

# New American Ship Makes Old Navies Obsolete

## Cruiser-Battleship Question One of Reasons for Daniels' Trip to Europe

### Peace Congress May Act

### Secretary to Confer With Foreign Admiralty Officials on Navy Programme

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Important conclusions, which probably will be reflected later at Paris in the discussion of limitation of naval armaments, are expected here to grow out of the forthcoming conferences between Secretary Daniels and his aids and European Admiralty officials. The secretary sailed to-day, accompanied by his three chief technical advisers. While the main object of the trip of the American officials is to gather information upon which the Navy Department can base a report to Congress relative to the proposal to substitute gigantic composite cruiser-battleships for present day capital war vessels, the fact that such a programme would render all existing fleets obsolete and that its cost would be enormous, insures, in the view of many officials here, that the project will be taken up at the peace conference.

Pending the return of the secretary and more complete intra-service discussion, naval officials generally are inclined to defer judgment as to the advisability of adopting the composite ship programme. They take the view that even in its narrowest and strictly American aspect, the proposal raises questions of such a far-reaching nature that individual opinions should have no weight. Only the consensus of the seasoned and trained judgment of the service, they argue, should be considered by Congress when the department's report is presented.

Britain Watches With Concern

In the view here, even the American 35-knot battle cruiser project, now held up to await a decision of the greater

question of composite ships, has in it elements that make it more than a purely national matter under present conditions. Officers say that if composite naval building is to continue, other powers must provide similar ships, as not even Great Britain has built or is building craft of equal efficiency in their own peculiar sphere.

It is understood that progress toward the construction of the gigantic battle cruisers, six of which already have been authorized, has been watched with some concern by British naval authorities, since it probably would necessitate additions to the British naval budget. There is little doubt among most officials here that the British would welcome an international understanding at Paris which would eliminate that source of expenditure.

The standard fighting ship of to-day is the super-dreadnought, in the American and British navies a vessel with a speed of approximately 23 knots, an armament of twelve 16-inch guns, an armor belt varying from 12 to 14 inches in thickness and a displacement of about 35,000 tons. Such a ship costs about \$20,000,000. The United States has ten of them under construction or authorized and the naval appropriation bill which failed in the final hours of the last Congress authorized ten more for the next three years.

Will Be Much Speedier

The proposed ship now urged by some American officers would have a speed of 29 knots, carry twelve 18-inch guns, a displacement of 55,000 tons and cost \$40,000,000. It would carry the same offensive and defensive power as the super-dreadnoughts and would make six knots an hour greater speed. The price of this increased speed, officers declare, would be a doubled cost of construction and almost double size, the latter carrying with it spacing engineering changes in harbors, navy yards and dry docks to accommodate such monster craft.

No such vessels have been built or projected by any other power, so far as known.

This "composite" battleship, for which Admiral Mayo, Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet; Vice Admiral Sims, commanding abroad, and many other high officers who have served overseas have contended, is supposed to represent the maximum attainable in speed without the sacrifice of gun power or armor.

**Secretary Daniels and Leviathan Party Go on**

Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels sailed for France yesterday afternoon on the naval transport Leviathan. The Leviathan got under way from Hoboken pier at 4:30.

He will remain abroad till about May 1, devoting much time to study of aircraft developments in England, France and Italy. He said he expected upon his return to prepare a programme of experimental work in aircraft to be submitted to Congress with a request for an appropriation to put it into effect.

## Assyrians Demand Independence With U. S. Protectorate

### Presbyterian Mission Board Accused by Speakers at Dinner of Promoting an Antagonistic Campaign

Proposals for an American protectorate over a new Assyria were cabled last night to President Wilson by representatives of the Assyrian population of the United States.

The aspirations of these people, whose territory includes part of Mesopotamia and Persia, for an independent commonwealth, and their desire that the United States take it under its wing, were embodied in a resolution adopted at a dinner given by the Assyrian National Associations of America at the Hotel Pennsylvania. The banquet was in honor of Dr. Joel E. Werda, Assyrian delegate to the peace conference, who with Dr. A. K. Yousof, will place the aspirations of Assyrians in America before the peace table.

The 200 representatives, coming from all over the country, were somewhat startled by assertions of several speakers that the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions was bending every effort to thwart the national aims of the Assyrian people. The Persian Department of the board, they asserted, is conducting a systematic propaganda against them.

**Persecution Is Charged**

"We sincerely regret," said A. H. Oraham, a lentist Assyrian, who was active in securing the appointment of the delegates, "that while we have been redeemed from our first oppressors, we are now being subjected to the injustice of another satrapy, the Persian Department of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. It has persecuted our people, pursued our leaders with hatred, conducted a secret propaganda against the fair name of our people, and has in every way opposed the work of our national organization."

"It has tried to discredit the accomplishments of Assyrian leaders and has sent its agents into our colonies to arouse discord. It is impossible to enumerate all the deeds of injustice perpetrated against us by this board in America."

Mr. Oraham's remarks were supplemented by statements from Charles Darity, secretary of the executive committee of the association, and Thomas Ellby, chairman of the Boston branch of the organization.

**Declares Relief Work Opposed**

Mr. Darity spoke of the opposition experienced by the Presbyterian body. He said relief work among the Assyrians was opposed by the Presbyterian board, which suppressed their efforts and created a fund of its own, giving large sums to enemies of the Assyrians. He asserted the board also tried to prevent appointment of Assyrian delegates to the peace conference.

Dr. Werda, in outlining the programme for the proposed new nation, believes it should comprise the 1,500,000 people now in that section and should not include the 750,000 Assyrians in India nor the 150,000 in Russia.

"It is the purpose of the Assyrian delegates in Paris," he said, "to claim a reasonable portion of the old Assyria which embraced in its original boundaries about 250,000 square miles. The Assyrians are entitled to this claim because Mesopotamia is their home, it is their land from generations back. They are entitled to it because they entered the war on the side of the Allies, and important victories were won by the Assyrian army."

"It is the purpose of the Assyrian delegates to ask for and insist upon the protectorate of the United States. The country presents marvelous and unique possibilities for American capital."

**Wilson Not Asked to Decide**

**Ecuador-Peru Controversy**

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, March 15.—It was officially announced to-day that the report that Ecuador had asked

President Wilson to act as arbitrator in her boundary dispute with Peru was entirely without foundation.

It is explained that such a step might be considered as seriously compromising the government's position with the Ecuadorian Congress before it had had a chance to pass upon the league of nations project.

A Paris dispatch on March 10 reported that the Foreign Minister of Ecuador had requested President Wilson to arbitrate the Peruvian-Ecuadorian boundary dispute. The expectation in Paris, however, it was said, was that President Wilson would prefer to submit the question to the league of nations.

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