

# ATLANTIC FEET NOT KEPT IN READINESS DURING WAR

## Latest Charge Made by Admiral Sims Against the Navy Department—Tells Senate Committee That Frequent Pleas for American Warships Were Disregarded—Was Kept in Darkness About Navy Department's Policy Three Months After the United States Entered the War—Requested Committee to Call Herbert Hoover to Sustain Claim That War Was in Danger of Being Lost Because of the German Submarine Campaign.

Washington, March 11.—Charges that the Atlantic fleet was not kept in readiness for battle during the war were added by Admiral Sims to his arraignment of navy department policy in testimony today before the senate investigating committee.

He told the committee that frequent pleas for American warships were disregarded and months lost in despatching a squadron of battleships to join the British grand fleet. When the squadron finally was ordered abroad, he said it was composed of no fewer than 100 different types, evidence that other ships to form a homogeneous unit were "not ready for sea service."

He read also a message from the navy department shortly after the war, in which four were selected to be docked, a delay of another two or three weeks.

Tribute to the officers and men of the battleships was paid by the admiral, who said the work of fitting out the British fleet was accomplished in four days, one of the finest exhibitions he had ever seen.

The British, he said, necessitated the abandonment of all the American codes and signals and adoption of the British system.

Requests for American forces to supplement the allied naval patrol, Admiral Sims asserted, were refused at first by the navy department on the ground that the "future position of the United States must be considered and jeopardized by any disintegration of

# POLICEMEN DEBRIE THE ARREST OF BERGDOLL

New York, March 11.—Philadelphia policemen, testifying for the government today at the court martial on Governor's Island, charged with desertion in evading the draft, described the reception they received when, fourteen strong, they forced an entrance into the Bergdoll home and arrested the accused last January.

Patrolman Charles F. Macready said the officers were met at the door by the defendant's mother, armed with a revolver, and began to search for her son.

The wealthy young Philadelphia was found huddled in a window chest covered with cushions, according to Patrolman Charles Carroll, another witness. Bergdoll, who was not fully dressed, refused to throw up his hands until a revolver barrel was dug into his ribs.

Carroll, who testified he had had a quarrel with the accused twelve years ago, said he had informed Bergdoll it was a "real pleasure" to arrest him. The defendant, according to Carroll, had retorted the officer had confused him with his brother, Erwin, who also is being sought as a draft evader.

Macready, who had asserted that it was necessary to push Bergdoll away from the house after his arrest because a mob of workmen threatened to lynch him, denied under cross examination that the police had taken away from the house money and gems worth \$5,000.

He declared the residence resembled an arsenal, with rifles, revolvers and bowie knives everywhere in evidence.

Major William G. Murdoch, chief disbursing officer in the Pennsylvania adjutant general's office, was called to testify concerning the delinquent notice sent the defendant.

# SERIOUS SITUATION IN DAMASCUS IS REPORTED

London, March 11.—Official advices state that the situation in Syria is serious. Emir Feisal, son of the king of the Hedjaz, it is explained, has thought it advisable to summon the Syrian congress which intends to declare the complete independence of the country and proclaim him king. The emir, it is stated, succeeded temporarily in forestalling such action, securing the postponement of the meeting of the congress, which had been called for March 6, but the excitement is said to be so great that he probably will be compelled to accede to the demands.

Much opposition has been evidenced in Syria over the proposed arrangement for the future government of the country. It was reported from Paris in January that Emir (Prince) Feisal had reached an agreement with the French government under which he would recognize a French mandate for the whole of Syria in return for which France would recognize the formation of an Arabian state to include Damascus, Aleppo, Hama and Hamah under the administration of the prince. Later advices, however, indicated that the Syrians were insisting upon independence.

# NEW YORK HAS 20,000,000 POUNDS OF ARMY BEEF

Albany, N. Y., March 11.—Twenty million pounds of beef, purchased for the use of the American army in France, is to be distributed to the people of New York state at a figure below the wholesale prices, Commissioner Eugene H. Porter, of the division of farms and markets, announced tonight.

# ANTI-BRITISH STICKERS FOUND ON MAIL MATTER

Chicago, March 11.—Postal inspectors today began an investigation of complaints from a Chicago manufacturer of mail matter that anti-British stickers had been posted on its mail recently after the letters had left the office.

The stickers, placed on the reverse of the envelopes, read: "Buy nothing that is made in England."

# U. S. SUBMARINE NO. 12 ASHORE ON HOG ISLAND

Buzzard's Bay, Mass., March 11.—The United States submarine No. 12, built from Boston for Newport, R. I., went ashore on Hog Island in Buzzard's Bay late today, but was said tonight to be in no danger.

# 10 Persons Killed by Tornado in Missouri

## No Trace Found of a Farmer and His Wife and Their Home—All Were Blown Away.

Springfield, Mo., March 11.—Ten persons are known to be dead and eight injured as the result of a tornado which swept through the valley of Turkey Creek near Branson and Hollister, in Taney county, today.

Seven of the dead are children of Ran and William Box, brothers, living at Melva, a small town five miles south of Branson.

Four of William Box's children were killed and his brother lost three children. The wives of both men received injuries believed fatal.

Mrs. Alva Howard and child, living at Melva, were killed instantly. William Jackson, living five miles south of Branson, was reported to have been killed.

Ridgeview Manky was carried 1,000 feet from his home at Melva and when he regained consciousness every opposite bank of Turkey Creek he saw his young brother William struggling in the water. He was too weak to give aid, and his brother's body was recovered downstream.

The storm was not confined to Melva. Reports of homes carried away, buildings destroyed and children injured continued to pour in from every part of the stricken area tonight. The storm district included Kirbyville, Taneyville, Mildred, Oasis, Forsyth and Branson.

# Three Killed at Nevada, Mo.

Nevada, Mo., March 11.—Three persons were killed and property damage estimated at \$100,000, involving every building in the business section of the city, was sustained when a tornado struck Nevada today.

The dead were: Paul Pierson, 21; William Bothlow, 22; Harry Brewer, 23.

# HOUSTON OPPOSES M'ADOO'S PLAN OF REDUCING TAXES

Washington, March 11.—Opposing Secretary M'Adoo's plan of reducing taxes by additional 10 per cent, Secretary Houston and Assistant Secretary Leffingwell today told the house ways and means committee, which is considering soldier relief legislation that any increase in the present government indebtedness would create a grave financial situation.

Secretary Houston predicted that a bond issue of \$2,500,000,000 necessary under certain plans of adjusted compensation now before the committee, "might result in a disaster," while Mr. Leffingwell said "the worst thing possible would be to give bonds to former soldiers, as a great majority of them would cash their holdings immediately."

Both suggested increased taxes as "the least harmful way" to extend relief, the assistant secretary insisting that even a tax on normal incomes would directly feel to the cost of living and indirectly felt by those least able to bear it.

Any future bond issue would have to bear six per cent interest and would be "a much more serious proposition than it was during the war," Secretary Houston said. "The Government Holding of the Federal Reserve Board told the committee.

First there would be a lack of patriotism which has been in evidence since the war," he said, "and secondly we would come into competition with all sorts of commercial investments."

Even higher increased taxes, Secretary Houston said, the proposed expenditure of two billion dollars "would be a serious one for the people to confront at this time."

"The present financial situation is not critical," Mr. Houston commented. "Economy by the people, avoidance of waste in expenditures, economical application of money and prudence in handling the government's operations will naturally relieve the situation."

Discussing the bond plan, Mr. Leffingwell said he favored the former service men while increasing the nation's indebtedness would also bring about a recurrence of activities of "sharks" and "changers" who use Liberty bond holders after the armistice.

# COAL MAGNATES AND MINERS INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY

Indianapolis, Ind., March 11.—An indictment charging conspiracy in violation of the Lever Food Control Act and the federal criminal code, charging coal operators and miners as defendants, was returned in federal court here today by a special grand jury which has been investigating the coal industry since December 17, 1919. More than half of the defendants are operators, it is said.

Bond in the United States District Court here today was set at \$10,000 in some of the cases and at \$5,000 in others. The defendants will be arraigned May 4. Names of those indicted will not be made public until they are arrested.

The overt acts are charged against the coal men in the indictment, which contains eighteen counts. It is understood that many of the defendants charged have no connection with the strike of bituminous miners but occurred prior to the signing of the armistice.

The indictment was brought under Sections Four and Nine of the Lever act and Section Thirty-Seven of the criminal code, and charges in general, that miners and operators conspired to enhance the price of necessities by restricting distributing, limiting, manufacturing and by other means, and by conspiring to commit offenses against the United States as designated in the criminal code. The penalty on conviction is a fine not exceeding \$10,000, imprisonment for not more than two years, or both fine and imprisonment.

While no names were made public, it was learned that virtually all those facing charges are active in the central competitive field, which embraces western Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. The grand jury was instructed to go fully into all reports of violations of the Lever act with regard to the place of origin of the reports.

It is not expected that any arrests will be made this week or two or three days will be required to prepare the papers for serving.

# Prince of Wales Starts for Australia

Portsmouth, England, March 11.—The Prince of Wales will start on his trip to Australia next Tuesday.

# No vote on Article Ten Before Saturday

## Will Be Taken Up Again Formally in the Senate Today—Little Hope for Final Agreement.

Washington, March 11.—During a truce in the peace treaty debate today senate leaders marshaled their scattered forces for another and decisive attempt to reach a compromise on Article Ten.

As a result some semblance of compromise was reached on the republican and democratic sides of the chamber, but the total of votes that could be counted for any compromise still was about the necessary two-thirds, and the leaders expressed little hope of final agreement.

Resurrecting the new republican substitute for the Article Ten reservation, the republican leaders agreed on some changes in wording in the hope that they might regain the support of the handful of republican senators whose refusal to support the substitute yesterday started a general breaking up of the compromise situation. It was understood they had not entirely succeeded tonight and it remained uncertain whether the republican substitute would be offered when the debate resumed tomorrow.

Among the democratic compromise advocates, who claimed upwards of 30 democratic votes for the substitute last night, work was continued aggressively during the afternoon, however, Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, the democratic leader, started a determined effort to secure a majority on the status of compromise on the democratic side became almost as uncertain as was among the republicans.

The best claim that was made tonight by the most optimistic advocates of compromise fixed the democratic support for the substitute at 22 votes and the republican support for it at 30 votes. That reckoning, if correct, still would leave a shortage of two votes from the 54 necessary to ratify the treaty, and no leader knew from what source any additional strength could be gained.

There were intimations that the democrats were planning to introduce the substitute if the republicans failed to do so. There also were more runblings of discontent among the republican mid reservationists, and it was said the new draft might be presented from that quarter if the republican side finally decided to discard it.

During the day the senate was called before the senate at all, that Senator Brandegee, republican, commented on the irreconcilable opposition of the treaty, made a speech criticizing the article and substitutes and warning that if it were adopted President Wilson might treat it as an interpretation only, accept the ratification and let the powers that be the reservation did not impair the nation's obligations.

Tomorrow the treaty will be taken up formally, though the leaders do not expect a final vote on Article Ten before Saturday at the earliest.

# RAISE EXPORT FREIGHT RATES OF FOODSTUFFS FOR ENGLAND

New York, March 11.—Freight rates on foodstuffs shipped to England on British vessels have been increased 10 per cent as hundred pounds—from 45 to 55 cents—It was announced here today.

The British ministry of food has announced that it has increased the warehouses in America, the increase means that the English public will have to pay \$90,000,000 for them if they are shipped under the new rates, according to Robert Graham, chairman of the ministry here.

The former rate of 45 cents a hundred pounds was fixed by the British ministry of shipping, and shipments to the British government, Mr. Graham said. Now, however, shipments are ordered held up until the new rate is set and the British government, Mr. Graham said, will be in conjunction with other matters concerning the ministry of food.

# TO REPRESENT CONN. AT AMERICANISM CONFERENCE

Hartford, March 11.—In response to a telegram received from Franklin K. Lane, former secretary of the interior, following to represent Connecticut at a conference to be held in Washington to take action to promote sound Americanism, intelligent and effective economic and unity and good will among the people of the United States, Richard M. Bishop and William H. Putnam of Hartford, Public Utilities Commissioner Joseph W. Alsop of Avon, Justice George W. Wheeler of the Connecticut supreme court, Mrs. A. T. Bellman Beach of New Britain, and Miss Caroline Rutz-Rees of Greenwich.

# TO TEST LEGALITY OF ACTION OF W. VA. SENATE

Washington, March 11.—The West Virginia senate in ratifying the suffrage amendment after unseating the alleged "Montgomery" simply made the alleged "Montgomery" matter for the courts to decide, the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage declared in a statement tonight.

Refusal to seat Senator Montgomery was said by the associate to be a violation of "the constitutional provision for a two-thirds vote to expel a member."

# MISSION SCHOOLS IN KOREA HAVE BEEN ORDERED CLOSED

Tokyo, March 6 (By the A. P.).—The American Methodist mission schools in Korea have been ordered closed by the governor general, according to dispatches received by the local newspapers today.

The act of closing the schools, which were presided over by H. O. Appenzeller and Miss A. B. Smith, says that they failed to prevent the students from celebrating Korean independence and that the government's strict prohibition against such celebration.

# SHIPPING BOARD TO HAVE A BRANCH IN LONDON

New York, March 11.—The establishment in London of a special department of the United States shipping board to assist managing agents of its steamers in the handling of foreign business, and to aid and promote American commercial relations generally, was announced here today.

# MAJORITY IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE RECOMMENDED A GENERAL WAGE ADVANCE OF 25 PER CENT, WITH NO CHANGE IN HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF LABOR—MINERS' REPRESENTATIVE IS TO RECOMMEND A SEVEN HOUR DAY AND A WAGE INCREASE OF 35 PER CENT.—PRESIDENT WILSON CALLED FOR CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY UNANIMOUS ACTION.

Washington, March 11.—The commission appointed by President Wilson to settle the coal strike has split definitely on the questions of wage increases and hours of work.

The majority—Henry M. Robinson, chairman, representing the public, and Rembrandt Peale, representing the operators, in a report submitted to President Wilson today, is understood to have recommended a general wage advance of approximately 25 per cent, and that hours and conditions of labor remain unchanged.

This increase includes the fourteen per cent granted after the miners' report.

John P. White, representing the miners, refuses to concur in this settlement. He is preparing a minority report in which, he says, he will recommend a seven-hour day and a wage increase of approximately 35 per cent.

In advance of the publication of the two reports, officials of the United States department of America would not discuss the probable course of the miners. Since their representative on the commission had refused to accept any settlement, however, it was reported that the settlement it proposes.

William Green, secretary of the miners' union, after a conference with Secretary Tumulty at the White House late today, said there was no radical difference between the majority and Mr. White and expressed the hope that the differences would be ironed out at joint meetings between the operators and the miners.

President Wilson, in inviting the members of the commission to undertake a settlement, said it was important that their conclusions be reached by unanimous action. Since the commission's decision is not unanimous there is much speculation as to the president's next step.

The operators would not discuss this report, but it was plain that the miners and some administration officials expected Mr. Wilson to invite the two sides to get together on the basis of the facts adduced in their reports and seek an amicable settlement.

The majority report is being withheld from publication until Mr. White's report has been submitted to the president. Members of the commission refused to discuss it and there seemed to be some doubt whether it recommended an advance in the price of bituminous coal to absorb the proposed wage increases.

In appointing the commission the president said that "a readjustment of the prices of coal shall be found necessary. I shall be pleased to transfer to the commission the powers heretofore vested in the fuel administrator for that purpose."

While the commission was understood to have asked for the operators, it was suggested in some apparently well informed quarters that the individual commissioners would propose that some price advance be made on the basis of the facts adduced in the long hearings held by the commission since its appointment last December.

The majority report was said to cover something like thirty thousand words. Included among its recommendations, it was understood, were retention of the check-off system by which the operators collect the dues for the unions and a special commission to be appointed by the next joint wage conference to report within two years.

The report also was said to be a unanimous conclusion, the commission was understood to have held many long sessions this week, meeting both day and night. Mr. White held out against the majority recommendation, however, and when an agreement appeared hopeless the majority proceeded to complete their report at midnight last night, sending it to the White House early today.

The commission began its hearings on Jan. 12 with the understanding between the government and the miners that its report would be made within sixty days, which period expires tomorrow.

The commission would have no authority to enforce its findings had its report been unanimous. However, when it began its hearings, the operators agreed unreservedly to abide by its decision and the operators accepted its jurisdiction with the reservation that they could not be bound by any decision for a period subsequent to the life of the Lever food control law, as this might subject them to prosecution under the anti-trust laws.

The operators insisted that many mines could not operate if wages were advanced, unless there was a corresponding increase in coal prices. The miners contended against this position and charged that the operators had made large profits during the war.

The miners originally demanded a 50 per cent increase and thirty hours of work per week in the great round, in the conferences with the operators called by Secretary Wilson after the injunction to end the coal strike, their representatives receded from this and agreed to accept Mr. Wilson's proposal for a 25 per cent increase in wages and a seven hour day.

The approximate increase of 35 per cent which it was reported Mr. White would recommend in his report to the president tomorrow was said to have been worked out on the same basis as the increase in the cost of living since November had been added.

Wage increases were said to have been calculated by the majority of the commission on the basis of tonnage for pick and machine mining, a percentage increase for garbage and dead work, and a flat advance in the pay of day laborers. The increase is not uniform for all mines, varying in accordance with costs of production.

According to some calculations, the general advance probably would amount to 25 per cent, or more.

President John C. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America, who has been in New York attending the negotiations between the anthracite miners and operators for a new wage

# MORE TESTIMONY CONCERNING CAILLAUX'S TRIP TO ITALY

Paris, March 11.—Further testimony concerning the trip of former Premier Caillaux to Italy in 1916 was heard by the high court of the senate today. In the trial of M. Caillaux on the charge of having had a treasonable dealing with the enemy, Camille Barthe, French ambassador to Italy, Charles Roux, counselor of the French embassy in Rome, and Prince Ghika, Rumanian minister to Italy, testified to the unretained in Italian official circles by M. Caillaux's relations with suspected persons.

M. Caillaux broke down and went into Henri De Jouvenel, correspondent at Rome of Le Matin, referred to Madame Caillaux's expressed enthusiasm at having found in Rome a welcome which had been treacherously denied her in Paris since the shooting of Gaston Calmette, editor of Figaro, in 1914.

# ABOUT SALE OF GOVERNMENT OWNED MERCHANT FLEET

Washington, March 11.—Congress should include in merchant marine legislation a specific direction to the shipping board to sell the present government owned fleet of ships in the 2,000-ton class. This class of ships, the letter said, was needed for the West Indies and Caribbean sea trade.

Chairman Payne said the board had submitted the provisions for selling the fleet to the committee on commerce. "I shall be pleased to include in the legislation by congress to fix the policy of the government if that is the policy."

Chairman Jones presented a letter to the committee from Matthew Hale, chairman of the Midwest-Gulf-South Atlantic states foreign trade committee, protesting against the recent sale of a British liner to a merchant ship. "The number of ships in the 2,000-ton class," he said, "was needed for the West Indies and Caribbean sea trade."

Chairman Payne said the board had submitted the provisions for selling the fleet to the committee on commerce. "I shall be pleased to include in the legislation by congress to fix the policy of the government if that is the policy."

# NAVY IS PREPARED TO COMMANDEER FUEL OIL

Washington, March 11.—The navy is prepared to commandeer the fuel oil necessary for lighting ships if its requirements are not met at "reasonable" prices in the bids to be opened Tuesday for the next fiscal year, Secretary Daniels announced by the board of fuel oil.

The navy is said to have a stockpile of 25,000,000 barrels of fuel oil, which it is expected to use in recent requests for bids.

"While it is hoped that the exercise of our commanding authority under the law will not be necessary," Mr. Daniels said, "the American navy must have its fuel."

The navy is now paying 33 cents a barrel for fuel oil, but it is expected to pay 40 cents a barrel for many standard oil. The secretary would not say what he considered a "reasonable" price on new contracts.

# VICTOR BERGER GETS ANOTHER CONTINUANCE

Chicago, March 11.—Victor Berger and four other socialist leaders, sentenced on January 23 of last year to serve two years sentences for draft obstruction, today were given another continuance when the case came up in the United States court of appeals today. By agreement of attorneys the case was continued indefinitely.

The five accused are: Victor Berger, the Rev. Irvin St. John Tucker, Adolph Germer, J. Louis Engdahl and William F. Kruse. All are at liberty under bond.

Appeals of William D. Haywood and ninety-three other I. W. W. members will be heard later this month. They were convicted and sentenced for conspiracy to obstruct the draft and other war laws.

# THIS 15 YEAR OLD BOY REQUIRES \$7,500 A YEAR

New York, March 11.—Fifteen-year-old Robert Kelly, grandson of Eugene Kelly, wealthy banker, who died in 1914 leaving several millions, requires \$7,500 annually for his support according to his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Kelly, whose application for this allowance from trust funds was investigated by a referee appointed today by the surrogate court. Mrs. Kelly listed among "necessities" \$24.50 a month for gasoline for her son's car.

# CHINESE BANDITS RELEASE

Cincinnati, March 11.—Rev. Dr. A. L. Shelton, missionary of the Disciples of Christ Church who has been held captive by Chinese bandits, has been released, according to information received by the Foreign Christian Missionary Society of the Disciples Church here today.