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**Board Maintains U. S. Vessels in World Services**

**Annual Report Shows Substantial Economy Effected During Year; Personnel Is Cut Down Greatly**

**1,686 Ships Are Unsold**

**Shipping Board Declares Legislation Needed for Disposal of the Fleet**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Growth of United States shipping in foreign trade, establishment of extensive passenger services in the north Atlantic, the Pacific and to South America, and stabilization of the government's shipping venture on a strictly business basis, are pointed to as the year's outstanding achievements in the sixth annual report of the Shipping Board.

Reviewing at length the functions of the board since its inception to carry forward the nation's tremendous efforts to transport food, troops and supplies overseas during the war, and the various changes in policy incident to the armistice, the report shows that the existing board's functions relate not only to the physical running of ships, but range over the entire field of a nation's merchant marine. Labor, port facilities and commerce are discussed in detail.

"The board," the report says, "is required not only to aid in the development of ships and shipping companies, but also to assist in planning the improvement and development of ports and transportation facilities in connection with water commerce."

Altogether the Shipping Board has had during its career 3,444 ships, totaling about 19,598,000 deadweight tons. These were obtained from various sources. Some have been sold and many are now tied up in the hands of the government.

During the last fiscal year, the report says, there were 37,312 arrivals and departures of vessels in foreign trade aggregating 60,231,000 long tons of cargo. More than \$10,000,000 annually has been saved in the reduction of marine and longshore wages of Shipping Board vessels alone. Reductions were effected after strikes and negotiations, ranging from 18 to 25 per cent.

The U. S. Ships Carry 52 Per Cent Tonnage

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The amount received from sale of "outlying projects" belonging to the board during the year was \$1,854,750, representing a return from property which had been given a "present fair value" of \$2,113,000. The report says that "in accordance with agreement made with the office of the chief controller, sales and transfers were made at prices 15 per cent below 'present fair value.' Sales from real estate brought in an additional \$8,095,722. Notable among the economies recorded was a reduction of \$1,043,976 in the cost of maintenance and repair department of 424 employees.

A summary of the amount of commerce borne in American bottoms during the year showed that Shipping Board vessels handled 4,313,913 cargo tons of imports and 6,234,381 cargo tons of exports, operating through forty-three United States ports. The total tonnage of the American merchant marine was fixed at 27,784,289 deadweight tons, compared to 27,838,464 a year ago, of this total 16,279,371 tons was employed at the end of the 1922 fiscal year in foreign trade, compared with 16,819,943 at the end of the previous twelve months period.

The last fiscal year, the report says, noted a continued decline in freight rates and reduction in the number of steamers employed in the foreign trade routes. Due to this condition there was small opportunity for the establishment of new routes, the report added. At the end of the year, however, the board had in operation 327 passenger and cargo ships plying to northern European ports, 56 plying to Mediterranean ports, 46 to South America and the West Indies, 91 to the Far East and 4 in the intercoastal service.

**Moore & McCormack Add Five Vessels to Coast Run**

Moore & McCormack are negotiating with the Shipping Board to buy five additional vessels for intercoastal service, it was learned yesterday. It is expected that two ships will be put in operation this month and the rest in January. When the new ships have been added the fleet will consist of eight vessels of more than 60,000 deadweight tons. The itinerary will be New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore on the Atlantic, to San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, and occasionally Vancouver on the Pacific. Struthers & Barry are agents on the west coast.

**Ritz-Carlton to Run Leviathan's Restaurant**

**Hotel Company Given Catering Contract; May Extend to Other U. S. Liners**

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The Shipping Board today signed a contract with the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company of Delaware by which the restaurant of the Leviathan will be catered by this company. The contract, Chairman Lasker said, assures the Leviathan of a restaurant service superior to any other passenger liner in the north Atlantic.

Chairman Lasker declined to disclose the financial arrangement with the Ritz-Carlton company, but he declared that the contract was so drawn as to provide the exclusive service to government vessels and that it may later be thought advisable to add this service to other large government passenger liners.

**Delegates Named to Attend Far East Lines Conference**

At a meeting of the North Atlantic Far East Conference yesterday, J. D. Meehan, of the Barber Lines, and J. P. Korn, Furness, Withy & Co. were appointed delegates to the session of the Pacific Westbound Lines in Vancouver, January 8. While no specific instructions were issued to the Eastern representatives, it is understood they will take an active part in efforts to bring about a strong conference of Western companies plying to the Orient.

Following the restoration of the North Atlantic-Far East Conference several months ago, considerable progress has been brought to bear on the Pacific Coast companies to take the same step looking toward stability in rates.

**Going On To-day**

DAY

American Museum of Natural History: admission free.  
Metropolitan Museum of Art: admission free.  
Aquarium: admission free.  
Brooklyn Museum: admission free.  
New York Historical Society: admission free.  
Voyageur Park Museum: admission free.  
Zoological Park: admission free.  
Hall of Fame at New York University: admission free.  
University Heights: admission free.  
Museum of the American Indian: Home Foundation, Broadway and 155th Street; admission free.  
Special exhibition of contemporary English and French paintings, Brooklyn Museum: admission free.  
American Education Week.  
Annual convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, Hotel Astor, all day, beginning 10 o'clock.  
Exposition of photography by the Camera Club, American Museum of Natural History, 9 o'clock.  
British Bazaar, Imperial Order Daughters of the British Empire, Hotel Pennsylvania, afternoon and evening.  
Lecture by Miss Jane Richards on "Domestic and International Affairs," Hotel Astor, 8:45 o'clock.  
Lecture by George Earle Raftel on "Observations on Central and Southern Europe," Town Hall, 123 West Forty-third Street, 11 o'clock.  
Lecture by the Rotary Club, Hotel Metropolitan, 11:30 o'clock.  
Lecture by the Professional Women's League, Hotel McAlpin, all day.  
Luncheon of the Women's Municipal League, New York, Hotel Astor, 12:30 o'clock.  
Luncheon of the Women's Harding and Coolidge Club, Hotel Marie Antoinette, 12:30 o'clock.  
Convention of the American Society of the History of Art, Hotel McAlpin, 12:30 o'clock.  
National Exposition of Power and Mechanical Engineering, Grand Central Palace, all day.  
Meeting of the New England Women, Waldorf-Astoria, 2 o'clock.  
Meeting of the School Children's Welfare League, Hotel Pennsylvania, 2 o'clock.  
Lecture by Dr. C. C. Case on "Velasquez," Metropolitan Museum of Art, 3 o'clock.  
Lecture by Professor William H. Bondy on "The Pyramid Period," Brooklyn Museum, 3 o'clock.  
Lecture by Dr. Sigmund Spaeth on "Old Tunes for New," West Side Y. M. H. A., 222 West Thirty-ninth Street, 8 o'clock.  
Rally of the Bowery Youthwolves, 227 Bowery, 8 o'clock.  
Lecture by Dr. R. M. Tucker on "Current Plays of the New York Stage," Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Academy of Music, 8 o'clock.  
Address by H. D. Robbins on "Before You Invest—Investment," at Exchange Club, Hotel Brestlin, noon.  
Dinner of the Camp Fire Club, Hotel Pennsylvania, 7 o'clock.  
Dinner of the Foreign Exchange Club, Hotel McAlpin, 7 o'clock.  
Dinner of the Union College Alumni, Hotel Astor, 7 o'clock.  
Dinner of the American Acceptance Council, Hotel Brestlin, 7 o'clock.  
Lecture by Leo Honor on "The French Revolution and the Jew," 41 West Eighty-sixth Street, 8:15 o'clock.  
Lecture by Dr. Sigmund Spaeth on "Old Tunes for New," West Side Y. M. H. A., 222 West Thirty-ninth Street, 8 o'clock.  
Rally of the Bowery Youthwolves, 227 Bowery, 8 o'clock.  
Lecture by Dr. R. M. Tucker on "Current Plays of the New York Stage," Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Academy of Music, 8 o'clock.  
Meeting of the National Opera Club, Waldorf-Astoria, 8 o'clock.  
Lecture by James W. Gerard before the Cosmopolitan Club on "Present European Conditions," 1212 Madison Avenue, 8:30 o'clock.  
Lecture by William K. Gregory on "Australia: The Land of Biscuits," American Museum of Natural History, 8:45 o'clock.  
Lecture by Dr. Percy Stickney Grant on "Free Speech and Forum," 115 East 108th Street, 11:15 o'clock.  
Meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, 17 West Forty-third Street, 1:30 o'clock.  
Dinner of the New York Times Club, Hotel Metropolitan, 9 o'clock.

**Izzy and Moe Have Car Repaired, Then Seize Garage Rum**

**Find \$50,000 Worth of Imported Liquor and Bottling Plant in Repair Shop; Suspects Arrested**

Prohibition Agents Izzy Einstein and Moe Smith, seated in the front seat of a rickety and ancient touring car, drove into an automobile repair shop at 311 West Forty-sixth Street yesterday afternoon and told the proprietor, John Steel, that the car needed repairs. Presently Izzy and Moe drove out again—a get a search warrant. When they returned they arrested four persons, including Steel, and seized whisky and gin valued at \$50,000.

The agents found the ground floor of the building was used as a repair shop. The second floor contained a complete bottling plant, and nearly 2,000 quarts of imported whisky and gin, most of which bore the stamp "Nassau." The three men who were adding distilled water to the liquor before bottling it when the agents arrived, gave their names as Michael Clark, 202 Virginia Avenue, Jersey City; George Chober, 198 New York Avenue, Jersey City; and James Leone, 750 Genesee Avenue, Steel lives at 400 West Thirty-fourth Street. All four were taken to the West Forty-seventh Street police station charged with illegal possession of liquor.

Twenty bags of copra, each containing a small box in which four bottles of whisky was packed in straw, were seized and turned over to the customs custodians yesterday by a flying squad, three officers from the direction of E. W. Whittle, Surveyor of the Port. The copra had been consigned from the West Indies aboard the Cayo M. Ambli, which arrived in New York, December 4. Customs officials have long suspected that liquor was being brought into the country in copra, which is not subjected ordinarily to official scrutiny, since it is on the free list.

**Shipping Board Claims Commission Dissolved**

**Principles of Negotiation Now Clear; 79 Millions Demanded, Settled for 13**

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The claims commission of the Shipping Board, headed by Judge W. D. Meals, of Cleveland, will cease to function after reviewing a half dozen cases still pending before it. Chairman A. D. Lasker told the board announced today. The chairman said the necessity for the commission continuing as a court to hear evidence on claims no longer existed, inasmuch as the board has formulated definite principles on which all future claims can be settled. The chairman denied the report that Judge Meals and his associates had resigned because of dissatisfaction with the manner in which the board modified the settlements agreed to by the claims commission.

Chairman Lasker said that Judge Meals desired to return to his private practice, but that other members of the commission would continue with the board as negotiators. He said the settlement of the unliquidated claims was now a matter of negotiation, rather than of argument. The commission was created in September, 1921, claims involving a total of \$133,000,000 have been docketed before it. He said out of this number settlements have been made on claims aggregating \$79,500,000 for a total payment by the government of \$18,000,000. Offsets amounting to \$11,000,000 have further reduced the actual cash payment by the government, Chairman Lasker said.

Referring to the report of widespread disagreements between the claims commission and the board, Chairman Lasker said that in the cases involving a total of \$79,500,000 the difference of opinion between the commission and the board never exceeded a quarter of a million. He paid a tribute to the work of Judge Meals and the other members of the commission, including A. W. Teale, F. W. Wood, Captain R. M. Watt and O. P. M. Brown.

**Repaired Liner Sails To-day**

The Lloyd Sabaudia liner Cento Rosso, after having one of her propellers, which struck a submerged object on her trip here, repaired in drydock, will sail again to-day for Naples and Genoa. The vessel is taking out 2,100 passengers, the largest number she has ever carried.

Among those booked to sail are Count and Countess Morelli, Baron Gennaro Barra Caracciolo, Michele Berardini, banker; Commander Giovanni Grassano, famous Italian tragedian; Captain Piero Civaliero, Riccardo Pascantando, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Clark and their sons, Kimball and Robert; Miss Ella Sargeant Gernon and Mario Mazza.

**Alvin Untermyer Tells Of Brother's Exemption**

**Denies That Irwin, Who Is a Lawyer, Was Excused From Draft as a Farmer**

Alvin Untermyer, speaking for his brother Irwin, now on his way to Lausanne on a business trip, yesterday issued a statement denying that Irwin, a lawyer, was exempted under the draft act as a farmer.

Mr. Untermyer's statement was issued in reply to an assertion made in Washington yesterday by Thomas W. Miller, Allen Property Custodian, that an investigation should be made of Irwin's war record.

Terminating Mr. Miller's statement yesterday, Mr. Untermyer said by his own age with a non-dependent family, was about to respond with them to the call to the colors when the war ended. The canon, he said, was extended during the political campaign of 1920.

**Building Employers Not Likely to Order Lock-Out After Jan. 1**

**May Refuse Recognition of Either Hod Carriers' Union; Assert Untermyer Did Not Arbitrate**

Despite the declaration of the Independent Hod Carriers' Union that it will refuse to amalgamate with the International Bricklayers' Helpers' Union, as ordered by the Lockwood committee, continuation of the war between the two rival unions is not likely to bring about the threat of another lock-out in the building trades on January 1.

It was learned from building trades employers yesterday. They reported that their position after the end of the year, when present contracts with the unions expire, probably will be refusal to recognize either union, permitting a continuance of virtually the old "smoldering" situation which existed before the bricklayers' strike, acting in sympathy with the "independents," called several strikes on November 16, which brought about a lock-out order and the intervention of the Lockwood committee.

The employers joined with officials of the "independents" in denouncing the announcement of Samuel Untermyer, Union counsel to the Lockwood committee, that an amalgamation had been effected and the entire dispute adjusted. The employers declared no real arbitration of the controversy had been held, as provided for by a committee decision, and backed the contention of the "independents" that a representative of the latter's organization had not taken part in the special proceedings which resulted in the order for amalgamation.

The "independents," who are charged by Mr. Untermyer with being controlled by the employers, issued a statement in which they declared that the "independents" had forced the resignation of Giovanni B. Dioguardi as president of the union.

Mr. Untermyer termed the amalgamation order as fair, and said the "action of a few men" would not be permitted to disturb the building industry. He predicted the stand of the "independents" can and will be "easily circumvented."

"If a full settlement is not reached, and soon," Mr. Untermyer said last night, "means to force one will be taken by a reconstituted of the Lockwood committee on December 12."

**\$15-a-Day Plumber Still Unregenerate, Employers Assert**

**Trade Declares \$50,000-000 in Contracts May Be Tied Up Because of Artificial Famine Being Made**

The high cost of plumbers and plumbing, more especially the alleged ambitions of the former to work the least for the most money, were discussed at length yesterday in the first of a series of open meetings held by the Association of Master Plumbers, by the employers' organization in the trade, to bring to the attention of the public abuses said to be fostered by the workers. The meeting was in Terrace Garden.

It was charged that \$50,000 worth of plumbing contracts for 1923, in Manhattan and the Bronx, may be tied up because of an artificially created famine in plumbers; that employers are forced to pay plumbers \$10 to \$15 a day and guarantee overtime despite the fact that the union scale calls for only \$9 a day, and that the Plumbers' Union is exerting unlawful practices and rules more oppressively than ever because of the failure of Samuel Untermyer, chief counsel to the Lockwood committee, to fulfill a promise made more than a year ago that he would force the organization to reform.

Some twenty representatives of the Plumbers' Union were among those attending the meeting, but all declined an invitation to comment on the charges made or to offer any defense of the organization's methods. Mr. Untermyer, it was announced, had been sent a registered invitation to be present, but he did not appear.

A summary of the alleged union abuses cited by the various speakers as seriously affecting the industry follows:

1. Refusing to permit each journeyman plumber to have a helper. When two men are required on a job, both must be journeymen, according to the union rules. Changing of this, it was estimated, would cut the cost of construction from 5 to 10 per cent and increase the amount of labor available about 25 per cent.
2. Refusing the cutting of pipe by machine or to allow it to be done in shop or factory instead of on the job. This practice, speakers charged, made the cost of pipe cutting 50 per cent greater than it should be and used from 15 to 20 per cent more labor than was necessary.
3. Forcing plumbing fixtures that are sent to jobs to be dismantled and reassembled by union men.
4. Prohibiting recognition of the cards of union men coming from other sections of the country, though they belong to the same union.
5. Keeping apprentices out of the union and refusing to allow helpers to handle tools, which prevents the latter from learning the trade.

The speech was made by William Thompson, president of the association.

"While we in the plumbing business have completed our work in going through the last building year," he said, "it has tried us to the breaking point and cost us more than we were paid for it."

**Miss Benjamin Must Be Questioned in Will Suit**

**Adopted Daughter's Motion to Vacate Order for Taking of Testimony Denied**

Surrogate Cochran yesterday denied the motion of Miss Anna Biechi Benjamin to vacate an order for her examination before trial of the contest of the will of Park Benjamin, lawyer, author and naval expert, by whom she was adopted and who made her the principal beneficiary under his will, which disposed of an estate estimated at about \$400,000. The contestants are the five children of Mr. Benjamin, who include Mrs. Dorothy Benjamin Caruso, widow of Enrico Caruso, to whom he left his estate.

Park Benjamin, a son of the testator, who applied for the order to examine Miss Benjamin, said her testimony is necessary to support the charges of bigamy against his brother and sisters that their father was of unsound mind and under the influence of his adopted daughter when he executed his will.

Mr. Benjamin said that "through the machinations of Anna Biechi the children of decedent were excluded from the society of their father during his last illness." He also alleges that his father made a will prior to the one now under attack, but that the testator changed it because of the dislike by his adopted daughter "for one or more persons named in same as beneficiaries."

**Mrs. Stephens's Marriage To Russian Is Upheld**

**Church Holds Mme. Mouroumsky's Bigamy Charge Against Vonsiatky Unfounded**

Russian Orthodox Church authorities in New York City have declared void the marriage ceremony between Anastase Andreivitch Vonsiatky, Russian refugee, and Liouba Gourevitch, alias Mouroumsky, who said she was married to Vonsiatky in 1921 at Yalta, Crimea. Vonsiatky in February of this year married Mrs. Marion Buckingham-Stephens, Mme. Mouroumsky, as she was generally known, declared Vonsiatky's marriage to Mrs. Stephens bigamous.

Clarence Blair Mitchell, counsel for Vonsiatky, in a statement issued yesterday said he had received notification from Metropolitan Platon, of the Russian Church here, that formal investigation by the Church authorities had established that the Yalta ceremony was invalid and Vonsiatky's union with Mrs. Stephens legal. The marriage certificate issued at Yalta, it was added, had been canceled.

Attorney Mitchell said the ceremony taken part in by Vonsiatky and Mme. Mouroumsky, at Yalta, was performed for the special purpose of aiding Mme. Mouroumsky during a threatened evacuation of Yalta by the Russian forces. The ceremony was performed by virtue of false documents and was known by both parties at the time to have no legal or religious sanction.

According to Mr. Mitchell's statement the investigation by the church authorities occupied nearly a year.

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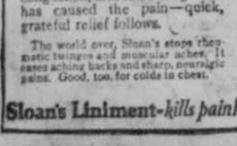
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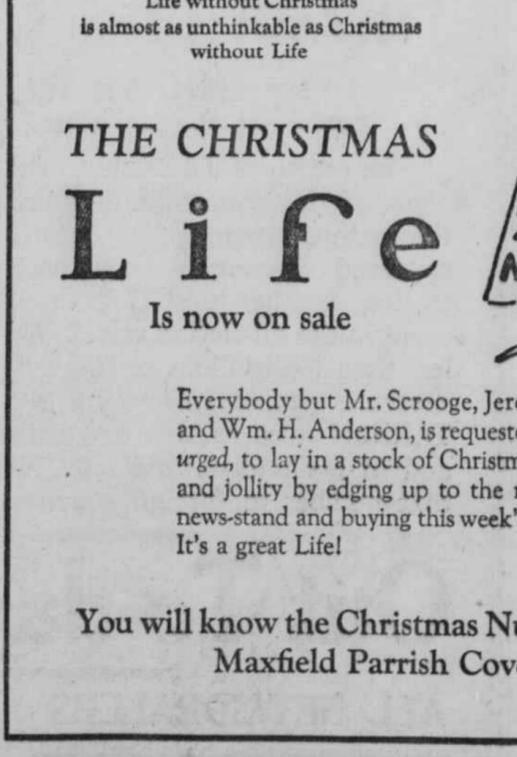
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