

NAVY PERSONNEL OF 90,000 MEN ASKED

DENBY AGAINST REDUCTION IN EXISTING STRENGTH OF LINE OFFICERS.

WOULD SAVE SEVENTY MILLION

Secretary of Navy Recommends That One Hundred Destroyers be Placed Out of Commission.

Washington.—Secretary Denby appeared before the house naval committee to recommend that the navy personnel for the next fiscal year be fixed at 90,000 men and 6,000 apprentices as compared with 100,000 men and 6,000 apprentices now authorized. Mr. Denby recommended that there be no reduction in the existing strength of line officers of the navy; that the first class at Annapolis be graduated and commissioned, but that appointments to the academy hereafter be reduced to three for each member of congress, instead of five.

The naval secretary recommended that 100 destroyers be placed out of commission. He estimated that the program he outlined would effect a saving of \$70,000,000 in next year's budget.

Secretary Denby's statement pointed out that since 1919 the war-time naval establishment had been reduced from 1,362 vessels in commission to 900, the commissioned personnel from 32,208 to 6,163, and the enlisted force from 480,723 to 190,599.

"It is not easy," he said, "to get back to normalcy from such vast expansion. Mr. Denby said the net result of the naval limitation conference is that Great Britain is to have 22 capital ships, the United States 18 and Japan 10, there being no limitation on auxiliary combat craft except as to the size and armament of future vessels.

"By the terms of the treaty," he said, "the United States will have remaining 18 battleships, 316 destroyers, 33 cruisers, 147 submarines, 196 auxiliaries and 152 small vessels. It is clear that no definite conclusions as to the future strength of the United States navy should be reached until ratification of the pending treaty, because we shall not know absolutely until then that the treaty will become effective. This complicates the question of personnel."

Mr. Denby described the status of the fleet in commission, showing that battleships carry about 84 per cent complement, destroyers from 50 to 80 per cent and submarines from 40 per cent up.

"It is quite clear that the navy is understrength today," he said. "It is clear in your mind undoubtedly that the rule applies in apportioning of vessels in the different navies (under the treaty) was what was called the navy needed for national safety and the results were arrived at after a most careful study of the situations confronting each nation participating in the treaty. It must be assumed, therefore, that 18 battleships is regarded by the government's signatory to the treaty as the necessary quota for the safety of the United States."

Rich Jewelry Heist.

St. Louis, Mo.—Jewelry, estimated by the hotel management to be valued at \$100,000, was obtained by bandits, who looted safety deposit boxes at the Washington hotel in the western section of the city. H. A. Crofton, night clerk, was forced to open the safe. The jewelry was the property of guests and the exact value will not be determined until the guests list their losses.

Two Chinese Killed.

Seattle, Wash.—Two Chinese are dead, another lies wounded in a hospital and five others are in the city jail as the result of a tong war which broke out here. Tony Jow, 40, and Hong Jang, 30, both cannery workers and members of the Hip Sing tong, were killed and W. Enjin, known in Chinatown as "the duke," also of the Hip Sing tong, was shot through the thigh.

Import Much Liquor.

Washington.—Liquor imports during the past year increased by nearly \$1,500,000 as compared with 1920, while shipments of soft drinks into the country fell off by more than \$200,000 during the same period, according to foreign reports recently made public. During 1921 the total spirits, wines and malt liquors imported aggregated \$4,711,000 compared with \$3,269,000 in 1920, while mineral waters and other beverages entering the country amounted to \$347,000 as against \$569,000 in 1920.

Foreign Traders to Meet in May.

New York.—The foreign traders throughout the country were requested to meet in Philadelphia on May 10, 11 and 12 for a discussion of the financial conditions in Europe and to make a survey of the world's merchant marine. James A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel corporation and chairman of the national foreign trade council, who called the conference, said that business conditions appeared to be on the point of improving.

HERE'S PROGRAM OF SOLDIER BONUS TAXES AGREED UPON

Washington.—This program of soldiers' bonus taxes was agreed upon by a house ways and means sub-committee:

Two and one-half per cent on the undivided profits of corporations, estimated to yield \$22,000,000.

On parcel post packages on which the postage amounts to 25 cents or more, a tax of one cent for each 25 cents or fraction thereof, \$20,000,000.

One cent a gallon on gasoline, \$70,000,000.

Twenty-five cents per horsepower on automobiles, \$50,000,000.

Double the present 10 per cent tax on admissions where the charge exceeds 25 cents, \$60,000,000.

Double existing documentary stamp taxes, except in the case of sales or transfers of capital stock, on which the rate would be increased from one-fiftieth of one per cent to one-tenth of one per cent, \$64,000,000.

An increase of 50 cents per 1,000 in the tax on cigarettes, \$25,000,000.

An increase of 2 cents a pound on smoking and chewing tobacco, \$5,000,000.

FORD CONTRACT DISCUSSED

TALK OF REDUCING THE TIME CLAUSE FROM 100 TO FIFTY YEARS.

Washington.—The advisability of reducing the time clause in Henry Ford's offer for the lease of the Muscle Shoals, Ala., government owned lands, from 100 to 50 years was questioned indirectly by Major General Lansing H. Beach, chief of army engineers, in testimony before the house military committee.

Referring to the general policy of the government not to lease its properties for a period exceeding 50 years, General Beach in his testimony at the second day of the hearing of the committee on the Ford proposal said that "it is not always advisable to apply one general rule to things big and small."

Secretary Weeks, who was heard by the committee, declared repeatedly that in his opinion it would be unwise to permit the lease of public lands or properties to private interests for so long a period as one hundred years. General Beach, however, said that it was "a question in as big and important a matter as this whether the 50 years rule would not work a hardship."

It was his belief, the general continued, that in the disposition of the properties at Muscle Shoals, the paramount consideration should be the effect upon the nation's defense rather than the manufacture of fertilizer. The country, he said, should not be "caught again" without an adequate nitrate supply.

The disadvantages of installing power plants in Alabama and establishing a market for their output were dwelt upon at length by the engineer chief. He said it would be comparatively easy to install a plant at Niagara Falls, with a market close by, but it was quite another feat, from the standpoint of time, to do so in a sparsely settled region like that about Muscle Shoals, with only four cities within reasonable distance.

The engineer officer was preceded on the witness stand by Major General Williams, chief of ordnance, who occupied the greater part of the day's sessions explaining valuations of properties involved in the Ford offer. He estimated that the Warrior power plant and transmission line could be salvaged for \$3,000,000 or more, and declared under examination by committee members that figure was three-fifths of all that Mr. Ford had offered for the nitrate plants and other properties. These properties, it was estimated, had a scrap value to the government of \$8,812,000 and would be worth \$16,272,000 if made partially operative and the remainder salvaged.

Navy Yards Lay Off Thousands.

Washington.—The first effects of the armament conference on the employment situation were felt when several thousand mechanics and artificers in navy yards were temporarily laid off after Secretary Denby had ordered suspended all ordnance work designed for the naval vessels slated for "scrapping" under the naval limitation treaty. The instructions were issued in line with President Harding's order suspending work on the vessels under construction affected by the treaty.

Flaw in Structure.

Washington.—Belief that some flaw in the structure of the Knickerbocker moving picture theater caused its collapse under a weight of snow, with more than 90 fatalities, was expressed by Harry C. Randall, proprietor of the chain of theaters which included the Knickerbocker. Mr. Randall is having an independent investigation made by engineers to determine, if possible, the cause of the catastrophe. Mr. Randall said he had no knowledge of any weakness in the roof or of any other part of the theater.

10-HOUR WORK DAY IS RE-ESTABLISHED

NEW RULING OF LABOR BOARD WILL AFFECT 12,000 RAILROAD SIGNALMEN.

OVERTIME PAY IS ELIMINATED

Time and One-Half Pay For Regularly Assigned Work on Sundays and Holidays Also Eliminated.

Chicago.—Re-establishment of a ten-hour day at the usual hourly wage and elimination of time and one-half pay for regularly assigned work on Sundays and holidays, new rules governing railway signalmen, were announced by the United States railroad labor board to replace on February 16 the national agreement made under federal control.

The board's rules affect more than 12,000 rail workers. According to figures based on interstate commerce commission statistics, the annual labor bill of the railroads will be cut about \$300,000 by eliminating the overtime pay provisions of the national agreement.

While the new set of rules retains the principles of the eight-hour day, the door is open for a ten-hour day.

Overtime pay is likewise eliminated for employees paid a monthly salary by a new formula for determining the monthly rate, based on the standard hourly rate.

Other minor provisions which will affect the signalmen's pay envelopes are substitution of straight time for the former time and one-half rule; provision for a minimum of three hours straight time instead of two hours at time and one-half for working less than four hours on Sunday, and complete elimination of the old rule allowing half pay from 10 o'clock at night to 6 a. m., for men traveling on boarding cars.

Other rules were changed to eliminate any fixed hour for starting work and any specified lunch period. The time limit for investigations into discharges, decisions and appeals was extended from seven to ten days.

300 Students Have Ptomaine Poison.

Columbus, Miss.—More than 300 students of the Mississippi state college for women here are suffering with ptomaine poisoning as a result of eating chicken salad which was served at the evening meal at the college.

Every physician in Columbus was called to the institution and it is stated that all the students are out of danger, although a large number are still very ill.

Dr. J. C. Fant, president of the institution, stated that the poisoning was undoubtedly caused by the salad, as those who did not eat it were not affected. Dr. Irene Fatherson, the college physician, made the same statement. A thorough investigation will be made by the college authorities, it was announced.

Chicago Has Second "Ponzi."

Chicago.—Raymond J. Bischoff, taken into custody, after involuntary proceedings in bankruptcy had been instituted against him by creditors, admitted that he owes about \$4,500,000, representing the savings of 6,000 Chicagoans, mostly foreigners. Less than one million dollars worth of oil and gas stock of doubtful value is available to meet the obligations, it was announced.

Bischoff, whose financial operations apparently rival those of Charles Ponzi, the Boston "wizard," expressed relief when taken into custody by deputy marshals. He had received threats from those he is alleged to have fleeced, he said, and was afraid to venture into the south and west side districts.

To Reinstate Teachers.

Dublin.—School teachers of Irish nationality, who have been dismissed for political activities in recent years, will be reinstated by the Dail Eireann, the ministry of education announces. In determining the status of such teachers and the salary they are to receive, they will be considered as having served continuously.

Millions Starving in Russia.

London.—More than 250,000 children are starving in the Chuvash region of Eastern Russia, to say nothing of a half million adults who have lost all hope of help, according to a telegram from the Russian famine relief commission of the International Federation of Trade Unions received by Arthur Henderson, prominent labor member of the house of commons.

The telegram says a total of 30,000 workers and peasants in all Russia are starving and that thousands are dying daily.

Four Thousand Employes Released.

Washington.—The number of employes released at the navy yard by the suspension of capital ship construction has now passed the 4,000 mark but no further material reductions are anticipated, it was said at the navy department. Employes retained are believed sufficient to carry on the present building program and handle repair work, provided the naval treaty is adopted, and no hope of re-employing the men released is now held out by the navy department.

PIUS XI IS CROWNED POPE OF ROME

Rome.—Pius XI was crowned pope in the basilica of St. Peter's amid scenes of pomp and enthusiasm and in the presence of princes and dignitaries of the church, the diplomatic representatives of the foreign countries, members of the Roman aristocracy and a vast assemblage filling the great structure to the very doors. The ancient custom was carried out with impressive ceremonies, and the newly-elected pontiff now occupies the throne of the first pope, reported crowned Leo III, who reigned from 795 to 816.

With the exception of Leo XIII and Benedict XV, who, owing to the strained relations existing between the papacy and the Vatican in 1878, and the world war in 1914, preferred to be crowned in the sistine chapel, the coronation of all the popes elected since the erection of the basilica has been celebrated there.

STOP WORK ON 14 SHIPS

STEP WAS TAKEN IN ANTICIPATION OF NAVAL TREATY RATIFICATION.

Building Operations Suspended. Have Cost the Government Approximately \$5,000,000 a Month.

Washington.—Construction work on fourteen capital ships was suspended by order of Secretary Denby under direction of President Harding. The step was taken in anticipation of ratification of the naval limitation treaty which resulted from the Washington conference and under which only three of the vessels involved will be completed as war craft. The other 11 will be scrapped or converted into merchant ships under the treaty provisions.

Secretary Denby acted after Assistant Secretary Roosevelt had discussed with President Harding the terms of the treaty affecting the new ships. Mr. Harding approved the suggestion that work be brought to a standstill immediately on the eight superdreadnaughts and six battle cruisers, pending final action on the treaty. In round figures the building operations thus halted have cost the government approximately \$5,000,000 a month.

Following ratification of the treaty contracts for the new ships will be cancelled. The ultimate cost to the government of this cancellation cannot be determined in advance but naval officers believe that a considerable saving will be made through the action.

Only one capital ship under construction was exempted from suspension order. She is the Colorado, more than 90 per cent complete and which will be retained in the permanent fleet.

Ships on which work was stopped included eight first-class battleships: the Washington, at the New York shipbuilding corporation; the West Virginia, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company; the South Dakota, New York navy yard; the Indiana, New York navy yard; the Montana, Mare Island navy yard; the North Carolina, Norfolk navy yard; the Iowa, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company; and the Massachusetts, Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation, Fore River, Mass.

Work was also ordered suspended on six battle cruisers, as follows: Lexington, Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation; Constellation, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company; Stratoga, New York Shipbuilding corporation; Ranger, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company; Constitution and United States, Philadelphia navy yard.

Treaties to Senate.

Washington.—Submission to the senate by President Harding of the treaties resulting from the arms conference probably will be delayed until next week, it was indicated after a meeting of the American delegation devoted to drafting of the report to be presented to the President.

Eight Men Killed in Mine.

Huntington, W. Va.—Eight men were killed, two badly injured and one is missing as the result of an explosion which wrecked a mine of the Marietta Coal company on Pond creek, Pinson Fort, Ky., according to information received here.

A dust explosion is reported to have caused the accident in the plant. Only eleven men were said to have been in the mine at the time, eight of whom rescue parties found dead, two injured and one missing.

Aged Indian Dead.

Cass Lake, Minn.—Ga-Bo-Nah-Gew-Wonsee, also known as John Smith, a Chippewa Indian reputed to be 137 years old, died here after a week's illness with pneumonia.

"The old Indian," as he was generally known among the white people, was active until six months ago. Before that time he made it a practice to meet all trains entering the village and offer post cards for sale.

He had no children and the only survivor is Tom Smith, an adopted son.

PRESIDENT HARDING BEFORE THE SENATE

ASKS SENATE TO GIVE ITS APPROVAL TO ARMS CONFERENCE TREATIES.

PROMPT ACTION REQUESTED

Five Principal Treaties and Two Supplemental Agreements Delivered to the Senate.

Washington.—President Harding asked the senate to approve the arms conference treaties in order that America's professed desire to rid the world of war may not become "a hollow mockery."

"If we cannot join in making effective these covenants for peace," he said, "and stamp this conference with America's approval, we shall discredit the influence of the republic, render future efforts futile and unlikely, and write discouragement where today the world is ready to acclaim new hope."

Delivering his message in person, in a voice that betokened deep emotion, the President was answered repeatedly by applause from floor and galleries. He asked that ratification be given without delay, and before he left the capitol senate machinery was set in motion to hasten a vote.

Five principal treaties and two supplemental agreements, the fruition of the twelve weeks of negotiation just concluded here, were in the bundle of international covenants taken to the senate chamber by Mr. Harding. They propose in short, a limitation on naval armament, a new bill of rights for China, and a four-power concord to preserve peace in the Pacific.

All of these agreements, said the President, are related portions of the effort "to put an end to contradictions, to remove ambiguities, and establish clear understandings." None of them, he asserted, commits the American government "to any kind of an alliance, entanglement or involvement."

After the address was completed, both republican and democratic leaders predicted that the treaties would be ratified without long debate and by substantial majorities. Only one, the four-power Pacific pact, is threatened now with organized opposition, and its opponents have not yet demonstrated how large a vote they can command against the strength of party leaders on both sides of the chamber.

Will Not Postpone Genoa Conference.

London.—Great Britain will agree to no postponement of the Genoa economic conference unless the request for such postponement emanates from Rome, it was authoritatively declared here. The French ambassador, it is understood, was so informed by Lord Curzon, the foreign secretary.

Belief was expressed in a well-informed American quarter that the holding of the conference on the intended date was becoming increasingly doubtful, owing to the Italian domestic political situation. Until an intimation was given that this situation was such a preclude the holding of the conference, however, the nations which are expected to participate have no choice but to await developments.

Simmons Wants an Oil Station.

Washington.—Senator Simmons has taken up with the treasury department the desirability of establishing an oil station either at Southport or Wilmington, N. C., to furnish fuel for the new oil burning revenue cutter, "The Modoc," which is to be stationed at Wilmington, and for other oil-burning government boats which from time to time put in at Southport and Wilmington.

Two Men Killed in Battle.

Albany, Ga.—George Carter, of Hall County, Ala., was killed and a deputy sheriff of Stewart county, Georgia, was fatally injured, dying in a hospital at Eufaula, Ala., as the result of a fight between Carter and Stewart county sheriffs' officers on the Bradley place, near Florence, Ga.

Plan Reduction in Personnel.

Washington.—Secretary Weeks announced that he had ordered a survey of the "personnel and activities of every branch of the war department" in Washington for the purpose of reducing the number of officers on duty here.

Closing up of the department's post-war settlements and adjustments has proceeded to a point, the announcement said, where Mr. Weeks believes it will be possible to effect a material reduction in officer personnel on duty at the department.

Ambushed Ulster Constables.

Belfast.—A party of Ulster special constables was ambushed by thirty men, who opened fire on the police car at Clady, on the Donegal-Tyrone border, which previously had been the scene of several disturbances. Constable McFadden, of Londonderry, was shot and killed.

Thomas Sedder, 50, was shot to death at his home near Cavan by five armed raiders, who took away his shotgun and service rifle of the Ulster volunteers, of which he was formerly a member.

WILL EXTEND WEEVIL FIGHT

Craven County Delegates Will Ask Four Neighboring Counties to Co-operate.

New Bern.—Committees representing the Craven County Agricultural committee will go before the commissioners of four neighboring counties at their regular monthly meetings and ask for co-operation in carrying on the campaign against the boll weevil by the appointments of committees in each county to take the leadership in a movement to liberalize farming in East Carolina to offset the inroads of the weevil into the production of cotton.

Craven county appropriated \$10,000 to carry on the work, and employed C. C. Kirkpatrick, an expert in diversified farming, to head the campaign, but Pamlico, Carteret, Onslow and Jones counties will be asked to simply endorse the work by naming committees to help in extending it among their own farmers. The local committee believes that to get returns for its own efforts in the fight it must have the co-operation of the neighboring counties. They are in the same condition as Craven, and a joint fight will help both.

W. W. Griffin, chairman of the Craven committee, named his delegation. The Pamlico county commissioners will be met at Bayboro, the Carteret board at Beaufort, the Onslow commissioners at Jacksonville and the Jones commissioners at Trenton by committees composed of leading farmers and business men.

Two Men Killed in Boiler Explosion.

Fayetteville.—Two persons were killed and a third injured by the explosion of a boiler in a planing mill owned by W. E. Waller at Stedman, this county.

The dead are: L. B. McDuffie, mechanic in charge of the boilers of the mill. John Dawson, negro fireman.

David Fort, another negro fireman, was slightly injured.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined. According to the testimony gathered, a steam pipe on the outside of one of the two boilers in the mill had been leaking, and the steam in this boiler was allowed to go down in order that it might be repaired, the other boiler being used at the time. After the repairs had been made, the boiler was again put in use.

C. W. Putz, general manager of the mill, testified that he was standing beside McDuffie three minutes before the explosion took place and that the pressure at that time was not more than 20 pounds.

The force of the explosion threw Dawson against the pump and every bone in his head was crushed. McDuffie's skull was fractured. Both men were instantly killed. Fort was thrown into a pile of brick, but he sustained only bruises.

McDuffie, who resided in the town of Stedman, leaves a wife. His father lives near Vander, in this county.

Managers Name Orphanage Head.

Charlotte.—Rev. George S. Hill, rector of Christ's Episcopal church in Elizabeth City, was elected superintendent of the Thompson orphanage in this city, to succeed Rev. W. J. Smith, who resigned some time ago, at the annual meeting of the board of managers of the orphanage.

Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire of Raleigh, presided over the meeting as chairman ex-officio. Bishop T. C. Darst, of Wilmington, was present for the first time as a member of the board representing the eastern part of the state.

The Edwin A. Osborne Memorial building, just completed and to be used for children under four years old, was accepted by the board and will be opened up and ready for use as soon as the furnishings can be secured and installed.

Moss Named Director.

Oxford.—At a meeting of the delegates held in Oxford E. G. Moss was elected director for the eighth district, composed of Granville and Person counties, of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Marketing association.

Dr. E. J. Tucker, C. T. Wood, G. M. Crowder, M. T. Carver, F. D. Long, C. T. Hall and W. H. Wilkerson. All the delegates from Granville were present.

Christian to Represent District.

Fayetteville.—R. W. Christian, of Manchester, Cumberland county, was elected director for the seventh district of the North Carolina Co-operative Marketing Association, by a majority of 158 votes over J. R. Peterson, of Clinton, Sampson county, according to announcement of the result of the balloting made here. Mr. Christian received 983 votes while 825 were cast for Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Christian is regarded as one of the most successful and progressive farmers of this section.

Votes Bonds to Build Hospital.

Gastonia.—Gastonia county voted to issue \$150,000 in bonds to build a tuberculosis hospital and to levy a tax not to exceed eight cents for maintenance. Out of a registration of 4,053 there were 2,228 votes cast in favor of the hospital. The fight against the measure was especially bitter in the rural sections. The town of Gastonia went almost solidly against the hospital. The vote in the towns of Gastonia, Belmont, Cramerton and McDenville was largely responsible for the 202 majority.

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