when he opened the speaking exercises. "Up in Newport News we had about 3,000 shipbuilders from North Carolina. Now we've just sent some of them back home. "We selected Wilmington as the best place for these yards because of the Cape Fear river, because of the housing available, because of the labor available, and because of the plentiful quantity of power.

Thanks Workers "We want to thank those persons from North Carolina and Virginia who have done the work on this ship and the eight others being built beside it. You can be sure they will be as good as any liberty ships built in any yards in this country." Immediately after Mr. Ferguson's statements, Governor Broughton stepped up to "welcome

F. R. Addresses Message To Japanese Emperor Amid Darkening War Clouds

SEEN AS LAST RESORT

125,000 Japanese Troops Reported Massing In The Indo-China Section

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—(AP)—President Roosevelt has dispatched a personal message to Emperor Hirohito of Japan in the midst of darkening war clouds in the Far East, it was disclosed by the State department tonight.

The President's direct message to the emperor, who is regarded as divine by the Japanese, was immediately interpreted in well-informed quarters as a reflection of his dissatisfaction with the explanation made by Premier Tojo of Japan through the Japanese envoys here as to the reason for Japanese troop concentrations in French Indo-China.

Last Resort The message also was viewed as possibly a step of last resort to avert an open break with Japan since it was considered unlikely that Mr. Roosevelt would communicate directly with the emperor unless virtually all hope had been abandoned

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Britain Formally Goes To War Against Finland

LONDON, Sunday, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The British quietly and formally went to war against Finland, Hungary and Rumania this morning because they were fighting on Germany's side against Soviet Russia.

The zero hour, one minute after midnight Greenwich time, or 1:01 a.m. London time, passed almost unnoticed in blacked-out London. Newspapers gave it scant attention and the Dispatch even criticized the British foreign office for waiting so long to comply with the Russian request.

Even before the zero hour of a British declaration of war against three of Germany's allies against Russia—Finland, Hungary and Rumania—Scotland Yard operatives moved swiftly against newly-designated "enemy aliens."

More than 200 persons were arrested, including 150 Finns, who will be removed later to concentration camps. Newly designated "enemy diplomats" prepared to leave London.

Each of the German satellite states had refused ultimatums that

they halt hostilities against Russia, Britain's ally. Finland turned down the British demand with a reply which was termed "entirely unsatisfactory." Hungary and Rumania did not answer.

The British said the declaration will not materially change the present military situation. The chief difference, they said, would be that the Finns, Hungarians and Rumanians will be sitting "on the other side" at a peace conference table.

The association of Hungarians in Great Britain, in a statement affirming their solidarity with the British, said "British victory alone can free Hungary of its present shame and servitude."

The Czechs and Slovaks in London, already allied with Britain against Germany, extended their cooperation to include the new "enemies."

RYTI BREAKS NEWS

HELSINKI, Dec. 6.—President Risto Ryti broke to the Finns on their Independence Day today the

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PRESS FLAYS F. D. R. Singapore's Defenses In State Of Readiness As Soldiers Recalled

TOKYO, Dec. 6.—(AP)—The Japanese press, accusing President Roosevelt of insincerity and stalling in talks of peace, sounded a keynote tonight that Washington has turned completely from appeasement to an offensive attitude that would find all East Asia at arms in case of aggression. In the midst of these renewed blasts at the United States, Domei said it understood Premier General Hideki Tojo, Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo and Navy Minister Vice-Admiral Shigetaro Shimada would "speak the whole truth about the current international situation as well as the Japanese-American talks" in speeches Monday before a council of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.

Old Policy Out Dr. Morinosuki Kashima, Asahi's foreign commentator, asserted that gone is the "former negative de-

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EMPTY STOCKING NEEDS DONATIONS

Closes Second Week Far Behind Total For Comparable Period Last Year

Pennies, nickels, dimes and dollars are needed immediately for the Star-News Empty Stocking fund which closed its second week Saturday far behind its total for a comparable period in 1940.

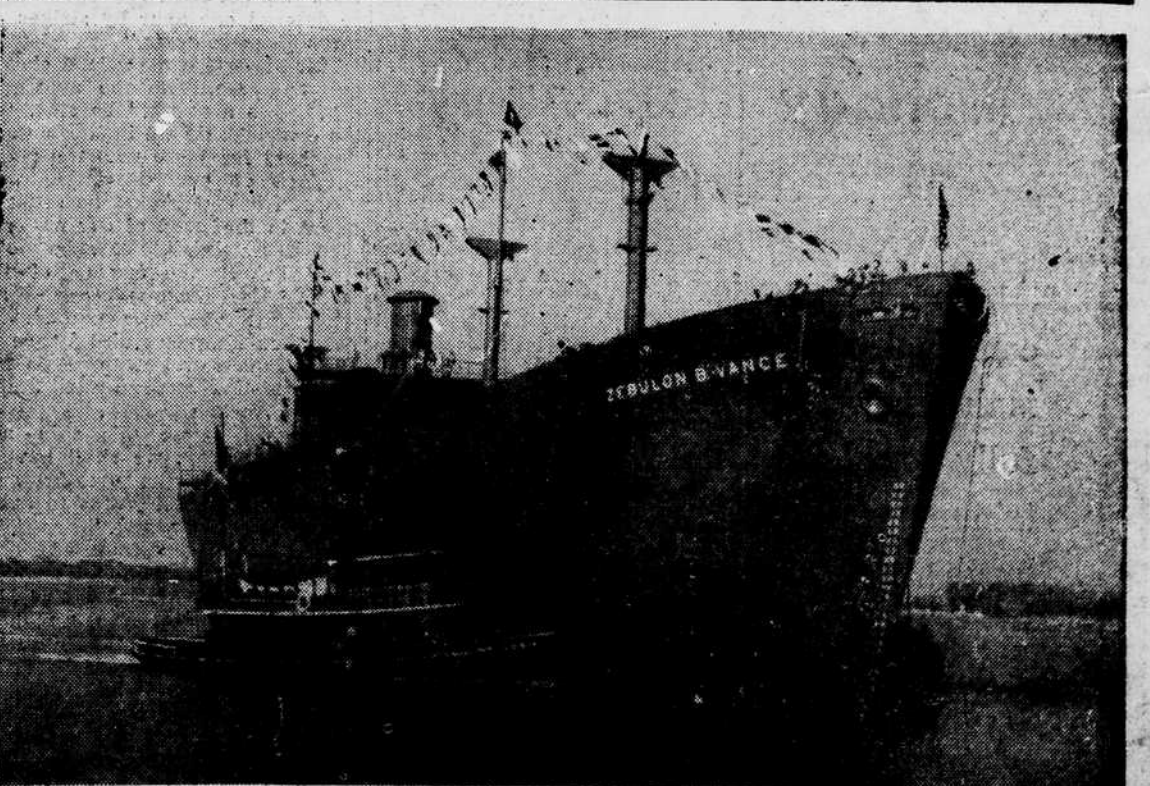
Many demands are being made upon the fund and if all are to be answered more contributions—many more—will be needed.

Do your part today by contributing as much as you can as soon as you can.

Here's an important message: Parents of children who have written to the fund for aid are requested to call at the Star-News offices and get cards which must be taken to the school teacher, Sunday school teacher, or minister of their church for certification. When the card is certified and returned to the Star-News, half of the card will

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LIBERTY SHIP IS BORN AT NORTH CAROLINA YARDS HERE



Here are four photographs showing progressive stages of the launching of the Zebulon B. Vance at noon Saturday. At left is Willie Rattley, veteran employe of the Newport News Shipbuilding company who has "pushed off" scores of ships during his 33 years of service with the firm. The company sends Willie and his wife to each launching ceremony to perform his "pushing off" ritual. He points to his necktie, embroidered with red battleships, and says "that's my launching tie. I always wear it." Second from left is the Zeb Vance a few seconds after it started its graceful slide down to the river. It set up a mighty groan as its great weight floated along the tallow covered ways. This, accompanied by shrieking sirens and the wild cheers of 13,000 spectators, made an impressively beautiful spectacle. Third from left is the ship at the moment it struck the muddy water of the Cape Fear river. Shortly after floating out into the river, it righted itself gracefully and began to drift upstream with the current. A hawser was attached to its stern and it was later tied to the shore. Within an hour, waiting tugs (right) had lashed onto the Vance and had it tied up to a waiting dock where outfitting will begin. (Star-News Photos.)