German Foreign Office immediately laid plans to scotch the interview—plans, by the way, which worked with a smoothness and precision, in marked contrast with the diplomatic bungling that followed the declaration of war.

Hale was then editor of the Book Review of "The New York Times," but he was also a free-lance writer and contributor to magazines. He went to London, and there, it is said, offered his interview to a number of newspapers, notably Northcliffe's "Times" and "The Morning Post." Both declined to publish it, as ill-advised and sensational, so Hale sailed for America.

Back in New York, he offered his international bomb first to "The Times," by which he was employed and trusted. Here again the German Foreign Office had forstalled, for "The Times" said no. Frankly and openly it ruled against its publication, subsequently announcing editorially . . . "Mr. Hale sought permission to publish a report of it (the interview) in 'The New York Times,' but the Foreign Office in Berlin refused this permission and the interview was never written out for publication in 'The Times.'"

Hale turned then to "The Century Magazine," of which the late Richard Watson Gilder and Robert Underwood Johnson were the directing editors. They bought the article and promptly, paying for it $1,000. In its issue of November, 1908, "The Century," conservative always, but then perhaps more so than now, made this conservative announcement:

Mr. William Bayard Hale, of "The New York Times" staff (whose vivid account in that paper of the daily life of ex-President Roosevelt attracted great attention), was particularly fortunate last summer in meeting the German Emperor and hearing him discuss subjects of current interest. Mr. Hale visited the Emperor on his yacht during his vacation in Norwegian waters, and the conversation not only related to topics of current public interest, but was of the frankest and sincerest sort. An authoritative record of much that was said will appear as a feature of an early number of "The Century," and it will be found to have extraordinary interest.

Again Foreign Office Blocked Publication

A talk of the frankest and sincerest sort! Very true indeed; but with all its frankness it was destined never to appear in "The Century." Again the Foreign Office intervened. Messrs. Gilder and Johnson and others controlling the policy of the magazine were visited by representatives of the German Embassy at Washington. There was a conference. Money was not mentioned, albeit those representing the German government tacitly made it plain that money—any amount of it—would be forthcoming if it were necessary or desired.

Now, "The Century's" editors wanted no bribe. But they were out the payment made to Hale and the cost of putting the interview in type. The printing outlay alone represented some $3,500—that is, it would represent that if the issue set up and ready for release was to be torn wide open and the article dealing with the Kaiser lifted out. Moreover, there was the embarrassing situation created by the fact that the article had been advertised in the previous issue.

The German emissaries realized all this, but they were determined. They pleaded, they cajoled, they pointed to the fact that "The Times" had seen fit to withhold the interview from publication. They came, they argued, not only at the earnest solicitation of their own Foreign Office, but with the good offices of high officials in the United States government. To print the interview might cause war.

Germany Defrayed Loss to Magazine

Reluctantly "The Century" yielded. It was not a "yellow" magazine, and if the interview might do all the harm ascribed to it they certainly would not print it. This is all a matter of record. All talk of special compensation was dispensed with, and a gentleman's agreement was reached whereby the German Embassy was to defray the expense the magazine had undergone, together with any additional expense incidental to pruning out the article and making over the expurgated issue.

A not informidable physical task was then performed, and details here related are told for the first time. The article, twelve pages in extent, was culled from every issue of "The Century." The pages were carefully boxed and sent—no, not to Washington to the German Embassy, but to the New York offices of the North German Lloyd. There they were secretly stored. Occurred not long thereafter one of those curious things that have come to be accepted as typical of the German mind.

A German cruiser paid an unannounced visit to New York. When she steamed away she had on board ten heavy boxes. Each contained, tightly packed, the pages from "The Century" with the interview with the Kaiser by William Bayard Hale.

Somewhere off Sandy Hook—possibly you may conjecture—the pages were cast in the engine furnaces. That is just what the German commander did not do. He ordered the boxes thrown overboard. Accordingly, they were thrown, and they floated! Like the bottle that drifts ashore with its scrawled message, each box now became a perilous vehicle of publicity, and there was nothing to do but lower boats and pursue them. Corralled from the waves, they were again hoisted aboard, and this time consigned to the fire.

But They Forgot To Destroy the Plates

This example of German efficiency occurred during the winter of 1908-'09.

Skip now five years and come to the outbreak of the great war, in August, 1914. Newspaper paraphrases of the now famous interview had meantime been printed, only to be denied and repudiated—but the article as written by Hale for "The Century" was to all intents and purposes dead. Every printed copy had been destroyed, Hale's manuscript as well.

Bernstorff, in the meantime, had risen from an attaché of the German Embassy at Washington, and was now ambassador. Russia and Austria, France and Germany, England and Germany, not to mention Serbia, began fighting. The Kaiser's interview was forgotten. That is, it was all but forgotten. Then, in September, 1914, it was suddenly remembered, remembered by some one in the offices of "The Century." He spoke of it. What wonderful reading it would make now, he said. Suppressed as likely to cause war, that reason, with the whole of Europe fighting, was now eliminated. Shouldn't they publish it? This would be comparatively simple. How?

Enter here another example of German efficiency. The representatives of the German Embassy and Foreign Office, who five years before had procured every printed page of the interview, had neither sought nor spoken of the plates, and for five years those plates, from which a proof could be struck in a moment, had lain in the vaults of the De Vinne Press, unknown and untouched.

A proof was struck. Word was sent to Bernstorff. Would he please release "The Century," now that England and Germany were at war, from the gentlemen's agreement binding it not to print the interview?

Bernstorff Rushes Here; Again Blocks Printing

The German Ambassador took the first train for New York, and went to his famous suite at the Ritz-Carlton. He was somewhat aghast. How, he inquired, sputteringly, could "The Century" resurrect an article that it had retained no copy of? It was unheard of, terrible, a catastrophe.

The existence of the plates was then explained to him, and he threw up his hand. "No!" he shouted, he would not release "The Century." An agreement was an agreement, and to print the article now would be worse than had it appeared five years before. He did not explain why, but possibly he visualized with what keen relish Roman Catholic Austria and Roman Catholic Italy—Italy was then neutral—would read the Emperor's attack on the Catholic Church.

The ambassador won his point. Having given its word, "The Century" stood by it. This country, it must be recalled, was then neutral, and all citizens were counselled by President Wilson to keep neutral in word and action. Bernstorff asked for the plates and got them. They were boxed and dispatched to him at Washington. The proof taken, previously mentioned, was destroyed. With the printed pages burned at sea, the plates at last in Bernstorff's keeping (also presumably soon destroyed) and the final proof taken from the resurrected plates obliterated—this ended the existence of the record by printing of the Kaiser's loose talk to William Bayard Hale.

All except one copy. That is intact. How or when or by whom it was obtained it is not permissible to state. But it exists, and it is as Hale wrote it, and it is not his original manuscript. Some day, as was said above, it may be given to the world.

"American" Got Outline From Northcliffe Press

Now as to the leaks—that is to say, the newspaper paraphrases of the interview which appeared shortly after the suppression of the article by "The Century." First to essay a synopsis was "The New York American," which in its issue of November 20, 1908, printed the story under a London date. The Hearst papers at the time had some sort of a working alliance with the Northcliffe press in England, and it has been suggested that when Hale submitted his article in London a skeleton of it was retained by some one there, and from this source reached "The American" here.

The day after "The American's" London dated synopsis came "The World's" broadside. It purported to present the only accurate account of what the Kaiser really had said, and so stated in a brief introduction. It then continued:

Summarized, the main points of the Kaiser's interview, which took place on the imperial yacht Hohenzollern off Bergen, Norway, are as follows:

"That King Edward of Great Britain had been humiliating him for more than two years and that he was exasperated; that Germany was the paramount power in all Europe, and that England was trying to neutralize that power;

"That he held France in the hollow of his hand, and that Russia was of no account since the disastrous war she had waged with Japan;

Was Weary of Waiting For the World War

"That if the Pan-European war, which had been so much talked about, was inevitable the sooner it came the better it would be for him, because he was ready and was tired of the suspense;

"That Great Britain had been a decadent nation ever since her victory over the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, because hers was an unrighteous, ungodly cause, and divine judgment was bound eventually to overtake the powerful nation that waged such a war;

"That the Anglo-Japanese alliance was an iniquitous alliance against all the white races, England proving absolutely her faithlessness as a Christian nation; that Japan was honeycombing India with sedition and flooding it with spies, while professing openly to be England's friend and ally;

"That the only way to counteract this alliance was for Germany and America to act together at an early date or America would have to fight the Japanese in ten months;

"That in the event of a great war England would lose many of her large colonies, especially those in the Pacific, and that all he would take for Germany would be Egypt, though he would liberate the Holy Land from the yoke of the infidel, presumably meaning the Soltan;

"That the perfecting of the Zeppelin dirigible balloon would give Germany a powerful advantage in war, and she was ready to make use of it to the fullest extent."

"Bitter Against England," Full of Yellow Peril

Said "The American" article the day previous:

"Here is exactly what Emperor William said on world politics to Dr. William Bayard Hale, the distinguished clergyman, traveller and writer. . . . The Emperor talked to Dr. Hale for several hours. He was bitter against England and full of the yellow peril. He declared England a traitor to the white man's cause. He predicted that she would ultimately lose some of her colonies through her treaty with Japan.

"The invitation to the American fleet of battleships to visit New Zealand and Australia was intended to serve notice on England that those colonies were with the white man and not with the renegade mother country. The British colonies would show by the ardor of their reception that they understood the situation.

"Complete Understanding With President Roosevelt"

"The Emperor declared that Japan is even now fomenting insurrection in India. The insurrection might break out within six months. Germany and the United States will, however, find a solution of the Eastern question. There is a complete understanding between Emperor William and President Roosevelt on this point. They intend to divide the East against itself by becoming the recognized friends of China. Negotiations have been progressing favorably for months. A very high Chinese official, the Emperor said, would soon visit America and Germany. Terms will then be made known guaranteeing the integrity of China and the open door.

"Every statesman now realizes, the Emperor declared, that Russia, in her great struggle with Japan, was really fighting the white man's cause—fighting it miserably. The Emperor expressed sympathy with Russia, remarking how different the result would have been if the burden of carrying the white man's standard had been placed by Providence upon his invincible battalions. If Japan be suffered now to get control of China Europe will suffer attack. The Emperor is keeping friends with the Mahometan world. He is even supplying them with rifles, because they are devils in fight and stand there between the East and the West where they can break the first force of attack.

"Emperor William said he believed that America would be forced to fight Japan within two years. He seemed eager to talk and poured a steady stream of criticism upon England for two hours."

Declared Archbishop Ireland Enemy of U. S.

Supplementing the foregoing, "The American" made this comment: "The Emperor declared that Archbishop Ireland was one of the worst enemies America has. He is literally a Jesuit. Watch out for Ireland. He made a victim of Taft at Rome."

Both versions were at once promptly cabled to Europe and naturally created there something of a sensation. The British press was ostensibly outraged, and pointing uot that "The New York Times" had spurned the alleged interview came to the almost unanimous conclusion, or at least asserted with remarkable unanimity that what had been printed by the two other journals was faked nonsense. Needless to add that German high officialdom ridiculed every word of both accounts as the sheerest drivel.

But there certainly was a stir among the German people. Bold, as always, Maximilian Harden, in "Die Zukunft," treat the affair with stinging irony, lamenting the Kaiser's tendency to open his heart to foreigners rather than to German newspaper men. He added: "The leaders of the Foreign Office tried hard to prevent the publication of the story and caused (by the use of arguments that I don't care to state) the publishers of "The Century Magazine" to renounce the big business deal. Important parts of the report were nevertheless published in Mr. Pulitzer's New York "World."

"The World" Accepts Germany's Repudiation

Amid the uproar here and abroad "The World" stood by its guns, insisting that the interview as published was substantially correct. For nine days it fought back the tide of denial, and then, on Monday morning, November 30, 1908, it changed front and made this editorial retraction:

"After a painstaking inquiry 'The World' frankly admits it finds no convincing basis for the so-called synopsis of the Hale interview with the German Emperor.

"When Prince von Bülow informed the Berlin correspondent of the 'Petit Parisien' that 'The World's' version of the interview ascribed to the Kaiser, 'stupidly absurd words which he could not have uttered,' the German Chancellor pronounced a judgment which 'The World' accepts as the correct conclusion to be drawn from the investigation, at least so far as the personally offensive expressions imputed to the Kaiser are concerned.

"The Rev. Dr. Hale seems to have told various persons, including his editorial chiefs in 'The New York Times' office, about his conversation with the Kaiser, of which he was tremendously proud.

"World" Blamed Hale For Not Denying Interview

"He had hawked his manuscript of the interview around the offices of various periodicals, and, after its suppression by 'The Century,' a great volume of gossip was in circulation. When 'The World' obtained what purported to be a synopsis of the Rev. Dr. Hale's own account of the Kaiser's remarks, it submitted the proofs of the article to him and he read them. Ten words from him would have made publication impossible, yet he contented himself with the excision of several statements that slightly involved his own personal veracity, leaving the essential paragraphs untouched.

"'The World' fully believes its reporter swore truly when he made affidavit that the Rev. Dr. Hale suggested no changes whatever except those in his own handwriting on the proof slips, and gave no intimation that the synopsis was otherwise inaccurate. His own corrections marked on the proof slips are conclusive as to the issue of veracity.

"The Rev. Dr. Hale was plainly willing that the synopsis should be printed provided he were left free to disavow it afterward. As a subordinate employe of our esteemed contemporary, 'The New York Times,' whose able and successful chief editorial manager, William C. Reick, is under personal obligations to the Kaiser for the Order of the Crown, and might sharply resent any public betrayal of the Emperor's confidence, such a course would very well serve the Rev. Dr. Hale's self-interest while gratifying his extreme vanity and his appetite for further international notoriety.

Defended Upon Hale's Correction of Proofs

"It is only fair to add, perhaps, that neither the proprietor, chief editor nor any of the managers of 'The World' had knowledge of the synopsis until after it was printed. The article did not appear in the first edition, which is evidence of the undue haste with which, unfortunately, it was sent to press at a late hour of the night in the honest belief that the Rev. Dr. Hale in personally correcting the proofs had affirmed the truth of every statement he left untouched.

"'The World,' nevertheless, holds no brief for the doctrine of journalistic infallibility and is not afraid to admit its errors. We believe the German Emperor is entitled to the same measure of justice that every honorable newspaper should accord to prince and pauper alike.

"Convinced that the Kaiser could not have uttered—and least of all to a total stranger—some of the stupidly absurd words attributed to him, 'The World' sincerely regrets the published synopsis of the Hale interview as mistaken, misleading and mischievous."

The "American" never retracted. Instead, it bitterly assailed England.

In conclusion, now, the strangest and the most tragic, or viewed in another light, the most humorous phase of the whole affair. Both "The World" and "The American" were right. They quoted loosely, to be sure, but in the high spots they had not greatly erred. Wilhelm II did attack England, did attack the Catholic Church; in short, he said pretty much what was ascribed to him. In addition he took a fling at Colonel Roosevelt, with whom not so very long afterward he was to be proudly photographed on horseback reviewing troops. He called the colonel a funny little German word, which is still there in that copy of the interview that may some day be printed.

Berlin Says America Plans Negro Army

U. S. Will Send Few White Soldiers, German Public Is Told

LONDON Dec. 16.—The German public was recently informed by the official Wolff News Agency that the United States will send few white soldiers and as many negroes as possible to the front in Europe. German newspapers of November 8 carried this Wolff telegram:

"A strong movement for the establishment of an army composed of negroes is on foot in America, according to trustworthy information. They expect a doubly beneficial effect from this plan—the Allies will get liberal assistance without white citizens being sacrificed and America will rid herself of the greater part of her undesirable colored citizens."

21 Below at Watertown

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Extremely cold weather prevailed throughout Northern New York early to-day. While the official low temperature in this city was 21 degrees below zero, reports from other points indicated a minimum of 25 and 30 degrees below.

Launch Drive To Add 500,000 To Red Cross

6,000 Persons Crowd Hippodrome to Hear Leaders Fire First Gun

Taft Calls Indecisive Peace Dangerous

Ex-President, Presiding, Outlines Work and Appeals for Great Effort

The first gun in the big drive to add 500,000 members to the New York chapter of the Red Cross and 10,000,000 to the national roll was fired last night at a mass meeting held in the Hippodrome.

Six thousand persons crowded the great building to the roof and listened eagerly while Henry P. Davison, chairman of the Red Cross National War Council; Henry J. Allen, newly returned from France; William Howard Taft and others told of the work of mercy which the American Red Cross is doing in France, Russia, Italy, Rumania, Armenia, Poland and in the United States.

The stories came from the muddy trenches, from the soldiers' camps, from the stricken homes of France, from the schools where blind and crippled soldiers are being taught new trades, and from the hospitals behind the lines—everywhere that the work of the American Red Cross is bringing help to the victims of the war.

Kahn Urges Loyalty

The meeting was opened with an invocation by Bisnop David H. Greer, which was followed by the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by John McCormack. On the stage was a human Red Cross flag, formed by 400 members of the New York County Red Cross, dressed in red robes and the white uniform of the organization.

Introducing William Howard Taft, who presided, Otto H. Kahn said, in part:

"Speaking as a citizen of foreign birth—of German birth—I want to say to you that the great mass of us adopted Americans are anxious to defend with our life, our all, the great cause for which we have entered this war. We are true to our oath.

"The spirit of Prussianism and the spirit of America cannot live in the same world. One or the other must conquer. And there is fighting on our side the force which has ever proved itself stronger than any other, the force which has never known defeat, the force of freedom."

Mr. Taft, in beginning his address, called attention to the danger of an indecisive peace.

Calls Indecisive Peace Dangerous

"The great danger that we are at present facing in this war is the possibility of an inconclusive peace," he said. "It must not be that the greatest and most terrible war in the history of the world shall be fought for nothing. It should not be that the 7,000,000 dead, the 6,000,000 in prison camps and the 6,000,000 in hospitals shall have suffered in vain.

"The danger is that our allies, who are in an exhausted situation, may not hold out. And the instrumentality which can best stiffen the morale of those brave nations who for three years have carried on our war, is the Red Cross. That is why we are asking every citizen of the Republic to join the Red Cross.

"Why should we limit the membership to ten million? Why not the whole one hundred per cent? We are merely starting with the ten million."

Says United States Saved France

One of the stirring moments of the meeting occurred when Henry J. Allen, one of the Red Cross commissioners to France, was telling of the all but exhausted condition of war-ridden France.

"If we had not come into the war when we did," he continued, "it is even possible that France, like Russia, might now be making a separate peace with Germany."

"Never!" cries a French soldier in uniform, who was sitting in a seat near the platform. The speaker stopped and the crowd, carried away, clapped and cheered itself hoarse.

Mr. Allen told of the work the Red Cross is doing behind the lines in France, where this winter the family of every French soldier at the front will be visited by American Red Cross workers, and wherever needed will be provided with food, clothing and the necessaries of life. A French general, said Mr. Allen, had declared that this work would so build up the morale of the soldiers that it would be this winter the equivalent of a million and a half soldiers.

"Will Fight in Germany"

The American armies, according to the present plans, are to fight on German soil, said Mr. Allen. In the spring they will take over a section of the French line in Alsace, he said. He told how England is pouring 40,000 fresh, well trained men into her continental armies every week, and also called attention to the fact that in the Canadian forces somewhat more than 35 per cent of the soldiers are "Canadians" from such places at Oshkosh, Kalamazoo and Yonkers. Every French soldier going to the front is given an American Red Cross kit, sandwiches, socks, tobacco and an American flag, he said.

Henry B. Davison, senior partner of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and now chairman of the Red Cross War Council, told how the work was organized in this country since the outbreak of the war, and how it was bringing relief to the soldiers and civilian population of all the Allied countries. He also asked the coöperation of every citizen to put a stop to the unfounded criticisms and the insinuations against the work of the Red Cross, which he characterizes as "German propaganda." He explained that for every dollar contributed for relief work more than a dollar goes for actual relief, due largely to the volunteer services of the women workers.

"As for Russia," he went on, "our commission is in Petrograd, and will stay there carrying on the relief work. I think the thing for us to do is to stand by Russia, and that there are still many chapters to be written about the history of Russia's participation in this war. In Rumania, too, our workers will remain."

"Fall In!" Davison's Call as Red Cross Campaign Begins

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—On the eve of the great Christmas membership campaign of the American Red Cross beginning to-morrow, Henry P. Davison, chairman of the society's war council, issued this call:

"To the five million members working loyally with us to-day—Stand by the colors.

"To the ten or fifteen million members who will join us before Christmas Eve—"Fall in."

Mr. Davison, who was called upon by President Wilson to serve the Red Cross after the country went to war, told in his statement something of what he had learned about the organization and of its wonderful expansion to meet war conditions.

"The Red Cross has given me a new conception of America and the American spirit," he said. "It is with the zeal of a convert that I invite the American people to come in with me under President Wilson and make it the nationwide organization that is demanded by these times.

"If the Red Cross is not as democratic as you would like to make it, that is probably because you are on the outside looking in. My experience is that no one has the right to criticize who is not in the work up to his neck. I believe we shall obtain a membership of 20,000,000, in which all social lines are flung to the winds and an organization representative of the entire people will be created."

New England Ready To Enroll Its Million

BOSTON, Dec. 16.—Mass meetings were held in many cities and towns of the state to-day in preparation for the campaign which opens to-morrow to enroll 1,000,000 New England members in the American Red Cross, at $1 for each membership. Louis K. Liggett, who will conduct the campaign, to-day pointed out that to bring the enrolment up to the desired 1,000,000 nearly one-quarter of the population of New England must be wearing Red Cross buttons by Christmas.

Massachusetts must provide 672,000 members; Maine, 115,000; Rhode Island, 107,000; New Hampshire, 70,000, and Vermont, 36,000.

Roosevelt Urges Citizens To Join the Red Cross

HEMPSTEAD, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Theodore Roosevelt opened the Red Cross membership drive in Nassau County with a speech in which he declared that it was the duty of every American to join the Red Cross.

"If on Christmas morning the Red Cross can announce that 10,000,000 more Americans have joined it, and thereby signified their unqualified support of our army and navy and our nation in this war, the moral effect all over the world will be of inestimable value," declared Colonel Roosevelt.

"Pershing and the men in France depend upon the Red Cross. It is working for our army and for our navy. It is working for our allies. Now let us all, in our turn, work for it."

$40,000,000 Salmon Catch

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Food added to the nation's war time storehouses by the 1917 catch of Alaska salmon was the largest amount in the history of the Territory, and far exceeded in value that of any other season. The pack of canned salmon will aggregate 5,300,000 cases, the Bureau of Fisheries announced to-day, valued at $40,000,000, nearly twice the value of the record catch of 1916.

Dry Leaders Expect to Win In House Today

Prohibitionists Are Confident They Have Two-Thirds Vote

Suffrage to Go Over Until After Holidays

Congress Clearing Decks to Devote Its Entire Time to War Problems

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—With an unusual record for business already accomplished, Congress turns to-morrow to a clean-up of domestic legislation before the Christmas holidays. After that it proposes to devote itself exclusively to war problems. Adjournment next Tuesday until Thursday, January 3, a holiday recess somewhat longer than usual, is planned under a House resolution, which comes to-morrow before the Senate.

Since the session began, a fortnight ago, Congress has declared war against Austria-Hungary, extended the President's $100,000,000 war emergency fund, made progress on natural resource legislation recommended by the President, passed the $333,000,000 Postoffice appropriation bill through the House and launched several important investigations, including those into the army and navy war preparations and the sugar and fuel shortages.

To be squeezed into the two days before the recess is much other important legislation. During the recess committees will proceed with investigations and drafting of appropriation bills to be acted on in the new year.

Vote on Prohibition To-day

Chief in interest now is the nationwide prohibition question, to be voted on by the House to-morrow afternoon at 5 o'clock. Prohibition advocates are confident of approval by considerably more than the necessary two-thirds majority of the resolution for submission to the states of a national prohibition amendment to the Constitution. The resolution was adopted August 1 last by the Senate by a vote of 65 to 20. Action by the states, three-fourths of which must approve before the amendment becomes effective, is required in seven years by the House resolution and six years under the Senate resolution.

If the House acts to-morrow the difference must be adjusted in conference and the conference report adopted by both bodies before the resolution is submitted to the states. Lively debate is expected in the House.

Disposal before the recess of the proposed woman suffrage amendment to the Constitution is regarded as impossible. A vote may be taken in the House soon after the holidays. Polls conducted by the leaders indicate defeat of the resolution.

To Take Up Oil Land Bill

The Senate to-morrow will resume consideration of the Walsh-Pittman coal and oil land leasing bill which probably will pass Tuesday in furtherance of the programme of legislation for natural resource development. Informal agreement for elimination from the bill of the controversy over the California naval oil reserves, by a plan for government condemnation and development of private holdings there, is expected to expedite passage of the measure.

Investigation by the Senate military affairs committee into the War Department's operations will be resumed to-morrow, with Major-General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, again under examination. After two days in secret session it is planned to reopen the doors to-morrow. Several more days probably will be spent in the ordnance inquiry, with Colonel Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun, army ordnance experts and department officials as witnesses. Secretary Baker will be called before the inquiry closes.

Plans to begin inquiry into the navy's war activities will be made to-morrow by the House naval sub-committee at a preliminary meeting.

Investigation of the sugar and fuel shortages will be resumed to-morrow by the Senate manufacturers' subcommittee, with Claus Spreckels, of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, returning to the stand.

Further progress in the investigation of the alleged disloyal St. Paul speech of Senator La Follette will be discussed at a meeting of the Senate privileges and elections committee next Thursday. Arrangements for hearing former Secretary Bryan are planned.

The railroad problem is being studied by many members of Congress with all waiting President Wilson's recommendations. In view of the holiday adjournment planned Tuesday, it is thought at the Capitol that the President may not present his views to Congress until after it reconvenes on January 3. The Newlands joint Congressional committee will resume its general railroad inquiry to-morrow.

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Launch First Steel Ship Contracted For by U. S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—A telegram to the shipping board to-day told of the launching at Los Angeles of the first steel merchant ship contracted for by the Emergency Fleet Corporation. The vessel was one of eight of 8,800 tons capacity each, ordered May 12 from S. L. Napthaly.

Turning out the vessel within seven months, though the yard in which it was built had to be constructed after the contract was let, was hailed by shipping board officials as demonstrating what American industry can do in an emergency.

One vessel contracted for by the Fleet Corporation already has been launched, but it came from a yard at Seattle which has been in operation for many years.

Cold Delays Ilion Firemen

UTICA, N. Y., Dec. 16.—A freezing fire whistle and frozen hydrants delayed firemen in Ilion to-night until fire gained headway enough to destroy a business block valued at $7,000. Hot ashes in the cellar of the William C. Powers block caused the blaze, which put out of business a cigar store and a restaurant and made two families who live in the store apartments homeless.

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These are times when thinking men are making their Wills

"No Will was found."

When you have seen such a statement in the newspapers, has the force of this thought come home to you?—

"If I neglect to make my Will, I surrender all right to say *how* my property shall be divided."

Usually the neglect to make a Will is plain forgetfulness—though some men hesitate, thinking it costs more to settle an estate under a Will than it does without one. That is a mistaken impression. The legal fees are the same—whether you are farsighted enough to leave a Will or whether your heirs have to report "No Will was found."

The Columbia Trust Company cannot offer to tell you how to draw your Will. That is legal advice which your lawyer is best qualified to give.

We are now ready to tell you, however, the inevitable steps which *some one* must take in settling your estate.

This information we will send you on request in a booklet entitled:

"What Every Foresighted Business Man Should Know."

In this booklet you will learn:

What happens if you leave no Will?

What consecutive steps must be taken by your Executor?

What are some of the intricate duties involved in settling an estate?

Under what family conditions are two Executors desirable?

What are the fees of an Executor?

If willed property held by an Executor is lost, who is responsible?

Is litigation over Wills of a preventable nature?

Is Trust Company Executorship desirable for small estates?

How can one change the Executor of his Will?

To secure a copy of "What Every Foresighted Business Man Should Know," call at or write to any one of our Offices below.

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