

AMERICAN NAVY READY FOR WAR NAVY SECRETARY'S REPORT SHOWS

Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy At This Time is of Particular Interest—Expansion of Navy, Increase in Strength of Fighting Forces and Many Other Phases Are Considered.

Since the declaration of war, the navy of the United States has made a record of "increasing power, of developing resources, of cooperative achievement which the American people can well survey with pride," Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels states in his annual report made public today. He says that "in the trying months that have followed, the readiness and fitness of our men and ships have been tested and established amid perils more insidious and baffling than those that ever before confronted a nation at war, that our navy has been called on to do much more than the public realizes, and in no case and in no way has it so far been found wanting in either material or personnel."

That events have shown that the navy in times of peace has been thoroughly and properly prepared for war, is the keynote of the report. Military necessity, the secretary explains, prevents making public at this time the detailed record of the navy's activities since war was declared. The general condition and the year's events are thus summed up: "While the details of what we have done, and how we have done it, must wait until it is permissible to spread them upon public record, this summary may be given to our people: In the navy we have prepared for and have met the duties of the present; we are preparing for and are confident we will be able to meet any call for greater duties, for more exacting responsibilities. The best way to secure during peace is to prepare unceasingly, night and day, for the winning of the war, whether it be long or short. This we have done; this we are doing; this we will continue to do."

Secretary Daniels points out that in its work since the war began the department has not been hampered by the necessity for any modification of its organization in passing from a peace basis to a war basis. Every new expansion and activity was placed readily and naturally with the existing organization, and any difficulties that have faced the navy department as regards the navy proper have been those of expansion and not of reorganization. This ability of the navy, without friction or hurrying, to bring to bear its forces rapidly and to increase its three fold in a short time is due to the system that had been built up in peace times and to the securing before the war of a large building program extending over a term of years, as well as to the authorization of an increased personnel. Internally the efficient organization, working together for years as a trained team, made the rapid expansion easy, though it has taxed the strength and energy of every head of a department and the entire personnel on shore and in the fleets. Tribute is paid to the spirit among the officers, and enlisted men, the skilled mechanics, and the trained civilians in the navy.

"The years of drilling and practice, of close co-operation in planning and thinking, were evidenced in the readiness and quickness with which the navy moved when the command rang out," the secretary says. "Ships were manned without an hour's delay. Those in reserve were fully commissioned. Expert gunners lost not a moment when ordered as armed guards on merchant ships, and every man was zealous to find his place and

prove the stuff he was made of, and most of them asked the place of danger."

The secretary says that it is not alone to the purely military side of the navy that we may point with justifiable pride. This war, more than any other war, has been an affair of business as well as of fighting. Supplies, equipment, transportation, will have called for the highest degree of efficiency and intelligence in order that the fighting arm might be sustained. He congratulates the country that the navy had, during the past four years, so improved its business methods and its purchasing system as to be able to meet the tremendous and sudden demands of war time without having found it necessary to alter its existing machinery in anything save an increase in personnel to handle the volume of business.

Authorization of the regular building program for the coming year, as already determined upon, is asked of Congress, the time for actual construction of the new units not to interfere with the large fleet of destroyers now being constructed. This program provides for three battleships, one battle cruiser, three scout cruisers, nine fleet submarines, two fuel ships, one transport, one destroyer tender, one ammunition ship and one gunboat.

Summing up the expansion of the navy, Secretary Daniels says:

"From a force of 4,500 officers and 68,000 enlisted men in January, 1917, the navy has expanded to 15,000 officers and 254,000 enlisted men, including regulars, reserves and national naval volunteers. Further expansions are inevitable. The navy had 130 stations of all kinds on January 1, 1917. It now has 363. The number of employees at regular navy yards in the United States has increased from about 35,000 to over 60,000. On shore and afloat, including civilians and sailors, the naval establishment embraces more than 300,000."

"At the beginning of the fiscal year 1917 the monthly expenditures for all naval purposes were about \$8,000,000; they are now about \$60,000,000. On January 1, 1917, there were 300 naval vessels of all kinds in commission; today there are many more than a thousand. These typical figures sufficiently indicate the task the navy has had to accomplish to date in the way of expansion."

The first forces, says Secretary Daniels, to land in France, for service against the enemy were units of the naval aviation corps which arrived in that country early in June, having been transported on naval vessels. The aviation corps has been greatly strengthened during the year and the supply of school airplanes is now considered adequate to meet the needs of the training stations. The navy has established its own aircraft factory at Philadelphia, the keel of the first flying boat being laid within 90 days after ground was broken. Five private plants are now devoted to navy work and a large portion of two others. In regard to types of aircraft, the report says:

"Development work has been prosecuted assiduously during the year, and with the completion of the 'Liberty' engine, the department was in a position to select immediately the aircraft to which it should apply and to frame a definite and large building program.

"Eliminating types which had been tried and found unsuitable, the department fixed upon two sizes of flying boats for foreign duty, which had been perfected in the United States in anticipation of a high-powered engine becoming available. For sea work, foreign opinion at the present time, as well as our own, strongly favors the flying boat. This type is an American conception and it is a satisfaction to be able to state that here, at least, American designs have been well to the front and that it is not necessary to copy foreign patterns in order to insure our flyers being supplied with the best. It may be stated with confidence that at the present moment we have an American flying boat actually flying with an American engine which is unexcelled by any foreign craft of the type."

Regarding the increase in the aircraft forces, the report adds:

"During the present calendar year the ratio of increase in material has been approximately 1,400 per cent; the increase in personnel trained and under training has been approximately 3,000 per cent; the increase in stations and training schools has been approximately 3,200 per cent. These figures indicate a rapid development, and a very wide and thorough expansion.

"The service has been so popular as to attract to it scores of young men of real stuff, some from factories, who loved engines and machinery, and some with college diplomas, who were eager and quick to learn this new and daring adjunct of war. They have demonstrated the courage and capacity of American youths, and the only complaint heard from any of the young men in the aviation

corps has been that the factories could not provide aircraft rapidly enough to give them as much opportunity to fly as they desired."

Some of the activities of the fleet are told of in the report, although naturally there is much that cannot be dwelt upon without revealing information that public policy forbids disclosing at this time. The secretary sets forth the close cooperation between the foreign admiralties with which this country is allied in the war and the navy department of the United States. Appreciative reference is made to the assistance rendered by the various organizations and board having to do with the conduct of the war, to the generous provision made by Congress and the hearty cooperation of the legislative branch of the government, which has made possible all that has been accomplished.

Recounting the many problems which had to be encountered by the navy, the report tells how these were met in handling affairs at home and in service abroad. "This history of what has been accomplished by American ships against submarines and other naval achievements must await the close of the war for the full details which will then be made public," says the secretary. "Naval officers of the line and staff have been sent abroad to make studies of conditions, and the reports have been of interest and value."

The rapid increase of the regular navy to more than 150,000 and of the reserves to over 40,000 is recounted. It is recommended that the permanent enlisted strength of the navy be increased to 120,000 men, plus 10,000 apprentice seamen, 7,000 men under training in trade schools, and 4,000 for aviation, and that for the period of the war the enlisted strength authorized should be 180,000 men, plus 24,000 apprentice seamen, 14,000 men under training in trade schools, and 10,000 men for aviation.

Mention is made of the flood of inventions and ideas submitted from the country at large. "It is true," says Secretary Daniels, "that a majority of these are not found to be of practical value, but it is a fact that practically all of them are submitted with the patriotic motive of helping win the war, and the department has felt that they are all entitled to serious and appreciative consideration."

Speaking of the Naval academy as the first and best source of supply of naval officers, the secretary speaks of the value of the supply coming from experienced enlisted men and warrant officers, trained men in the militia, experienced seafaring men, young men in the naval reserves from civil life who have had military, engineering, or scientific education.

"The fixed policy of the department," says the secretary, "is to open new doors of promotion to the enlisted men. Since war was declared over 1,000 men have been advanced from warrant officers to commissioned officers, and over 1,800 enlisted men have been promoted to warrant officers. Those promoted had won position by demonstrated fitness. There will be further opportunities for promotion to commission rank. The best material for officers in this period is in the enlisted personnel, and their promotion is the sure guarantee of securing the best qualified men to supply the need for additional officers."

"Every ship has been converted into a training station and the fittest men are being advanced as their qualifications are established.

The secretary emphasizes the policy of promotion by seniority in the line of the navy has forever passed," he declares, classifying such promotion as un-American and he says that as the fetish of seniority fully passes from the service "the new law will insure that no man will be promoted to high rank unless he has given proof of his ability to command," so that all promotions, from ensign to admiral, will be by selection. This, he holds, should be extended to commissioned officers of the staff as it now exists in the line. He expresses the hope that the maximum age limit of 30 years for commissioned warrant officers will be removed, as it has prevented the temporary appointment as ensigns of a number of very deserving officers. He asks that the distinctive naval rank of commodore be revived, saying that it is associated with the best traditions of the navy from Commodore Perry to Commodore Dewey.

"Every midshipman," he says, "should serve an enlistment of one year," and states that if war had not intervened his purpose had been to recommend that no midshipman appointed to the Naval academy should receive his commission under five years and that, after passing the entrance examination, every appointee should go to sea as a regular enlisted man and serve one year in the ranks before entering Annapolis. He is fully convinced, he says, that no man should be commissioned in the American navy until he has spent at least one year "before the mast," as an enlisted man, that no man should go to the top except by beginning at the lowest rung of the ladder, and expresses the belief "that the day will come when all the appointments to the Naval academy will

come by promotion from the enlisted personnel." He suggests that the present law governing the appointment of midshipmen be changed so that a uniform term of residence be required of all appointees, that the residences required be two years in the district from which appointed, and not be, as now, governed by the varying laws of the different states.

The report sets out that the training station development has been marked. These facilities, which at the beginning of the war were capable of caring for 6,000 enlisted men, have been enlarged and others added until the present training capacity is 113,850 men. Not only is the recruit trained for his duties as a sailor and gunner aboard ship, but at various trade schools men are instructed in all the various branches of trade required of the ships. There should be appropriations sufficient, he says, to give the necessary education and instruction to all who may enter the naval service.

The marine corps, the report states, has increased from 344 officers and 9,921 enlisted men to 1,197 officers and 30,000 enlisted men, many of whom are already in France serving with the army. A large number of men who came into the marine corps as privates have been steadily promoted on merit and have recently been given commissions. It is stated: future promotions will reward the fittest in service, and no commissions will be available to civilians. Attention is called to the excellent service performed by the marine corps in Haiti, San Domingo, and Cuba.

In the matter of appropriations Secretary Daniels says that "under existing conditions it seems needless to state that money requirements for the ensuing fiscal year were most difficult of approximation, that new conditions cause new demands for funds." The total he asks is \$1,039,600,504.84, saying this is needed by the navy for the vigorous prosecution of the war. The total appropriations made during the present year amounted to \$1,502,732,859, which taken in connection with the \$312,678,671 appropriated in the act of August 29, 1916, makes a total of naval appropriations in a period of a little more than a year of \$1,865,411,530. This exceeds the sum of all appropriations for the new navy from 1883 to 1911. Dealing with the matter of naval contracts in war times, the secretary says that, due to the unprecedented disturbance of the labor and material markets, the placing of naval contracts has become a matter of considerable difficulty. In many cases it has been found that the contractors are unwilling to name a fixed price for their products, as they are unable to foresee what the cost to themselves may be. In many cases it has been necessary to place contracts on the basis of cost plus a profit, usually fixed at 10 per cent. Elaborate machinery has been developed to enable the navy to keep accurate track of costs, thereby protecting the government. In some cases it has been necessary for the government to assist contractors in financing extensions of their plants to enable them to carry on the work required of them. In these cases the machinery and equipment become the property of the government, the buildings being appraised by the board of compensation, composed of naval officers—the contractor being charged their appraised value. Every effort has been made to accelerate construction, the report states, bids being carefully examined to determine reasonable costs and reasonable prices.

The report gives details as to the insurance act for soldiers and sailors. Secretary Daniels says he regards this act as epoch-making in its effect, providing for compulsory allotment, compensation for death or disability, re-education and training, and insurance at actual cost. "This modern and wise law," says the secretary, "is the most constructive piece of legislation for the aid of disabled men and the care of their dependents ever enacted," and may point the way for civilian employees' retirement.

The great expansion of the naval communication service is fully treated. At the outbreak of the war it is pointed out, the navy department took over all the coastal commercial radio stations. Those which could be of military service are operated by the navy, the others being closed, and all radio traffic being placed under strict censorship. The navy is now operating trans-Pacific radio stations which give great relief to the single cable which crosses the Pacific, and has completed at Pearl Harbor probably the most powerful radio station in the world.

The great increase of the navy almost has necessitated a corresponding increase in navy yards and stations. Navy yard facilities are being greatly expanded. One of the most important shore projects is the new fleet operating base at Hampton Roads, Virginia, this base to comprise a large training station, storehouses and piers for supplying the fleet, and a complete aviation and submarine base.

A tribute is paid to the loyal cooperation of labor in this time of national stress. Secretary Daniels declares that it has been found diligent, efficient, and patriotic. He holds that

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Dainty Vivian Martin the Delightful Comedy Drama

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TUESDAY
Frederick Warde and Jeanne Eagels in the Drama

"Under False Colors"
A story of international intrigue. (Pathe)

WEDNESDAY
Mme. Olga Petrova in Her Newest Offering

"The Law of the Land"
A new production—not a re-issue. (Artcraft)

THURSDAY
George M. Cohan, Noted Author and Actor, in

"Seven Keys to Baldpate"
Seven Reels. Something different. A mystery farce. (Artcraft)

FRIDAY
Carlye Blackwell and June Elvidge in

"The Price of Pride"
An intense story of a man's fall. (World.)
Also the latest episode of "THE SEVEN PEARLS"

SATURDAY
Charles Chaplin in His Very Latest Comedy

"The Cure"
And Ruth Roland in the Fascinating Serial
"The Neglected Wife"

Admission tickets include war tax—bearers of passes must pay the tax before entering the theatre.

a fair and adequate standard of wages in navy yards should prevail, but that this should be uniform and the rates should not fluctuate in different localities because of local conditions.

Work on the navy's projective plant at Charleston, West Virginia, the report states, has begun, and work will soon be started on the government armor plant there. When these plants are completed the navy will not be dependent solely on private manufacturers for its projectiles and armor. It already has in operation a large powder plant at Indian Head, Maryland.

The secretary states that the navy in common with the civilian population. By wise management the cost of the navy's ration has risen only half as much as the average rise in wholesale prices of food. Heavy clothing of special design has been furnished the men serving abroad under rigorous conditions of winter weather.

The genuine interest shown by the American people in the young men of the navy is emphasized, the secretary holding that there should be "some method by which the spontaneous desire to give proof of helping men in the navy shall be no duplication of organization in these patriotic services. He recommends that Congress, in view of the unauthorized use of the word 'navy' by organizations, 'many of them with the spirit of unselfish desire to aid the service, but which 'confuses the people,' should deny to any organization the right to call itself by the name 'navy' this or 'navy' that, unless authorized, and that the designation 'navy' be permitted only with the approval of the secretary of the navy. "It has occasionally happened that money contributed by generous people for men in the service has gone chiefly to 'expenses' and 'organization' instead of to the purposes which the contributors desired to aid," the secretary says.

The secretary recounts the satisfactory results obtained in caring for the health of the men of the navy, no easy task when it is remembered that large numbers are brought together from various localities where the germs of disease are always prevalent. The report states that by the sanction of new laws passed by Congress, the various rendezvous of the men are being cleared of the evils of the saloon and houses of prostitution. A specially appointed committee devotes its time to provide wholesome entertainment and recreation for men in the training camps.

The report discusses numbers of others of importance, among these the question of the oil reserve, health and sanitation, and a better system for the treatment of prisoners, Thomas Mott Osborne, a distinguished expert in penology, who believes in the restoration of

men who have made a false step, having been secured as commandant of the naval prison at Portsmouth, N. H. As to the word "prison" the secretary recommends that it be replaced by a name indicating detention and training. Other matters given attention are those connected with the Naval Consulting board, the president of which, Thomas A. Edison, gives his entire time in the service of his country; the coast guard and the coast and geodetic survey, Guam and American Samoa, the Virgin islands, naval monuments and memorials, the fact that no accidents or casualties are onealed and abrief statement of the navy in previous wars. A roll of honor is given of men of the navy whose lives have been lost in foreign service. A high tribute is paid the late Admiral Dewey, the secretary of the navy saying of him that he "ranked second to none of his predecessor in courage and naval knowledge, and was easily the foremost naval statesman of his generation" and that "to his recognized and wise leadership must we attribute much of the expansion of the navy and the fine esprit de corps of the service he loved and adorned." Secretary Daniels says that the form the memorial to this sailor statesman will take will command the thoughtful consideration of Congress, that "it should be stately and worthy of the noble officer it will commemorate."

The secretary concludes his report with the expression of the hope, that though war now precludes any worldwide agreement for reduction of armaments by navy building nations, as one

of the compensations for the terrible tragedy of war, there should come a time when an international navy will enforce international decrees. The program for naval expansion and new construction for the future, he says, "big enough to assure America 'incomparably the strongest navy in the world,' will fall for liberal appropriations by Congress and the most earnest efforts of those entrusted with carrying it out." "The navy realizes as never before that it is not merely a division of the national will," he says. "It is the expression of the power of the whole republic, animated by a common memory, energized by a common zeal, and directed by a common and invincible purpose."

Packing House Industry Discussed.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—Various details of the packing house industry are discussed in the annual report of E. A. Cudahy, president of the Cudahy Packing company, which was made public yesterday placing the earnings of the company for the year ending October 31, 1917, in round numbers at \$4,430,000, after deducting interest payments and reserve for war taxes.

Three More Deaths.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 10.—Three more deaths yesterday from pneumonia among soldiers at Camp Wheeler were announced last night at the base hospital.

Extra precautions have been taken in the camp and at the base hospital to protect the men from the cold weather the last 36 hours. Many additional blankets were issued.



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