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DESTRUCTIVE FIRE VISITS ATLANTA

THOUSANDS ARE MADE HOMELESS WHEN FLAMES SWEEP RESIDENTIAL SECTION.

SEVENTY FIVE BLOCKS BURN

Estimates on Loss Vary Between Two and Three Million Dollars.—Soldiers Guard Stricken Section.—Dynamite Won Fight.

Atlanta, Ga.—Fire that swept through a large section of Atlanta from Decatur street north and northeast, cutting a clean swath of varying widths, finally was brought under control just before it reached the Atlanta baseball park.

The city is virtually under martial law administered by hundreds of soldiers who have been training at Fort McPherson or National Guardsmen in camp here acting under the direction of Col. Charles R. Noyes, U. S. A., who officially is under the guidance of the Chief of Police.

Thousands of homeless persons were being fed and housed in the Auditorium Armory, the Negro Odd Fellows' hall and in hundreds of private homes. The most of them saved only what they could carry, as household goods piled in the streets in advance of the flames were devoured in the rush of the conflagration.

For six hours dynamite was resorted to and it finally won the fight. Fire fighting apparatus sent from other cities was of some aid and will be of more as acre after acre of smoldering ruins await water to make them safe.

Only one death has been reported. Mrs. Hodges died of shock after her home burned. Sixty injured persons were taken to hospitals, but it was reported none was seriously hurt.

Approximately 75 blocks were devastated, but the area cannot be correctly estimated by blocks as after the fight at Ponce de Leon avenue the flames skirted that thoroughfare on the south side of the street for some distance.

Officials would not hazard a guess at the monetary loss. The destroyed buildings ranged all the way from shacks occupied by negroes to homes up to \$6,000 or \$8,000. Some estimates were between \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000, but they were neither from authoritative sources nor based on calculations to give them weight.

The blaze started in the Skinner Storage and Warehouse Plant near Decatur street, just east of Fort street, from a cause not determined. It quickly spread to the small houses nearby which were dry from lack of rain and driven by a high wind, started to rapidly eat its way north and northeastward.

GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY

Proposed to Congress By Federal Trade Commission.

Washington.—Government regulation of the coal industry, including the fixing of prices, was proposed by the Federal Trade Commission in a report to Congress charging producers and brokers with exacting exorbitant profits, and blaming the present coal shortage at consumption points on inadequate transportation facilities.

"The price of bituminous coal, which is a necessity, should be fixed," said the report, according to the same general principle which has been established in the conduct of public utilities. At a time like the present, excessive profits should not be permitted to be extorted from the public by producers and distributors of any prime necessity of life."

In line with the Trade Commission's statements concerning transportation, the supreme court handed down a decision upholding the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission to compel railroads to furnish a reasonably adequate supply of coal cars to handle normal and seasonal demands for interstate commerce originating at mines along their lines, and to award reparation to shippers for failure to supply cars.

SHARP CONTEST IN HOUSE OVER REVENUE BILL

Washington.—Two sharp contests during consideration of the war revenue bill in the house resulted in Southern members killing a proposed tax of \$2.50 a bale on raw cotton, and representatives from automobile manufacturing districts limiting the five per cent levy on automobiles, motorcycles and their tires to plants paying annual profits above \$5,000 and eight per cent on capital invested.

MARINE CORPS TO GO WITH PERSHING

ALL THREE ARMS OF AMERICAN FIGHTING FORCES TO THE FIRING LINE.

APPROXIMATELY 40,000 MEN

American Destroyers Already Combating U-Boat—Making Preparations for a Military Census. New Forces to be Called.

Washington.—All three arms of America's fighting forces, the army, navy and marine corps, soon will be represented in the war zones.

With American destroyers already combating the U-boat menace in European waters, and army regulars concentrating to carry the flag to the battle lines in Belgium and France, a regiment of marines was designated today to join the expeditionary force and round out the nation's representation in the field.

The marines will be attached to the army division under General Pershing, which is under orders to proceed abroad as soon as practicable. Although details are not being made public, it was calculated that with the marine regiment, the total American force now designated for land service in Europe is close to 40,000. An army division at war strength comprises about 25,000 men, and upwards of 12,000 are expected to be in the nine volunteer regiments of engineers now being recruited. The forestry regiment and the marine regiment each will number more than 1,000. The strength of the naval force in European waters has not been revealed.

General Pershing and his staff will sail for Europe ahead of the troops, as there is much to be done on the other side to pave the way for final training of the force and for the huge army the United States is preparing to pour across the seas after it as rapidly as men can be trained and equipped. For obvious reasons, no information as to the time of the American commander's departure or his destination will be made public.

In all parts of the country state officials redoubled their efforts at recruiting the National Guard to war strength. Authorization reached them almost simultaneously with the signing of the army bill. The war department unfolded new elements of its plans for the guard, disclosing the departments in which each division will be trained.

Geographical Distribution. A similar table of geographical distribution of divisions for the new selective army also was given out. It follows closely the lines of the National Guard division.

Distribution of the country by states into the areas that will provide the sixteen divisions of the selective draft army, as announced by the war department, include:

Fifth division—New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Eastern Department.

Sixth division—Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Southeastern Department.

Seventh division—Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Southeastern Department.

Eighth division—West Virginia, Central Department.

Twelfth division—Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Southeastern Department.

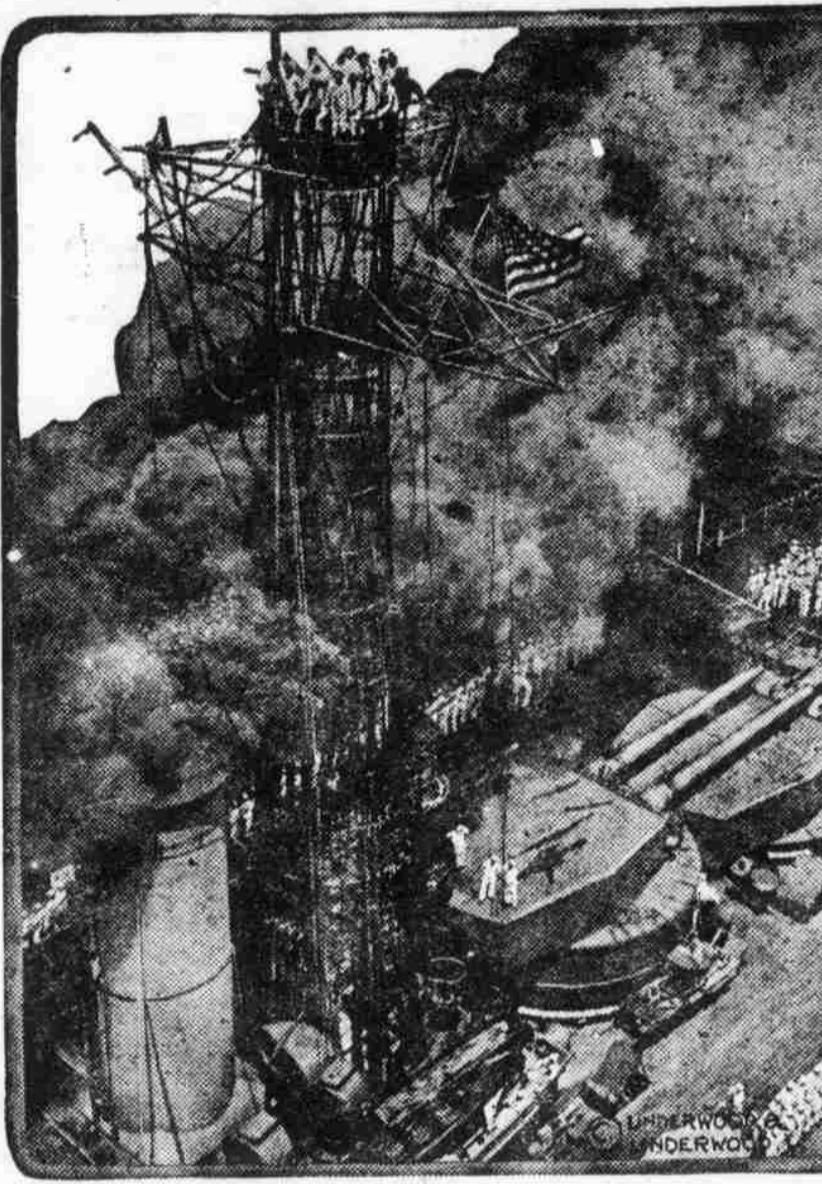
AIRCRAFT POLICY IS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED.

Washington.—Formal announcement of the Government's policy as to all types of aircraft except Zeppelins was made by the Council of National Defense through Howard E. Coffin, member of the council's advisory commission and head of the aircraft production board, recently created.

The object aimed at for the first year, according to Mr. Coffin, is the production of a minimum of 3,500 training and battle aeroplanes; the education of from 5,000 to 6,000 aviators and the doubling or more of the producing capacity during the second year.

Other plans include the establishment of nine aviation training fields, three of which already have been selected by the War Department and construction work on which will begin at once. Each will provide for two aero squadrons of 150 men each and have hangars and shop equipment for 72 machines. It will cost approximately \$1,000,000 to equip each field. Six American colleges are to give cadet courses by July 1. The first classes opened May 10 and Prof. Hiram Bingham, of Yale University, is assigned at the War Department in charge of this instruction.

UNITED STATES BATTLESHIP WYOMING



ARMY BILL FINALLY APPROVED

FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS TAKEN ON BIG ARMY BILL.

Machinery to Register and Draft Men Already Set Up.—Date of Registration Will Be Designated By Production.

Washington.—Final action was taken by Congress on the war army bill, the second of the major measures of the war.

The Senate, by a vote of 65 to 8, adopted the conference report accepted by the House. Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark signed the bill and sent it to the White House.

As finally approved, the bill provided for raising by selective conscription a war army in increments of 500,000 men from 21 to 50 years of age. It also authorizes, without directing, the President to raise volunteer forces which Colonel Roosevelt desires to take to France and greatly increases the pay of all enlisted men.

Machinery to register and draft the first 500,000 men already has been set up by the War Department. Immediately after the President signs the bill, he will by proclamation designate the day for registration of the ten million or more men of the prescribed age. Registration books will be in the hands of state and local authorities who are to co-operate in the work and Brigadier General Crowder, the provost marshal general, expects to have his complete lists in Washington within five days after registering begins.

Whether Colonel Roosevelt shall be permitted to raise an expedition rests with President Wilson. His views have not been disclosed, but it is believed that he probably will postpone decision while the draft system is being put into operation.

As during the early stages of the long dispute in Congress, the closing debate centered upon the so-called Roosevelt amendment. Colonel Roosevelt was vigorously attacked by Senator Stone, of Missouri, and as ardently defended by his friend, Senator Johnson, of California.

The Senate's approval of the measure agreed upon by the conferees and adopted by the House came late in the day after attempts to send it back to conference and an earnest appeal by Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Military Committee for final action.

The eight senators who cast the negative votes were: Democrats—Gore, of Oklahoma; Hardwick, of Georgia; Kirby, of Oklahoma; Stone, of Missouri, and Trammel, of Florida.

Republicans—LaFollette, of Wisconsin; Gronna, of North Dakota, and Norris, of Nebraska. The bill backed by the administration and adopted in the Senate April 19, was passed April 28—in the Senate by a vote of 81 to 6—and in the House 397 to 24—has since been tied up in conference, returned there by twice by the House to include the Roosevelt volunteer provision and further pay increases for enlisted men.

U. S. VESSELS REACH EUROPE

AMERICAN BATTLESHIPS HAVE JOINED IN HUNT FOR SUBMARINES.

Squadron of Torpedo-Boat Destroyers Has Crossed Atlantic and Reported To British Flotilla Commander.—One Has Brush With U-Boat.

Queenstown.—A squadron of American torpedo boat destroyers has safely crossed the Atlantic and is patrolling the seas in war service.

The American Navy's actual entry into the war zone has already been productive of a brush between a destroyer and a German underwater boat, according to an announcement by the British Admiralty, but the result of it has not been made public. The destroyer squadron arrived in Queenstown after an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic, but almost immediately after a formal exchange of greetings with the British Naval officials, put to sea again for the hard work that is before it.

A crowd of several hundred persons, several of them carrying tiny American flags, lined the water front and cheered the destroyers from the moment they first sighted the flotilla until it reached the dock. The crowd cheered again when a few moments later the American senior officer came ashore to greet the British senior officer and Wesley Frost, the American Consul, who had come down to the dock to welcome the flotilla. Everything was done in simple, business-like manner. There was an entire absence of formality.

The commander of the British flotilla was waiting on board his ship and sent wireless greetings to the American units as soon as they were in sight, steaming in a long line into the harbor.

After the exchange of shore greetings and the British commander had congratulated the American officers on their safe voyage, he asked: "When will you be ready for business?"

"We can start at once," the American commander replied promptly. This response, so characteristically American, surprised the British commander, who said he had not expected the American would be ready to begin work on this side so soon after their long voyage. When he had recovered from his surprise, however, he made a short tour of the destroyers and admitted that the American tars looked prepared.

FOOD LEGISLATION TO BE RE-DRAFTED.

Washington.—Re-drafting of food legislation pending in Congress to meet the views of the Administration was forecast in the request of the Senate Agriculture Committee that the House Committee name a sub-committee to assist it in drawing new bills. Members of the committees of both houses received a clear idea at a conference of what the Administration wants enacted into law.

PERSHING TO LEAD TROOPS IN FRANCE

AMERICAN GENERAL WILL COMMAND EXPEDITION ACROSS WATERS.

REGULARS TO GO AT ONCE

America's Answer to France's Appeal.—Troops Go at Earliest Practicable Date.—Pershing to Precede Soldiers.

Washington.—President Wilson ordered that a division of regular troops, commanded by Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing, be sent to France at the earliest practicable date.

This is the answer of America to France's plea that the Stars and Stripes be carried to the fighting front without delay to hearten the soldiers battling there with concrete evidence that a powerful Ally has come to their support against German aggression.

Announcement of the order followed signing of the selective draft war army bill by the President and the issuance of a statement that under the advice of military experts on both sides of the water, the President could not employ volunteers nor avail himself of the "fine vigor and enthusiasm" of former President Roosevelt for the expedition.

The army law provides for an ultimate force of approximately 2,000,000 men to back up the first troops to go to the front. When the bill had been signed, the President affixed his name to a proclamation calling upon all men in the country between the ages of 21 and 30, inclusive, to register themselves for military service on June 5, next. The proclamation sets in motion immediately machinery that will enroll and sift 10,000,000 men and pave the way for the selection of the first 500,000 young, efficient soldiers without crippling the industries or commerce of the nation or bringing hardship to those at home.

Orders For Guard.

Even before the bill was signed, the War Department announced that the full strength of the National Guard would be drafted into the United States Army beginning July 15 and concluding August 5. Orders to bring the regiments to full war strength immediately accompanied the notification sent to all governors. A minimum of 329,000 fighting men will be brought to the colors under those orders, supplementing the 293,000 regulars who will be under arms by June 15. The Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee guards will be mobilized July 25.

It is from these forces that the first armies to join General Pershing at the front will be drawn to be followed within a few months by recurring waves from the selective draft armies, the first 500,000 of whom will be mobilized September 1.

COL. ROOSEVELT WON'T BE PERMITTED TO GO

Washington.—Colonel Roosevelt will not be permitted to raise his volunteer expedition to carry the American flag against the Germans in France. On signing the war army bill, President Wilson issued a statement saying that, acting under expert advice from both sides of the water, he would be unable to avail himself at the present stage of the war of the authorization to organize volunteer divisions.

There was talk in army circles of the possibility that a way would be found to use the former president's services in another way, but the comment on the subject was that it was not to be considered.

BRITISH SUFFER IN NAVAL BATTLE IN THE ADRIATIC

Cruiser Damaged and Four Destroyers Are Sunk.—British Admiral Announced That 14 Drifters Were in a Raid by Austrian Light Cruisers in the Adriatic Sea and That Light Cruiser Dartmouth Sunk in a Subsequent Battle with the Austrian Warships.

The text of the statement announced by the admiralty announced from reports received from the admiral commanding the Adriatic squadron, supplemented by the Italian official communication, it appears that early Tuesday morning an Austrian force consisting of light cruisers, subsequently reinforced by destroyers, raided the Allied drifter line and succeeded in sinking 14 British drifters from which, according to the Austrian communications, 79 prisoners were taken.

ELK LODGE NAMES MURPHY PRESIDENT

GREENSBORO IS SELECTED FOR MEETING PLACE FOR THE 1918 CONVENTION.

VISITORS TAKE THE TOWN

D. D. Daughtridge of Rocky Mount, Re-Elected Vice-President. New Bern Lodge Wins Double Honors

Raleigh.—After selecting Greensboro as the meeting place for the 1918 convention and electing ex-Mayor T. J. Murphy of Greensboro president of the State Association, the Elks of North Carolina accepted Mayor Johnson's invitation to "take the town" and without a semblance of timidity stormed Fayetteville street until the last note of "Auld Lang Syne" brought an end to the jubilant festivities, so far as the public was concerned. Mr. D. D. Daughtridge of Rocky Mount was re-elected first vice-president of the state association, T. B. Beard of Salisbury second vice-president and Mr. T. B. Kehoe of New Bern secretary and treasurer.

The program began with a business session of the association, concluded with a smoker at the Elks' home. A buffet luncheon was given at the home and the business session for the election of officers was held in the senate chamber at the State capitol. The grand parade took place at 5:30 and from 8:30 until 11:00 the Elks' Jubilee extending in space from Martin to Morgan on Fayetteville street and in proportions that excelled any similar event of North Carolina. Elkdom occupied the center of the arena. The contortionists, spicers and terpsichorean artists vied with each other in making the celebration an event that would put tongues to wagging and leave fond memories of the seventh annual convention of the antlered tribe of the state. Church societies, the Associated charities and the Red Cross organizations sold everything that an abundant generosity could compel purse strings to open in order to satisfy the whims and fancies of the visitors.

States Waste Total \$20,000,000.

Raleigh.—Experts of the department of agriculture at Washington have estimated that if just one ounce of edible meat or fat is wasted by each of the 20,000,000 families in the United States each day it means a total waste of 125,000,000 pounds per day, or the staggering total of 465,000,000 pounds in a year, the equal of 875,000 steers or 3,000,000 hogs.

If an ounce of bread is wasted by each family each day it means the throwing away of 875,000 pounds of flour each day, or 1,500,000 barrels each year—sufficient flour with which to make 365,000,000 loaves of bread. Stated in terms of wheat it is 7,000,000 bushels.

Secretary Lucas, of the North Carolina Food Conservation Commission, has figured out North Carolina's part of such a waste. There are approximately 600,000 families in state. An ounce of meat or fat and an ounce of bread wasted each day means in a year's time in this state a loss of 13,500,000 pounds of meat, the equivalent of 90,000 hogs, and 10,950,000 loaves of bread, or 210,000 bushels of wheat.

These figures simply show," stated Secretary Lucas, "what a very small waste amounts to in the aggregate. As a matter of fact an ounce a day of meat and bread does not begin to approximate what we destroy of those two products, say nothing of the waste in vegetables, milk, poultry products and other edibles. North Carolina's part of the national waste of \$70,000,000 in a year holds approximately \$20,000,000. A very great part of this waste is necessary and preventable. Of there will be some waste under the most careful and economical management but even if we would cut it in half we would save \$10,000,000. These figures are not to be taken as a threat. At the present time we are not doing as well as we should be doing."

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