

Benson Tells of Strength of U. S. Merchant Marine

Will Rank Next to Great Britain in Ocean-Going Tonnage in 1922, He Says

MERCHANT FLEET NOW TOTALS 3,404 VESSELS

Chairman of Shipping Board Praises Workers in Government Shipyards

Washington, Dec. 12.—With completion of the government shipbuilding program by 1922, the United States probably will have as much ocean-going tonnage as all the other countries combined, with the exception of Great Britain, Chairman Benson, of the Shipping Board, declared in his annual report made public today.

At the end of the last fiscal year, the chairman said, American merchant ships, government and private owned, numbered 3,404, of 16,918,212 deadweight tons, not including more than 2,000,000 tons of shipping on the Great Lakes. The net program of government-owned ships, Admiral Benson said, contemplated 2,315 vessels of 13,675,711 deadweight tons and at the last fiscal year, 2,070 ships aggregating 11,622,361 deadweight tons, had been completed.

During the year 1,180 finished ships of 6,379,823 deadweight tons were delivered, exceeding all records. They were built without overtime or other aids to rapid production, Admiral Benson said.

Workers Now Experts. "The shipyard worker of the United States has developed an expertness which has raised the efficiency of the various crafts to a high plane and production has kept pace accordingly," Admiral Benson said.

Admiral Benson said the industry has expanded 50,000 skilled mechanics to a force of 385,000 men available to the private shipyards, he added. "The credit for the accomplishment of the aims of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, is therefore due to these men who have surpassed all previous performances in the shipbuilding of the world," he said.

American vessels are now selling in 229 separate services. They carried 44.5 per cent of the nation's foreign commerce last year as compared with 9.7 per cent before the war, the report said.

Over Thousand Ships. The government fleet in operation June 30 consisted of 1,294 steel vessels plying to all quarters of the globe, including 508 to Northern Europe and 126 to Southern Europe. In the Trans-Pacific service there were 163 vessels and in the South American 138.

Forty-one direct service lines have been established to South and Central America from nine ports on the Atlantic coast, four on the Gulf and two on the Pacific coast, the report said.

To cope with the formidable problems overseas, Admiral Benson said the European organization of the Shipping Board with headquarters in London, was established in June, 1919. Prior to its creation board vessels in European ports had been attended entirely by the agents of the managing companies, the report said, who "either through inefficiency, indifference or dishonesty, allowed American ships to be mis-

handled and subjected to delays and exorbitant charges." The new organization, through its control over movements, charter, cargoes, bunkers, supplies, repairs and similar matters, the report explained, has reduced the average turn around of board vessels from 254 days for Great Britain and 19 days for the continent in September, 1919, to 19.3 days for Great Britain and 11.3 days for the continent in May, 1920. Costs also have been materially reduced, Chairman Benson added.

The board said during the year 426 ships for a total of \$279,916,594, including 131 new steel cargo vessels, 34 new wooden ships and 33 former German cargo ships.

Discussing the wooden fleet, Chairman Benson said the maximum number in operation was 240 during April. In June there were 170 at work. Need Tanker Tonnage. Demand for tanker tonnage increased during the year. The chairman declared the board's ships were in constant service, chiefly between Mexican and American Gulf ports, and North Atlantic ports and American oil stations at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Brest and Bizerta. On the Pacific the lines ran between San Francisco and American foreign stations at Honolulu, Manila and Shanghai. Government tank steamers carried 3,641,362 tons of oil during the year.

Nearly all sized German cargo craft have been sold or chartered with option to purchase, while all but 11 of the German passenger ships had been disposed of during the year, the report said. No disposition has been made, however, of the one Austrian vessel, the *Martina*, Washington.

The chairman urged that Congress provide machinery to adjudicate claims of other than enemy citizens against these seized vessels, in view of the delay in the peace treaties.

Describing the activities of the board's department of investigation, the chairman reported that between April, 1918, and June, 1920, there have been 2,500 separate investigations conducted over the country. Operations have been coordinated, he added, with those of the Department of Justice, the Naval and Military Intelligence Services and other agencies of the government in which there was joint interest.

Business Section of Cork Swept By Disastrous Blaze

(Continued From Page One.)

Press.—A dispatch received here from Cork says that the fire hose was cut, rendering useless the efforts of the firemen. Two acres soon became a furnace. The front walls of houses were blown out with bombs. The great block between Mayor street and Fish street still was burning Sunday afternoon.

LORD MAYOR OF CORK

ISSUES CALL FOR HELP. Belfast, Dec. 12.—The Lord Mayor of Cork has telegraphed the Lord Mayor of Dublin, stating that the fire brigade at Cork was unable to cope with the outbreak, and begging for help. It is possible that a Dublin fire brigade will be sent by special train.

BELFAST STORY OF FIRE: SPECIAL TRAIN TO RESCUE. Belfast, Dec. 12.—A score of fires had burned themselves out in Cork by 4

o'clock this afternoon and the firemen were in possession of the ruins. At 6:30 o'clock this evening a special train left Dublin for Cork, carrying Captain Myers, chief of the Dublin Brigade, and a detachment of the citizens of Cork, says a dispatch received here, including the Protestant Bishop and the town clerk, waited on the officer commanding the Cork troops and requested him to take measures to prevent a recurrence of the appalling damage to property. He promised to send out special military patrols.

The destroyed City Hall in Cork was only a shell in point of size by Belfast's great civil building. This was the third time it had been set on fire, the firemen being driven out at the point of revolvers. The great hall, seating 3,000 and having a fine organ, shared the fate of the municipal premises.

No confirmation has been received here of the shooting of the Delaney brothers, but it is officially stated that one man was killed and 11 were wounded in the ambush which resulted in the reprisals. The fact that no serious casualties were caused by the bombs is explained by the statement that preliminary warning was given to all occupants of buildings to leave prior to the attacks.

FOUR ARMORED CARS JOIN FORCES OF POET

First Break in Regular Italian Army; War With D'Annunzio is Probable

Triest, Dec. 12.—(By The Associated Press.)—The first break in the regular Italian army occurred Saturday when four armored cars started from Udine, three of which succeeded in reaching the Palace of Gabriele d'Annunzio in Fiume.

The fourth car was prevented from reaching its destination by a sentinal, who threw under its wheels obstacles which cut the tires. The crew of the car, however, escaped and managed to reach Fiume on foot.

General Cavaglia, the Italian commander, on Saturday went to Abbazia, Istria, known as "the Nice of Italy," where he conferred with commanders who are opposing the forces of d'Annunzio.

It is stated that, owing to the immovable position of d'Annunzio, the government intends to send an ultimatum to him containing the threat of an offensive action. It is reported, however, that d'Annunzio would welcome any military demonstration.

The defection from the army and the recent joining of the poet's forces of Naval craft, it is believed here, will hasten decisive action.

There were wild scenes in Fiume Saturday when members of the autonomous parties, who are d'Annunzio's sworn enemies, were beaten by Legionaries in reprisal for their having adopted resolutions condemning the poet. The old national council has adopted a resolution declaring that its members will remain true to d'Annunzio.

Mr. Comeon—"Do you mean to tell me you got only a dollar sixty for that 73-line poem of yours?" Mr. Freeman—"Ah, yes! I know it's worth vastly more, but I should dislike very much to be suspected of profiteering."—Boston Globe.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take Grove's LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE tablets. The genuine bears the signature of E. W. Grove. 30c.—(Adv.)

OLD CASES TO BE TRIED THIS WEEK

Judge Kerr Begins Last Term of Court Here; Will Make Effort to Clear Docket

The December criminal term of Wake County Superior Court will convene today with seventy cases on the docket. The term will conclude Judge John H. Kerr's six months' service in this judicial district and every effort will be made to clean up the docket.

Three important cases which have been continued for several terms for various reasons are scheduled for trial this week. All of the defendants are white men and each of them lives or has lived in Raleigh. Claude Scott will be tried on the charge of an assault upon Howell Cobb, proprietor of the Raleigh Hotel. The case was continued once on account of Scott's sickness and later because of his detention by Guilford County authorities.

Charles Evans, charged with an assault upon his wife last September, at which time she was badly out by a knife, and who is alleged to have later attempted to take his own life will also be placed upon trial. At the time of his arrest, Evans stated both assaults were committed by unknown persons. Trial has been delayed because of the inability of Mrs. Evans to attend court.

Louis Zapantis, charged with having committed perjury in an application for a marriage license made more than two years ago is also expected to be brought before the bar of the court. Trial of this case has been delayed because the defendant was not in custody.

Another important case on the docket is that against Frank R. Higgins, another Raleigh white man, who is charged with an attempted criminal assault upon Miss Irene Chamberlee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Chamberlee.

A conversation in which Mollie Taylor, a white man of Neuse township, is alleged to have slandered a lady has given rise to six criminal actions. Taylor is charged with slander, assault, carrying a concealed weapon and obstructing the highway and is named as prosecuting witness in two additional assault cases.

The docket includes the appeals of seven defendants convicted in lower courts for automobile speeding.

BAGGETT SAYS POWER COMPANY CAN BE SAVED

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 12.—J. R. Baggett, of Lillingston, N. C., recently appointed temporary receiver for the Cumberland Railway and Power Company, which operates a number of public utilities in North Carolina, today issued a statement at the company's executive offices here to the effect that if reorganization plans are carried out, no loss will be sustained by either the security holders or creditors of the company.

He expresses confidence, after a cursory investigation of the company's financial position, that proper co-operation on the part of officers, directors and bondholders will result in placing the company's properties on a paying basis.

Burying beetles have a habit of digging a grave beneath small dead vertebrates.

RAT EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY

Work Being Done By Commercial Concern With Co-operation of Health Officer

An active campaign for the extermination of rats employing methods that have recently been used successfully in Durham, Greensboro and a number of Virginia cities, is now under way in Raleigh. The Municipal Building, the City Market and number of wholesale stores and other establishments were baited Friday and Saturday and results are expected today.

The local campaign is quasi official, having the active co-operation of the Wake County Department of Health. Dr. E. F. Long, superintendent of the department, has prepared printed instructions which will be distributed throughout the homes in the city. The campaign has been endorsed by Mayor Eldridge, the Chamber of Commerce, the Woman's Club and the Retail Merchants Association.

The work of baiting is being done by representatives of the Barium Chemical Co., of Baltimore, Md., and Basium Carbonate, prepared by that company, is being used in the baiting. In the campaign conducted in Norfolk, Va., 300,000 rats were killed in three weeks.

LEAGUE ASSEMBLY TO ATTEMPT SPEEDY WORK

Two Sessions Daily This Week To Clear Up the Major Questions

Geneva, Dec. 12.—(By The Associated Press.)—The fifth week of the assembly of the League of Nations is expected to begin with a big burst of speed in an effort to clear up the business and permit of the delegates getting away before next Sunday.

The debates on almost every question have been drawn out beyond anticipation, but with the approaching two sessions each day it is hoped that time will be found for all the delegates to deliver the speeches, which have been tucked away in their pockets.

Every effort to shorten debate by limiting the number of speakers on each subject has met with sterner resistance. The international court will be the first big question of the week. The committee having charge of this question finally has reached an agreement on its report, but as past experience has proved on other questions, an agreement does not generally indicate an agreement on the floor of the assembly. Hope is expressed, however, that this committee's report will be disposed of tomorrow.

TO HOLD HUSBAND FOR DEATH OF HIS WIFE

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 12.—Following the inquest today over the body of Mrs. Tom Harrison, who died yesterday from pistol wounds received in a disturbance in her home early Friday morning, the coroner's jury returned a verdict instructing officers to hold her husband for the killing.

Mrs. Monk Young, who was on the first floor of the home when the shooting occurred on the second, and two policemen who arrived at the house shortly after the shots were fired were the only witnesses.

Mrs. Young's husband, who was shot at the same time, is still in a serious condition at a local hospital.

POPULAR MANAGER TO RETURN TO RALEIGH

Col. Albert L. Cox, President of the Raleigh Baseball Club, positively announced last night that Joe Ward, who managed the local team in the Piedmont League last season, will again be at the helm in 1921.



PATIENT BURNED IN BLAZE IN HOSPITAL

Sergeant Alvin Messenger Missing After Fire in Walter Reed Hospital

Washington, Dec. 12.—One patient, Sergeant Alvin Messenger, formerly of the Seventh Coast Artillery, is believed to have burned to death, and several other patients were injured, none seriously, today in a fire that destroyed two of the psychopathic wards of Walter Reed Military Hospital.

The fire, which hospital authorities believe was started by one of the patients with matches smuggled into his room, threatened for a time to spread to other wards including several in which disabled world war veterans are patients, was checked by the combined efforts of the hospital and Washington fire departments.

The two wards, number 43, in which the violently insane are confined, and No. 44 in which other psychopathic patients undergo treatment, contained approximately 75 patients.

All with the exception of Sergeant Messenger were gotten out by nurses and members of the hospital fire department before the blaze gained much headway. Checking of the list of patients in the two wards revealed that Sergeant Messenger, who had arrived at the hospital yesterday from the Panama Canal Zone, was missing.

The loss was estimated by hospital authorities at little more than \$25,000. An investigation of the origin of the fire was started late today by a special board of inquiry.

Rheumatic Pains

Quickly Eased By Penetrating Hamlin's Wizard Oil

A safe and effective preparation to relieve the pains of Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lame Back and Lumbago is Hamlin's Wizard Oil. It penetrates quickly, drives out the soreness, and limbers up the stiff aching joints and muscles.

Wizard Oil is a good dependable preparation to have in the medicine chest for first aid when the doctor may be far away. You will find almost daily uses for it in cases of sudden mishaps or accidents such as sprains, bruises, cuts, burns, bites and stings. Just as reliable, too, for earache, toothache and croup. Always keep it in the house.

Generous size bottle 50c. If you are troubled with constipation or sick headache try Hamlin's Wizard Liver Pills. Just pleasant little pink pills at drugstores for 50c.—Adv.

Constantine Ready to Leave for Greece. Former King and Household Start for Athens Tuesday; Planning Reforms

Lucrea, Dec. 12.—(By The Associated Press.)—Preparations have been completed for the departure of former King Constantine, of Greece, and his family, for Venice next Tuesday on the first stage of their journey to Athens. The royal baggage, consisting of 220 trunks and boxes, was started this morning.

Constantine and Queen Sophie, according to members of their household, are expected to take a leading part in urging reforms in Greece.

Constantine has asked the Greek government to send missions to the United States, Great Britain and France to place the Greek situation in the right light before the world.

It is not unlikely, according to Greek newspapermen here, that the American press will urge the government to attempt to float a loan in the United States.

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