

## PRIVATE FIRMS WILL GET SHIPS

### Ship Purchase Bill Would Turn Over Government Bought Vessels to Private Parties, Ransdell Says.

## SENATOR ANSWERS OPPOSITORS TO MEASURE

### Comment on Both Sides of the Senate Indicates That Bill Will Not Pass in Its Present Form.

Washington, Dec. 18.—With the expectation that the administration ship purchase bill, approved by the senate commerce committee, will provide a fleet of merchant ships flying the American flag which will ultimately be turned over to private shipping firms to operate, Senator Joseph E. Ransdell, of Louisiana, has shown the way he hopes to meet objections to the measure.

President Wilson in his annual message urged prompt action on this bill. He devoted particular attention to it, and singled it out as one of the important pieces of constructive legislation he hoped to see passed speedily.

Comment on both sides of the senate shows that the bill will never pass in its present shape. Opponents say the government should not enter into competition with private shipping firms. To meet this criticism Senator Ransdell makes the novel suggestion that the government will furnish ships if private shipping firms will only operate them.

Senator Ransdell said that was not frightened by the old bogey of "ship subsidy." Ocean freight rates had been inflated since the outbreak of the European war, he asserted. All business had been affected and the only relief was for more ships to carry American cargoes.

If ships carrying the American flag were bought by the government and turned over to a corporation or shipping board to operate, he looks to see trade developed through Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, Para, Cartagena and other South American ports.

Whenever a private corporation sets fit to take over these ships and assume the risk of operating them it is his idea that this course will be followed. Otherwise the government will continue the business.

"I want American officers and an American crew on these ships who will be loyal to this country's commerce in every port they touch," he said. "We cannot expect the best results when our commerce is handled by ships manned by German or English or Italian crews."

"My own opinion is that the government should not enter permanently into the ocean transportation business, but ultimately turn over these ships to private corporations to operate. Great Britain practically gave the Cunard line two magnificent steamships costing \$15,000,000 by guaranteeing the bonds representing the cost of these ships, so that the only expense to the company was for operation. A similar course by this government will in time develop trade and regular communication with countries which are now closed to us."

Democratic sentiment is divided, however, in regard to the pending measure. Senator James K. Vardaman, of Mississippi, also a member of the committee, opposes the bill as being the most extreme form of ship subsidy. Senator John H. Bankhead, of Alabama, voted to report it with a reservation, which authorized him to offer amendments on the floor.

## SERB RE-ESTABLISHED IN VICINITY OF HODINA

### Austrian Forces Surrendered There—Lozintza Burned by Austrians.

Paris, Dec. 18.—A dispatch from Nish, Serbia, from the correspondent of the Havas agency, says that the Serbian authorities have re-established themselves in the vicinity of Hodina, where the Austrian forces surrendered and are held as prisoners. It was asserted that the Austrian loss in killed and wounded during the recent fighting exceeds the number of prisoners taken. The heavy casualties are indicated by the innumerable unburied bodies lying on the field of battle, which the Austrians left in their retreat.

Lozintza, where there has been no fighting recently, was burned by the Austrian troops.

## TEUTONS AGAIN ON WAVE CREST

### Seem to Have Upper Hand in East Allies Pressing Against the Entire German Front.

London, Dec. 18.—Again the Germans and Austrians seem to be on the crest of the wave of battle as the interminable struggle goes on in the east. Again is Berlin gay with bunting, public and private houses being decked with German flags. And again Petrograd declines to concede victory to the invaders.

Berlin and Vienna contend, however, that the Russians are falling back along the entire front of the immense battle line from the Baltic sea to the Carpathian mountains, with the center of the invading army less than 30 miles from Warsaw.

To the south of the line where during the past few weeks the Russians have been pushing through the Carpathians toward Hungary the combined Austro-German troops have forced the Russians back, it is asserted, and are now near the fortress of Limburg.

The Russian official statements admit nothing and dismiss the engagements that have been going on in Galicia as of no importance; and they class the operations which have been fought to the west of Warsaw in the same category. They claim, however, that on the extreme right near Llava they have thrust back the Germans and that the Russians are still engaged in the attempt to force their way southward toward the east Prussian border.

In the west there seems to be no events of importance; at least so far as information of them is concerned. Foot by foot the allies appear to be forging forward in Flanders, and to be exerting pressure on the entire German front from the sea to Switzerland.

London, Dec. 17.—The German raid against the towns on the east coast of England has greatly stimulated recruiting in the British Isles. Other results are the preparations at coast points for the protection of civilian population in case of another attack and the organization of a national guard in London, for local defense.

In the western arena, especially in Flanders, the roles of the contending armies seems to have been reversed. All the recent official communications issued by the British, French and German war departments refer to the allies' offensive between Ypres and the sea. Consequently, the Germans appear to be generally on the defensive.

A British squadron is aiding in the attack of the allies near Nieuport but nowhere has much progress by the allies been noted.

It may be said, however, that the allies' attempt to put the German invaders out of France and Belgium has begun. Results, so far as have been recorded in Flanders, point to the converting of the German line into a series of tenaciously held positions rather than one great front. At many points, however, the allies' advance posts have been driven in.

The Russians claim to have checked the Austrians in the Carpathians and they also contend that they are pushing the Germans back on the east Prussian frontier, at the northern extremity of the eastern front.

West of Warsaw, however, the Germans are continuing their advance.

The German press, in commenting on the situation, expresses the opinion that operations of importance are imminent in Alsace, where the French are reported to have received reinforcements.

New French attacks from the direction of Toul are expected in Berlin. It is added that the German guns have considerably damaged the French positions in the Vosges, south of Saint Die.

Warsaw, Dec. 18.—(Via London)—A great battle is in progress at Sochaczew, thirty miles west of Warsaw. The German wedge, which is proceeding in a southeasterly direction from Lodz, has managed, after heavy fighting, in which serious losses are reported to have been inflicted, to establish itself a quarter of a mile west of Sochaczew. The Polish campaign now centers at that point.

Turkish Barracks Destroyed. Paris, Dec. 18.—A Havas agency dispatch from the Athens correspondent quotes a message from the island of Tenedos to the effect that in a recent bombardment the British fleet, in the gulf of Fares to the north of the Dardanelles, destroyed the Turkish barracks on the shore and damaged the fortifications. The Turks were panic stricken and fled to the interior.

Russian Defeat. Vienna, via Amsterdam to London, Dec. 18.—The following official communication was issued yesterday: "The latest news permits of no further doubt that the resistance of the Russian main force has been shattered. After the defeat of the southern wing in the battle of Limanovo, which lasted several days, our allies also gained a victory near Lodz. The Russians are now completely routed on the Silver Bura. Threatened by our advance across

## TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARITIES

### Rockefeller Foundation to Be Included in Inquiry by the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations.

## SAGE, CARNEGIE AND HIRSCH FUNDS ALSO

### To Ascertain if There Is Effort to 'Perpetuate Position of Predatory Wealth by Corruption, Etc.

Denver, Col., Dec. 16.—An investigation of all John D. Rockefeller's charities, including the Rockefeller Foundation, are among those which will be made by the federal commission on industrial relations. That statement was given out here by Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the commission. He said that among the other charities which will be investigated by the commission are the Russell Sage foundation, the Baron de Hirsch fund and the benevolences of Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

The investigation will begin in New York city on January 11, Mr. Walsh said. In the investigation, according to Mr. Walsh, the commission will seek to determine "how their policies are shaped and by whom, their relation to high finance, the extent to which their charters may be stretched under the United States constitution, and whether they constitute a menace or a benefit to the nation."

Among the witnesses who will be summoned, according to Mr. Walsh's announcement, are Arthur T. Hadley, president of Yale; Dr. Charles Elliot, president emeritus of Harvard; Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, jr.; J. P. Morgan, Daniel Guggenheim, E. H. Gary, F. N. Yall, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company; George W. Perkins, Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank of New York; T. P. Shonts, Jacob Schiff, John Hays Hammond, Cleveland H. Dodge, H. C. Frick and Seth Low. The calling of John D. Rockefeller, sr., to the stand, according to Mr. Walsh, has not yet been decided upon.

Mr. Walsh said the commission proposed to investigate the charge that the creation of the Rockefeller and other foundations represents the commencement of "an effort to perpetuate the present position of predatory wealth through the corruption of the sources of public information."

## BIG CUTS MADE IN BOARD'S ESTIMATE

### Rivers and Harbors Committee Out Appropriation for Projects \$20,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Big cuts in the United States army engineering board's estimate for the existing year improvement projects the reductions in some cases being over 50 per cent, were made by the rivers and harbors committee today, when the bill for such improvement was reported to the house.

The measure, as reported, carried appropriations to the amount of \$34,138,880 for existing projects, or \$20,000,000 less than the estimates by the board. There is no provision made for new projects. The committee took no action on any of the recommendations proposed for changing the present system of making the appropriations for such improvements.

## KAISER PREPARING TO RETURN TO THE FRONT

### He Has Conferred Iron Cross of First Class on Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollwig.

Amsterdam, Dec. 18.—According to the Telegraph, Emperor William is making preparations to return to the front this week. Emperor William has conferred the iron cross of the first class on his chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollwig, the dispatch says.

Mrs. Mary C. Robinson and daughter Miss Nancy Robinson, are the guests of relatives in Columbia.

## INCREASED RATES GRANTED TO ROADS

### Advance of Five Percent Permitted Eastern Railroads by Interstate Commerce Commission Except on Certain Specified Commodities.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The interstate commerce commission today granted the application of the eastern railroads for a five per cent advance in freight rates, excepting on certain specified commodities.

## NEW HOME FOR ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

### City Authorities Plan New High School Building, to Be Erected Next Year.

## SUP'T. HARRY HOWELL MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT

### Pupils and Visitors at High School Received The News With Thunderous Applause—The Plans.

It is the plan of the Asheville school board and the city board of aldermen to erect a new High school building for Asheville next year, and it is the present plan to break ground for the building during the first half of the year. Announcement to that effect was made at the High school this morning by Superintendent Harry Howell. The announcement was greeted by the High school students with thunderous applause. The city has needed a new building to house the High school for a number of years, and there is no one in Asheville who realizes this need more keenly than do the pupils. The enthusiasm with which they received this morning's announcement indicated very clearly their feelings in the matter.

The announcement was made at the weekly Music Appreciation period, the meeting having been attended by Mayor J. E. Rankin, a majority of the city aldermen, every member of the school board, representatives of the local board of trade and Central Labor union, and a number of others, including several ladies. The school auditorium was filled to overflowing, and the most pretentious program of the year was rendered. The exercises were so thoroughly enjoyed by the students and visitors present that they were continued until 11 o'clock. Then the student body made still happier by the announcement that there would be no class room work today; that the Christmas vacation period would begin at once.

There were enthusiastic speeches delivered by Zeb F. Curtis, of the school board, Alderman W. F. Randolph, Prof. Weber, principal of the High school and Harry Howell, superintendent of the city schools. The latter was the last speaker, and his announcement of plans for a new building proved a very fitting climax to the morning's exercises.

Among those who participated in the musical program rendered this morning were: Mrs. A. L. Walker, pianist; John Stewart, violin; John Wood, cello; Raymond Hart, clarinet; L. L. Griswald, cornet; Henry Cunningham, trombone; and C. W. Shannon, drums. The following program was given: March—"The Boy Scouts" Henneberg; (by request). Humoreske, Dvorak. Overture—"Raymond" Thomas. Asheville High school march—Raymond Hart. Medley of Southern Airs, Lampa. The Ghost Dance, Cora Salsbury; (by request).

## GEN. BOTHA CONSIDERS THE REBELLION ENDED

### Cape Town, Dec. 18.—(By Way of London)—General Louis Botha, the premier of the Union of South Africa considers the rebellion in the union, apart from the rounding up of a few stray rebels, ended. He is preparing to take a short vacation before beginning a campaign on the southwest coast of Africa.

## SURVIVORS OF EMDEN CAPTURED BY BRITISH

### They Put to Sea in Cocos Island Schooner—Captured by Warships.

Tokio, Dec. 17.—(Delayed)—Certain British warships have captured members of the crew of the German cruiser Emden who escaped from Cocos Island when the Emden was destroyed off the Cocos Island on November 16. The German sailors went to sea in a Cocos Island schooner named Aysa.

## WOULD REDUCE P. O. SALARIES

### Committee Recommends to Congress Sweeping Reductions for North Carolina Postmasters.

## MR. GUDGER'S SALARY WOULD BE JUST \$3000

### Probable That Congress Will Adopt Recommendation—Would Save \$17,800 Each Year.

Gazette-News Bureau Wyatt Building Washington, Dec. 18. If congress adopts the report of the house committee on postoffices and postroads rearranging the salaries of first, second, and third class postmasters, the payroll for these classes of postmasters in North Carolina will be reduced \$17,800 annually.

The committee has made a favorable report and it is probable that the report will be adopted by congress.

The proposed readjustment of salaries would place all offices on salaries based on new receipts basis. It would mean that the Asheville office would be reduced from \$3,400 to \$3,000; Raleigh from \$3,400 to \$3,000; Durham from \$3,100 to \$3,000, and Wilmington and Winston-Salem from \$3,400 to \$3,000.

The receipts of some of the first, second, and third class offices in North Carolina for the fiscal year ended June 30, and the salaries that would be put in force under the proposed readjustment follows:

Office	Receipts	New Salary
Asheville	2,885.61	\$3,200
Asheville	107,081.32	3,000
Biltmore	4,433.41	1,600
Black Mountain	5,028.21	1,700
Brevard	5,817.92	1,700
Bryson City	2,948.68	1,700
Canton	6,779.32	1,800
Charlotte	188,140.01	3,500
Durham	58,159.82	3,000
Forrest City	2,252.28	1,900
Franklin	4,236.52	1,600
Gastonia	16,444.99	2,000
Grensboro	118,810.99	3,000
Hendersonville	17,874.49	2,000
Hickory	19,000.39	2,000
High Point	41,324.24	3,000
Lenoir	9,796.72	2,000
Marion	7,219.60	1,900
Marshall	4,170.82	1,500
Morganton	10,123.68	2,000
Mt. Airy	11,768.54	2,000
Murphy	5,337.14	1,700
Newton	6,994.67	1,800
Old Fort	2,650.47	1,200
Raleigh	148,692.66	3,000
Rutherfordton	5,075.69	1,700
Salsbury	29,021.85	2,500
Shelby	11,494.98	2,000
Statesville	29,072.24	2,500
Tryon	5,894.42	1,700
Waynesville	16,613.64	2,000
Wilmington	141,565.75	3,000
Winston-Salem	115,798.79	3,000

## R. O. SELF LEAVES REVENUE SERVICE

### Resigned Position at Statesville—Will Be Candidate for Senate Clerk.

R. O. Self of Jackson county, who has been holding a responsible position in the office of collector of internal revenue at Statesville, passed through the city today en route to his home to spend the holidays with his family. Mr. Self has tendered Collector Watts his resignation, effective the fifteenth of this month. It is stated upon good authority that Mr. Self is a candidate for the position of chief clerk in the state senate, which convenes early in January. He has been clerk in the senate for a number of years.

## THREE BUILDINGS FOR NEW STATE INSTITUTION

Special to The Gazette-News. Kinston, Dec. 18.—The trustees of the North Carolina School for the Feeble Minded in annual session here yesterday decided to recommend an extension of the institution involving an expenditure of about \$120,000, including three buildings.

Dr. C. B. McNairy was re-elected superintendent; D. F. Wooten, of Kinston, a new trustee, was made head of the executive committee, the entire faculty was retained.