

Shipbuilding Figures Show Marked Gain

February Deliveries Nearly Twice Total in January

Launchings Even Greater in Number

Oregon and Washington Can Furnish at Least 400 Wooden Vessels Yearly

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Progress of the steel ship building campaign was shown to-night by the Shipping Board. Figures of deliveries and launchings show a steady upward trend since January 1.

In February seventeen vessels, of 120,700 tons, were completed and put into service. The total was nearly twice that of January—admittedly a bad month—when only nine vessels, with a tonnage of 79,541, were delivered. March deliveries at the present rate are expected to reach twenty-three vessels, of 188,275 tons.

Launchings have more than kept pace with deliveries, sixteen ships, of 112,500 tons, having been put overboard in January, and fifteen, of 77,900 tons, having been launched in February. In March it is expected that thirty-five vessels, with a tonnage of 220,521, will be sent down the ways.

Of the vessels completed in February fifteen were cargo carriers, one was a tanker and one a collier. The March schedule calls for the delivery of fourteen cargo vessels, seven tankers and two colliers.

Oregon and Washington can furnish between 400 and 500 wooden ships a year, witnesses from the Pacific Coast today told the Senate Commerce Committee. If the Emergency Fleet Corporation would furnish to the lumbermen a standardized program, the Shipping Board that the lumber supply in the Northwest is inadequate were declared unfounded.

Portland, Ore., declared the mills in his state had not reached their maximum capacity and said production of wooden ships on the west coast could be accelerated. "The mills in my state," he said, "had and he knew of several mills that would be compelled to close unless the situation improved."

Great Britain's Ship Production Exceeded By American Yards

America is now producing more merchant ships than Great Britain. The difference in output will rise sharply in the next few months. These facts appear in comparing the Shipping Board report of launchings given out in Washington yesterday with the speech of Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the British Admiralty, in Parliament on March 5.

United States yards delivered 120,700 tons in completed ships in February, a month which produced also some of the worst weather ever known here. Sir Eric said the British output in January was 80,000 tons, and he thought the February record would be nearly twice that amount. American deliveries in January were 79,541 tons. March deliveries are expected to be 188,275 tons. Sir Eric's speech had a discouraged tone. "The main fact is that owing to labor unrest and strike difficulties the men in the yards are not working as if the life of the country depended on their exertions. The employers are perhaps not doing all they could. The long strain of the war must have an effect upon their nerves as upon every one's."

The greatest American shipyard are not yet approaching their full capacity. The Hog Island yard, which will be the largest in the world, has laid the keel of just one ship.

Puget Sound Unions Deny Ship Tie-Up

SEATTLE, March 9.—Denial that a shortage of ship caulkers exists here was made today by officers of the local Shipyard Joiners and Caulkers' Union in commenting upon Washington dispatches that Shipping Board officials said a tie-up of wooden shipbuilding on Puget Sound was threatened as a result of the refusal of caulkers to permit apprentices to learn their trade and thus increase the number of men available.

British Admiralty Urges Ships Be Darkened

LONDON, March 9.—The most vital importance is attached by the British Admiralty to the darkening of ships as explained by Sir Eric Geddes in his statement in the House of Commons last Tuesday. The Admiralty desires that the fullest possible publicity be given to the First Lord's remarks by placarding and otherwise. It urges that protective measures as prescribed be carried out immediately and implicitly.

Said the Senator From California To the Senator From Mississippi

By Ralph Block

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Fortunately Senators don't mean half they say of each other. Senator Johnson, of California, told the Senate today that Senator John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, had foully abused a man he had known all his life and of whose devotion to the cause of humanity he had every necessary proof. The man around whom this exciting dialogue centered was generally supposed at the moment to be several thousand miles away, but that did not prevent Senator Johnson and Williams from spending the closing moments of a Saturday session putting sparks into the Senate atmosphere.

The meeting was the result of an effort to appropriate \$5,000 for the International Agricultural Institute, an institution that may some day be of great service in keeping the world from starving by issuing reports on crop conditions all over the world. The man who dreamed the International Agricultural Institute is David Lubin, of Sacramento, Cal. According to Senator Johnson, he also spent his fortune on it. The \$5,000 included an appropriation of \$3,000 as salary for Mr. Lubin, and it was to this that Senator Williams objected.

AMERICAN TROOPS IN FRENCH SNOW



An infantry regiment passing through a town in France, en route to training quarters. Copies of this photograph may be obtained from the Division of Pictures, Committee on Public Information, Washington, D. C. Photo. No. 5056.

ships at night Sir Eric Geddes in his statement Tuesday said: "If an greatly concerned at the increased number of vessels lost at night, not only on moonlight nights, but on nights of complete darkness. Unless the ship is completely darkened in accordance with Admiralty orders night is no help against the submarine. In fact, the slightest visible light is an excellent target."

War Will Mould New U. S., Vesnitch Thinks

PARIS, March 8.—The war will complete the development of the national individuality of the United States. This is the conviction expressed by Dr. M. R. Vesnitch, head of the Serbian Mission to the United States, in a statement to the "Petit Parisien."

America Will Fight On to Victory, Says Serbian Diplomat

Dr. Vesnitch declared that he fully convinced that America would not stop halfway, adding: "She could not, even if she would, for her banners before victory has shown upon them. That would mean not only stagnation, but decline. It would be a setback for humanity in general. Americans will never accept that." "One of the reasons for the success of my mission was that I always insisted on the necessity for carrying on the war to victory and of turning a deaf ear to Germany's hints of peace, although I represent a nation which has suffered and suffers more than any other from the war and which, in proportion, has made the greatest sacrifices."

Admiral J. A. B. Smith Dead at New Orleans

Entered Service in Civil War and Retired Ten Years Ago

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The Navy Department has been advised of the death of Rear Admiral John Addison Baxter Smith, U. S. N., retired, at New Orleans.

Rear Admiral Smith's last office was that of general inspector of machinery, with headquarters in New York. He also was senior member of the board on changes in machinery for the Atlantic Coast.

Rear Admiral Smith was seventy-two years old and had been in the United States Navy since 1869, when he was assigned to engineering duties aboard the gunboat Housatonic. The Housatonic was blown up by a Confederate torpedo boat off Charleston, S. C., but the young officer was rescued. He was promoted steadily, and at the time of his retirement ten years ago was a captain. The end of his service was marked by his promotion to rear admiral.

He was visiting his daughter, Mrs. E. T. Fryer, and her husband, who is a major in the United States Marine Corps, when he died. It was learned here yesterday. His wife was learned when he was stricken with acute indigestion. Besides Mrs. Fryer, two children, Mrs. Edmond P. Ramsey, of Jamaica Island, and Paymaster John Addison Baxter Smith, Jr., U. S. N., survive him. He will be buried in Baltimore, the city of his birth.

Holland Defends Ship Charter Plan

Arrangement With Allies Not Unneutral, Is Reply to Berlin

THE HAGUE, March 8.—A reply was made today by the semi-official news agency to the recent articles in the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung," a semi-official newspaper of Berlin, in which it was said that Germany considered as an unneutral act the arrangement now being made for the chartering of neutral ships by the Entente Powers. The news agency says: "In view of the provisions of international law, it would be partial and unneutral to grant cooperation to a belligerent to whose interests it was to put difficulties in the way of its enemies' overseas supplies. Moreover, the government, by so doing, would be promoting the submarine blockade, which it has branded repeatedly as illegal."

Wilson Supports War Finance Bill As Amended

Measure Strengthened by House Committee Will Come Up Tuesday

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The war finance corporation bill was reintroduced today in the House with amendments adopted by the Ways and Means Committee and will be taken up Tuesday for debate. President Wilson came out in support of the bill today.

The corporation under the amendments adopted by the Ways and Means Committee is required to file quarterly with the House and Senate reports showing to whom loans had been made, the amounts and other data.

An amendment by Representative Sloan, of Nebraska, provides that no bank may borrow more than 10 per cent of the capital of the corporation, which would limit loans to a maximum of \$50,000,000.

The Senate bill contains no such provision. While the bill came from the committee, with a unanimous agreement, Representative Moore, of Pennsylvania, Republican, said a number of amendments may be proposed when the bill is taken up in the House. He is considering an amendment to reduce the life of the corporation from ten to eight years. Representative Hull, of Tennessee, Democrat, will oppose striking out of the compulsory features of the capital issues board licensing plan.

Urged by Wilson President Wilson to-day set at rest any possible question of his personal support of the war finance corporation bill by writing to Representative Moore, Republican, of Pennsylvania, that he wanted it enacted.

"I am entirely in favor of the adoption of the war finance corporation bill," wrote the President. "I deem it, in fact, a necessary war measure." The President wrote in answer to a letter from Mr. Moore, who asked the President to authorize some one to make a positive declaration as to the war urgency of the bill, as he had heard many members of the House inquire of the President's attitude.

1,000 Ford Tractors For Michigan Farms

Auto Man to Aid State in Great Agricultural Campaign

DETROIT, March 9.—The Michigan War Preparedness Board, after a conference here today with Henry Ford, announced that the auto man had agreed to sell 1,000 farm tractors to the state to assist the campaign for greater agricultural production this year. The board will sell the tractors to farmers.

The agreement with Ford embraces the purchase of 1,000 two-bottom ploughs from the Oliver company, of South Bend, Ind. These ploughs will be attached to the tractors.

The complete tractor outfit will be ready for delivery to the farmers by April 1. It was announced today that more than two hundred farmers already have applied for tractors.

Grand Military-Naval Meet and Ball

Benefit of Women's Oversea Hospitals, U. S. A. Madison Square Garden, March 15, 16, 17

Afternoon and Evening 5,000 will participate in the gigantic program

Poor Writing of Fighting Men Delays Checks to Dependents

Illegible Addresses Require Sending of Thousands of Letters Before 500,000 Checks Can Be Mailed; Average Is \$25, Total Monthly Disbursement Exceeding \$12,000,000

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Poor handwriting of men in military or naval service is largely responsible for a two weeks' delay in the distribution of government checks for February pay allotment and family allowances to dependents.

The last checks for families of sailors and members of the marine corps and coast guard went into the mails today, but checks for the army will not be started until Monday, and it will take two weeks to complete the task.

Acres of typists—2,700 of them—were called upon to correct the illegible signatures and addresses in applications of letters and the work of a big office force, which otherwise would have been writing checks.

More than 500,000 checks a month have to be written. The average amount of each check is about \$25, and the total monthly disbursement runs above \$12,000,000.

Three shifts of clerks have been at work. Acres of typists—2,700 of them—were called upon to correct the illegible signatures and addresses in applications of letters and the work of a big office force, which otherwise would have been writing checks.

Each check is typed individually, and a government law provides that checks also must be signed individually, rather than stamped mechanically. The signing is a big task. Signature duplicating machines are used, ten checks being signed by each original signature of a pay clerk.

Yet with all the efficiency methods of this big office, it must go into the discard before the automatic check writing machines, now being perfected by M. E. Bailey, chief disbursing clerk. These machines, by a single operation, will stamp the check with the name of the payee, the amount, the address, the name of the soldier, his organization, and the serial number of the check.

In addition to this disbursing work, the bureau's life insurance business includes the receipt and classification of 40,000 applications daily from men in camps, for an aggregate of \$300,000,000 of insurance. The total number of applications received up to the present is about 1,200,000, and the total value of policies sought is more than \$10,000,000,000.

It is asserted that the order was purely a precautionary measure, and that the officials had no knowledge that any attempts had been made to put gists in food used at the camp.

Post executives are instructed to inspect carefully every article of food on sale. Mess sergeants must also examine all food, and officers and men are expected to do the same after it is served. Kitchens are to be inspected daily.

Origin of the Roman Bar

The Roman bar, writes S. P. Scott in "Case and Comment," deduced its origin from the intimate association of patron and client in the days of the republic. This relation, founded upon mutual support and assistance, bore a considerable resemblance to that of lord and vassal during the Middle Ages, without, however, including the oppressive restrictions imposed upon the latter by the laws of feudalism. Among the many duties required of the patron was that of transacting the legal business of his clients and appearing for them in court. This service was at first entirely gratuitous, but subsequently, when the ties of hereditary connection became less binding, and consultation with patrons was abandoned by their clients for the services of the classes of persons—procurators, cognitors and advocates.

Protect Soldiers' Food Camp Devises Orders Rigid Inspection as Precaution

AYER, Mass., March 9.—Orders to officers and men at Camp Devens to be on the lookout for ground glass or other foreign substances in all food products were issued to-night.

It was asserted that the order was purely a precautionary measure, and that the officials had no knowledge that any attempts had been made to put gists in food used at the camp. Post executives are instructed to inspect carefully every article of food on sale. Mess sergeants must also examine all food, and officers and men are expected to do the same after it is served. Kitchens are to be inspected daily.

Organization of First American Field Army Begun

Five or Six Army Corps to Form Complete Fighting Unit

On 100-Mile Front

By 1919 U. S. Will Hold Longer Line Than Did British in Two Years

WASHINGTON, March 9.—With men, material and supplies moving forward to General Pershing in full accordance with the prearranged schedule, the War Department has taken up the organization of the first field army, the largest tactical unit used in modern warfare. Until General Pershing has under command a complete field army, no further organization of fighting units will be started.

It was originally the intention of the department to form the "typical" field army by combining three French corps, but it is understood this plan has been abandoned for one which calls for five or six. The purpose of this is to reduce the number of men required for organizing the army troops—the special units attached specifically to the field army for use in controlling the lines of communication from the corps' railheads to the army.

The army troops include also the great artillery reserve of eight, ten and twelve-inch guns, both of fixed emplacement and mobile type, the anti-aircraft guns and the other units which the commander in chief is given to throw against an enemy offensive.

An army corps under ordinary conditions is safe to say that it will hold a sixteen-mile front of trenches, or about nine miles of geographical front. The first American field army therefore may be able to take over more than two years of war.

Under the six corps field army plan auxiliary troops numbering more than 300,000 would be required, each army corps having about 30,000 and the total number of men in the army would be fighting men under the three corps plan would have required between 450,000 and 500,000 corps and army troops.

While it should be stated that no definite plan of organization has yet been approved, it is known that General Pershing has expressed himself in favor of the larger unit.

May Appoint Wood Selection of the commander of the first field army under General Pershing has not yet been discussed, it was said today. There was some talk in this regard, however, the names of Major Generals Leonard Wood, Franklin J. Bell and Hunter Liggett having been prominently mentioned. It is practically certain that the man assigned will be given the rank of lieutenant general, provided in a recent act of Congress.

Brigadier General Guy Carleton has been assigned to the duty of organizing the cavalry units included in the corps troops. Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina, probably will be the mobilization point of these forces, and the War Department already is moving to provide the necessary regimental and squadron officers. Graduates of the officers' training camps who, after having been initially commissioned in the cavalry arm, have been recommissioned in field artillery or infantry are being recalled to the cavalry. Additional officers are to be secured by divisional commanders recommending those especially fit for the mounted service.

Beyond the fact that the present programme calls for not less than one squadron for every division, publication of details of the construction of the corps cavalry units is withheld for military reasons.

Americans Praised For Rare Courage In Lorraine Fight

WASHINGTON, March 9.—German troops, in their attack in Lorraine on the night of March 4, twice gained a footing in the American trenches, only to be driven out in fierce fighting. An official dispatch today from France giving the French view of the encounter said the Americans showed a "rare quality of courage, self-possession and calm bravery, which won them the admiration of the neighboring French troops and the hearty congratulations of the French high command."

The Americans engaged were the latest to enter the trenches to train

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Two Officers and Eighteen Soldiers Killed in Action

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The War Department today issued the first of its expurgated casualty lists, containing the names of one captain, one lieutenant and eighteen men killed in action, a lieutenant and a cadet killed in airplane accidents, one lieutenant and twelve men dead of diseases, a lieutenant and twenty-three men severely wounded in action and thirty-six men slightly wounded.

The dead and wounded officers were: First Lieutenant Louis J. Jordan, killed in action. First Lieutenant John H. Greene, slightly wounded. Captain Harry C. McHenry, killed in action.

First Lieutenant Frank J. Montgomery, killed in an airplane accident. Second Lieutenant Alex William Terrell, severely wounded in action. First Lieutenant Arthur Ward, died of paralysis.

Has Faith in Russia Dr. Mott Says Revolutions Will Yet Form Democracy

"I have greater faith today in Russia than ever before," said Dr. John R. Mott, speaking at Carnegie Hall yesterday under the auspices of the League for a Liberal Education on the subject, "Impressions of Russia." Dr. Mott has visited Russia several times and was associated with the special mission headed by Elihu Root. "I believe the revolutions, though we must come yet, will, in the end, swing her into a democracy such as ours, either as a nation or as a group," he said.

Polish Tag Day Raises Fund For Starving Children

Yesterday was Polish Children's Tag Day in New York. Hundreds of collectors were stationed at the important points of Manhattan and the Bronx receiving the contributions that will save the lives of the unfortunate little ones of Poland, 85 per cent of whom are dying from starvation and exposure. The amount collected will be announced today by Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, treasurer of the Polish Children's Relief Fund.

London's Jewish Soldiers

A battalion of a Jewish regiment which is preparing for service in the war zone marched through the streets of London the other day bearing union jacks and Zionist flags with the shield of David inscribed in Yiddish: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning." The soldiers were everywhere enthusiastically received.

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