THE WEATHER
North and South Carolina — Fair Wednesday and Thursday; continued cold Wed.; rising tempt. Thursday.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

"DEDICATED TO THE UP-BUILDING OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA"

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12 PAGES TODAY

President And Denby Order Work Stopped On 14 Capital Ships

NORTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF SHIPS TO BE SCRAPPED

President Does Not Wait on Ratification of Conference Treaties

WORK TO STOP ON EIGHT FIRST CLASS

Colorado the Only Dreadnought to Be Retained, It Was Stated

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(By The Associated Press)—Construction work on 14 capital ships was suspended today 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 to 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 superdreadnoughts 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 officials believe that a considerable saving will be made through today's action.

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

EIGHT FIRST CLASS SHIPS.

The 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 Iowa, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry dock company, and the Massachusetts, Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation, Fore River, Mass.

It was expected the President would require a day or two before transmitting the treaties to the senate. Whether this would be done in person was said to be still unsettled.

The American delegates' report was said to be exhaustive, giving the full history and explanations of all the actions taken by the delegation, by the conference committee and by the conference itself. The view was expressed that it would go far to clear up much of the misapprehension concerning some of the treaties and possibly avoid the necessity for statements by Senators Lodge and Underwood, respectively, to the republican and democratic members of the senate.

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

While work on the battleships West Virginia and Washington was ordered stopped, one of these ships will be completed and added to the fleet when finished. Which is to be selected for completion has not been decided, but it has been indicated that the West Virginia probably will be named. It is believed by navy officials that she can be finished more cheaply than the Washington, a sister ship of the Portland class like the Colorado.

TO SAVE COLORADO

With the Colorado, the vessel thus selected for completion will make up the two battleships "of the West Virginia class" which the United States is to retain to replace the Delaware and North Dakota of the present fleet which will be scrapped on completion of the new vessels. The pair from the American equivalent under the 5-5-3 naval agreement of the treaty for Japanese retention of the battleships Mutsu.

The other battleships on which work was stopped are of the 40,000 ton type, armed with 12 16-inch guns excluded from future naval establishments of the treaty powers.

Of the six battle cruisers, two are to be completed as airplane carriers but work of converting them to that type will not be undertaken until the treaty has been ratified. Plans for the conversion in accordance with treaty restrictions now in preparation. Three of the ships are practically at the same point in construction. The two to be retained have not been selected.

Further steps toward the complete execution of the naval limitation treaty will be taken by the navy department with the sale of obsolete pre-dreadnoughts slated for scrapping under the treaty. It was said today that this work would be done prior to the ratification of the treaty since vessels are regarded as of no military value and would have been disposed even had no treaty been negotiated. Two such old battleships were sold for junk while the treaty conference was still in progress.

ORDER IS FIRST STEP

Secretary Denby's suspension order was the first major step toward carrying out the limitation treaty. As yet plans for actual scrapping of the vessels as required by the treaty within a fixed time after ratification by all signatory powers have not been completed. A special technical board of officers is working out details of this program. The treaty allows scrapping by any one of several methods and the board is to recommend the best method to be followed with each new or old ship to be disposed of.

Speech Delivered 100 Years Ago Is Placed in Record

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN (By H. B. C. BRYANT)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 8.—Representative Lazaro, of Louisiana, has discovered that William Gaston, a North Carolina statesman, who dominated his fellows by sheer intellect more than a hundred years ago, was the "first pupil" to enter Georgetown university and that he is "conceded to be first, not only in time, but in talents and distinction in the whole history of Georgetown, a profound scholar and an orator of the first rank." He said that Gaston delivered in the house "one of the few great speeches heard in congress" upon the "tyranny of the previous question."

Mr. Lazaro had the Gaston speech printed in the record of the second and sent a copy of his remarks to Senator Simmons. Writing to him today, Mr. Simmons said: "This speech is an able and most interesting discussion of the subject. I am very glad that you placed it in the record at this time.

SIMMONS IS INTERESTED

"Judge Gaston was born and lived in my home county of Craven. He was one of the really great men of the early days of the republic. He served as justice of the North Carolina supreme court for many years, and was the author of North Carolina 'favorite song, the Old North State'. I am sure that you will be interested to know also that Judge Gaston was one of the few men in our history, who have declined seats in the United States senate. He preferred to continue his judicial career on the supreme court bench of North Carolina. The fact that Judge Gaston was the first student to enter Georgetown university after its foundation in 1791 is a circumstance that, I think, is not generally known in North Carolina, and that will be very interesting to the people of that state.

"I desire to express my appreciation, and the appreciation which I feel sure that the people of North Carolina will feel, of the high tribute you paid to Judge Gaston in your remarks in the house."

DEATH LIST IS STILL STANDING AT SIX IN FIRE

Expected That More Bodies Will Be Found as Clearing Progresses

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 8.—With the recovery today of the body of Captain Franklin Woodshaw, 64 years old, conductor of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway, from the ruins of the fire which yesterday destroyed the Lexington hotel, the death list stood at six. An official police list showed 11 persons still missing.

The listed dead, all of whom succumbed to injuries sustained in leaps from the upper floors of the hotel, are:

Hiram S. Austin, Fincastle, Va.; M. J. Fox, Williamsport, Pa., C. M. Thomas, Charlottesville, sheriff of Albemarle county; F. W. Shaw, Richmond; T. D. Poirert, Yonkers, N. Y.; E. T. Cox, Richmond, part owner of the Lexington hotel.

THOSE WHO ARE MISSING

The police list of missing follows:

D. E. Ames, Charleston, S. C.; Sam Asch, Richmond; T. R. Jones, Norfolk; T. W. Jones and wife, W. H. Kennon, Robert Kesser, E. C. Eberly, E. J. Bush, of Richmond, and C. Taylor and E. T. Caster.

The body of Shaw, a native of Goshen, was identified through dental work by Dr. U. Harmon, who accompanied Dr. John A. Shaw, son of the victim, to the city morgue.

It is the opinion of officials directing the work of clearing the death pit of the hotel that from three to six bodies will be found, and possibly more.

Because of the great danger to firemen, workers and searchers among the ruins of the hotel by walls which are tottering on their foundations, the work of looking for bodies among the debris was halted this afternoon until the dangerous walls are razed.

Occupying rooms near Captain Shaw, above the spot where the body was found, were R. Kesser, William H. Kennon and E. O. Taylor, all of whom are reported to be among the missing.

NEAR RIOT OCCURS IN YORKVILLE, OHIO

YORKVILLE, Feb. 8.—(By The Associated Press.)—Sheriff Edward Lucas with 40 deputies kept the peace in this little mining and mill village on the Ohio river tonight. The body of Elmer Coft who was killed at the tinplate plant of the Wheeling Steel corporation early today lay at his home in Tiltonville, near Yorkville, while Frank Wolf and Ted Roberts, one a deputy and the other a mill guard were in jail at Steubenville, the county seat, charged with the killing.

Sheriff Lucas said: "The situation has been tense here for several days but I believe the worst is now over and I can see no necessity for calling out the national board."

COAL OPERATORS ARE TALKING OF STRIKE

NEW YORK, Feb. 8—West Virginia coal operators conferred here today regarding the possibility of the strike. J. G. Bradley, one of the conferees, said no action had been taken.

In a formal statement, Mr. Bradley who asserted the open shop policy was making gains, said:

"Provided the consumers take a vigorous stand on a policy of stocking coal at once and arrange for their supplies over the emergency period, the non-union and open shop producers will be amply able to take care of the country's coal needs in case the strike is pulled off."

IRISH SITUATION AGAIN TAKES BAD TURN IN ULSTER

Wholesale and Organized Kidnapping Is Reported—Collins Talks

SIR JAMES CRAIG ISSUES STATEMENT

"What Ulster Has She Holds," Craig Says In His Manifesto

LONDON Feb. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—Michael Collins, head of the provisional government of southern Ireland, replied tonight to the British government's representations concerning the kidnappings in northern Ireland. He said these had been due to apprehensions regarding the men under sentence of death at Londonderry, but that the provisional government was doing its utmost to insure the safe return to their homes of these kidnapped.

SITUATION IS NOW BECOMING SERIOUS

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Irish situation took a startling turn today with the news of wholesale and organized kidnapping raids against prominent Ulster unionists in the early hours of the morning. The numerous victims, including many special constables who were dispatched to aid in stopping the raids, were spirited to unknown destinations. The capture of a score of raiders showed that they were attached to the Irish republican army.

The northern government was unable to invoke the aid of the military and had to depend upon the special forces, which apparently were not strong enough to prevent the kidnappings. The northern government appealed to the imperial government, which took prompt steps to meet the situation, authorizing the Belfast government to employ British troops for guarding the boundaries, at the same time sending a message to Michael Collins, the provisional government president, demanding that proper measures be initiated for the release of the captured men and prevention of a repetition of the outrages.

DUE TO APPREHENSION

Winston Spencer Churchill, secretary for the colonies, was able to announce in parliament late tonight that a response had been received from Mr. Collins, explaining that the raids were due to apprehensions over the fate of the Derry prisoners and that the provisional government was taking necessary steps to secure their release.

It was announced that the men captured in Sligo had already returned to their homes, but whether as a result of the imperial government's action is not known. No news of releases elsewhere have been received.

ULSTER PREMIER ISSUES MANIFESTO

BELFAST, Feb. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—Sir James Craig, premier of Ulster, issued a manifesto to the people of northern Ireland this afternoon, declaring the British government was responsible for today's kidnapping outrages because of the demobilization of the special constabulary following the Irish truce.

The kidnapping incidents of today, declared Sir James, would strengthen the Ulstermen's determination that "what Ulster has she holds."

The manifesto follows:

"I have received with grave concern and deep regret news of incursions into the territory of northern Ireland by armed bands of the Irish republican army. I send deepest sympathy to the relatives of those murdered and compliment most highly the various constabulary forces who so promptly rose to the occasion and displayed great gallantry to rid our borders of the enemy.

CHARGES TO ENGLAND

"Had the British government shown courage and prescience this never would have occurred. I place the responsibility on their shoulders for having demobilized the special constabulary in consequence of truce. I would have returned at once had it not been necessary for me to take prompt and vigorous steps on this side to insure that such an outrage on the people of Ulster cannot again be perpetrated and that those of our people who were carried across the border are speedily returned to their homes.

"I may be relied upon to back up every individual in whatever steps are considered wise to support our authorities and have arranged for the immediate distribution of arms necessary to protect our border. Every help will be given, and I reiterate my firm determination, as announced to Mr. Lloyd George on Monday, not to surrender any portion of our territory except with the consent of myself and our Ulster government.

"This series of dastardly outrages will never be forgotten; it merly strengthens our determination that what Ulster has she holds."

WANT MORE MONEY FOR DISABLED MEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Declaring that the United States had not done justice to disabled service men, Director Forbes, of the veterans bureau, at a hearing today before the house public building committee, urged that $16,000,000 be appropriated immediately for the construction of additional hospitals for war veterans. Present facilities, especially those for the care of the insane, are inadequate, Mr. Forbes declared.

TUCKER NOMINATED

LYNCHBURG, Va., Feb. 8.—Eight delegates from Buckingham county today were instructed to support Harry St. George Tucker, of Lexington, for the democratic nomination to succeed the late Henry D. Flood in congress from the tenth Virginia district. Tucker headquarters now claim 80 or more votes for his nomination on the first ballot, with only 68 required to nominate. The convention will meet in Staunton, February 14, next.

Heavy Exports In 1921, It Is Said By Herbert Hoover

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Exports of agricultural products during the past year—the largest volume in the country's history—exceeded those of 1920 by nearly 4,000,000 tons and were almost twice as large as the pre-war volume in 1913, according to a statement issued tonight by the commerce department. In money value, however, the department said, the country received only about two-thirds as much for the total of exports of 1921 as for the previous year, although Europe paid twice as much as in 1913.

During the past year agricultural exports totalled over 70,000,000 tons for which $2,000,000,000 was received compared with 13,500,00 tons worth $5,000,000,000 in 1920 and 10,500,000 tons valued at $1,000,000,000 in 1913. Grain was the principal agricultural commodity exported.

AMOUNT COUNTY IS DUE ON BONDS IS NOW $3,563,000

Audit Shows Cost of Operating Departments of County Government

Bonded indebtedness of Buncombe county for the fiscal year ending at the close of business on November 30, 1921 was $3,563,000 according to the audit of Scott, Chumley and company, Charlotte, which has just been completed. The report in full will be published at the expense of the county after it has been certified by E. M. Lyda, county auditor.

The audit in giving a statement of the assets of the county shows its realizable properties are valued at $602,393.91, which includes real estate worth $209,587.50, buildings worth $301,233.61; furnishings and equipment, courthouse, county institutions, roads machinery, etc., $91,578.15. The unrealizable properties, roads and bridges, are estimated at $2,558,046.99, which makes the total of realizable and unrealizable properties $3,160,445.90, and the liabilities in excess of the assets, $402,554.10. In other words the county owes in the way of bonds $402,554.10 more than the value of all of its properties, including the value of paving of all types and bridges of concrete, steel and wood.

The total valuation of property in the county is something over $92,000,000 and this property in one sense is considered an asset of the county and stands to make good all bonded indebtedness, while the auditors report shows the assets and liabilities of the county as a functioning governmental agency.

EXPENSES OF EACH DEPARTMENT

Bonds sales last year were $685,000, which brought the high premium of $3,160, with accrued interest at $3,285.80, making the total $691,445. The expenses last year for the department of finance were $3,200.85, which includes the commissioner's salary of $2,825.29. The expense of the audit department, which includes the annual audit by the Charlotte firm was $6,658.01. For other departments, the books show the expenses were as follows: Treasurer's department, $2,013.70; register of deeds, $10,485.33; clerk of court, $7,823.32; miscellaneous, $19,217.45; sheriff's department, $15,241.16; tax department, supplies, etc., $9,378.06; judiciary department, $21,196.54, which includes the fees of jurors, $12,224.84; jurors expenses, $2,606.50; witnesses, $1,636.91; county attorney, $1,878.76; coroner, $1,182.90; other officers, $1,392.67.

Cash on hand at the close of business on the end of the fiscal year was $83,382.69 and the total disbursements for the year by the commissioner of finance was $661,735.69. The disbursements for the department of public institutions were $21,544.32; $8,178.62 for the county home department and various other items.

There are now fourteen outstanding bond issues for roads and bridges.

NUMBER DONATIONS MADE BY COUNTY

The following donations were made by the county: Mission hospital, $1,800; associated charities, $1,250; Companies K. and F., $125; Troup B., $250; Lindley Training school, $420; Asheville Board of Trade, $300; burial of pensioners, $580; county and township fairs, $635.50; Asheville Normal, $500; Y. M. C. A., $500; Asheville band, $200; prohibition enforcement, $200; Good Government league, $100; Clean-up Squad, $45; Interurban Water trough, $28; Salvation Army, $25. Total $7,048.50.

Following is the amounts expended for roads in the various townships:

EXPENDED ON ROADS

Averys Creek	$ 1,088.77	$1,095.00
Lower Hominy	2,485.76	2,287.75
Upper Hominy	13,831.41	4,127.31
Leicester	7,283.80	7,494.06
Sandy Mush	5,942.74	697.67
Fairview	1,662.28	1,719.59
Limestone	1,111.24	1,139.42
Swannanoa	3,225.70	3,732.32
Reems Creek	2,724.17	2,073.77
Flat Creek	2,334.85	1,700.07
Ivy	4,274.03	3,820.15
Black Mountain	6,234.60	4,663.35
French broad	2,452.33	1,925.57
Haw Creek	1,826.72	2,259.58
Beaverdam	1,427.50	3,935.45
Hazel	2,515.12	1,728.28
Biltmore	9,254.26	1,151.38
Totals	$69,126.28	$42,550.70

SOLDIER TO BE TRIED FOR KILLLING CITIZEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Private T. W. Willis, of the United States marine guard, will be tried by naval court-martial at Pensacola, Fla., for manslaughter in connection with the killing of a civilian at Blanchard, La., December 4, it was announced today at the office of the judge advocate-general of the navy.

Private Willis has been taken to Pensacola, it was said, because there is available there a large officer personnel from which the court-martial may be drawn. The case will be handled by Lieutenant-Colonel Russ R. Wallace of the marine corps, as senior officer of the board, and will probably be held during the next week. It is charged tha the killing of Wyley Clark, a civilian, was unjusti-

FORD'S PROPOSAL BEFORE MILITARY COMMITTEE NOW

Secretary Weeks Appears Before Members and Answers Questions

REFUSES TO ADVISE ACCEPTING OFFER

Changes In Original Offer Is Suggested In Event It Is to Be Accepted

WASHINGTON Feb. 8.—Opening sessions of the house military committee's investigation of the Ford contract offer for purchase and lease of the government properties at Muscle Shoals, Ala., revolved today principally about the clauses relating to manufacture of fertilizers for the nation's agricultural needs. Secretary Weeks of the war department, appearing as the first witness, repeatedly declared his doubt as to whether fertilizers could be manufactured cheaply at Muscle Shoals and expressed his belief that amendments to safeguard better the government's interests in the $106,000,000 investment already made should be incorporated in the offer as it was drafted.

To alter existing government policies regarding the lease of real estate or other properties and permit a 100 year lease of the water power, machinery and dams in Alabama, the secretary asserted repeatedly, would be an unwise act and should not be permitted. He advocated a reduction in this time clause from 100 years to 50 in the event congress should decide to accept the offer.

WANTS STRONG GUARANTEE

Another often reiterated suggestion involving a change in present language of the offer, the secretary pointed out, would require a fixed capitalization for the operating company Mr. Ford is to create. The secretary said no provision existed in the offer guaranteeing a capitalization which the government might recover in whole or in part, in the event the contract was violated. A provision of some sort was advisable, he said, which would permit the government to impose through legal means a penalty or forfeit should the company fail to carry out the terms of the offer.

"Anything might happen in the next 100 years," he said. "While not the slightest doubt I have as to the solvency of Mr. Ford, nor of his intentions to execute the agreement in good faith, neither he nor I will be here during the life of the contract. In considering this question we are providing for the future generations."

Regarding the manufacture of fertilizers and their cheap delivery to the farmers of the country, Mr. Weeks said there was no reasonable certainty in his mind that that was possible.

WEEKS HESITATES

"If I thought that development of the project by Mr. Ford would effect a material reduction in the cost of fertilizer" he said, "I would vote for his proposition if I were in congress. But I am so in doubt as to that I should hesitate to give any advice unless assured of a guarantee."

Asked what the annual consumption of fertilizer was, the secretary said it approximated 78,000,000 tons and the Muscle Shoals plants would only produce at a maximum 200,000 tons. That amount, he asserted, would not, in his opinion, affect the existing market.

The war secretary previously had told the committee that Mr. Ford had declined to guarantee fertilizer production over a given number of years and had informed him in conversation that he would not manufacture the commodity at a loss.

WILL NOT COMMIT HIMSELF

Although pressed repeatedly by several committee members, the secretary did not express an opinion as to whether the offer should be accepted or rejected by congress. At one point he was asked whether the properties should be salvaged or Mr. Ford's offer accepted but he replied only that the government would not salvage the project in any event and repeated his intention to complete the Wilson dam, if the offer was rejected. He said the dam could be completed without taking a dollar from the treasury by a bond issue based on commercial value of the project as a water power development.

CAROLINAS WILL USE MUCH OF POWER

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN (By H. B. C. BRYANT)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Discussing the Muscle Shoals offer of Henry Ford, and the demand for hydro-electric development in the Carolinas, Secretary Weeks said: "That region very soon is going to need additional power." He reminded the house committee that already the power from Muscle Shoals reaches North and South Carolina through the lease to the Alabama Power company. This diversion of power was ordered after war department engineers had looked into the need of the section. "People would have been thrown out of employment in the mills if this power could not have been had," Mr. Weeks declared. In this connection Mr. Weeks discussed the wisdom of a lease for 100 years. He stated that power development is yet in its infancy and predicted that in a few years, power from the Colorado river would be transmitted to the central west and, perhaps, to the whole country.

FORD WILL APPEAR

DETROIT, Feb. 8.—If Henry Ford's testimony before the house military committee at Washington with respect to the Muscle Shoals project is "urgently needed," Mr. Ford will appear before the body in person, he told The Associated Press tonight.

Mr. Ford made the statement when informed that Chairman Kahn of the committee, had asked him to appear Washington between February 9 and 11.

Cooperative Marketing Bill Is Passed By Senate With But One Vote In Opposition

Accomplishments Of Arms Conference Reviewed By The Secretary Of State

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Belief that the results achieved by the conference on the limitation of armament "cannot fail to have effect in other countries," was expressed today by Secretary Hughes, chairman of the American delegation to the conference, in replying to an address by Ambassador Mathieu, of Chile, at a meeting of the board of governors of the Pan-American union.

The meeting was the first held by the governing board since that body turned over its home to the use of the arms conference last November and Secretary Hughes, who is ex-officio president of the board of governors, delivered this address in reply to felicitations on his work in the conference extended by Ambassador Mathieu, of Chile.

In his address the secretary expressed deepest appreciation of the sentiments voiced by Ambassador Mathieu and reiterated the gratitude felt by delegates to the conference for the use of the Pan-American union's building.

WISHED FOR ALL NATIONS

Explaining that it was a matter of regret that the republicans of Latin-America could not take part directly in the proceedings of the conference "by reason of the definite and limited objects of the conference," Secretary Hughes said he hoped "that you all felt that you had a measure and a very important degree of participation" and said that the building of the union always would be "invested with the most gracious memories by reason of the fact that the conference met within its walls."

Continuing the secretary said:

"Here also met the Chinese and Japanese delegates and it was at this table that the Shantung controversy was settled. That I think you will agree with me was one of the happiest events of this important period. All parts of this building, in one way or another, were utilized in the work of the conference. No place could have been better adapted for that work. The surroundings of any undertaking are important. But when there is a great international meeting it is most fitting that it should be appropriately housed.

AIM WAS LIMITED

"I have said that the conference had a certain definite and limited aim. That is true and that is the reason why the conference succeeded. The ambassador of Chile has well observed, however, that its effects are not as limited as its definite purposes. The naval powers which were engaged in active and really wasteful competition in the building of monster ships for fighting purposes have reduced their navies and agreed upon an effective limitation.

"The indirect effect of that, I think, is very great. The fact that sea power has been bounded in this matter, is a considerable achievement, the example of which cannot fail to have effect in other countries.

"Peoples are not disposed at this time to see money received by taxation spent unnecessarily on instruments of destruction. I take it that the powers not represented in this conference will voluntarily very largely limit their expenditures for military and naval purposes, because of the public opinion aroused throughout the world through the work that this conference has done.

SOME THOUGHTS ON AUXILIARY

"It is true that we did not succeed in effecting a limitation of auxiliary craft, that is, a limitation by agreement. But in limiting the size and number of these capital ships with respect to which the competition in construction was most keen, there has been in practical results a limitation upon auxiliary craft which will be observed in every country. There will be no disposition to permit extravagant outlays for these purposes.

"Again, in connection with the difficult far eastern problems, it has

[Continued on Page Two]

HOOVER PREDICTS RAILWAY CABINET OFFICER SHORTLY

Senator Cummins Delivers Address Before U. S. Chamber

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The next two or three years will probably see great development in transportation and perhaps the establishment of a new executive department of the government under a secretary of transportation in the President's cabinet to direct co-ordination of railroads, waterways, highways and even interocean traffic. Secretary Hoover said tonight in an address before the mid-year meeting of the national council of the chamber of commerce of the United States. The economic and transportation situation were considered by the chamber of commerce at its meeting, which will be concluded tomorrow.

Senator Cummins, of Iowa, chairman of the senate interstate commerce committee, outlined the railroad situation and pending legislation, and declared himself "unalterably opposed to government operation and ownership" of railroads. He favored, he said, consolidation of the railroads into a few great systems.

Declaring that "we have gone past the danger point," Secretary Hoover said he "marveled" that bankruptcy and panic had not overwhelmed the railroads and banks of the nation in the last 18 months while values were declining "probably 50 billions of dollars" and commodity prices were dropping "nearly 58 per cent," a decrease which he described as "the greatest the world has ever known." He predicted that increased production of commodities and expansion of traffic with economy would bring the railroads "a righteous earning" within reasonable time.

BRITISH POUND STILL GOING UP

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—On the most active trading of any day this year, the foreign exchange market today continued its vigorous advance. The sustaining influence was the sterling remittances, demand bills on London recording the few high quotations of $4.36 7-16. This is the top figure commanded by British bills in over 2½ years and brings that currency within 50 cents of its normal or pre-war value as against the depreciation to $3.19 made in February of 1921.

Other European exchanges rose in sympathy, allied remittances scoring best prices on steady buying until late in the afternoon and closing at net gains of 12 to 18 points. So-called neutral exchanges, especially Dutch, Norwegian and Swedish rates, were substantially higher and German marks rallied to 32 5-8, their highest price since the middle of January.

BRITAIN WANTS TO HOLD CONFERENCE NOW

(By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

LONDON, Feb. 8.—It is unlikely that the French government's request for a three months' delay in the opening of the Genoa conference will be met by Great Britain, it was stated in official circles today.

There are no objections to a delay of a week or even a fortnight, it was said, but so far as Great Britain is concerned the solution of the problems to be considered at the conference would not be benefited by months of preliminary investigation. The sooner the conference convenes, the sooner European industrial reconstruction will begin, according to the view of these officials. Decision of the question of delay, however, obviously rests with the cabinet, which is now considering the French proposals regarding the agenda of the conference.

BILL DESIGNED TO ASSIST ALL FARM INTERESTS

Farm Bloc of Senate Wins Signal Victory, Norris Declares

SENATOR GERRY IS ALONE IN VOTING

Bill Goes to Conference for Adjustment Differences Two Branches

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The house co-operative marketing bill a measure designed to aid the agricultural interests and pressed by the farm bloc, was passed by the senate late today. Only one vote, that of Senator Gerry, democrat, Rhode Island, was cast against the measure.

Two other senators, Brandegee, republican, Connecticut and King democrat, Utah, were paired against the measure and withheld their votes. The vote was 55 to 1 and the senate's action was regarded by some as the most sweeping of the victories yet attained by the farm bloc since, in accepting the house bill, the senate over-rode its own judiciary committee which had reported a substitute measure. The substitute was defeated 36 to 4. The bill now goes to conference for adjustment of differences with the house.

NO TRUST VIOLATIONS

As passed by the senate the bill retains the provisions which relieve the co-operative associations from the application of laws prohibiting trusts or unfair business practices, placing the authority to determine when such acts have been committed with the secretary of agriculture. The senate substitute would have made the associations amenable to the present laws and it was around this point that debate revolved in the week the subject was before the senate.

During the closing hours of debate today, reference was made to the bloc's power. This brought from Senator Norris, republican, Nebraska, the statement that he had heard the bill had administration support.

"It is the first time in many months that the majority has come over to my side,' he added. "It happens so almighty seldom that I feel I must make note of it. May be the administration is behind this bill. If that is so then I am glad they have come over into the same wagon with me. Whether they came because of me or in spite of me, I do not know, but I welcome them here."

This, it was explained, makes it impossible for co-operative associations to be "stolen" by a group of individuals who merely by declining the amendment, the group would be able, according to senators, to engage in competitive trade buying other farmers products to an unlimited extent. The amendment limits any association in the handling of the commodities of non-members so that what was described as a throttle of local business could not be obtained.

NOT MORE THAN ONE VOTE

Other important provisions of the bill prescribe that no member of an association may have more than one vote in directing its activities regardless of the amount of stock he holds, norcan any association pay dividends on stock or ownership capital in excess of eight percent, a year.

With respect to the authority granted the secretary of agriculture to control attempts to monopolize or restrain trade, the bill provides that notice of charges of alleged violations must be served on the offending association and it must be given an opportunity to defend itself. If found guilty of the charges, the secretary of agriculture may order the association "to cease and desist" and in event of its failure to do so, the case then may be referred to the federal courts for enforcement of the order and the filing of such decrees as the courts deem equitable.

PROUD TRANSPORT IS ABANDONED BY CREW; SHIP BURNS

Four Employes of Shipbuilding Concern May Have Been Lost

HIGHLAND LIGHT, Mass., Feb. 8.—Eighteen of the crew of the Furness line freighter Thistlemore, which went aground last night on Peaked Hill Bars, were rescued today by breeches buoy. Because of moderating wind and sea, Captain Fortune and the remainder of the ship's company decided to remain on board the vessel overnight. The Thistlemore left Boston yesterday for New York to finish unloading a cargo of freight from Liverpool. She registers 4162 tons. Coastguards tonight reported that the vessel was in no immediate danger.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Leaving the former proud transport Northern Pacific drifting ablaze to sink off Cape May, N. J., rescue craft tonight were making for Norfolk and Hampton Roads with survivors picked up from small boats.

Meanwhile shipping circles were awaiting their arrival with concern, for radio messages flashing through the air since early this morning, when the fire broke out, left in doubt the fate of four employes of the Sun Shipbuilding corporation, of Chester, Pa., whether the Northern Pacific was bound from Hoboken with a skeleton crew to be reconditioned for service on the west coast.

Early in the day these four men were reported missing, then rescued and again missing. The latest message from the rescue fleet, received from the transport late this afternoon, stated that the four shipbuilders were not aboard her.

Details of how the fire started also were lacking. Among the rescued was captain William Lusti, who commanded the transport during her dangerous trans-Atlantic trips during the war and when she piled up on the sands of Fire Island in 1919 with 3,000 doughboys homeward bound from France.

HAVE NOT HEARD OF FOUR

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8.—Officials of the Sun Shipbuilding company tonight were without information as to the fate of four of the company's employes who were on the transport Northern Pacific which burned to the water line off Cape May today. They were in wireless communication with the transport and the Wylle, which rescued the crew of the Northern Pacific, but none of the four men was among those rescued.

SIMMONS VISITS WHITE HOUSE IN REGARD TO JOBS

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN (By H. B. C. BRYANT)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 8.—Senator Simmons has carried to the White House to President Harding, the case of French W. Graham, gallant soldier who fairly won the appointment as postmaster at Elkin, but is about to be kicked out by the republican administration to make way for a local republican politician.

Senator Simmons is also calling the President's attention to the case of A. B. Morris, at Morehead City.

The White House advised him that the President is giving consideration to these cases. These soldiers ask not preference, but fair play and a square deal.

MICHAEL NAMED WEAVERVILLE P. M.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN (By H. B. C. BRYANT)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 8.—Presidential postmasters commissioned are as follows: Garland, Willis R. Smith; Lawndale, Pierce P. Richards; Weaverville, Lindsay H. Michael; West Jefferson, Frieden B. Jones.

CORONER STARTS INVESTIGATION OF THEATRE DISASTER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Changes in the architects plans for the Knickerbocker motion picture theater were made by engineers who fabricated the steel during the construction of the building, John H. Ford, who was engineer, estimator and detailer of the Union Iron Works and negotiated the contract to furnish the steel and iron work, testified today at the coroners inquest into the collapse of the building which resulted in the loss of 98 lives. The changes made in the plans, according to the witness were substitution of trusses for large beams and the use of a number of small beams where other sizes had been called for. These modifications were made, however, he explained, because "we could not obtain the kind of steel required in the original plans." This was communicated, he added, to Frank Wagner, the builder, who gave his approval provided the changes met with the indorsement of the building inspectors office.

Records of the building office were read and showed that the office threatened to have work on the structure stopped unless changes made in the plans were reported to it. The records, it was added, by witnesses, do not show whether any report of changes was made. The inspector responsible for the steel work inspection has since died.