TREATIES NO USE WITHOUT A FLEET

Secretary Meyer Attacks Peace Movements in Report.

ASKS 3 BATTLESHIPS

Says Four Are Really Needed as Well as Two Cruisers.

U. S. SLOW IN AVIATION

Recommends That Retired Naval Officers Be Eligible to Diplomatic Posts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—An urgent demand for the better preparation of the United States for war as an insurance of continued peace is made by Secretary of the Navy Meyer in his annual report. Summarizing the policies governing the control of the navy during the Taft Administration, Secretary Meyer endeavors to set forth the fundamental principles which make the construction and maintenance of an adequate navy necessary for the preservation of peace for this country.

No reliance can be placed in international peace movements, nor even the most solemn treaties between nations, according to Mr. Meyer, who says:

That international efforts toward peace have accomplished nothing as to the limitation of armaments needs no argument. If an efficient fleet of adequate size is maintained the country will be safe from attack and free to work out its destiny in peace and without hindrance.

History of all times, including the present, shows the futility and danger of trusting to the good will and fair dealing, or even to the most solemnly binding treaties, between nations for the protection of a nation's sovereign rights and interests, and without doubt the time is remote when a comparatively unarmed and helpless nation may be reasonably safe from attack by ambitious, well armed powers, especially in a commercial age such as the present.

A fleet of forty-one battleships, with a proportional number of other fighting and auxiliary ships, is the least that will place the United States on a safe basis in its relations to the other world powers. As only dreadnoughts are now considered in estimating naval strength, the United States navy will drop from second to fourth place among sea powers in a few years unless Congress authorizes at least two ships a year. This loss of standing will occur soon even if the other powers do not in the meantime increase their building programmes, according to Mr. Meyer.

Consequently while appropriation for only three battleships is asked for this year—one of these to make up the deficiency in the two battleship programme caused by the authorization of only one ship at the last session of Congress—Secretary Meyer states that the programme of the General Board of the Navy should be the one followed. This board recommends the authorization this year of four battleships, two battle cruisers, sixteen destroyers and one destroyer tender, two transports, one ammunition ship, six submarines, one submarine tender, one supply ship, two gunboats, two seagoing tugs, one dry dock and one submarine testing dock.

The battleships asked for if granted will, according to Mr. Meyer, bring no actual increase of the fleet strength, but will simply take the place of ships which will have to be retired from the second line of defence in 1914, as they will then be twenty years old. Of battle cruisers, the Secretary states, the United States should possess at least two, but he declares that not a single battleship should be sacrificed from the building programme in order to allow the construction of any battle cruisers. Of other auxiliaries he says:

"Congress should provide the auxiliaries, destroyers, &c., that go with the battleship fleet, but when war comes the auxiliaries will not go out and sink battleship fleets. Only battleships can do this work.

There should be four torpedo boat destroyers for each battleship, according to the General Board policy. The navy at present is deficient in destroyers according to this proportionment. The sinking of the Titanic and other great passenger liners make it obvious, Mr. Meyer asserts, that the navy should be provided with new and modern vessels for transporting marines. Since 1900, he says, there have been no less than twenty-four expeditionary forces of marines and naval militia, all of which had to be carried in the antiquated, unsanitary transports Prairie and Buffalo, each of which is more than twenty years old.

Increased appropriations for the development of aviation in the navy are urgently needed, the Secretary states. He presents a table of expenditures of foreign governments on aviation as compared with appropriations for this purpose by the United States Congress. Of the seven nations named, France leads with an appropriation of $6,000,000, Russia is second with $5,000,000 and the United States is last with $140,000. Even Japan, next to last, is expending annually four times as much as the United States for aviation. The Secretary states that soon hydroaeroplanes will be placed on the battleships, from which they will be launched with little more difficulty than that attending the discharge of a torpedo.

With the increase of the use of oil as fuel in the navy, Secretary Meyer has taken steps to establish more and better facilities for supplying ships with oil. Through the Department of the Interior, the navy has obtained reservation of extensive oil fields in southern California, and others are being sought in Alaska, California and Oklahoma.

Several yards have been closed because their upkeep was unnecessary and expensive. These are at Pensacola, New Orleans, San Juan, Porto Rico, Culebra, Canal Zone and Sitka. Calling stations at New London, Conn., and Frenchman's Bay, Me., have also been closed.

Among the recommendations made by Secretary Meyer are the legalization of the aid system at the Navy Department, by which a governing council of naval administration is maintained; the establishment by Congress of a council of national defence for the working out and maintenance of a continuous military and naval policy; abolishment of the bureau of equipment, the duties of which Secretary Meyer has already transferred to other divisions; the preservation to the navy of such ancient and historic ships as the Constellation, Portsmouth, Hartford and Olympia; establishment by Congress of the grades of Admiral and Vice-Admiral in order that American prestige abroad may be maintained, instead of, as at present, commanders of United States fleets being obliged to yield precedence to officers of inferior navies who hold higher rank; passage of the personnel bill now before Congress, reorganizing the officers' grades, change in the manner of appointing fleet staff officers and authorization for the acceptance by retired officers of the navy of positions in the diplomatic and consular services.

CAPITAL AS A FLOW

should be the investor's viewpoint. This is the forward view—what the future has in store—looks through externals to the core of the INCOME stream, which is the life blood of VALUE.

(To be continued)

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WOULD CONFISCATE BRAZIL COFFEE HOARD

Attorney-General Wants Law to Seize Any Imported Commodity in Storage.

IF HELD TO BOOST PRICE

Annual Report Says Brazilian Syndicate Has Doubled Retail Coffee Cost.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—In his annual report, Attorney-General Wickersham recommends legislation to permit the Federal Government to sieze any commodity imported from abroad and placed in storage so as to maintain a high scale of prices. This recommendation is directed primarily against the so-called coffee trust, which the Department of Justice has sued under the Sherman anti-trust law.

A bill embodying the Attorney-General's purpose has already passed the House and is now pending in the Senate. Under the present law the coffee trust can store a large supply of coffee in New York and maintain a high price for their product by limiting the amount placed on sale each year. If this coffee is placed in interstate commerce and sent to any other point than New York for storage it can be seized under the existing law.

In discussing this question, Mr. Wickersham says:

"The operations of this syndicate have resulted in more than doubling the retail price of coffee to the American consumers, and thus have laid a heavy tax upon them. In considering the relief which could be afforded, the attention of the department was drawn to a curious defect in the law which should be applicable to the case. The provisions of the Wilson tariff law still in force (act of Aug. 27, 1894, chap. 349; 28 Stats., 570) declare, in section 73, that every combination, &c., shall be illegal and void when made by or between two or more persons or corporations either of whom is engaged in importing an article from a foreign country into the United States, and when the combination is intended to operate in restraint of lawful trade or free competition, or to increase the market price in any part of the United States of the article so intended to be imported, &c.

"The subject dealt with in the section is combinations, &c., respecting the importation of merchandise into the United States from abroad; and it is declared to be unlawful for any two or more persons, one of whom is engaged in importing it, to combine or enter into contracts for the purpose of operating in restraint of lawful trade or free competition, or increasing the price of such merchandise.

"When it comes to remedies, however, section 76 provides that any property owned under any such contract, &c., or the subject of such combination and being in the course of transportation from one State to another or to or from a territory or the District of Columbia, shall be forfeited to the United States, and may be seized,' &c; but it does not give the like right of seizure when the property is in course of being imported into the United States, or if it has been imported into, and is held in one of the States of the United States for the purpose of being employed in effectuating such an unlawful combination.

"In the particular case under consideration, therefore, neither the coffee in process of importation into the United States, nor that which was stored in the city of New York and held subject to the operations of the unlawful combination, was subject to seizure under this section, although had a part of it been shipped from New York to Jersey City to be stored and held in like manner subject to the control of the combination, it could have been seized in transit and forfeited to the United States. At the instance of this department a bill to amend the law by correcting this omission was introduced into and passed by the House of Representatives, and is now pending in the Senate. I most respectfully urge its passage at an early day."

Sixteen civil and criminal cases under the Sherman anti-trust law were pending, Mr. Wickersham declares, at the beginning of the present Administration on March 4, 1909. All of these have been disposed of except two, which are now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States. Thirty-nine criminal indictments and thirty-one civil suits under the Sherman law have been brought by the Taft Administration.

Mr. Wickersham expresses his opposition to any attempt to make the provisions of the Sherman law more explicit as to unfair business methods. Says he:

"I am strongly of the opinion that the advocacy of amendments of the law which shall particularize different acts as constituting unlawful restraints of trade or attempts at monopoly has its origin, not so much with those who desire the enforcement of the law, as with those who are anxious to secure a safe means of its evasion. An enumeration by statute of the different practices which, in and of themselves, without regard to the circumstances of particular cases, should be declared illegal, will either go too far or not far enough. Whether or not, for example, selling a commodity in one part of the country at a price lower than that charged in another part of the country should, or should not be enjoined, must depend entirely upon the nature of the case presented, the circumstances under which such sales are had, the effect upon competition produced thereby and the extent and character of the control exercised by the vender over the trade in which he is concerned. Experience in those States in which legislation has been enacted particularizing as illegal practices employed in accomplishing a restraint on commerce does not tend to prove that they have strengthened the law or aided its enforcement."

THINKS U. S. WILL RUN INSURANCE BUSINESS

New York Superintendent Warns Presidents of Companies in Meeting.

CONDITION IS CRITICAL

Dr. McLaughlin Tells Convention Members of Startling Progress of Typhoid.

The probability that the Government will before many years take their business from them was sharply set before the Association of Insurance Presidents at the Hotel Astor yesterday by William T. Emmet, New York Superintendent of Insurance.

Speaking to the heads of companies representing about 75 per cent. of the "old line" life insurance now in force he said that his admiration for their "courage, capacity, integrity and breadth of vision" was unqualified. But he told them frankly that their situation was "rather critical," that the drift was toward State insurance, and no group of men could control it or say where it would end.

Another speech that especially impressed the convention was that of Dr. Allan J. McLaughlin of the United States Public Health Service, who talked about the effect of safe water supplies on the typhoid fever rate. He said that there was more typhoid in this country in 1909 than there was plague in India, that the economic loss is $100,000,000 a year and that the death rate of big American cities is five times as high as in the leading cities of Europe. Every case of typhoid, he said, is due to somebody's ignorance or carelessness, and every year 175,000 cases could be prevented and 16,200 lives saved if Americans were more careful.

The other speakers were George L. Cochran, chairman, president of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, Los Angeles; George E. Ide, president of the Home Life Insurance Company, New York; Walker D. Hines, chairman of the executive committee of the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad; Jesse R. Clark, president of the Union Central Life Insurance Company, Cincinnati; J. G. Walker, president of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, Richmond; ex-Gov. Myron T. Herrick of Ohio, now Ambassador to France; Dr. Watson S. Rankin, secretary of the North Carolina Board of Health, Raleigh, and F. W. Jenkins, president of the Security Mutual Life Insurance Company, Binghamton.

Mr. Emmet said he had been frequently perplexed by trouble arising from non-uniformity of insurance laws in various States. At times, he said, he wished from the bottom of his heart that we could have a system of national supervision, State supervision having been largely outgrown. But in order to get Federal supervision the Constitution would have to be amended and for the present we must do the best we can with the old machinery. Under these circumstances, said Mr. Emmet, reciprocity between the States must be emphasized and hardships falling on the larger companies will be lessened thereby.

"Personally," he continued, "I don't think for a moment that our New York insurance law, admirable as many of its provisions are, is the last and only authentic word of wisdom which will be spoken on the subject." The laws of other States might be better adapted to the conditions of those States, he said, and he added: "I intend while I am Superintendent of Insurance to take the information I get about a company from its home department as exactly as dependable and authentic as information that comes to me from my own examiners. I may think privately that my examining force is better than any other, but I don't think I have a right to act publicly on any such theory."

Then Mr. Emmet exposed his vision of possible absorption of insurance business by the Government. He said:

I am bound to say that if the present drift toward socialism continues it is not likely that even the upbuilding of great supervisory departments such as we are now trying to maintain in New York will have more than a temporary effect in quieting the demand for State insurance. In the end it may even be advanced as the final argument in favor of it, just as the companies' contention that insurance is a universal commodity has been used to the same end. Once a department of insurance supervision reaches a point of efficiency where it has attracted to itself talent and capacity equal perhaps to that which is found in the service of the insurance companies the question is certain to be asked why all this elaborate and efficient machinery should not be utilized by the people in the direct transaction of the insurance business.

There are answers which can be made to that question of course from the companies' standpoint, but when a revolution is on those answers sometimes do not carry very far. So that while I may exaggerate the situation somewhat it seems to me that at the present time those who are interested in keeping the business of insurance in private hands face rather a critical condition. If in addition to opposing State insurance they also seek to avoid strict and efficient supervision they are entirely lost, because there is nothing plainer to me than that for the moment strict supervision is the one thing which stands in the way of State insurance.

On the other hand, if conservative insurance men should now cooperate strongly in the creation of a system of strict State supervision hoping that this will quiet the demand for State insurance—they are apt to find that the structure of supervision which they have helped to build up will by reason of its very efficiency serve perhaps as the final strong argument for the taking over of the business of insurance by the State.

I am enough of an optimist to believe that whatever the outcome no disaster will ensue. Here and there in some of the nooks and crannies of the insurance world which I have to look into I find departures from the ideals and standards which should prevail. But broadly speaking I can say with absolute truth that no men have been more responsive to the progressive thought of the time, none have labored more effectively and faithfully for the public good than those who are leaders to-day in the insurance business of the United States.

In his comparison of fifteen Northern European cities with fifteen large American cities as to typhoid fever death rate in the year 1910 Dr. McLaughlin found that Edinburgh, lowest in the European group, had only 1.3 deaths per 100,000 of population, and Paris, whose mortality is highest, had 5.6 deaths. Of the American cities the lowest death rate was that of Cincinnati, 5.8 per 100,000 of population, and the highest was that of Minneapolis, 58.7. New York's rate was 11.6, only Cincinnati, Boston and Jersey City being better off than this city. Said Dr. McLaughlin:

The average American citizen displays toward sanitary problems a very dangerous apathy. It is difficult to arouse his interest n anything so well known as typhoid fever. The mental attitude toward typhoid fever displayed by many physicians and especially health officers, is scarcely more commendable. Their complacency in the face of typhoid fever rates above twenty deaths annually per 100,000 population is difficult to explain. If the rate is below twenty many municipal officials are inclined to be satisfied with this rate, as it is low compared with less fortunate cities.

No single measure in reducing typhoid fever on a large scale approaches the effect of substituting a safe for a polluted water supply. As an instance of this wholesale saving of human life the reduction of typhoid fever in Pittsburg may be cited. Since the installation of the filter plants there has been an annual saving in Pittsburg of 400 lives from typhoid fever alone.

In regard to carelessness or criminal negligence the punishment should fit the crime, but for ignorance the remedy is not punishment, but education.

Ambassador Herrick suggested that this country should adopt the European plan of financing rural credits, and also that there be created a life insurance plan to cover the indebtedness in the case of the borrower's death. He said that American farmers every year are spending about $250,000,000 more for interest than they would if we had the European credit system, which finances land at low rates of interest for a long time.

George E. Ide, speaking of "The Sacredness of Trusteeship in the Investment of Life Insurance Funds," said he would welcome any legislation making it possible for the public to know every detail of the investment department of life insurance companies.

Chairman Walker D. Hines of the Santa Fé said that railroad securities should be treated as local investments for life insurance companies. He said:

In my opinion one of the greatest economic problems confronting this country is the question as to how the railroad companies will be able in the future to raise the hundreds of millions of dollars which they must raise if they are to give the public the increased transportation service and the increased safety and comfort which the growth of the country and the growth of civilization imperatively demand. While the raising of this money is a matter of great importance to the railroads it is a matter of even greater importance to the people themselves.

It would be a long step in the wrong direction and a move directly inconsistent with the welfare of the public for the States to prohibit life insurance companies from investing in railroad securities, for thereby the States would put an additional serious obstacle in the way of raising the funds which ought to be, and must be, raised in order to continue the necessary development of the railroad transportation facilities so that the railroad companies can perform the public service in which they are engaged and which is indispensable to the prosperity and health and comfort of the people of every State in the Union.

The officers of the association were reelected. The convention will spend to-day in discussion. Among those who attended yesterday's session were: William A. Day, president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society; John R. Hegeman, president of the Metropolitan Life; T. H. Purdom, president of the Northern Life Assurance Company of Canada; H. O. Edgerton, president of the Boston Mutual Life; William Brosmith, general counsel for the Travellers Insurance Company; M. B. Brainard, vice-president of the Ætna Life; Neil D. Sills, president of the National Life Underwriters Association; and Charles E. Fishback, president of the American Life, Chicago.

COLLECTOR O'BRIEN RENAMED.

Plattsburg Leader Was Strong Taft Supporter at Chicago.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—There are two happy New York State Republicans in town to-night, Representative Edwin Merritt, Jr., of Potsdam, who succeeded George R. Malby, and Collector John F. O'Brien of Plattsburg.

After several consultations with President Taft in which Representative Merritt urged the reappointment of Mr. O'Brien, the President sent to-day to the Senate O'Brien's name for reappointment for another term of four years. Collector O'Brien has also discussed with President Taft his reappointment. At Chicago in June Collector O'Brien was one of the strongest supporters of the President in the New York delegation.

There are rumors and statements to the effect that certain Democratic Senators believe that some of President Taft's nominations should be held up in the Senate and should go over until President Wilson is inaugurated. This sentiment prevails especially on the President's recess appointments. Collector O'Brien's friends claim to-night, however, that his renomination to the Senate comes when that body is in session and is therefore regular and proper in every respect, especially as O'Brien's term for the last four years expires within a day or two.

TO MAKE TARIFF PROGRAMME.

Ways and Means Democrats Called to Meet on Monday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The Democratic tariff programme will be outlined next Monday, it was learned to-day when Chairman Underwood of the House Ways and Means Committee called a meeting of the Democratic members to discuss tariff revision.

The scope of the preliminary hearings will be decided by the Democrats at the conference and also whether a general omnibus tariff revision bill will be attempted or a piecemeal revision by schedule. Mr. Underwood also set for hearing next Tuesday the bill of Representative A. Mitchell Palmer, Democrat of Pennsylvania, to permit the manufacture of denatured alcohol by mixing wood and domestic alcohol.

WM. FLINN GAVE $36,070.14.

Contributed More Than Half of T. R.'s Pennsylvania Fund.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 5.—William Flinn, Pennsylvania's leading Bull Moose and treasurer of the Washington party during the Presidential campaign, to-day filed his accounting, which showed $45,186.08 from State contributions. D. O. Jones of Pittsburg, treasurer of the Washington party in western Pennsylvania also filed his account, adding $18,330.61 to the total.

The Roosevelt boomers spent $63,516.69 in the State. Of this amount Flinn personally contributed $36,070.14.

LUCE EXPECTS TO BE JUDGE.

Board of Claims Member Looks for City Court Bench.

ALBANY, Dec. 5.—Robert L. Luce, the chairman of the State Board of Claims, expects to succeed City Court Judge Thomas F. Donnelly of Manhattan when Judge Donnelly takes his place upon the Supreme Court bench on January 1. The vacancy will be filled by appointment by the Governor.

The claim of Augustus A. Van Wyck, James W. Osborne and other counsel in the Allds trial for $18,000 for services as counsel to State Senator Ben Conger was heard to-day.

FOUND DEAD IN HIS HOTEL.

Capt. Ramirez of Santo Domingo Army Killed by Gas.

Capt. José Tomas Ramirez of the Santo Domingo army was found dead in his room at the Hotel Espania, 118 West Twenty-third street, yesterday, and gas was escaping from a stove. It is believed that the soldier, who arrived here the day before to treated for a gunshot wound in the leg, had inadvertently turned on the gas in the stove when turning out the light. The Santo Domingo consul took charge of the body.

HEATED HOUSE DEBATE OVER WHITELAW REID

Ambassador Bitterly Attacked for Criticising Thomas Jefferson.

MANN DEFENDS SPEECH

Woodrow Wilson Has Done More to Belittle Famous Statesman, He Says.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—A bitter debate was provoked in the House to-day by a speech delivered by Representative A. Mitchell Palmer of Pennsylvania, a Democratic leader, in denunciation of Whitelaw Reid, the American Ambassador to England. The name of President-elect Woodrow Wilson was brought into the discussion in a manner which excited a good deal of partisan feeling.

The cause of all the trouble was an address made by Ambassador Reid before a class of the University of Wales on October 31 in which, according to accounts published in this country, Mr. Reid appeared to speak in a disparaging way about the life and character of Thomas Jefferson. Before to-day's debate concluded it was shown that Woodrow Wilson, a successor of Thomas Jefferson as the titular leader of the Democratic party, had on a number of occasions referred to Jefferson in a slighting manner.

Mr. Palmer's attack on the Ambassador to the Court of St. James's because of Mr. Reid's alleged maladversions of Jefferson, prompted Republicans to reply, all of them quoting Mr. Wilson as having said in substance that Jefferson did not have a high reputation among his political contemporaries.

Representative Palmer declared that Ambassador Reid's address on Jefferson before the University of Wales "is worthy not only of comment but perhaps of censure."

"It is a jarring note," he said, "especially at a time when the philosophy and the political convictions of Thomas Jefferson seem to come in for enlarged support from the American people, to have the American Ambassador at the court of the greatest monarchy on earth take pains to go out of his way to call attention to what he himself calls the 'odious details' in the conduct of this great man 'as indicative,' in his own language of the real chracter of Thomas Jefferson.

"He not only flings his jibes at what Jefferson did and said but sneers at the accomplishments of that great political party which Jefferson founded and by misrepresentations and misstatements of the facts leads his hearers to believe that they are not worthy followers of that great man."

Mr. Palmer quoted Ambassador Reid as follows:

"'Mr. Jefferson was not a man of genius. We have seen that he was not an orator, not a soldier, not a good executive; least of all, a well balanced statesman. But he was a philosophical thinker or dreamer, and yet with a wonderfully practical gift for reading the tendencies of the populace and for putting their wishes into persuasive and stately language. He was at once a philosopher and a partisan. But his philosophy was sometimes ill balanced and ill considered; his partisanship was always adroit and carefully considered, generally successful and sometimes useful."

"I would not," concluded Representative Palmer, "let the occasion pass without entering my protest against the impropriety and misconduct of an American Ambassador at a foreign court who would thus misrepresent before a foreign audience one of the greatest men who ever lived upon American soil."

Representative Mann of Illinois, the Republican leader, and Representative Good of Iowa, a progressive, replied briefly to Mr. Palmer. Mr. Mann said he had read Mr. Reid's speech on Jefferson and that in the main it was laudatory. He admitted that in a measure it was critical of the life and public services of Jefferson.

"However, there is nothing in the Reid address," said Mr. Mann, "that is so condemnatory of the life and character of Thomas Jefferson as expressions on the subject that have been uttered by Woodrow Wilson, the Democratic President-elect."

At this point Representative Good entered the debate. He held in his hand a historical work written by Woodrow Wilson, from which he quoted this sentence:

"Washington found him (Jefferson) a guide who needed watching." The debate thereupon thus came to an end.

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