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TODAY'S NEWS TODAY.

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BAKER REITERATES FORMER CLAIMS ON CROSS-EXAMINATION

Tells Senate Committee 791,000 Transport Tonnage Estimate Probably Is Too Low

WON'T GIVE NUMBER OF MEN IN FRANCE

After Long Testimony, Committee Goes Into Executive Session to Hear Confidential Information

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 6.—Secretary Baker came up for cross-examination today before the Senate Military Committee on his picture of the state of preparedness of the army, which Congressional critics have attacked as greatly exaggerated.

But the principal points of the whole controversy—the question of where the army is going to get ships for transport of men to France this year—was left open partly because Secretary Baker could not give the exact figures, and because the committee went into discussion as to whether or not the public should have the facts.

The upshot of it was that the question of ships was left to be presented in detailed exact statements to the committee at a further meeting tomorrow.

As the examination turned to the question of supplies for the army, it became apparent from the nature of Secretary Baker's replies that he and President Wilson had been discussing some further forms of organization for the War Department, which they hoped would satisfy those who are pressing for the war cabinet bill.

More Men Sent Than Planned.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Cross-examination of Secretary Baker on his recent statement before the Senate Military Committee was begun at a public meeting of the committee today.

Secretary Baker's cross-examination was started by Senator Weeks, Republican, member of the Military Committee.

On January 1, Secretary Baker said more troops had been transported to France, including both non-combatant and fighting forces, than had been planned.

Secretary Baker and Senator Weeks agreed that it was improper to disclose the number of troops now in France.

Senator Weeks asked if it were true that the War Department had 791,000 tons of ships available for transporting troops on February 1. Secretary Baker did not know, but thought that an under-estimate.

Secretary Baker's former statement that 1,000,000 more men could be sent to France this year was again discussed.

Senator Hitchcock said that on November 30 the Shipping Board advised him the total available American tonnage was 502 ships of 3,721,806 tons, including tankers and former German and Austrian ships, Secretary Baker said he could not estimate the number of troops that amount of tonnage would supply.

Secretary Baker could not say whether troops would be kept in southern camps next summer, but stated that if the heat was as excessive as last summer, this could not very well be done, and transfer probably would be made.

American tonnage losses, Secretary Baker said, have been exceedingly light. "The service the navy has rendered in protecting the army," he said, "has been unexampled."

The much discussed editorial in the Metropolitan Magazine, of which Colonel Roosevelt was associate editor, attacking the War Department's method of sending troops to France, came up again.

"Did the editor have any information other than an ordinary citizen might have had at that time?" asked Senator Weeks.

"Oh, no," said Mr. Baker, adding that in August, when the article appeared, he had been quite certain the Department could do more in training troops than had been stated.

Examination of Secretary Baker was discussed while Senators went into executive session to permit Secretary Baker to give confidential information.

While the Senators were discussing whether to continue in public session or go into private session,

FUEL FAMINE NOW WORST OF WINTER FOR NEW YORKERS

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Feb. 6.—With 150,000 tons of coal at tidewater ports in New Jersey cut off from New York by ice fields in the harbor, and scarcely a day's supply of coal ahead, fuel administrators today were alarmed over the situation, which they described as the most critical of the winter. Only 14,000 tons of anthracite reached the city yesterday, less than enough to supply hospitals, schools and other similar places. In the poorer sections the suffering is declared to be the most acute in years.

M'ADOO TAKES STEP TO END CONGESTION

Appoints Committee to Have Charge of Relieving Crowded Lines

DIVERT SHIPMENTS

Traffic Will Be Routed From Busiest Lanes of Commerce to Those Less Filled, Much Coming to the South

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 6.—Further steps looking to diversion of railroad traffic from the most congested eastern gateways were taken today by Director-General McAdoo in the appointment of a commission to handle the situation.

"This committee," said Director-General McAdoo's announcement, "is to make a close study of the great traffic routes of the country, in order to shift traffic from the congested routes to the less congested lines and from the congested gateways to the less congested ports for shipment."

Appointment of the committee is in line with the railroad administration's policy of diversion, an example of which was dispatch of between 50,000 and 100,000 bales of cotton recently to South Atlantic ports for transmission to New York or to European destinations.

POUGHKEEPSIE SUFFERS IN HALF MILLION FIRE

Steamboat Company's Warehouse and Big Grocery Store Are Burned in Conflagration

(By the Associated Press.)

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Feb. 6.—The walls and warehouses of the Hudson Steamboat Company and the J. W. Matthews company, wholesale grocery warehouses on the water front at Newburgh, were destroyed and several other nearby warehouses were damaged today in a fire supposed to have started from an overheated furnace in the steamboat warehouse. The damage is estimated at \$500,000.

PARIS PAPER REVEALS SPY PLOTS IN AMERICA

(By the Associated Press.)

Paris, Feb. 6.—The Petit Parisien publishes a letter of instructions to German military agents in the United States dated January 15, 1915, and signed "General Headquarters, Dr. Fischer." In the letter directions are given concerning the destruction of property and the blowing up of munitions plants in the United States. It says: "Agents to carry on destructive work can be recruited among the workmen's unions, which have anarchistic tendencies."

WEATHER FORECAST.

For North Carolina: Generally fair and somewhat warmer tonight and Thursday with light southwest to west winds.

Secretary Baker said that he had perhaps been unfortunate in giving his original opinion to the committee rather than being specific on information prepared by experts.

Secretary Baker gave the opinion that new legislation would be desirable to give the President power to coordinate various functions and departments as new conditions arise. That purchases would be in the hands of Edward R. Stettinus was indicated by the Secretary.

"Mr. Stettinus is relied upon to do this thing," he said.

RECENT KING WILL G. B. MEANS GAVE DECLARED FORGERY

Illinois Attorney-General Files Petition Charging False Pretense in Famous Case

MRS. KING'S PART ONLY NOMINAL SUM

By New Document, Filed by Means, Recently Acquitted of Her Murder, She Received Nearly \$3,000,000

(By the Associated Press.)

Chicago, Feb. 6.—In a petition on file today in the probate court, Edward Brundage, attorney-general of the State, charges that the will of the late John C. King filed some time ago is a forgery and not the last testament of the millionaire lumberman. March 12 has been fixed as the date for the hearing.

After King's death in 1905, a will was filed leaving the widow only a nominal sum. It was understood at the time she had waived all dower rights on receipt of \$10,000 before her husband's death. Some years later a new will purporting to be the last, was discovered by Gaston Means, secretary to Mrs. Maude A. King, who was tried recently in North Carolina and acquitted of her murder. This latter document was filed in the probate court here. By its terms Mrs. King received an estate the approximate value of which was about \$3,000,000.

SOLDIERS' MORATORIUM PROVIDED BY CONGRESS

Bill is Passed Unanimously by Senate Is Nearly Same Form it Passed the House.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 6.—The soldiers and sailors civil rights bill, providing a moratorium for men in the military establishment, was unanimously passed today by the Senate virtually in the form it passed the House.

RED GUARDS DEFEATED BY FINNISH COMMANDER

Battle Lasted Two Days, and Many Were Killed, and City of Uleaborg is Captured

(By the Associated Press.)

Stockholm, Feb. 6.—General Mannerheim's forces have defeated the Red Guards and Russians at Uleaborg and captured the city, which is the chief military depot of northern Finland. The battle lasted two days and several hundred were killed.

GOOD ATTENDANCE RECORD IN SCHOOL

Total Enrollment Now is 984 as Compared With 1200 for the Year

Attendance records for the city schools for the fourth month of the present session were announced Wednesday by Superintendent R. G. Kittrell. The showing is considered as a remarkably good one in view of the very bad weather conditions that prevailed during the greater part of the month.

Miss Rosa Cheatham grade in the Central school made the best average, the record being 97 percent. In the high school the ninth grade averaged 95.3, the eighth-A grade having 94 percent, and the eleventh grade 93. The fifth-A grade at the Central school had a record of 93, and the third-A grade at the Central school had 89 percent.

The enrollment at the present time is given as 948, divided as follows: high school, 177; Central, 404; North Henderson, 156; South Henderson, 151; Harris, 31; and Wortham school 29. The total enrollment of the session up to the present time was also given, this showing 190 at the high school, 544 at the Central, 184 at North Henderson, 194 at South Henderson, 48 at Harris school, and 40 at Wortham school, with a total for all of 1200 even.

SUCCESS OF PLAN FOR SHIPBUILDING DEPENDS ON LABOR

Head of Emergency Fleet Corporation Says Greatest Need Now Is for Workmen

EVERYTHING ELSE IS HERE IN PLENTY

Three Shifts Working Every Day for Fifty-Two Weeks Instead of One Shift Needed to Beat the U-Boat

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 6.—Responsibility for the success or failure of the government's ship-building program was put on labor today by Charles Piege, vice-president and general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation in an appeal for shipyard workers.

"The shipping board has the necessary yards, material and the money, and aye! that is lacking," he said. "It is the spirit in the nation to send the army of men into the plants. We are now working only one shift a day."

"If we are to keep ahead of the submarine campaign," he said, "we must run three shifts a day for fifty-two weeks in the year."

SPECULATION IN COFFEE AND SUGAR EXCHANGE FORBIDDEN

Food Administrator Hoover Shuts Off Trade in Green Product on New York Market

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 6.—Speculation in green coffee on the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange was ordered discontinued today by Food Administrator Hoover.

The Food Administration's action was taken after a conference with members of the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange in which dealers offered to take the necessary steps to stop speculation.

JUDGE BINGHAM HEADS THE SOUTHERN CONGRESS

Louisville Lawyer to be Inaugurated President of Commercial Organization February 11.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 6.—Judge Robert W. Bingham, of Louisville, Ky., will be inaugurated president of the Southern Commercial Congress here February 11 at a dinner to be tendered in his honor and in honor of Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, of Florida, the retiring president, according to plans made public today.

BAPTISTS MEET TO PLAN ENDOWMENTS

Representatives of Two Associations Are To Meet Here Thursday

Preachers and laymen from the Tar River and the Flat River Baptist Associations will gather here Thursday in the First Baptist church for a meeting to discuss ways and means of raising the allotments for these two associations of the proposed million dollar endowment fund for the Baptist educational institutions of the State. Twenty-five or more are expected to attend.

There will be only one session, which is set for 10 o'clock in the morning, and is to last for three hours or more. Dr. R. T. Vann, former president of Meredith College at Raleigh, and now general secretary of the Baptist educational work in North Carolina, and C. J. Thompson, of Raleigh, who is financial secretary of the million dollar endowment campaign, are to be present and address the meeting.

Apportionment of the shares of the fund to be assessed upon the Tar River and Flat River Associations has not been announced but this is expected to be outlined Thursday. Each association is entitled to a representation of twelve laymen, as well as the pastors from every church.

The visitors are to be guests in the homes of local Baptists during their stay in the city.

ARTILLERY FIRING IS CONTINUED ON AMERICAN FRONT

(By the Associated Press.)

With the American Army in France, Tuesday, Feb. 5 (By the Associated Press).—American artillery kept up a continuous fire on the enemy battery throughout Tuesday and the Germans responded, with the result that there was lively firing on the American sector.

At the same time American aircraft were busy repelling enemy attacks, and in making observations over the German lines.

TEUTONS GO BACK TO BREST-LITOVSK

Von Kuehlmann and Czernin Leave German Capital to Reopen Parley

RUSS CROSS LINE

Berlin Newspaper Says Three Army Corps on Horses Enter German Ranks After Failure to Beat Rumanians

(By the Associated Press.)

Amsterdam, Feb. 6.—The German and Austrian Foreign Ministers Dr. von Kuehlmann and Count Czernin, left Berlin last night for Brest-Litovsk to continue the peace negotiations, according to a dispatch from the German capital.

Three Russian army corps on the Russo-Rumanian front, the Lokai Anzeiger, of Berlin, says twice attempted to cross the Rumanian frontier, but only small detachments succeeded in getting through. It is added that 3,000 Russians on horses crossed into the lines of the Central Powers.

FOOD SHORTAGE FACED SAMMIES NOW IN ITALY

Food Contractor Cornered Food, Which Went So High Men Couldn't Buy the Products

(Correspondence Associated Press.)

American Aviation Camp, Southern Italy, Jan. 29.—The food problem recently attained the dignity of a crisis here. When the United States government arranged for the training of Americans here, it was agreed that five lire per day should be paid for the feeding of each aviation officer in the making, a sum amply equal to advanced food prices, considering the several hundred of men to be fed. A contract to feed the men was let to a local restaurant proprietor but he became imbued with the idea that Americans have plenty of money and are anxious to spend it. For many weeks the Americans, absorbed in their training, accepted the food given them. They merely went down in their own pockets and patronized the candy stores of the city, its restaurants, but particularly the canteen where the Italian soldiers of the camp spent their money for drinks, sandwiches and omelets.

Gradually the price of canteen products rose so high the Italian soldiers were unable to patronize it and complained to their officers. These latter investigated jointly with the American officers, with the result that canteen prices were reduced 150 per cent and the contractor in charge of the American mess had to beg to be given a chance to hold his contractor.

This happened just before Christmas and as the Americans were being paid off for the first time in three months, they persuaded their commander to let them go to Rome and Naples and gorge themselves. There they engaged in veritable food orgies. They bought candy and nuts and cake by five-pound lots, retreating to their rooms to eat after taking regular restaurant meals. Some of the men were reported to have eaten six meals a day.

One of the features of the reception given at Rome by Ambassador Thomas Nelson Page and Mrs. Page at the Palazzo del Drago to the young men was a spread of cake and candy weighting down several tables. Although all present ate freely from the tables, their appetites seemed merely to have been whittled, for they were later found standing out in front of candy stores eating more cake and candy. Several started to mass at St. Peter's, but were unable to get any farther than a restaurant facing the church.

Peace Parley Reported Ended.

London, Feb. 6.—The negotiations at Brest-Litovsk have been broken off, the correspondent at Petrograd of the Exchange Telegraph Company says he is informed.

REFORMATORY BUILDINGS IN INDIANA ARE BURNED

All of 1,285 Prisoners in Dormitories March to Safety, and None Try to Escape.

(By the Associated Press.)

Jefferson, Ind., Feb. 6.—Five of the six buildings in the group of buildings comprising the Indiana State Reformatory were destroyed by fire early today.

The 1,285 prisoners in cells and in dormitories were marshalled at the word, and all marched to safety. None tried to escape.

MANY TROOPS INJURED IN FINLAND COLLISION

Train Filled With Red Guards Crashes Into Another Carrying Soldiers to Oppose Them.

(By the Associated Press.)

London, Feb. 6.—A great number of persons were injured in a collision with a train loaded with Red Guards and a government train sent to intercept Red Guards in northern Finland, says a report reaching here.

PREPARATIONS FOR SPRING OFFENSIVE BEGIN IN FLANDERS

Whole Western Front Experiences Raiding Operations and Heavy Artillery Duels

ENTENTE CLAIMING THE ODDS THUS FAR

Situation in Russia Appears Less Favorable to Bolsheviks, and Church War Against Them Seems Sure

(By the Associated Press.)

Raiding operations and artillery duels are increasing of the western front as the time for beginning of spring operations approaches. Two years ago, after a successful attack at Souchez, the Germans began their drive on Verdun with heavy artillery fire on February 21, while in last year the British captured Grandcourt on the Somme front on February 7, and the Germans two weeks later retired from the Ancre, the first steps in the retreat to the Hindenburg line.

All official statements reported great artillery activity. The great guns have been busy around Ypres, and before Cambrai, on the British front, on the right bank of the Meuse on the French front, and on the American sector. The British have made a successful raid northeast of Ypres, and French troops brought back prisoners in the Argonne forest.

German attacks in Champagne have been repulsed by the British and French respectively. The skies northwest of Toul have been cleared of airships of the enemy.

Entente airmen have been active. British fliers on Monday dropped three tons of bombs and accounted for eight airplanes, with the loss of one machine. On the Italian front Italian and British aviators have brought down thirteen enemy machines, while the Germans have again bombed Padua.

In Russia the situation appears less favorable to the Bolsheviks. A decree by the Bolsheviks separating church and state and confiscating church property has aroused the opposition of the Patriarch of all Russia, who has called upon his followers to defend the church. The clash between the two factions is said to be approaching.

New opposition to the Bolsheviks has arisen among the Tatars. Ensign Krylenko, in command of the Bolshevik troops, is said to have been arrested by Polish troops. In Kiev the Ukrainians are reported to have gained the upper hand.

After a conference with the German Emperor, the German and Austrian Foreign Ministers are reported to be returning to Brest-Litovsk. German newspapers are saying that if peace is negotiated with the Ukrainians, little attention will be paid to the Bolsheviks.