

PURCHASE OF SHIPS PROPOSED IN BILL

BY A VOTE OF 46 TO 29 SENATE PUTS SHIP SUBSIDY BILL FORWARD.

SENATOR FLETCHER FAVORS

Says That United States Should Buy Ships For Commercial Independence—Some Objects.

Washington.—Government purchase of ships as proposed in the Administration bill to create a shipping board, finance a \$10,000,000 shipping corporation and expend not to exceed \$30,000,000 for the purchase chartering of ocean carriers, because the foremost issue before Congress.

By a vote of 46 to 29 the Senate made the ship purchase bill the unfinished business, to be supplanted only by appropriation bills. This action, on motion of Senator Fletcher, acting chairman of the Commerce Committee, precipitated a showing on the part of opposition Senators which gave certain indication that there were breakers ahead for the proposed legislation. Charging that an effort was being made to rush the bill with undue haste, Republican members, among them Senator Gallinger, Lodge and Root, served notice that the measure would be fought to the last ditch. Minority members of the Commerce Committee, filed a report written by Senator Burton and endorsed by Senators Nelson, Perkins, Smith of Michigan and Oliver, asserting that the plan proposed would not relieve shipping conditions enough to do any good. It pointed also to dangers of Michigan and Oliver, asserting that declaring that "every craft set afloat by the Government would add one more risk of our being drawn into the present war."

Senator Fletcher, who has charge of the bill and who recently conferred with President Wilson concerning it, urged the measure in a lengthy speech after Republican Senators had issued their pronouncement of opposition. He declared the war has produced a "ship famine" and that the interests of all people in the United States demanded that the Government take immediate action to supply ships to carry American products demanded in the markets of Europe and South America. He instanced the fact that cotton sold at 19 cents a pound in Germany when it was bringing seven cents in the United States. Germany would consume 500,000,000 pounds of cotton if she could get it, he said, and the South had 15 times that amount to sell.

\$75,000 FIRE AT CHARLOTTE.

Ben Vonde Company and Nearby Stores Completely Wrecked.

Charlotte.—Fire that started in the big dyeing and cleaning establishment of the Ben Vonde Company, No. 18 West Fifth Street, early in the night wrecked the E. Reid Russell Block of stores there, extending from No. 18 to No. 26 West Fifth street, and entailing what is said to be a total loss on every person, firm and corporation occupying quarters in the block, namely the Ben Vonde Company, Overcash & Propst contractors; Tomlinson Furnishing and Decorating Company; Frank P. Drane, assayer and chemist, and J. S. De Vonde, chemist. The loss was estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$75,000, with insurance probably covering one-half of the damage. The building was owned by Dr. E. Reid Russell, of Asheville, who when informed of the disaster, stated that although his block was only partially covered that he expected to rebuild as soon as possible. The loss to each and every tenant was as nearly complete as a loss could be. The fire burned out between the heavy brick walls that confined it on either side. On the west were the elegant Lucas apartments and the beautiful Clayton Hotel, only recently opened to the public, while on the east were the fine stores of the Ezell-Myers Company, dealers in paints, oils and glass and Hackney Brothers, plumbers.

Wanted Her Egg "Shut."

Little Laura's mother was opening an egg for her. The child, looking at the whole eggs in the dish, remonstrated: "Oh, mamma, I don't want that kind. I want a shut egg, if you please!"

Arbitration.

First Director — "Gentlemen, the question is, Shall we arbitrate?" Second Director — "Never! Why, if we submitted this dispute to arbitration, we might have to concede something." —Life

MISS GENEVIEVE CLARK



Speaker Champ Clark and Mrs. Clark have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Genevieve, to James M. Thompson, editor of The New Orleans Item. The wedding will take place in the spring or early summer at the Clark home in Bowling Green, Mo.

BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK

ENGLAND MOURNS LOSS OF LIVES OF CREW MORE THAN SHIP, WHICH WAS 15 YEARS OLD.

Part of Crew Picked Up and Brought Ashore.—Statement in Theatre of War.

London.—The destruction of the British battleship Formidable in the British Channel by a mine or a submarine boat, although one of those events Englishmen now realize must be expected so long as the British Navy is compelled to keep the seas, has caused widespread grief.

This is due not so much to the loss of the ship, which was 15 years old and cost about \$5,000,000, as it is for the men—about 600 in number—who went down with her. So far as known only 141 of the Formidable's crew of 750 were rescued. The British admiralty has not given the locality where the disaster occurred and declares it is unable to say whether the ship struck a mine or was torpedoed but as the British fleet again has been active in shelling German positions on the Belgian coast and as German submarines have been more and more using Zebrugge as a base, the inclination here is to believe that a submarine again has been successful.

Fighting in Flanders and Northern France has been confined largely to artillery engagements, except, Be-thune, where the Germans claim they have taken a British trench. They admit, however, the loss of St. Georges, near the Belgian coast, which the Berlin official report says it was decided not to attempt to retake owing to high water.

In the Argonne region where the battle has been almost continuous for weeks past, the Germans have made a little progress as an offset to which, however, the French declare they have continued their advance in Upper Alsace.

Newspaper's View of Note.

London.—The Saturday Review describes President Wilson's note protesting against the British attitude toward American shipping as "a document from a candid friend who just because he is a friend, can say things which between strangers would be regarded as having too rough an edge." The Review does not think it should be impossible for two governments who have no wish to find causes for taking the offensive, to reconcile their points of view. The position of a belligerent with respect to command of the sea, says this paper is different even when neutral governments are friends. But this position is determined absolutely by the fact that England has that command of the sea and "cannot surrender her right to use it for defeat of the enemy by any law."

Works in Orders President Gutierrez.

Washington.—General Villa, in a telegram dated in Mexico City to his agency here, denied he has questioned the amnesty, proclamations of General Gutierrez. "I obey and respect the orders of President Gutierrez," Villa telegraphed. "I am his subordinate." Further details of fighting between troops of General Carranza and Villa near Tampico were received in official dispatches to the Carranza agency. "General Gonzales administered a decisive defeat to the Villistas at Rodriguez.

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSES IN SENATE

MANY AMENDMENTS ARE MADE WHICH HOUSE WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT.

SENATE VOTE WAS 50 TO 7

Enough Friends of Measure to Pass Over Expected Veto of President.—Belgians Get Exceptions.

Washington.—The immigration bill, containing the restrictive literacy test for admission of aliens, passed the Senate 50 to 7. The overwhelming majority was recorded despite indications that President Wilson would veto the measure, as did former President Taft, if it should come to him with the educational test included.

The veto indicated that the bill could be repassed by more than the required two-thirds majority should the President reject the measure. Senators who voted against the bill were:

Brandegee, McCumber, Martine, O'Gorman, Ransdell, Reed and Walsh. The bill passed the House last February 241 to 126. Although the Senate amended the House bill in several particulars, the literacy test was unaltered, save for an additional exemption to Belgian subjects, adopted after prolonged debate.

Among Senate amendments which House leaders have said probably would be accepted is one to exclude from the United States all persons of the African race or of negro blood. Another strengthening the phraseology of the prohibition of polygamists.

Closing hours of the debate were devoted to an amendment by Senator Lodge to exempt Belgian farmers from the literacy test and from provisions which prohibit American from soliciting or inducing immigration. Already American organizations are endeavoring to induce Belgians to settle in this country. The amendment, as finally adopted, 34 to 22, reads:

"That the provisions of this act relating to the illiteracy test or induced or assisted immigration shall not apply to agricultural immigrants from Belgium who come to the United States during the course of the present European war or within one year after its termination owing to circumstances or conditions arising through the war, if it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner General of Immigration that the said Belgian immigrants come with the intention of engaging in agriculture in the United States and to become American citizens."

MUST EDUCATE FILIPINOS.

Taft Says Not Ready for Self-Government by Thirty Years.

Washington.—Former President William Taft told the senate committee working on the administration bill for enlarging Philippine independence, that the Filipinos in his opinion would be unfitted for self-government for the next 30 years—probably for the half century. Democratic party promises of independence, he declared, had resulted in unrest to which he attributed, in a measure, the recent revolutionary disturbances.

Neither President McKinley, President Roosevelt, nor himself, he said, had contemplated turning the Philippine government over to the natives before they were educated for self-government. He quoted from President Wilson's writing that "self-government is not a mere form of institution, but a form of character."

"We cannot present the Filipino people with a character," said the former president. "It must be acquired. You cannot make over a people in one generation. The time that will be necessary to train the Filipino people for self-government is the time that will be necessary to make them an English-speaking people. If you give these people independence now or by 1920 either a Diaz would arise in the Philippines or they would get into a condition that caused the fall of Diaz in Mexico."

Struck by Mine or Torpedoes.

Brixham, Devon, England.—Survivors here of the British battleship Formidable say the warship was struck by a mine or torpedo about the magazine. The explosion was terrific but the magazine was not reached. Had that also blown up, the ship would have foundered without there being time to save anybody, they said. As the water rushed in, the men on the Formidable hurried to the deck and some got away in small boats. Capt. Loxley and his signal men did not leave the bridge.

VICE ADMIRAL STURDEE



Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Charles Doveton Sturdee, K. C. B., who commands the British fleet that destroyed the German cruisers Gneisau, Scharnhorst, Leipzig and Nurnberg off the Falkland Islands.

FARM PRODUCTS GREATER

TOTAL VALUE WAS ALMOST TEN BILLION DOLLARS SAYS THE ESTIMATE.

Secretary Houston of Agriculture Department Announces Figures on Stock and Farm Produce.

Washington.—The American farm products during 1914 eclipsed all records for value with a total of almost 10 billion dollars. Secretary Houston announced that the value of all farm crops, farm animal products and farm animals sold and slaughtered aggregated \$9,872,936,000. That was \$82,000,000 more than the total for 1913, the record year. It was more than double the value of all farm products in 1899.

Crops this year were valued at \$6,064,480,000 and farm animal products at \$3,838,456,000. The value of crops was slightly less than in 1913, on account of the reduced value of cotton. The corn and wheat crops, however, were the most valuable ever produced. They brought the year's crop value total to only \$88,279,000 less than the total for last year, despite the loss of more than \$300,000,000 in the value of cotton.

"The estimated value of the animal products of the farm in 1914," said the Agricultural Outlook, "is distinctly higher than in 1913, which was itself a record year in the value of this class of products. This is due to general, but slight increases in production, except for sheep and swine and in prices, more especially to a small increase in the average farm price of eggs, and to a more considerable increase in the farm price of cattle and calves sold and slaughtered."

"It must be borne in mind that the accounts of these estimates do not stand for wealth produced, not for cash received nor for profit, nor for income in any sense. Each product is valued, as in the census, when it reached commercial form, and the grand aggregate of all items is from a relative rather than from an absolute point of view."

Sales of crops last year were estimated at \$2,928,000,000; sales of livestock \$2,919,000,000 a total of \$5,847,000,000.

The estimated value of total sales the farm was \$892 and sales per capita of rural population (excluding towns) \$139.

The value of the principal farm crops this year was:

Corn \$1,702,599,000; wheat \$878,680,000; hay, \$779,968,000; cotton \$519,616,000; oats \$499,431,000; potatoes \$198,609,000; barley \$105,903,000; tobacco \$101,411,000; sweet potatoes \$41,294,000; rye \$37,018,000; sugar beets \$27,950,000; rice \$21,849,000; flaxseed \$19,540,000, and buckwheat \$12,892,000.

In the production of these 14 principal crops, the aggregate was about 10 per cent larger than in 1913 and 6 per cent smaller than in 1912 which year stands as one of the greatest aggregate production in the United States.

Died of Pneumonia.

Philadelphia.—N. Parker Shortridge oldest director of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and prominently identified with numerous financial concerns, died at his home in Winewood from pneumonia. He was 85 years old.

FLOODS HAVE KEPT TROOPS FROM FIGHT

HEAVIEST RAINS IN YEARS HAVE CONVERTED TRENCHES INTO RIVERS.

FRENCH GAIN NEAR ROYE

Turks Invade Russian Border.—Constantinople Claims Successes At Ardahan.

London.—The extremely rainy winter, the worst Europe has experienced in years, has caused floods in the river valleys of the Continent which have prevented any operations on a large scale on the western battle front and seriously interfered with those in the East. There have been heavy artillery engagements from the sea to the Swiss border and occasional attacks by the infantry of the opposing armies, which were not repulsed, have added a few yards to the territory in the possession of the attacking force, but have always proved costly adventures.

The French have gained a little ground between Albert and Roye, just north of the point where the line turns eastward, and east of Rheims and southwest of Verdun, where attempts to make untenable the German positions at St. Mihiel, on the Meuse are proceeding slowly. They also have made some advances in Alsace but have suffered a repulse to the northwest of St. Mennehoult.

In the East the Germans have captured the important Russian position at Borjow, but elsewhere have been unable to make headway. The Russians as defenders of well fortified positions are aided by muddy roads, which hinder the German movements. The Austrians claim to have checked the Russian advance near Gorlice, on the South Galician railway, but apparently the battle there has not yet been concluded.

The Russians have taken the Austrian positions near Zukok Pass which should open another entrance for them through the Carpathians into Hungary, while the Austrian retreat in Bukovina is described by the Russians as a riot.

The Turks have crossed the Russian border in the Caucasus and according to Constantinople, have defeated the Russian garrison at Ardahan. They are, however, displaying anxiety for their remaining possessions in Europe by feverishly fortifying the whole coast line. What they fear is not disclosed, for it is considered hardly possible for the Allies to land a sufficient force to prove a menace to them. It is possible they anticipate an invasion from another source.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS GOOD.

Character of Commerce of the United States is Optimistic.

Washington.—Business conditions are described as generally reassuring by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in a report made public. The report adds however, that the war has had a wide-spread and depressing effect on industry.

"Economy naturally prevails among all classes," says the report, "though remarks have been noted that this does not extend to automobiles. Future delivery goods purchases are smaller and collections uniformly poor, but lately a marked change has been noted in a lessening of difficulty in obtaining bank loans and in an easing of interest rates. Conditions in the South, while slowly improving, still present a serious problem."

Crops in general, the report adds, have been good, but the cattle industry confronts serious handicaps in difficulty in obtaining loans on cattle and the foot and mouth disease quarantine. The sheep and wool industry is excellent but general mining conditions are poor.

Germany to Exhibit.

San Francisco.—Despite the war two large blocks of space in the Palace of Liberal Arts have just been awarded Germany by the Panama Pacific International Exposition. The nature of the exhibit is not known.

Prayers for Allies' Success.

London.—Large congregations who crowded London churches for the observance of Intercession day offered special prayers for the Allied arms and in remembrance of those who have fallen. Four services were held at St. Paul's Cathedral. The first at 8 a. m. was conducted by the Rt. Rev. Arthur Ingram, Bishop of London. The great cathedral was thronged throughout the day. Westminster Abbey also had a large attendance. The sermon there was by Archdeacon Wilberforce.

HEAD OF METHODIST ORPHANAGE IS DEAD

REV. DR. JOHN NELSON COLE OF RALEIGH PASSES AWAY AFTER LONG ILLNESS.

FUNERAL HELD AT DURHAM

Noted Preacher and Leader Among North Carolina Methodists Answers the Final Summons.

Charlotte.—Rev. Dr. John Nelson Cole, superintendent of the Methodist orphanage in Raleigh and one of the state's best beloved and most useful citizens, passed away at a hospital in Charlotte where he had been under treatment since the latter part of November. For the past two years Dr. Cole's health had not been good. Last spring he suffered an attack and came to Charlotte for medical attention, remaining here about two weeks. His system responded well to the treatment and he was soon able to return to his arduous duties. On Thanksgiving day however he suffered a recurrence of his trouble and from this attack he never recovered. He came to Charlotte again for treatment but his strength was too far gone for him to rally successfully. His condition rapidly grew worse and it was soon seen that there was no hope. The end came just as the day was breaking and was very easy—sleep and a forgetting.

The funeral took place in Durham at Trinity Methodist church. Dr. Cole was pastor of this church for four years and it was his wish that his funeral be held there.

Dr. Cole was born in Franklinton, February 10, 1852 and was therefore 62 years of age at the time of his death. After attending the schools of his native place, he entered Randolph-Macon College from which he was graduated. Shortly thereafter he entered the ministry being ordained within the bounds of the North Carolina Conference where he remained until the day of his death.

Early in his young manhood, Dr. Cole was wedded to Miss Elizabeth Marshall Jones of Mecklenburg county, Va., to whom were born six children, namely, Miss Mary Cole of Raleigh, Mrs. Plato, Durham of Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. John Nelson Cole, Jr., of New York City; Miss Marshall Cole, Miss Alice Cole, and Mr. Henry P. Cole of Raleigh.

Mitchell Monument Destroyed.

Asheville.—Unknown parties dynamited and entirely destroyed the monument to Prof. Elisha Mitchell, erected on the top of Mount Mitchell, according to advices reaching Asheville. The monument, which was composed of a mixture of bronze and lead, was reduced to a shapeless ruin. Foreigners employed by a lumber company are said to have had trouble with one of the foremen recently and to have believed the monument the property of the company destroyed it. No arrests have been made.

Professor Mitchell, a Yale professor, but at the time connected with the faculty of the University of North Carolina, proved that Mount Mitchell, 6,711 feet high, is the highest point east of the Mississippi.

Twenty-six years ago alumni of North Carolina had the monument erected on the top of the peak to mark the last resting place of Professor Mitchell.

The monument will be replaced.

Walks About With Broken Neck.

Greensboro.—Aubra Alvin Casper, 11 years old, died recently of a broken neck, after having walked about all day without knowing anything serious was wrong with him. The boy a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Casper, and a playmate were riding a gentle horse and were in front of the home of Rev. Melton Clark, when young Casper and his playmate fell from the animal. He suffered a slight fracture of the skull but refused to be carried home, walked around awhile and then went home. In the afternoon, complaining, he went to bed and began to grow worse, dying in the night.

Will Not Enter Politics.

Asheville.—Answering the suggestion carried in many newspapers that Secretary William Jennings Bryan purchase a summer home site at this city with a view to eventually wearing the toza as the representative of this state, the cabinet member declared that he has no idea of entering North Carolina politics. He declared that he is still a resident of Lincoln, Neb., and that he will continue to make that city his home. Asheville property was bought, he said, simply as a good location for a summer home.