

SECRETARY DANIELS TAKES DIRECT ISSUE WITH ADMIRAL SIMS

THE SECRETARY BACKS HIS ARGUMENT WITH RECORD FROM NAVY DEPARTMENT

Asserts That Admiral Sims on Shore Duty "Demonstrated Ability of a High Order" - Points Out Difference Between Shore Duty and Sea Duty - Says There Was No Distinction in Awards Made Between Admiral, Captain or Enlisted Man.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Secretary Daniels appeared today before the senate naval subcommittee investigating the award of naval decorations to answer charges made by Rear Admiral Sims that injustices had been committed in the awards. The secretary was prepared to give exhaustive testimony in an effort to substantiate the navy's policy in awarding war honors and refuting the allegations of Admiral Sims that the method followed had "shot to pieces" the morale of the sea forces.

DANIEL'S STATEMENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Taking up the contentions of Rear Admiral William S. Sims in the matter of naval medals awarded point by point, Secretary Daniels in his appearance today before the senate investigating subcommittee took direct and emphatic issue with the admiral. Flanked by voluminous records from the navy department, the secretary went into detail in explaining changes he made in conferring decorations as recommended by the commanding officers of the navy and by the Knight board of medals.

The naval secretary outlined to the committee the two chief differences between his views and the views held by Admiral Sims in the awarding of medals. These were at variance as to the importance of service at sea compared with service on shore and differences on the question of whether a distinguished service medal should be awarded under any circumstances to a commander of a ship sunk or seriously damaged by enemy submarines or mines.

Asserting that Admiral Sims while on shore duty both in the Spanish-American and world war "demonstrated ability of a high order," Secretary Daniels said "the position of Rear Admiral Sims in placing shore duty above sea duty in the danger zone is, no doubt, influenced by his own record." Figures were presented by Mr. Daniels showing that during the last 25 years Admiral Sims had served about 16 years on shore duty and nine years at sea.

"So rarely did he take a sea trip," said the secretary, referring to the admiral's work as commander of the United States naval forces in European waters, "that in his book he tells a story of one of the few times he was afloat, going then with the British admiral who had been placed by Rear Admiral Sims in command of the American destroyers based on Queenstown."

As justifying his contention that individual duties ashore are necessarily of secondary importance to duties afloat, Mr. Daniels asserted: "On shore a man decides important questions in the quiet of his office surroundings with time to weigh the pros and cons, and if he makes a mistake his error or decision is not immediately followed by disastrous results. At sea, particularly in submarine warfare, the commander, like all his men, is in imminent peril of death. He must make momentous decisions in the flash of a single moment, often when his ship has been attacked, and when coolness and poise are necessary to save the lives of scores and hundreds of men. A mistake in this emergency is fatal to an officer in command at sea."

With this as an impelling reason the secretary said he disapproved of the disparity between honors to men ashore and afloat as recommended by the Knight board and accordingly reduced or eliminated a number of awards for shore service.

In support of his contention that a commander of a ship sunk or damaged by submarine attack was entitled to a medal if he showed proper qualifications even though the ship was unable to combat the submarine Secretary Daniels cited numerous examples in American naval history and also pointed to instances of such awards by the French government during the world war. American naval history, he told the committee, was filled with precedents upholding his action in awarding the distinguished service medal to commanders of ships sunk by subma-

rine or mines.

"In the stiletto attack of submarine warfare," said Mr. Daniels, "it is not the fact that man strikes or is struck that tests true mettle and true naval leadership. The question is: Does he play the part of the man, with chivalry and thought only of others and of his country. And has he by preparation and foresight done all that is possible to meet any and every emergency. And when he faces a court of his brother officers, do they find that he has measured up in the terrible ordeal to the high naval traditions? Admirals Mayo and Gleaves and Vice Admiral Grant recommended commanding officers under them for distinguished service medals who displayed these high qualities when their ships, struck by mines or torpedoes, were sunk or damaged. The board of awards approved their recommendations. The greatest thing that a man ever does in this world is to turn a stumbling block into a stepping stone. If medals are not given for this sort of noble courage and coolness and direction in supreme danger, what on earth are they designed for?"

Referring to Admiral Sims' statement that he had not recommended any enlisted men for medals because "we had nothing to give them," the secretary called the committee's attention to the act creating the awards which he said made no distinction between an admiral, captain and enlisted man.

"It is the service he renders, the service in peril, and not his rank that counts," he added. "There are occasions when a ship is threatened with destruction and when for a moment, its safety and protection depends on an enlisted man and he is then in a position of great responsibility and if he performs his duties at that moment with courage and devotion, he is fully entitled to the recognition of his conduct by the distinguished service medal."

Referring to the bestowal of that medal on Admiral Benson, for his service as chief of naval operations, Mr. Daniels declared he would give the same medal "that goes to that great and distinguished officer to the humblest sailor lad, who when placed in a position of great responsibility in a time that tested the stuff of which a man is made, met the demands of those duties and placed his life in jeopardy in order that his ship and the lives of others might be preserved."

With that in mind, he ordered further study of navy records when he found that only 119 enlisted men of the 500,000 in the navy during the war had been recommended for any high honor, he explained. As the result of this study as yet incomplete, he said 13 additional enlisted men were awarded the distinguished service medal and 68 more men were put on the list for navy crosses.

Emphatic denial was made by the secretary of Admiral Sims' statement that the policy followed in awarding medals had "shot to pieces," the navy's morale.

"It is an insult to the splendid men of the navy to say that the morale of the service would be seriously impaired by any question of awards to individuals," the secretary said on that point. "They are made of sterner stuff than to be rattled by a matter so unimportant in comparison with their devotion to their duties. Their loyalty is in no sense dependent upon medals."

Explaining Admiral Sims' mention of a message from the secretary asking what recommendation had been made for "Bagley (Mr. Daniels' brother-in-law) and other officers of the Jacob Jones and other destroyers that were attacked," Mr. Daniels said the note was written late one afternoon after all officers in charge of reports had left the department and was written as the easiest way of getting the information. There was not at that time and never has been, Mr. Daniels declared, any question of favoritism or relationship in the matter of his relations with Commander Bagley.

Mr. Daniels said he had no criticism of the work of the board of awards headed by Rear Admiral Austin M. Knight, and that its recommendations were faithfully made on the basis of the meagre information in its possession.

SEES WONDERFUL FUTURE AHEAD FOR GASTONIA

Mr. C. C. Wilson, Well-Known Architect, Says Gastonia is Liveliest Town He Knows of—His Firm Has Two Million Dollars Worth of Work Here Now—Predicts Great Growth for City.

According to Mr. C. C. Wilson, of Columbia, S. C., who spent several days last week here looking after construction work for which his firm prepared plans and specifications, Gastonia is the liveliest town in the Carolinas. To a Gazette reporter Mr. Wilson expressed himself as really surprised and gratified at the enormous amount of building either now going on here or in contemplation for the immediate future. "It is the liveliest and one of the best towns I know of anywhere in the South," he said. And this is saying quite a good deal for Mr. Wilson visits and has business in many of the leading towns of the South. He is particularly familiar with the towns in North and South Carolina and Georgia.

It was the realization of the great future Gastonia has before it which led Mr. Wilson to establish an office in Gastonia a year or more ago. It is in charge of Mr. Hugh E. White, whose ability as a supervisor of construction is widely recognized. For many years Mr. White was with the government, supervising the construction of public buildings. He supervised the building of the Gastonia postoffice and of the new postoffice at Columbia, S. C. At present Mr. Wilson has \$2,000,000 worth of work here, some of it already begun and the remainder of it is definitely planned for the immediate future. He has several million dollars worth of other work in various towns in the two States.

Mr. Wilson's main office is in Columbia, S. C., where he has a considerable force of designers and draughtsmen busy all the time preparing plans for buildings. His chief designer is Mr. L. C. Darnet, a Frenchman and a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts of Paris. Mr. Darnet was with the firm when the war broke out. He immediately responded to the call of his country and went to France to enter the service. At the close of the war he returned to America and resumed his position with Mr. Wilson.

The first work designed for Gastonia by Mr. Wilson was more than twenty years ago. It was the First Presbyterian church which is recognized as a splendid piece of architecture. The largest building so far designed for Gastonia by him was the First National Bank Building.

"I have no fears for Gastonia's future," said Mr. Wilson. "I think its prospects are unusually bright for an unprecedented growth in the next few years."

WILL DEFINE ATTITUDE ON WAGE DEMANDS

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Director General Hines late today will declare the attitude of the government on the wage demands of the 2,000,000 railroad employes presented last July. The announcement will be made at a conference with officers of the brotherhoods and other railroad unions.

As government control of railroads ends on March 1, Mr. Hines' answer is expected to be final as far as the government is concerned. No intimation was given by officials as to the content of the director general's reply. Action on the railroad men's request had been deferred to await the outcome of the government's campaign against the high cost of living.

TRY TO LINK SOCIALISTS WITH BOLSHEVIK

(By The Associated Press.)

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 3.—With the prosecution resuming today presentation of its case and requiring at least three days to put in all its evidence of alleged disloyalty, counsel for the five suspended socialist assemblymen, it has been learned, will call in defense witnesses who personally have observed changing conditions in Russia during the last few years.

While the defense would not name these witnesses, it was said they were persons who had seen the downfall of the Romanoffs, the rise and fall of the Kerensky government and introduction of the Lenin-Trotsky regime. Their testimony following an effort by counsel for the assembly judiciary committee to link the socialists of America with the bolshevik of Russia, will be introduced in an attempt to show that conditions in Russia have been misrepresented and that the present rulers are not so bad as they have been painted.

FLU EPIDEMIC HERE IS NOW ON THE WANE

Only Eleven New Cases Reported to State Yesterday—No New Pneumonia Cases That Are Serious.

Reports both from City Manager W. J. Alexander and from physicians indicate that the flu epidemic here is on the wane. Yesterday's report to the State Board of Health from City Manager Alexander, filed at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon and covering a period of 24 hours, showed only 11 new cases. According to physicians in touch with the situation many more than that number were discharged. No new serious cases of flu or pneumonia were reported.

TRIO OF CAR THIEVES ROUNDED UP BY POLICE

Three Negroes With Headquarters Here Had Been Breaking and Robbing Railroad Cars Between Gastonia and Spencer For Two Years—Bicycle Stealing a Side-Line.

Chief of Police Joe Orr and his Argus-eyed policemen have succeeded in rounding up a bunch of car thieves who have been giving the Southern Railroad trouble for the past two years and for whom the road's detectives have searched high and low for these many moons. The gang is composed of a trio of young negroes, aged 25 to 30, all of whom live in Gastonia. They are Tom Froneberger, Chris Froneberger and Jim Johnson. Making their headquarters here they have operated all along the line between Spencer and Gastonia, including Concord and Charlotte. How much their thefts have netted them during the past two years is not known but it is believed that they are the ones who have rifled scores of cars at various points along the line. The two Fronebergers, brothers, were apparently the principals in committing the thefts and Johnson's job was to dispose of the goods. Five hundred dollars worth of goods taken from railroad cars was recovered by the officers in the edge of Mecklenburg county.

In Municipal Court yesterday Judge Jones gave Tom Froneberger sentences aggregating 510 days on the county roads for the larceny of six bicycles here. Bicycle-stealing was apparently a side line with the trio, being indulged in while they were resting from car breaking. The six bicycles were recovered. Chris Froneberger is being held under a bond of \$500 on a charge of car-breaking and larceny and Johnson is being held under a similar bond on the charge of receiving stolen goods. All three are in jail in default of bond. They will be tried at the next term of Gaston Superior Court.

Chief Orr thinks that the capture of these men, who were evidently engaged in car breaking as a profession, will result in quite a slump in this line of crime on this section of the Southern.

AWAIT WORD FROM AMERICAN AVIATORS

(By The Associated Press.)

EL PASO, TEX., Feb. 3.—Word was awaited today concerning Lieutenants G. L. Usher and L. M. Wolf, American army aviators stationed at Fort Bliss, who were captured yesterday by Mexican soldiers near Nacozari, Sonora, Mexico, and taken to Nacozari, technically under arrest.

The Americans on a flight from Fort Bliss to Nogales, Ariz., became lost yesterday and were 16 kilometres south of Nacozari when engine trouble necessitated a forced landing.

Major General Robert L. Howze said he anticipated no difficulty in obtaining the release of the aviators, although it is believed their detention was merely to get a formal statement as to their excuse for venturing south of the border.

H. C. L. STILL UP FOR SETTLEMENT

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Further efforts were made today by officials of the department of justice and representatives of the men's clothing industry to devise means for reducing the cost of clothing. At the conference lasting until a late hour last night they failed to reach an agreement and the suggestion that the conferees be divided into committees to expedite their work will be acted on today. The conference is being held behind closed doors and officials declined to comment on the proposals presented until a definite program was outlined.

DEFENSE ARGUES THAT NEWBERRY ENTERED RACE AT SOLICITATION OF OTHERS

James O. Murfin, of Detroit, Outlines Attitude Defense Will Assume Toward Charges of Conspiracy and Fraud - Says Newberry Volunteered Within 48 Hours After War Was Declared.

(By The Associated Press.)

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., Feb. 3.—Truman H. Newberry entered the 1918 senatorial campaign in Michigan at the solicitation of others and not in furtherance of a scheme to get a seat in the senate, said James O. Murfin, of Detroit, in outlining to the jury in United States district court the attitude the defense will assume toward the charges of conspiracy and fraud for which 123 men are on trial.

Judge Murfin explained the defense's view of the specific details of the offenses charged in the six counts of the indictment, emphasizing that conspiracy is the essence of the charges.

It was pointed out that on the first four counts "the gist of the charge is not fraud in the election, corruption in the election or anything of that description but that these respondents are charged with conspiring to aid, abet, assist and encourage Truman H. Newberry to commit an offense, to wit: The offense of expending more of his money than the law allows."

It was argued that under the Michigan law as long as expenses come within the eleven enumerated classes in the statute there is no limit as to the amount of money a committee of a candidate friends can spend in his behalf.

"It is my purpose," Judge Murfin told the jurors, "to point out to you in exact detail everything that was done by anybody connected with this campaign in order that you may understand it in its infinite detail. The campaign was unusually hot and in analyzing and considering what these respondents did, the atmosphere under which they did it should be considered."

"Our country was at war. The fate of the civilized world was hanging in the balance with the last German drive at its height, the channel ports threatened and the German advance armies within 30 miles of Paris."

"The records will show that Michigan sent to this war 150,000 young men in the army, navy and marine corps; they left behind them fathers, relatives and friends. Americanism and patriotic excitement were at their crest."

"Rightly or wrongly, and this is neither the time nor the place to discuss it, there was a very general feeling that Henry Ford did not represent the type of American who, at that critical juncture, should represent his state in the United States senate."

"On the other hand Commander Newberry had had an honorable record in the Spanish-American war, when in the navy he was under fire and actively participated in overcoming a superior force. He had been secretary of the navy in the cabinet of that militant American, Theodore Roosevelt."

"Within 48 hours after our country threatened to enter the world war he volunteered and, in the spring of 1917, was commissioned a lieutenant commander and made aide to the commandant of the third naval district at New York."

His brother and his two sons were also in military service.

"This combination of circumstances roused many Americans in Michigan to the firm belief that it was their patriotic duty to do all in their power to assure the election of Commander Newberry and we expect to conclusively show that they were prompted not by pay but by patriotism, they were actuated not by avarice but by Americanism."

"Getting into this campaign was not of the choosing of Commander Newberry and he entered with the utmost reluctance and only after repeated urging."

"He stipulated that he could not leave his duties; that he could not be active and that he could not contribute one dollar to the movement. This determination not to be active nor to contribute one cent was religiously adhered to by him from the beginning to the end and the proof will positively show that not one dollar of his money was ever handled by any one."

"The organization that was subsequently built up under the supervision of Mr. Paul King was undoubtedly the most perfect political organization ever put together. With few conspicuous exceptions every township, hamlet, and city in the state was organized. The committee was running against the best advertised man in America. It was indispensably

necessary, in the judgment of these respondents in charge of the campaign that his qualifications be given the widest publicity."

JAZZ BRANCH OF CONGRESS DECIDES ISSUES

Little Congress, Composed of Clerks and Secretaries Organizes and Attempts to Settle Problems That Vex the Larger Body of Legislators.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Described as the jazz branch of the real law making body "the little congress," composed of secretaries and clerks of representatives and senators has been formally organized and now is "deciding" national issues without thought apparently, as to how it might affect the elections next fall. At its first meeting the little congress took the heart out of some of its leaders by voting down a bill offered by a Rhode Island member providing for nine per cent beer. Compulsory military training was defeated by a decisive vote, but the anti-strike provision of the railroad bill stood by a narrow margin. The question of freedom for Ireland will be settled Saturday night.

Neel Baldwin, republican, of Oregon, clerk of the house committee on public lands, was elected speaker. Harry Sandager, republican, Rhode Island, won out as clerk, and J. M. Barker, democrat, of Missouri, overturned the formal republican majority and got away with the jobs of sergeant-at-arms and boss of the steering committee. Other members of the steering committee are: Kenneth Romney democrat, Montana; and Charles Lewis, republican, Iowa. The committee on elections includes Harold Hallen, republican, Seattle, Wash.; Don C. Hunt, Missouri, and Lehr Fess, republican, Ohio.

The underestimates of statesmen have announced that unless the peace treaty is out of the way soon they will take a hand and settle it.

FLU SITUATION IN CHICAGO IMPROVES

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Improvement in the influenza epidemic was reported today by health department officials with a considerable reduction in the number of new cases. During the 24 hours period yesterday only 802 new cases were reported while deaths from the disease dropped to 89. Sixty-nine deaths from pneumonia were recorded with 374 new cases.

Announcement was made that the influenza epidemic at the great lakes naval training station had practically spent itself. No death occurred there during the last 24 hours and only 53 patients were admitted to the hospital in the last two days.

STRIKE MAY CUT OFF HEAT FROM FLU PATIENTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—A final effort to avert a strike which would cut off heat in apartment houses, hotels, office buildings and factories tomorrow morning, and which Health Commissioner Copeland declares would have a serious effect on the thousands of influenza and pneumonia patients in this city, will be made tonight by the health commissioner if the landlords and firemen fail to reach an agreement today. Mr. Copeland induced the men Sunday to declare a 48 hour armistice and conferred with both sides but without results.

"If everything else fails I will make a final appeal to the men tonight," he said. "That will be my duty."

A wood preservation method invented in France consists of forcing a ten per cent solution of borax and a five per cent one of rosin into it with electricity.