

ADMINISTRATION BILLS TAKE SHAPE

DEFENSE BUDGET TOTALING \$800,000,000 IS NOW GETTING ATTENTION.

BIG FORTIFICATION BUDGET

Naval Bill is Ready With a Total of \$351,000,000.—Army Bill Will Be Reported Next Week.—Third Element on Program.

Washington.—The Administration's \$800,000,000 defense budget began to take final shape in Congress when the House passed the fortifications bill...

The Army appropriation bill, the third element of the program, still is in the House Military Committee, which is expected to complete it next week.

The only other military legislation pending is the universal military training bill before a Senate subcommittee...

The navy bill carries a total of \$351,453,245 as against \$313,000,000 last year. It provides for the construction of three 42,000-ton battleships...

PRESIDENT WILSON VETOS THE IMMIGRATION BILL

Literacy Test Provision is Reason Assigned.

Washington.—President Wilson vetoed the immigration bill passed recently by Congress, because of its literacy test provision.

It was the second time that President Wilson had vetoed an immigration bill because of the literacy test...

"I very much regret to return this bill without my signature." "In most of the provisions of the bill I should be very glad to concur..."

"The President's veto message to the House, in which the bill originated, follows: "I very much regret to return this bill without my signature."

"In most of the provisions of the bill I should be very glad to concur, but I cannot rid myself of the conviction that the literacy test constitutes a radical change in the policy of the Nation which is not justified in principle..."

BIG FIRE AT BOSTON WITH \$350,000 LOSS.

Boston.—Engines from residential districts were called in to assist the downtown firemen in their hardest fight in many months, the fire destroying a five story brick building at Chauncy street and Exeter Place.

REPORT CONFIRMED THAT VILLA OCCUPIES EL VALLE.

Juarez, Mexico.—Confirmation of the occupation of El Valle by Villa forces was received here from Casas Grandes. It was said the Villa troops moved up from Namiquipa, where they had been awaiting the departure of the American punitive expedition...

PERSHING'S TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWING

FINAL CHAPTER IN THE OCCUPATION OF MEXICO BEING WRITTEN.

BAKER ISSUES STATEMENT

Border Militia Question and Sending of Fletcher to Mexico Capital Now Held Interest.—Villa and Carranza Are Busy.

Washington.—The final act in the entrance into Mexico of 12,000 American soldiers as a result of the Villa massacre of 17 Americans at Columbus, N. M., on March 9, 1915, was written with official announcement by the War Department that General Pershing had been ordered, and actually had started to bring his troops back to the United States.

Secretary Baker issued the following announcement: "General Pershing has been ordered to bring his troops out of Mexico. The movement is to be an immediate one, and probably is already under way..."

"Later advices to the department said that the troops already had begun the evacuation of Colonia Dublan, 110 miles from the border, where they had been concentrating during the past few weeks. The last American soldier is expected to recross the border in about a week."

No official information is at hand as to whether Villa or Carranza troops will occupy the territory left vacant by the Americans, but the belief is strong here that the bandit, who is credited with, at least, 5,000 well-armed men who is now, at least, four times as strong as when the American troops went across the border, will make a desperate effort to take the territory, particularly for its moral effect. The two other phases of the Mexican problem on which interest centers now, are the disposition of the more than 50,000 militia still on the border, and the sending of Ambassador Fletcher to his post at Mexico City.

SENATORS WORK OVERTIME TO CLEAN UP MUCH WORK.

Less Than Thirty Days to Solve Congested Legislation.

Washington.—With less than 30 working days remaining in the life of the Sixty-Fourth Congress, the Democratic Steering Committee of the Senate decided to hold daily sessions of the Senate from 11 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night, beginning Thursday, February 1.

Overtime exertions were determined upon as the first move in an effort to solve the congested legislation situation, the decision being to drive away as hard and fast as possible on essential appropriations and the revenue bill, and to undertake the big general Administration measures one by one as time permits.

The general understanding is that the railroad labor bills will be considered as soon as the India appropriation bill is out of the way, provided the Interstate Commerce Committee does not ultimately decide to wait action on this matter is House. In view of the fact that Representative Admason is preparing to rush a separate bill on the subject through the House, the Senate committee may decide to wait. In that case, the corrupt practice bill or the mineral land-leasing measure may be given a try-out.

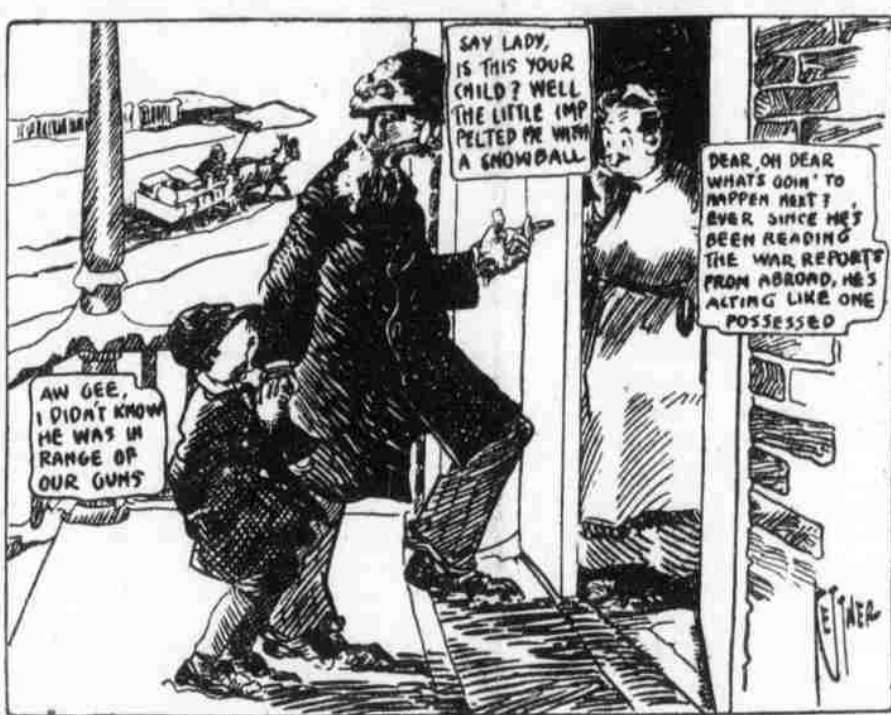
BIG BRITISH CRUISER MINED OR TORPEDOED.

London.—The British auxiliary cruiser Laurotic of 14,892 tons gross, has been sunk by a submarine as a result of striking a mine, according to an official statement issued by the British Admiralty. Twelve officers and 109 men were saved.

PITTSBURGH SUFFERS LOSS OF MILLIONS IN BIG BLAZE.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Fire which swept through a section of the retail business district here destroyed the Frank and Sedar Department Store, the Grand Opera House, the Hilton Clothing Company and a dozen or more smaller buildings with a loss estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000. Four firemen were seriously hurt and a dozen or more so badly injured that they were removed to hospital. Frozen hydrants handicapped the firemen.

BLAME THE WAR



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LANSING SENDS PROTEST NEW BASE FOR TROOPS

SOMMUNICATION REGARDS CERTAIN PROVISIONS PROPOSED IN NEW CONSTITUTION.

Objects Because Chief Executive May Expel Anyone Without Recourse to Appeal.—Not in Accord With Other Nations.

Mexico City.—Secretary of State Lansing has sent to General Carranza, through Charles B. Parker, American Charge d'Affairs here, a communication in regard to certain provisions which it had been proposed to include in the new Mexican constitution. The communication calls attention to articles vesting the Executive with power to expropriate property without judicial recourse, and also the article providing that civil commercial companies cannot own properties of a greater area than is necessary to accomplish the purpose for which they are formed, and placing the power to determine what area is necessary in the hands of the Executive.

The communication says that if the latter provision were made retroactive, it might be confiscatory as no provision is made for compensation. Attention is called to the article providing that there be no exemption from taxation. If this were given a retroactive effect, says Secretary Lansing's communication, it would impair contracts of many foreign corporations now operating under agreements providing periods of exemption by the federal or state governments.

Regarding article 33, dealing with the expulsion of obnoxious foreigners, objection is made because the proposed article permits the executive to expel anyone, without recourse to appeal, whose presence is deemed inadvisable by him. The letter states that this is not in accord with the usual practice of nations that cause be clearly shown.

FIGHTING UNABATED IN MARCHES NORTH OF RIGA.

With Germans Having the Advantage —Cold Weather Halts Operations in Rumania.

The big battle between the Germans and Russians over the frozen Tirul marsh, southwest of Riga, continues unabated. Further progress for the Germans along both sides of the Aa River is reported by Berlin, which claims an advance over a front of about six miles and the capture of Russian fort positions together with 14 officers and 1,714 men and 13 machine guns.

Petrograd admits the southeast of the river, the Russians have had to fall back a third of a mile, but says the attacks by the Germans on the marsh were repulsed.

Aside from this battle, the fighting in the various other theaters continues to be carried out mainly by the artillery and small reconnoitering and raiding parties. In Rumania, the extremely cold weather has virtually put an end to the operations for the moment. Lively fighting has taken place on the famous Dead Man Hill, in the Verdun region of France, but no details of it have been made public. Reciprocal artillery duels, which have reached considerable proportions at several points, are being fought from the Swiss frontier to the North Sea.

The British Treasury, under the defense of the Realm act, will shortly requisition such foreign securities held in Great Britain, as may be required to strengthen the country's financial position.

RIVERS - HARBORS BILL PASSES HOUSE

CARRIES AN APPROPRIATION OF \$38,000,000, OF WHICH \$10,000,000 IS NEW WORK.

PARTY LINES NOT DRAWN

President Wilson's Approval Expressed as to Existing Projects Concerned.—Vote Was 221 to 131.—Bill Now Goes to Senate.

Washington.—The annual rivers and harbors appropriation bill, carrying \$38,000,000, including more than \$10,000,000 for new projects was passed by the House by a vote of 221 to 131. It now goes to the Senate.

The House increased the appropriation for Norfolk harbor from \$270,000 to \$360,000 and retained as a continuing project \$1,425,000 for deepening the channels leading to the harbor at Tampa, Fla., to 27 feet, \$300,000 of the amount being made available in this bill.

The President, although opposing the proposed public buildings bill now awaiting action in the Senate, has expressed his approval of the river and harbors measure in so far as appropriations for existing projects is concerned.

The House struck out a provision to create a commission of Cabinet officers and members of the Senate and House committees to investigate river and harbor improvements, drainage, reclamation, irrigation and flood control problems, with a view to recommending to Congress next December plans for co-ordinating all such activities. This plan, favored by the President, was eliminated on a point of order after a lively parliamentary fight, but another flood control bill is pending in the House.

The vote by which the bill passed was not along party lines.

PUBLISHING BUSINESS IS IN HAZARDOUS POSITION DUE TO COST OF PAPER.

Declare Publishers, Who Say Remedy Must Be Found at Once.

Chicago.—Newspaper publishers and news print paper manufacturers at a conference here voted to appoint committees to meet immediately at delivery to Congress this week of Federal Trade Commission's report on the print paper situation to see knowledge gained from the report points the way to an adjustment of the paper problem.

Publishers, representing the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, agreed that the present high price of paper has placed the newspaper publishing business in a position so hazardous and menacing that a remedy must be found without delay. On the other hand, representatives of the Print Paper Manufacturers' Association asserted that the increased cost of production justified present prices.

Many of the publishers favored an agreement by both sides to abide by any price the Federal Trade Commission may set. This would have to be a gentlemen's agreement, as the commission has power only to investigate.

Those active in the meeting included for the publishers Frank P. Glass, of Birmingham, chairman of the print paper committee of the Publishers' Association; E. B. Stahlman, Nashville, and Victor Lawson, of Chicago. Prominent manufacturers present were P. T. Dodge, president of the International Paper Company; Alexander Smith, managing director of the Abitibi (Canada) Paper Company, and J. A. Bothwell and F. A. Sabbattan, Canadian manufacturers.

COMMITTEE APPROVES FEDERAL RESERVE ACT.

Washington.—An amendment to the Federal reserve act proposed by the reserve board to make immediately effective the provision requiring all reserves of member banks to be kept in Federal reserve banks, was approved by the House Banking and Currency Committee.

MODERN ATTIRE OF WOMEN IS DECRIED BY SOCIETY.

Wilmington, N. C.—The North Carolina Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church has here adopted resolutions which denounce the modern attire of women as a degradation of the womanly character. The resolutions declare that the wearing of such attire is a departure from the modest and conservative dress which is becomingly becoming in the eyes of the community.

MORE N. C. LAND FOR FOREST RESERVE

LARGEST SINGLE PURCHASE WAS TRACT OF 8,000 ACRES ON MT. MITCHELL.

SOME IN OTHER COUNTIES

Small Purchases in Burke, Caldwell, Henderson, Macon, Buncombe and Jackson Counties.

Washington.—Enlargement of the National Forest Reserves by 23,700 acres acquired through purchases in the Southern Appalachian and White Mountain was announced by the reservation commission. It brings the total added to the public forests in the East and South under the Weeks law up to 1,373,131 acres.

The largest single purchase among those announced was a tract of 8,000 acres on Mount Mitchell, N. C. In the White Mountains of New Hampshire, 4,500 acres were purchased, and the other tracts, scattered through North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee, follow:

In Burke and Caldwell counties, North Carolina, on the Boone National Forest, 4,300 acres. On the Natural Bridge National Forest in Amherst, Bedford and Botetourt counties, Virginia, 12 tracts, comprising 3,125. In Buncombe, Henderson, Macon and Jackson counties, North Carolina, 727 acres; in Union, Fannin, Lumpkin and Rabun counties, Georgia, 744 acres; in Shenandoah county, Virginia, 741 acres and 320 acres in Polk county, Tennessee.

RALEIGH MAN AGAIN ELECTED SECRETARY.



DANIEL T. GRAY.

New Orleans.—Daniel T. Gray of Raleigh was re-elected secretary of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers at the concluding session. W. R. Dodson of Louisiana was elected president and Montgomery was selected as the 1913 meeting place.

Announces Muster-Out Stations.

San Antonio, Texas.—General Funston announced the muster-out stations to which the National Guardsmen designated in a recent war department order to be relieved of border duty, will be sent. The list includes: First North Carolina Infantry ordered to Asheville and from there to be distributed as follows: Field and staff headquarters company, supply company and G company to Shelby; machine gun company and D company to Charlotte; sanitary detachment, Rutherfordton; A company, Hickory; B company, Gastonia; C company, Winston-Salem; E company, Statesville; F and K companies, Asheville; H company, Waynesville; I company, Mount Airy; L company, Concord; M company, High Point.

Negro Gets Bickett's First Pardon.

Raleigh.—Governor Bickett has granted his first pardon. It is for Nathaniel Bost, of Catawba county, a 42-year-old negro, who has served a year last July on a 12-months sentence for larceny. The county health officers report that the negro is sick and that his trouble is such that his health is handicapped by confinement. The fixed diet necessary in such cases was prescribed by Judge Lane and the officials of Hickory prison.